

THE FROG THAT DIDN'T WANT TO BE A PRINCE AGAIN

*The prince chose to stay in the lake
like a frog and not return to the castle
until...*

JOÃO JOSÉ DA COSTA

Translator: Anna Carolina da Costa Oliveira
Email: annacarolina_co@hotmail.com

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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. This book is for children and young people who enjoy intelligent, sensitive, cultural, educational readings and themes of social reality. It is a book with largest literary content, a better reading exercise.

Synopsis:

The book tells the story of George, a young Prince of the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH, who is forced into a marriage he does not want with Princess Stephanie of the terrible Kingdom of HATEBURGH, ruled by the violent King Vladimir. King Vladimir's intention with this marriage was the union of the Kingdoms of PEACEBURGH and HATEBURGH in order to conquer the rich and peaceful Kingdom of LOVEBURGH. Prince George does not accept this condition and curses that he would rather become a frog and disappear into the great lake of the castle. The curse witch listened and answered his request. At the lake, Prince George had moments of great joy, won sincere friendships, such as that of Frog Croc, and felt so good that he would not want to be Prince again. Everything was fine until he saw that the lake was not so

calm and safe. The dreaded Goliath Frog, who swallowed frogs who did not obey her, decided that all frogs should invade the peaceful, rich neighboring lake. Croc, by example of determination and courage, led a movement against Goliath Frog, showing Prince George, called Toad by Croc, how cowardly and timid he was at facing problems in his own Kingdom. Breaking the curse and returning to Princehood was thanks to a true kiss of love from Frog, a friendly little frog who was, in fact, the castle maid Suzy in love with the Prince and who had been accidentally transformed in frog by the curse witch. Prince George led his people to resistance against King Vladimir. The story ends with a lesson given by the people of LOVEBURGH who helped the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH overcome the Kingdom of HATEBURGH. Defeated King Vladimir cursed and the curse witch turned him into a frog as well. But his fate on the lake was sad. The new King George finally marries Suzy, the maid.

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

This story happened in the Kingdoms of LOVEBURGH, HATEBURGH and PEACEBURGH. Before, these three Kingdoms were together, forming a great and powerful empire. But the inhabitants had different desires, thoughts and ambitions. Then they separated, dividing the empire into these three Kingdoms.

The inhabitants, who wanted peace and love, created the Kingdom of LOVEBURGH. The inhabitants, who believed that everything can be achieved by war, created the Kingdom of HATEBURGH. And the inhabitants who wanted peace but made war when their interests were contradicted created the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH.

These three Kingdoms lived in peace, until one event changed the life and routine of all its inhabitants. And this drama was lived mainly by Prince George of the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH.

He suffered his sadness, sitting on a rock by the great lake of the castle. This was the only place he could find refuge and some peace for the drama he faced in his life.

In the castle, King Philip, Prince George's father, once again urged Queen Catherine:

“Jorge has to agree to this marriage! It will be good for him, for us, and for the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH”.

Queen Catherine, fearing the wrath of her mighty husband, always sought to compromise:

“Philip, give Jorge more time to understand the reasons for this marriage to Princess Stephanie, though he doesn't love her”.

But Queen Catherine thought silently: “He does not love her and will never love her. Nor he does not agree with the reason of this marriage!”.

Some time ago King Philip had been sought by the violent King Vladimir of the Kingdom of HATEBURGH. This King was known for the constant wars he was inflicting on the neighboring Kingdoms and the punishments and wickedness he applied to the subjects defeated by his mighty army.

And this conversation hammered King Philip's head and he remembered King Vladimir's words:

"Your highness Philip. I have come from afar personally to propose that your son, Prince George, marry my daughter, Princess Stephanie. This marriage will enable us to unite our two armies and together we can dominate the neighboring Kingdoms by building a great empire!".

And King Vladimir's attention was the rich and peaceful Kingdom of LOVEBURGH. This Kingdom was governed by the kind King Richard, who was worshiped by his subjects. King Richard led his kingdom with order, justice, and social peace. His subjects worked with great pride and dedication.

Many devoted themselves to labor on the land producing a great deal of food and good wine. Others were artists and craftsmen. In every corner of the Kingdom could be found statues of gods and goddesses who were venerated by the subjects. In addition, the craftsmen offered excellent products such as bags, shoes, clothes,

ox carts, horse saddles. And all the women made the best cakes and pastries in the whole region.

Children learned to write and read and learned the arts, such as painting and sculpture. King Richard had no armies, only a few soldiers to control the entry and exit of his subjects to his castle.

The Kingdom of LOVEBURGH was one of the richest and most peaceful kingdoms in the region and this attracted the lust of other kings, especially King Vladimir. Their lands were rich in gold and precious stones. But King Richard never allowed gold and precious stones to be extracted if it was necessary to destroy nature and the environment.

However, King Richard did not believe that King Vladimir or any other King could invade his Kingdom. Therefore, he had no armies and the people were peaceful.

On the contrary, the kingdom of HATEBURGH was turned to war. His soldiers were trained from childhood to be violent and bravely resist the

sufferings of war. Children were kept by their mothers until they were eight years old. After this age, they lived in groups and were raised outdoors.

HATEBURGH's soldiers subjected these children to rigorous military training.

Children learned the use of weapons such as spears, swords and bows and arrows. They went through torture and sacrifice, such as injury, hunger, and cold, so that they could learn to endure the pains of war and to be immune to fear and resistant to time. They learned to hate cowardice and became fanatically devoted to the Kingdom of HATEBURGH.

So instead of going to school, they spent hours and hours learning martial arts and combat techniques. And many were injured and even died in this training.

