



## Discovery Bear and the Twin Village

Three years after the delightful discovery of the “Twin Village” by Discovery Bear and his travelling team, he decided to take a few of the young folks of Berry Beary Town to check out how things were going. They’d be willing to stay there for a bit to help out, if there was work to be done.

When news spread around the two villages that Discovery Bear was back, a surprise party was held—in each of the villages. Streamers were put up, bands were playing, and it was a great time. There was a lot to be glad for that had happened over the last few years. This was a great time to celebrate the progress, with Discovery Bear and his team coming by to help out for awhile.

Discovery Bear didn’t expect such a reception, for he had been gone and hadn’t helped with much in the way of setting up the Twin Village. But he had played a very important role; the reason this town was liveable today. If the new generation didn’t even know of its existence, no one would be living there still.

But as always, no one can be a hero on their own; it takes several people all doing their part. In this case it took Discovery Bear and his initial team, then it took the needlework of someone in the past, who was no longer around, to see just how much good their work did, but it was an important part that helped make the village liveable. It took the hard work of those in the village to make the great ideas become a reality.

And there was something else that played a big part in what this now thriving Twin Village was like. And that is what Discovery Bear found out.

“It’s great to see you all!” said a familiar voice, greeting the visiting team. It was one of the men who Discovery Bear had met last time he was here.

This man was now living in the newly set up Twin Village with his new little family. Discovery Bear and the others on the team greeted him in the usual Bear hug custom of Berry Beary culture. Then they walked over to meet several others sitting at a long table that was set for the welcome celebration.

The stories of hard work, the set-backs and difficulties, the funny happenings, and all sorts of events were told this visiting team. They began to get an idea of just where their help would be most appreciated. But the story that caught their attention the most was how there suddenly was a gentle flowing stream added to this town.

One of the town dwellers was given the honour of telling the story to the visiting team.

“It happened about two years ago; it’s been awhile now, but every day we are amazed at what happened. The well that was dug helped greatly and it was a start. But before too long it became clear that something more in the way of a constant and more abundant source of fresh water would be needed.

“We had all been working real hard digging up good old buildings, or making new ones, setting up what any town needed to keep it working right. We certainly were doing all we could with our muscles and minds, but there was just nothing we could do to make things better in the water department—at least nothing that would be easily done.

“Yes, maybe we could have piped water all the way here, and we were willing to explore that idea. But then something happened that changed the situation for the better, nearly over night, and we’ve been enjoying its benefits ever since.

“Imagine going to bed one night, thinking deeply about a big need—like abundant water—and then waking up the following morning with a stream of water flowing right where it’s best to have it. And the next day and the next, and it’s always there!”

Discovery Bear and his team were very curious now about this fascinating occurrence.

The speaker, seeing the focused attention, continued on;

“That night, the night of the miracle of the flowing river, was a stormy one. There were loud claps of thunder, and the roaring of the wind. We’d never had a storm like it before. Rain was pouring down like it hasn’t done in a very long while. We were glad enough for that.

“Soon the abundant rain started flowing over the ground in miniature rivers down to the lowest slope of the village. It was cutting through the soil and forming a pathway—the very one where the stream still runs. It has never stopped flowing since.

“The cause? Two reasons. Rain has continued to grace our village on a regular basis—as soon as permanent dwellers moved in here. Yet we knew there was more water than just run off rain, for that would have soon stopped.

“We hiked way up to see what the source of this stream was. Further up there was a low area, like a large pond or small lake, that served as a water catchment area for rainwater, which flowed on down, supplying the stream. But even that didn’t seem it would have been enough. Then we discovered it.

“Just above this small lake was a large rock, blackened from lightning, and cracked. It looked most curious. When we went to check it out we saw a trickle of water pouring out into the large pond. A new spring had been opened and the lightning had marked the spot.

“Some things you just have to enjoy, even if you don’t understand everything about it. The timing was perfect, and somehow we knew we were being watched over, and we’d be successful in turning this place into a liveable dwelling area.”

Discovery Bear and his team were very eager to go hiking to check it all out, but that would have to be tomorrow.

The stories had gone on for some time yet; everyone wanted a chance to talk and tell what they had done or were in the process of doing.

A house that was yet uninhabited, as it was still partially under construction—for it lacked the windows and doors being added to it—was where the team of visiting bears were perfectly happy to camp for the night. In fact, they were offered to use it for their whole stay. This became their first project—after the early morning hike to the small lake, of course.

