

Saturday  
SATURN



“Samedi, please repeat.” I was alone in my room pretending to be Mr. Abraham.

I had finished researching Saturn on the computer. There was so much information. I tried to figure out what Mr. Abraham would think was important for us to know. I was getting frustrated so I figured I’d take a break, get a snack and come back to the work when my stomach was full. I went downstairs to the kitchen.

“How’s the space travel?” my Mom asked.

“Funny you should ask,” I replied. “I’m stuck. I looked up all this information about Saturn but I can’t figure out what my teacher would think is important and what’s not.”

“Okay, let’s organize all the pieces of information that we think might be important. Write each one down on a separate card. In the meantime, I will make you a sandwich,” she said.

“Thanks Mom, that’s a good idea,” I agreed.

I ran upstairs and started writing down the information on separate cards – everything I could remember. I even went back to the computer to find some stuff I had forgotten. About 30 minutes later, I came back downstairs ready to begin. My Mom had taken out a cake stand – one that spins - and put it in the middle of the table.

“Okay, let’s see what you’ve got.”

I read her some of my cards.

“Saturn is the planet of transformation.”

“Great, we’re going to say that this spinning cake stand is Saturn’s Ring of Change. Place the card on it,” she said.

“Saturn is the second largest planet in the Solar System.”

“The rings around Saturn are made mostly of ice,” I went on.

“Okay, on the Saturn’s Ring of Change it goes!” she said, tossing the card.

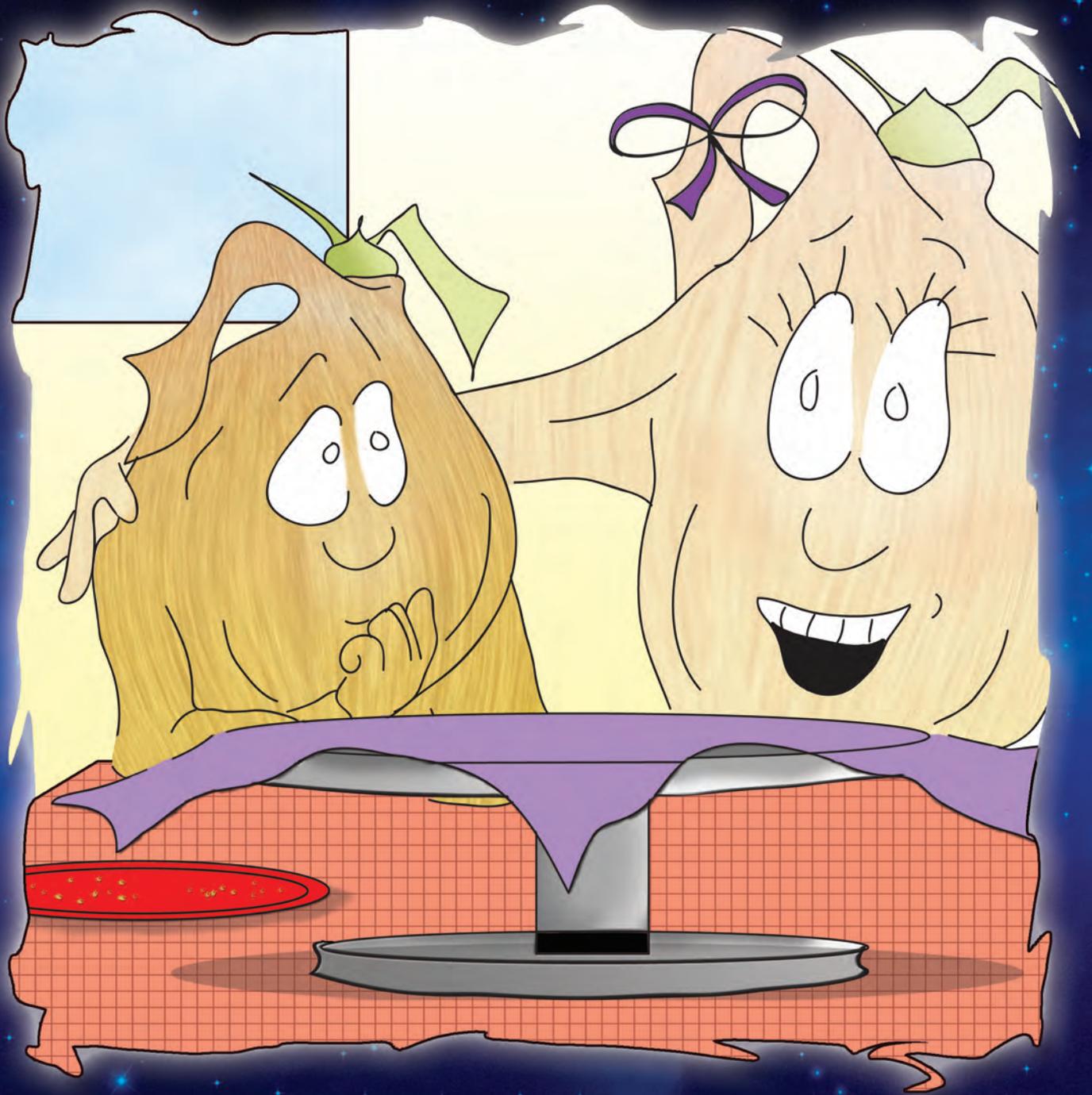
The more we tossed, the more I could feel I was letting my frustration go.

