

## Luna of Nootka Sound



Perhaps it was a storm with great waves and high winds that caused the young Orca to get separated from his mother and his extended family called a pod. Nobody knows for sure but when the killer whale swam into Nootka Sound off Vancouver Island he was all alone. The lone whale was identified by marine biologists as Luna of L-pod. Scientists always name the young orcas in the Pacific Northwest when they are born, and they can easily identify them by their distinctive black and white markings.

No two killer whales look quite the same. In Nootka Sound, Luna found all the salmon he wanted for food. L-pod which was his extended family swam far away to the San Juan Islands.

Orcas or killer whales are highly social animals. That means they need others of their own kind to make them happy. They hunt together, play together, and protect each other. The older ones instruct the younger ones in all the skills they need to survive. When Luna no longer had other whales to share his time, he became lonely and started looking for attention from people. He would swim up to boats. If they stopped he would give them a slight bump. Often he would swim alongside them looking for a friendly scratch on the back or a belly rub.

When word got out that a killer whale was being friendly to boaters in Nootka Sound, people came from all over to see the wild animal. Luna slowly was getting tamed. Some person put on a wet suit and tried to ride Luna. Another time over a hundred persons crowded on a narrow pier in a harbor and tried to touch Luna as he swam just a few feet away. Luna was a big sensation with lots of people.

However not everyone was happy about the killer whales interest in humans. By the end of the first summer he had become so fearless that he was pushing boats around and had

actually broken the rudders of a few of them. He had also been hurt doing this, getting a big cut over his eye when he bumped into a sharp propeller.

One morning a group of men were headed out to fish for salmon. After cruising along for about ten minutes they ran out of gas. One of them saw Luna swimming and threw out a line to the whale thinking the mammal would understand and tow them to shore.

The whale did tow them but not back to shore. For several minutes the sixteen foot long, 2,500 pound whale pulled them in circles and then towed them away from shore and out to sea which was the opposite direction they wanted to go. By the time he had tired of this game and let go of the rope, the men on board were scared and upset.

Lots of people realized that it wasn't in the young whales best interest to be overly friendly with people. They foresaw that the more he was around people the less likely he would return to his own kind. It was decided that Luna should be captured and then loaded onto a special truck and driven to the far side of the island and released in the water not far from where his own pod was swimming. Once back with his own pod many felt he would return to his wild ways and avoid people.

The only problem with this plan was the cost. It would cost a small fortune and it wasn't going to be easy finding the money. Since the money hasn't yet been found to pay for Luna's rescue, he is still swimming alone in Nootka Sound.

When God made killer whales he never intended for them to be alone. He made their hearts in such a way that they need others of their own kind to make them happy. People are like that too. We need others of our own kind to make us happy. But God has made our hearts very different from any other member of the animal kingdom.

You see he engineered the heart of man so that they never can be truly happy unless they come to know God himself. He has made our hearts so large that nothing less than himself can ever fill them. People might try to fill their hearts with all sorts of things but they will always discover an aching void without God.

So don't attempt to do the impossible by trying to make yourself happy apart from God. But rather as someone who has wandered far from him, as a sinner lost and undone, seek to return to God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. He is waiting for you to come to him. He wants you to know his love which passes understanding. God knew the great price it would cost him to make you his own and was willing to pay it. That you might be brought back to him he sent his only begotten Son to die on the cross in the sinners place. In the hours of darkness while he hung on the cross he suffered agony like no one else ever will so that we might be saved. For Christ has also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust that he might bring us to God. If you come to God through faith in Christ he will make you his own and never let you go.

Luna is still out swimming alone in Nootka Sound and will be there until the money is raised to bring him back to his pod. However, nothing is in the way of you returning to God even this moment. The great price has been already been paid for the redemption of your soul. Won't you cease from trying to make yourself happy apart from him and ask him to save you even today? Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

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