After being refreshed with the fresh stream waters, the bear team got to work on fixing up their temporary dwelling place, and helping with numerous other tasks around the village.

They helped build stall tables for food and goods to be placed; they put the roof on another nearly-finished building that had been dug up and was ready to be used, and like projects. With their help, things were happening must faster around the village.

Everyone was very happy, and were just settling down for the village evening meal together, when sudden news came their way. Fire! A big fire in the forest near the other village was putting their friends and families living over there at risk. What could be done?

Before too long the word went out that the other village was to be immediately evacuated. Everyone was to leave at once, taking only their most important valuables. It wasn't too long before the villagers came filing in to this newly set up Twin village. It was a place of refuge now where they could be safe until the danger was over.

Not knowing what would happen to their village and houses, they were at least glad that everyone was alive and safe, including all pets and farm animals. All that was left behind was stone houses and personal belongings, as well as gardens, trees and crops.

It would be a loss if those were ruined, but at least the plants could grow back again, and there were enough strong folks who would pitch in together to rebuild, if it came to that.

As they sat huddled on the ground, Discovery Bear stood up to offer them a few words of courage:

“This village here is an example that with the help of each other, and the supernatural assistance of the one who is looking after us all, that life can go on, and thrive, possibly better than ever before. Let us pray for divine assistance and protection of all that is important in your village over there, and then let us praise God for His power to turn troubles away and bring a great victory.”

Everyone agreed and joined in a hearty time of prayer, and in rejoicing that they had a God that was greater than any fire or any flood or anything that would try to ruin things. With His help, life could go on, better than before.

They weren’t through praying and rejoicing when a sound of thunder rumbled. A few hours later someone, running to the Twin village, nearly out of breath, arrived.

“The wind, I saw it, the wind changed directions and took the fire away from our village. And then there was a great pouring rain over it, like I’ve never seen before! The fire, it’s all out! The forest is blackened, but our village is saved!”

A great cheer was heard, and such a grand rejoicing was felt in all their hearts, that they rose up to dance! Musical instruments were pulled out—some that those on Discovery Bear’s team had brought. A Berry Cultural musical rejoicing party happened, right then on the spot. Even dogs were barking and wagging their tails as they saw the fun and laughter, dancing and rejoicing.

Then water and snacks were shared around, while everyone lay on the ground, snuggled in whatever blankets they had, and looked up to the starry clear sky.

Discovery Bear had the one on his team play soft music on a guitar, while he led out in a new ballad, making up the words then and there, telling of the story of the deliverance and restoration of the Twin Villages.

They were glad they had each other. Each village had depended on one another in many ways. Two were better than one, and they would always remain close village partners.

The excitement of the day left everyone ready for a good long sleep, right there, where they were—under the stars. The smell of smoke lingered in the air, but that only reminded them of the victorious outcome, and the power of meeting with friends for prayer when troubles come.

Early in the morning, after hearty good-bye's, the visiting villagers returned home. They rejoiced all over again when they saw the markings of how close the flames had come to their village, but then just suddenly stopped, and their village was safe.

It was a good reminder to enjoy and appreciate each day—even those days that seem to be quiet and without much happening, or nothing really special going on. Those days are good days; that means that all is well. It would be better than something dramatic happening that you need to be spared from.

The villagers were cheerful and content for their nice village, with renewed appreciation, and felt they loved and enjoyed each other's company more than ever, and wanted to make the village the Berry Beary Best they could, filled with lots of laughter and camaraderie.

They invited Discovery Bear and his team to come over there too, to teach them tips on how to make their place as happy and friendly as Berry Beary Town. They had lots to learn, and wanted to make the changes they needed to, to make things better and happier for all.

After a few weeks of helping out in Twin Village, Discovery Bear and his team moved over to the village they weren't expecting needed help, as outwardly they were doing alright. But it's not always the outward appearance that matters and what makes a place truly a nice place to live.

This visiting team then spent a few weeks with them teaching them, explaining things, helping to set up plans and programs, and get new projects going.

It was a new discovery for Discovery Bear—to learn about all that was going on that needed fixing up in the way the villagers were living, talking, and going about things. He tried to find out new things each day that needed his help and training to make things better.

By the end of the few weeks so much had changed for the better. Discover Bear was content that he and his team had done all that they could. With another feast and time of rejoicing, to celebrate the new improvements and the protection of their village from the fire, the Discovery Bear team said their farewells.

With great things they were eager to tell Berry Beary Kind, they made their way home. It had been a long, but good and successful—and eventful trip. And certainly many, interesting and unexpected discoveries had been made.

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