When I had put about 14 cards on the stand, we were done. Then, my Mom covered it with a violet dish towel. She gave the cake stand a big swirl and all the information started spinning around and around.

“We are trying to figure out what information is important. All the information is now spinning on Saturn’s Ring of Change. When it finishes spinning, we will know what’s important,” she said, smiling. “But first finish your sandwich. This will give Saturn’s Ring of Change a chance to do its work.”

“Is this like a magic trick?” I asked.

“Kind of,” she replied. “You’ll see.”



As I was finishing my sandwich, my Mom stopped the spinning cake stand but left the towel covering the cards.

“If you were to think about it now, what is the first piece of information about Saturn you think would be important?” she asked.

“Probably that Saturn is the planet of transformation and that is why the Ring of Change is so important,” I said.

“Great, tell me three more.”

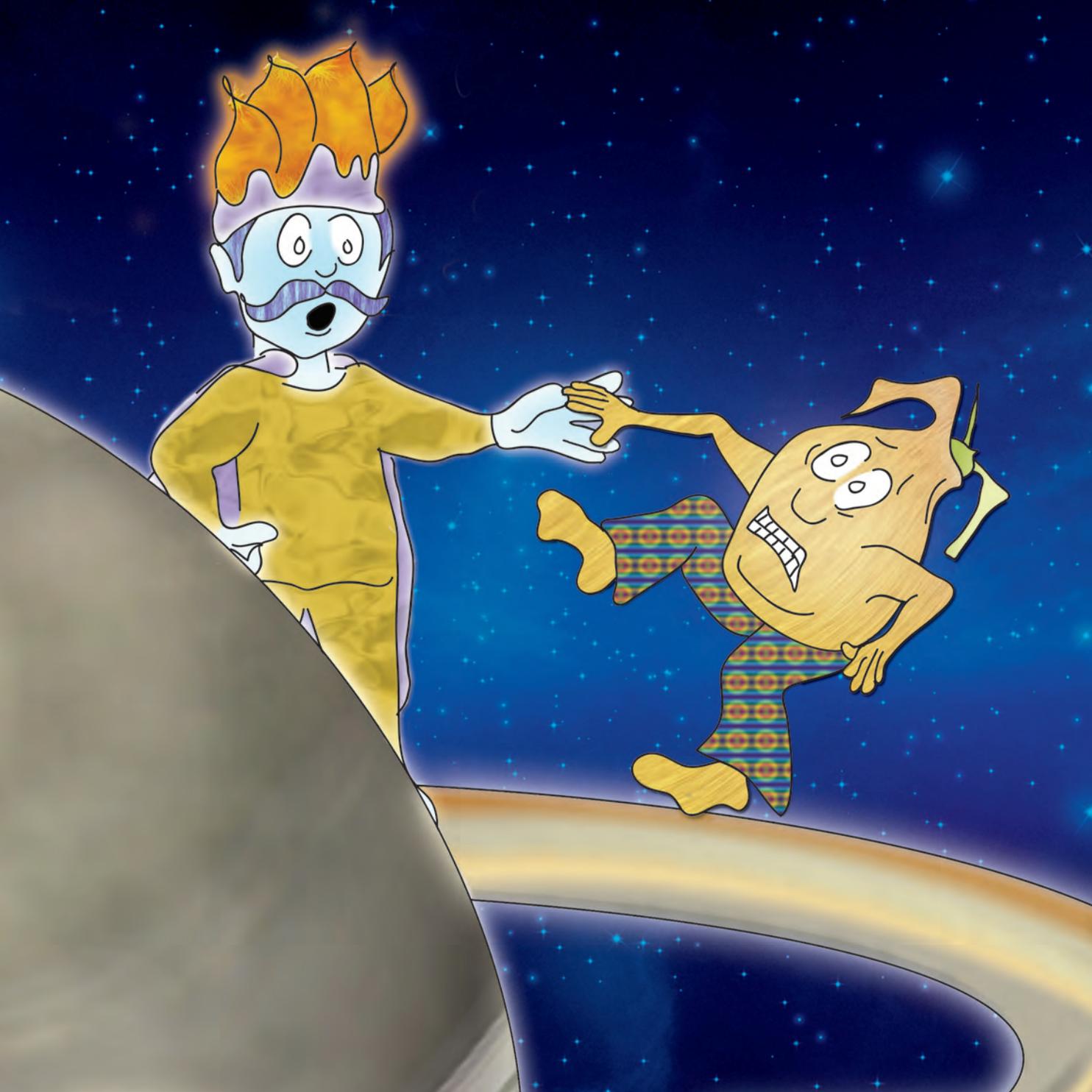
I gave her three more details that I thought were important. Then the magic happened. When she uncovered the cake tray, all the cards with the facts that I had chosen were facing up. All the rest were face down.

