

HOW THE SPOON WAS INVENTED

A discussion for children of all ages re: the value of collaboration, kind hearts, clear minds and open eyes.

A long time ago and far away in an arid land lived a mother and her child. There were just the two of them, because the child's father had been taken by a predator some time before, during the daily visit to their local watering hole.

This day, the child was thirsty, but it had not rained for a long time and the watering hole had grown smaller each day. So much so, that it was no longer safe for the mother or child to go to the edge and bend down to drink. To do so gave the many predators too much opportunity to attack them.

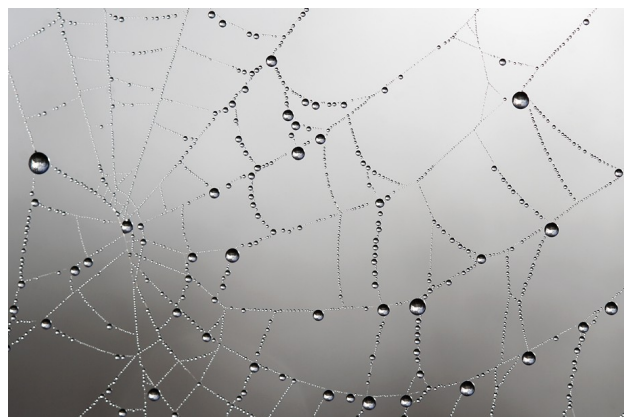
As with many watering holes, a ring of trees surrounded this one. These provided "cover" for both those seeking a drink and the predators. The mother and her child watched from just inside the trees to see if it was safe to go for a drink. But the pool was so small, so far from the protection of the ring of trees, that bending down to drink was too dangerous. In sadness and despair, the mother looked down, only to see a turtle shell upside down on the ground. A spider had spun her web and used the shell to anchor one side of it. Early that morning, dew had condensed on the web and flowed down to a tiny pool in the shell.

The mother had an idea. She could take the shell, hurry down to the water, fill the shell quickly while keeping watch for predators, and hurry back to her child still hiding in the trees. It worked! Mother and child slaked their thirst that day and all the days that followed. The mother kept the shell, and they were able to drink safely all the years to come, drought to drought. Eventually, they found a shell for the child who, when she grew up, found another shell for her child. That child decided to attach a stick to the shell for a handle, which made it even safer and more convenient to fetch water for her child.

A turtle shell.



A spider web.



A spoon.

