



# THE CATERPILLAR THAT WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS

João José da Costa

THE CATERPILLAR THAT WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS, BY JOÃO JOSÉ DA COSTA

# THE CATERPILLAR THAT WANTED DO MAKE FRIENDS

*She knew what humiliation, scorn, discrimination, and mockery were. Time showed that her creation was perfect.*

JOÃO JOSÉ DA COSTA

---

THE CATERPILLAR THAT WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS, BY JOÃO JOSÉ DA COSTA

Copyright reserved: FBN (Brazilian National Library Foundation) - MEC -  
Register 478.326 - Book 902 - Page 174.

Children's story that integrates with the natural fantasy and creativity of children and young people, entertaining, educating and adding to the development of character, moral values, citizenship, ecological awareness, family values, culture, knowledge, spirituality, respect for educators, encouragement to study, order and discipline. Book for children and young people who enjoy intelligent, sensitive, cultural, educational readings and themes of social reality. Book with largest literary content, a better reading exercise.

*Synopsis:*

*The book tells the story of a caterpillar who wanted to make friends with the forest animals but could not because of their strange appearance and their differences from the friends he wanted to conquer - cubs of a bunny, a squirrel, a monkey and a deer. While listening to the 12 Owls Council, which showed the way of how to develop and maintain enduring friendships, her problem continued. She knew what humiliation, scorn, discrimination, and mockery were. So, she rebelled with Mother Nature who created her. Time showed that her creation was perfect. One day, a great transformation happened in her life. But a great mission did not allow her to approach her friends as much as she wanted. From then on, she knew the meaning of her existence.*

## Dedication

I dedicate this work to all those who reserve part of their lives to educate children in some way, as a mission and a belief that in them is the hope of a better world.

In special to parents, teachers and grandparents, the basic triangle of early childhood education.

I thank God for the child that He still allows to exist in me.

João José da Costa

The forest looked enchanted. It was spring, the season of flowers and love. Voices, sounds, screams, and noises of animals were heard everywhere.

The birds sang happy and happy to celebrate the birth of new birds. Throughout the forest, thousands of other baby animals of all species were born.

The biggest concern of the dads and mummies was to get food for so many new lives. The pups needed to grow strong and quick to protect themselves and survive the winter that would follow summer and fall.

But the ones that the pups wanted most was to meet, play and walk in the forest.

In a hidden corner of the forest, in a small bush, Cater Pillar was born. She was born of a tiny egg deposited by her mother last winter.

Cater Pillar and her dozens of sisters, without wasting time, spread through the plant and ate the leaves voraciously. They had to eat a lot of leaves to grow quickly. The plant soon became only with the branches and the caterpillars looked for another plant.

And every caterpillar followed its course and they all lost themselves in the immensity of the forest in search

of appetizing leaves. Thus, Cater Pillar followed its destiny, alone.

She was so hungry she did not even realize her sisters were gone.

Soon Cater Pillar grew. It was a beautiful green caterpillar on the top and yellow on the bottom. She had splintered barbs scattered and gracing her body.

Cater Pillar thought she looked very pretty and colorful when she looked at herself in the mirror formed by a drop of rainwater. Now she had time to get to know the forest better. She walked slowly with her various legs and arms, holding onto the branches of the plants.

But Cater Pillar began to feel lonely and looked for friends.

And puppies were not lacking in the forest. There were lots of puppies. But everyone passed by her and did not even notice her presence, holding onto a plant branch.

Soon she saw cubs of a bunny, a squirrel, a monkey, and a deer approaching the branch where she was,

Cater Pillar thought:

.

"Such cute little cubs. Would you all like to be my friends?"

These puppies began to nibble the new leaves of the plants, eat the seeds and fruits. They had stopped breastfeeding of their mothers. They now needed to find food on their own.

Cater Pillar had to introduce himself and show herself to them. With much effort she managed to get up, leaning on only four of her several legs.

The first to spot her was the deer cub:

"Look! What an ugly and strange creature. What will it be?"

Then the squirrel cub said:

"Caution! She looks dangerous. Look at their sharp spines!"

And the bunny cub did not let for less:

"She cannot even walk and run! But what good is this beast in the forest? Not at all! Just to eat the leaves of the plants".

.



And the little monkey finished the conversation:

"Wow, what a funny animal. Looks like the jungle clown!".

