

Author:
Rodrigo Alvarez Jiménez



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Catalina Ochoa Hernández

Translated by

Ellen Jones

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1

Onsa and Namu

When it was announced that the **Eureka** institute was the winner of the Saving Life Entrepreneurship Contest, open to participating animals all over the planet, the auditorium erupted happily, filling with applause. Onsa hugged Namu, her brother and partner in this initiative. Overcome with emotion, she looked back on the experiences that had led them to this moment. Born in Colombia's **Serranía de Chiribiquete National Park**, their father, Ali, who dreamed of having *curious* and *educated* children, had chosen their names: Onsa, meaning 'ancestral wisdom' and Namu, 'learning with others'.

After they were born, their mother, Mia, thinking of Ali and seeing how entirely dependent their cubs were – moving clumsily, eyes tight shut – said to herself:

‘Curious?’ She let out a laugh and responded at once to her own question. ‘That’s not nature, it’s nurture.’ She added: ‘If their interest is sparked and they work hard, they will become curious, creative, innovative jaguars. If they are motivated to go one step further, they’ll intuit opportunity where the rest of us see the same old thing as always.’

Like all jaguars, Onsa and Namu learned from their mother how to survive alone in great expanses of land, in harmony with nature. Namu, who was increasingly determined, had wanted to be an Olympic champion in several sports ever since he was a cub. With determined curiosity, to achieve his goal he identified with other species that carry out certain movements naturally and began training with them. For example, he became friends with migrating ducks to learn dynamic positions in the air and water; with bats to learn how to fly on the high jump; with tapirs to learn how to swing from one foot to the next during the javelin throw. Over time, his enthusiasm for sports learned from other animals led Namu to become the jaguars’ ambassador.



Onsa’s interest in the dreams and achievements of every jaguar and their ancestors, and in making others feel valued, gave her a respectful curiosity that inspired confidence and facilitated interaction. Starting young, little Onsa learned about every aspect of jaguar culture, and this made her stronger.





2

What We See and How We See It

One day, as they were learning together, Onsa remarked:

‘Mother, it’s rare to catch the scent of another jaguar these days.

Is there something going on?’

Mia saw that her young daughter’s naïve curiosity had led her to the reality of their species. She replied sadly:

‘Onsa, humans have been growing out of control for over two hundred years, without understanding the role of nature in their lives. They pollute as though water, air, and nutrients were not the result of nature’s life cycles. They appropriate wetlands, environments, ecosystems and their resources, displacing species that have made their homes there for millennia. You have seen how deforestation for human activities pushes us into places where it’s

hard for us to reproduce or to live because the land, rivers, and food sources are degraded.'

Their mother concluded by saying that most species displayed apathy when faced with this problem and that there was now an even more devastating force claiming thousands of human lives and millions of natural species every year.

'Who could be capable of attacking and terrorising all forms of life on the planet, even humans?' Namu asked anxiously. Her mother explained that it wasn't a creature, exactly, and for that reason couldn't be fought off with mere strength.

'Indifference seems to make it worse!' Mia told them.

'High temperatures in the Amazon Jungle cause wildfires and out of control droughts more and more often. In other places there are terrible floods, with the same consequences for the environment, such as loss of life, destruction of habitats and displacement.'

Mia explained that an excess of certain gases in the atmosphere, released by specific human activities, throws the climate off balance, showing us that the Earth, like all living beings, can feel and react.



Mia fell silent. Perhaps because it was all too unknown, unexpected, distant or complicated, she felt unable to act. Onsa, who would never forget that moment, decided then and there to cultivate her investigative curiosity, for discovering information that might offer solutions to both these threats.



3

From Creativity to Innovation

When they grow up, all jaguars leave their mothers and head into other territories to survive on their own. Knowing this moment would arrive soon for her young cubs, the following morning at sunrise Mia invited them to climb the **Serranía de Chiribiquete**: a mystical mountain plateau in the Amazon, huge and inaccessible because it has no paths, ideal for exploring possibilities and making decisions.

When they arrived at the base of the tepuyes, the 'walls of rock and vegetation rising up to the summit', Onsa and Namu looked at each other. Then, with daring curiosity, they set off to see who would get there first. Mia followed behind Onsa.

Onsa leapt from one spot to another, taking risks, not knowing where she would land or how she would cling on with her claws to stop herself from falling. When she reached the top, exhausted, an unimaginable expanse spread out before her: above, the sun and flying rivers, below, a blanket of green criss-crossed by waterways reminiscent of the mythical legend of the anacondas who rose up from the sea and headed into the jungle to create life for all species. Once she'd got her breath back, Onsa said to herself aloud:

'Now I see why humans call the **Serranía de Chiribiquete** 'the Workshop of the Gods'; it's the kind of place where a universe is created, designed, and organised.'

Her mother, who had overheard, added:

'Yes, a universe with a home and a place for every species.'

Their attention was caught by a large stone wall where drawings could be seen, some made thousands of years ago, others more recently, images conveyed to Indigenous people by the gods during ceremonies and rituals. An open book for everyone to read, the divine narrative of all the world's great forces in balance.

