

## Business is Blooming

Early in the morning, Zorori was preparing for his trip to the next town. "I wonder what fun I can have there?" thought the yellow fox in blue. He thought that maybe he'd find places that serve really good food, or people to play his pranks on. As he had finished preparing, he headed to the train station and began his trip. For the entire trip, Zorori was so excited to see and have fun in his destination. He didn't even feel somewhat sleepy, despite the trip taking about an hour. Zorori then arrived at his destination and went to a motel, right in the middle of the town. After having put his stuff in his room, Zorori decided to have a walking tour around town. The town wasn't big, but it wasn't small either.

"Where should I go first?" Zorori asked himself. "Maybe to the nearest best restaurant or to the theme park." he said. However, his belly's rumbling had made his decision and Zorori decided to have some lunch. Zorori then left the restaurant feeling happy and satiated. The food was good and so was the service. The price wasn't very high as well. He then continued his tour of the town, looking for the next fun thing to do or buy.

About 100 meters away from the restaurant, Zorori came across a flower shop. Looking from the big window, he saw the shop sell kinds of beautiful flowers, beautiful enough to attract the fox's eyes and persuade him to buy them. After taking his time looking at the flowers, Zorori made his decision.

"I'd like to buy this rose, please." said Zorori, handing the stalk of rose to the cashier. "Alright. That will cost you ¥400." told the cashier. "What? So expensive." replied Zorori. "It's only a *stalk* of rose." he continued. "You're right. It is a stalk of rose." the cashier responded. "Besides, we do need to make some income here. So we can't make it too cheap." the cashier added. "Hmmm... alright, then." told Zorori, before paying for the rose.

"Huh... what an expensive rose..." Zorori said to himself, walking away from the flower shop to wherever his next stop would be. Zorori then thought of an idea. "Besides having fun, what if I can get rich in this town as well?" he asked. He headed back to the flower shop to buy some flower seeds, some small pots, and a heavy sack of soil. He then walked away, as far as possible from the flower shop.

Zorori then set up his stand, planted the flowers, and watered them. He waited for his flowers to grow. For 5 minutes, 15 minutes, even for an hour, but none of the seed was even sprouting. If anything, the soil in the pots looked somewhat drier, due to the heat of the daytime sun. "If my flowers don't grow any quicker, when will I start my business?" Zorori sighed. Then, Zorori got another idea. He made a magic fertilizer, the kind that will make his flowers grow instantly, and added them to the pots. The flowers grew, becoming fully-mature ones in just a second. They were even slightly bigger than normal flowers. "Yes! My fertilizer worked!" he exclaimed while jumping from excitement, after seeing what happened to his flowers.

"Magic flowers! Get yourselves some magic flowers!" Zorori shouted as loud as possible from his stand. "They look like regular flowers but they're grown with magic fertilizer." he added. After finishing his sentence, many customers became interested in buying his flowers and lined up in front of his stand. The customers were curious about the magic flowers Zorori was selling. Zorori earned a lot of money that day. "Hooray! I'm gonna be rich!" exclaimed Zorori. Whenever his pots became empty, Zorori continued to add more seeds and fertilizer into them, making more new flowers for him.

While serving customers, Zorori then thought about something. "These flowers look beautiful and they're bigger than normal flowers. What if they smell more

fragrant than normal flowers too?" Zorori wondered in his mind. He got closer to a magic rose and sniffed it, wanting to know its smell. From out of the blue, the rose latched itself into his muzzle and began pumping off pollen. Zorori tried to take the flower off his muzzle but it latched on so tightly that he couldn't do it. He started shouting for help but none of the customers or anyone around dared to get close, not wanting to be inflated by the other flowers in the pots.

Each pump of the pollen entered through Zorori's nose and into his body. With each pump, he swelled up and became filled with air. He could even feel more and more stuffed with each pump. The air from the pollen spreads to all directions of his body, making it inflate into a spherical shape. Besides that, the air from the pollen made him lighter, making him float higher as he inflated. Fortunately, because of that, his body didn't push his stand away as it became wider but it inflated in the air instead. As he floated higher, the pot and the rose went along with him as they were light enough to get carried away by the fox.

Zorori became really embarrassed because of the fact that many people saw him inflate, especially considering that the inflation wasn't something he had planned to happen. His growing size wasn't helping either as it would just make more and more people able to see him in his inflated state. His cheeks blushed red, not only from the pressure building up in his body, but also from all the embarrassment he got.

Reaching about 15 feet in size, Zorori started to feel tighter and tighter. If he were a balloon sold by a vendor, the vendor would stop inflating him, and tether him to the wagon. Besides his body, Zorori's clothes could no longer keep up with his body's stretching. As they continued to stretch, his shirt started to slowly rip and his belt instantly snapped, alerting Zorori. All that added up to Zorori's embarrassment even more, making him blush even redder. As Zorori's shirt entirely ripped, he reached about 30 feet in size and he still continued to inflate and fly higher. "Mmph... I hope my pants don't rip too. I can't go any redder than this..." thought Zorori.

When Zorori reached 45 feet wide, he saw something that he didn't expect. As the flower kept pumping pollen, it continued to run out of pollen, and started withering. The rose's latching also became less and less strong. The fox was relieved seeing what happened to the flower. He tried pulling the flower off his muzzle once more, but the latching was still too strong. However, Zorori kept trying. As his body continued to inflate and the flower continued to become weaker, Zorori kept pulling it off from his muzzle. As he reached 50 foot in size, Zorori eventually managed to remove the rose. "Phew! Finally!" he said in relief.

Zorori was now high up in the sky, higher than the buildings around him. Looking at his stand, it seemed that no one would buy any more of his flowers after seeing what one did to him. "Well... that was an experience." he sighed. "Now I need a way to go back to normal." he added. "I look like a hot air balloon." he continued. The moment Zorori said that, he became inspired with another idea. "Wait! What if I can offer the citizens a blimp ride?" he asked himself.

Zorori then got some rope and a big balloon basket. He then tied the rope to the basket and around his body. "Step right up for a balloon ride!" Zorori shouted as loudly as possible. "It's like a taxi, but it flies!" he added, trying to get the citizens' attention. Some people were curious about where the pilot was, until they discovered that the balloon was the one talking. Seeing his first passenger made Zorori really happy. "Yeah! Business is blooming once more!" said Zorori excitedly.