

1. Dream Comes True.

Once, poor Bhiku went to Bansi Lal's shop. Bansi Lal asked Bhiku, "Why are you standing here like this?"

Bhiku said, "Last night I saw a dream."

"What was the dream?" Bansi Lal asked smiling.

"I saw that I would get gold here, in front of your shop," Bhiku replied seriously.

Bansi Lal laughed and said, "You fool, dreams never come true. If dreams came true then I'll tell you what I saw in my dream. In my dream I saw that there is gold underground in your courtyard."

Bhiku rushed back. On the way he kept thinking, "May be dreams do come true." He reached home and started digging in his courtyard. Suddenly his shovel struck a pot. He took out the pot. It was filled with gold coins. Bhiku happily said, "Thanks to Bansi Lal who teased me about my dreams. Now I am no longer a poor man."

Thus it is true that courage and patience can make dreams come true.

2. A FOX AND A CRANE

Once a fox and a crane became friends. So, the fox invited the crane to dinner. The crane accepted the invitation and reached the fox's place at sunset.

The fox had prepared soup for his mate. But as we all know that foxes are cunning by nature, he served the soup in flat dishes. So, he himself lapped the crane's share with his tongue enjoying its relish a lot. But the crane could not enjoy it at all with his long beak and had to get back home hungry. The shrewd fox felt extremely amused.

After few days, the crane invited the fox to dine in with him. The fox reached his place well in time.

The crane gave him a warm welcome and served the soup in a jug with a long and narrow neck.

So, the crane enjoyed the soup with great relish using his long beak. The fox's mouth couldn't reach the soup through the narrow neck of the jug. He had to return home hungry. Now he realized that he had been repaid for his behaviour with the crane.

3. Justice

Once, a cruel man killed a rich merchant. After the killing, as he was trying to escape from the dead merchant's house, he was seen by the dead merchant's family members. They started shouting and soon a huge crowd started chasing the murderer. While running, the murderer found some ruins and hid in it all night. Next morning as he got out of the ruins, someone recognised him and he was chased once again. So the murderer ran and soon left the city.

Soon he reached a river. Suddenly a wolf came to attack him. Hence the murderer climbed up a tree. A while later he heard the rustle of leaves. He turned to see a large cobra in the branches of the tree. It approached the murderer and was about to strike him. To save himself, the murderer jumped into the river. The crocodiles of the river tore his body to pieces.

So it's true that nature always serves justice. The murderer had ended someone's life, so nature ended his life.

4. Never Blame God. :

Once, there was a large forest. A variety of trees and plants grew there. There were oak, apple, mango, neem and peepal trees. Among them, there was one tree which had a crooked trunk. Its branches were also crooked and grew haywire. It had no colourful flowers or juicy fruits and its leaves were dull and limp. The other trees used to tease him, "Hello, you ugly fellow, how do you feel today?"

The poor tree would think, "Why did God make me ugly? Why can't I be like the other healthy trees?"

One day, a woodcutter came to the forest. He said, "What a crooked and ugly tree. It's no use for me. Let me cut down the trunks of these straight trees."

So, all the trees were cut down other than the crooked tree. Then the crooked tree thought, "I now feel that whatever God does, he has a reason behind it. We must not blame God for all troubles. My ugliness saved my life after all."

5. Tit For Tat:

A river flowed through a forest. Once, a hungry lion came to quench his thirst at the river. As he was drinking water, he spotted a donkey drinking water on the other bank. The lion thought, "Donkeys are fools. I must do something to catch this foolish animal for lunch."

So the lion called out, "Mr. Donkey, are there any jackals on your side of the river bank? I feel like hearing their song."

"No sir, jackals cannot sing any better than me. Let me sing for you," the foolish donkey said. He lifted his head up to the sky, closed his eyes and started braying. The lion crossed over a bridge and caught the donkey when he was braying.

But the donkey was clever. He said, "Oh! Do you want to eat me? I don't mind, but I have heard that good lions pray to God before the lunch."

"Yes, yes, I must pray before lunch," said the lion and closed his eyes to pray. The donkey kicked the lion hard and ran away.

The lion had been paid through the same plan he himself had made.

6. God is Merciful. :

A king had a large orchard. He had got a variety of fruit trees planted there. He employed a skilled gardener to take care of the fruit trees.

Each day, the gardener would pick the ripe and juicy fruits from the various trees and gather them in a basket. Every morning when the royal court was in session, the gardener would go and give the fruits to the king.

One day, the gardener collected some cherries and took them for the king. The king was in a bad mood. When he picked a cherry to taste, it was sour. So he went out in his anger to the gardener. In anger, he threw a cherry at the gardener. It hit him on the forehead but the gardener said, "God is merciful!"

The king enquired, "You must be hurt and angry but you say God is merciful. Why?"

The gardener said, "Your Majesty, I was going to bring pineapples for you today. But I changed my mind. If you had thrown a pineapple at me, I would have been badly hurt. God was merciful for having changed my mind."

7. HARD WORK ALWAYS PAYS

Once two friends called Harry and Garry came to a city to earn money. They went to a rich merchant for a job. The merchant gave each of them a cane basket and pointing towards a well in his garden said, "Take these baskets and draw water from the well till dusk."

Harry thought it foolish to draw water in a cane basket. So, he slept. On the other hand, Garry kept working. After few hours, when he drew the basket up, he saw some gold coins in the basket.

He took them to the merchant who rewarded him and gave him a job too. Harry went away ashamed.

