

## **THE EARTH`S CRUST**

Butterflies of all colours, animals big and small, birds, people, plants, trees, flowers, stones and boulders were all parts of Water. They were all created from Water and came out from her cooling lap, but back then, as we have to explain, they still didn't live on the solid ground as they do today, but slightly above it. In fact, in those ancient days, everything hovered just above the ground not being able to land on it, since the Earth was still soft, hot and malleable, just like river clay, or just like a balloon filled with water, or something like thick fog, an autumn spectre or a giant blob of jelly - to get the picture, and for this reason, it was unthinkable that anything solid would ever stand on it, even though for only a short moment, not mentioning the possibility of lying, sleeping or strutting backwards and forwards on a ground of this kind. Every step would go straight through the soft crust; every tree root would penetrate deeper and deeper interminably, without ever finding the support for their weight. In other words, the ground was unstable and restless, and nobody, including people, flowers and trees could ever find a moment of rest on such Earth, which had a half of the Sun inside it, whose heat made its surface unsteady and ever changing.

And insects, birds, flowers and people had to be hovering and flying all the time, not being able to sit down, to lie, to rest in bed, or to crawl into burrows, or doze off in nests, and this of course made them all very tired and sad. Yes, they discussed the topic many times, complaining how weary they all were, and how much they would wish to change the arrangement of things and at last settle down on the Earth, but nobody knew what to do to achieve that.

And then, one very old tree, which was by the way already old, mighty and wise at the moment of its birth, came up with an idea how lovely it would be, if the hot and wobbly Earth

had a nice, solid shell - like for example here, sister tortoise carries around on her back... let`s say some kind of strong armour would be handy, just like brother armadillo`s skin... this would stop the ground from being restless and not unlike a hot army of fiery fiends.

Well now that`s an idea!, everybody agreed. But... how to do such a thing? How to create such a shell which would engulf the tempestuous core, the hot heart of the Earth, so we would be able to live on the ground, walking, sleeping and dreaming the long deserved dreams upon its very surface?

It`s certain that the tortoise would be strongly against giving up her own shell, well, she wouldn`t like it at all, and moreover... there has never been such a shell into which the whole planet would fit.

And then, inspired by this idea, all the male stones, boulders and pebbles, which were, just like everybody else, soaring low above the Earth, agreed with the female stones, boulders and pebbles, whom they had already fancied for some time, that they would come together, embrace each other very firmly, and collectively surround the Earth with a strong and impenetrable crust, they would thus create, and so all people, trees, snakes and other creatures could land on them and take a rest and finish once for all their incessant hovering.

"So nice would they be? Really?"

"That would be very kind of them, wouldn`t it?"

And so they did what they had agreed and decided to do. The female and male stones gently descended towards the Earth and embraced each other firmly and more firmly still, nestling up to each other, so there wasn`t a single cranny or a fissure between them, until they grew one into another and became one with the soil. And in this way, the crust created a single, compact, solid platform. At last, all the animals, herbs, insects and people could sit down on the Earth and take a rest, and even water, which had until then been soaring with

all the beings, could land and start running freely upon the ground in all directions.

And the Earth? No the Earth wasn't at all happy with the new turn of events. Its nature remained fierce and excited. Of course, it was still well heated by the half of the Sun which lay dormant in its entrails. And so the Earth tried to shake the crust off its body, tried to burst its fires through... and it has been trying to do so ever since until these very days, when time to time the whole world shakes, and the hot lava, a little trickle of that swallowed, invisible half of the Sun, leaks all the way to the surface in a form of volcanoes, like a faint memory of the days when the Earth was still young, soft and restless.