Tastes, smells, sounds, shapes, and textures on the stone made the



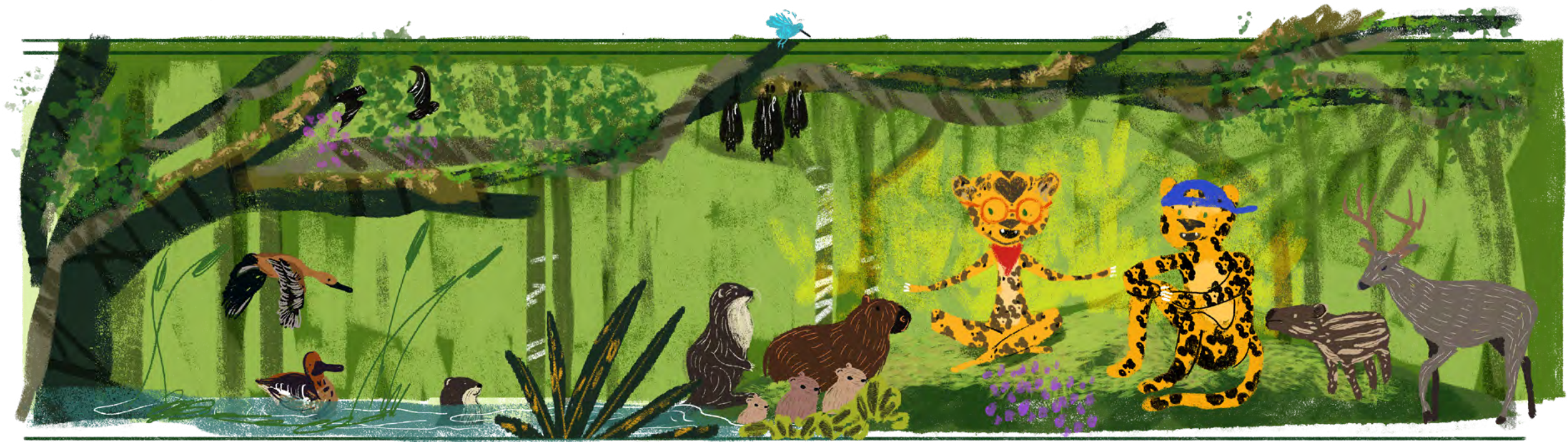
scenes depicted there almost real. The shamans, hunters, jaguars and jaguar-men – guardians of the earth – were all easily recognisable. Fauna was represented by tapirs, deer, tortoises, wasps and bats; and flora by palm fronds and large leafed trees.

'We're all here!' Onsa said, amazed to see so much wisdom in one place.

'We are all part of the biological and multicultural richness of the world, and its strength!' Mia added.

At that moment, insight curiosity was sparked in Onsa, who cried:

'Eureka!' She began to dance, a dance that told a tale about how creatures can coexist in a connected way and look after the finite and fragile natural world. She repeated joyfully: 'This is the gods' message for the creatures of the multiverse.'



When Namu arrived, he couldn't figure out how they had got there before him, but Onsa's enthusiasm inspired him to join her jumping happily in the air. When she saw him, Onsa ran over to say:

'According to the gods, all species must work together in the transition. I propose we be part of the solution and teach human beings to look after the life of our region and give back to nature while going about their daily activities.' Winking at him, she asked: 'Doesn't it make you curious?'

'Curious?' asked Namu disdainfully. He went on: 'Isn't naïve curiosity just "meddling in things that don't matter?" That's what you're proposing, Onsa, meddling in things that don't matter! All I want is to be a professional athlete, and here you are wanting to be god-knows-what, talking about teaching what we don't even understand ourselves.'

Onsa suddenly remembered how sad her mother had been when talking

about the devastating threats they faced. She said again, with conviction:

'Instead of inaction, I think nature, and us animals, can help human beings learn, help them understand how to care for all living things, for the Earth, and about the consequences of their actions.'

They returned home. Over the coming days, Onsa and Namu used their holistic curiosity to think about how they could move from that creative idea to innovation. They decided that Namu, as the ambassador of the jaguars, would summon all the species.

They all agreed. Onsa and Namu encouraged them to interpret the recommendations of the gods written on the great stone wall in the **Serranía de Chiribiquete**, to inspire and set about doing the important work of educating humanity in how to look after nature and all living things in a responsible way.



4

Learning to Start a New Venture

The commotion from the balconies full of professors and graduates of the Eureka institute brought Olsa back down to earth again at the prize giving event. Her heart was with the real winners: the cow Professor and her team of professionals in the nutritious cheese industry, who learned the value of milk and adopted 'intensive' farming methods that regenerated the life of the soil; her husband, Muu, a fighting bull, creator of the 'Ethics and Compassion' guide, because we all have feelings. Not to mention Prof. Duck, an explorer of winds and lakes, now working in the sports fashion industry designing 'durable, reusable, and recyclable' waterproof jackets. There was the tapir professor, with her steady, agile gait, from the roadways

laboratory, and the Indigenous community that helped her trace innovative ecocultural corridors to connect and preserve the environments they both inhabit, giving space to ancestral knowledge of the land. Special mention went to the penguin, who left his polar home because of the melting ice and, alongside a team of entrepreneurs, ‘invented’ an entrepreneurship course that led to the patenting of solar-powered freezers. Thanks to the blind bat, civil servants in the Environment Ministry learned echolocation and used it to patent drones that could find endangered animals that were malnourished.

Namu opened the winning envelope to show it to Onsa. It said: Eureka, a life and nature training institute. In their own region, Onsa and Namu created an institute that promotes biodiversity and ‘experiential learning’ in natural, human, and social sciences, as well as an ethics of care that guides the development of technologies and their economic use. Graduates of the Institute recognise its impact on their own prosperity, confirming it to be a space of validation for social and bio-multicultural innovation, where everyone can be fulfilled in nature, and nature fulfilled with them, in order to restore balance on Earth.

Mia had observed her children’s trajectory closely. Seeing them grown up now, she was curious, wondering:



‘Does venturing out responsibly, meddling in things that don’t matter, actually MATTER?’

Tears ran down the mother’s face.





CURIOUS JAGUARS

A TALE OF NATURAL INTELLIGENCE



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