8. Fruits of Labour:

Once, a group of fishermen went out to sea. Their leader was an old, intelligent and wise fisherman. He always guided them well.

At sea the fishermen spread their large net in water. When they pulled out the net, it was empty. This happened about two or three times and the fishermen lost heart, but their leader advised them to keep trying.

Once again, the fishermen threw in the net. It felt heavy when they pulled it out. But some small fish, logs from wreckage and seaweeds were all that it had. They were about to sink the net back into water but the old fisherman said, "Pull out the net and empty it in the boat. Throw the empty net and try once again."

When the fishermen emptied the net in the boat, they found a box in it. It had gold coins and gems in it. The leader divided it equally among all the fishermen and everyone went home happily. It is truly said that one must not leave any work unfinished if one wants to enjoy the fruits of labour.

9. God and Man:

God created animals. Some animals could run very fast. To some, he gave unusual size and strength. He made some flying creatures and we call them the birds. These birds could fly from one place to another in search of food. Some animals became crawlers while others were given the power to become excellent swimmers.

God created man at the end of his creations. He made him strong enough to take care of himself and the animals around him. But man asked God, "God, you have given various powers to other creatures. But I have no special powers or quality like them. Why are you partial to me?"

God smiled and said, "Oh! Man, the power I have given you is the most precious of all. It is the power of speech. You are using this power right now to express your wish to me. No other creature has this power. What more do you want me to give you?"

Man realized that speech was indeed the greatest gift of God to man. He understood that we should be happy with what we have and not be sad for what we do not have.

10.The donkey

An old man, a boy and a donkey were going to town. The boy rode on the donkey and the old man walked. As they went along, they passed some people who remarked it was a shame the old man was walking and the boy was riding. The man and boy thought maybe the critics were right, so they changed positions.

Then, later, they passed some people who remarked, "What a shame, he makes that little boy walk." So they then decided they'd both walk!

Soon they passed some more people who thought they were stupid to walk when they had a decent donkey to ride. So, they both rode the donkey. Now they passed some people who shamed them by saying how awful to put such a load on a poor donkey.

The boy and man figured they were probably right, so they decided to carry the donkey. As they crossed the bridge, they lost their grip on the animal and he fell into the river and drowned.

The moral of the story? If you try to please everyone, you might as well... Kiss your "donkey" goodbye! And even this ending won't please everyone.

11.Do Not Change The World. :

Once upon a time, there was a king who ruled a prosperous country. One day, he went for a trip to some distant areas of his country. When he was back to his palace, he complained that his feet were very painful, because it was the first time that he went on such a long trip, and the road that he went through was very rough and stony. He then ordered his people to cover every road of the entire country with leather.

Definitely, this would need thousands of cows' skin, and would cost a huge amount of money.

Then one of his wise servants dared himself to tell the king, "Why do you have to spend that unnecessary" amount of money? Why don't you just cut a little piece of leather to cover your feet?"

The king was surprised, but he later agreed to his suggestion, to make a "shoe" for himself.

There is actually a valuable lesson of life in this story: to make this world a happy place to live, you better change yourself - your heart; and not the world.

12.A Good Boy:

An old woman wanted to cross a road. She was weak. Therefore she wanted help. She waited long. She waited alone.

She saw a large number of school boys. They were laughing and talking. They were going home. So they were happy. They looked at the old woman. They did not help her. They walked on.

But one boy went to the old woman. He said to her, "Mother! Do you want to cross the road? I will help you. I will take you to the other side."

The boy helped the old woman. He led her across the road. He did a good deed. He was happy. He said, "I helped somebody's mother. So, somebody will help my mother in her old age."

"Dear God! Be kind to this good boy," said the old woman in her prayer.

13. Timidity .

Rabbits are among the most timid of animals.

The rabbits of a colony once had a meeting to discuss this trait of theirs.

They came to the conclusion that as their fear would never leave them, they were doomed to a miserable existence and it would be better to drown themselves and end their misery once and for all. Accordingly, they began to move towards a large lake.

When the frogs in the lake saw the large number of rabbits approaching, they were filled with fear and made for the deepest part of the lake.

Seeing this, the leader of the rabbits stopped and said to his fellow-creatures: "It is true we are timid, but here are animals more timid than ourselves. There is hope for us yet. Let us go back to our homes." And that is what they did.

Moral: Just as we are afraid of others, others are afraid of us.

14. The trouble tree

The carpenter I hired to help me restore an old farmhouse had just finished a rough first day on the job. A flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit and now his ancient pickup truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. Upon opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His tan face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier. "Oh, that's my trouble tree", he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing for sure, troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning I pick them up again." "Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

15. Fox in Cart .

A fox, observing a fish cart coming, lay down and pretended to be dead.

The cart man, tempted by the idea of making some money by selling the fox's fur, picked up the animal by its tail and flung it into the back of the cart among the fish.

Then he resumed his journey. The fox ate his fill of the fish and jumped out of the cart.

A wolf saw him jumping out and asked him what he had been doing in it. The fox told him and also how he had got into it in the first place.

The wolf ran ahead of the cart and lay down in its path, pretending to be dead.

The cart man was delighted to find another animal to sell, but he found the animal too heavy to lift.

So he pushed it into a sack, tied the sack to his cart and dragged it away.

Moral: What works for one may not work for another.

16. Foxy Rooster

A fox sneaked into a farm and grabbed a rooster.

The farmer saw him and raised the alarm and he and his dogs started chasing the thief.

The fox, though he was holding the rooster in his mouth, was running very fast.

