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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

Sounds of Silence
Ep 823

Premise by: Gregory Bonsignore

Premise: February 27th, 2017

SOUNDS OF SILENCE

Premise by Gregory Bonsignore

Logline: Applejack and Fluttershy are tasked with visiting The Kirin, a lost civilization of ponies known for honesty and kindness, who have been silent for years after mistakenly uttering something that hurt one of their feelings.

APPLEJACK and FLUTTERSHY have been summoned on a Friendship Quest. But when they arrive at Twilight's castle, they discover that their destination is far at the map's outer edge, a location they've never been to, or even heard of before. The duo turns to TWILIGHT for help, but even she doesn't have all the answers. The closest guess she can make is from an ancient book on pony civilizations that says a group known as the KIRIN once lived there, known for their kindness and honesty. *"That explains why we were picked for the job,"* Applejack observes, *"but not what kind of friendship problem they might have."* Twilight goes on – her book also describes another creature that lives there – the NIRIK, a fearsome beast of pure fire. Fluttershy would just as soon they don't encounter those.

After taking the Friendship Express as far as they can, Applejack and Fluttershy go deep into uncharted terrain. It's a little scary, and Applejack and Fluttershy are worried they might encounter a flaming NIRIK, especially when they hear hoofsteps approaching from all around. But a group of unicorn-like ponies step out, revealed to be the beautiful Kirin. Applejack and Fluttershy introduce themselves, but the Kirin don't say anything. Applejack wonders if they don't understand, but it's clear the Kirin do. Fluttershy manages to use charades to figure it out – the Kirin don't speak. *"Can't or don't?" "Both."* Applejack is flummoxed – how are they supposed to solve a friendship problem if none of them talk?! Fluttershy says she's sure they'll be able to figure things out, eventually. Applejack comically tries to get the Kirin to make one peep – asking questions, and finally sneezing with the hopes of a "gesundheit," but no luck. In frustration she asks if ANY of them speak! As one, the Kirin point to a forest path. Applejack says she's going to go check it out, while Fluttershy stays with the Kirin to learn what she can through non-verbal communication.

Applejack soon encounters STORM PETAL, a female Kirin, high on a mountain terrace. Applejack is relieved to finally find a Kirin that talks. But Storm remains silent. Applejack face-hooves, only to hear Storm chuckle – *"gotcha!"* Storm Petal is a garrulous, charismatic, teasing Kirin, full of fun and thrilled to talk to another pony. It's been ages! Applejack asks about that, and the Kirin shares in a song what happened to her civilization – *"it's kinda my fault."* See, years ago, one Kirin said something honest about not liking Storm's cooking. And it hurt Storm's feelings so much, she cried and ran off. Which made another Kirin tell the first Kirin they were being rude – soon the whole community was arguing with each other, saying hurtful things… And the whole village was destroyed! So as to never hurt one another again, the other Kirins all bathed in the Stream of Silence, which took away their voices so they'd never utter a cruel word again. *"I even made them an antidote so they could talk again, but they won't drink it,"* Storm says. Applejack thinks that's ridiculous. She leaves to go talk sense into the Kirin.

Fluttershy has “heard” the same tale as Applejack (through sign language, etc.) and is trying to convince the Kirin that they should talk again. *“I’m sure Storm Petal knows you didn’t mean what you said. Maybe if you apologize?”* Applejack barrels in – *“This is downright silly! Y’all can’t stop talkin’ cause of one mistake!”* Fluttershy tries to temper AJ, but Applejack tells her she’s being too soft. The Kirin look at each other in concern – Applejack has said something potentially hurtful! They grab her and hustle her off to the Stream of Silence! Fluttershy tries to stop them, but she’s bundled up too! Suddenly, a beast of fire leaps in their path and tells the Kirin to let her friends go. It’s a Nirik…That sounds an awful lot like Storm Petal?! Storm quenches her flames and explains – Nirik and Kirin are the same thing – only they’re incandescent with fire when they’re protecting their friends. *(“How do you think the village got destroyed way back when?”)* The other Kirin listen as Storm explains that she’s forgiven them for what they said. Fluttershy and Applejack join in, explaining that everypony makes mistakes. But they help each other with their failings – like the Kirins should. Obviously they care a lot about their friends if they turn into fire beasts to protect one another. The Kirins listen. Storm tells them that she’s sure their new Pony friends will show them how it’s done. “*And even if you DO say something that hurts my feelings again… At least I’ll get to talk with you again,”* Storm says, *“This is super lonely!”*

The Kirin agree it’s worth a try, and they take Storm’s antidote. But now what? It’s been a long time since they’ve spoken to each other. Fluttershy and Applejack share what they’ve learned from their own experience: Choose your words wisely and kindly, and apologize if you ever mistakenly hurt someone’s feelings. They demonstrate and the Kirin practice. Until: *“Your rear end is all lit up!”* Storm observes, then catches herself, *“Sorry, I mean…I couldn’t help but notice that your flank has a glow about it.”* Fluttershy and Applejack share a smile – their quest has come to an end.