



A TRIBUTE TO NATURE'S WINGED MASTERPIECES

Collated & Presented
by



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SHIMMERING BALLET DANCERS OF THE SKIES

Butterfly is one of the Earth's most inspiring creatures. Its sheer variety has always mesmerized us. Its mysteries ignited our imaginations since time immemorial. And no matter what, when one flutters by, interrupting our busy routine life, it always brings a smile to our face.

In variety.

In perfection.

The butterfly has no peer.

Something we seek in all our products.

So, could we call them anything less?



WHAT'S IN A NAME? THE BUTTERFLY STORY

They are the monarchs of the sky,
a whisper of a dream that flutters by.
Mystical beauty of legend and lore,
a canvas of colour, magic and more.

Let us fly together both as one
on silken wings that the Gods have spun.
Souls entwined on a journey
that has only just begun.



WINGS OF MAGIC, AWE AND MYSTERY

The Butterfly Farm, St. Maarten opened its doors to the public in 1994. Built by two English gentlemen Mr. William Slayter and Mr. John Coward, this farm sits on one of Caribbean's many islands. It houses some of the most exotic butterflies from South America, South East Asia, Philippines, Australia, China, Africa and Malaysia. Some of the favourites are the iridescent Blue Morpho, the Monarch and the Tree Nymph. What makes this farm unique is that tourists are taught to handle the butterflies. With bright clothing and citrus scents, butterflies land on visitors to take a sip. A truly magical experience that would go down in memory lane forever.

Mariposario de Benalmádena, Spain is the largest butterfly farm in Europe with over 1500 butterflies from across the globe fluttering freely in climate controlled perfection. A popular attraction for kids, as the farm takes you through the various stages of the butterfly. There also is a curio shop for you to take something back home apart from the fabulous memories of this mind-blowing farm.

These are just a handful of Butterfly Farms in the world. It's a start to your journey of discovery. For more try these farms around the world:

- Butterfly Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Bangalore, India
- Mariposario de Benalmádena, the largest Butterfly Park in Europe
- San Jose Butterfly Farm, San José, Costa Rica
- Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory, Niagara Falls, Ontario
- Bioworks Butterfly Garden, Museum of Science and Industry, Tampa, Florida



The Monarch Super
Butterfly has a lifespan
of 6-8 months



Butterflies, these beautiful winged creatures have inspired many a poet and writer. Children across the world have happily chased them around with awestruck eyes. With thousands of different varieties of butterflies, they put a smile on every face and add more charm to this beautiful world. Apart from looking brilliant in their vibrant colours, butterflies also live with a purpose - they play an integral part in the ecosystem. There is always a sense of awe that follows a Butterfly. Since time immemorial there have been many beliefs too around these fabulous insects.

A symbol of joy - Butterflies have been used by the Chinese and Japanese cultures for centuries as symbols of joy that hold the essence of happiness. Both cultures have added them to their manuscripts, paintings and drawings for centuries.

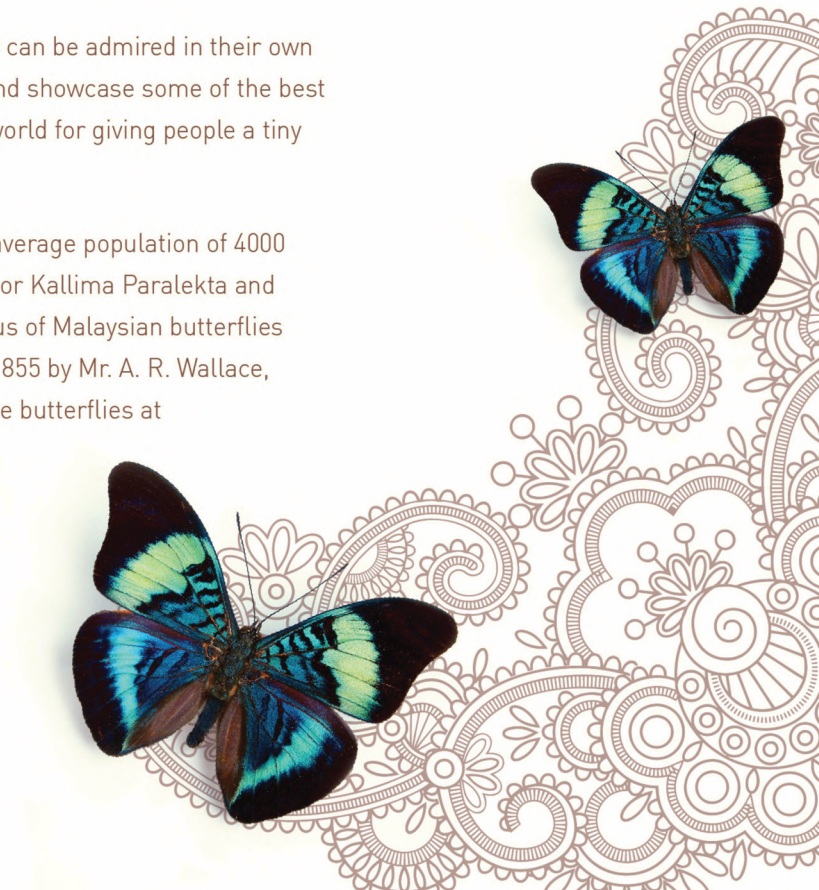
Colourful folklore - The Greeks believed that a new human soul was born each time an adult butterfly emerged from its cocoon. For some tribes in Mexico, the butterfly symbolizes the fertility of the Earth. The Aztecs believed that the content dead would take the form of beautiful butterflies, and visit their relatives to assure them that all was well. The Nagas of Manipur consider them to be ancestors who guide them through big decisions in life. And to the Russians, butterflies are their grandmothers or 'Babushka' watching over them.