"Get him! Get him!" shouted the farmer to his dogs.

"No!" suddenly screamed the rooster. "Don't come near me!"

"My master was very cruel to me," explained the rooster to the fox. "Tell him to stay away from me." The fox was delighted. "He wants you to stay away from him!" he shouted at the farmer, in the process releasing his hold on the rooster.

The rooster flew up into a tree and stayed there till he was rescued by his master.

Moral: Think twice before you open your mouth to speak.

17. The pencil's tale

An old pencil maker took his newest pencil aside, just before he was about to pack him into a box. Imagining the little fellow as a person he recalled a few things about the pencil.

"There are five things you need to know," he said to his pencil, "before I send you out into the world. Always remember these five things - never forget them - and you will become the best pencil you can be!

"The first thing is to remember that you will be able to do many great things, but only if you put yourself in someone else's hands.

"From time to time you will experience a painful sharpening, but remember that this will make you a better pencil.

"Also, keep in mind that you will be able to correct any mistakes you might make along the way.

"And the most important part of you is what's on the inside.

"And remember this, as well, upon every surface that you are used, you must leave your mark. No matter what else happens, you must continue to write."

It seemed the pencil listened to him and promised he would remember these five things so that he could live his life with heart and purpose.

18. The Eagle and The Crow:

A crow saw an eagle drop down from the sky on to a lamb, caught it with its claws and flew straight back with it to its nest.

The crow thought he would like to do the same.

But the lamb was much too heavy for him and what was worse. The crow's little claws got caught in the lamb's thick fur, so the bird was trapped there.

The shepherd saw the crow, caught it and put it in a cage.

So, the one who thought to imitate an eagle ended up being laughed at by everyone.

Moral: Think before you act.

19. The Cunning Wolf:

Once, a hungry wolf searched for food all over the forest. He soon reached the edge of the forest. There was a river flowing. As the wolf was walking around, he heard a strange sound. He strained his ear to hear well. He heard a lamb's bleating. The wolf's heart filled with hope that may be he could have a lamb for lunch and drink the sweet water from the river later.

Soon he spotted a lamb grazing on a small sloping hill. But when the wolf tried to climb the hill, he slipped and fell. Then the wolf said to the lamb, "What are you doing on this high hill? You will fall in to the deep valley. Get down here to the field to graze the green grass. You can drink the sweet cool stream water too."

But the clever lamb knew about the wolf's nature. So he called back, "No, Mr. Wolf, I am alright here. There is enough grass for me on the hill.

The wolf went away with a heavy heart. He realized that cleverness was mightier than cunningness.

20. The seven wonders of the world

A group of American school children were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders Of The World." Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. Great Wall of China

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The little girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there are so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the "Seven Wonders Of The World" are:

1. To see
2. To hear
3. To touch
4. To taste
5. To feel
6. To laugh
7. To love

The room was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous. A gentle reminder - that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

21. The Clever Mouse:

A small mouse was feeling mischievous. He was in a jolly mood. He jumped around everywhere. Just then, he saw a big bull sleeping under a tree. The bull looked huge and had sharp and long horns. His large nostrils were open closing with every breath he took in and let out.

The mouse saw the bull breathing. He heard the loud snorts that were coming from his nostrils. The mouse went to the bull and shut his nostrils. The bull was woken up when he could not breathe. He got up and saw the mouse running away. The bull was very angry. He thought of teaching a lesson to the mouse. He chased the mouse to punish him.

The tiny mouse was quick on his feet. He ran fast even as the huge bull chased him. Then the mouse ran into a hole in a wall. The bull crashed his head into the wall and started bleeding. The wall crashed from a side but still the mouse did not emerge from the hole.

The bull understood that, one must not think that a small enemy is weak. Strength and size is not the winner all the time.

22.A very special bank account

Imagine there is a bank which credits your account each morning with £86,400, carries over no balance from day to day, allows you to keep no cash balance, and every evening cancels whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every pound, of course!

Well, everyone has such a bank. Its name is Time. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the records of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow". Therefore, there is never not enough time or too much time. Time management is decided by us alone and nobody else. It is never the case of us not having enough time to do things, but the case of whether we want to do it.

23.Sweet Truth:

It was the lion king's birthday. All the birds and animals dressed themselves as best as they could. Then with gifts, they all left for the king's den. At the den, all the arrangements had been made. The king had invited all the animals and birds for a grand party. All were present there for they did not want to offend the lion. At the fixed time the cake was cut. Then everyone sang the birthday song and enjoyed the feast.

After the party, the lion noticed that all had come except the donkey. Then he thought, may be some urgent work had stopped him. The next day when the lion met the donkey, he asked him about it. The donkey replied, "Oh! I don't like attending parties. There is no place like home. So I stayed home and relaxed."

The donkey had told the truth but in an insulting way. In anger the lion banished the donkey from the jungle. Since then the donkey has lived with men and carried their loads because he could not speak the truth sweetly.

24. Pride Takes A Fall. :

On a roadside stood a tall and big banyan tree. It was a home to many squirrels and birds. Just by its side stood the green leafy mango tree. It bore sweet, juicy mangoes. Many people would rest under the shady tree and enjoy its sweet fruits too. No one ever paid much attention to the old banyan tree.

The mango tree had grown proud of its appearance. One day it said to the banyan tree, "See how important I am. Everyone eyes me with greedy looks. People like my tasty fruits. No one asks for you because I am the best!"

"Don't feel so proud," the banyan tree said. "It's just the law of nature. Every tree has its own place in the nature."

