



Together as One

Be A Partner

The time had come, as it does every year, for a gaggle of geese to migrate north from South America up into North America. This is a yearly tradition every Spring to follow the warmer weather in the north.

As they prepared to set off for the long journey which took many, many days to complete, some of the younger, stronger, faster geese questioned the older and wiser geese as to why they needed to leave so early. The younger geese felt as though the migration took longer than needed for them because they were traveling so slow. Why couldn't they leave a few days later and just fly faster?

The older geese assured it was necessary, explaining to them the of staying together as a team. However, the younger geese, knowing their strength and confident they knew the way, did not want to go along with such a long, slow journey. Eager to prove their strength, the younger geese told their elders they would fly ahead on their own and wait for them in North America. The older geese reluctantly agreed and they all set off together.

Within a matter of minutes, the honking of the older geese slowly faded away behind the younger geese as they raced ahead of the gaggle, each one flying however they chose with little regard for the ways they were taught. They were excited to prove their strength to the others, who were now nowhere in sight behind them.

Before long, strength gave way to fatigue and it was quickly apparent they needed to stop, just for a short time, to rest a bit before continuing. With such a large lead over the older geese, they knew they were in no rush and could take the time to rest. One by one they dropped to the ground and gathered together for a short rest.

After a short time, they could hear the honking of the older geese in the distance and it steadily grew louder as they were catching up to the younger geese. Eager to prove themselves, they immediately took back to the air. Not fully rested but strong in their convictions.

The sounds of the older geese once again quickly faded away into nothingness behind them. However, fatigue started to set in a little more quickly this time as the sky grew dark. Knowing they had to rest, and confident they had once again put a large space between them and the older geese, they decided to land and rest for the night. With an early start in the morning, they knew they would be ready for a long day of flying the next morning.

As the light of the sun spread itself across the sky early the next morning, they set off, each one flying on at their own pace. Not hearing a single sound from the older geese, they knew they had made the right decision to start early.

In a short amount of time, they once again heard the honkings of the older geese. Looking back they could not see them coming from behind, yet they definitely heard the sounds of the other geese. Not wanting to take any chances, they decided to fly even faster and harder than they already were.

Strangely, the honkings became louder, not softer. They quickly realized why. They were in fact BEHIND the other geese, not in front of them. Shocked that this had happened, they tried to fly yet even faster.

They were catching up and the honkings of the older geese was growing louder and louder. The honkings from the older gaggle were encouraging ones, telling one another they were doing great and to keep working together as a team. As the younger geese got even closer, and the honking was even louder, they realized the older geese were not encouraging themselves, they were encouraging the younger geese.

"You can do it!"

"Work as a team.!"

"Stay together!"

"Trust in each other!"

The message was clear and it was for them. Though their muscles were tired, they felt a new strength they did not know they had. Without realizing it, the younger geese had started to come together. They were starting to fly as a group. With less effort, they were still gaining on the older geese.

Finally, the two gaggles had come together. However, rather than pass the older geese in their haste to be the fastest, they fell into formation with the older geese. They two

groups were now flying as one. And without even knowing they were doing it, they were now honking at the older geese.

"You can do it!"

"Work as a team!"

"Stay together!"

"Trust in each other!"

Together, as one, in the shape of a V, they flew the many, many miles to their summer homes in North America. Without each other, without the team, they could not have made it. However, working together, helping each other, and trusting in those around them, they were able to make the long, slow journey that otherwise would have been impossible on their own.