



#22 *The Bear and the Crow*



High on a hilltop, lived a bear cub and his mother. One day, his mother told him he was ready to roam through the world on his own.

Delighted with his new freedom, the bear cub ran through the woods on his hilltop, finding berries, grasses and roots everywhere he looked. Whenever he desired, he would stop for a swim. Sometimes he even found a bee hive full of delicious honey. He was very happy. One day, he met a crow. "Is eating and playing all you do?" taunted the crow. "I guess so," answered the bear, "what else is there?" "Why, development, of course!" provoked the crow. "Don't you want to improve who you are - expand your horizons? There is a whole, new world in the valley below with possibilities for growth!" The bear was perplexed. "But it is so comfortable here," he rejoined, "what is

so good about development?” “It’s the way of all things,” explained the crow, “if you try to stay, the sweet life you lead today, will sour tomorrow. You must actually seek trials and tribulations in the world below your beloved hilltop.” “After my trials, can I come back up?” entreated the bear. The crow smiled. “Yes, yes, my friend, we all end up on the hilltop as a reward.”

SEEK CHALLENGES FIRST, THEN REWARD