

AESOP'S FABLES**RETOLD BY Paul Rogers****INDEX**

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1. The Crow and the Pitcher

A crow was flying all day. He was very hot.

"I am very thirsty," he said. "I wish I had a drink," said Mr. Crow.

He saw a well below him and decided to fly down and get a drink. So, he landed next to the well and, he saw a pitcher on the ground with water at the bottom.

The crow put his bill into the pitcher, but he could not get the water. He tried and tried, but he could not get any water from the pitcher.

"Maybe I can tip the pitcher over. Then I can get some," said Mr. Crow.

He put his feet on the pitcher. He tried to tip it over. He tried again and again.

But he could not tip it over.

"It's too big," he said. "I cannot do it."

Mr. Crow stopped to think. "How can I get any water?"

Then he saw a pile of pebbles.

"Now I know what to do," said Mr. Crow. "I know just what to do!"

He picked up a pebble with his bill. He dropped it into the pitcher.

"Kerr - Plop."

The water came up a little. So Mr. Crow picked up another pebble. He dropped this one in too. "Kerr-plop."

The water came up a little more. So he put in another stone, and still another.

Plop - kerrplop, , ploppity plop, kerb-plop."

The water came up more and more. At last he could reach it with his bill. The water was so good. He drank and drank and drank, till he could drink no more.

The moral of this story is: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

Vocabulary

Crow - cuervo

Pitcher- jarra

Was flying

- estaba volando

Wish - deseo

Well - pozo

Landed - aterrizo' Pitcher -jarra

Ground - tierra Bottom - fondo Bill - pico

Tried - trato' Tip...over - voltear Pile - pila (monto'n)

Pebbles - piedritas Picked up - escogo'

Dropped - puse At last - por fin Till - hasta Succeed - lograr

2. The Rabbit and the Turtle

A turtle was crawling along the road next to the lake, minding his own business. Then, along came a rabbit, hopping and jumping.

"Hey, there, Turtle," said the rabbit. "You sure move slowly. Don't you wish you could run as fast as I can?"

"Well, you move your way and I'll move mine," replied the turtle. "But, you know something?"

"What?" asked the rabbit.

" I think I can beat you in a race."

"Ha, ha, ha, and a ho, ho, ho, and a hee, hee, hee!!" laughed the rabbit. "Are you crazy? "You! Beat me in a race? Ha, ha, ho, ho, hee, hee."

"Oh, yeah?" said the turtle. "Well, let's race!"

"Alright!" exclaimed the rabbit. "From where to where do you wish this race to go?"

"Let's race from this little tree here in front of us to the big tree down by the river over there," said the turtle.

"OK," shouted the rabbit, "let's start when I count to three. One, two, three --- go!" said the rabbit.

And off they both went.

The rabbit ran as fast as he could for a little way, and then he looked back.

The turtle was not in sight.

"I will stop and eat some of these carrots by the side of the road here," said the rabbit. "That turtle is so slow that he can never catch up to me."

So he stopped and ate the carrots. Then he thought: "That slow poke is nowhere in sight, so I think I will lie down a while and take a nap."

So the rabbit lay down, and soon he was snoring away.

He woke up a little while later, and looked down the road. He did not see the turtle.

"Well, I think I'll get going now. Who knows where that rabbit is? He probably hasn't even gone ten feet! Ha, ha, ho, ho, hee, hee."

So he hopped, skipped, jumped, jogged, stopped to eat another carrot, and finally he made it to the end of the race where the big tree stood beside the river.

And what do you think he saw?

There, underneath the tree, snoring away was the turtle!

The moral of this story is: "Slow but steady wins the race."

VOCABULARY=

3. The Lazy Grasshoppers and the Industrious Ants

A nest of ants and a family of grasshoppers lived in the same field near a big woods. The ants were busy little creatures. They worked all summer cutting, carrying and storing grain for the winter.

