

Humanity gave up on re-inventing the bed because it works as it is. If you don't need to invent the bed, you don't have to make promises. Not having to make promises means rest. Do humans need rest because they have legs and have to lie down? But what about horses and cows? Do they need more rest because they have more legs?

Creatures from the ocean like fish and eels don't have legs. But they still need to relax, hovering in the water and dreaming away next to their underwater neighbors who are doing the same.

One night, whales and seals stayed awake. They had made a different plan, having worked on it for years and years. With all their strength, they crawled to the coast and met again in the sand. Again, it took them years and years to grow tiny little legs out of their bodies. On a very sunny day, whales and seals stood up for the first time and wandered the earth. It was a magical moment. But why would they leave the water? Isn't floating the best thing that could happen to you?

Maybe they wanted to be closer to the sun. After all, sun rays travel for a million miles and then they get tired and come to their limits. The surface of the oceans and seas is too much for them and big parts of the liquid mass stay in the dark. Even if whales and seals lived kind of close to the surface, it was not enough light for them. They wanted more. They wanted an adventure.

But sometimes one's biggest wish turns out to be a disappointment. Whales and seals had never been lonely, but on earth they were missing their friends and family.

*Rest is meeting no one, so you can never be parted.*

As if their emotions weren't already enough, a song being played by a group of teenagers came to their ears.

"So lonely, so lonely," sung by a man who once had long hair and then didn't. Lonely. It was all over earth. Also, the food options were not to their liking.

"Our lives were actually pretty good. Why did we leave everything behind?" asked the whales. They had forgotten their reasons. And then one afternoon, it all came down right at the shore.

*Rest is a very delicate matter.*

Whales and seals walked and walked and didn't know where to rest when they suddenly saw a reflection on the water. It was a snake, relaxing in the sun to get a tan because it was mating season. The whales and seals couldn't believe their eyes.

"This is kind of how we used to look. I miss the good old times. What do we do with these legs?" asked the seals. "They are so short anyways."

The whales and seals got into a big fight. "It was your idea to leave the water," pouted the whales.

"No, it was yours. We always do what you want us to do," replied the seals.

This went back and forth for a while until the snake intervened: "Listen, I have some real problems here. Do you know how exhausting it is to be on the lowest level possible? I always have to look up to see what's going on around me." The whales and seals were baffled. They never thought that a snake could have such a temper because without legs it can basically rest wherever it wants. It is lying down its entire life and can just stop and go to sleep. Isn't that nerve-calming?

*Spaghetti with tomato sauce can be rest. So can waiting for the apocalypse.*

"I wish I had some legs," said the snake. "Lying down is still connected to resting the brain. This is not a myth. But what do I do when all I do is rest because I am basically always lying down? Is my brain constantly in the same mode? What comes after rest? Is it restlessness? Or does restlessness come before rest? How would I know?"

The whales and the seals looked at each other. "Thinking about rest probably makes you restless, as we can tell from our encounter here," mumbled the whales.

The snake continued: "I want long legs to take big steps on my walks, and bite into a fresh apple from the tree. And I want to climb and not only crawl over things along the way."

"But listen. It is not that easy," interrupted the seals. "Just imagine. How would you lie down? On your back? Or on your side? Would you need a pillow? These are all very important questions."

The whales nodded: "Look at us. We can tell. And you must not forget: If you have legs, you can stumble and fall down."

The whales and seals looked at each other and started giggling, remembering their former fight and the shared experiences on land.

*Rest is a past grudge dissolving in a single laugh.*

Without saying goodbye to the snake, the whales and seals decided it was time to quit this place. They went to the shore, left their tiny little legs behind, and traveled back to their old lives. The best decision whales could make. Their appearance on land was anything but majestic and nowadays they are so big and popular. Seals have always been cute and will stay that way until the end of time.

*Written horizontally.*

