

How Female Moose Lost Her Beautiful Antlers

As Told by Eileen Beaver

A long time ago, animals had the power to do anything they wanted. Animals used to talk, and trees talked too, even the grass and rocks could talk. They still do, but most of us don't know how to listen. Back then, both male and female moose had antlers. They loved their antlers. They were proud of their antlers. At that time, they were allowed to take them off but they were to watch over them. One spring, they came down by the river to eat, just as the sun was coming up. They were wading in the water because they love the water plants—the fresh, juicy, and crunchy underwater plants. But, this one morning the female moose was getting impatient when the plants got caught on her antlers. She said, “I'm just going to rest my antlers on the rocks over here while I eat.”

The male moose said, “No. Creator says we're not allowed to. We're supposed to take care of our things and care for our bodies.”

“It will be okay,” she replied.

“If anything happens, it will be your fault,” he warned.

She took off her very beautiful but heavy antlers and laid them on a rock, thinking, “It'll be alright. It's just while I enjoy my breakfast.”

Meanwhile, a sucker fish was running up the river. Sucker saw the beautiful antlers on the rock and thought, “I'm going to play a trick on her.” Sucker fish twirled and jumped up and got a wee bit bigger. He twirled and jumped up again, and again got a wee bit bigger. He twirled and jumped up again, and again got a wee bit bigger. Each twirl and jump got him just a bit bigger until he was big enough to grab the antlers with his mouth and jump back into the water. They were so big that they hurt his mouth so he quickly tried to reverse his twirling to regain his size. As he shrunk, the antlers shrunk too, but they were stuck inside his mouth.

To this day the animals must pay for their ways. Sucker paid for his mischievousness. Creator made him keep the heavy antlers in his mouth. So sucker fish can't chew; they can only suck. This reminds them (and us) not to steal from others. The male moose must lose his antlers every year and grow them back. This is a reminder to help your friends when they are making bad choices. When the female moose calls she sounds like she's crying because she is brokenhearted and wants her beautiful antlers back. From that day on female moose have not had antlers. This reminds us to look after the gifts Creator has given us.