The grasshoppers said to the ants, "You work too hard! Why don't you have some fun like like us?"

"Well, " replied the ants, "in the not too distant future the winter will come. If we do not gather our food now, we will have none later on."

"Oh, you exaggerate," laughed the ants. "The sun is so nice and warm and it's a great day to play!"

Then, of course the winter came. And it became very, very cold! The poor grasshoppers were freezing. And they were very hungry because all the grass was covered with snow and they could eat nothing else.

"Please give us some grain, dear ants," begged the grasshoppers.

"We do not have any extra," answered the ants.

"But we have none at all!" cried the grasshoppers.

"What were you doing all summer?" asked the ants. "Why did you not store away some grain then?"

"Oh, we could not! We danced and hopped and sang all summer long!"

"Then why not dance and hop and sing all winter, too?" answered the ants.

"How greedy ants are!" chirped the lazy grasshoppers.

"How lazy grasshoppers are!" thought the busy ants.

The moral of this story is: "Make hay while the sun shines."

4. The Lion and the Mouse

One summer day as a lion was sleeping in the hot sun, a little mouse ran across the lion's nose. The lion lifted up his eyes and saw the mouse as it ran one way and then another. Then the mouse ran across the lion's nose again. The lion reached out slowly with his paw and grabbed the mouse.

"Let me go, let me go!" cried the little mouse. "You don't want to eat me! I am just a little mouse and I'm skinny too. Listen, if you let me go, who knows, maybe someday I will ...save your life. Did you ever think of that?"

"Save my life?" laughed the lion. "So, you think that you could save my life some day? You must be crazy! But you are too little for me and way too skinny, so I will let you go...this time>"

"Thank you, lion, thank you. I promise I will repay you someday, " shouted the mouse as he ran away as fast as he could.

Soon after some hunters were hunting near the lion, and when they saw him sleeping, they threw a net over him and trapped him. "This lion will bring a good price," they said as they tied the net to a tree. Then they lit a fire to cook their dinner.

The little mouse returned to find out what all the noise and commotion was. He saw the lion and felt very bad. "Hey, Mr. Lion," he whispered to lion in his ear. "It's me, the little mouse that you didn't eat, remember me?"

"Oh, it's you. Go away, can't you see I'm in big trouble and I cannot get out. Don't bother me any more."

"Listen, Mr. Lion, I can set you free. Just hold still."

"Sure, sure," said the lion.

Then the little mouse began to chew on the rope. He gnawed and gnawed until the rope broke.

The lion saw that the net no longer held him, and he bounded free.

"Thanks, mouse," said the lion very gratefully.

The moral of this story is: "One good turn deserves another."

5. The Fox and the Grapes

A fox was running along one day looking for something to eat.

The he was a vine with some ripe grapes and one bunch in particular looked very juicy. So he gave one big leap up to try to grab the grapes, but he could not reach them.

So, he stepped back a little and jumped again, and once again he could not reach them.

So he stepped back further and tried again, with the same results.

One more time he stepped back even further, took a big breath, and ran as fast as he could and then jumped as high as he could. He almost reached the grapes - but not quite.

Too tired and too discouraged to try again, he said: "These grapes are probably sour anyway, so it's a good thing I didn't eat them."

This is where we get the expression, "sour grapes."

6. The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs

There was an old lady who had a nice little farm with cows, and chickens, ducks and geese.

One day the old lady found a golden egg underneath one of the geese.

"This goose is very special," she said. "I can sell this golden egg to pay for my new bed."

Then the next day the goose laid a golden egg, which the old lady sold for a new blanket.

Then the next day and the next.

After a while, the old lady was very rich.

But she was getting greedy.

"I know what I can do, " she said to herself. "I can kill the goose and get all the eggs at the same time, then I will be much richer."

so she killed the goose and cut it open. But inside she found ... nothing!

The moral of this story is - "Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg."

7. The Blind Man and the Lame Man

One day a blind man with a cane was walking along the road. When he came to a ditch in the road, he stopped to ask for help.

