



# The Hidden Rhythm of the World

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Leo sat by his bedroom window, watching the wind blow leaves from the trees, wondering how the world organized itself without anyone telling it to. His grandfather handed him a smooth wooden box with a riddle carved on the top, challenging Leo to solve it using only his mind.



To find the first clue, Leo stepped outside and looked at the giant map in the village square, noting how travelers could go North, South, East, or West to explore the world. He realized that no matter where someone wanted to go, they always chose from these main paths.



He walked into the local bakery where the baker was cutting a large, round pie into perfectly equal parts, making two straight cuts right through the middle. Each person at the table received an identical slice, leaving everyone completely satisfied.



Next, Leo visited the musical clock tower, listening to the heavy copper pendulum swing steadily back and forth, creating a perfectly balanced rhythm. He tapped his foot along to the steady beat, counting the repeating pattern that kept the town's time perfectly accurate.



Sitting down at a sturdy wooden table in the garden, Leo noticed how perfectly balanced it stood on the grass without wobbling even a little bit. He counted the strong wooden pillars supporting the tabletop, realizing they provided the perfect stability for everything placed above.



He looked up at a poster showing the planet's journey around the sun, shifting beautifully from snowy winters to blooming springs, warm summers, and golden autumns. The constant cycle reminded him of how nature neatly divided the year into distinct, wonderful periods.



In the library, Leo found an old book about nature that explained how everything in the world was made of earth, air, fire, and water. He closed his eyes, imagining these foundational elements working together in perfect harmony to create life.



A colorful butterfly landed on a flower nearby, and Leo marveled at how its wings were perfectly split into equal parts on the left and right sides. When it flew, the upper and lower sections moved together in a flawless, coordinated dance.



Sitting on a bench, Leo began to connect all the clues in his mind: the directions on the map, the slices of pie, the beats of the clock, the legs of the table, and the seasons of the year. Suddenly, a bright smile lit up his face as the single, hidden pattern behind all of them became perfectly clear.



Leo ran back to his grandfather and proudly shouted the answer, realizing that today's mental math mystery was all about the wonderful and balanced number four. His grandfather smiled warmly, proud that Leo had discovered the hidden magic hiding in plain sight all around them.