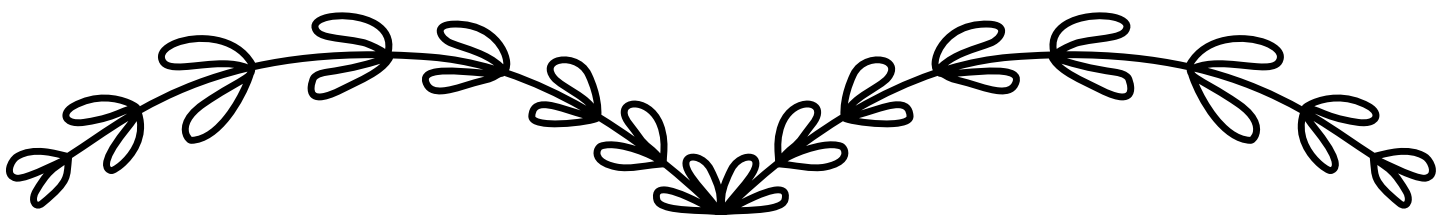




Aesop's Fables

Part 2



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The Tortoise and the Hare

One fine morning, a cheerful grey hare was hopping along when he spotted his friend, the tortoise, plodding patiently down the path. The hare couldn't help chuckling and called out, "How do you ever get anywhere at that speed?"



The tortoise paused, looked up, and calmly replied, "I get where I need to go, just not in a hurry. In fact, I bet I could beat you in a race."



The hare blinked in surprise and then burst into laughter at the idea. Still grinning, he said, "All right then, let's race." They asked their friend, the fox, to be the judge. The fox raised his paw and counted down, "Five, four, three, two, one, go!"

The hare dashed down the dusty dirt track, ears flying as he bounded and bounced between bushes. The tortoise moved slowly and steadily, his short, knobbly legs carrying him along beneath his heavy shell.

Before long, the hare was far ahead and couldn't even see the tortoise behind him.

Confident he would win easily, the hare decided to rest for a little while. He curled up in the cool, comfortable clover and closed his eyes, smiling to himself at how silly the tortoise was thinking he could win.



Meanwhile, the tortoise just kept going. Step by step, he moved past trees and stones, never stopping, never rushing. Eventually, he reached the spot where the hare was still fast asleep. The tortoise walked right by and kept moving towards the finish line.

By the time the hare opened his eyes, the tortoise was almost there. The hare leapt up and dashed forward as fast as he could, but it was too late. The tortoise crossed the finish line first and won the race.

And so the hare learned that sometimes, slow and steady steps succeed!

The Boy Who Cried Wolf



Once upon a time, there was a shepherd boy who looked after a flock of sheep on a hill near his village. Day after day, he sat quietly watching the sheep eat grass and wander around. He often felt bored and wished something exciting would happen.



One afternoon, the boy had an idea for a trick.

He ran down the hill and shouted loudly, "Wolf! Wolf! A wolf is chasing the sheep!"

The villagers grabbed their tools and quickly ran up the hill to help. But when they got there, there was no wolf at all.



The boy laughed mischievously. "I tricked you! There was no wolf!"

The villagers were not amused. "That's not a funny joke," they said. "Don't lie. We won't believe you next time."



But the very next day, the boy did it again.

He ran down the hill yelling, "Wolf! Wolf!"

The villagers came running once more, but again, there was no wolf. The boy laughed even harder.

The villagers were angry. “You can’t keep doing this,” they warned angrily. “One day, you’ll be in real trouble.”



Then, one evening, just as the sun was going down, a real wolf emerged from the woods. The boy jumped to his feet and watched in horror as the wolf ran towards the sheep.

He shouted as loudly as he could, “Wolf! Wolf! Please help! A real wolf is attacking the sheep!”



But this time, no one came. The villagers didn’t believe him.

The wolf chased the sheep in every direction. The boy tried to stop it, but he was too small, and the wolf was too strong. By the time the villagers finally came to check, the wolf had run off, and the field was empty. The sheep were gone.

