

Hiro the Rooster and Basha the Hen

Synopsis:

In Mang Tasyos' chicken farm, roosters and hens have their own places and own jobs. Roosters stay at the nook and they take turns each day to wake the entire farm. Hens stay in the coop where they lay and nest their eggs.

Hiro the rooster and Basha the hen are different from the other chickens. Hiro the rooster stays in the coop and brings with him an oblong stone. He nests the stone all day long with the hens. Basha the hen stays at the nook and wears three dried leaves on her head as her comb. She practices crowing her *tik-tila-ok* all day long with the roosters.

When Hiro is tasked to wake the farm and Basha is tasked to hatch her egg, both chickens are forced to dig deep and go through a journey of self-discovery to accomplish the tasks assigned to them while at the same time, staying true to who they truly are.

Hiro the Rooster and Basha the Hen

In Mang Tasyo's farm are roosters and hens. While Mang Tasyo takes care of the entire farm, roosters and hens have their own jobs in the farm as well.

Roosters are tasked to wake the farm on their assigned days. To wake the entire farm, the rooster goes on the roof of Mang Tasyo's *kubo* just before the sun rises and crows a loud *tik-tila-ok!*

Hens are tasked to lay and nest eggs. Hens lay eggs and sit on them the entire day to keep them warm. Patiently, hens wait for the eggs to hatch. When they do, small yellow chicks come out.

The roosters and the hens are housed in different places in the farm. Roosters live in their special nook where they practice their *tik-tila-ok*'s. Hens stay in the coop where they patiently nest their eggs.

Each night, before he sleeps, Mang Tasyo checks on his chickens to make sure that they are fine. And each night, he spots the same two chickens not in their proper places. Hiro the rooster is among the hens in the coop and Basha the hen is among the roosters at the nook. Each night, Mang Tasyo picks them up and switches them back to their proper places.

By daylight, however, Hiro goes back to the coop and Basha marches back to the nook. Both chickens think that that is where they ought to be.

Hiro the rooster looks for the smoothest, oblong stone in the farm. He brings it with him to the coop and sits on it. Hiro waits patiently for the stone to hatch. The hens in the coop laugh at Hiro and his stone that will never hatch.

Basha the hen collects three dried leaves that have fallen from the trees. She places them on top of her head to form her own comb. At the nook, Basha practices her *tik-tila-ok*'s. The roosters at the nook laugh at Basha and the pretend comb of leaves on her head.

One morning, Tandang, the head rooster, approached Hiro as he was about to leave the nook again. Tandang said that it would be Hiro's turn to wake the farm on the next day.

"But I can't! I don't know how to!" Hiro said. Tandang simply told Hiro that he had the rest of the day to practice.

Meanwhile, Inang, the head hen, approached Basha as she was about to leave the coop again. Inang scolded Basha for her un-hatched egg and told her that the chick inside had to hatch out.

"I don't think I can hatch it!" Basha said. Inang simply told Basha to patiently nest the egg.

At the nook, Hiro tried his best to crow his loudest *tik-tila-ok* but only a soft squawk came out his beak.

In the coop, Basha tried to nest her egg but after only a few minutes of sitting, Basha grew impatient.

By sunset, Hiro still had not crowed and Basha's egg had not hatched. Tired of the day's work, Hiro decided to leave the nook and head for the coop. Basha, who was eager to do something other than sitting, decided to leave the coop and go to the nook.

On their way, Hiro sees Basha with her leaves and Basha sees Hiro with his stone.

"What are you doing with that stone?" Basha asked.

"This is my egg. I will nest it in the coop. What are you doing with those leaves?" Hiro replied.

"These are my comb. I will need it while I practice my crow at the nook," Basha answered.

They both stared at each other in confusion. *A rooster nesting a stone?* Basha thought. *A hen with leaves for a comb practicing to crow?* Hiro thought. And then it hit them both. The solutions to their problems were right there in front of them.

“Can you really crow?” asked Hiro.

“Just as a rooster does. Can you really nest an egg?” asked Basha.

“As patiently as a hen,” said Hiro.

Before sunrise the next day, Hiro and Basha switched places. Hiro went to the coop, but this time, he didn't bring a stone with him. Basha went on top of Mang Tasyo's *kubo* and she didn't bring her leaves with her.

As the sun was about to rise, Basha crowed a *tik-tila-ok* that was sharper and louder than any other rooster's crow. The chickens on the farm woke up and to their surprise, it was in fact Basha the hen who woke them up.

Hiro sat on Basha's egg and began to nest it. Soon after, Hiro felt a movement beneath him. When he got up, a yellow chick came out from the broken shells of Basha's egg. Again, the chickens were surprised to see that it was in fact Hiro the rooster who hatched the egg.

When the sun had completely set, Mang Tasyo checked on his chickens and saw that once again, both Hiro and Basha were not in their right places.

He took both chickens and placed them where he thought they should be. Both chickens, however, knew where they truly belong.