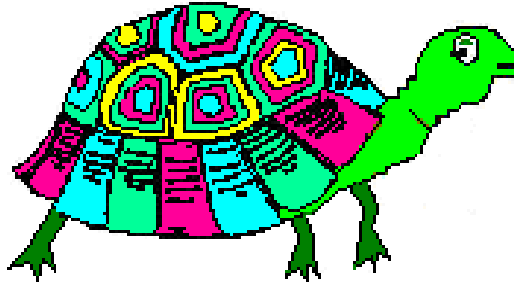


# How The Tortoise Got Cracks In His Shell

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based on oral tale shared with author by Ann Njeri Mwangi of the Kikuyu Tribe Of Kenya, Africa

1

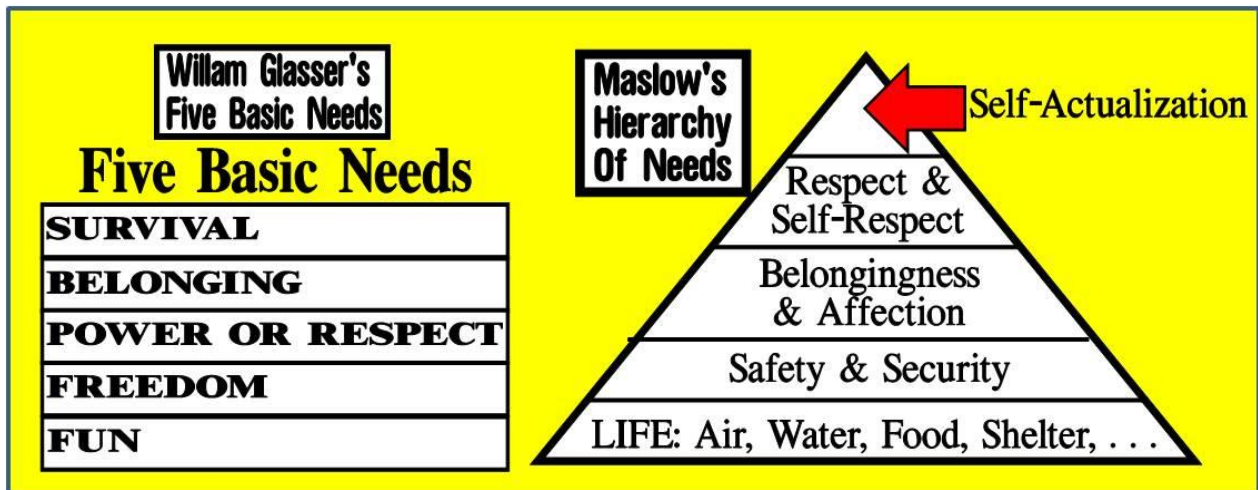
<b>3 Male Actors:</b>	<b>Tortoise</b>	<b>Parrot</b>	<b>Bird #1</b>
<b>4 Female Actors:</b>	<b>Mrs. Tortoise</b>	<b>Heaven Spokesperson</b>	
	<b>Bird #2</b>	<b>Bird #3</b>	
<b>2 or more Narrators:</b>	<b>Guys or Girls</b>		



**Narrator ①:** The Grandmothers of the Kikuyu tribe of Kenya, Africa, would tell many stories to teach the children of the tribe very important lessons.

**Narrator ②:** This story about Tortoise was told to teach the children not to be greedy.

**Narrator ①:** Let's see if you can figure out which Basic Needs all the characters in this story were trying to get met.



**Narrator ②:** Once upon a time, there was a Tortoise. This Tortoise was so very sly; so much so, that all the animals hated him.

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2

**Narrator ①:** If all the animals hated Tortoise, which of his emotional Basic Needs was getting messed with? Audience, please respond.



**TORTOISE:** You guessed it! My BELONGING need was getting messed with. I didn't like it that they hated me; however, I figured they were just jealous of my wonderful talents.

