

The Story of the Sea Lion and The DREAM GIVER based on the book
“The Dream Giver” by Bruce Wilkinson

Everybody has a dream for their life. You may not have discovered it yet, but it is there in the corner of your heart waiting to be discovered. It was placed there before you were born by..... The Dream Giver’.”

PART 5

The Sanctuary.

When ‘Extra-ordinary’ awoke in the morning the Dream Giver’s words were still with him. *“Welcome to my Sanctuary.”* For breakfast he opened a can of yummy sardines and had a drink from the clear stream near by. What could ‘*Sanctuary*’ mean?’ he thought. The mountain forest he saw ahead of him was lush and green. He felt strangely drawn to get into the stream and swim upstream as far as he could. This was easy for him being a sea lion and he covered a lot of distance before he had to get out and travel overland. Soon he came to a very large pool with a waterfall at the head of it. The pool was surrounded by a level clearing which was filled with bright rays of light.

“Come to the water.” he heard the Dream Giver say. He flip-flopped to the edge of the pool and slipped into the purest water he had ever seen or experienced. He had a wonderful time diving down, spinning and shooting up out of the pool sending diamonds of light spraying thought the air. When he emerged from the pool, the last traces of the Wasteland had been washed away. Ordinary stayed in the clearing filled with light and the pool for many days. It was so, so refreshing every time he had a swim...which was most of the time of course. He had never felt the Dream Giver’s presence so close as this before.

Then one morning he heard the Dream Giver say *“Come into the light.”* It was only then that he noticed that the light shining all around him was now shining through him. Trembling, he looked and was able to see into his own heart. He saw all the terrible things he had said and done. It looked very dark. He began to cry. ‘Please take away all my darkness and give me your light?’ he pleaded. The Dream Giver did as Ordinary asked. Then the Dream Giver said to him *“Come closer to me.”* And Ordinary did. He noticed that as he came deeper into the light, the more he felt at one with the Dream Giver. Then the Dream Giver spoke to him again. *“Come higher,”* he said.

Extra-ordinary packed his knapsack and started up the mountain. He was excited and couldn’t wait to see what the Dream Giver had in store for him. Before lunchtime, he emerged at the summit. He found himself standing on a broad slab of rock where he could gaze at a most glorious sight... a meandering river far below in a wide valley, and above it, all along the far horizon, a gleaming ribbon of shining hills. ‘The Land of Promise!’ Ordinary gasped. ‘It has to be!’ *“Yes”* he heard the Dream Giver say. Ordinary let out a shout of victory. ‘I made it! My big dream is right over there!’ Ordinary was so overcome with happiness, he flipped and flopped, stood on his tail...things he normally would not do. How he wished Best Friend, his parents and every Nobody in Familiar could just be there with him to see what he was seeing at that very moment.

“Ordinary.” the Dream Giver said *“Give me your dream.”*

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Ordinary was dumfounded. Did he hear correctly? Did the Dream Giver just ask him to give up his long held Big Dream after he had only just seen it! It just wasn’t fair. It wasn’t even right! Then Ordinary had a ‘got idea’ moment. Maybe there was a way out. ‘Do I have to give it back?’ he asked. *“No, some choose not to.”* the Dream Giver said. So, he had a choice. He

slumped down on the rock with his wet nose pointing towards his dream. He sighed deeply. He felt terrible. He could please the Dream Giver and surrender his dream, or he could go against the Dream Giver's wishes and keep his dream, but risk losing the Dream Giver's pleasure. The choice was breaking his heart. The sun was setting over the horizon and his dream. Ordinary fell asleep. When he awoke in the morning sunshine, his eyes fell on a small smooth flat stone. Picking it up he noticed it had 'remember' written on one side. What could it mean? he wondered. Was it a message from the Dream Giver or from another dreamer who had passed this way? He sat on the edge of the rock letting his tail hang over. Then he remembered Champion and Faith. Surely they must have faced this exact same choice. He turned the stone over and over between his flippers. Finally, after a long time, his thoughts turned to the Dream Giver. The Dream Giver had always kept his promises to him even when Ordinary could not discern his presence or things did not make sense. Ordinary decided what he wanted to do. He wanted most of all to please the Dream Giver. Sitting there on the edge of the rock, he got his long white feather out and his journal. He wrote *'I am surrendering my dream to you, Dream Giver. I've decided it's you I can't go without.'*

Then Ordinary got up. He left his open journal on the rock and made his way down to the river far below. He had no dream or plan now, but yet he experienced a deep peace within. He slipped into the river and flipped his way to the far side. He did some breaststroke and also some backstroke just to break it up a bit. Climbing up to a rocky area to dry off, he saw to his amazement...his journal! On the open page he saw written *"Extra-ordinary, I am giving you back your dream. Now you can use it to serve me. Now you can truly achieve great things! And I am always with you."* signed, The Dream Giver.

Ordinary knelt down and wept with joy. The Dream Giver was more kind, more good, more wonderful and trustworthy than he had ever imagined. When he arose and looked at his surrendered dream, he saw that it had grown. It was now not just about himself but now it was part of the Dream Giver's Big Dream for the Kingdom and the Restoration of All Things. As he was about to leave, he noticed a pile of stones nearby. Each stone was like his, flat and smooth with the word 'remember' etched into one side. It must be a monument to the Dream Giver's goodness, Ordinary thought. He placed his stone on the pile too. Ordinary felt awed, and surrounded by the many witnesses who had gone before him.

(The original story has been adapted and content added.)

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