

## **5D29\_Tsoi Ka Hin\_Leave the Cage**

*Topic: Imagine you are a pet bird in a cage. One day your owner left your bird cage open. Write a story from the bird's point of view.*

### **Leave the Cage**

For months I had been trapped in this tiny cage where I could barely jump or spread my wings, let alone flying in the limited space. I was placed in the bedroom of my owner, where there was hardly anything interesting enough for me to look at. All I could look at was no other than a bookshelf, a closed window and a curtain covering it. I wondered if the world was bigger than this room where I could almost recite the names of every book on the bookshelf. I fantasied about the world beyond the curtain and the window behind it, imagining about what air would feel like outside this room.

One day, my owner left my bird cage open. He pushed aside the curtain and opened the window. In front of me was a chance to be free, and a world I had never seen. Nonetheless, I didn't have the audacity to fly out of the cage at once and instead I hesitated about whether to stay or to go. It was extremely exciting that I could reach the blue sky outside the window and be able to explore the unknown world, but I also had the fear in my heart being scared of the danger outside. I even started to think if it would be safer for me to stay in the cage I had been in for months, like it was a comfort zone of mine that I was insecure to get out of. What was supposedly an easy decision to make became an overwhelming dilemma for me between security and curiosity. However, I took the courage to step out of the door of the cage and flew outside the window with a heart of excitement and desire of exploration.

The air felt so fresh and warm like it was hugging me welcoming me to a whole new world. Thousands of buildings stood still before me as if they were bowing down to me. I never knew that the sky was blue until I saw it and I never acknowledged that clouds existed until I flew across them. For the first time, I finally felt the warmth of the sunshine striking on me. Flying above the tall buildings and busy streets, it felt as if I could dominate the world. I was delighted that I made the right decision which gave me the chance to really get to know about this world and see things I could never imagine about. I stopped by the window of a house I had never been to as I was interested in seeing humans' daily routine.

Behind the window was a young woman singing with a guitar in front of a camera. She was a little chubby and her eyes couldn't even look straight to the camera confidently,

but her voice was the most comforting and pleasant sound I had ever heard. She fluently sang all lyrics of the song in a natural way and showed her unique charisma. As she put down the guitar pick aside, she ended the video and listened to it herself. Afterwards, she smiled and seemed quite satisfied with the outcomes. Nevertheless, when she was about to hit the upload button and spread her music out to the others, she stopped and started to hesitate. Seeing her strange move, I was puzzled by her as there could be a much brighter future waiting for her after she shared her music with the world on the Internet while the video was almost flawless as well. It was difficult for me to understand why she would even hesitate to show her talents to the world. She turned off the computer and started tearing up, asking herself over and over, 'Why can't you just be brave enough to do it?' She was anxious to see people's reaction meanwhile afraid of being judged. Not long after she stopped crying on her bed, she fell asleep.

Suddenly, I heard a loud and grumpy scream coming from next door. It was a couple having an altercation in the living room. The wife was hysterically screaming at her husband who stood in front of her with fierce eyes and a bottle of vodka in his hand. His face was terribly red that I couldn't tell if it was out of anger or alcohol. They shouted at each other loudly like they were ready to actually fight against each other. The wife shouted, 'This isn't love. You don't love me,' while his husband responded by throwing the glass bottle on the floor furiously. He grabbed the hair of his wife and pulled it from side to side while his wife was in so much pain that she wasn't able to resist but solely crying and screaming with a struggling face instead. It was frightening to see an argument going wrong to a fight like this but all I could do was to watch and hope that they would separate from each other. The wife weakly sat on the floor against the wall. I could see the scars on her arms and legs, which showed me they must have had a lot of unpleasant fights already. The husband laid on the sofa with yet another bottle of vodka in his hand. The television was glitching with nothing shown on the screen, but he kept staring at the screen as if he had lost his soul already. The wife went to her bedroom and took out a piece of paper written 'Divorce Settlement Agreement'. I was expecting that she would sign the paper immediately after the fight that just took place and it was shocking for me to see that she also hesitated when her pen was about to touch the paper. It was clearly about time for them to divorce if the relationship was only full of anger, arguments and sadness but she still could not sign on the paper after all she had been through.

After my short observation of humans, I was truly puzzled about their decision-making and hesitation. I couldn't help wondering why they could not be brave enough to make

the extremely obvious decision. But then I realised I was just the same as them when the bird cage opened in front of me. I realised humans were probably all birds in cages who were trapped in the confinement they placed themselves in. The young woman obviously had impressive talents and an amazing voice that could impress thousands of people, but she still hesitated at the moment when she was about to upload the video she filmed. The wife clearly was in deep physical pain after the fearful fight she had with her husband, and more importantly her heart should certainly have been hurt more than once in this unpleasant and broken relationship they had. But she still hesitated when deciding whether to sign on the divorce paper. I guess we all like to put ourselves in cages and trap ourselves in pain. If pain is all we feel being in these cages we built for ourselves, why don't we just walk out of the door and let ourselves be free? If we could have the audacity to stop being birds in cages, we could reach the much better future upon us and be birds who could fly in the endless sky freely.