King Vladimir admired the education of the distant Kingdom of Sparta in Greece and adopted these techniques for the extraordinary combat success of the Spartan army.

Already the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH, situated between the Kingdoms of LOVEBURGH and HATEBURGH, had an army of many soldiers, but inferior to that of HATEBURGH. He maintained strict control over his high-paying subjects. There was a lot of feeling of social injustice and the people were not happy with their King Philip. But there were schools for the richest classes. However, most subjects had no access to any form of education. However, it was a rich kingdom and its army powerful enough to command respect.

But what King Philip remembered most was King Vladimir's last words:

“Your highness must agree to this marriage between Prince George and Princess Stephanie as one way to prevent the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH from being invaded by my army”.

To go to war with the Kingdom of HATEBURGH was all King Philip did not want. Thus, he depended on Prince George's agreement to marry Princess Stephanie, daughter of King Vladimir.

Even if this represented the invasion of the Kingdom of LOVEBURGH.

Queen Catherine, understanding the dilemma of her husband, King Philip, was trying to convince Prince George:

"Jorge, I know you don't love this princess. I didn't love your father either when we got married. But my marriage was a decision of my parents, I could do nothing. In reigns there are interests that must be preserved, and this is achieved through marriages like this one that is being proposed to you".

"I know, my mother. But I can't marry a woman I don't love! Whatever the reasons!".

"Even if this leads to a war against the kingdom of HATEBURGH?".

"War?".

"Yes, unfortunately, yes! King Vladimir threatened your father Felipe with war if this marriage is not held!".

Prince George fell silent at this terrible threat. What to do? Marry a woman you don't love or lead his Kingdom into a stupid war against the HATEBURGH Kingdom?”.

By far this conversation was accompanied by Suzy, Queen Catherine's faithful maid. Suzy had a great passion for Prince George. She was an extraordinarily beautiful girl in lovely ways. And she felt that she was reciprocated by Prince George in this passion.

Prince George was enchanted every time he saw Suzy, and they used to play together since childhood. But Prince George never admitted this passion for Suzy to the Queen and King, fearing unjust reprisals for his great friend and maid.

Moreover, he knew that, as Crown Prince of the Kingdom, he could never hope to marry a maid.

One morning, an emissary of King Vladimir brought a letter to King Philip. And the terrible short and threatening letter:

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"King Philip. I await a final reply from your highness within 30 days. My army is already in preparation for the war against the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH. Only Prince George's marriage to Princess Stephanie can avert this war. The peace of your subjects is in your hands. The life of your family, too ...".

King Philip despaired:

"Where is Prince George? Guards! Search the Prince for every corner of the castle and the Kingdom and bring him immediately to my presence!".

Dozens of guards scattered around the corners of the castle and the kingdom looking for Prince George.

Hearing King Philip about King Vladimir's message and the order given to the soldiers, Suzy immediately looked for George. She knew where he used to seek refuge:

"Jorge, Jorge! Excuse me, Prince George, please!".

"Hi Suzy. You surely can call me Jorge! After all we are great friends since kids!".

"Jorge, your father received an ultimatum from King Vladimir. Either you decide to marry Princess Stephanie in the next 30 days, or our Kingdom will be invaded by HATEBURGH's army!".

Quietly, Jorge heard Suzy's words. He looked deeply into her eyes and shouted:

"What a damn life! I would rather become a frog and get lost in this pond!".

And the Curse Witch heard Jorge's request and decided to answer it, shouting:

"If this is what you want, this is what you will have!".

A strong sound was heard by all the residents of the castle and surrounding area. It sounded like very loud thunder.

In the distance, hidden in the flash of lightning, the Curse Witch walked away with a chilling

laugh. She knew her curse could only be broken with a kiss of love! And who would like to kiss a frog with love?

Suzy and Prince George simply disappeared.

King Felipe's soldiers returned from their search for Prince George:

"Majesty, we searched every corner of the kingdom and every corner of the castle. We saw no sign of Prince George. And no one knew how to report their whereabouts".

Queen Catherine sought help from her nearest maid, Suzy:

"Suzy! Suzy! Come here immediately!".

But in vain. Suzy had also disappeared, and this soon made the King and Queen suspect that Prince George and Suzy had fled the castle under their responsibilities.

"I have noticed a very romantic Suzy look when she saw Prince George!", The queen said.

"I will ask my soldiers to hunt them across the Kingdoms! And Suzy will go to the gallows! Jorge will be required to marry Stephanie! I promise it. King's word! And King's word does not go back!"

An intense search for the alleged fugitive couple began for many, many days. And no Suzy and Prince George.

When the fearsome King Vladimir of HATEBURGH learned of Prince George's disappearance, he simply said to King Philip:

"Your deadline is running out. Only 18 days left! We are ready for war!"

King Philip and Queen Catherine were in despair. They would not stand a war against the Kingdom of HATEBURGH for long. In addition, Prince George's disappearance represented a real tragedy for the Kingdom. After all, he was the only successor to occupy King Philip's throne.

The news of his disappearance and the possibility of war against the Kingdom of HATEBURGH made

the subjects of PEACEBURGH very distressed and worried.

Far from all this, Prince George discovered a new world. He still did not realize the great transformation he suffered after the witch's curse:

“Wow, what a beautiful place! Amazing, I'm breathing underwater! What a refreshing water! But how many huge fish around here! Will they eat me?”.

And it took Prince George a few hours to find out that it wasn't the fish that were big, but he was the small one. A cute little frog! Just like he asked when he said the word 'damn'”.

