

The Climate Bites

A Tale of a Warmer, Sicker World

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Dr Mithi was travelling by plane to her workplace (left). Meanwhile, the garden gossip continued between *Aedes* and *Anopheles* (right)

Buzzing Across Borders

A long flight cruises through the night sky. Inside, Dr Mithi, a scientist who studies mosquito-borne diseases, rubs her temples. She had been researching in a tropical country, but now she is returning to her workplace in Europe. Without realising it, she has a tiny stowaway — *Aedes*, a clever mosquito hiding in her luggage, ready to explore a whole new continent.

***Aedes* (grumbling):** Ugh, this ride is too dry! Where's the humidity? Where's the warmth? This place feels like hell compared to where I was!

The plane lands. It is Saturday morning at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam. Dr Mithi, feeling unwell and slightly feverish, brushes it off as mere jet lag. She collects her bags and heads for the countryside, hoping for some rest before returning to work — completely unaware that she is carrying an uninvited guest into a new world. Dr Mithi arrives at her beautiful countryside house, surrounded by a lush garden. As she steps inside, she sighs with relief, opens the windows to let in the fresh air, and sets her bags down.

***Aedes* (stretching its wings, buzzing excitedly):** Finally! Freedom!

With a dart, *Aedes* zips out of the window, into the garden, dancing through the air. It glides through the garden, hovering from one tree to another, pausing over dew-covered leaves and warm, sunlit patches below.

***Aedes* (grinning):** Ahhh... this is it! This is exactly the paradise I was looking for! Who knew a free plane ride would bring me to such a dreamland? Time to make myself at home! As *Aedes* explores its new territory, the adventure begins.

The Garden Gossip

In the humid countryside garden, *Aedes* stumbles upon "*Anopheles*," a seasoned, older mosquito, comfortably resting on a leaf. Unlike *Aedes*, who thrives in urban puddles and stagnant containers, *Anopheles* is a mosquito of history, having plagued humans with malaria for thousands of years. She is more patient, more methodical — an old-world expert in survival.

***Anopheles*:** Hey, what do we have here? You don't belong to this neighbourhood. What brings you here, traveller?

***Aedes*:** Oh, it's a long story. I was minding my own business when I hitched a ride with this human scientist. She looked unwell. Could be dengue... or chikungunya... hard to tell. Hahaaa (laughing).