THE GENIUS OF DESIGN AND BEAUTY

Butterfly farms or zoos are wondrous places where this magnificent species can be admired in their own natural habitats. Today these wonderlands house thousands of butterflies and showcase some of the best flowering plants in the world. They are huge tourist attractions all over the world for giving people a tiny peep into the mesmerizing world of the butterflies.

The Penang Butterfly Farm is the first ever tropical butterfly farm. With an average population of 4000 Malaysian butterflies of 120 different species, including the rare Indian Leaf or Kallima Paralekta and the endangered Yellow Birdwing or Troides Helena. Probably the most famous of Malaysian butterflies resident here is the Rajah Brooke's Birdwing. First discovered in Borneo in 1855 by Mr. A. R. Wallace, it was named after the first British Rajah of Sarawak. The visitors can see the butterflies at close quarters as they flit about their favourite nectar plants.

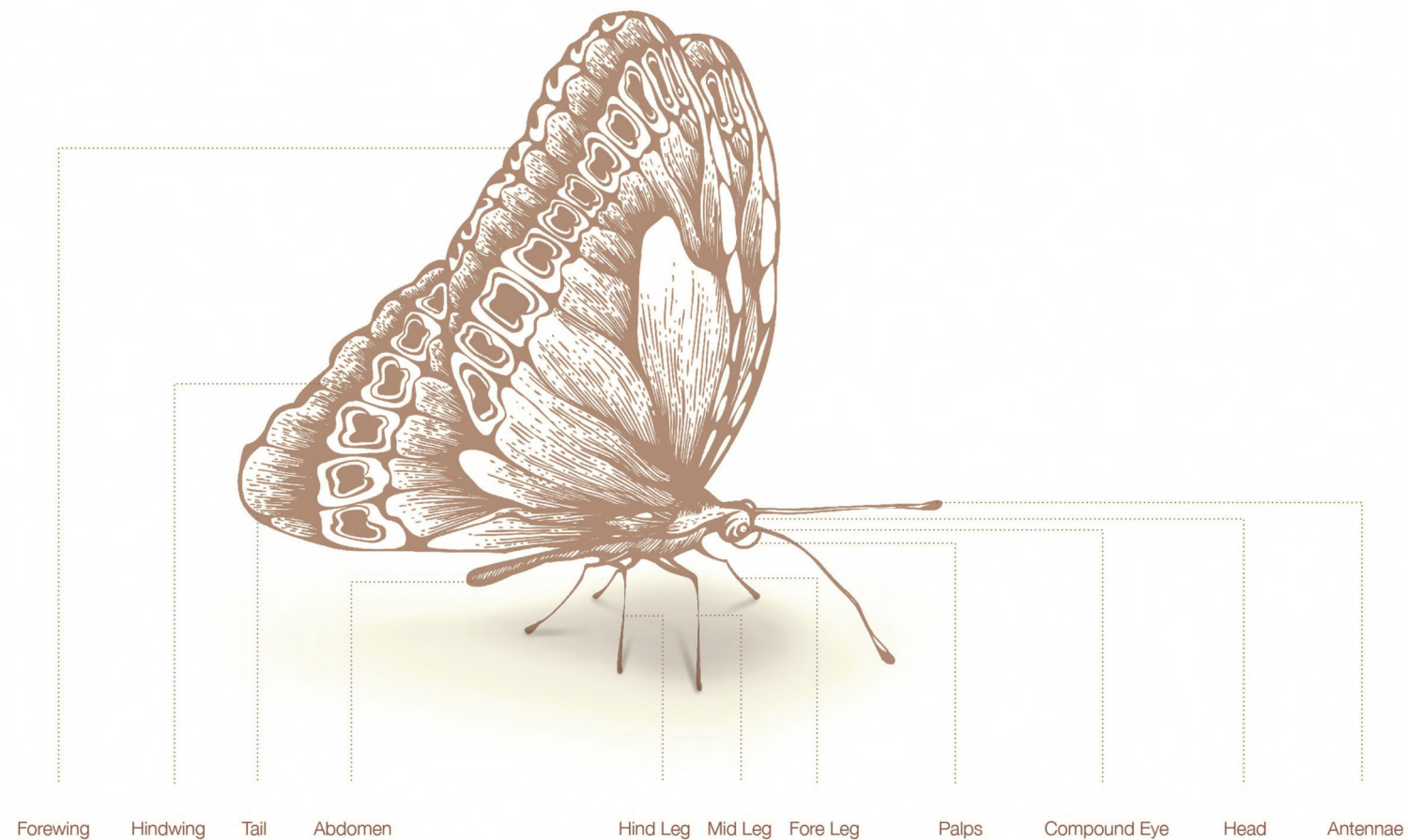


BUTTERFLY FARMS, MAGICAL WONDERLANDS

A butterfly is mostly known for its beautiful wings. A myriad of patterns and textures that beguile the mind and inspire the imagination. But it is not just their wings that are interesting. They have a lot of features that are unique to them.

Wings of surprises - They can only see green, red and yellow with their two compound eyes. They can also see polarized light - light reflected off the objects. The antenna of the butterfly acts as its nose. The butterfly has an unrollable tubular pipe like long tongue that helps it drink nectar from flowers.