The Curse Witch always answers the requests of those who use this word followed by a wish. And when Prince George said: “What a damn life! I would rather become a frog and get lost in this pond!” he had no idea that his request would be granted

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And Prince George discovered his new destiny when he came to the surface of the lake and exclaimed:

"My God! What a huge lake! And that castle seems to be a castle of giants!".

However, another frog upon hearing said:

"Hey, friend! Are you new here?".

"As well? Who are you? What's your name?".

"I'm Croc. But my full name is Croc Croc. And my nickname is Croc! Can't you see? I'm a frog like you! What's your name?".

Listening to the other frog Prince George finally discovered that he had turned into a frog!

"Well, my name is Jorge! Yes, I'm new here!".

"Jorge? But this is not a frog name! May I call you Toad?".

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"Yeah, it can be. It was my mother who gave me the name of Jorge. Must be influence of English culture and names of other nobles!".

"English culture, other nobles? What are you talking about, frog?".

Prince George also realized that the castle was not a castle of giants. As a frog, he came to see everything from a new angle. So, the castle where he lived seemed too big for him!

But he didn't look at the castle longing! On the contrary, he was feeling great about his new life. At the lake he was free from his marriage to Princess Stephanie and all the ceremonial he had to perform as Crown Prince.

He swam, refreshed in the fountains, at night admired the starry sky, strolled in the lake in the moonlight.

And Croc invited him to see the lake:

"Hey Toad! Don't you want to take a walk around and see the lake?".

"Come on!". Prince George said excitedly.

And Croc presented all the beauties of the lake: the huge plants on its banks, the giant multicolored flowers, the waterfall near the crystal-clear spring, the white-sanded bottom and rocks that provided hiding places for frogs and fish.

Prince George looked on with delight and said:

"What a wonderful life I can have here. It's all so beautiful, so simple, so safe! I will never be a Prince again! Never!"

And Croc invited him to one of his favorite amusements:

"Toad let's jump from the fountain. It's the very funny!"

"As well?"

"In the center of the lake has a fountain that squirts water away. And it has a small tank with

water above the lake. We jump in this tank and then jump to the lake!”. Croc said.

“Sounds cool, come on!”. Toad agreed.

Arriving near the fountain, Croc advised:

Toad, you have to take a big swimming boost and try to reach the fountain tank. Then you jump! See how I do it!”.

Croc swam to the bottom of the lake and then swam toward the fountain's tank, leaping from the lake. And upstairs he called for Toad:

“Now it's up to you! I am waiting. So, we shall jump into the lake together!”.

Jorge, still clumsy, went to the bottom of the lake and began swimming toward the fountain's tank. But his jump was not enough to reach the tank. In addition, he hit his head on the base of the tank and became dizzy.

Croc tried to encourage him:

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Come on, try again. You will get it! What frog are you?"

Jorge, with his pride of wounded Prince, made the attempt again.

And this time, he jumped so hard that he crossed the fountain and fell across in the lake.

Croc laughed nonstop and thought: "My friend mine is really very messy!"

But on the third attempt, Jorge managed to reach the fountain's tank and meet Croc. After a few minutes swimming in the crystal-clear water of the fountain, the two decided to jump back into the lake.

Jorge was so happy that he repeated to himself: "I will never be a Prince again! Never!"

The effort was so great that Prince George began to get hungry:

"Croc, what time is lunch served at the lake?"

"Serve lunch? My friend, here nobody serves lunch to anyone. You have to search for meal by your own!".

"But no restaurant, nothing, no place where I can have lunch? Don't they have maids to serve us? I'm starving!".

"Toad, you really are very strange. I have never seen a frog ask the questions you ask! You are hungry? So, let's look for food!".

"And what do you eat here?".

"Insects! We eat lots of tasty insects that fall into the lake or stay in the plants by the lake!".

"Insects! Aaagggghhh!".

"Yes, like bugs! Don't you like bugs?".

"Well, not really! But if you have no other choice, come on! And Prince George was content to eat some moths, bees, ants, and other insects that the rain drove into the lake. He did not have the courage to eat the live insects that lived on the

plants by the lake. But Croc gave preference to these insects:

"Toad, live insects are much tastier and healthier. Avoid eating only those who drowned in the lake!".

Prince George found the lake meal one of the worst he had ever eaten in his life! But the beauty of the lake was so great that it all paid off.

"Croc and at night where are we going to sleep?".

"Toad, we don't really sleep much. We always have to be smart for our enemies. But find a hole or shelter under a rock at the bottom of the lake or hide in the plants on the lake shore".

"Our enemies? Who are they? The fishes?".

"Not really! Fish avoid eating us because we are poisonous to them. But beware of the snakes! They love to eat frogs! And they don't feel our poison!".

Prince George felt a chill on his spine and was terrified. But he tried to calm down. After all, the beauty of the lake was so great that it all paid off. And tried to find a safe haven.

"These snakes cannot be more dangerous than the army of the terrible King Vladimir!". He thought, resigning himself.

The day dawned beautiful. The sun was shining brightly and illuminating the bottom of the lake. Even the water got a little warmer, making it more enjoyable for diving.

And as soon as he woke up, Jorge went looking for his friend Croc.

"Croc, what are we going to do today?"

"Toad, the nymphs have started to flower! This is the most important time for us frogs!"

"Ah, I know the nymphs! And I loved to see its yellow and red flowers in early spring. But why is it the most important time for us men, I mean, for us frogs?"

"Don't you know? It's time to meet girlfriends, get married and breed thousands of tadpoles, our little children!".

"Is it? And how do we do this?".

"My friend Toad, you're a newbie, aren't you? At this time, we do not sleep at night. We stood on the lake nymphs or stones and began to croak. The one who croak louder and more often finds the best girlfriends!".

"Well, Croc. I will just accompany you! I'm not ready for weddings yet!".

