



THE STORY OF HOW CHOCOLATES CAME TO EARTH

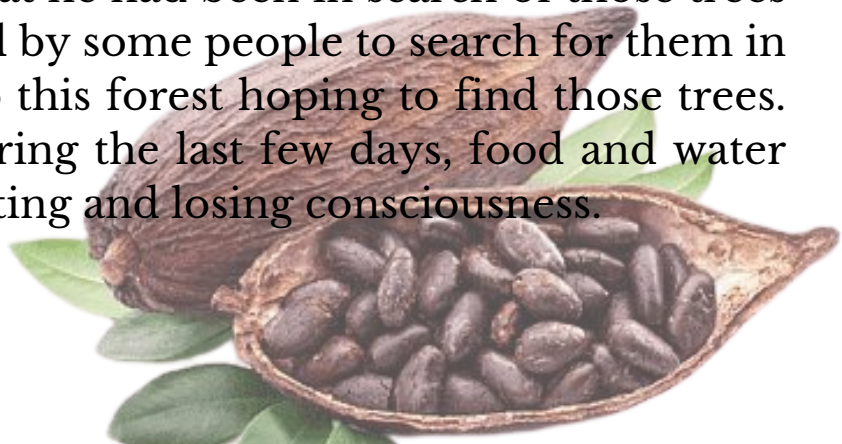
- M. Mahathi

Once upon a time, a beautiful species of birds called the Cholate birds used to roam the Earth. These birds were very colourful and beautiful. Their home was the greatest tropical forest of that time, the magical Cho Forest. These birds also had the gift of healing.

These birds used to live the most fascinating lives by helping out every living creature that used to come into the forest.

One day, the Cholate birds came upon a young man in his early twenties. He was found sprawled on the ground, and seemed to be unconscious. These altruistic birds, realizing that the man might have collapsed from exhaustion due to the heat, took the young man to their home. They cared for him until he came around.

Upon regaining consciousness, the man was very grateful to the birds for taking care of him. The birds asked the man who he was and why he fell unconscious. The man replied that he was not from Earth. He said that he was sent by the Gods to Earth in order to search for a special tree guarded by a special type of bird. He explained that the tree had golden fruits with a nectar- like aroma, said to be the sweetest ever known. He told the birds that he had been in search of those trees for a long time. He had been told by some people to search for them in the Cho Forest and had come to this forest hoping to find those trees. His search spanned months. During the last few days, food and water were scarce. This led to him fainting and losing consciousness.





The man thanked the birds for tending to him and helping him. He asked them if they knew of any such trees or birds. All the birds exchanged glances. They revealed to the man that the trees he was searching for were the ones they had built their homes on — the cacao trees. The birds were themselves. The man was overjoyed to hear this. He told the birds that the Gods would be delighted to hear this good news. He revealed that the Gods would love to have these amazing trees and birds in their abode. The birds, however, were not thrilled to hear this news. They did not want to be relocated as they loved their forest. The man fell into a dilemma hearing this. He promised the birds that he would try to convince the Gods to make a plan that would make all the parties happy. The birds agreed and sent him off.

The man met with the Gods and told them everything. The Gods considered all possibilities. Finally, they told the man to deliver a message to the birds: the entire forest would be moved to their abode, if they allowed it. The man conveyed this news to the birds. The birds all agreed happily.

Soon, the entire Cho forest was relocated to the Gods' abode. The cooks of the Gods discovered that many amazing sweet treats could be made with the fruits and seeds of the Cacao tree. The Gods were delighted with these new treats. They named these treats 'Cholates', in honour of the Cholate birds and their Cho forest.

The Gods bestowed these treats upon humanity. The humans were overjoyed with this new kind of food and would eat it on every happy occasion. The name 'Cholates' soon evolved into 'Chocolates', right along with human evolution.

This is how the sweetest and best treats of all time, the Chocolates, were invented.