Next day the king's soldiers came and picked all the mangoes of the mango tree. They picked them so roughly that they broke many branches and leaves too. After they left, the mango tree looked ugly and was in pain. The banyan tree said, "See how your proud beauty has ruined you, while I am standing here safe and sound."

25. Patience Pays:

Once, a king had announced that anyone who wanted the post of personal assistant must meet him. Many people gathered in the palace. The king led them to a pond and said, "Whoever will fill this pond's water in this pot will be chosen for the post. But remember, there is a hole in the pot."

So some people left without a single try. While some people tried for once and then said, "The king has already chosen someone else. Let's go."

But one man kept filling the pot with pond water patiently. He filled the water in the pot from the pond and came out on the ground. But always within few moments, the water poured on the ground completely. He tried that uncountable numbers of times. At last the pond became empty. The man found a diamond ring in the empty pond and he gave it to the king. At this the king said, "This ring is a reward for your patience and hard work. You are fit for the job."

Moral: Patience always pays.

26. The law of the garbage truck

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches!

The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly. So I asked, 'Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!' This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, 'The Law of the Garbage Truck'.

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally, just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

27. Over smartness of Amit:

Amit had to leave Delhi and go to Mumbai. When he reached the railway station, the train was filled with passengers. There was no empty place in the carriage. Amit saw a man selling rubber toys. He suddenly had a plan.

Amit bought a rubber snake and threw it in the carriage. All the passengers got scared when they saw the snake. There were shouts of fright and cries for help. People ran out of the carriage. Now Amit soon saw an empty berth and lay down on it. The breeze blowing in through the window put him to sleep.

A few hours later, Amit woke up. He thought that the train had stopped at a station. He got out of the carriage and asked the T.C. "Which station is it?" The T.C. replied, "It is Delhi. Actually there was a snake in this carriage. So it was separated and left behind here while the other carriages have left for Mumbai"

Amit cried out in shock. His over smartness had put him in trouble.

28. THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM (Author Unknown)

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead they were given a small space in the cold basement. As they made a bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "Things are not always what they seem."

The next night the angels came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest. When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field. The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel, "How could you have let this happen? The first family had everything, yet you helped them. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die. Why?"

"Things are not always what they seem," the older angel replied. "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the family was so greedy and unwilling to share in their good fortune, I sealed the wall so they wouldn't find it. Then last night when we slept in the farmer's bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave him the cow instead."

Things are not always what they seem. If you have faith and a good heart, you just need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You might not know it until some time later

29. The hedgehogs

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold.

The hedgehogs, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep warm. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions.

After awhile, they decided to distance themselves one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth.

Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions in order to receive the heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

The best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people, but when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other person's good qualities.

30. Look Where You Walk. :

Once, there was a very famous astrologer. Day and night he kept himself busy studying the positions of the Sun, Moon, Stars and Planets to predict the future. He used to get so occupied in looking up at the sky that many a times he did not even know where he was stepping.

One day he was walking as usual with his head up and eyes observing the sky. Suddenly he tripped on a large stone and fell by the roadside. He got stuck in a thorny bush. The thorns started piercing his skin and he was in great pain. Some passers-by helped the astrologer and then asked him how he had fallen into the thorn-bush. When the astrologer told them, one of them commented, "You look up at the sky and can calculate good and bad times and even predict the future. But how come you cannot see what is right here in front of your very eyes? Stop dreaming and start living in the real world."

The astrologer felt ashamed on hearing such comments.

31. Maria The Foolish Girl:

Maria was a girl, who always forgetting things. She was very careless. She used to lose a lot of toys, pencils, colours and books due to her carelessness.

Maria's mother used to say, "Maria, you are a good and obedient girl but you must learn to be careful. You must realize the value of your belongings."

One day Maria's father brought a beautiful doll for her. Maria loved her doll very much. She played with it the whole day and even slept with the doll. She promised her father that she would not break or lose the doll. After playing with the doll for some days she kept it in a cupboard.

One evening her father decided to take Maria for an outing. Maria rushed into her room. She picked up her small doll, tied it to her back and came out of the house. When her father asked her why she was doing this, she replied, "My doll will be lost if I leave it here. But if I carry it along wherever I go, I will never lose it."

Maria's father laughed out at little Maria's foolishness.

32. The fence

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily, gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said "you have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one." You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. Make sure you control your temper the next time you are tempted to say something you will regret later.

33. Long Trunk of Elephant:

A long, long time ago, the elephants had a small trunk. It was not as long as it is now.

One day an elephant saw a crocodile in a river bank. The elephant made fun of the crocodile and said, "Hey, you crawling creatures, I wonder why you are not small like the other creatures. You are too long for your comfort."

The crocodile lost his temper at being called a crawler. So he said, "Now I'll show you how strong a crawling creature can be!"

So immediately the crocodile caught the elephant's trunk in his mouth. The elephant cried out in pain and tried to pull his trunk out but the crocodile held on to it. Soon the other animals heard the elephant's cries and came to help. They pulled the elephant by the tail and so this pulling caused the trunk to be stretched long. The elephant grew very sad at this, but the animals told him the advantages of a long trunk. So the elephant felt happy again.

34. UNSELFISH GIVING (Author Unknown)

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he could not have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

This little boy knew the meaning of sacrifice more than most. When we give to Jesus, out of what portion do we give? Is it just a percentage of all we have, or do we give unselfishly, even though we may need to sacrifice something else we may desire.