"It is up to you! But I am prepared and very much prepared! We need to marry and breed our tadpoles. This is what we exist for!".

While Croc croaking like a madman in search of his girlfriends, Jorge just watched and found the noise of hundreds of croaking frogs curious! And he remembered hearing this noise as he slept in his room in the castle.

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However, Jorge did not croak, preferring to be alone on a nymph.

And that was when he was surprised when a frog, very beautiful and shy, jumped to the same nymph as he was.

"Hi!". Toad said.

"Hi!".

"Who are you?". Toad asked.

"Well, they just named me ShyFrog when I got here". ShyFrog said.

"Did you come from somewhere else too?". Toad insisted.

"Yeah. Well, actually, I don't know what happened. I just remember hearing a loud sound like thunder followed by lightning and when I woke up, I was in the lake. And what is your name?". ShyFrog asked.

Hmmm... you better call me Toad!".

"All right, Toad. Pleased to meet you? What about you? Why aren't you croaking? Don't you want to date, get married, have hundreds of tadpoles just like you?"

"No, ShyFrog. In fact, this word marriage gives me the creeps. I do not feel in a position to think about marriage at the moment! What about you? Aren't you looking for a frog that knows how to croak very often?"

"Neither me! You know, I'm in love with a prince... I mean a frog and wouldn't marry any other frog in this world!"

For a moment Toad and ShyFrog exchanged deep glances. It was like one already knew the other from somewhere. And for those who believe in love at first sight, there was born a new love.

Maybe, not that new!

And while the two exchanged passionate glances, a snake was already in a position to pounce. The snake caught ShyFrog by one leg and tried to snap her up. That would be the end for ShyFrog!

Toad became desperate and lunged at the snake, scratching her eyes with his feet until she released ShyFrog and dove into the lake, fleeing.

"Toad, you saved my life!". Frog said.

"I did what I should have done!". Toad said with an air of hero!

"This is it! Life on the lake is not so peaceful and safe!". Prince George thought.

He had never felt this way, strong and brave. He always had the protection of his parents and dozens of servants who spoiled him a lot. By the time Toad turned around, ShyFrog was already gone, leaving him with the thought: "When will I see her again?".

That same afternoon Croc came running to Toad to warn him:

"Toad, Toad! Goliath Frog is in the lake again. She is the queen of frogs! And it is recruiting soldiers to invade the neighboring lake. She says there are more insects and cleaner water there!".

"And do we have to serve this queen? What if we do not agree?". Toad asked.

"She will just eat you!". Croc answered.

"Will she eat me? How can she swallow another frog?".

"Toad, the Goliath Frog is the largest frog in the world. She weighs around 3 kilos and is 40 centimeters long. She can swallow several frogs at once!". Croc clarified.

"So, let's run away! Let's hide in another lake!". Toad suggested.

"But don't you find it unfair to break into the other lake and steal their food and seize their waters?". Croc asked.

"No, I don't think it's fair! But I think we better get away from this problem!". Toad answered.

"Wait a minute, Toad! We cannot be cowards. We have to find other frogs that support a move against the Goliath Frog!". Croc replied.

"But, Croc. All frogs fear for their lives! We should better get away from here and as soon as possible!".

"My friend Toad! Die in a war or die fighting for a just cause you believe in. What would be better?".

"Oh Croc, I do not know. I have always preferred to avoid problems rather than tackle them!". Toad said.

"Toad, I have no doubt that we should not serve the interests of Goliath Frog. We already have all the food we need on the lake. It's not fair to break into the lake of other frogs who live in peace!". Croc answered.

"And what are we going to do then?". Toad wanted to know.

"We will meet as many frogs as possible and convince them to make a revolt against the Goliath Frog!". Croc said.

"Well, Croc, if this is what you want, I have no alternative. But my true will would be to disappear from this lake. Maybe become a shark and go to sea!". Toad said.

"Toad, you're a great friend! But very unsure of yourself, you don't believe in your potential and your strength! But anyway, I'm glad I found a mate for this fight! Let me notice all the frogs myself. Let's meet tonight near the fountain!".

Prince George wondered about this. And he found that his position before the Goliath Frog was cowardly.

Croc gave him a lesson in courage and determination:

"I think I behaved like a coward! Maybe I was a coward even in my whole life! I have always preferred to run away from problems and not face them. This is what I should have done in the castle. Help my father face the threats of King Vladimir! But, now it's too late! I can't go back to be a prince again!" Jorge said sadly.

Croc gathered hundreds of frogs around the fountain, with Toad beside him.

"My friends! Once again, we are being threatened by the great Goliath Frog. We had many of our companions who faced her swallowed up by her. We submit to all kinds of requirements. We hunt the bugs for her, build her shelter, clean the lake. Now, unsatisfied, she wants to invade the lake of our friendly, peaceful neighbors. We cannot agree with this!".

"But how do you face the great and terrible Goliath Frog? She will swallow all of us!". The crowd of frogs shouted.

"She can swallow us one by one. But she cannot swallow us all at the same time if we unite! Let's get ready for the resistance!".

"But how are we going to do this?". The crowd of frogs shouted again.

"I have a plan! The secret plan of the three dozen!". Croc answered.

Toad, very shy, merely supported Croc with discreet cries:

“That's it! Let's support it! Congratulations! Very well!”.

The Goliath Frog learned of the move against her coordinated by Croc and decided to act immediately. She knew a new frog meeting was scheduled for the following day in the morning. And waited behind a large rock this moment.

The next day, the frogs began heading for the center of the pond where the fountain was and wondering:

“What will Croc plan to beat Goliath Frog?”.