And they all laughed a lot. Cater Pillar was not discouraged and asked,

"Hey you! Do not want to be my friends? I'm feeling so alone in this immense forest!".

The squirrel, the bunny, the monkey, and the deer cubs were surprised by Cater Pillar's question.

"You, our friend?" You can hardly walk! How would you run along with us in the woods?". Answered the little deer.

"And how could we trust you with these sharp spines?" You'd hurt us!". The little squirrel answered.

"Besides, you eat the leaves of the plants that are our food! Food will soon be lacking for us. Do you never think about being our friend!". The bunny cub answered.

"Walk with you? Only if it's to go to the circus, you little clown!".

Cater Pillar was very sad and disappointed. But he insisted:

"I know I cannot run. But I can go with you in your hair. I'll watch out for my sharp barbs. I eat so little that there will be plenty of leaves left for you. The bush has many leafy plants for everyone, plus the seeds and fruits!

"Not! No way! They all answered at once".

"You are very different from us; you cannot be our friend. You're ugly, slow, dangerous, you're weird with all these legs and arms. You are nothing like us. Go find your group!".

Cater Pillar even tried one last trick to get attention:

"Look! I can jump from here to the floor without hurting myself!".

Speaking this, she wrapped herself in a circle, holding her last legs with her first arms. Then she rolled over the branch and fell to the ground.

Already on the ground, she returned to her normal position, opened her arms and a big smile and asked, waiting for the applause.

.

“And now? What did you think?”.

But the applause did not come.

"I did not find anything!". The little deer said.

“I did not find it funny!”. The little bunny said.

"What a silly trick!". The little squirrel said.

"But you're a real not funny clown!". Said the little monkey.

And the cubs were gone, playing, laughing, running through the woods until they disappeared from the eyes of our unfortunate Cater Pillar.

Cater Pillar had learned hers first lessons:

From the deer, what discrimination was.

From the bunny, what humiliation was.

From the squirrel, what was scorn was.

From the little monkey, what mockery was.

But Cater Pillar kept her dignity, though she was very unhappy.

Finding a talking cricket, she asked him:

“What should I do to get friends in this forest?”.

“Why don’t you listen to the Council of 12 Owls?”. The talking cricket replied.

“Council of 12 Owls?”. Cater Pillar inquired.

“Yes! They are wise 12 owls. And each one can give you some advice on how to get friends. And, what is very important, how to keep friends by your side!”. The talking cricket completed.

Cater Pillar immediately sought the Council of 12 Owls. But she could not walk more than twenty feet a day.

Fortunately, a strong wind carried the sheet where she was to a place where she could meet the Council of 12 Owls.

And Cater Pillar soon told his story:

“Wise owls. I feel so alone and unhappy and wonder how I can be friend with the deer, the bunny, the monkey, and the squirrel cubs”.

The owls looked suspicious and did not quite understand why a caterpillar wanted to be a friend of such different animals.

But they gently gave the 12 wise counsel:

*1 - "Look at the cubs with a smile and affection. Ask the cubs what they would like to play".*

*2 - "Make compliments, be kind to the cubs. Be interested in what your friends like to do when they are in the burrows and not eating".*

*3 - "Invite your friends to go out together. Never get upset when the cubs do not have the same opinion as yours".*

*4 - "Make the cubs feel good next to you, be happy. Never talk badly about one cub to another".*

*5 - "Do not try to be more than the other cubs. Cultivate friendships with your heart and you will realize who your true friends are".*

*6 - "Do not engage in quarrels, never use violence to impose your will. Do not mind, if any cub say other cub talked badly about you".*

*7 - "If something bothers you, leave the group naturally, not showing any irritation. Always show confidence in you. Learn to accept and apologize".*

.

8 - *"Never talk to any cub, if you hear that other cub talked badly about him. Do not be a gossiper".*

9 - *"Promote parties and picnics and invite your friends. Challenge yourself to conquer the cubs that apparently do not like you".*

10 - *"Don't be overly competitive in opinion, in games, in playing. Don't want to win them all. Do not be afraid to lose. Winning and losing is part of learning in life".*

11 - *"Establish a truer and more lasting relationship with those who identify with you most. Try to work together with your friends, each seeking to improve the knowledge of the other".*

12 - *"Be a good companion and friend for all hours. When a cub is better than you, do not show disappointment and sadness, instead, congratulate and praise it. Compare the behavior of successful cubs in the friendships and try to adopt them".*

At the end, the older owl approached Cater Pillar and said quietly:

"Do you know what? You will never get the friendship of all the cubs! But it's important that you have a number of true friends living with you!".

