

## dogcatbird

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A dog, cat and a bird sat on a pier jutting  
out into the clear blue ocean waters.

At times they would argue about who  
the pier belonged to, at other times they  
were content to partake of  
the scraps of food laying on the pier.

One argument involved who had come  
to the pier first. The cat, always standing a little proud,  
boasted that it had come  
before either of the others, and that  
really the pier belonged to it. The other  
two only remained on the pier due to  
the cat's own good graces.

Often times the dog would bark and  
the bird would squawk, that this was not so.

"I and my ancestors were here first" the  
dog would say

"No mine were" the bird would interject.

"But, with respect, you both are wrong,  
for this has been mine and my ancestor's  
home long before either of you came to  
know of it" the cat would say, sometimes  
purring its words, sometimes growling  
them deep in its throat.

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The argument raged on and off until such a time that the dog fell silent, curled up and permitted the cat and bird to verbally wrestle on.

Over time the bird too fell silent, realising that there was no point in arguing. All three remained on the pier watching other animals climb on and off the pier, still the original three remained.

The cat, now unable to remain silent, since the dog and bird refused to argue – argued by itself. Often times it would scream at the fish in the sea, the planks of wood on the pier, the rope holding the pier together.

Long into the humid night the cat would continue its argument while the dog slept and the bird watched, curious at the cat's need for argument.

One day, when all three had eaten well of the produce on the pier, the cat too fell silent. It looked into the far distance, gazing out to sea, imagining it was alone.

The silent dog and the watchful bird looked at the cat, then at each other, shrugged, then looked on.

Gradually the cat turned, looked at its companions, and smiled a weak smile in the realisation that the pier was only the pier when all three were on it.

The cat sat, curled its tail around itself, content to be amongst friends.