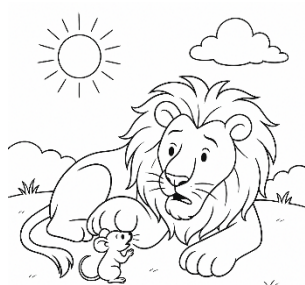
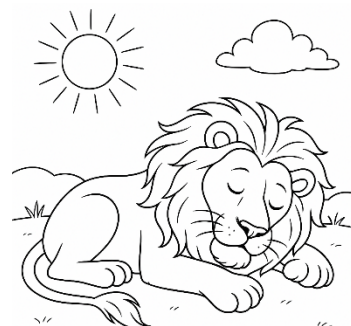


The boy sat on the hill, lonely and ashamed. No one had believed him when it mattered.

Moral: If you lie too many times, no one will believe you when you’re telling the truth.

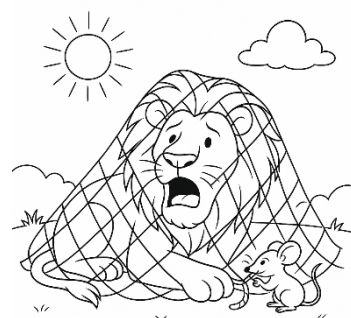
The Lion and the Mouse

One warm afternoon, a big lion was snoozing silently in the sunshine. His golden mane moved gently in the breeze, and his paws twitched softly as he dreamed.



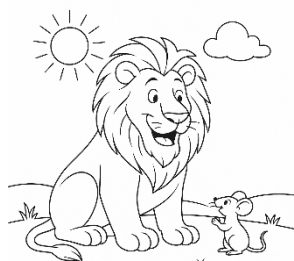
Suddenly, a tiny mouse came scurrying swiftly through the grass and ran right across the lion's nose. With a loud roar, the lion woke and trapped the little mouse under his huge paw.

The mouse shook with fear but begged the lion to let her go. She promised to help him one day. The lion laughed to himself, thinking she was far too small to be useful, but he decided to spare her. The mouse ran off, very thankful.



A few days later, the lion was caught in a hunter's net. He roared and struggled, but the ropes only pulled tighter around him.

Hearing his cries, the little mouse crept carefully through the grass. She remembered her promise and began nibbling neatly at the ropes with her sharp teeth. Bit by bit, she chewed until the lion was free.



The lion was surprised and grateful, realising that even the smallest creature can be a great helper.

Moral: Even the smallest friend can make a big difference.

The Dove and the Ant

One hot summer's day, a little ant was wandering wearily through the grass, looking for water. At last, she came to a river. The water looked cool and fresh.



She climbed onto a small rock to drink, but slipped and fell into the deep, dangerous river. The tiny ant struggled to stay afloat.

High above, in the branches of a tall tree, a kind dove was watching. She plucked a green leaf and dropped it gently into the water. The leaf floated freely towards the ant, who climbed on and drifted safely to the bank. The ant waved her little legs in thanks.



Later that day, a man with a big net came creeping carefully through the trees. He saw the dove resting on her branch and crept closer.

But the ant saw him. She remembered the dove's kindness and wanted to help. Quickly, she bit the man on the foot.

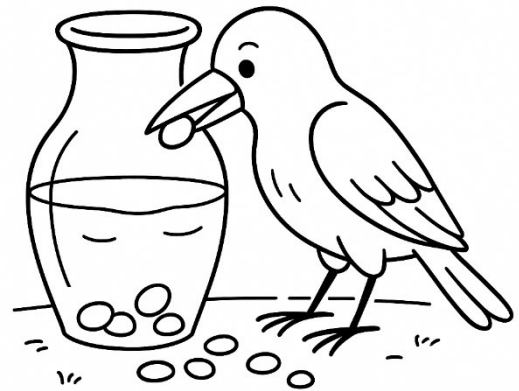


The man cried out and dropped the net. The dove heard the noise and flew away just in time.

The Crow and the Water Jar

One hot day, a thirsty crow flew through the countryside. He looked everywhere for water. At last, he saw a tall clay jar near a cottage. Inside the jar was some water, but it was too low for him to reach. The jar was too heavy to tip over.

The crow thought hard. Then he had an idea. He picked up little stones and dropped them into the jar. Plop. Plop. Plop. Slowly, the water rose higher and higher.



Finally, the crow could drink. He cawed happily and flew away refreshed.