

# **WATERFALL**

*A Colombian Legend*





Did you ever hear the story of how the Waterfalls of Tequendama came to be? It is a very old story, a legend.



*Waterfall*



There once was a green valley at the bottom  
of a mountain, a very long time ago.



*Waterfall*



At this time, this was not a happy place.  
People were not nice to each other.





The people in this valley had no houses, no warm clothes, and no pots to use for eating. The people in this valley did not know how to grow food and store it away for when there was no rain.





This was not a happy place.





One day, a wise old man with a long grey beard and a gold staff came down from the mountain to help the people in this valley. His name was Bochica.





He taught the people in this valley to be polite and to work with each other. He showed them how to build houses. He showed them how to weave cotton to make clothes.





Bochica taught the people in this valley to tend their crops and store their food. Now they would not go hungry when there was no rain and nothing grew.





This valley became a happy place. Bochica's work was done, and he went back to his home on the mountain. But that is not the end of this story.





Not long after Bochica left, Chibchacun, the god of the waters, decided to flood the valley. There was nothing left of the village.





Bochica, who still watched over and cared for the people in this valley, left his home, climbed onto a rainbow and tapped his gold staff on a rock.





Right away the water spilled over the rocks. That water became the Waterfalls of Tequendama.





The people of this place went back to their valley, and they began life again.





Because Chibchacun was mean to the people in this valley, Bochica made him carry the earth on his shoulder. During an earthquake, the people of this valley said that Chibchacun was moving the earth from one of his shoulders to the other.





That, my friends, is another legend.