“Whoa!” I said in amazement. “How did you do that?” I asked.

“I don’t know what you are talking about,” she replied.

She refused to tell me the secret to her trick even though I begged. That night when I went to bed, I thought about Saturn. I kept trying to figure out how it worked but nothing came to me. Instead of getting frustrated again, I turned to my countdown and asked Saturn to explain it to me.

26, 25, 24 ...



3, 2, 1...

blast off!

The trip to Saturn was bouncy. I landed just inside the lip of the ice ring. It was like a moving sidewalk, but a really, really fast one. It was spinning so fast, I almost fell off. Remembering that Saturn is a gas giant, I looked for anything solid and still to stand on. But I was not quick enough and I started to fall. All of a sudden a hand grabbed mine and pulled me back. It belonged to a man who was wearing a crown. It was the most interesting crown I had ever seen - there were flames coming out of the top of it!

“Thank you,” I said. “That could have been a really long fall.” I peered over the edge looking down through Saturn’s gases.

“Are you here to become a member?” the man asked.

“A member of what?” I replied. But he had no time to answer as something huge came flying across the sky.

“What on earth was that swirling thing?” I asked.

PROBLEMA



“Oh my dear, you certainly are not on Earth anymore!” he replied. “That swirling thing was a problem flying in, looking for Saturn’s Ring of Change to find a new solution.”

I was totally shocked that my Mom knew about this. Was it possible that she was a space traveler too? I finally noticed that not all of the ring was spinning. The lip was stationary and very, very small. I crawled towards it.

“Saturn’s Ring of Change? Did you say Saturn’s Ring of Change?”

The man went on: “I most certainly did. Anything that travels on The Ring of Change gets a chance to transform and fire into something new. You’re a vegetable, you should understand. It’s kind of like when you get put on the stove and turn into soup. By the way, what’s your name?” the man asked, contorting his body so that the other spinning problems would miss him.

“My name is Onionhead,” I answered, trying to understand what he had just said.

“They call me the Master Mergin and I hold the fire of transformation.”

All of a sudden he yelled, “Duck!”

I ducked just in time before this flying problem nearly took me out. It was green and oozing and it stank. Thankfully it landed on the spinning part of the Ring of Change that was a little ways from us.



“Incoming! Careful, here comes another one!” Master Mergin yelled and I ducked before he said another word. But this problem was teetering on the edge. Master Mergin pulled a rope out from thin air, and lassoed the problem to get it properly on the track of transformation.

“Eyyyyyyyyyyha!” he yelled, sounding more like a cowboy than a Master.

Still crouching, I asked, “Uhh, Master Mergin, is there some place a little easier to talk? All this spinning and ducking and flying problem stuff is making me dizzy.”

“Sure, take my hand,” he replied and I crawled over to take his hand for the second time.

Within an instant, we were sitting on one of Saturn’s moons. It was close enough to see the action but far enough out of the way that we didn’t get hurt.

“Thank you.” I sighed with relief. “Give me a second; I think I need to catch my breath.”

“A talking, breathing onion - my, how the world has changed!” he laughed. “Not to worry, Onionhead,” he said patting me on the shoulder. “It is not always easy to find a safe place up here when problems are flying at you all the time.”

“Wow, Master Mergin, you’re so accepting of the situation. By the way, if you don’t mind me asking, what’s in your crown?” I asked.

