

## ***“Jonathan Livingston Seagull” - By Richard Bach***

***“This is a story for people who follow their dreams and make their own rules”***

***Jonathan Livingston Seagull***, written by Richard Bach, is a fable about the importance of making the most of our lives, even if our goals run against to the norms of our tribe or neighbourhood or society.

This books reveals the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull , an ordinary seagull who is more interested to know about flying then just eating fish. , he pushes himself, learning everything he can about flying Soon his parents grow worried that why he can't be like other in the Flock, leaving low flying to albatross.

### **Dialogues between Jonathan and his parents**

“Why ,Jon ,why?” His mother asked. “Why is it so hard to be like the rest of the flock, Jon? Why can't you leave low flying to the pelicans, the albatross? Why don't you eat? Jon, you are bone and feathers!”

“I don't mind being bone and feathers, Mum. I just want to know what I can do in the air and what I can't, that's all. I just want to know”

“See here, Jonathan,” said his father, not unkindly. “Winter isn't far away. Boats will be few, and the surface fish will be swimming deep. If you must study, then study food, and how to get it. This flying business is all very well, but you can't eat a glide, you know. Dont't you forget that the reason you fly is to eat”

Jonathan tries to be like other gulls but soon he is back experimenting different kinds of flying. But after many efforts he fails in flying efficiently and eventually decides to quit and join the Flock, that would make everyone happier , thinks Jonathan. While returning to the Flock, he discovers how to fly like falcon and is able to set the highest speed limit in the history of seagulls. He decides to share the discovery with the Flock, and they will be wild with joys, he thinks.

**BUT!!!!!!**

### **When he discovers the technique of flying:**

How much more there is now to living! Instead of our drab slogging forth and back to the fishing boats, there's reason to life! We can lift ourselves out of ignorance, we can find ourselves as creatures of excellence and intelligence and skill. We can be free! We can learn to fly!

### **Elder of the Council bashing Jonathan:**

“...one day, Jonathan Livingston Seagull, you shall learn that irresponsibility does not pay. Life is the unknown and the unknowable, except that we are put into this world to eat, to stay alive as long we possibly can.”

Immediately, Jonathan is summoned by the Council and Jonathan declared outcast for irresponsible behaviour.

Jonathan lives alone beyond Far Cliff and learns more everyday. One day he is joined by two seagulls, bright and white as starlight, who have come to take him higher, to take him to home.

So this is heaven, thinks Jonathan, when he arrives with them and finds his feather glowed brightly and wings were smooth. He finds that there still many things to learn and he learns quickly with the help of Chiang, the Elder seagull, who takes him beyond his previous learning, teaching him how to move instantaneously to anywhere else in the Universe. The secret, Chiang says, is to "begin by knowing that you have already arrived..."

Not satisfied with his new life, Jonathan returns to Earth to find others like him, to bring them his learning and to spread his love for flight. When he returns he finds young Fletcher Lynd Seagull, an outcast for he too wants to learn fly higher. In time he starts teaching new seagulls coming in, but he gives thought about his Flock on the earth where some gulls who would also be able to learn and decides to return to the Flock.

Soon the Flock calls Jonathan as the Son of the Great Gull for his unbelievable abilities to fly. Then Jonathan tells Fletcher that he is now leaving as there may be other flocks and other Fletchers waiting for instructions and lastly Jonathan asks Fletcher, that no rumors about him is spread or make him a god.

### **Farewell of Jonathan**

A moment later Jonathan's body wavered in the air, shimmering, and began to go transparent. “Don't let them spread silly rumors about me, or make me a god. O.K., Fletch? I'm a seagull. I like to fly, maybe...”