


Mira and the Purple Butterfly

(Si Mira at ang paruparong lila)





One day,
a young girl named
Mira, befriends a beautiful
purple butterfly. She starts
calling it 'Lila'. Lila tells her
"My flutter tells me once I've
woken and grow my wings, I
should go to the glass prison,
because there, I am safe.
It has been arranged, but I feel
confused, can you help me?"

Mira frowns to her butterfly friend, and says "I may have an answer, but Lila, we can also ask the Great Butterfly there in the Great Field of Flowers! Would you like to see her?" Lila smiled and said "I would love to! She may have the answer."



They set out on a journey to find her friend,
when suddenly, the mischievous monkey appeared!

He exclaimed, "Oh! What a beautiful butterfly you are! I want your wings!"
He swung through the branches and tried to grab Lila's wings.

Lila was terrified!


Fortunately, Mira shielded her friend from the mischievous monkey.

"What you did was wrong!

You didn't ask her permission if she want her wings to be
touched. Maybe, you should say sorry", she said.



The mischievous monkey
apologized and ran to the woods.



I think we may have been too harsh with our monkey friend.
After all, he was a mischievous one.

Perhaps, I should have just allowed him to touch my wings.

And
no one can force you to do
something you're not
comfortable with.

Weren't you scared?", reminded Mira.



"But Lila, my mother says that
you can't let anyone do
something to you
unless you
allowed
them to.



“I was scared!

I really thought mischievous monkey would rip my wings off of me.
You're right Mira.

My consent is precious and should be respected,
thank you for defending me and helping me understand.”,
answered Lila.

“It is okay, Lila.

The outside world can be very scary. I am scared too.

But my sister said that **we need look out for each other,**
and find the strength to walk towards our goals.”



Mira and Lila walked a very long time and are starting to get lost, when they finally reached the foggy waters. The fog was so thick that they can barely see a thing. All they were hearing is the shouting of **the angry crab.**



When the fog cleared, Lila and Mira saw the big angry crab, and between his claws, a firefly is crying for help. Lila tells Mira "Oh no! It is the angry crab and he is always angry at the firefly. Maybe we should go before he hurt us too."



But Mira shrugged
and ran towards the angry crab and the firefly.
“Hello angry crab. I am Mira and this is my friend, Lila.
We are on our way to the Field of Flowers when I heard the cry of a firefly.
May I ask you to release our friend?
She appears to be hurting from your claws.”

The angry crab turned to them and said angrily.

“Why should I? I own this firefly, and I can do whatever I want.

Besides, a firefly like her shouldn't be anywhere near
the water!”



Mira sat down at the side of the watery soil and said
"But angry crab, you can't just hurt someone because they are different from you."



My father said that
all of us have the right to live freely
whether you are a crab or a firefly

and you shouldn't dim someone else's light.
So please, stop hurting her and release her now."



The angry crab listened to Mira but left without a word.
The firefly flew towards Mira and says "Thank you very much for helping me.
If not for you, the angry crab may have drowned me already.
Please allow me to join you in getting out of the foggy waters, as I can show you the way with my light."

Mira and Lila, accepted the company of their new friend, Firefly, and continued on with their journey.

Out of curiosity, the Firefly asks the two, "Why are you going to the Field of Flowers? Aren't butterflies allowed to fly anywhere?"



"Oh my friend! Haven't you heard? Some butterflies like me are told by our flutters to choose the life in the glass prison once we grow our wings, instead of flying everywhere." answered Lila.

The firefly was shocked.

"I didn't know that some flutters still do that! In my sparkle, we are allowed to choose our path, and I've met a lot of butterflies who even chose to fly as high as the birds."



Mira turned to the Firefly and said,

"Some flutters are different from other flutters.

That is why we want to ask the Great Butterfly who have once seen the truth through the glass prison, what could help our confused friend, Lila."

As they were walking, suddenly a very scared Maya flew behind Mira in an attempt to hide. Mira asks, "What could be the problem my dear Maya?" The maya bird was shaking violently and is already losing some of its feathers.



"I have been in a steel cage for a long time. Today, I have decided to escape because I didn't feel like I was growing anymore. And my wings! They are growing weaker by day." said the Maya bird hysterically.



“Oh you poor bird.

If it can help,

you can join us for now and sit on my shoulder
as we walk towards the Field of Flowers.”

said Mira in a worried tone.

The Firefly and Lila both smiled
warmly at the Maya bird.



The Maya bird was grateful
for the offer of comfort and security from the group.

The outside birds just used to laugh at him,
but **for the first time, he felt heard and understood.**

He rested on Mira's shoulder and dreamed that tomorrow,
he will fly so high like he's never done before.

The smell of fresh flowers soothed the group as it went dancing with the air that touched them. Mira instantly recognized that they have arrived at the Great Field of Flowers!

Mira looked at Lila excitedly
"We can finally find the answers you are looking for!"

Lila looked at Mira and said,
"But Mira, I think I know the answer now."

The three were surprised by Lila's answer.
"But we came here to find the answer. How could you know already?"



“It is with the help of all of you that I have realized,
I have the answer all along.
I was confused because I knew I didn't want to go to the glass prison.
I just wanted to know if it was okay to do so.”
said Lila.



“You speak only the truth, child.”

From out of the blue, a bright purple and orange butterfly emerged from the flowers.

The Maya bird exclaimed,
"The Great Butterfly!" The group was amazed
at the sight of the Great Butterfly.

"The life of a butterfly is fleeting from the moment
of waking. The glass prison does not protect us,
it encages us, and traps you in a life looking at the outside
world with yearning.

It would shrink your wings until you are old enough
to just stand at the bottom of it, unable to use
your wings. And you my child,
have the right choose
for your own path.

But I think, you already did."

The Great Butterfly said, while smiling to Lila.





Lila turned to hear friends and said,
"You helped me find my own voice, when I didn't
know how. Today, I will return to my flutter
and help them realize that the glass prison is not
a safe path like the others thought it was."



"I have always believed in
your strength, Lila."

Mira said to her
dear friend, Lila.



The group shared a warm hug
and played merrily in the Field of Flowers
where they are safe and happy,
living the best moment of their youth.

Mira looked at her friends and said,
"Childhood is such a precious thing!
And so, it must not be wasted and must be enjoyed the best way we can."



Writer

Angelica P. Ramirez

Luisa Carla G. Galicia

Graphic Artist

Cherie Mae San Jose

Creative Consultants

MAYA (Maguindanao Alliance of Youth)

Linding Ko Kalumbayan