“I'm very afraid of being swallowed by her!”.

“She's very big and powerful. We can't beat it!”.

Upon arriving, Croc, accompanied by Toad, immediately began his message:

“And then mates? Are you with me?”.

"We are!". The frogs shouted, lifting one of their little legs.

"Companions involved in our secret plan attention please! Are you ready?".

"We are!". The largest male frogs shouted.

"One for all and all for one!". Three frogs shouted in the distance.

Toad, hearing this last sentence, thought: "I have the impression that I heard this sentence before!".

And suddenly the great Goliath Frog appeared, shouting and imposing herself:

"How dare you face me! Croc, you will be the first to be swallowed! You are a subversive and revolutionary! You are trying to break the order in the lake!".

"Goliath Frog, we're fed up of your dictatorship on the lake! We shall put a stop to your selfish and unfair government!".

Hearing this, the Goliath Frog opened her large mouth to begin swallowing the angry frogs, starting with Croc.

But as she headed toward Croc, 36 frogs jumped into her mouth.

She was suffocated and could not speak or breathe. In order not to choke to death, Goliath Frog spit out all 36 frogs, unable to swallow any of them.

She tried again, jumping to try to catch Croc and Toad beside her.

Again, the 36 frogs repeated their action. This time she almost died. She couldn't spit out the frogs. But with a gesture of pity the 36 frogs came out of her mouth, letting her breathe.

Finally, Goliath Frog gave up:

"Well, I've been thinking better. I don't think we should break into the neighboring frog pond. After all, we have everything we need in this lake,

don't we? Well, if you'll excuse me, I will leave... I have more things to do...”.

The Goliath Frog from this date on has completely changed her behavior. She became friendly with everyone.

The great crowd of frogs cheered, shouting with joy and pride.

“The frogs, united, will never be swallowed!”.

“The frogs, united, will never be swallowed!”.

“The frogs, united, will never be swallowed!”.

After a few days, the frogs no longer saw the Goliath Frog in the lake. Some frogs said she accepted a wedding invitation from a male Goliath Frog and set out to live alone in another far-off lake where there were no other frogs that could bother them.

One thing Goliath Frog was sure of - swallowing frogs, never more!

Croc became the new leader of the lake.

Toad had learned important lessons from his friend for his life.

Now he missed the castle, his father, King Philip, and his mother, Queen Catherine.

"But how could I become a prince again?". He thought.

Suddenly ShyFrog appeared.

"Hi!".

"Hi!". Toad answered back.

"I was watching you and Croc face Goliath Frog, amid in the crowd of frogs! You were very brave!".

Saying this, ShyFrog approached Toad and gave him a long kiss of love.

And at that moment a great thunder sound was heard. And a strong lightning illuminated the whole lake.

Thrown on the grass near the castle lake, Prince George woke up:

"Wow! Where am I? I feel dizzy!".

Looking at his hands and arms, touching his body, Prince George realized that he had become a man again. He looked for ShyFrog, rather Suzy. But she wasn't.

Was Suzy the ShyFrog and is she still in the lake?".

He even shouted:

"ShyFrog! ShyFrog! Where are you?".

But the best he could do was to scare his frog friends who sought refuge among the plants and rocks of the lake. In particular, Croc. He searched for Toad in every corner of the lake, fearing for his life after his disappearance.

At the castle, the news of Prince George's reappearance soon spread.

And the whole kingdom celebrated his return. King Philip and Queen Catherine immediately went to meet him:

"My son, my son! My dear and beloved son! Glad you're back!". His mother said.

"Jorge, how dare you leave the castle without my order! I could punish you for this. But, my son, give me a hug! Good to see you healthy and safe". His father said.

Father, mother and son embraced themselves and they headed for the castle. Many things they had to talk about. Among them, the marriage to Princess Stephanie, daughter of King Vladimir, who awaited a response until the remaining three days of the deadline.

On the way, Prince George remembered Suzy and wondered where she might be.

The dinner that Queen Catherine had prepared for Prince George was the true dinner of the Gods.

It had all good foods and the best ones imaginable. And he ate and tasted almost everything.

“Wow, my son! You never ate this way!”

My mother! When we are away from home, we are forced to eat anything, even insects! I was missing the castle food”.

“How nice! I just think this dinner would be even better if Suzy were here. She was a great cook. By the way, we all thought you and Suzy had run away together!”.

“No mother. We do not run away together. I don't know Suzy's whereabouts. I swear I didn't see her as a person!”.

Anyway, Prince George was not lying to his mother. He had not seen Suzy as a person, but as a beautiful frog...

And at that night, King Philip returned to the subject - marriage to Princess Stephanie, daughter of already enemy King Vladimir of the

Kingdom of HATEBURGH. And he had a good reason for this - the deadline for his positive response or the war!

And Prince George this time took a completely different stance:

"My father! I will not marry this Princess Stephanie and be unhappy the rest of my life. Besides, I don't want to have a father-in-law in the category of King Vladimir. We will resist and prepare for the war against the Kingdom of HATEBURGH!".

"Son, did you go crazy? Our army is not powerful enough to face King HATEBURGH's terrible army!".

"My father! Die in a war or die fighting for a just cause you believe in. What would be better?".

Prince George remembered the same question Croc asked in the revolt against the Goliath Frog.

The king was speechless. He bowed his head and withdrew simply saying:

"My son! I am already too old for these decisions. I leave it in your hands. You are the Crown Prince of the same throne. Do what you think is best!"

"Father. I will meet with all the subjects and soldiers of our army tomorrow. We still have a time before the deadline given by King Vladimir. Time is short, but let's get ready for war with all our will and strength. The united people will never be swallowed, I mean, vanquished!"