35. Kindness of the Farmer:

Once, a king's army was going back after a battle. Their food supplies got finished. The king asked his soldiers to go to a nearby village and get the grains. Some soldiers and their commander entered the village and met a farmer. The commander asked him, "Dear farmer, can you lead us to this village's largest field?"

He took them to a large field. The commander ordered his soldiers, "Cut and collect all the grains." At this, the farmer got scared. He said, "Sir, come and I'll show you another field."

The soldiers went with him to a small field. They collected the grains from that field. The commander asked the farmer why he led them to this field. The farmer replied, "That field belongs to someone else. How could I let you destroy it? This is my field and here I can allow you to do, what I wish."

The king learnt of the farmer's kindness and concern for others and paid him generously for his grains.

36. Lazy Monu:

Once, a lazy rabbit named Monu lived in a forest. He never did any work at home. He walked and hopped slowly. He never reached anywhere in time because he was slow and lazy. His parents always warned him, "Son, your laziness will make you suffer one day. Please leave this bad habit."

But Monu never listened to their advice. He did not leave his bad habit of laziness.

One day Monu was lying under a shady tree. Some other rabbits were playing nearby. Just then another rabbit, named Sonu, saw a wolf coming down the path. He went to the other rabbits and said, "Friends, let us run away. The wolf is coming here. He will eat us up."

All the rabbits heard him and ran off. Sonu tried to wake up Monu but he said, "Oh! The wolf is far way. Let me sleep a little longer."

Sonu went away. Soon the wolf came there and Monu could not run away in time. The wolf pounced and killed him. So Monu lost his life due to his laziness.

37. Every bucket counts

Once day, having learned that the King of Fez was hunting lions in the neighbourhood, they decided to invite him and his court, and killed a number of sheep in his honour. The sovereign had dinner and went to bed. Wishing to show their generosity, they placed a huge goatskin bottle before his door and agreed to fill it up with milk for the royal breakfast.

The villagers all had to milk their goats and then each of them had to tip his bucket into the container. Given its great size, each of them said to himself that he might just as well dilute his milk with a good quantity of water without anyone noticing.

To the extent that, in the morning, such a thin liquid was poured out for the king and his court that it had no taste than the taste of meanness and greed.

38. DON'T GET HOOKED

Finney swam slowly past the enticing morsel dangling just inches away. He could almost taste the scrumptious delicacy. The young fish wanted to gobble up the worm, but all the warnings that were drilled into his head by the older fish kept him from doing so. Finney had his doubts about the advice the older fish continued to give him

He did not see how something so delicious could be so dangerous. The older fish probably told the younger fish those horror stories so there would not be as much competition for the food.

Were the stories true? Finney decided that he would have to find out for himself. He turned and swam back to the worm. He did not see any steel or sharp barbed hooks. All he saw was the worm. He opened his mouth wide and then felt a dull thud in his side. Finney's Uncle had rammed into him and pushed him away from the worm. "What in the deep blue waters is wrong with you!" demanded Uncle Corky. "Do you think we warn you about the hook just for the fun of it?"

"Finney stammered, "I, I don't know, sometimes I wonder if the stories are true."

Uncle Corky closed his eyes and said with a broken voice, "Follow me. It is time you see what the hook can do." Finney followed his uncle to the shallows, which were close to the shoreline. Before them were countless fish, many swimming on their sides and barely alive. Others had gaping rips in their jaws and were unable to eat. It was a brutal site, one that Finney would not soon forget. Just then, a bird swooped down and scooped up one of the fish that had been swimming on its side. Uncle Corky explained, "The hook has caused all this devastation. You see the stories are true. I wish you would have believed without being brought to the shallows."

Even as the two fish swam away, Finney recalled the stories that some clever fish were able to take the worm without being hooked. A prideful thought entered his mind, "Maybe these broken fish had not been as smart or as fast as he was."

Day after day Finney continued to see enticing morsels floating in the water. They came in all kinds of shapes and colors. Finney would swim closer and closer to the bait, slowing down with each pass he took. One fateful day the temptation got the better of Finney and he swallowed the bait. "Why it's not tasty at all. It tasted like plastic!" he thought with horror.

Before Finney could spit out the bait, he felt a sharp pain in his jaw, and being to feel as though he was being pulled through the water. The young fish put up a good fight but his strength was gone. He knew that he had lost the fight. There would not be another day.

Boys and girls, Satan tries to tempt us to sin each day. The devil wants to drag us away from God. Satan never grows weary of putting new types of bait or temptation before us. Satan doesn't care what he uses or abuses for bait. He is the father of lies and wants to destroy those whom God loves. Put on the full armor of God so that you can resist the devil and all his schemes

39. Save The Green Earth:

God created this whole wonderful world. He made it beautiful, happy and green. There were large green fields with grass and colourful flowers. Then God made birds and animals to live in the meadows and the fields, the woods and the forests. After that God created Man to take care of his beautiful creations. He made Man as the most intelligent and best of all his creations.

But then, God had some doubt in his mind. He wondered if Man would really take good care of his creations. So he warned Man, "You must keep earth as green and as beautiful as I have created it. Do not commit any sin when you go to Earth. Or as a punishment the earth will lose its beauty and will turn into a vast desert."

40. THE SELFISH HORSE

Once, a trader had a donkey and a horse. Everyday, he would load the donkey heavily and go to the city to sell things.

One hot day, the donkey started feeling dizzy. He asked the horse to take some of his load but the horse refused saying that it was not his duty to carry loads.

Soon the donkey fell down and died due to extreme heat. The trader put all the load on the horse's back and continued his journey.

