



Noah and Creation Care: The Story of the Rainbow

Once upon a time all the colours in the world started to quarrel; each claimed that she was the best, the most important, the most useful, the favourite:

Green said: 'Clearly I am the most important. I am the sign of life and of hope. I was chosen for grass, trees, and leaves – without me all the animals would die. Look out over the countryside and you will see that I am in the majority.'

Blue interrupted: 'You only think about the earth, but consider the sky and the sea. Water is the basis of life that is drawn up by the clouds from the blue sea. The sky gives space and peace and serenity. Without my peace you would all be nothing but busybodies.'

Yellow chuckled: 'You are all so serious. I bring laughter, gaiety and warmth into the world. The sun is yellow, the moon is yellow, and the stars are yellow. Every time you look at a sunflower, the whole world starts to smile. Without me there would be no fun.'

Orange started next to blow his own trumpet: 'I am the colour of health and strength. I may be scarce but I am precious for I serve the inner needs of human life. I carry all the most important vitamins. Think of carrots and pumpkins, oranges, mangoes, and paw-paws. I don't hang around all the time, but when I fill the sky at sunrise or sunset, my beauty is so striking that no one gives another thought to any of you.'

Red could stand it no longer. He shouted out: 'I'm the ruler of you all – blood, life's blood. I am the colour of danger and of bravery. I am willing to fight for a cause. I bring fire in the blood. Without me, the earth would be as empty as the moon. I am the colour of passion and of love, the red rose, poinsettia and poppy.'

Purple rose up to his full height. He was very tall and he spoke with great pomp: 'I am the colour of royalty and power. Kings, chiefs and bishops have always chosen me for I am a sign of authority and wisdom. People do not question me; they listen and obey.'

Indigo spoke much more quietly than all the others, but just as determinedly: 'Think of me. I am the colour of silence. You hardly notice me, but without me, you all become superficial. I represent thought and reflection, twilight and deep waters. You need me for balance and contrast, for prayer and for inner peace.'

The colours went on boasting, each convinced that they were the best. Their quarrelling became louder and louder. Suddenly, there was a flash of bright white lightning; thunder rolled and boomed. Rain started to pour down relentlessly. The colours all crouched down in fear, drawing close to one another for comfort.

Then rain spoke: 'You foolish colours, fighting among yourselves, each trying to dominate the rest. Do you not know that God made you all each for a special purpose, unique and different? He loves you all and wants you all. Join hands with one another and come with me. We will stretch you across the sky in a great bow of colour, as a reminder that he loves you all, that you can live together in peace, a promise that he is with you and a sign of hope for tomorrow'.

So whenever God has used a good rain to wash the world, he puts the rainbow in the sky, and when we see it we should remember that he wants us all to appreciate each other.


Source unknown


Discussion Questions

- 1) What do you think of this story?

- 2) In the story, each colour is different. Can you think of any other ways in which there is diversity in the world?

- 3) In the story, the rain tells the colours that what's really important is that they are connected to each other and work well together. Where else in nature can we see interdependence?

- 4) How many animals can you name in 30 seconds? 

- 5) How many plants can you name in 30 seconds? 

- 6) In the Bible story of Noah and the ark, God tells Noah that he will put a rainbow in the sky to remind everything on earth that God won't ever cover the whole earth with a flood again. Christians believe that God created the world and everything in it, and that the world and everything in it is precious to God. They believe that humans should promise God that they will try to look after the world, the plants and animals, and each other.

What part can we play in that promise?