1.

A long time ago in the heartland, just before sunrise, Mother finished Pi’s birthday present.

"Happy birthday my dear one-year-old daughter," Mom whispered and kissed Pi’s cheek.

"What a lovely dress," Pi admired. She was still sleepy. "This is just the kind of a dress I have wished for all my life."

"Today is also the birthday of many others" Mother said and put four spruce seedlings and a handful of tree seeds in her birchbark basket. "Today we are going to have some fun, but first we're going to see how the earth is rotating around its axis."

"What on earth does that mean?" asked Pi and wiggled her ears eagerly.

"It is something like you do when we should sleep." Mom laughed merrily. "Take your Warmwoolly with you, and let`s climb to the top of the mountain!”

2.

At first, only a tiny light peeked above the horizon but soon a big ball rose over the trees. It was as if nature had received a golden crown for itself.

“Wow, how beautiful it is,” Pi sighed. “I wish I could pet it.”

“You could, but then your paws would burn,” Mother said. “The sun looks small, but it is very hot and so big that it could hold at least one million Earths in its lap.”

“One million? That’s probably a lot,” Pi thought. “I can only count to three.”

“You will learn. After three comes four,” Mother advised. “Sun one, Mother two, me three, Warmwoolly four,” Pi counted.

“After four comes five,” Mom said. Then she wrapped her arms around Pi and hugged her in a tight embrace. “And you are my little sun. You will see many more beautiful mornings and miracles.”

3.

As soon as Mom, Pi, and Warmwoolly jumped into the valley, they saw a second miracle. There was light rain falling near the skyline of the forest, and at the same time, the sun cast a spell. It was a beautiful rainbow on the horizon. The sun awakened the forest and soon all the little birds began their morning concert. The cuckoo and the dove sang their serenade, the nightingale gave a bright trill, but somewhere an odd rumble rang out from the river valley.

“What on earth has someone tried to build here?” Mother wondered. “In the old days, there were fields of flowers with pansies and wild strawberries everywhere.”

“It could be something fun, ” Pi said happily. “There could be birthday presents.”

“I doubt it,” Mom sighed. “That kind of stuff doesn’t belong in nature. I think a human is trying to build a nest for himself. Let's go and have a closer look.”

4.

Mother, Pi, and Warmwoolly jumped to the hill, but before they could open any box, out popped a strange object from inside the red one.

“What on earth has someone tried to build here,” wondered Mother. “These kinds of things do not belong in nature.”

“I am Robot Super Eco Megabyte Photon Hiphurray Hybrid, but you can call me Hiphurray.”

“Hiphurray,” Pi laughed. “Funny name, but what does hybrid mean?”

“A hybrid can do anything. A human built me and told me to set up a hatchery here.”

“A hatchery,” Mom wondered. “You don't look like a chicken even though you do have a chicken beak.” “My job is to invent useful and sustainable inventions for humans,” Hiphurray said.

“What’s in the other boxes?” Pi asked hopefully. “Gifts?”

“Tools, plastic bags and bottles, pipe pieces, waste paper, rusty screws, nails, string, fishing line, electrical wires, glass shards, old scraps, and other rubbish,” Hiphurray listed. “The human could not take them to the landfill.”

“And brought them to nature!” Pi finished. “Doesn’t sound very wise.”

“But I am wise,” Hiphurray declared. “In my head, there is a computer filled with all the knowledge and skills in the world. And I remember everything that has been said to me.”

“Maybe the human was wise when he sent you to us,” Mom said. “I think Pi and I still have a lot to discuss with you.”

5.

“Yesterday, I built this superhyper machine that can scratch a human’s back. What an easy job, ” Hiphurray said proudly. “I just taped the plastic bottles and the old rake together. That will make the human happy.”

“Sure,” Mom said. “But I’m afraid a machine assembled with just tape won’t last very long.”

“Funny invention,” Pi laughed behind her paw. “But I think for happiness food and a warm nest is needed.” “Food is not needed,” Hiphurray said. “Electricity is enough for robots. Just plug them into the wall.”

“But as you can see, we have no walls in nature,” Mom pointed out.

“No worries, I am very lucky because I have a battery under my hat. At least I can get power.”

