



OF EAGLES AND BUGS

A hare was running for his life across a field while a wide shadow was hovering above him. It wasn't a cloud covering the sun, it was an eagle and it was pursuing the hare for quite a while now. The hare kept changing directions and skipping about the obstacles in the field to make the hunt as difficult as possible. Nonetheless, he couldn't escape the eagle's grip and soon the bird held him tightly in his claws. As the eagle took off to the sky, the hare knew his days were numbered. There was no hope of escape now, and even if there was, the hare could never survive the fall from such a height.

All this time, a small bug was watching them from a distance. He had long been a friend with the hare and they had agreed to protect each other, even though the hare couldn't imagine how such a tiny bug could ever protect him from anything. But now a time came for the bug to show where his strengths lay. He shouted as loudly as he could at the eagle in the clouds: "You better take that hare right back down to the ground, he's under my protection!"

But the eagle only laughed at him. He had no intention to let the hare live. The bug was furious. He made his way to the tree where the eagle nested, climbed all the way up to the nest, and while the eagle was gliding through the sky, he pushed the bird's eggs from the branch. One by one they fell to the ground and

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cracked. When the eagle saw what happened, he flew into a rage, not knowing what to do first. He wanted to crush the little bug, but unable to catch him, he couldn't figure out how.

He made his way to the god Jupiter to seek his advice.

"Indeed, you could never catch the bug. He can hide too easily and he's too small for you to hold him in your claws," said Jupiter, "but the next time you want to lay your eggs, come lay them here in my lap. The bug would never dare to come here. And when your little ones hatch, you can come to get them."

The eagle liked the idea because he also didn't think the bug would ever dare to come to Jupiter himself. And so he went and laid his eggs in Jupiter's lap.

However, neither of them had any idea of the little bug's courage and determination. When the eagle laid his eggs in Jupiter's lap, the bug flew above the god's head and dropped a lump of mud on his robes. When Jupiter saw the mud, he got up to shrug it off, forgetting all about the eggs in his lap. As he stood up, the eggs fell off him and cracked on the ground.

Ever since, eagles build their nests high up on the rocks, believing no bug would ever climb so high.