“I don’t mind at all ... I am happy that you are interested,” he chuckled.

“In my crown, I have stored the mysteries for change. I’ve been around a few times. The fire above my crown is called *the transformation flame*.”

Whoa, I thought ... a flame that could transform something. When I thought about it though ... it’s like when a forest fire happens and after it’s over, all new trees are born from the ashes.

I was beginning to have a lot of respect for Master Mergin and I wanted to help him. So I said, “The first thing you asked me was if I was here to become a member. What do you mean by that?” I asked.

“I admire your caring, Onionhead,” Master Mergin replied. “I asked if you were here to become a member of the new transformation team.”

“A transformation team?” I asked.

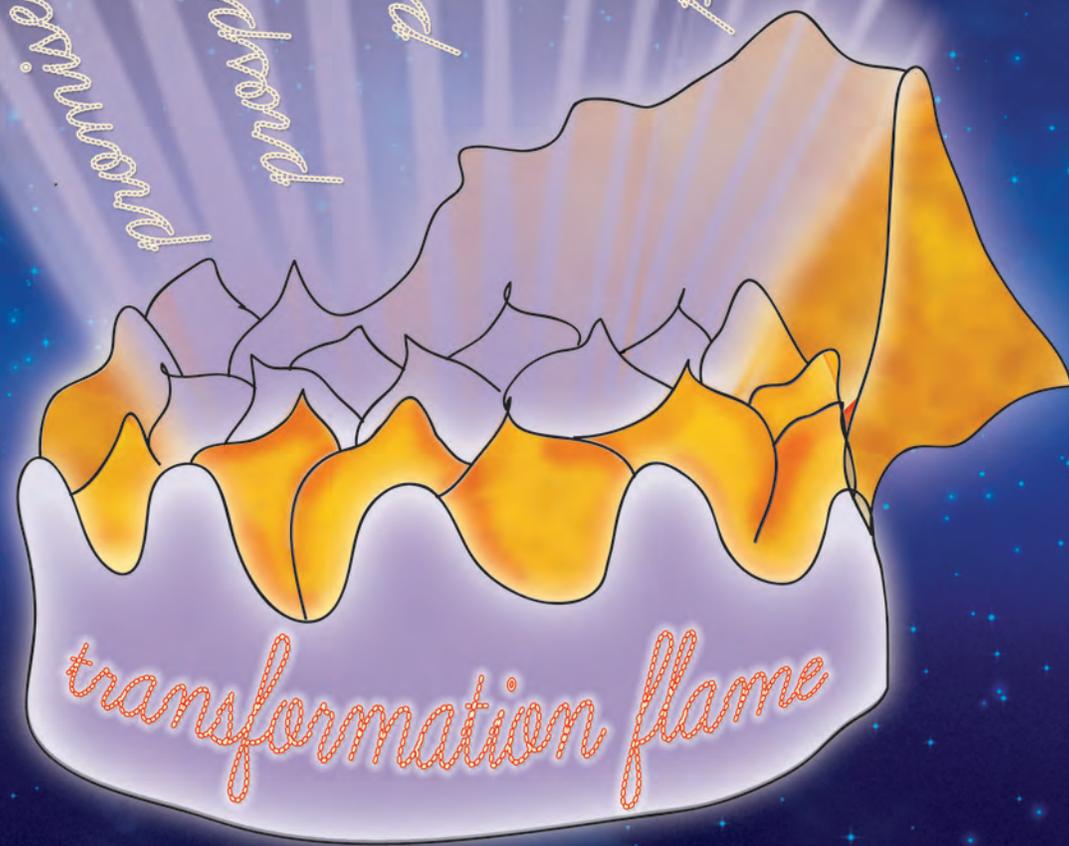
“A team that can change negative thoughts into positive ones,” he answered.

“For example, the thought that problems are too big to solve. Everyone asks for a time where there will be less pain and suffering, but so few realize that they have the power to change it. Another example of negative thinking, why do people always think about what they DON’T have instead of what they DO have? Like the glass is either half empty or half full ... what’s with that? Why doesn’t anyone believe that the glass can be completely full.”

I understood what he was talking about but there was part of it that almost felt too big for me to grasp. A full glass, really... you could have a full glass?

“It is really just so simple. Just tell me three things about yourself you’d like to

*premise*  
*prosperity*  
*possibility*  
*power*  
*peace*



*transformation flame*

change,” he said.

