

## 17. “I Wonder Part II”

by Kate Douglas Wiggin and Nora Archibald Smith  
(Adaptation)

“Good day,” said Youngling to the axe. “So you stand here all alone and chop?”

The axe said he had been chopping and hacking and waiting for Youngling for a long time. Youngling took the axe apart and placed it in his bag. He walked back down the hill to his brothers.

When the brothers had gone a bit farther, they came under a steep wall of rock, and up above they heard something digging and shoveling.

“I wonder,” said Youngling, “what it is digging and shoveling up at the top of the rock? I think it would be a piece of fun just to see what it really is.”

And so off he set to climb the rock, while his brothers laughed and teased him. When he got near the top, what do you think he saw? Why, a shovel that stood there digging away.

“Good day,” said Youngling. “So you stand here all alone and shovel?”

The shovel said he had been shoveling and waiting for Youngling for a long time. Youngling took the shovel, put it in his bag, and climbed down again to his brothers.

So they went on again a good bit until they came to a brook. They were all thirsty after their long walk, and so they lay down beside the brook to have a drink.

“I wonder where this water comes from,” Youngling said. So up alongside the brook he went, in spite of all that his brothers shouted after him. Nothing could stop him. On he went. And as he went up and up, the brook grew smaller and smaller, and at last, a little way farther

on, what do you think he saw? Why, a great walnut, and out of that the water trickled.

“Good day,” said Youngling again. “So you lie here and trickle, and run down all alone?”

The walnut said he had been trickling and waiting for Youngling.

Youngling took a lump of moss and plugged up the hole in the walnut so the water wouldn't run out. Then he put the Walnut into his wallet, and ran down to his brothers.

“Well, now,” said Peter and Paul, “have you found out where the water comes from? A rare sight it must have been!”

“Oh, after all, it was only a hole it ran out of,” said Youngling, and the others laughed and made fun of him again, but Youngling didn't mind that a bit.

**Word Count: 408**