So, it's true that one who does not help his friend in need has to himself face problems in the long run.

41. Teeth of the Elephant:

Once a hungry mouse found a small nut. He started to bite into it, but its cover was hard and thick. The mouse's tiny teeth could not cut into it. The irritated mouse prayed aloud to God, "Oh God! Why did you give me such tiny teeth? I have food here but I cannot eat."

Immediately he heard God's voice, "Dear Mouse, go and look at the other animals teeth. Whichever teeth you like, will be given to you."

So the mouse went to the forest nearby. He looked at the teeth of many animals living there. But he did not like their teeth at all. At last the mouse went to the elephant. He was much impressed by the long, white tusks of the elephant. The little mouse asked the elephant, "Sir, are you happy with your long beautiful teeth?"

At this, the elephant replied, "Friend, these teeth are just for show. I cannot use them to chew food like you do. At least you don't have to bear the heavy weight of your teeth." Hearing this, the mouse thanked God for giving him the tiny teeth.

42.The Bear and The Two Friends

Once two friends were walking through the forest. They knew that anything dangerous can happen to them at any time in the forest. So they promised each other that they would remain united in any case of danger.

Suddenly, they saw a large bear approaching them. One of the friends at once climbed a nearby tree. But the other one did not know how to climb. So being led by his common sense, he lay down on the ground breathless, pretending to be a dead man.

The bear came near the man lying on the ground. It smelt in his ears, and slowly left the place. Because the bears do not touch the dead creatures. Now the friend on the tree came down and asked his friend on the ground, "Friend, what did the bear tell you into your ears?" The other friend replied, "The bear advised me not to believe a false friend."

Moral: True Friend is the one who always supports and stands by you in any situation.

43.The Honest Wood Cutter

A poor woodcutter accidentally dropped his axe into the river. He was very upset, as he had no money to buy another axe. Just then a fairy appeared in the river holding out a golden axe to him. "I found this axe in the river. Is this yours?"

"That's not mine", replied the woodcutter. The fairy then brought out a silver axe. The woodcutter disowned this one too. Finally, the fairy held out a wooden axe.

Smiling with happiness, the woodcutter said, "That's mine. Thank you very much."

The fairy felt very happy seeing his honesty and said, such honesty deserves a reward. She gave the poor man all the three axes and disappeared.

Moral: Honest is the best policy. Always be honest.

44.Ant and grasshopper story

Once upon a time there was a Grasshopper was hopping, chirping and singing to its heart's content in a field in hot summer's day. There was an ant staying nearby the grasshopper's nest. They were good friends. It was springtime and the grasshopper was having a lot of fun playing, singing, and dancing in the sun. But the ant was hard working. It was collecting food grains and storing them in its house for the winter.

The grasshopper did not understand why the ant was doing so much hard work and keeping for winter. He asked, "Hey, Ant! Why don't you come outside and play with me?" The ant replied, "I cannot. I am storing food for the winter when there won't be anything to eat!" The grasshopper only laughed at the ant and said, "Why are you worrying now? There is plenty of food!" and continued to play, while the ant worked hard.

When winter came, the grasshopper did not find a single grain of food to eat. It began to starve and feel very weak. The grasshopper saw how the hardworking ant had plenty of food to eat and realized its foolishness.

45.The Mean Crow:

Once, two crows Sonu and Manu were close friends. One day, they got into an argument to prove their superiority. To decide who was better than the other, they decided on a challenge. Each of them was supposed to fly with a bag filled with something in their beaks. The crow that could fly up higher would be declared the best.

But Sonu was a mean crow. He put cotton balls in his bag and salt in Manu's bag. Then the two crows took flight. Soon Sonu was flying higher than Manu, as he had lightweight cotton in his bag. But Manu could not gain height due to the salt in his bag.

As the crows were flying, it started to drizzle. The cotton in Sonu's bag soaked up the raindrops and grew heavy. On the other hand, the salt in Manu's bag melted away in the rain and became very light. Now Manu flew up higher and thus won the challenge.

If you cheat, you will never succeed.

46.Pancakes

Six-year-old Dan decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor.

He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Dan was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad.

He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove, and he didn't know how the stove worked! Suddenly, he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically, he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky.

Just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Dan's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him.

Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process. That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky, we insult a friend, we can't stand our job, or our health goes sour.

Sometimes, we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him.

But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying for God or for others. Sooner or later, we'll get

47. Birbal the Servant.

One day Akbar and Birbal were riding through the countryside and they happened to pass by a cabbage field.

"Cabbages are such wonderful vegetables!" said Akbar. "I just love cabbage."

"The cabbage is the king of vegetables!" said Birbal.

A few weeks later they were riding past the cabbage patch again.

This time however, the emperor made a face when he saw the vegetables. "I used to love cabbage but now I have no taste for it." said Akbar.

"The cabbage is a tasteless vegetable" agreed Birbal.

The emperor was surprised.

"But the last time you said it was the king of vegetables!" he said.

"I did," said Birbal. "But I am your servant Your Majesty, not the cabbage's."

48. Vanity of a Crow:

Once, there was a crow that was always brooding about his colour. He thought sadly, "I am so black and ugly. If only I was colourful as other birds."

One day as the crow sat on a tree, a peacock strutted by. It was walking with its feathers fanned out. The crow felt sad again, when he saw the peacocks' feathers. When the peacock left, the crow found some of its feathers scattered on the ground. He picked them up and went to his friend the monkey. With his help, the crow tucked the feathers on his body. Then he went to the peacocks and said, "Let me join you for now I am as beautiful as you are."