Forgetting about Cater Pillar, the owls all flew together, meeting another group of newly arrived cubs. Cater Pillar almost slept listening to the soft, low voice of the owls. But she kept a good deal of their advice.

“Ah! Now I know how I can be friends with them!”. She said excitedly.

But with his extremely slow steps, Cater Pillar could still hear the conversation between one of the owls and an eagle cub:

The owl said:

"I know you hunt baby birds. There is nothing you can do to avoid this. Mother Nature conceived you like this. But I'm going to ask you not to hunt my puppies!".

"But how can I know who your puppies are?". Asked the little eagle, who had just left the nest. She would now have to hunt at her own risk.

“Well, it is too easy!”. Said the owl. And she completed:

“My puppies are the most beautiful puppies in the forest!”.

.

Cater Pillar was surprised by this owl comment. After all, owl pups are very ugly when they are born!

Cater Pillar finally understood why they say 'Mother Owl' when moms find their puppies very beautiful, including human moms!

A few days later, the deer, the bunny, the monkey, and the squirrel cubs met again with Cater Pillar. And she found the owls' advice interesting to invite them to a plentiful picnic.

“Hi friends! Don´t you want to have a picnic with me?”. Cater Pillar asked.

“Look! I already cut all these delicious leaves for you to eat!”. Cater Pillar completed.

“Hi, you again? These leaves are not enough at all. I eat hundreds of leaves a day!”. The little deer answered.

“I do not like these leaves! I prefer more grass!”. The little bunny answered.

“To eat leaves! My God! I do not eat them. I like seeds and fruits!”. The little squirrel answered.

“I like fruit better!”. The little monkey said.



And they all left, laughing at Cater Pillar.

“She does not give up. How could she want to be our friend?”. Everyone thought.

And Cater Pillar stayed with her fifteen leaves mound, which she had taken several hours to cut, not knowing what to do with them. She had already eaten a whole leaf and was satisfied.

Was she condemned not to have friends? Even the advice of the wise owls did not work. And in the sadness of her loneliness she hid in a corner of a tree trunk and wept silently.

Her cry was heard by the fairy known as Mother Nature:

"Why are you crying for my little creation?". Mother Nature asked.

“Am I your creation?”. Cater Pillar asked curiously and stopped crying for a moment.

“Yes! All the animals, plants and streams and everything in the forest are my creation!”. Mother Nature replied.

.

"But why did you make me so ugly, crawling, with many legs and arms, and these barbs that frighten and drive away my friends?". Cater Pillar complained.

"My dear creation, I find all the forest animals beautiful. Each with its beauty. And everyone has a function and a reason to exist". Mother Nature explained.

"But I do not understand why I am this way and I do not make friends!". Cater Pillar continued.

"My dear caterpillar, you must trust your creator. Remember that I didn't create anything by chance!". After saying this, the fairy Mother Nature retired, venting:

"This is not the first time that my creations rebel against me. But, as always, I give time to the time so that they understand the reason of being as they are!".

And the words of fairy Mother Nature were right! It didn't take long for Cater Pillar to understand why she was one of Mother Nature's beautiful creations. A bird searched for food. From above, he looked down for insects and caterpillars.

Cater Pillar was terrified! Instinctively, she knew she could turn into bird food.

She stood still, waiting, desperate. But to her surprise, the bird flew close to her and moved on.

“Wow! How could he not see me?”. Cater Pillar asked intrigued.

"Wow, that was close!". She exclaimed.

She had not yet realized it, but her green color from the top hid her among the leaves of the plants. And the bird passed without noticing its presence.

Soon after, a frog was also searching for insects and caterpillars. It was already his lunch hour. The frog looked up and down to find out where his appetizing food might be. Once again, Cater Pillar felt the danger and fear of being eaten by the frog.

However, the frog looked up and did not see Cater Pillar who was holding firmly on a branch. The sunlight was strong. And the toad, turning its eyes to all sides, moved on.

