

# Curse that met-a-morphosis

## A Dramatic Look At The Life Cycle Of A Frog



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Under the murkiest of nights and perkiest moonlight, a swamp covered in water, and dominated by gigantic trees experienced utter silence. For the Lord, in his deep baritone, had articulated, “Deroc, I curse your neonate with decay Until you regret for your deeds today Metamorphosis shall befall upon him But sadly, developments would be grim” Deroc the frog was indeed an obstinate creature. Undeterred by the Lord’s consistent pleadings to do otherwise, he ousted thirsty animals from drinking water from the swamp he occupied. But today, the Lord was in no mood to let it slide and thus the curse. Deroc, on the other hand, didn’t imagine what was fast-approaching.

It was only months later, when Alicea, his wife laid hundreds of fertilised eggs, that fear engulfed him. He remembered the curse verbatim. Thus, to be certain of his heir’s safety and existence, he covered the fertilised eggs with a jelly-like substance and named the

whole mass as Spawn. Little did he know his apprehensions would soon find ground. As the egg hatched, to his utter shock, a small mobile-being launched out instead of a frog. To fix the situation, he approached the mystic bird Goldfinch, a symbol of life and its fluctuations as The Laburnum top pro-

pounds, saying, “Gills and fins can be seen

Wiggling a tiny tail with a tint of green

Clueless I am as the Lord professed

Fate of my new born fills me with dread”

“Deroc, the external gills, the bliss of the curse, would disappear soon. Besides, he will grow hind limbs to swim in 21 days. So, relax,” consoled the bird. “Plus, you can now call it a Tadpole,” she added. Goldfinch’s assurance

did pacify him, but it was only when he saw his baby boy develop hind limbs that he finally took a sigh of relief. The blissful days arrived for Tadpole had by then grown his forelimbs and lungs too. But what came next was

a shrinking tail that became his next point of concern. To find a

remedy for the same, he decided

to give the wise owl a visit. Having explained him all

about the curse, Deroc requested

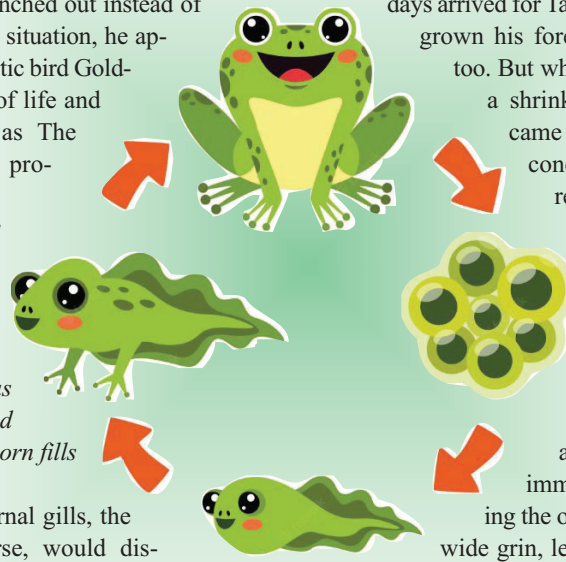
a solution. After

immense brainstorming the owl retorted with a

wide grin, leaving Deroc perplexed. “Just name him Froglet,” tacked

on the wise owl. A baffled Deroc returned home, only to be

haunted by the owl’s grin. The disappearance



## The science of it

The life cycle of a frog entails five stages – eggs, a tadpole that lives in water and has no legs, a froglet that begins to develop lungs, a young frog where the froglet completely loses its tail and finally transforms into an adult frog.

of the Froglet’s tail completely made Deroc beg the Lord for forgiveness,

“Hail, I hail thy O merciful Lord A broil with you, I cannot afford Clueless I am and seek thy mercy Spare my child from my controversy”

The Lord responded with triumph, “Change is not a threat, but an opportunity! Your fear of change is your only curse. It is your fear that let my words overpower you and the rest is history!” “So, that’s why the Owl smirked!” exclaimed Deroc.

“I am now a frog, an adult frog With four legs, an inhabitant of the bog I would lay eggs and establish my reign My frog life cycle starts over and again,” a voice pervaded the atmosphere, making the swamp livelier than it had ever been. 🇩🇪

# Walraversijde tale

Rivers, lakes, and wetlands are indubitably amongst the most biodiverse places on earth, but the diversity that dwells in them is often overlooked. Being mindful of the same, the United Nations has designated 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in order to make us au courant with the catastrophe that awaits these marine miracles and ensure their continuity for the foreseeable future. Aiming to make this vision a reality, GT presents a brand-new series, wherein each segment will either cover an endangered fish species on the verge of extinction or a renowned fishing village in any part of the world in need of immediate human attention.

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**Name of village:** Walraversijde  
**Located in:** Ostend, Belgium  
**Population:** About 500-600 people during the medieval time

### About the village

- Walraversijde is an abandoned medieval fishing village situated on the Belgian coast.
- In 1394, a flood drowned the town of Ostend and caused heavy sand drifts around the village. As a result, Walraversijde ended up in front of the dunes and thus needed to be rebuilt further inland.
- It was rediscovered in 1992 in a dune area, near a medieval dyke.
- The fishing village has been studied and analysed more thoroughly and more systematically than any other medieval fishing community in Europe.

- The village has been partially reconstructed, and has a museum dedicated to the site.

### About the fish population

- The village lies along the shores of the North Sea, which has fishes such as sturgeon, shark, skates, salmon.

### Life of fishermen in the village

- Written sources indicate that the villagers fished and traded salted fishes and other goods, and sometimes engaged in piracy.
- Between 1383 and 1413, privateering and piracy took place between English and Flemish fishing and trading vessels.
- The fishermen of Walraversijde participated in this privateering to the degree that they were warned not to plunder or damage ships at sea unless ordered to do so by the Duke.
- Walraversijde fishermen supplied the



Duke’s fleet with vessels and the fishing fleet with guard boats throughout the fifteenth century.

- The villagers also dealt in exotic spices and fruits like paradise grains, pomegranates, candlesticks and luxury ceramics.

### The hardships faced

- The main hardship faced by the villagers is climate change, because of which fishes

began to disappear, leading to the decline of the fishing community.

### The efforts made

- The Province of West Flanders opened an interactive museum, which was further named as the Walraversijde Museum in 2000 including three medieval houses and a bakery or smokehouse.
- These late medieval buildings have been reconstructed with furniture, fittings and fixtures.
- Flemish artists were particularly productive during the 15th century, and their paintings have served as helpful guides during reconstruction.
- The museum displays artifacts which gives a sense of the medieval fishing industry and trade, as well as the risks the fishermen faced at sea, such as piracy, war and shipwrecks.

