

THE LONELY SPARROW

Written by Napoleón Jaramillo

Adapted text



Draws by Zayra.

Inside a small capulí tree on a Quito city street, a lonely sparrow was singing...

The morning was cold and the city's inhabitants did not get up from their still warm beds. It was a Sunday day of rest. The sky was as light blue as ever, there were no gray clouds.

The lonely sparrow rested on a dry branch while singing:



*Hurriedly winters and summers go by.
Vast forests and pastures have been devastated.
Brick by brick huge buildings have been erected.*

The deafening noise of old and new cars has increased...



The peop...

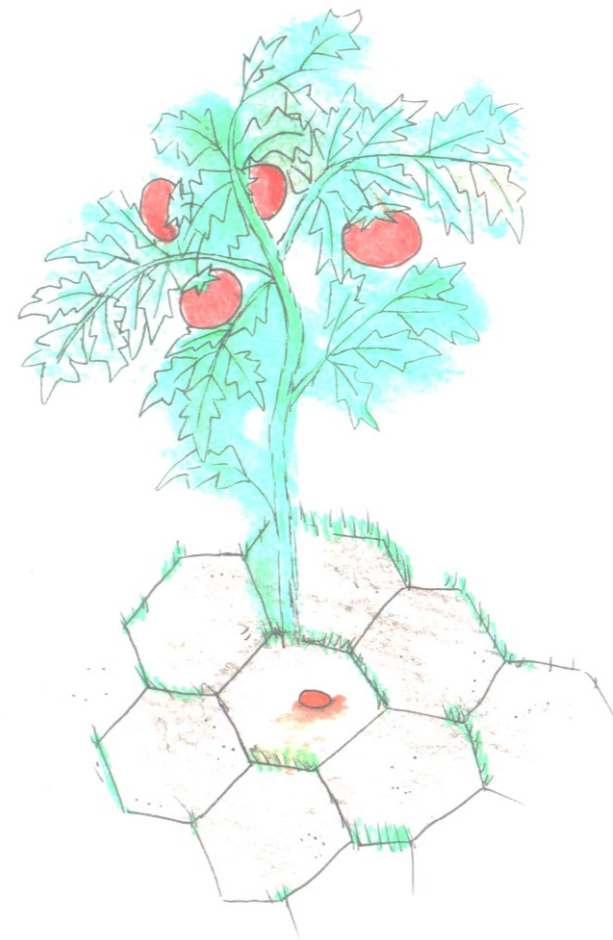
Suddenly! A child interrupts the song of the lonely sparrow. The boy was running to catch up with his grandmother for going to morning mass.



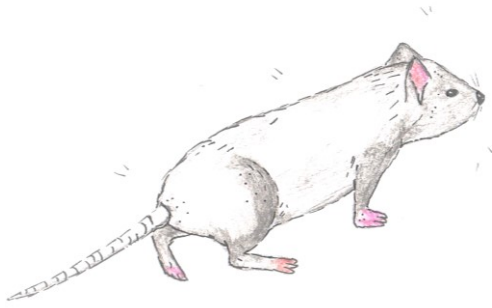
He was carrying a bag of goodies in his hands but tripped and dropped some very close to a tomato plant that had grown on the edge of the sidewalk. The hungry sparrow who had not eaten for several days said:



-This is my chance to fill my stomach even if it is with junk food...



The sparrow flew by the treat and liked it, so he tried to carry it to the tomato plant to hide it to eat in peace. He tried many ways but the weight and size of the treat prevented him from doing so. Using his beak and his thin legs, he tried and tried everything to hide it, but when he was close...



An unexpected intruder approached!

It was a huge mouse that had smelled the treat. The mouse planned to take the treat, but the sparrow fought him to keep it.... And the lonely now angry sparrow said to him:

- Stay away from my territory!

At that moment, while they were fighting, they both heard the footsteps of strange beings approaching the place...it was a skinny and angry dog!



The scared sparrow flew away while the mouse ran towards the sewer and they both watched as the dog ate the treat... The sparrow and the mouse returned home sad.



The city was beginning to wake up, the noise of the cars and the smog appeared...the sparrow began to cough and cough because of so much pollution.

When he recovered, he jumped from branch to branch in the capulí tree, which was his favorite place, and searched among the few leaves for the few tiny bugs. When he found one, he ate it happily despite its taste of dust or gasoline.

The sparrow had been living in this capuli tree for a long time; while other sparrows adapted easily to urban life or found city life normal, the solitary sparrow found it difficult to live with so much noise, pollution and, above all, with people throwing chewing gum in the street. This behavior used to confuse him sometimes and he ended up with his beak in trouble. Many times, he was close to danger!

Sometimes, he had no choice but to look for insects as food, even though they were so polluted. Maybe he was encouraged to know that he was not the only one with the same problem, but he did not want to continue eating insects with strange flavors. Maybe the best thing was to emigrate when winter came and the odyssey of that morning convinced him of his idea.