"What happened? He did not see me! Am I invisible?". Cater Pillar asked again.

She had not realized it yet, but the yellow color on her underside confused the frog's eyes with the brightness of

the sun. He moved on and could not identify Cater Pillar. Once again Cater Pillar was saved.

Cater Pillar soon discovered that competition for life in the great forest was great.

And it was not long before Cater Pillar found himself in front of a small snake. The snake, without hesitation, snatched Cater Pillar. But then he spat Cater Pillar out of his mouth.

The barbs that Cater Pillar had around her body burned and irritated the mouth of the snake that had to look for other foods. So, the snake turned away, leaving Cater Pillar alone.

And finally, Cater Pillar had the final proof that it was a great creation of Mother Nature. A heavy rain with windstorm ripped the leaves of the trees and made everything fly by the highs. But Cater Pillar with her various arms and legs grabbed firmly to the branch and did not fall to the ground and was not carried away by the windstorm.

"Now I understand what Mother Nature said to me. Everything has a reason! My colors, my barbs, my arms and legs saved me. I'll apologize to her when I find her again!". Cater Pillar pledged.

After a few days, Cater Pillar met with Mother Nature, she apologized, but she did not stop complaining again:

“You were right Mother Nature! But all this does not help me to make friends!”. Cater Pillar lamented.

“At this stage you cannot have many friends. You must eat a lot and prepare yourself for the great transformation!”. Mother Nature added.

“Great transformation?”. Cater Pillar asked surprised.

Mother Nature left Cater Pillar with her curiosity and said goodbye:

"Well, I have to go now. You must always trust me! There is no one who likes you more like me. After all, I am your creator!".

Cater Pillar still looked for the rabbit, squirrel, deer, and monkey cubs she had enjoyed. But she watched them pass, running back and forth. But they did not even stop to talk to her. Not even to discriminate against her, to humiliate her, to scorn her or to mock her!

So, with great sadness, Cater Pillar retired to a dark corner of a branch. And there she built a cocoon to hide himself from everything and everyone.

Cater Pillar cried with sorrow for several days, until she fell asleep deeply.

Hers sleep lasted for several weeks. Cater Pillar sensed something was happening to her body inside the cocoon, but she did not know what it was.

When she woke up, she felt very tight inside the cocoon she had made and decided to leave.

To her surprise, something amazing, one of nature's great miracles was happening. Cater Pillar no longer felt her body in green and yellow, her legs and arms, her barbs.

Instead, two large multicolored wings had emerged, had gained long legs, a small body. And coldly she showed herself in the sun to dry her great wings.

“A butterfly! A butterfly! I became a beautiful butterfly!”. Cater Pillar shouted with great joy.

“Now I can fly fast through the forest and win many friends!”. She said very excited.

And the first thing she did was look for the little animals she so loved: the rabbit, the squirrel, the monkey, and

the deer cubs. She wanted to show her joy and happiness.

When she saw them, she landed gently on the little deer's ear and showed her beauty and transformation to catch their attention.

“Look at that beautiful butterfly!”. The little deer said.

“How I would like to fly like her!”. The little rabbit said.

"I wish I had her colors!". The little squirrel said.

“I'd like to get everyone's attention like her!”. The little monkey said.

And everyone asked the butterfly at the same time:

"Would you like to be our friend?".

Cater Pillar, now transformed by Mother Nature into a graceful butterfly, said to everyone:

"Oh, my dear friends I´ve never had! Now, I cannot! When I could be your friend I was rejected, scorned, humiliated, discriminated and mocked. But I do not blame you, absolutely! And I still like everyone. I did not know how to put myself in my place”.

“What do you mean?” The little deer asked.

"When have you ever wanted to be our friend?" The little rabbit asked.

"I'm seeing you for the first time!". The little squirrel argued.

"You must be fooling at me!" The little monkey remarked.

The butterfly, now mature and wise, answered:

"I'm Cater Pillar, remember?" But I was very ugly to you, weird and frightened you with my barbs! You did not want to be my friends”.

“But now we want!”. They all answered with one voice.

The butterfly replied:

“As I said, I do not have time to play anymore. I have an important mission given to me by Mother Nature!”.

“Mission, what mission?”. They all asked with wide eyes.

.



