



## #54 *The Sleepwalker*



*There lived a young fox named Dawn. She had a beautiful coat of unusually yellow-red fur. She woke up one morning to find what appeared to be extremely wonderful sunlight flooding all over her, making her fur look like fire. She could feel the warmth of the sunlight and it felt very good. She was acutely aware of the fragrance of flowers in the forest like she had never been before. She looked around and their colors seemed remarkably intense. Suddenly, she realized that this was a morning like no other in her life. Everything around her was better and brighter. Of course, she had awakened every day of her life, but today she was really AWAKE! As she thought about it, she started to realize that she had not really been awake for her whole life ... until now. She had been sort of asleep - walking around with her eyes open - yet existing in a kind of a dream. All of her existence so far had been SLEEP WALKING, like someone who isn't really paying attention to what she is doing - someone who is not fully present.*

*Currently, it struck Dawn that since she was experiencing everything as if she had new powers to appreciate the sun and*

*flowers and smells and colors, then maybe - just maybe - she had other new powers. As a matter of fact, she was right. To test this theory, she crept quietly up to a wren's nest. The eggs were still inside. She looked at an exquisitely smooth egg and BEHOLD! Dawn could see the whole bird that it would become. She wasn't looking through the shell, she was seeing an image of the full-grown wren in her mind. She was very excited, so she tried her newly found power on a seed that had fallen on the ground. The small seed came from an immense tulip poplar tree next to her. Once again it happened! Looking at the seed, an image formed in her mind of the full-grown tree. A third time she ventured out, this time into a field of grass, waving in the wind. To her amazement she could observe single blades of the grass and see the WHOLE SKY OF STARS that shed their starlight on that grass every night. It was as if the whole universe was in each blade.*

*Dawn felt the very strong need to do something in return for her new powers. She thought and thought about it, and then she said aloud, "I know what I will do! I have been given a gift, so I will give something as tribute! In return for WAKING UP, I will try to STAY AWAKE!"*

*WAKING IS A GIFT  
STAYING AWAKE IS A TRIBUTE*