

## **The Hippopotamus and the Tortoise:**

**Much of life can never be explained but only witnessed...**



**NAIROBI, KENYA: A baby hippopotamus that survived the tsunami waves on the Kenyan coast has formed a bond with a giant male century-old tortoise in an animal facility in the port city of Mombasa, Kenya.**

**The baby hippo, nicknamed Owen and weighing about 300 kilograms (650 pounds), was swept down the Sabaki River into the Indian Ocean, then forced back to shore when tsunami waves struck the Kenyan coast on December 26, 2004 before wildlife rangers rescued him.**



**"It is incredible. A century old male tortoise has adopted a less-than-a-year-old hippo and the tortoise seems to be very happy with being a 'mother'." reports ecologist Paula Kahumbu.**



**"After it was swept away and lost its mother, the hippo was traumatized. It had to look for something to be a surrogate mother. Fortunately, it landed on the tortoise and established a strong bond."**



**"The hippo is a young baby, he was left at a very tender age and by nature, hippos are social animals that like to stay with their mother for four years," she explained.**



**They swim, eat, and sleep together," the ecologist added. "The hippo follows the tortoise exactly the way it followed its mother.**

**If somebody approaches the tortoise, the hippo becomes aggressive, as if protecting its biological mother," Kahumbu added.**





**We could all learn a lesson from these two creatures. "Look beyond our differences and we will find a way to walk the path together."**

**Be kind to each other!  
Kindest regards...Donald Cooper.**