**Narrator ②:** With those strong feelings of self-confidence, which Basic Need did Tortoise seem to definitely have met?



**MRS. TORTOISE:** My husband had very strong feelings of SELF-RESPECT. He definitely felt very good about all his talents, skills, and abilities. And naturally, I truly RESPECTED him for being so wonderful. I suppose you could say that I was a little biased toward him. After all, he is my husband, and I do feel so much AFFECTION for him.

**PARROT:** Yeah! But you could also say that he was on a real POWER trip with all that bragging he liked to do. Just wait until you hear what happened to him. It was a real trip, shall we say! HA-HA-HA!



**Narrator ①:** Since that past Narrator mentioned that Tortoise was sly, which Basic Need do you think got messed with for all the other animals in the forest?

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3



**BIRD #2:** I don't know about the other birds and animals, but Tortoise's slyness made me feel nervous. And when I feel nervous, I feel INSECURE. So I guess you could say that he really messed with my need for SECURITY.

**BIRD #3:** That's the same for me. When I feel INSECURE, I also don't feel very SAFE. So he also messed with my need for SAFETY.

**Narrator ②:** One day, all the Birds were invited to go to a party in Heaven. A Heaven Spokesperson contacted one of the Birds and said:

**HEAVEN SPOKESPERSON:** Hello, Mr. Bird! Please let all the Birds of the Forest know that we in Heaven would like to invite all of you to come to a very special party in Heaven.

**BIRD #1:** That's wonderful! When is the party, please?

**HEAVEN SPOKESPERSON:** The party will be this Thursday at noon.

**BIRD #1:** I'll let all the Birds know! Thank you! I'm sure we will all be there.

**HEAVEN SPOKESPERSON:** Great! We will see you all on Thursday.

**Narrator ①:** If you are invited to a party, which Basic Needs are you definitely getting met? Audience, please respond.



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4

**TORTOISE:** Those Birds are getting their BELONGING need met, and they are also getting their FUN need met too. No fair! I wanted to be invited too! My BELONGING need was being messed with, just because I can't fly up to Heaven like those Birds can. That's no fair!



**Narrator ②:** Since Tortoise can't fly to Heaven like the Birds can, which Basic Need is he not getting met?

**TORTOISE:** FREEDOM, Man! I didn't have the FREEDOM to go everywhere I want to go. But wait a minute! I think I just got a great idea how I can also be FREE to go to Heaven! Yeah! I think this might really work.

**Narrator ①:** Tortoise concocted a plan. He went to the Birds and said:

**TORTOISE:** You know, that when you go to heaven, the people of Heaven will expect you to have a leader. I would make a very good leader, as I am such a sweet talker.

**Narrator ②:** The Birds had to agree that Tortoise was a very sweet talker. So they told Tortoise that he could be their leader.

**Narrator ①:** We think that you will agree that Tortoise was on a real POWER trip with all his talk about being their leader and being such a sweet talker.

**Narrator ②:** Each bird donated one feather to the Tortoise. They stuck these feathers on his shell. This way, he would be able to fly to the party in Heaven.

**Narrator ①:** Before they left for the party in Heaven, the Tortoise said:

**TORTOISE:** You know, the people of Heaven will ask us for our names. So we all have to have names. You choose your own names. As for me, my name will be "All Of You."

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5

**Narrator ②:** The Birds turned to each other and questioned:

**BIRD #2:** That's a strange name for Tortoise to be called. I wonder what my name should be?

**BIRD #1:** I agree! That is a very strange name for Tortoise. What should I make my name be?

**BIRD #3:** Yeah! I can't think of any other name to go by than my own name.

**PARROT:** Exactly! I think going by our own names is a very good idea. After all, the people of Heaven already know us by those names. Remember, they've never met Tortoise, but they know us.