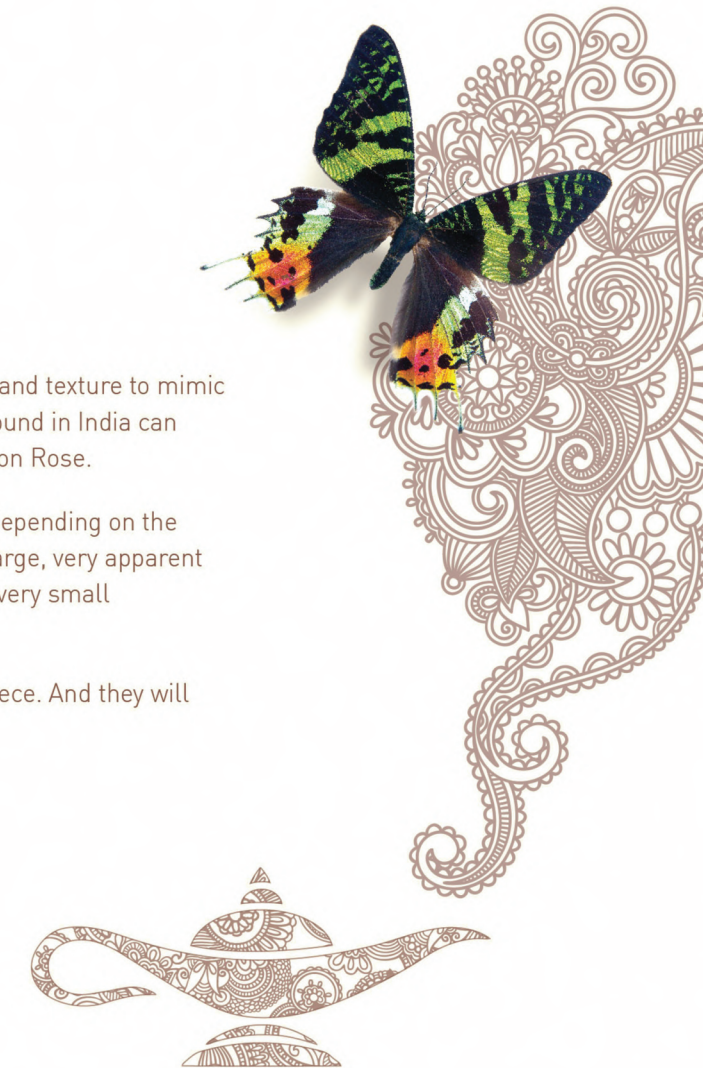




Copcats of the sky - Butterflies are experts in camouflage and can change its colour and texture to mimic another animal or even another species of butterfly. The Common Mormon butterfly found in India can imitate butterflies like the Red-bodied Swallowtails, the Common Rose and the Crimson Rose.

Masters of disguise - Butterflies can change the patterns and texture on their wings depending on the change in seasons too. *Bicyclus Anynana*, a species of butterfly found in Africa, have large, very apparent ventral eyespots during the wet season and during the dry-season transform to show very small ventral eyespots.

Enveloped in mystery and beauty these creatures are nature's ever changing masterpiece. And they will continue to amaze and baffle wherever their wings flutter to.



ENDLESS TRICKS AND TREATS

That's not all; a butterfly tastes with its feet and hears with its wings! Powerful receptors on the bottom of the legs help the butterfly to taste whatever it lands on. Their unique feet also help them choose the right food and also to decide on the right spots to lay eggs.

Scientist's Muse - Butterfly wings have fascinated scientists for decades. Made as four independent pieces, these wings allow butterflies to enjoy different styles of flying and they can change this mid flight depending on their need for speed and maneuverability.



A butterfly's sense of taste
is 200 times stronger
than that of humans!

THE MAKING OF NATURE'S MIRACLE

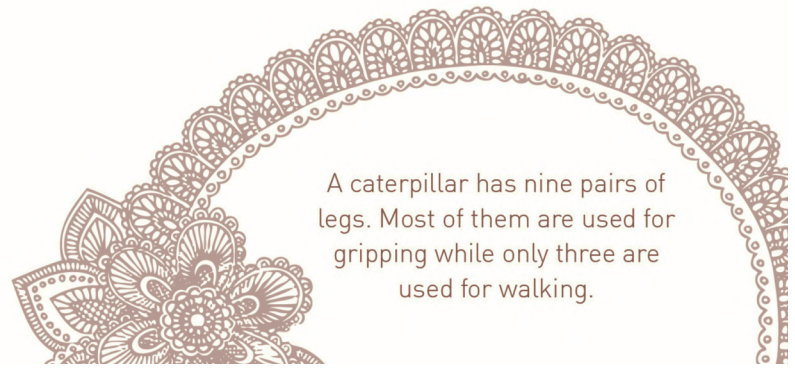
The **Giant Owl butterfly** falls under the genus *Caligo* and are commonly called Owl butterflies, named after their huge eyespots, which resemble owls' eyes. They are found in the rainforests of Mexico, Central and South America.