“There are also others living on this planet,” Pi said. “And what happens to you if your battery runs out?”

“I will survive. I am a genius and I can find a solution to everything,” Hiphurray said frankly. “Ask me even the most difficult question in the world, and I’ll give you an answer immediately.”

6.

Mom and Pi thought for a moment, smiled at each other, and decided to take Hiphurray to a nearby swamp.

“Let’s put you to the test,” Mom said. “If you really know everything, can you say what love is?”

“Love?” Hiphurray wondered. “The human didn’t tell me anything about it. Is it a machine? Answer quickly, I’m in a hurry.”

“Love is not growing in a hurry,” Mom explained. “Look at this beauty around us and listen to the silence. Look at the golden yellow lacquer or the cottongrass flower of the swamp. From

an early age, they and everyone else have received heat from the sun and clean water from the earth.

“Nonsense!” Hiphurray recalled. “I am a robot. I cannot make poems about love. And by the way, could I even fall in love with someone?”

“Of course, and her name is nature,” Pi said. “And yes, you can still learn to make a poem when you become a friend of nature.”

“A friend of nature? What does that mean?” Hiphurray asked uncertainly.

“Look around! If we only count every single flower, we will find one-two-ten-hundred-thousand-million-billion-trillion friends of nature,” Pi said. “Please start now, the sun is the first, I am the second, Mother is the third, Warmwoolly is the fourth, and you are the fifth.”

7.

Hiphurray didn’t bother to think about Mother’s and Pi’s words. Instead, he ran to the boxes and poured all the tools and rubbish into the yard, and started rushing to think of a new machine for the human. But he didn’t have any ideas. By chance, Pi found a heart-shaped piece of sheet metal among all the goods and asked Hiphurray to turn it into a fun birthday present for a certain, small, cute, tasseled animal. Hiphurray noticed the little one's affectionate look, understood the hint, and agreed to the little one's request. He took a hammer and a nail in his hand and pounded thoughtfully with the hammer. For quite some time he worked, but in the evening his power began to fade until it was dangerously low.

“Can't be true,” Hiphurray screamed in panic. “I'm about to make your gift but my battery ran out, and I am too tired to walk back to town to recharge myself.”

Pi tried to cheer up Hiphurray by teaching him a children's song, but it didn't seem to help either. Only the occasional “Ouch! Ouch! Ouch” could be heard as Hiphurray hammered into his thumb.

8.

Mom and Pi looked at Hiphurray in pity, whispered something to each other, and then high-fived their paws together.

“Rest now and sleep until morning,” Pi advised. She set Warmwoolly in Hiphurray’s armpit. “We still need you.”

“The human needs me more,” Hiphurray moaned. “If I have not created a new invention by tomorrow, the human will find out that I’m not useful at all and he’ll turn me back into pieces.”

“I am sure, you’ll succeed,” Mom encouraged. “Together we will succeed. Tomorrow you will get energy from the sun.”

“But I don't have a long enough electric wire that could reach up to the sun,” Hiphurray complained.

“You don't need any wire,” Mom said. “Just trust us, we have lived in nature all our lives and we know how to survive here.”

“I trust you and I’ll do whatever you want, even write the poem about love, if you help me,” Hiphurray promised and fell asleep immediately.

In a miraculous dream, Hiphurray saw the cottongrass flowers dancing with the stars. Mother had grown to the size of a mountain, and to top it all off, Warmwoolly had learned to speak and jumped along the Milky Way as he sang:
Dear Hiphurray, did you know that

It’s time for miracles, and very soon

you will find, the sun gives itś light

to the stars and the moon

and tomorrow you will get your own gift from the sun.

9.

During the night, Mom and Pi and Warmwoolly crafted a glorious crown from shards of glass and plastic bags and put it on Hiphurray’s head. When rays of the morning sun hit the crown, Hiphurray jumped up and laughed like a newborn child.

“My battery is full again. Thank you for saving me!”

“You must thank the sun,” Mom said. “It was the one giving energy to your crown.”

“That’s right,” Hiphurray rejoiced. “Now I remember what the human told me, so this crown is actually a real solar cell.”

