

The Bears... The Bees... & The Hollow Tree

Once Upon A Time... There was a Momma Bear, a Hollow Tree and a Hundred Bees and more!

It all began one day when a Queen Bee was searching for a new home. She buzzed here, she buzzed there. Round and round she buzzed...

Looking everywhere to find a proper place for her bee's nest!

She was tiring a little now and was just about to give up for the day... and landed on the edge of a hollow tree stump, to rest before returning to the old nest..."Buzz? Buzz?", asks she to herself! Then looking around, where she had just landed, she exclaimed to her Queen Bee self, "But what is this? but just what I've been looking for! A very proper place to prepare a new beehive! down inside this hollow tree!" "Whoopee!!", yelled Her Highness, in her tiny Queen bee voice! and, with great Queen bee joy!

With this new discovery, she flew off to tell these good tidings to her bee family. "And, we will start out at day break!", she ordered. "We have a long day ahead on the morrow!", she reminded her bee family.

Next day, it wasn't long before the forest was abuzz with loud buzzing sounds of busy bees buzzing and traveling in unison. The bees became a huge black and yellow cloud. They finally arrived at the hollow tree, led by their very excited and happy Queen Bee!

Right away they began to build their new bee nest, down inside the hollow tree.

Sometime after that day, in early springtime, while the bees were now quite busy making honey, there came through the forest... a momma bear, bumpity bump and her baby bear, bumpity, bumpity, bumpity! and, bumpity bump and bumpity, bumpity, bumpity!

Now, these bears have been hibernating all winter. Bears never eat while they are sleeping! But now they are awake and getting more and more hungry! They stopped at the nearest lake and Momma Bear could only catch two fishes. One for Momma and a little one for her cub.

They are still very hungry so Momma Bear had to find something more, and quickly! She found a large berry bush - bears love berries! They managed to clear most of the berries off that bush. Still, she needed to find more and more. Both tummies were now growling, loudly! Momma bear began to think they may have to look in another direction. Just then, she got a whiff of something very familiar to her past experiences. "Hum! What is that delicious fragrance?" she wondered, in hungry bear language. Sniff, Sniff, Sniff!!! Now she remembered! "Honey! It is honey!", grunted Momma Bear out loud, in hungry bear language.

Now, the baby bear must run to keep up with his Momma. She is now running back and forth trying to locate where that honey is hiding! Her head and nose are rocking to and fro... now she is catching the scent of the honey's location!

Where do you suppose it is? Yes! It is in the hollow tree stump!

Before the bear cub knew what Momma's, plan was, she had picked him up and told him to come out with his paws full of honeycomb for the both of them and dropped him right into the hollow tree stump!

Oh! he came out of that hollow tree with a little honeycomb and a lot of bees! Momma grabbed her baby bear out of that hollow tree and the two high-tailed it out of there fast! Momma bear headed for the big lake where they'd caught the two fish, earlier that day. Baby had a few hundred bees right near his tail, so he was running faster than he thought he was ever capable of!

They reached the water's edge and dove in unison! Splash! Only one splash! The rest of the splashing was them going under water and disappearing... they swam under far enough to confuse the bees who were still waiting for them to come up at the water's edge.

Now Momma bear remembered that Hollow Tree! When she was a cub - her Momma dropped her in it, to get honey, too! But they were lucky that day - the bees had abandoned that tree, days before and had left honey and honeycomb behind. There were two cubs in her bear family and they were happy to eat all of that honeycomb!

Now, Momma bear, being very clever, brought her cub out of the big lake, far out of the bee's view! They shook off the heavy water and could now run very fast - right back to the hollow tree bee hive!

Momma bear picked her baby bear cub up and gently lowered him into that bee's nest again! But now, there was mostly honey and honeycomb! The bees that were still guarding the beehive, did have to chase and sting those brave bears! But the pain was worth the prize!

The bees at the lake had gone on to collect pollen and forgotten all about those silly bears that had disappeared in the big lake...

And, they all lived happily ever after!

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