Queen Alexandra's Birdwing is the largest butterfly in the world, with a wingspan up to one foot. This tropical butterfly is from the rainforests of Northern Papua New Guinea.

The **Blue Morpho butterfly** is a beautiful specimen with wings that seem to radiate a lovely blue and green mix. Found in Central and South America, these rather large butterflies with a wingspan of nearly half a foot live for up to 137 days.

The **Peacock butterfly** gets its name from the large spots on its wings that resemble those found on peacock tails. Sporting purple and yellow spots on a background of brilliant red on their wings, this species of butterfly is known to charm flowery fields across Europe and Asia.

Designated in 1996 as the official state butterfly of Florida, the **Zebra Longwing** stands out with its distinctive thin yellow bands and slow, graceful flight. It has a wide range of habitats, including hardwood hammocks,



A caterpillar has nine pairs of legs. Most of them are used for gripping while only three are used for walking.



The Peacock butterfly



The Blue Morpho butterfly



Glasswing butterfly



Queen Alexandra's Birdwing



The Giant Owl butterfly



Leaf butterflies



Zebra Longwing

Butterflies are the most amazing examples of change. They live three very different lives that culminate together to create sheer beauty and elegance. They present us with the most fascinating journey of transformation.

Waiting to hatch - The life of a butterfly begins as an egg on the underside of a leaf. Each species of butterfly has its own host plant range, while some species of butterflies are restricted to just one type of plant. The egg takes a few weeks to hatch.

