

Once there was tree named Phyllis
Her roots grew deep into the soil
And every day she reached further into the sky
she dreamed of reaching the stars

One day however,
Phyllis looked down and saw a bird
pecking away at her bark
and she said

HEY YOU!

why are you pecking at my bark
Don't you know I need that to maintain my strength!
I need it to reach the stars

The bird said

I understand your desire to reach the stars,
but I only wish to divert a small bit of your energy to make a home for my children.

And so Phyllis thought for a moment and said

well
if its only a small bit of energy
I guess its okay

So phyllis let the bird stay and continued to grow
and within a month Phyllis noticed
up on one of her higher branches
a squirrel
taking leaves and making some sort of abomination with them
and Phyllis screamed

STOP!!!

Shocked, the squirrel froze in its tracks and said

What's wrong?

Phyllis replied

Your abomination is depriving my leaves of the light they need to grow

and the squirrel said

I understand your anger
but I only need this small space to make my home for the winter
and Phyllis, being of kind heart said

Okay, I suppose if it is only for the winter

and time went on

Soon more and more critters appeared in Phyllis' leaves and branches
and Phyllis couldn't help but allow all their requests

they all seemed so small, simple, and essential for the lives of the creatures
but every time Phyllis said yes
she could feel herself get a little weaker
Nonetheless Phyllis continued to look up
growing ever closer to the stars

finally
one day
a man came to Phyllis' base
and he began hitting Phyllis
and Phyllis screamed

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!?!?"

the man didn't respond but continued to thwack at Phyllis' trunk
with each blow Phyllis could feel energy being sucked out of her
Phyllis screamed and screamed always thinking of her dreams to reach the stars
and then
Phyllis looked down at all her branches
she had amassed quite a family within those branches
bees with hives
birds with nests
squirrels with nuts
ants with colonies
and even some moss
and then it hit her
if she were to succumb to this man, then so would all these critters

so Phyllis mustered all her energy
and screamed at the top of her lungs

"STOP YOU ASSHOLE"

and the man halted
he looked up and saw all the life thriving in the tree
and he thought to himself
maybe not this tree today

Phyllis was astounded, she couldn't believe she could actually reach the ears of man
but what she didn't realize was the damage had already been done
maybe if she had a few less pieces of moss
or one less caterpillar eating her leaves
she would have been able to survive the wounds she'd been dealt
but Phyllis wasn't thinking about this
she was simply looking down her body
always losing strength
and then
she sighed
looked back up to the stars
and said

well maybe next time

and at that moment Phyllis seeds were strewn into the sky
and Phyllis died looking straight up to the stars, a full, and beautiful tree
teeming with life