



The Little Swallow

by

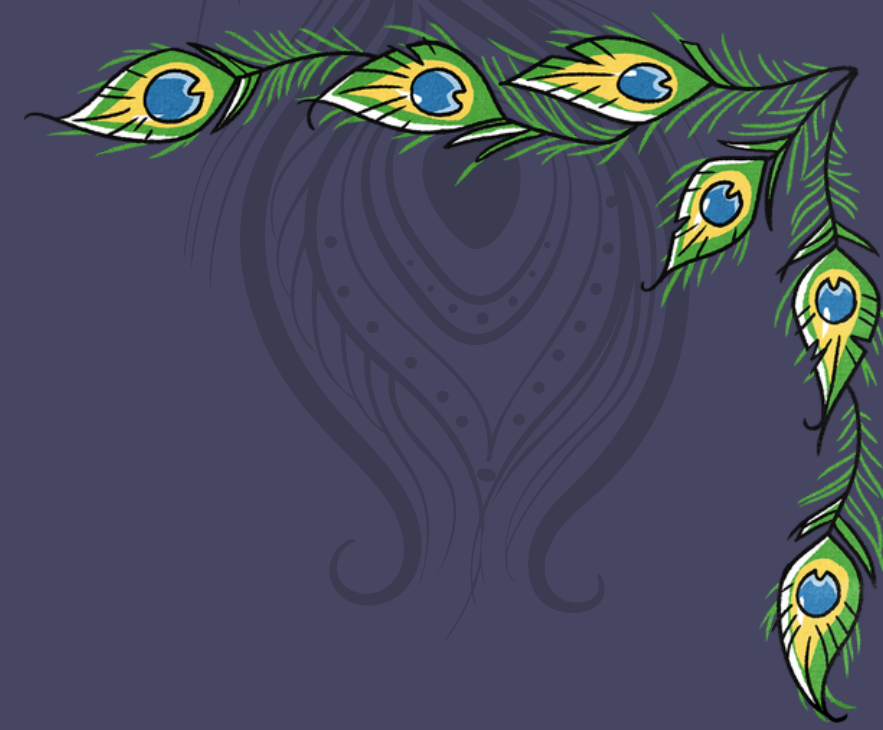
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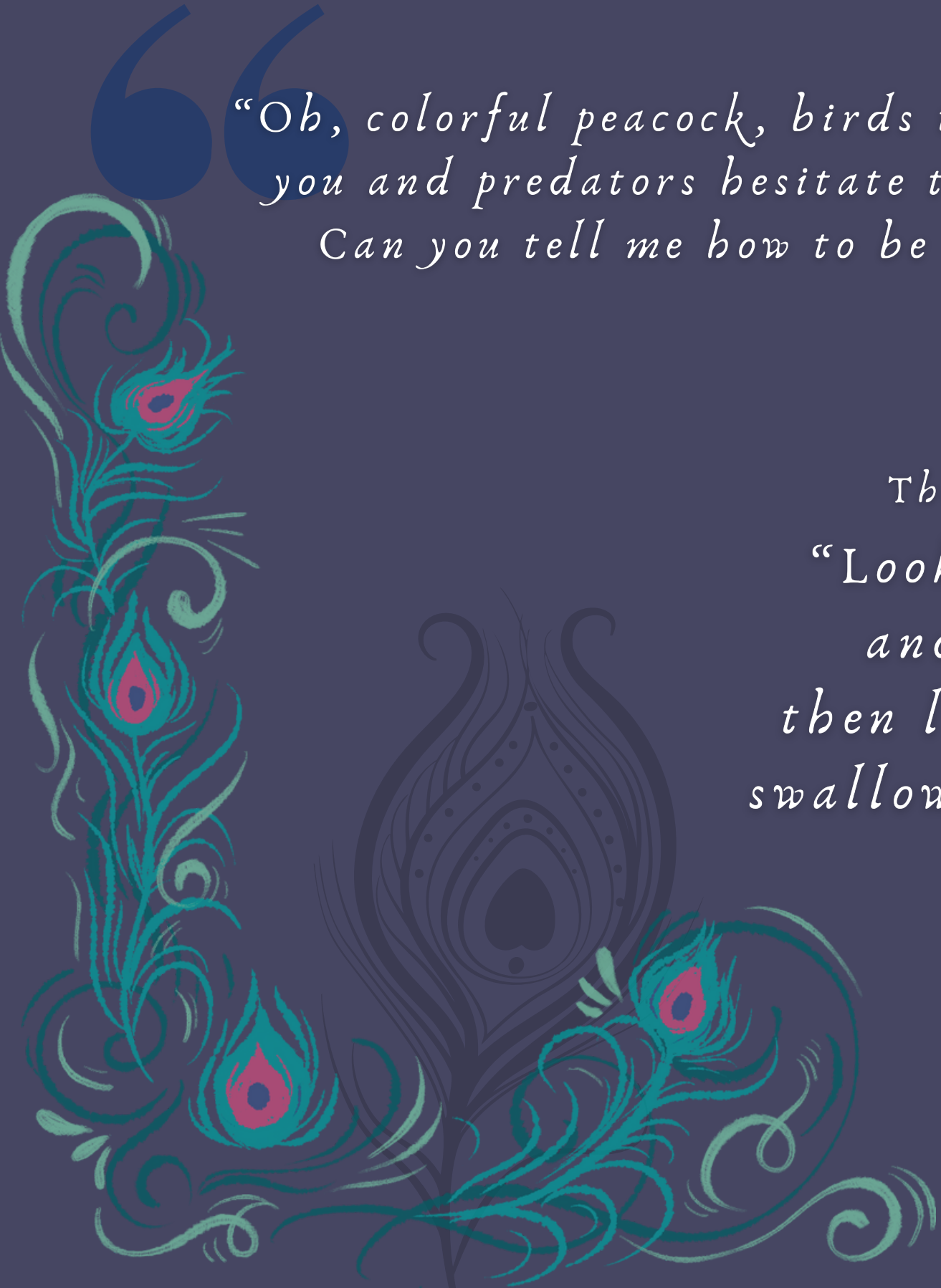
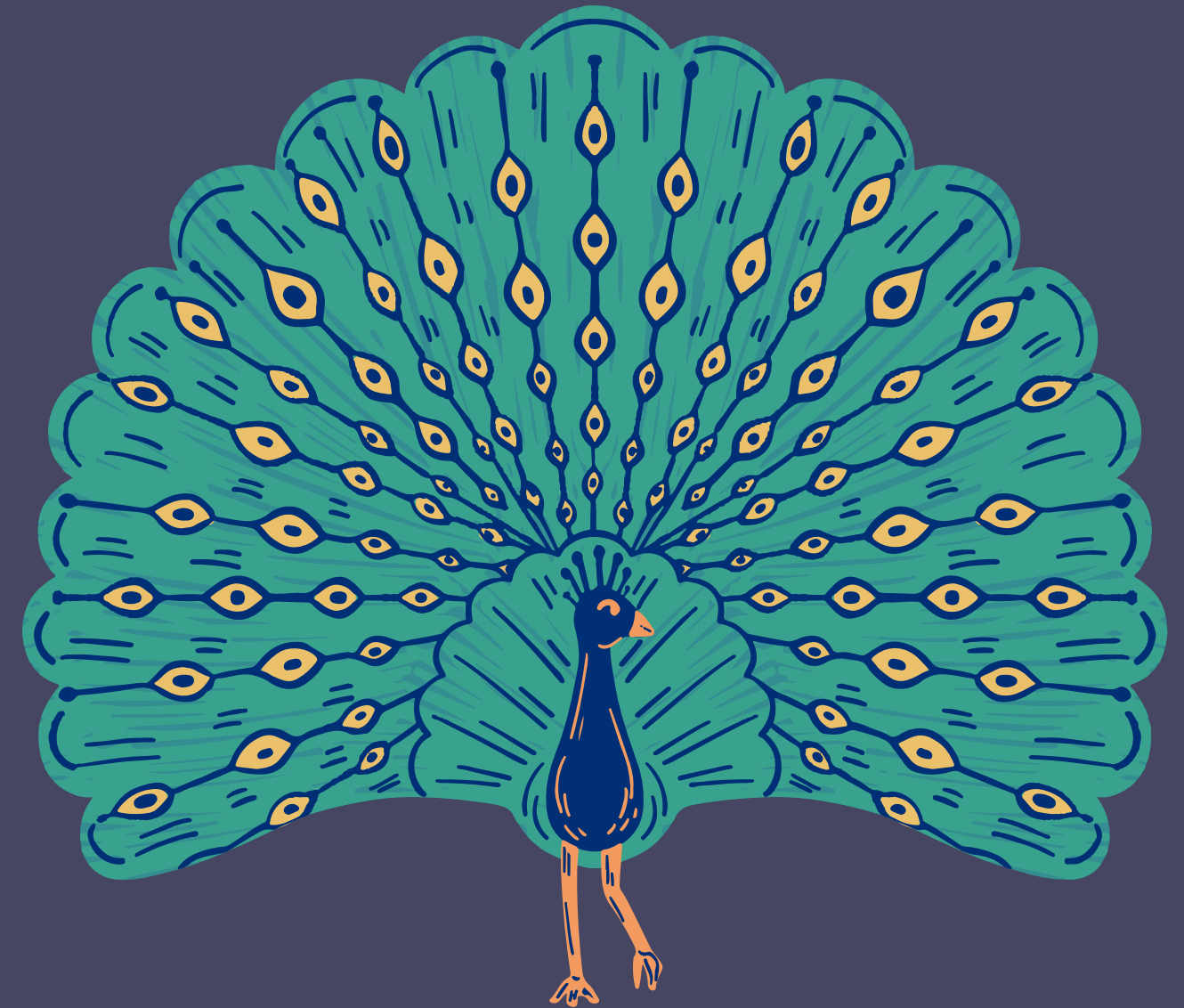
There once lived a little swallow, small in size and of simple appearance. It yearned to be loved and find a place where it could belong. So the swallow thought it appropriate to try and adapt others' mannerisms and appearance.