Prince George met with all the soldiers of the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH and the subjects in a field near the city and said:

"My friends! Brave soldiers and proud subjects of the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH! Once again, we are being threatened by the ambition of the terrible King Vladimir of the HATEBURGH Kingdom! He wants to subject us to absurd demands, such as my marriage to his daughter I barely know and don't love her. And the purpose of this marriage is even more cruel! He wants the union of the Kingdoms of PEACEBURGH and HATEBURGH to invade the peaceful and happy Kingdom of LOVEBURGH. Do you think we can

agree with this? Or will we fight with the courage we always had?”.

And the subjects answered:

“Let's go to the fight! We want to see our Prince marry a girl from PEACEBURGH!”.

“Death to King Vladimir! Your soldiers are many, but let's fight to the last man! Let's save the kingdom of LOVEBURGH!”.

A good portion of the crowd supported Prince George. Another was silent, afraid and unsure of their future.

“Then get your weapons ready. Take whatever you can to defend yourself. Time is short. We look forward to the attack of the HATEBURGH soldiers in a week's time! May god protect us!”.

“Long life Prince George, long life King George!”. The people already hailed Prince George as the new King of PEACEBURGH.

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"My dear people! One day we will be the successor to King Philip's throne, my father. And let's acknowledge all your efforts with a change of our government. Let's make PEACEBURGH a new Kingdom. A Kingdom of peace and progress for all. A place where everyone can have their homes, work on the ground or in workshops, live safely, educate your children! I promise!"

"Long life our King! Long life our King!" The crowd shouted.

The following days were of great preparation and great apprehension. Women assisted in improvising war uniforms and providing food. The men sharpened their spears and axes, took their bows and arrows from their lockers.

Despite the great show of claw and pride for the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH, the mood of fear was visible.

After all, HATEBURGH's army was the best prepared of all, and the ratio was three HATEBURGH soldiers to one PEACEBURGH soldier.

Deep in his heart, Prince George thought it would be a miracle to make HATEBURGH's army retreat. But he saw no alternative but war.

At dawn on the eve of the deadline, the army of PEACEBURGH, led by Prince George, took position in the hills and fields around the kingdom of PEACEBURGH. In the Kingdom remained only the elderly, women, and children. And they all prayed for their soldiers.

In the castle, King Philip and Queen Catherine retired to the castle's small chapel to pray for Prince George's success.

Meanwhile, ignoring everything around him, unaware of the fears of war, a strange situation happened...

In the village a young girl without memory wandered the streets. She asked for food, she was shabby and dirty. But behind these costumes was a beautiful woman.

She didn't remember her name, where she came from, and didn't know who to look for.

When people asked for her name she simply said: 'My name is ShyFrog!'.

Suzy's parents lived in a small village in the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH. But as a teenager, she was summoned to housekeeping at the palace of King Philip and Queen Catherine.

Her mother had taught her early on the art of cooking and she became the main cook of the castle. So, she had lost touch with her parents and have never seen each other in the last 10 years.

There she met the then teenager Jorge. Both were 12 years old and became great friends. Prince George was later banned from being friends with the servant when he turned 18. The heir to the throne could not mingle with the palace servants, was not worthy of a nobleman.

But Prince George and Suzy have always maintained relations of a very deep friendship. Sometimes they even thought they were in love.

But were they really not or still being?

The strange character who roamed the streets calling herself ShyFrog and asking for water and food drew everyone's attention. She had polite attitudes and her beauty reflected wonderfully through her dirty face and sad, lost look.

And there came a lady who was sympathetic to ShyFrog's situation. Knocking on the door of this blessed house to ask for food, this lady invited her in, eat at the table and take a shower. ShyFrog came in, kept quiet, looked at every corner and furniture of the house. Then she took a soothing warm bath, getting clean clothes borrowed from the kind lady. At night she relished hot and tasty food. This lady had been widowed, had no children, and was a great cook.

At dinner she tried to talk to ShyFrog:

"Lady, you are very beautiful. And I see that you have a very well treated skin. You look like a castle noblewoman! Who are you? Don't you remember where you came from?"

"I am a frog. My name is ShyFrog!"

She felt that ShyFrog's problem was very serious. But even without knowing whether or not Frog understood, she continued to talk.

"You know, ShyFrog I also had a daughter very much like you! She was my only daughter. Her name was Suzy! But one day, envoys from the King said she should perform services in the castle. We never saw each other again. She was only 12 years old. She must be a woman today. We were never allowed into the palace to talk to her. And she could never visit us!"

ShyFrog stopped eating for a moment and looked at the lady deeply. Something seemed to move in her forgotten mind. The name Suzy seemed familiar to her!

Meanwhile, on the battlefield, dawn was advancing into the night. It cooled more and more. But the soldiers could not light bonfires to warm themselves so as not to draw the attention of their enemies. So, many could not sleep.

Wars can bring death to many, disability to many others.

No soldier in the brave army of PEACEBURGH could predict whether they would be alive or not at the end of the fight with HATEBURGH's soldiers.

The nearness of the war made the PEACEBURGH soldiers meditate on their lives as they braved the bitter cold of dawn.

A son said, remembering his parents:

"How long I don't see my parents. They are old. I neglected them. I don't even know if they are alive or not. If God allows me to stay alive after the battle, I will repair this great debt I owe my dear parents".

A husband said, remembering his wife:

"I have not given due value to my wife. I treat her badly all the time, like she's my maid. If God allows me to stay alive after the battle, I will tell her how much I love her and will respect her more as a wife and mother of my children".

