



The Windy Hill Fable

A story about how using your power ultimately affects your own existence.

Wendell Wind was oblivious to the personal ramifications of wielding power until the oak trees re-located...



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Wendell Wind loved to listen to the whispers and howls he made by blowing through the oaks' branches. Because the oak trees grew on the hilltop, Wendell played his music whenever he wanted. His winds blew more and more.

Otis Oak Tree pleaded, *"Wendell, could you reduce your wind power? You're ruining our blooms. Our branches are breaking. My oak tree friends are suffering because of your intensity."*

"Ha," said Wendell. *"I can blow as hard as I want whenever I want, just because I can."*

After two months of Wendell's wrath, Otis met with the trees and squirrels. *"Sam, we need help,"* Otis said to the Squirrel President.

"You've seen the troubles the Wind causes. Will you ask the squirrels to transport our acorns into the valley? We'll stop growing up here on the hilltop and spread into the valley instead where the Wind won't reach. We'll drop plenty of acorns since you squirrels love to hide them for later."

Sam said, *"We'll start tomorrow. We'll bury every acorn in the valley. Thanks, Otis!"*



Soon, new oak trees sprouted in the valley. The hilltop had not one new oak tree. *"Oh, no,"* said Wendell Wind. *"There are not enough branches left. I can't play my music!"*

"I need new oak trees and fast," Wendell ordered Otis the next day.

"We'll grow no more oaks up here," countered Otis.

"Why not? Simply tell the hilltop trees to drop more acorns. Order the squirrels to hide them up here."

"No, I won't," Otis said defiantly. *"We're moving to the valley."*

"Why?" inquired Wendell.

"Just because we can," quipped Otis.

Moral: Before you exercise power, consider its effects on others.



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Wendell the Wind was powerful. He blew as hard as he wanted simply to listen to the music he made through the oak trees on the hilltop. **Wendell didn't consider the results of doing whatever he wanted, whenever he wanted, just because he could.**

He certainly did not show any concern for the oak trees that grew on the hilltop.

Otis the Oak Tree and his friends were vastly affected by Wendell's incessant blowing. After months of losing blooms and branches, Otis approached Wendell on the oak trees' behalf, but to no avail.

So, Otis and his friends relocated to the valley, which stopped Wendell's symphonies. Through his own fault and lack of concern for the oaks, he lost the power that he so enjoyed.

Perhaps you've been like Wendell, in a position of power. Maybe you enjoyed exercising your power over others and haven't noticed the effects of your power on those around you.

When you have power over others, it's important to be wise in how you exercise that power. If you choose to wield power

carelessly, you may find that others avoid you or circumvent your plans, negatively affecting your life in many ways.

It's wise to continue treating others the way you would like to be treated. When you do, they'll remain loyal to you.

Use your power with others carefully and kindly and your own life will be positively affected.

Self-Reflection Questions:

1. Are you in a position of power over others at work or at home?
2. If so, how do you wield your power? Are you kind? Unthinking and unconcerned?
3. How could you change the way you exercise your power so that you enjoy more positive results?

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