



## #16 *The Three Tortoises*



*“A long, long time ago, my ancestors were very much like you,” the grandma tortoise alleged, directing her comments to her four year old granddaughter. Her 12 year old and 18 year old granddaughters came near. Addressing all three she continued, “If you learn to look hard enough, you can see our ancient ancestors right here in your little sister. Watch how she walks about in a dream. Observe her joy at the simplest of things. Witness the intuitive way she understands life without being able to read or write, simply using her heart. Why, she is a model of our oldest relatives!”*

*“Ooooooo this is fun, grandma! Do me. What story can you see in me?” cried the 12 year old. Grandma assented, proceeding with a bit of caution and a glint in her eye, “I see in you the stage of tortoisekind that knows it all. It is the stage we tortoises*

*are in right now. Like most tortoises, today, you distance yourself from your little sister because you can think on your own. There is a confidence about you, that says, 'I don't really need anyone!' And that is partly right. You have become your own person; one who can stand on your own four feet!"*

*"And, what about me?" chimed in the third, 18 year old granddaughter. Grandma got a far off look in her eyes and began, not without a small amount of excitement, "Ah, you!" "Although you have come a good way from childhood, you are now cherishing your innocent days. While you have learned to solve problems with your mind, you now see the value in your early days of being able to react instinctually and spontaneously with your heart. In short, you are a brilliant fusion of your two sisters." "But grandma, what stage of our species do I represent?" the granddaughter implored. Grandma tortoise sat back, reveling for a moment at the question, then answered rather triumphantly, "Look harder, my child! Don't you see? Through you, we are beholding the next version of us!"*

*SEE THE WHOLE IN THE PART*