

#46 Two Groups of Ants



A colony of ants were facing almost certain doom if they stayed on their beloved mountain. The rock under which they had spent their lives was crumbling. A possible alternative rock lay on the other side of a threshold, a little higher up the mountain. Alas, they found themselves splitting apart into two factions as they argued about what to do. “We must cling to the old ways!” cried out an ant who was chosen to speak for one group. Continuing, he laid out a strategy, “We can stop thinking as individuals and achieve solidarity by single-mindedly following a plan to stay under our rock and hope that life will return to the way it used to be.” The second group had many individuals who disagreed with this. One spoke up of her own accord saying, “I see this as an opportunity for a fresh start!” Suddenly she took up her belongings and left the group. She ran across the threshold and was not seen for two days. “You see,” said the first group’s spokesperson, “acting as an individual is bad! Now, she is lost!” But on the third day, she returned with good news. “There is nothing to fear,” she reassured, “I think that each one of us should decide on her or his own. Just sense what is good for the whole group, bring your ideas to the table and keep listening to each other!”

But time passed and the first group did not go. They began dressing in the garb of days gone by, eventually becoming a meager collection of separated, lonely ants. They tried to avoid

arguments by sticking to the old plan. They bonded over a shared fear of the crumbling rock that hung over their heads. The second group, on the other hand, prepared to go. As they packed their possessions, they adopted as many new outlooks as there were individual ants, yet found unanimity in facing the unknown path together. As they crossed the threshold, they were no longer a collection of ants ... they were a community.

*THE COMMUNITY IS WHOLE WHEN THE INDIVIDUALS
ARE WHOLE*