A father said, remembering his children:

"I didn't see my children grow up. My concern has always been with the craft workshop. Now they are teenagers and I know little of them. If God allows me to stay alive after the battle, I will redeem friendship with my children, be closer to them, better guide them to life. I want to be a real father".

A friend said, remembering other friends:

"How many childhood and teenage friends I don't see anymore. They even searched for me. But I despised them. Today they are away from me. I was very selfish and just thought of myself. If God allows me to stay alive after the battle, I will look for these distant and forgotten friends and resume our friendship. No one can be fully happy without true friendships".

A believer said, remembering his religion:

"How long I do not attend the services of my church and pray for my God. Now I am asking for his help. I am a stray sheep of the flock. If God allows me to stay alive after the battle, I will seek

to attend my church services every Sunday and to thank him for all the blessings He has given me”.

And not unlike the soldiers, the elderly, women, and children who remained in the village also pondered their lives in view of the approaching war.

They considered losing the father, husband, or child soldier of the PEACEBURGH army.

The parents said, remembering their son in the war:

"How long we don't see our son! Now we are old. Maybe he doesn't even know if we're alive or not. We always treat him as a child, with no right to have his own dreams and life plans. So, he went away and forgot us. If God allows my son to come back alive from battle, we will repair this mistake, show how much we admire him for the man he has become and the pride we feel in him”.

The wife said, remembering her husband in the war:

"I may not have given my husband due value. I failed to acknowledge the efforts of his work to support the family. I forgot to give him affection as a wife and let me turn into a house maid. If God allows my husband to come back alive from battle, I will treat him as a true wife and mother of his children".

The children said, remembering their father in the war:

"We grow up and forget to pay attention to our dear father. Our concern was with friends and our interests. We had little interest in my father's problems and plans. The times he sought to be our friend we reject him for our immaturity. He walked away; we grew up. If God allows our father to come back alive from the battle, we will approach them with great love and affection, recognizing the great man he is and the zealous and caring father. We want to be his real children".

The friends said, remembering their friend in the war:

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"How long we have not seen our friend from childhood and adolescence. We should not have distanced ourselves from him. Friends do not distance themselves, always seek each other. He was in life's struggle to build a family. We think he no longer wanted our friendship. If God allows our friend to come back alive from the battle, we shall get back to him, relive our childhood and adolescence, and further strengthen our old friendship".

The church missionary said, remembering the believer in the war:

"How long I do not see some men attend my services. Maybe I should look for them and promote better evangelism. It is my duty as a shepherd to look for the stray sheep of the flock. If God allows our men to come back alive from battle, I will look for them and take the word of God and speak of the importance of their attending Sunday services".

The day began to dawn. The sun was slowly rising over the horizon, illuminating and giving warmth to that cold morning.

Many PEACEBURGH soldiers were tired, slept very poorly at night. But this did not cool their enthusiasm and vigor to defend PEACEBURGH from HATEBURGH's army.

Ignoring the war scenario that could happen at any moment, the flowers colored the nature in the fields. Animals grazed as they always did, rabbits emerged from their burrows, alert to the struggle for survival. And the fox looked for inattentive rabbits. Streams of pure and clear water continued their courses, giving the animals water and watering the plants. Nature followed its routine.

After all, wars were inventions of men.

The soldiers rose and took up combat positions. At any moment the terrible and mighty army of the King of HATEBURGH, the feared King Vladimir, would appear on the horizon of the plain.

Fear, anxiety, tension were widespread.

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Prince George took the lead and shouted slogans trying to keep his army motivated and alert for combat.

The hours passed...

Suddenly they felt the ground begin to tremble. Those who had been on the battlefield before knew that this quake was from the horses and the march of thousands of soldiers. King Vladimir and his thousands of bloodthirsty soldiers were on their way.

"Soldiers! Prepare for war! May God protect us, protect our families and protect the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH! Long life the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH".

In the village, Frog got used to the routine of her new home. Her friendship and affection with Mrs. Lydia increased every day. When she visited one of the rooms in the house, she saw a bed made of thick oak woods, a goose feather mattress, a window that overlooked a beautiful garden. The room was tidy, everything was in order. Frog felt that she had slept there at some point in her life.

She ran into the yard looking for something that came to mind - a wood stove where she helped her mother prepare daily food. And there was the stove. It was old and deactivated. But it was the same stove.

Suddenly her conscience seemed to return. Everything was familiar to her, the furniture, the house, her bedroom, the garden, the kind Mrs. Lydia's face.

And she managed to say:

- Mother! Now I'm remembering! I am Suzy!

Mrs. Lydia could not contain herself and hugged her in tears.

- My daughter, my daughter! Something told me that you were my little Suzy that God had put in my way again.

Finally, mother and daughter reunited. From now on, they would have much to talk about.

On the battlefield, thousands of men, some on foot, others on horseback, began to appear on the horizon, heading toward the army of PEACEBURGH.

Prince George shouted:

“All ready! Wait for the attack signal. Have faith in your potential! God is on our side!”.

And the PEACEBURGH soldiers focused their eyes on the approaching great army, in slow strides. But the soldiers didn't look threatening! Strange, isn't it?

As they neared the vision, Prince George and his soldiers could see that in front was King Richard followed by his son, Prince William, who carried the flag of the Kingdom of LOVEBURGH.

Thousands of ordinary men, on foot or on horseback, marched in silence. Thousands of women and children accompanied these men, bearing white flags and red flowers. There was no weapon at all!

King Richard, without disregarding the strength of King Vladimir's army, said to his people:

“Let's get ahead of the HATEBURGH army march toward the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH. Let's help our friends!”.

Carrying no weapons, carrying only thousands of white flags held by children and red flowers in the hands of women, King Richard's subjects positioned themselves at the head of the dreaded army of HATEBURGH.