Just then a lame man came hobbling along on a crutch.

"Good friend," said the blind man, "will you help me along on this road? I am afraid to go alone."

"How can I help you?" asked the lame man. "I am lame and can hardly get along by myself. If my legs were as strong as yours, I would ask no favor of anyone."

"I have strong legs," answered the blind man, "but I cannot see."

"Oh, that's a different story," answered the lame man. "If you cannot see, it is too hard for you to get along."

"Yes it is," answered the blind man sadly.

"Let 's see if we can help each other," said the lame man. "Your legs are strong and my eyes are strong. If you will carry me on your back, I will see the way for you."

"Let's do it," said the blind man. Then away they went, the lame man on the blind man's back.

In this way they traveled very well and reached the end of their trip much more quickly than either could have done alone.

The moral of this story is - "Working together leads to success."

8. The Bee and the Dove

One day a bee was flying over a small pond and fell into the water. The bee got so wet that she could not fly out of the water.

A dove saw her fall. "I must help that bee," she said to herself.

She took a leaf in her beak and she dropped it into the water near the bee. The bee climbed up onto the leaf and floated to land.

A few days later, this dove was making a nest. She was flying here and there, getting leaves and hay.

A little boy was walking by, and when he saw the nest, he picked up a stone to throw at it.

The bee saw him and stung him on the hand, and he dropped the stone.

The moral of this story is - "One good turn deserves another."

9. The Wolf and the Dog

A very hungry wolf was out hunting for food when he met a dog. The dog was fat and looked as if he had plenty to eat.

"You are very lucky," said the wolf. "You have plenty to eat whereas I am half-starved."

"Well, come along with me," said the dog. "I invite you over to my place for dinner, where you can have anything you want to eat."

They approached a farm house, and the dog said, "At night I watch the house, and all day I eat or sleep in the yard."

"That's a pretty good deal," said the wolf. Then he noticed a strange mark on the neck of the dog. "What is that on your neck?" asked the wolf.

"Oh, I have to wear a chain when I do my job, and after all these years it has worn the hair off my neck."

"So you have to wear a chain, huh?" said the wolf.

"Oh, yes," said the dog. "My master chains me to my kennel all day, but at night I am free to go where I wish."

"Goodbye," said the wolf. "I don't think I will go with you. I may be hungry, but I am still free."

The moral of this story is - "Better free and thin than chained and fat."

10. The Boy Who Cried "Wolf"

There was a shepherd boy who became very bored with watching the sheep all day. So he decided to play a trick on the towns people.

He ran down the hill and into the town shouting, "wolf, wolf! A wolf is eating the sheep!"

The towns people ran up the hill, but found no wolf.

"Ha ha," laughed the boy. "I was just joking."

"You should not joke about something so serious as that," said the baker. So all the people returned to the town.

Well, a few days later, the shepherd boy was feeling bored again. "I think I'll play the same trick on everyone," he said to himself. Then he ran to the town, shouting, "Wolf, wolf."

"You're trying to trick us again," said the baker. And we won't fall for it this time."

"But really, this time there is a wolf, you must believe me!" said the boy.

"OK, " said the baker to the towns people, "maybe he's telling the truth. Let's go see if ther is a wolf up ther and chase it away if there is."

so all the townspeople went up to the hill and looked and looked, but could not find the wolf.

"Ha, ha, I tricked you again," laughed the boy.

The townspeople shook their heads. ""you're a foolish boy," said the baker. And down the hill they all went feeling very angry at the boy.

Well, not long after, the boy was watching the flock of sheep when along came a real wolf, a big wolf.

The boy was very frightened.

"Wo..wo..wo..wolf!!!" he cried loudly.

And down he ran to the town. Up and down the streets he ran shouting "wolf, wolf, wolf, a big wolf is eating my sheep, hurry!"

