

Little Bear and Mama Bear

Little Bear woke up in his cave for a while. There was mama asleep soundly, for it was the time of year that she needed to sleep oh so much!

It was much too cold for Little Bear and Brother Bear to venture outside. He was too young to be off on his own, anyway. He needed to stay close by mama.

When he was hungry and thirsty, he drank milk, nice warm milk that his mother's body made. He could curl up with brother for feeding time, and then go to sleep as well. They would dream of the day when they could go exploring far beyond the cave.

But there is a time for everything, and when everything is done at the right time, things seem to work out best.

Just like there are seasons in the year—some places have dry and wet seasons; some places have warm and cooler seasons; some places have hot and hotter seasons; some places have cold and then colder seasons.

Each place in the world has its seasons and a change in the climate at different times in the year. This helps the people, the animals, birds and bugs, and even the plants and trees know what they are to do.

Little Bear and Brother Bear didn't know this yet, but outside of this little cave there were some trees around that were doing just what they were doing—resting.

The trees had grown leaves for most of the year, and grown

taller and wider too. And now when it was best, they rested.

First the leaves fell as some of the sap for the trees' growth and survival retreated down further into the ground. The tree didn't need to produce leaves or seeds or fruit at that time.

"There is a time for rest, and a time to be doing things," Mama Bear told her cubs when she woke for a short while, before going back to sleep again.

One day Little Bear heard some lovely sounds coming from outside, and just then mother seemed more wakeful. The sounds were from the birds singing.

Birds seemed to be announcing and celebrating the changing of the seasons. Now there was new growth and activity out in the nature around their cave.

Before too long, when Mama Bear knew it was the right time, said to her two little furry cubs,

"Are you ready to go out? There's lots to be done—and am I sure hungry!"

"We are too!" chorused the two lively cubs. They were eager for exercise, and eager to try some new food.

Soon they were bounding over fallen branches, and sniffing here and there for snacks.

Mama Bear found an old fallen down tree that, thankfully, seemed full of edible treats in the form of bugs.

She taught her little ones to nibble what was good, and where to find other foods they needed for their nourishment.

Mama Bear led her cubs to the cold stream that was being filled with melted snow. It was wider now than it would be in the summer, later on.

“Mama, we want to go off and explore, but you don’t have to come with us,” the little cubs said.

However, Mama Bear knew better. Just because young bears wish to go and do this and that, it didn’t mean they had all the skills necessary to do it safely, nor would it be the best for them.

There was a time for exploring—like they had been doing with their mother, and there was a time to learn and be taught things.

Mama Bear knew there was much for her cubs to learn before they would be ready to go out and around on their own.

“Come, I’ll show you the rapids upstream a bit. We’ll go together. It’s better and safer that way.

“You might learn things on your own, but unless you are right beside me you won’t learn all the things that I need to teach you.

“See, I’ve lived a long life, and learned many things. If you stick close to me in these growing years, you will learn so much, and learn it much faster than if you had to start at the beginning and try to find out how to do everything on your own,” Mama Bear explained.

“That’s what parents are for,” she said. “They can keep you safe, and also help you learn how to care for yourself and others, if you listen and look and learn.”

“There will be a time when you do need to go on your own, and you will be very glad that you waited for the right time, and patiently learned at learning time what you needed.”

Mama Bear then showed her cubs some water tricks, how to

walk on the rocks and not get too troubled or distracted by the sounds and splashes of the rushing water.

They needed to not worry about getting their find brown coat wet, if they wanted to be able to catch fish sometimes. There was a time for everything.

“I think I saw a bear and her two cubs at the rapids this afternoon,” said the woodsman, who had moved back here for the spring and summer.

He was at the table with a few other lumberjacks, eating some warm stew after a long, hard day’s work.

“Yeah, we should keep a watch out at this time of year...” another man commented.

“I don’t mind being here,” the woodsman continued, “Though there are some things that are difficult.

“There are wild animals that we need to stay safe from. And of course the work is very hard. It’s the season of hard work.”

“Well, there is a time for everything, isn’t there?” another man interjected.

“If we work when it is work time, then during the long cold winter we’ll have what we need.”

“We’ll have support, from the payment we received, as well as wood to keep the home fires burning, through those long cold nights.”

“Yes,” the woodsman acknowledged.

“If I only did what I felt like doing at the time, each day, there would come a time when I couldn’t do what I needed to do later

on. I'd suffer for my lack of perseverance through the hard jobs."

The men missed being with their families and around their other friends, but they knew that those back in their household were depending on them.

Later, they would have many long months of cold and snow, to sit by a fire, chat with loved ones, and sleep extra—because it would be too cold and dark to do much outdoor work.

However, now was the season of working in the woods, though they felt somewhat lonely at times.

Some work can only be done at a certain time, and in a certain place, and you can't always have everything you want or need all at the same time.

Something that helped the woodsman during this time was writing his thoughts in a diary, or writing letters to his loved ones, that he would bring to them later on.

He took time to jot down his thoughts in his book after reflecting on what they were discussing, and when remembering the bears he saw that day. He wrote:

**Just like the mama bear needed to stick with her job of keeping her little ones in the cave until the time was right to go out; and just like the bear cubs now need to stick to their job of learning with mother until they are old enough to learn things on their own; so do men and women need to stick with their jobs, until they finish their tasks.*

**Seasons and the change in the nature around help to prompt us, like a signal, telling us it is time to change and to*

prepare for what is next ahead. If we fail to notice the signs and are too busy doing this or that thing that we wish to do, we'll have a long time regretting it, later on.

**The sun does what it needs to do, hour by hour; the plants do what they need to do, day by day; the animals do what they need to do, week by week; the trees do what they need to do month by month; and us humans must do what we need to do, year by year, doing all the things in the year that we must, so we can be ready for the next year when it greets us!*

With those thoughts penned, he and the others curled up in their sleeping bags for the night. They'd need a good night's rest.

Tomorrow was another day of good hard work—work they would be glad they did, while they still had the time and strength to do it. The work needed to be done before the seasons changed, and it was time for doing other things.