

WHY THE SALING HAS A BALD HEAD

By ANGEL V. CAMPOY *



THE *saling*, as you perhaps know, is a handsome black bird smaller than the crow. It builds its nest on the top of trees, especially coconut and buri palms. A curious fact about this bird is that it is capable of learning human speech. In that respect it is like the parrot. Another interesting thing is that it is one of the few birds with a bald head. Perhaps you would like to hear why the *saling* has a bald head.

A long time ago the *saling* had a tuft of beautiful white feather on its head. This was a very attractive white crest, and the *saling* was quite proud of the headpiece.

One day the eagle, king of the birds, called all the fowls together.

"My friends," said the eagle in bird language, "next week I shall hold a flying contest, and I have called you together to invite each of you to enter the contest. To the winner I shall give a wonderful prize. It will be the ability to learn human speech."

"Splendid!" the birds cried. "We will all enter the contest and do our best."

Then they all flew away and began to practise flying in order to get ready for the contest. Each of the birds wanted to win the wonderful prize—the ability to learn human speech.

The day of the great contest arrived. The sky was darkened by the great cloud of birds which came, either to watch or to take part in the contest. The forest was noisy with bird-calls and the flutter of wings. Almost every fowl was there.

When it was time for the contest to begin, the contestants perched themselves on trees and rocks, waiting for the signal to start the great flying event.

Among those who had entered the contest were the parrot and the *saling*, each of whom had made up his mind to try to win the contest. Of course these two were not the only contestants. The crow, the hawk, the swallow, the heron, the *maya*, and many other birds were there, also, to take part in friendly rivalry in the flying contest.

Finally the signal was given for the contest to begin. This was given by the *calao*, who, as everyone knows, has a most raucous cry which was easily heard by all the contestants.

The fliers rose in the air. They flew fast and high. Soon they were lost to view. It was not long, however, until most of the birds got tired of flying and came down. But the parrot and the *saling* flew on. They flew and flew for miles and miles.

Finally they neared a volcano which was sending forth smoke and flames high into the air. The parrot made a

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FISHING TRIP

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fishermen were very happy over this. They said I had brought good luck to them, and they told me they would like to have me go with them always. I thanked them and replied that I would be happy to go with them whenever I could do so.

We hauled in many fish on that trip. They were of different sizes—some were quite large—and most of them we kept. We caught such a large number of fish that we took many of them to the market in Manila, and had a large number besides to take home.

That fishing trip in Manila Bay was very interesting to me. It was educational as well, for I learned the names of different kinds of fishes and learned to recognize them when I saw them.

HOW I HELP MOTHER

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tending the stove. After eating our breakfast, I wash the dishes, and then prepare for school.

At noon I am not of very much help to my mother because I also help my teacher in school after class hours. I can only set the table. After lunch I study my lessons. I clean the

dishes when I arrive home from school in the afternoon.

We are not a well-to-do family, and so on Saturdays I stay at home the whole day washing and starching our clothes, while my mother goes to the Associated Charities for some help. On Sundays I wake up early to attend church services. Upon arriving home from church I clean our house and put things in order. Then I iron the clothes I have washed the day before, while my mother does the cooking and washing of the dishes. In the afternoon when I finish my work early enough, I either go to my teacher's home for a visit or see my friends and play with them. I don't play very much, however, because as we are poor, I have to work more than I have to play. I play only in school.

I am happy this way because I am helping my dear widowed mother, a sick elder brother, and two young sisters and a brother.

PANTRY

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grated rind, and boil it for one-half hour. Pour into glasses or jars, and seal. Lemon marmalade is delicious if served with toast or pancakes.

(To be continued)

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detour and flew around the volcano, but the *saling* started across the volcano above the smoke and flame.

But alas! He had misjudged his distance and got so near the volcanic flame that the beautiful tuft of white feathers on his head caught fire and was burned. When he was past the volcano his lovely white crest was gone and his head was bare.

At last the eagle spoke. "My friends," he said, "you have all made a good showing. The parrot and the *saling* have done especially well. Therefore I shall award the prize to both of them."

Many bird-calls were heard in approval of the eagle's decision. The parrot and the *saling*, in the presence of their feathered friends, stood before the eagle, mighty king of all the fowls.

"To you two," said the eagle, "I give the prize of this contest. From this time on, each of you will have the power to learn human speech."

That is why, today, the parrot and the *saling* have learned to imitate the human voice and can be trained to talk.

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SUGGESTIONS ON . . .

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cause they live near each other in harmony—they do not clash with each other. Blue, blue-violet, and violet and many other combinations are “neighbor” colors.

(2) By “brother” colors we mean those colors which have the same name but are of different shades, as light red, bright red, and very bright red. They are just like brothers—big brother, little brother, and smallest brother. Have you

seen a light-red hibiscus (*yúmamela*), a pink one, and a bright-red one? They are examples of “brother” colors.

(3) Colors which stay on opposite sides of the color, like your friend who lives on the opposite side of the river, are “friend” colors. Yellow and blue-violet, for example, are opposite or “friend” colors.

(4) A color may be grouped with the “cousins” of its “friend” color or opposite color. Blue is the friend of orange, while

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But in winning the contest the *saling* unluckily had lost his white crest of feathers. And so from that time his head has been bare.

blue-green and blue-violet are the “cousins” of blue. Therefore, orange may be grouped with blue-green and blue-violet. Other groups of this combination are (a) yellow-green, blue-violet, and red-violet; (b) blue-green, orange, and red-violet; *et cetera*.



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