But nobody paid any attention to him. He ran to the baker's shop. "Please hurry," he begged, "this time it is a real wolf, I promise."

"Sorry," said the baker. "We just don't believe you anymore."

The moral of this story is - "Don't cry wolf."

11. The Proud Turtle

A turtle lived in a brook. All day long he sat on a log. He saw the ducks flying up in the sky. He wanted something new to do. He wished he could fly, too.

Soon some of the ducks came and swam in the brook, near the log on which the turtle sat.

"Can you teach me to fly?" he asked the ducks.

"No. You have no wings. You must stay in the brook."

"Sure you can," said the turtle. "If two of you take this stick in your bills, I can hold onto it in the middle, and then you can carry me between you."

So the ducks took the stick in their bills, and the turtle held on tightly with his mouth.

"Now, whatever you do, do not open your mouth," said the ducks. "If you do, you will fall to the ground."

"I won't open my mouth," said the turtle.

Away flew the ducks, high up into the air, carrying the turtle with them.

As they went over a town, some men looked up at the ducks and the turtle. One of them said, "Who was so smart to think of that?"

This made the turtle feel very proud. "I was," he said.

But when he opened his mouth to say it, he fell to the ground. And that was the end of the proud turtle.

The moral of this story is - "Pride comes before a fall."

12. The Cat and the Fox

Once when a fox was taking a walk in the forest, he met a cat.

"Do you know any tricks, Mrs. Cat?" asked the fox.

"Sure, I know a couple of tricks."

"Just a couple!" said the fox.

"Well, Mr. Fox, the tricks I know are very good ones," said the cat. "How many do you know?"

"I know hundreds and thousands of tricks. Why I know at least a hundred tricks to play on dogs. What would you do if the dogs came right now?" asked the fox.

"I only know of just one thing to do," replied the cat.

"Well, I'm sorry for you," said the fox. "I'll do you a favor and teach you some of my tricks."

"Hold on, Mr. Fox," said the cat. "I hear dogs barking. Here they come! Excuse me while I perform my only trick right now!"

As fast as could be, the cat ran up a tree. The dogs barked at her, but they could not reach her.

"Now let's see some of your tricks, Mr. Fox," said Mrs. Cat.

The fox tried many tricks, but he still could not get away from the dogs. They chased him and bit him.

The cat watched from the tree feeling sorry for the fox.

The moral of this story is -

"One good idea is all you need."

13. The Wind and the Sun

The wind and the sun were having an argument about who was stronger.

"I am stronger than you are," said the cold north wind.

"No you are not," answered the soft, warm sun.

"But I am."

"Indeed, but you are not."

"I will show you that I am stronger."

"No, I will show you that I am stronger."

Just then a man came walking along the highway.

"I can get that man's coat off his back," said the cold north wind.

"And I can get that man's coat off his back, too," answered the soft, warm sun.

"Try it," roared the cold north wind.

"You try it first," answered the soft, warm sun.

So the north wind blew a hard, cold blast. The man was nearly blown down.

The belt on his coat broke, but he held it close about him and struggled on.

Again, the north wind blew. But the man only stood still, holding his coat close until the blast was over.

"It is my turn now," said the sun. So he came out and shone down warmly upon the man.

"First it was cold, and now it is hot," said the man. "I must take off this coat. And here is a cool spot under this tree. I must sit down and rest. I will sleep, and this coat will be my pillow."

What the wind could not do with its harsh blasts, the sun did with its soft, warm rays.

The moral of this story is: There are many ways to accomplish the job.

14. The City Mouse and the Country Mouse

A city mouse was tired of the busy life he led, so he decided to go and visit his cousin who lived in the country on a large farm.

"So glad you came to visit," said the city mouse's cousin. "Let me get you something to eat."

Off they went to the chicken coop, where the two mice nibbled on the spilled corn from the chickens' feed.

"Cousin," said the city mouse, "is this all you eat? Why it's terrible! Let's go to my house so I can give you a big feast."

