A Year on the Farm (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

My grandmother lives in a small village between two hills. She has grown food there for forty years. Last year was the hardest year of her life. In March, a strong earthquake shook the whole valley for about twenty seconds. Nothing fell down in her house, but the old garden wall broke into three pieces. My grandmother only laughed and said that walls can be built again.

Two months later the rain came and did not stop. The little river grew wide and angry, and a flood came into the lower fields. Brown water stood between the young plants for four days. When the water went away, everything was covered in thick mud. My grandmother walked slowly through the field in her old boots. She checked every plant and cleaned the dirt from their leaves with a wet cloth. Some plants died, but many of them lived.

The summer was hot and dry. Every afternoon a hot wind carried grey dust from the road into the kitchen. My grandmother closed the windows and waited. In August the radio told everyone about a hurricane near the coast, and we were afraid for her. Luckily the storm turned east and only heavy rain reached the village. She said the wind was loud, but her roof was strong. Then she went outside and looked at her land. The soil was dark and rich again after all that water, which was very good news for her.

In September she started again. She kept one small bag of seeds from her best plants and put them in the ground. She also planted corn in the biggest field, because animals in the village eat it in winter. Every morning she walked between the rows and watched the first green leaves come out of the earth. A few bees flew from flower to flower near the fence, and their soft noise made the garden feel alive. Her old cat followed her everywhere, and its grey fur was always full of little pieces of dry earth. By October she sold enough grain to the mill to pay for the new wall. My grandmother told me that the land always gives something back, if you are patient with it.

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