

*How the Parrot Got Its Voice*

by

Marvin Green

Several million years ago there existed in what is now Brooklyn a colony of fairies. Of course at that time our ancestors were, according to the Darwinian theory, amoebae. Some of the more radical element insist that they were paramecia, but those people are either Democrats or Nazis.

The king of the fairies--his name was Euphrates--was an exceptionally handsome man. His wife--her name was Tigris--was also very beautiful. She was in fact almost a perfect wife but she did have one terrible fault. Whenever there was a full moon she had the most dreadful fits of jealousy and there was no step she hesitated to take to find out whether those who professed to love her were really true to her.

It must be stated here that Euphrates was a fine, attentive husband, but it so happened that his kingly duties kept him tied up down at the office on what is now Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn. It was during one of Tigris's fits that she sat alone at the dinner table wondering just where Euphrates was and how she could figure out how to find out. Just then the answer flew in the window and struck her in the face. The answer was a parrot. "Eureka," she cried. "Eureka. I shall give this beautiful bird a voice, and then I will send him to watch Euphrates and to come back and tell me everything he does. But wait, a still better idea. I will give all parrots voices, and thus Euphrates will be watched 24 hours a day." With those very words she waved her magic wand and bestowed the power of speech on all parrots in what is now the state of New York and particularly in the Brooklyn area.

That evening as she waited for the first report she was convinced that Euphrates was out having some fun with his pretty young secretary. After all hadn't she caught her once sitting on his lap.\*

As the evening went on Tigris became more and more jealous and paced up and down the floor smashing lamps, chairs, furniture, etc., as she went along. And then it happened. There on what is now Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn, she had a stroke and died.

Thus the jealousy of a Faerie Queene caused her to gave the parrot his voice, a power which these feathered creatures have retained ever since.

If you're ever in New York, be sure to visit Brooklyn and its historic sites.

\*Euphrates at the time protested the incident and stated that the national debt had increased and the treasury had been forced to pawn all but one chair.