Everyone kept their heads bowed in respect and submission.

King Vladimir ordered his soldiers to slaughter the people of LOVEBURGH, no matter if they were elderly, women, children, and men without weapons!

But King Vladimir's strong, well-armed soldiers simply stopped the march.

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Then they gave up the fight against the people of LOVEBURGH and turned toward the Kingdom of HATEBURGH again.

And they did it for one simple reason - the soldiers of the mighty army of the kingdom of HATEBURGH were prepared for war and taught never to be cowards. They did not want to attack and kill children, women and the elderly who had no weapons, only flags and flowers.

Thus, they did not obey King Vladimir's order. They understood that they would be great cowards before their Gods if they made the attack. They retreated to the despair of King Vladimir.

Following the withdrawal of King Vladimir's army, King Richard addressed Prince George:

"Good morning, Highness Prince George. My respectful regards. My son and I, Prince William, knew of the risk that the Kingdom of LOVEBURGH was taking with the war between the Kingdom of PEACEBURGH and the Kingdom of HATEBURGH. And we decided to act!"

"Act, but how? What did you do?". Prince George asked surprised.

And King Richard told of what happened on the battlefield and the withdrawal of the soldiers of the Kingdom of HATEBURGH.

Prince George and King Richard embraced as friends. PEACEBURGH's soldiers shouted with relief and joy: "We have won! We won!".

On his return as a hero, Prince George was proclaimed the new King. His sick father Philip renounced the Reign in favor of his son.

The new King George ruled as he had promised,

He came to recognize the efforts of his people. Made to PEACEBURGH a new kingdom. A Kingdom of peace and progress for all. A place where everyone has their homes, working the land or workshops, living safely, raising their children!

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In the Kingdom of HATEBURGH, King Vladimir despaired after his soldiers' refusal to attack the people of LOVEBURGH.

Near the lake of his castle, he sat on a rock to bitter his defeat and said:

“What a cruel life! I'd rather become a frog and get lost in this pond!”.

And the Curse Witch heard the request of King Vladimir and decided to answer it, shouting:

“If this is what you want, this is what you will have!”.

A strong sound was heard by all the residents of the castle and surrounding area. It sounded like very loud thunder.

In the distance, hidden in the flash of lightning, the Curse Witch walked away with a chilling laugh. She knew her curse could only be broken with a kiss of love!

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And who would like to kiss in love a frog that represented such a violent King?

King Vladimir suddenly found himself swimming and breathing underwater. It was dirty, turbid water. He had the castle sewage dumped directly into the lake. Now he tasted the tainted water.

He did not quite understand what was happening, saw few fish swimming. So, he searched for cleaner water, swimming toward the source that fed the lake.

But this fountain was already dominated by a well-known couple – the Goliath's couple, who lived in peace on the lake of HATEBURGH Castle. And they didn't like the presence of the new visitor.

"What are you doing here, weird frog?".

Hearing this question, King Vladimir discovered that he had become a frog. Just as he had asked. Without wasting time, the male Goliath swallowed him forever, saying:

“What a frog with such a bad taste! My God! I will never eat frogs again!”.

In the Kingdom of HATEBURGH, a new King was proclaimed. And the new King was very different from Vladimir frog, I mean, from King Vladimir.

He sought a more peaceful government, rescuing friendship and love among his subjects. And lived in peace with the Kingdom of LOVEBURGH and PEACEBURGH.

In PEACEBURGH, King George looked for Suzy in every corner of the kingdom. He was sure Suzy had been with him in the lake in the shape of a frog, ShyFrog. And it was she who brought him back to PEACEBURGH when she kissed him passionately. He had no doubt that she would be the best woman to be his wife and Queen of PEACEBURGH.

But, how to find her? Well, King George decided to throw a big party in the castle, where he would welcome the girls who could give him a true kiss of love.

To prevent the self-serving and false girls from taking advantage of this opportunity without deserving it, King George imposed a condition: one that could not give him a true kiss of love would be beheaded! Posters were scattered around every corner of Kingdom street.

The big day of the party has arrived. Would King George finally discover his true love?

The great imperial hall was all decorated and all members of the King's court were present. King Philip and Queen Catherine were cheering for the success of the new King George.

After all, he needed to get married and have in his first son the future successor of the Kingdom.

At the appointed time King George's anxiety was very high. Sitting on his throne, dressed in royal dress, he waited for the woman who could be his wife.

The minutes passed; the hours passed.

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The condition of being beheaded if the kiss was not a kiss of true love frightened Kingdom girls. But that was the intention of King George. Naturally, he was bluffing! At no time would he behead any of the girls. He knew that only one of the Kingdom girls would have the courage to meet this challenge!

By the time they were about to give up, it was late at night, and a young woman, beautifully dressed in white and with a red veil on her face, appeared at the great entrance to the imperial hall.

Silently and slowly, she walked toward King George.

As she approached him, she partially removed the veil from her face and kissed him for a long time. King George saw the imperial hall light up with small multicolored stars.

Yes, that was the kiss of true love he had hoped for and that would be his wife forever!

Removing the veil from her face, he finally discovered who this mysterious and elegant suitor was. Who? ShyFrog or Suzy, as you please. Suzy went to live in the castle as Queen.

Mrs. Lydia preferred to continue living in her modest home. But now she had free access to visit her daughter Queen whenever she wanted!

And so, King George and Queen Suzy were happily ever after.

When he had time, King George used to sit on the rock by the lake and talk to a frog without anyone listening. He didn't want to be called crazy!

The way the frog kept looking at King George and listening to his conversation, he might even be his friend Croc.

Who could know it, right?

The End