❂ How Owl Got His Wisdom ❂

Owl was a very simple bird, but was held in low esteem among other animals because of its lack of knowledge. Owl pretended to not know of this fact, but deep down, it pained the bird.

One night, just before dawn, Owl flew onto a high cliff far from the animals he knew. and as Sun came up, he spoke. "Sun, I am ashamed of my lack of brains. Give me a dream to grant me knowledge." Owl ducked his head under his wing, and slept.

In his dream, Owl flew to a meadow where a mountain lion stalked her prey. Owl swooped down, and felt a peculiar sensation. When he opened his eyes, he saw a deer peacefully grazing a few feet away. He felt himself creeping forward, belly brushing the grass, and his ears perked forward. His sharp senses told him that he was downwind of his prey and it had not yet heard his approach. Suddenly the animal he inhabited stopped. He felt strong leg muscles bend, and he launched through the air. Giving a start, his prey looked up, but it was too late. In seconds, he was upon it, and he wrestled the deer to the ground. After he delivered a bite to the neck, he lifted his head, a victorious feeling bursting in his chest. He felt the curious sensation again, and he flew out of the mountain lion's body.

He flew until he came upon a coyote standing in front of its den. The canine was pacing anxiously in front of the entrance to its home. Owl felt himself enter the coyote's body. Suddenly, another coyote sprang out of the den and licked his face. He bounded forward, tail wagging madly, and followed the other into his den. He saw little balls of fur on the ground, his pups. Quickly, he ran outside and saw Raven. Following the bird, he found a pile of meat, and started carrying it to his den.

Owl left this body and fell into another. A buffalo was running from a pack of wolves. A feeling of terror was smothering his body. Quickly, he turned onto a steep, thin trail on the side of a mountain. He ran for a while, but then lost his footing. Doom overcame the beast, and he plummeted downward. Owl flew out of the body, and passed through a wolf on his way up. He felt the creature's disappointment.

He flew to a creek, and saw a beaver building her dam. He went into her body, and felt himself floating. He lifted a log onto the structure, and patted some mud onto it to make it sturdy. Suddenly, there was a rustle in the bushes. The beaver slapped her tail on the water, dove beneath the surface, and found a hole to breath through beneath a pile of sticks. There she hid, almost entirely still. Owl could tell that this was a wise animal.

Owl left the body, and floated up into a cloud. In the midst, he saw the Great Sky Council seated around a grand oak table. At the head was Sun, and to his right were Star, Wolf, Bear, Fox, and Coyote. To his left were Moon, Elk, Deer, Beaver, and Moose. Sun spoke.

"Owl," he said, "You have gained much wisdom today. You know the lives of predator, prey, scavenger, and worker. You will join the Sky Council when your life ends."

Moon stepped forth. "You must show us that you are worthy of this knowledge by performing a task." She said "You must show us your wisdom." So the owl began his tale of the lives of the animals. He spoke of the cougar, the coyote, the buffalo and the beaver, all of the animals that had given him wisdom. When his tale came to an end the Sky Council looked pleased. Sun spoke. "Owl, you have learned the ways of the other

animals. You have gained much knowledge on this day." Star spoke. "From this day forth, your kind will be known for your brains." Owl bowed his head in thanks. "Your kind has eyes for living at night," Star continued, "and you must sleep during in the day." Owl drifted silently away from the Sky Council.

Owl woke up on the cliff. He knew he must hunt now, while Moon was high in the sky. And to this day, Owl watches the people and animals of this world from his high perch as one of the Sky Council. That is how Owl got his wisdom.