



The giant in the pine tree

Once upon a time, in a little village between green mountains and flower-filled fields, there stood an enormous pine tree. It was no ordinary tree. It was so tall that it seemed to tickle the clouds, and so wide that all the children could play hide-and-seek around it.

Inside the pine, the villagers said, lived a giant. But he was not one of those wicked giants who frighten people. He was kind, with a heart as big as his tree.

He loved listening to birdsong and watching the children play nearby. He always stayed quiet, because he did not want his great size to scare anyone.

One day, a brave little girl called Lia decided to meet him. Carrying a bunch of flowers, she walked up to the pine and called, "Hello, Mr Giant! I'm Lia. I've brought you these flowers as a present."

A deep, warm voice answered from inside the tree. "Thank you, little Lia. It has been years since anyone spoke to me so kindly."

Lia and the giant began talking and soon became good friends. He told her stories of long ago, explained how he had watched the village grow and described the peace he found in his pine tree.



News of their friendship spread, and everyone wanted to meet the gentle giant. In time, he became a friend to the whole village, and the pine became a meeting place where everybody was welcome.