

The Asian Giant Hornet's Halloween Hustle

Once upon a time, in a buzzing, colorful forest, lived a diligent Asian giant hornet named Hiro. With his bright orange and black stripes and powerful wings, Hiro stood out among the other insects. But instead of being proud, he worked hard every day, gathering nectar and building his nest. He knew that success didn't come easy and that hard work was the key to achieving his dreams.

As Halloween approached, the forest was alive with excitement. The smaller bugs were busy decorating their homes, creating costumes, and preparing for the big Halloween party. Hiro wanted to join the fun, but he had so much work to do. His nest needed to be ready for winter, and he still had plenty of nectar to gather.

One crisp Halloween night, while Hiro was busy working, he heard laughter and music coming from the direction of the pumpkin patch. Curious, he flew over to see what was happening. There, he saw all the little insects dancing and playing games, enjoying treats under the bright moonlight.

"Come join us, Hiro!" called a cheerful ladybug, waving him over. "You've worked so hard! You deserve a break!"

Hiro looked at his unfinished nest and the nectar he had yet to collect. "I appreciate it, but I can't. I still have too much to do," he replied with a sigh.

Just then, he noticed a group of ants struggling to carry a giant pumpkin slice back to their nest. They were trying their best, but it was clear they needed help. Hiro's heart went out to them.

"I can help!" he shouted, and with a powerful buzz of his wings, he swooped down and lifted the pumpkin slice with his strong legs. The ants cheered, and together, they carried the slice back to their home, working side by side.

When they arrived, the ants invited Hiro to stay for their Halloween feast. "You worked hard to help us, Hiro. Join us and celebrate!" they insisted.

Feeling grateful, Hiro accepted the invitation. As they feasted on delicious treats, he learned that the ants had spent weeks gathering food and preparing for Halloween. "We

worked hard all month to enjoy this night,” one ant explained. “Hard work makes the celebration even sweeter!”

Hiro smiled, realizing that while he had been busy working alone, he had missed the joy of teamwork and celebration. “I see now that hard work isn’t just about getting things done; it’s also about the rewards that come from helping others and sharing good times together,” he said.

As the night continued, Hiro danced and laughed with his new friends, feeling a sense of joy that he had never experienced before. He understood that hard work was important, but so was taking the time to enjoy the fruits of that labor with friends.

From that Halloween on, Hiro balanced his work and play. He still gathered nectar and built his nest, but he also made time to celebrate with the other insects. He became known not only as the hard-working hornet but also as a friend who knew the importance of enjoying life’s moments.

****Lesson:** Hard work is important, but it’s equally vital to take time to celebrate and share those achievements with others.**