“My mission now is to fly through the forest in search of flowers and drink your honey. So, I repay the honey that the flowers give me helping them in pollination so they can produce fruits and seeds. In fact, it is thanks to our work, together with the bees, the hummingbirds and other insects and animals of the forest, that you can taste delicious fruits and seeds!”.

The deer, the squirrel, the rabbit and the monkey cubs looked sad and surprised at the same time, asking:

"But after you do that, couldn't you play with us and be our friend?"

“Unfortunately, not. After feeding myself with the sweet honey of the flowers, I will marry and prepare to generate dozens of eggs that I will put in the leaves of the plants. So, next spring, dozens of other caterpillars will be born and will become dozens of other butterflies. So, I close my mission on Earth. In fact, a great mission given to me by Mother Nature”.

The rabbit, the squirrel, the deer, and the monkey cubs understood exactly what the butterfly had just said. After laying the eggs, she would leave this life. But they asked one last question:

“But how long will you still live as a butterfly?”.

“Oh, a long time! Long enough for me to get to know a good part of the forest, pollinate many flowers, hear birdsong, feel the freshness of the crystalline waters of the streams, the wind breeze!”.

“But how long?”. They cubs insisted.

“In my kind, by my calculations I will have around 7.776.000 seconds! Or 129,600 minutes. Or 2,160 hours. Or 90 days. As you wish!”.

And Cater Pillar clarified:

“Some of my relatives live only two days as a butterfly. Others live up to twelve months! It varies greatly according to species”.

“But is this a little or a long time?”. They asked sad for the butterfly's luck.

“The important thing is that time is enough for me to complete my mission here on Earth. And even then, it's a good time! I will have millions of seconds to live and finish my mission. Now, I will enjoy every second of life to enjoy all the beauties of the forest”.

After saying that, the butterfly threw itself into the air, joyful and happy, flying with an amazing grace, stopping

at every flower of the road. All the forest animals envied the happiness of the butterfly. Many would even like to be like her - beautiful, colorful, feeding on honey, flying through the treetops, crossing the rivers, catching everyone's attention.

Curious about Cater Pillar's lifetime, the four friends sought out the wise owl:

“Wise Owl, how long is 7,776,000 seconds? Is this a long life or a short time life?”

The owl responded by showing all its wisdom:

“I ask another question for you: who lives the most - the butterfly with its 7,776,000 seconds or a 100-year-old tortoise?”

And she went on:

“The butterfly will live its 7,776,000 seconds of full happiness, flying and knowing the whole forest. It will feed on the purest honey, feeling the fresh air from every corner, the coolness of the streams and waterfalls. She will see the sun more closely, have a view from above the colorful treetops and everything that happens in the forest life”.

.

And the wise owl finished:

“The turtle, in turn, will live a hundred years walking slowly. She will not be able to fly, and she will know only a small part of the forest. She will be far from the sun and she will not see it very much, she will always feel very cold and she will spend most of her life sleeping!”.

The deer, the rabbit, the squirrel, and the monkey cubs silenced for a while, and divided themselves into the answer to the wise Owl's question:

“The butterfly lives longer!”. The little squirrel and the rabbit said.

“The turtle lives longer but does not live better!”. The little deer and the monkey said.

But in truth, none of them were yet sure of their answer!

And you, my little friend? If you had to be born as an animal, what animal would you choose? Would you like to be born a butterfly? Or a turtle?

A few weeks later, the deer, the rabbit, the squirrel and the monkey cubs searched for leaves, fruits and seeds

through the forest. And they saw on a leaf dozens of eggs deposited. They were tiny bright yellow balls.

Just below, a pair of wings on the ground showed them that Cater Pillar had fulfilled her mission on Earth. Cater Pillar left for all, as an inheritance, dozens of future caterpillars and butterflies.

Silently, one looked at the other, and left with their heads down. Without exchanging words, everyone thought at the same time:

"If one day I see a caterpillar, I will not bother with its various legs and arms, her weird and disgusting form, her sharp barbs. I will be her friend, knowing that her heart lives a beautiful hidden butterfly!"

My little friends! Many things happen in life. Not often we despise the friendship of a child because she is too fat or too thin, too low or too tall, too poor or too rich, too ugly or too pretty, too strong or too weak. Or even, because she is the bearer of some special need.

We forget to see that in her heart there is a beautiful creation of Mother Nature ready to be a loyal and true friend.

END