But the peacocks grew angry and pecked the crow away from there. The crow flew back to his own friends. But the crows said, "Go away from here. You cannot live with us because you don't feel proud to be what you are."

So the poor crow was abandoned by his own fellows and had to lead a lonely life. He learnt to accept himself as he was.

49. A Merchant and His Donkey:

One beautiful spring morning, a merchant loaded his donkey with bags of salt to go to the market in order to sell them. The merchant and his donkey were walking along together.

They had not walked far when they reached a river on the road. Unfortunately, the donkey slipped and fell into the river and noticed that the bags of salt loaded on his back became lighter.

There was nothing the merchant could do, except return home where he loaded his donkey with more bags of salt. As they reached the slippery riverbank, now deliberately, the donkey fell into the river and wasted all the bags of salt on its back again.

The merchant quickly discovered the donkey's trick. He then returned home again but reloaded his donkey with bags of sponges.

The foolish, tricky donkey again set on its way. On reaching the river he again fell into the water. But instead of the load becoming lighter, it became heavier.

The merchant laughed at him and said: "You foolish donkey.... Your trick had been discovered, you should know that, those who are too clever sometimes are tricked themselves."

50. Go By Heart:

A rich man was retiring when an angel of death came to him. He had worked long and hard to acquire massive wealth and retire in luxury, and could not believe that his time was up. Being a very wealthy person, he decided to buy some more time from the angel of death at any cost. He bargained for a long time but the angel was unmoved. Desperate, the rich man made the last proposal to the angel... Give me just one hour of my life, so that I could admire the beauty of this earth for the last time and spend some time with my family and friends whom I haven't seen for a long time and I will give you all of my wealth. But the angel refused again. Finally, the man asked if the angel could give him at least one minute so that he could write a goodbye note. His wish was granted and he wrote a note....

"Spend your time, which was given to you, in the right way. I couldn't buy even an hour of life with all of my wealth. Listen to your heart and check if the things surrounding you have a true value. Cherish every minute of your life."

51.The Clever Merchant:

One rainy night, two men entered a guest house to rent rooms. There was only one vacant room. So, both of them had to settle to share it. Actually one of them was a thief and the other was a rich diamond merchant. The thief had been following the merchant for some time. The merchant was carrying a lot of cash and precious diamonds with him. When the guest house owner gave the same room to both of them, the thief's heart filled with joy.

Both of them kept their luggage in the room. A few minutes later, the merchant went out for dinner. The thief searched through the merchant's luggage, but he did not find any diamonds. Soon the merchant returned and both of them went to sleep.

Next morning the thief asked the merchant, "Sir, I am a thief. I was trying to steal your diamonds. But I did not find them in your bag."

52.Evil Has an Evil End. :

Once, there was a poor and old hermit. The villagers used to give him alms everyday. The hermit had the habit of sharing his food with the beggars or needy people.

Once he reached an old woman's house. She was a cruel woman and a miser. On asking for alms, she gave some leftover food to the hermit. The next day the hermit went to her house for food once again. She gave it with a heavy heart. On seeing the hermit on the third day the old woman got irritated. She mixed poison in rice and gave it to him.

The hermit reached his hut and was about to eat. Just then a young man came and said, "I am hungry. Can you feed me something?"

The hermit gave all the rice to him. The young man ate the poisoned rice and to the hermit's surprise he died instantly. The young man was the old woman's son and had returned after a long journey of many days.

So the evil woman's plan resulted in loss of her only son.

53. Cure for the King:

Once there was a very lazy king. He hardly did any physical activity. As a result he started staying ill. He called the royal doctor and said, "Give me medicine to get well. If you don't cure me, I will kill you."

The doctor knew laziness was the main cause of the king's illness. Next day the doctor gave big dumbbells to him and said, "Your Majesty, you must swing these magic balls in your hands every morning and evening for an hour. Do these till your arms start sweating and you will start getting cured."

The king did this everyday not knowing that it was an exercise. Within a few weeks his body became fit and he felt alert and energetic. He thanked the doctor and asked the cure's secret.

The royal doctor said, "Your Majesty, the magic of this cure will keep you fit till you keep swinging these dumbbells. The day you stop you will become ill again."

The doctor had taught the king to keep fit without offending him.

54. Obstacles or Opportunities:

Long ago, in ancient times, a King had a big rock placed on a roadway. He then hid himself and watched to see if anyone would move the rock out of the way. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many people loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear. But none of them did anything about getting the stone out of the way. A peasant then came along carrying a heavy load. Upon approaching the rock, he laid down his burden and tried to push the stone out of the road. After much pushing and heaving, he finally succeeded. After the peasant went back to pick up his load, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the rock had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King explaining that the gold was for the person who removed the stone from the roadway.

Moral: Every obstacle in our way brings opportunities to make our life better.

55. Fruits of Labour:

Once, a very lazy boy named Ramu lived in a small village. He spent all his time going around and was always busy in daydreaming. He avoided doing any work.

One day Ramu found a bag full of money. He was delighted. He knew that one had to work to earn money. But he felt lucky for getting money without any effort at all. Ramu went and bought many tasty sweets from the bakery. Then he got some new clothes. In such a way, he started to spend the money he had got.

His mother said, "Son, don't waste the money. Use it to start some business. Work hard at it and you will become rich."

But Ramu said, "I have no need to work. I have a lot of money."

