

A THOUSAND ORIGAMI CRANES

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Fundació MGC



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Rita and Xavi arrived with their mother at their new home in a charming village, Montblanc. The move was due to their father's illness, who was resting in a hospital near the village. There they visited him every day hoping for a speedy recovery.


Shortly after, some children explained to them about an ancient dragon that lived in a nearby cave. According to them, it was a heartless and fierce animal that devoured children for pure enjoyment.





It was a hot summer and the siblings began to hike through the mountain looking for cool spots under the shade of the trees. They also decided to search for the dragon's cave, as they didn't believe that an animal that had lived so many years and seen so many things could be so evil.

One morning, among weeds and shrubs, they found something resembling a will-o'-the-wisp, a small, bluish flame that seemed to dance elegantly a few inches from their feet. When they tried to touch it, it quickly vanished, but another similar flame appeared, slightly smaller, and behind that they saw another... and another... and another... They followed the trail of the little flames until they came to a hole in the undergrowth that looked like a narrow tunnel.







They crouched down,
entered it, and crawled until
they reached a slope where a tiny stream was flowing,
down which they slid as if it were a slide. To the right and left,
the little flames danced cheerfully, as if showing them they were
on the right path.

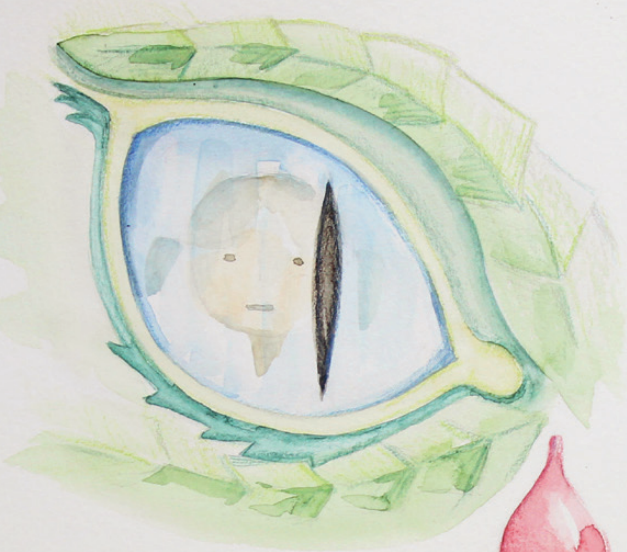


Upon arriving at the end, they came face to face with
the dragon, who lay sleeping on his back. They looked
around and realized they were in some kind of giant
bubble within what seemed to be a lake. The surface
of the bubble was covered with
representations of all



the wonderful places the
dragon had visited, created from
the movements of the water.
Inside it, they could breathe
without problems and hear
the dragon's snoring.
From its nose emerged
the little flames that
had led them to this
magical place.





Both approached fearlessly
and touched its... muzzle?

Do dragons have muzzles?

The animal woke up and its bright,
blue eyes fixed on Rita. Without
a word, the dragon knew that the
siblings were worried, that they were
suffering from their father's illness.

He felt their pain and shed a huge
tear that, upon falling to the ground,
burst and turned into a thousand
square pieces of red paper.

Suddenly, without really knowing
how, the children felt that they were
communicating with the dragon, as if
it were telepathy. The majestic animal
explained to them that in Japan he
learned of a legend that said if you
made a thousand paper cranes,
you could make a wish. Rita
and Xavi's faces lit up and
they thought that if they
made them, they could wish
for their father to get better.

They quickly picked up the red pieces from the ground and tried to make a crane, but they realized they didn't know where to start. At that moment, the dragon got up, sat with them, and showed them, step by step, how to make a paper crane. Little by little, fold after fold and smile after smile, they managed, among the three of them, to make the thousand cranes.



It was getting late and the children knew their mother would worry if they didn't get home soon. The dragon noticed their worry, put them on his back, spread his wings, and leaped upwards. They ascended the river, surrounded by the will-o'-the-wisps, and flew over the village until Rita indicated where their house was. The dragon landed in the garden and the children signaled their mother to come up with them.





After the initial astonishment, the mother complied despite her reservations, sat on its back, and they all together flew to the hospital where their father was. The dragon rested its head against the window, and the three of them walked across its neck to enter the room.

The father, still amazed by the presence of the dragon, was overjoyed by the unexpected and surprising visit from his family. Rita and Xavi gave him the cranes they had made.

Their mother thought to string them together with a thread, sewed four equal rows, and hung them from the window. The siblings were mesmerized as they watched the strands of red cranes, swaying in a gentle breeze. The dragon looked at them intently and seemed to smile, in the way that dragons smile. As the sun was setting, the siblings made their wish, and moments later, they heard a small laugh. They turned and saw that it was their father, laughing quietly for the first time in a long time. The children looked at each other with understanding and hugged their parents. The four of them, still hugging, watched the sunset together as the dragon took flight to return to his home, with the echo of the family's laughter ringing in his long ears. 🏮