One day, while looking for food, the swallow met a peacock with colorful feathers. In awe, the swallow asked:



“Oh, colorful peacock, birds turn to look at you and predators hesitate to harm you. Can you tell me how to be like you?”

The peacock, proud as it was, replied:
“Look at my beautiful feathers and my excellent posture and then look at you. You are just a swallow; you are nothing like me. Leave me alone!”



Hurt, the swallow left and approached a pond to drink some water.

Upon arriving at the pond, it noticed a flamingo preying for fish. Looking at its graceful figure, the swallow asked:

“Oh, lovely flamingo, your feathers put other birds to shame, and your neck is so beautiful and delicate. Can you teach me the ways of your grace?”



The flamingo only shot an angry look!

“What nonsense is this? Nothing you will ever do will make you look like me. Leave at once.”

Disappointed, the swallow started walking away, when it noticed a swan swimming a little further in the water. Discouraged from its previous encounters, approaching the swan, it pleaded:



“Oh, gentle swan, most beautiful of all birds, you grace the lake with your appearance. Please teach me how to be like you.”

“Why would you want to be like me little swallow?” the swan asked.





“Because I wish to be as elegant as you so as to be loved and accepted, but you may decline my offer, the same way the peacock and the flamingo did...”



Calmly, the swan responded:

“You cannot be like me little swallow; we are nothing alike. And you may not be as beautiful as a peacock, nor have a long neck like a flamingo, nor swim like me, but there’s a place for you to shine and that place is the sky.”

“The sky?” asked the swallow.

“Yes, the sky, for swallows have wings that allow them to embark on voyages across the world. Swans cannot do that, but each of us is graced with different gifts and that is what distinguishes us from others.”

*The swallow felt hopeful then, but asked:
“What if there are no other swallows like me?”*

“There are, trust me!”

Suddenly, a loud flutter of wings echoed around, and as the swallow looked up, it saw a huge swarm of other swallows. Laughing, the swan exclaimed:

“Go! They came for you.”

The swallow nodded and raised its wings, finding itself among others of its kind.



*And as the story shows,
All of us are different,
But there's always a place for us to belong.*

