

The Lily and the Garden

Once upon a time, in a pretty little garden, there lived a white flower named Lily. Lily was fair and beautiful. She lived by Cool Pond. Pond would give her water that helped her to be strong and grow. Cool Pond loved little Lily. She cheered his heart with her pretty white petals.

Lily had many friends. Green Grass grew all around Lily, keeping her warm and comforted.

Earth fed Lily nutrients and nourishment so Lily grew big and strong among her friends. Gentle Wind kissed Lily's face and helped her to be supple and to bend with the breeze rather than break.

One day, a seed fell right beside Lily. Lily looked at the seed and thought, *It's just a little seed. What harm can it do?* And so she kept the seed and allowed it to grow.





But this seed was not a very happy seed. He grumbled that Pond gave him too much water. He muttered at Earth, "You cover me too much!" He complained to Grass, "You poke me! I want more sunshine. I wish you weren't here!" And he looked up at Lily and said, "I want to grow taller and bigger than you, and more beautiful!" On and on the weed that grew from that little seed muttered and sputtered.

Her friend said that when Weed murmured and complained, life lost its joy and became difficult. But what could Lily do? She asked Weed to leave, but he wanted to stay.

I know, thought Lily, I'll wait until the Gardener comes. He is sure to pass by soon. Then I can ask Him to take care of Weed.

A little while later, the Gardener came by. He smiled at Cool Pond, who was glistening in the sunlight. He felt soft Green Grass beneath His feet, covering warm Earth, and He lovingly looked at beautiful Lily. And then He saw ugly Weed that had begun to entwine itself on poor Lily's stalk.

“Gardener,” said Lily, “can you get rid of this ugly Weed that has started to grow around me? I thought it would be fun to see what it grew into, but now I know better.”

The Gardener saw that if Weed kept growing, it would choke poor Lily. So the Gardener took a little bucket and filled it with Pond’s clear fresh water and poured it on Earth under Weed. He waited as it softened Earth beneath Weed. Then He carefully pulled Weed out.

Little Lily was so happy that the murmuring Weed was gone. Lily and her friends rejoiced and thanked the Gardener for helping to get rid of Weed.

Lily promised herself that next time she would take more care over what seeds were allowed to grow in her happy garden.

Moral: Habits—both good and bad—are easy to form. Think carefully about the habits you allow to grow in your garden.

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