“You remembered right, and there is another surprise gift from us and nature,” Pi continued. “You will soon feel the wind in your fur.”

“I am a robot, my skin is only made of metal,” Hiphurray sighed. “Hairless machines don’t feel anything.” “Well, at least you can see the power of the wind,” Pi comforted. “And hooray! Today is your birthday too!”

10.

Pi, Mom, and Hiphurray tore the cardboard boxes into pieces and crafted colorful kites.

“As the sun heats the ground, warm air rises and creates the wind,” Mom said. “And the wind is what makes the kites and the seeds of trees fly.”

“Now we only need to water the seeds and they will start to grow,” Pi added. “The world needs forests! The greener the land, the easier it is to breathe and jump around!”

“I've been learning new things all the time, oh this is wonderful!” Hiphurray smiled. “Sun one, Pi two, Mother three, Warmwoolly four, water five, wind six and I am seven!

“That’s right, ” Mom said. “And the vegetable garden is the eighth wonder! Only goodwill is needed. “Vegetables, goodwill?” Hiphurray wondered. “What are they?

“A garden close by is needed to keep food growing near you,” Mom said. “You can help us and soon we will get vegetables from our own yard.”

“Vegetables are treats for everyone!” Pi glowed. “Now fulfill your promise and show your knowledge and skills! Hiphurray, it’s time to work!

11.

At first, Hiphurray didn’t know what to do. He closed his eyes and tried to remember everything that Mother and Pi had taught him. And suddenly small stars lit in his eyes. Then he also remembered how durable machines could be. Without a moment's hesitation, Hiphurray asked Mother, Pi, and Warmwoolly for help. Together they gathered all the scraps and screws from the meadow, removed parts from the Scratcher, and built a strange new machine. There was a solar cell on the roof made by Hiphurray and even wind-powered fans on the canopy and in the rear. On top of all that, all the arms of the machine were decorated with flowers cut from the boxes by Pi, Mother, and Warmwoolly.

12.

"Let the name of this machine be Goodwill," Hiphurray exclaimed to Pi. “Yesterday we should have celebrated, but here is your first gift. Happy birthday!” And while Hiphurray was

vacuuming plastics and other rubbish from the ground, Pi got onto the machine. “Yipee!” Pi shouted. “This is my best birthday ever.”

13.

After Pi’s ride on the machine and the cleaning was done, Hiphurray used the scoop of the machine to dug small pits for the spruce seedlings and plowed a long field. Mother, Pi, and Warmwoolly happily planted the spruce seedlings and sowed the seeds of the plants in the ground. When the work was done, the sun cast its gentle rays on everything. Hiphurray scooped up dozens more jugs of water from the river and refreshed the entire vegetable garden at the same time as the little gardeners.

14.

It took only a few weeks and soon the green plants grew and covered the nearest meadow. Hiphurray lifted his friend high into the air with a bucket, and from there they saw all the glory at once. There were hundreds of goodwill carrots, spinach, peas, celery, lettuce and cabbages in their own yard. And even small spruce seedlings were growing along the edge of the meadow.

15.

Throughout the summer, Mother, Pi, Warmwoolly, and Hiphurray, uprooted, watered, thinned, and cared for their vegetable garden with love.

“Now here’s everything for us and maybe for the human,” Pi whispered and patted HipHurray. “Thank you for helping us.”

At the same time, Hiphurray wondered, could he really feel the heat on his cheek?
“Maybe I’m not the smartest robot in the world,” Hiphurray admitted. “But I feel like we've done something good.”

“We did this together,” Mom said. “And now maybe you can.”

“I can what?” Hiphurray wondered, but at the same time, he remembered his promise of a poem about love. He smiled tenderly, looked at Mom, Pi, and Warmwoolly, took the cabbage in his hand, and sang:

Although I knew about

wires, sockets, and the machines' world.

The best knowledge came

from your gentle words.

It was from you, I learned to experience joy and fun

from you, born in the bosom of water, wind, and sun.

Thanks for showing me something completely new,

Nature’s peace, the forest’s silence, and all the beauty too.

With all the knowledge, and skills we share

we can also experience happiness there.

I remember this every time I travel the world,

what we have in common, is our planet Earth.