So off they went to the city mouse's house.

There the city mouse showed his cousin a table where there were cakes, cheeses, fruits, and nuts. Together they had a big feast.

After they both were full from eating such good food, the city mouse said, "Come with me, cousin, and let's take a nap in my room."

As they were running along the floor, they heard the "mee-ow" of a big cat, who saw them running, and started to chase them.

As fast as they could, they ran into the hole that led to city mouse's home.

"We're safe, now," the city mouse said.

"Safe? You call this safe? You may eat all the cakes and cheeses and fruits that you want, but I think I will go back to the country where I can eat corn and oats and grain in safety and security."

And off he went back to the country.

The moral of this story is - "Safe and sound wins the day."

15. The Fox and the Crow

One day a crow was flying around and he saw a piece of cheese on a table outside a house. He flew down and grabbed it and then took it to nearby tree so that he could eat it.

Pretty soon a fox came running along looking for something to eat.

"What do I smell?" said the fox to himself. "It smells like...it smells like some delicious cheese!" Then he looked around and about and then up in the tree and saw the crow with the piece of cheese.

"Oh, hello, Senorita Crow, how are you today? You look very well today, and so beautiful too. Your feathers sparkle in the sunlight."

The crow felt embarrassed but the flattery was working, and soon she was stretching out her feathers, showing them off.

"You look just like a famous movie actress, the one who sings so beautifully. Can you sing also?"

This time the flattery was working even better than before, and so the crow opened her mouth to sing, "Caw, caw, c-c-c-caw," when, of course the cheese dropped from her bill down to the ground, where the fox eagerly snatched it up and began to chew on the delicious piece of cheese.

"Oh, thank you, Senorita, for your beautiful song and also - ha, ha - for this wonderful piece of cheese."

The moral of this story is - "Flattery sometimes can fool anyone."

16. The Rooster and the Piece of Gold

"Come along," said the rooster to the hens one morning. "I am very hungry and so are you. Let us go to breakfast."

"Cluck, cluck! Where shall we go?" asked the hens.

'Over in the garden are some fat worms and bugs.'

So away they all ran to get the worms.

"Cluck, cluck!" cried the old mother hen. "See what I found."

"Cluck, cluck! Cluck, cluck!" cried the other hens, running to see.

"Cock-a-doodle-doo-oo!" called the old rooster as he went to look.

"Cluck, cluck! How it shines!" said the mother hen.

"It is a piece of gold! A piece of gold!" cried the other hens.

"So it is," said the rooster, "but it is of no use to us. I'd rather find a fat worm when I'm hungry than a whole bag of gold."

The moral of this story is: We all have different values.

17. The Fox and the Crab

A little crab said to his mother, "I would like to go across the field, up to that shining sand."

"Your place is here in the water," snapped the mother crab.

"But it looks so pleasant up there in the sun!" pleaded the little crab.

"A fox will catch you if you go on land," snapped the mother again.

"But I want to go," sulked the little crab, and off he went.

How nice and warm it was! How the sand shone in the sunlight!

"Oho!" said a fox, coming along just then. "Here is my breakfast all ready for me!"

Crack! Crack! went the crab's thin shell. Soon there was no crab at all.

But there was a fox with a nice breakfast just eaten.

The moral of this story is: Listen to good advice.

18. The Stag at the Lake

One hot day, a stag came to a lake to drink.

The water was so clear that he could see himself in it.

"Oh, what beautiful antlers I have!" he cried. "How strong and how graceful they are! And they spread out like the branches of a tree! But what homely legs I have! So long and so thin!"

Just then the stag heard the horn of the hunters.

**Away flew the stag. How swiftly his long legs carried him!
But the beautiful antlers got caught in a tree. And before he could get them free,
the hunters caught up with him.
"These miserable antlers!" cried he, as the hunters shot him. "I was so proud of
them, but they have been the death of me."**

The moral of this story is: Things can change.