

The Journey of Geschöpfchen
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Within a tiny village called Calmioo,
which sat in the middle of three hills,
lived a small creature called Geschöpfchen,
who every day would work in
a field which he yearly tilled.
In this garden, Geschöpfchen grew
sweet corn, carrots, tomatoes,
squash, berries, and potatoes,
with which he made pies and stew.

However, Geschöpfchen was not content.
When he watched his neighbors do garden work,
which they did at twice his rate,
while growing crops whose size was great,
Geschöpfchen felt an awful feeling lurk:
he did not seem good enough at present.
He continued to feel depressed,
as his appearance did suggest
when his eyes drooped and his neck downward bent.

Finally, Geschöpfchen decided to act.
He visited the village elder, Dirubble
to request some helpful advice.
Finding the door, Geschöpfchen knocked twice.
The elder came and asked, "What is the trouble?"
Geschöpfchen replied, "I am not good enough, to tell you the fact.
I was hoping you might have a potion or cure
that would make me a better gardener, for sure.
Please show me the solution that I have thus far lacked."

Dirubble responded, "It will require that you do
look far and wide to find these plants:
eaccncaetp, ecconnefdi, and ysteicru
Returning here with these plants will do wonders for you.
Where you find them, though, will be determined by chance."
Encouraged and determined, Geschöpfchen said, "Thank you."
His only fear was that he didn't have the strength or ability
to find and return with the plants, especially not all three.
Nevertheless, he headed for the mountains as the wind gently blew.

Geschöpfchen climbed the mountain for a day and a night.

As he neared the top, he began to see
several creatures jumping on rocks
or clinging to flowers by grasping their stalks.
Geschöpfchen thought, *This is strange to me,*
but I will try to fit in with this group if I might.
So Geschöpfchen began to hop on rocks, as well,
though the purpose of it he could not tell,
and even though this imitation did not seem quite right.

After jumping and climbing for a long while,
Geschöpfchen decided to search for the plants.
He continued to climb up the mountain slope,
as the many types of flowers he saw gave him hope
that he would reach his goal. Suddenly, after a quick glance,
Geschöpfchen spotted the ysteicru plant, coming out of some rocks collected in a pile.
He approached the small plant and picked it with care,
and while tucking it away he was suddenly aware
that he had achieved a part of his goal, a thought that made him smile.

Leaving behind the mountain at which the first plant was found,
Geschöpfchen headed next for a forest below.
Walking through the dense, tall trees
a sight ahead caused him to freeze:
seven round, white creatures rolled around in a pile of blue snow.
Not wishing to anger the white balls, Geschöpfchen likewise rolled around,
but after a few minutes, he began to get cold.
Geschöpfchen decided to make a move that was somewhat bold:
he stopped imitating the creatures and walked on, leaving behind the snow mound.

Geschöpfchen proceeded with majestic trees all around,
as the sun shone brightly through the leaves and branches.
He soon neared a wide oak with a hole in the middle,
and though the dark opening frightened him a little,
Geschöpfchen decided to look inside and take his chances.
He poked his head inside the hole and found
the econnefdi plant that he had been searching for.
He thought to himself, *I just need one more!*
Geschöpfchen exited the forest, walking briskly over the leaf-covered ground.

Geschöpfchen headed next for a cave, one that was quite small,
in which he hoped to find the last plant of the three.
He went through the entrance and proceeded ahead
until he heard a strange noise that filled him with dread.
Walking slowly closer, he was able to see
ten tall, green creatures hitting their heads on the cave wall.
Geschöpfchen was about to join in

until he came to the realization
that he didn't need to imitate others for them to respect him at all.

Geschöpfchen continued down the cave, even as it grew cold.
The damp rock walls grew even more tight,
and the cave would frequently twist and bend.
Finally, he felt a wall before him, indicating the cave's end.
Disappointment filled him, forcing his hope out of sight.
He walked slowly out of the cave as the green creatures behind him rolled.
Geschöpfchen decided that the only thing to do
would be to return to his village of Calmioo,
which would be a welcome sight to behold.

When Geschöpfchen returned and visited Dirubble, he found him outside.
Geschöpfchen explained, "Dirubble, I searched all around
for the plants you sent me to look for.
I was able to get two of them, but I need one more.
The third one, however, cannot be anywhere found,
even though I searched far and wide."
Dirubble responded, "It is actually not the plants that you needed. No.
It was the quest to find them that allowed you to grow.
Your journey gave you strength, wisdom, confidence, and self-acceptance, for which you merely
need to look inside."