

# *The Blue Red Bird*

*Reg Down*

© Copyright 2013 – Reg Down

*All rights reserved. No part of this publication, in part or in whole may be reproduced, transmitted or utilized in any form, without the permission of the author, except for brief quotations in critical articles and reviews.*

There was once a bird. She was a small bird, about the size of a child's hand. Her wings were red, her tail was blue, and her beak long and slender.

'Tee-ree, tee-ree ... ti!' she sang from the tops of the trees, for that was her favorite place. 'Tee-ree, tee-ree ... ti!'

She had a name, but no one knew it. She kept it secret. If anyone asked she'd cock her head to one side and look at them. If they asked again she flew away singing, 'Tee-ree, tee-ree ... ti!' until she was out of sight.

How she liked to fly and sing at the same time! She sang as she flew, and flew as she sang, lilting up and down in the air with a swing and a swing and a spike—'Tee-ree, tee-ree ... ti!' Even from far away you always knew who was flying by.

A man lived in a house beside her favorite tree. He stood underneath and talked to her. He offered her food. He held out his hand with fruit and seeds. The little bird cocked her head and looked.

One day she flew to his hand. It closed on her legs. She tried to fly away, but his other hand laid itself on her wings. He put her into a room. She flew to the window but couldn't get out. She hit the glass.

'Tee-ree, tee-ree ... ti!' she cried, but no one heard her.

Everyday the man came and left her food and drink. He sat in a chair and talked to her. She listened, but didn't understand. He had a thousand ways of speaking, but always said the same thing. She had only one way of speaking, but it said a thousand things.

'Tee-ree, tee-ree ... ti,' she sang, sad that the world was empty and gray.

Finally she fell silent. She wouldn't sing or say a thing. Her silence spoke more than her singing and the man opened the window. Out she flew. Only when she was far, far away did she begin to cry, 'Tee-ree, tee-ree, tee-ree ... ti!' over and over and over again.