

Title: Conversations

Subtitle: Yertle the Turtle

Second Subtitle: Yertle the Turtle

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On the far-away Island of Sala-ma-Sond, Yertle the Turtle was king of the turtles. His island was clean. It was neat. The water was warm. There was plenty to eat. The turtles might need. And they were all happy. Quite happy indeed.

They were..until Yertle, the king of them all, Decided the kingdom he ruled. He said Yertle, "of all that I see. But I don't see enough. That's the trouble with my throne, I look down on my pond but I cannot look down on the places beyond. The water is too, too low down. It ought to be higher!" he said with a frown. "If I could be king, I'd be! What a king! I'd be ruler of all I could see!"

So Yertle, the Turtle King, lifted his hand and Yertle, the Turtle King, gathered nine turtles to swim to his stone and, using these turtles, he built a new throne. He stood on another one's back and he piled them all up in a nine-turtle stack. He sat down on the pile. What a wonderful view! He could see 'most of the island.

"All mine!" Yertle cried. "Oh, the things I now rule! I'm king of a cow! And a house! And a bush! And, what's more, beyond that, I'm king of a blueberry bush! I'm Yertle the Turtle! Oh, marvelous me! For I am the ruler of all that I see!"

And all through that morning, he sat there up high saying over and over, "I'm king of the turtles." 'long about noon. Then he heard a faint sigh. "What's that?" snapped the King. He looked down the stack. And he saw, at the bottom, a turtle named Mack. Just a part of the stack. A little turtle. Looked up and he said, "Beg your pardon, King Yertle. I've piled up the turtles on your shoulders and knees. How long must we stand here, Your Majesty, please?"

"SILENCE!" the King of the Turtles barked back. "I'm king, and you're on my back. You stay in your place while I sit here and rule. I'm king of a cow! And a house! And a bush! And a cat! But that isn't all. I'll do better than that. I'll do better than that. His royal voice thundered, "So pile up more turtles! I want 'bout two hundred turtles!"

"Turtles! More turtles!" he bellowed and brayed. And the turtles 'way down the stack trembled. They shook. But they came. They obeyed. From all over the island, swimming by dozens. Whole families of turtles, With uncles and cousins. They came to the head of poor Mack. One after another, they climbed up the stack.

THEN Yertle the Turtle was perched up so high, He could see forty miles away. "Hooray!" shouted Yertle. "I'm king of the trees! I'm king of the birds! And I'm king of the bees! I'm king of the air! Ah, me! What a throne! What a wonderful chair! I'm Yertle the Turtle! I am the ruler of all that I see!"

Then again, from below, in the great heavy stack, Came a grown from the Mack. "Your Majesty, please..I don't like to complain, But down here below I know, up on top you are seeing great sights, But down at the bottom we turtles can't stand it. Our shells will all crack! Besides, we need food Mack.

"You hush up your mouth!" howled the mighty King Yertle. "You've no right to be the highest turtle. I rule from the clouds! Over land! Over sea! There's nothing higher than me!"

But, while he was shouting, he saw with surprise That the moon of the evening was over his head in the darkening skies. "What's THAT?" snorted Yertle. "Sala-ma-Sound dares to be higher than Yertle the King? I shall not allow it! I'll go higher than all the turtles. I'll stack 'em to heaven! I need 'bout five thousand, six hundred turtles."

But, as Yertle, the Turtle King, lifted his hand and started to order and command a little turtle below in the stack, That plain little turtle whose name was just plain enough. And he had. And that plain little lad got a little but mad and that was the end of the little thing. He burped! And his burp shook the throne of the king!

And Yertle the Turtle, the king of the trees, The king of the air and the king of the land, a house and a cow and a mule..Well, that was the end of the Turtle King! And all Sala-ma-Sound, Fell off his high throne and fell Plunk! In the pond.

And today the great Yertle, that Marvelous he, Is King of the Mud. That is the end of the turtles, of course.. all the turtles are free As turtles and, maybe, all creatures.