

# **The Gold of El Pilar: A Central American Tale**

*As told by Narciso Torres to William E. Doolittle*

Narciso and Celestina were happy and content. They lived in a humble house deep the forest near the ancient ruins of El Pilar in Central America.

Celestina and Narciso enjoyed gathering fruits from the forest and tending their garden.

When home relaxing, both Narciso and Celestina enjoyed laying in their hammocks.

One day while walking in the forest, Narciso found a fallen tree and underneath it was a clay jar.

He removed the lid, and discovered the jar was full of gold coins.

"This is odd," he thought. Narciso put the lid back on the jar and went home to tell Celestina what he found.

"Why did you not bring home the treasure?" Celestina asked.

"It is not mine," replied Narciso. "If I was supposed to have the treasure, it would appear under my hammock."

"That's right, Narciso," Celestina said. "You were right to leave it where you found it."

The next day Narciso told his friend Memo about the fallen tree and the jar full of gold.

Memo became very excited. "I will go into the forest to find it," he thought. "I will be rich!"

It took him awhile, but Memo found the fallen tree and the covered jar beneath.

He opened the jar thinking he would see gold coins. But, he was surprised, and not in a good way.

**Out of the jar flew a thousand angry bees! Memo ran away in fear.**

**A few hours later Memo got up the nerve to return to the fallen tree. He found the bees had calmed down and were back in the jar., so he quickly replaced the lid.**

**"Narciso lied to me," Memo thought. I will show him that I will not be fooled.**

**Memo picked up the covered jar and went to Celestina and Narciso's house. Narciso was napping in his hammock, while Celestina was tending the garden nearby.**

**Very quietly Memo crept up on Narciso, and placed the covered jar under his hammock. He then hid in the forest to watch what happens when Narciso opens the jar full of bees.**

**A few minutes later Celestina came home and shouted "Narciso, there is a jar under your hammock!" Narciso woke up in a start.**

**"It is under my hammock," said Narciso, "so it must be my jar." "Yes," agreed Celestina, so together they opened it.**

**Narciso, Celestina, and even Memo were surprised. The jar was full of gold coins!**

**And, without realizing it, Memo had upset a nest of bees that sent him running further into the forest.**

**"What shall we do with our new found wealth?" asked Narciso. "We are very happy, and do not need anything for ourselves," said Celestina.**

**"I know," said Narciso, "let's use it to build a school for all the girls and boys."**

**"What a great idea!" proclaimed Celestina. "The school can also have a forest garden, so all the children will learn about growing food in the forest."**

**Later that year a new school was built, and the students welcomed their new teacher, Señorita Anabel, who just happened to have golden hair.**