“Okay, I’m a little hard-headed. I could be better at cleaning my room and sometimes I have trouble being on time,” I admitted. “This is bad because my Mom says that the worst thing you can steal from somebody is their time. Also, I am sometimes guilty of thinking more about what I don’t have, rather than being grateful for what I do have.”

“Clearly, you don’t have a problem being honest,” he laughed. “So, you already have some idea of how to change those things, right?”

I nodded in agreement. When I thought about it ... I really did.

Master Mergin continued, “I am trying to find the new transformation team who by their actions alone will spark positive change in others. They will know that when a problem comes up, it is an opportunity for growth. I need a team who will feel positive about learning, changing and growing. Are you prepared to do that Onionhead?” he asked, “like ya know ... let the transformation fire away!!!!”

“I’m a talking onion. Not everyone gets me, so being different comes naturally to me. Also people do call me a fiery-tasting vegetable anyway. So bring it on!”

“Good, good. So then Onionhead, do you think you would want to be in my new transformation team?” he asked.

I found a hint of sadness in his question; like he had asked it so many times

and found few who were willing to join him. I guess they were too afraid to change. He knew from his wisdom that it would, indeed, take a team to create a big transformation ... it could not happen through just one person.

I had traveled almost the entire Universe to be exactly where I was. When I really thought about what he was asking, it did not seem so large. The more I thought about it, the more positive it felt. Imagine if problems didn't overwhelm me all the time.

Imagine if I could see the possibility of a problem becoming an opportunity. If I could do that, there wouldn't be anything I couldn't do. Plus, why else would I have traveled all this way if I was not meant to join his team.

“Master Mergin, I do believe I could be a member of your new transformation team – a valuable member. It would be my greatest pleasure to serve with you.” I answered him with pride.

“Thank you, Onionhead. Thank you. I believe in you; you have shown great courage and commitment in coming here.” We sat together for another moment in silence. It was a silence filled with hope that indeed a new world filled with positivity would be coming.

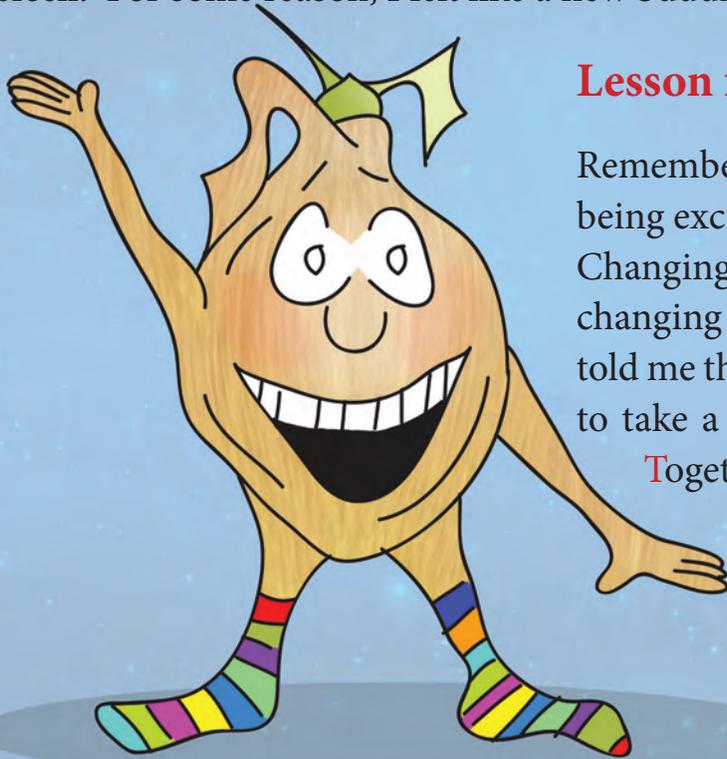
“Is there anything else I need to do for the team?” I asked him after a while.

“Yes,” he said. “Don't forget this: one only has to change oneself in order to change the whole world.”

With that, the Master Mergin smiled, took my hand again and nudged us off the edge of Saturn's moon.

"Thank you my friend. I am forever grateful," he said as he gently let me go and all I could see was the fire above his crown.

When I opened my eyes, I found the comfort of my room, the stillness of my bed and the sweet smell of vanilla French toast coming from downstairs. I got up knowing I was going to ask my Mother some serious questions about herself. For some reason, I felt like a new budding onion. I wrote...



### **Lesson from Saturn**

Remember – positivity comes from being excited about growth and change. Changing myself is the first step to changing the world. Master Mergin told me that changing the world is going to take a team because team means – **T**ogether **E**ach **A**ccomplishes **M**ore.