**Historias de bichos brasileiros**

P31

The Toad and the Ox

On the edge of a creek, on a heap of stones, lived a family of toads. It was a very beautiful place, where the creek curved and widened, forming a pond. Many animals came there to drink, and they were all friends with the toads.

One of them, the eldest son, loved to order others around. He was an arrogant toad, and he was very important:

* I was born first, He said. So I'm cuter and smarter.

The others laughed at him.

* Where has it ever been written that the first-born has it all? Laughed a frog in the middle
* If it’s been written, that I don’t know, said the arrogant toad, but I am ready.
* You being ready is not an argument, said another one, who quickly left before he could reply.

In his life, the oldest one wanted to command, while the others were all laughing at him.

P32

One day, a huge ox came to drink water. When the toad saw the ox, he thought: “What a giant! If I were that size everyone here would obey me.” And that thought was making more and more sense to him. He also thought, "I'm very important, I just need size and magnificence. If I were like the ox, everything would be solved. I would watch everyone from above, and punish those who do not obey me. Just looking at me, they would all tremble. He couldn’t stop thinking, "I have to find a way.”

He ended up opening the conversation with the ox.

* Wow, I wish I were this big

The ox laughed.

* But, toad, it’s impossible. A toad is a toad, and an ox is an ox. A toad is the size of a toad, and an ox is the size of an ox.
* But that’s what I want.

A seriema bird, who was listening, said,

* Well, well! You think it’s what you want!
* If I want, I can, the toad says, repeating what he had read somewhere.
* This is stupid, the bird said. Wanting what’s impossible is a waste of time.
* This conversation makes me want to sleep, concluded the ox, yawning.
* We have to want what is possible - an ant, who was walking around, said spoke quietly. The rest is talk of cicada. Always ends badly.

But the toad did not give up. He tucked the idea in his head and just thought of it. He had to be right. He will find a way, and will be ready. He could be even larger than the ox. A mighty giant!

One day, he remembered he had a craw. And everyone knows that the talk of a toad swells and becomes greater when he wants. He just had to inflate his craw. Sure Simple!

P33

Would it work?

And he thought so much that I would. He called the vermin to watch, prepared himself, and climbed a big rock.

* It is today – he said, arrogantly. – Pay attention. You are going to see who the king of toads is.

The vermin looked at him with mistrust. What was he preparing? An agouti was saying:

* Gee! This won’t work
* It will end badly, an armadillo said.

The monkey said:

* Stop it, you two. Come watch the show!
* I’m sure this will create confusion, the jaguar said, only to say the contrary.
* Silence! The vulture cried, perched in his tree. Ohlala...

The toad had begun to swell. He took a deep breath, swallowed air and swelled. Nobody made a noise. Everyone was staring at him.

* Ohlala… Ohlala… The vulture was so excited and cried so much that he fell from the tree. Nodody noticed. He cleared his feathers and continued: - Hey there, folks!

And the toad could not stand this, having them all watching him. He swelled and swelled. His craw was getting so enormous that he couldn’t see his public anymore. He cried:

* I'm already the size of the Ox!

The agouti giggled and said:

* Not even close…

The toad breathed again and swelled even more. He then bellowed:

* Ready? Am the size of the ox?

P34

* No, cried the vulture. Come on, toad, you are almost there.

The toad thought: "When I am king, I will make that vulture minister." And he swelled more and more.

* And now?
* Haa! The agouti said.

The toad took another breath and swelled. Swelled and thought: "This agouti will be punished when I'm the king here." And he swelled and swelled. He was huge, purple because of the effort. The ox only shook his head, pitying him.

* Am I bigger than the ox? Yelled the toad, almost suffocating.
* Not yet, almost! The monkey answered, clapping.

The toad heard the palms and reached his maximum. He took another deep breath, swallowed air, and…

Booooooooooooooooooom

He exploded!

There was a rush. Pieces of the toad flew everywhere. The animals, very troubled, lamented the fate of the toad, while the ox was ruminating.

The agouti then shook his head and said:

- His was ox, not for nothing, no. But who was born toad will never become king.