Hungry little critters - From these eggs emerge the ever hungry caterpillars. They eat up to 30 pounds of food a day and start to grow big. They start off as small as a pinhead and grow up to about an inch in length. As they grow, the caterpillars shed their skin to accommodate the weight gain.





Eggs



Caterpillar



Chrysalis



Butterfly

Scientists are yet counting the different varieties of butterflies in the world. Varied in colour, size and shape, some are small with wingspans of just 3 millimetres while others can be up to a foot long. Let us take a tiny peek at some of the most fascinating and unique types of butterflies.

Glasswing butterfly or the Greta Oto is a brush-footed butterfly with transparent wings. The tissue between the veins of its wings looks like glass. They are found throughout Central America and in Mexico.

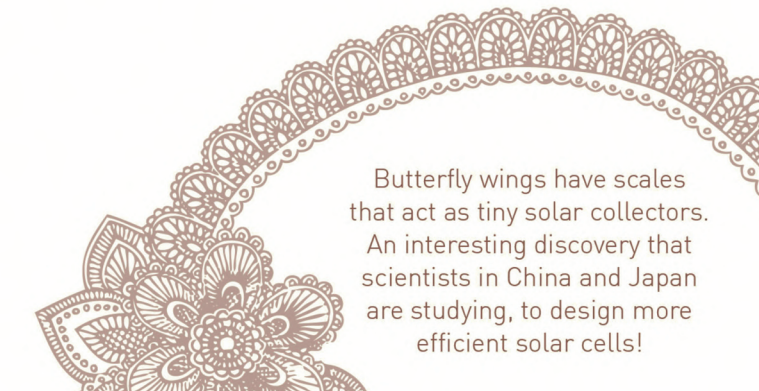
Leaf butterflies look brilliant when their wings lay flat – they come in all manner of colours and shapes. But when their wings fold up they look like leaves - sometimes green, sometimes brown, as if fallen and dead. They live in forested lush areas like New Guinea, Southern Asia, Madagascar and India.



A PALETTE OF COLOUR AND WONDER

Spinners of magic - The magical state of a butterfly's growth is the pupa stage! The fat caterpillars search the undersides of leaves to make their pupa. Once they find the right leaf they anchor themselves to the underside and spin a cocoon around themselves. During this stage the caterpillar transforms itself. This is a critical stage for the butterfly and takes a few days or even months depending on the species of butterfly. About a day before the adult butterfly emerges, the chrysalis of many species becomes transparent.

The final reveal - The next stage is nothing short of a miracle. The fat caterpillar transforms itself into an extraordinary beautiful winged butterfly. It tears out of its chrysalis and hangs on to it. The next few minutes are critical as the wings dry and blood is pumped into them. Some butterflies' wings may take up to three hours to dry while most take just about an hour. Soon enough it takes wing to the sky, dazzling the world with its magnificence.



Butterfly wings have scales that act as tiny solar collectors. An interesting discovery that scientists in China and Japan are studying, to design more efficient solar cells!

THE AMAZING FLIGHT OF THE MONARCH

Butterflies are also avid travelers. You may not think them to travel long distances being delicate and fragile creatures, but they do! One of the most famous butterfly migrations is that of the Monarch Butterfly. Forced by dropping temperatures that they cannot survive in and also a shortage of nectar supply – their prime food source; these butterflies fly nearly **three thousand kilometers** from Mexico to countries as far as Canada, USA and England. What makes the monarch even more fascinating is the fact that the journey takes three to four generations of Monarch Butterflies to complete!

Equipped with GPS - How do they find their way around? With special molecules in their brain that acts as a compass, latching on to the magnetic field of the Earth!

A family affair - The flight begins in February where the first generation Monarchs are born after a long and cold winter. They begin the long journey north from Mexico. These Monarchs have a lifespan of about 4-5 months. Since the time taken to reach their destination takes nearly a year to do, it takes 3-4 generations of Monarchs to make the trip to Canada, England and the US.

Return of the Monarch - The fourth generation of Monarch is a super butterfly with larger wings and powerful muscles. It is equipped with these for one purpose – survival. This super butterfly will make the trip back to Mexico, hibernate during the long winter and then wake up to lay eggs in February heralding a new generation that will start the process once again. A truly remarkable feat indeed!

