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The Lion and the Mouse

Aesop


Once, when a lion was asleep, a little mouse began running up and down upon him. This soon awakened the lion. Angry at being disturbed, the lion placed his huge paw upon the little mouse and opened his big jaws to swallow him.

"Pardon, O King," cried the little mouse. "If you will let me go, I shall never forget your kindness. Who knows—I may be able to do you a good turn one day."

The lion was so amused at the idea of the mouse being able to help him that he lifted up his paw and let him go.

Some time later, the little mouse heard the lion roaring angrily. When he went to see what the trouble was, he found the lion caught in a hunter's net. Remembering his promise, the little mouse set to work nibbling at the ropes with his sharp teeth. And before long, the lion was able to crawl out of the net.

The moral of this story is that little friends may prove to be great friends.



The Ant and the Dove

Aesop

An ant was speeding along on its three pairs of legs when suddenly, it stopped.

"I'm thirsty," the ant said aloud.

"Why don't you get a drink of water from the brook?" cooed a dove perched in a nearby tree. "The brook is close by. Just be careful you don't fall in."

The ant sped to the brook and began to drink. But a sudden gust of wind blew the ant into the water.

"Help!" cried the ant, "I'm drowning!"

The dove knew it had to act quickly to save the ant. With its beak, the dove broke a twig from the tree. Then the dove flew over the brook and dropped the twig to the ant. The ant climbed onto the twig and floated safely ashore.

Not long afterward, the ant saw a hunter. He was setting a trap to catch the dove. The dove began to fly toward the trap.

The ant knew it had to act quickly to save the dove. So the ant opened its strong jaws and bit the bare ankle of the hunter.

"Ouch!" the hunter cried.

The dove heard the hunter and flew away to safety.

The moral of this story is that one good turn deserves another.

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