



LESSON-19

Animals Stories

NOTES:

Summary:

About the Author

Aesop's Fables, or the Aesopica, is a collection of fables credited to Aesop, a slave and storyteller believed to have lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 564 BCE. Of diverse origins, the stories associated with his name have descended to modern times through a number of sources and continue to be reinterpreted in different verbal registers and in popular as well as artistic media. The fables originally belonged to the oral tradition and were not collected for some three centuries after Aesop's death.

Initially the fables were addressed to adults and covered religious, social and political themes. They were also put to use as ethical guides and from the Renaissance onwards were particularly used for the education of children. Their ethical dimension was reinforced in the adult world through depiction in sculpture, painting and other illustrative means, as well as adaptation to drama and song. In addition, there have been reinterpretations of the meaning of fables and changes in emphasis over time.

The Eagle and the Beetle

An Eagle was chasing a hare, which was running for dear life and was at her wits' end to know where to turn for help. Presently she espied a Beetle, and begged it to aid her. So when the Eagle came up the Beetle warned her not to touch the hare, which was under its protection. But the Eagle never noticed the Beetle because it was so small, seized the hare and ate her up. The Beetle never forgot this, and used to keep an eye on the Eagle's nest, and whenever the Eagle laid an egg it climbed up and rolled it out of the nest and broke it. At last

the Eagle got so worried over the loss of her eggs that she went up to Jupiter, who is the special protector of Eagles, and begged him to give her a safe place to nest in: so he let her lay her eggs in his lap. But the Beetle noticed this and made a ball of dirt the size of an Eagle's egg, and flew up and deposited it in Jupiter's lap. When Jupiter saw the dirt, he stood up to shake it out of his robe, and, forgetting about the eggs, he shook them out too, and they were broken just as before. Ever since then, they say, Eagles never lay their eggs at the season when Beetles are about.

- The weak will sometimes find ways to avenge an insult, even upon the strong.

About the Author

Tolstoy is a Russian author who was born in 1828 into a Russian aristocratic family. He enlisted in the army and served in the Caucasus, experiences he used for several short stories. Tolstoy married Sophia Behrs and devoted his time to writing in his estate at Yasnaya Polyana, Russia.

THE LION AND THE DOG.

Wild animals were on display in London where admission was paid in money or in dogs and cats that would be fed to the wild animals. One man wanted to see the animals, so he snatched up a dog off the street and brought it to the menagerie. They let him in, but the dog was taken and thrown into the lion's cage to be eaten. The little dog tucked its tail between its legs and nestled up to the corner of the cage. The lion walked up to it and sniffed it. The little dog lay on its back, raised its paws, and started to wag its tail. The lion touched it with its paw and turned it over. The little dog leapt up and stood before the lion on its hind legs. The lion looked at the little dog, turned its head from side to side, and did not touch it. When the keeper threw the lion some meat, the lion tore off a piece and left it for the dog. In the evening, when the lion lay down to sleep, the dog lay next to him and placed its head on the lion's paw. From that day on, the dog lived in the same cage with the lion. The lion did not touch the dog; it ate food, slept alongside it, and sometimes played with it. One day a

nobleman came to the menagerie and recognized his dog. He said that the dog was his and asked the keeper to give it back to him. The keeper wanted to give it back, but as soon as they started to call the dog to take it from the cage, the lion raised its hackles and growled. Thus the lion and the dog lived a whole year in the same cage. In a year the dog grew sick and died. The lion stopped eating, but would sniff and lick the dog, and touch it with its paw. When it understood that the dog had died, it suddenly jumped up, raised its hackles, began to whip its flanks with its tail, flung itself against the wall of the cage, and began to gnaw at the bars and floor. The whole day he thrashed about and dashed around the cage and roared. Then he lay near the dead dog and grew silent. The keeper wanted to remove the dead dog, but the lion would not let anyone near it. The keeper thought that the lion would forget its grief if it was given another dog, and he let a live dog into the cage; but the lion instantly tore it to pieces. Then he folded the dead dog in his paws and laid that way for five days. On the sixth day the lion died.

Glossary:-

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| Compassion | : love and kindness |
| Intercession | : mediation |
| Talons | : hook claws or fingers |
| Audacious | : bold and daring |
| Impiety | : lack of piety |
| Tucked | : drew |
| Crouched | : stood |
| Sniffed | : smelled |
| Nudged | : pushed gently |
| Gnawed | : bit persistently |