


STORY TIME!

Cinnamon, Queen of the Spices

 long time ago all the spices gathered together in a big meeting. There was turmeric in her brilliant orange-yellow gown, ginger in his golden-papery robe, hard-shelled nutmeg, sweet star-shaped anise, chili wrapped in fire engine red, and many more—cumin, coriander, fennel, dill, black pepper, caraway, mustard.

When the spices tried to start their meeting, none would stop talking. Spice after spice flared up, arguing over who would be leader. Their sharp chattering rose to a thunderous roar until it was unbearable.

Mustard seed, so tiny she could barely be seen or heard, had an idea. She hopped up and down as fast as she could until the entire spice circle seemed showered by the yellow popping seed. Finally all was silent and mustard told her idea. “Let us each put a tiny bit of ourselves into the magic cauldron and create a new spice to be our leader. That way we will all be a part of the leader.”

The spices liked that idea. One by one they put a pinch of themselves into the magic cauldron, each adding its own special flavor. When the last spice had been added, all the spices focused on the magic cauldron in their center.

Slowly the cauldron began shaking and rumbling, bubbling and vibrating. Then the cauldron started spinning. Faster and faster it whirled until the pot cracked. Thick roots suddenly thrust out of the cracks into the earth. Then a strong tree shot six feet into the air and burst into tiny yellow flowers.

In a sweet, melodic voice the tree said, “Thank you, dear spices, for your wonderful gift. From now on, let it be known in all the lands that I am Cinnamon, Queen of the Spices.”

Soon cinnamon became one of the favorite spices eaten throughout the world. It is used both as a spice in cooking, and as an herb or healing medicine. As the “Queen of Spices,” she bestows her sweet, warm, strengthening powers on all who use her. Now when the spices gather at their meetings, which would normally be heated events, Queen Cinnamon keeps order and peace among all the other spices.