



## #35 *The Tree and the Toad*



*A young toad was whimpering as he sat by a weeping willow tree. “What is your problem? I should be the one who is ‘weeping’ - it’s in my name,” questioned the tree with a sparkle in his eye. “Why, it’s just that my father gave orders to fill the pond with water by evening. I will not be able to play with my friends, today. It will take many buckets until it is full,” complained the toad. The tree sympathized. He knew that trees use levity as toads use gravity. Trees have water come to them, whereas the toad had to fill the pond by carrying one bucket at a time. “I’m sorry,” answered the willow, “we trees reach out our branches and roots to let water, light, and air come streaming in.” Then in an attempt to lighten the mood, the tree added, “I guess, as you fill from the inside out, we fill from the outside in.” This small measure of levity did not cheer up the toad at all, as he continued to whine, “And my arms ... my arms feel the gravity*

*increase as the day goes on, until I am positively grumpy.”*  
*Turning toward the tree for one last piece of advice, the toad*  
*asked, “How do you stay in such good humor?” The willow*  
*thought for a moment, then simply replied, “I guess levity lifts my*  
*branches and my mood!”*

*THE FORCE THAT LIFTS THE TREE LIFTS THE SMILE*