

## The Tale of Tecci

Several millennia ago there was a man (as the story goes-it could have been a woman) who wandered and explored the countryside of his world. A land with forests, deserts, mountains and lush meadows. Tecci enjoyed meandering and going wherever his whim took him, but his was missing something. He was not sure what it was but also did not worry about it.

After several years, he discovered a group of travellers. After the necessary introductions and mistrust of the new guy the group told him he could travel with them as long as he stayed at the back of the group and kept up with them. He agreed as the worst that could happen is he would be left behind and on his own again, nothing new. So, the next day Tecci and his new group of friends started wandering around the countryside at a surprisingly quick pace. After a few days of this pace, some of the group grew tired and started to slow down. As Tecci was told to stay at the back and didn't want to trouble the group leaders he slowed and traveled with the people who were tired.

Upon stopping for some rest, water and food, members told Tecci that this is the way of the group. The slow get left behind and are not to be seen again. They encouraged Tecci to go on as he was strong, but he wouldn't leave them behind. After they rested, they continued on with Tecci still in tow. After many hours they caught up with the main group, did all of the necessary things for the evening and went to sleep.

This pattern of events went on for several days. Tecci always stayed with the stragglers and assisted them to get back to the group. Then one day, something happened, Tecci didn't know what it was but something was different as the stragglers didn't catch up with the main group. Thus, they became their own group. Tecci insisted on staying in the rear of the group against the wishes of the group who wanted him to lead.

After several years, Tecci's group grew in numbers and ability. They didn't travel at the speed of the original group but no one was left behind. The leaders had learned to mark a trail so that others could follow and meet up at the end of the day.

The wilderness holds surprises. Tecci's group discovered a small band of mature travellers camped by a small lake. After the initial surprise wore off and the two groups realised that the campers were the original group that Tecci was with and his new group contained some family and family of friends who have gone. The campers were encouraged to join the group but declined as they had decided they no longer want to explore. After a few days Tecci and his group bid farewell to their past and moved on into the future.

One day Tecci fell ill and died. His group was very saddened by this event as he had always been there to assist those who needed it. The group moved on, over the next few days and one of them decided to follow and assist. The group gave him the name Tecci to honour the man who helped them over the years.

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Several millennia later, around the middle 1800s Tecci was still be honoured by groups of travellers. Some of these travellers were opening the West of the USA, some were exploring central Australia and beyond, some had a Tecci and some didn't (Bourke & Wills is a good example). Leaving trail markers is also noted in fairy tales, i.e, Hansel & Gretel.

The twentieth century arrives and for the first time, group travel becomes mechanised with the advent of the automobile and motorcycle. The use of trail markers becomes difficult as it would require stoppages along the way. Fortunately, Tecci's successors were an intelligent and considerate lot. They developed the corner marker system where a leading vehicle would stop at the corner and wait until Tecci showed up with his vehicle.

Tecci thought this was a good thing as only one vehicle needed to stop and the others could continue on their travel. Tecci knew he could stop and assist his fellow travellers and not get left behind or lost, just as the original Tecci would have done.

But, there is always a but, as in the original group Tecci was in so many millennia ago, some people still want to go at a faster pace and leave the slower travellers to their own situations. Tecci, of course, still stops and offers what assistance he can to the travellers, and, unfortunately, sometimes finds that the corner marker has failed to stay at his corner marking position until Tecci arrives.

So, what is the modern, twenty-first century, TEC (note the shorten name) to do? Well, for one, get the ride destination/s from the ride leader. A route map would be helpful, but not all rides are, or should be, that organised. A few common corner marker comments on why he left early are: 'I got tired of waiting.' 'You should ride faster.' 'Don't worry about the stranded biker, he will figure it out for himself.' The new TEC thinks not much has changed in the several millennia that have passed since Tecci found that group and stopped wandering and exploring his world by himself and assisting others when needed.

For the record.

A recent ride had a corner marker leave with not one, not two, but three fellow riders still to get to the corner. Since there was no corner marker there was no way for those following riders to know where to turn. So much for a group ride. The TEC can only travel as fast as the slowest bike. A concept foreign to the early leaver as he told the TEC when they finally met up 'You need to ride faster'. If a corner marker has to wait for a while, so be it. On the other hand, it gives that go fast corner marker the opportunity to catch up with those riders ahead of him.

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