**BIRD #1:** You're right. I'll just keep my own name.

**Narrator ①:** With that decided, then the Birds and Tortoise flew to Heaven. Tortoise was having a FUN time flying for the very first time ever. It also made him feel POWERFUL and FREE.

**Narrator ②:** When they arrived, Tortoise gave a very sweet speech. The people of Heaven were very impressed.

**Narrator ①:** What kind of techniques do you think Tortoise used to make certain his speech was extra sweet and impressive?



**HEAVEN**

**SPOKESPERSON:**

I was so impressed by his speech as he was loud. He used expression. He gave us compliments. He looked us in the eyes as he spoke. And his words were very well chosen.

**Narrator ②:** Parrot heard the Heaven Spokesperson bragging about Tortoise. It made him feel a little bad, so he turned to one of the Birds and snapped:

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6

**PARROT:** Yeah, yeah! So!!! He gave a great speech. But could he have made that speech if we didn't share our feathers with him? No way! But did he thank us? Nope! He sure didn't!

**BIRD #3:** You're right! He never said thank you even once! That's gratitude for you! Humph!

**Narrator ①:** After the Speech, the people of Heaven laid out all the food. Tortoise asked the host:

**TORTOISE:** Whose food is this?

**HEAVEN SPOKESPERSON:** It is for all of you.

**Narrator ②:** So Tortoise went over to the Birds and said:

**TORTOISE:** The people of Heaven said that this food is for "All Of

**TORTOISE:** You." That is my name. Perhaps they will bring some more food out for you later.

**Narrator ①:** So the Tortoise ate up all the food, and the Birds did not get anything to eat.

**Narrator ②:** Which Basic Needs did the Birds get messed with since Tortoise did not share any food with them?



**BIRD #1:** We didn't have any FUN at the party!

**BIRD #2:** We felt left out and like we didn't BELONG. I think Tortoise was really DISRESPECTING us.

**BIRD #2:** It also messed with our LIFE NEEDS and SURVIVAL needs as we were deprived of getting food and drink.

**BIRD #1:** Plus, Tortoise was all POWER happy. We needed to teach him a lesson!

**Narrator ①:** In the end, the Birds got so angry and fed up with Tortoise, that they each took back their feathers.

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7

**Narrator ②:** So now, the Tortoise could not fly home. He pleaded:

**TORTOISE:** Birds, since I cannot fly home, won't you take a message back to earth for me?

**Narrator ①:** However, the Birds were so angry, none of them would agree. They enjoyed watching him squirm with his feelings of INSECURITY and fear of his very SURVIVAL.

**TORTOISE:** Please! Oh, please! Pleeeeeaaaaaassssssseeee!!!

**Narrator ②:** But Tortoise begged and pleaded so hard; that finally, the Parrot said:

**PARROT:** All right. What's the message?

**TORTOISE:** Tell my wife that I will be landing down from Heaven. Tell her that she should lay out every pillow and everything soft that she can find, so that I will have a comfortable landing.

**Narrator ①:** However, when the Parrot relayed the message, he told the Tortoise's wife:

**PARROT:** Your husband will be landing down from Heaven. He told me to tell you to put out all the axes, the hammers, and all the sharp things you can find for his landing.



**MRS. TORTOISE:** Are you sure that is what he said? That is a very strange thing for him to ask me to do.

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8

**PARROT:** Sure, I'm sure! That's what he said all right!

**MRS. TORTOISE:** Okay! Please tell my husband that I will do exactly as he asked.

**Narrator ②:** The wife followed the Parrot's directions. Then the Tortoise was given the signal that it was safe to fall.

**Narrator ①:** He fell down, down, down, smack on top of all those hard, sharp objects and CRAAAACCCCKKKKKKKK! went his shell.

**Narrator ②:** Afterward, his wife took the Tortoise to a village doctor who was also a very wise man.

**Narrator ①:** The doctor put his shell back together again, but it was never again smooth.

**Narrator ②:** From that time forward until this very day, all Tortoises have cracks in their shells.