Within a few months Ramu had spent all the money in the bag. Soon he had not even a morsel to eat at home. The villagers also refused to employ such a lazy boy. Then Ramu understood that free money was not worth it. Only fruits of labour can feed a man lifelong.

56.Help Yourself:

Once, two mice entered a dairy. As they were looking for something to eat, they slipped and fell into a large-drum full of milk. They did not know how to swim. Soon they started drowning.

Both of them started struggling to float. One of the mice said, "Friend, I think we are going to drown. No one can help us now. I wish God would send someone to help us!"

The other mouse calmly said, "Do not be afraid my friend. We must not lose heart. We must keep trying."

But a few minutes later, the first mouse gave up hope. He did not try and so he drowned. The other mouse saw his friend drowning in the milk and felt very sorry.

He kept moving his legs to try to keep afloat. Soon this had a churning effect and a thick layer of cream fat was formed on the milk's surface. With great effort, the mouse climbed the creamy layer and jumped out to safety. The mouse realized that God helps those who help themselves.

57.Horse and The Donkey :

Once, a brave soldier had a swift horse and a hard working donkey. He used the horse during the battles.

The donkey he had kept carried loads of goods when there was no war so as to earn some money.

The donkey was jealous of the horse as he thought that the horse was generally enjoying idle life whereas he worked hard and earned livelihood for the master and also for the horse.

One day the soldier learns that there would be war between his kingdom and the neighbouring country. The donkey felt happy. He thought with pleasure, "Oh! The horse will go to the battleground and I will be free to enjoy here."

So the donkey teased the horse but just then, a message was received that a treaty had been signed. So there would be no war. The soldier sent the donkey to a merchant's house to carry his goods to earn some money.

So the donkey was taught a lesson because he had teased someone who was sad and worried.

58.Redfeathers the Hen:

Redfeathers, the hen, was so-called because all her feathers were red. One day the fox caught sight of her in the farmyard and his mouth began to water.

He ran home and told his wife to put on water for boiling a chicken and then he rushed back and before Redfeathers knew what was happening, she found herself inside a sack and was not even able to call for help.

Luckily, her friend the dove saw what had happened. She flew on to the path in the woods and lay there, pretending to have a broken wing. The fox was very happy to find that he would have a first course as well as a main dish. He put down the sack with the hen in it and chased off after the dove that cleverly began to hop further and further away.

Redfeathers slipped out of the sack and put a stone in her place then she too ran off. When the dove saw that her friend was safe, she flew up onto a tree. The fox then went back and picked up the sack, thinking that the hen was still in it. When the fox got home, he tipped the sack into the pot of boiling water, but the stone splashed it all over him and he burned his greedy paws.

59. The Brave Hunter:

Once, a hunter lived in a village. He used to boast of his brave hunting trips to the villagers. The villagers respected him a lot. He told everyone how he had fought a lion alone or of killing an elephant with a single bullet. He said that the tiny animals used to get scared even at the sight of him.

One day, the hunter was passing through a forest. A woodcutter from the same village was busy cutting trees.

The boastful hunter went to him and said, "How are you? It's a fine day, isn't it?"

"Yes, Yes, indeed!" the woodcutter replied.

"Well, can you tell me if you have seen some footprints of the lion nearby? It's been months since I killed any."

The woodcutter knew that the hunter only boasted. So he said, "Yes, a lion is in a nearby den. Can I take you there?"

But the scared hunter said, "No... No... I only just wanted to see his footprints."

And so the boastful hunter ran away from the spot.

60. The Clever Barber:

One day, a barber was going to the next village. On the way he had to pass through a forest full of wild animals. Suddenly all his fears came true. A fierce lion came and stood before him. But the barber picked up courage and went to the lion. The lion was surprised to see the barber acting this way.

The barber said, "Ah! Here you are and I have been searching all the nearby forests to look for you."

The lion was taken aback at the barber's words. With some fear in his heart, he asked the barber, "But why were you looking for me?"

The barber replied, "The king had asked me to catch two lions for him. I have already caught one of them. I guess you will be the next one."

And then the barber took a mirror and put it before the lion's face. The lion saw his reflection and mistook it for another lion.

So the lion ran away to save his life and the clever barber went on his way.

61. The Gift of the Fox:

The forest was buzzing with activity. All the animals and birds were dressed in their best. They were all carrying colourfully packed gifts and heading for the lion's den. It was the lion king's birthday and he had invited everyone. At the den, all the animals were present but the fox was absent. The wolf was always jealous of the fox. So he got a chance to get him in trouble.

The wolf said to the lion, "Your Majesty, See how rude the fox has been. He has not come to wish or gift you on your Birthday."

Just then the fox reached the den. He overheard the wolf talking against him. The clever fox grew thoughtful. Then he said, "Your Majesty, I got late because I had gone to get magical shoes for you. They will keep you forever young. But unfortunately I couldn't get them."

"Why?" The lion asked. "Because there was no wolf skin to make it."

The wolf heard this and ran away from the den. He did not want to be killed to be made into the lion's shoes.

62.The Thankless Snake:

Once there was a kind hearted farmer. So many a times, he would help the other farmers in their fields. He used to tend to the sick people and would always feed the hungry. He also liked to give love and care to animals and birds.

One day the farmer went to a nearby village. As he was returning, he saw an injured snake on the road. It seemed that when the snake was crawling across the road some bullock cart had run over the creature. Luckily the snake was alive but it was unconscious. Its wounds were bleeding. The kind farmer gently wrapped the injured snake in a cloth and took it home.

At home, the farmer washed and put some medicine on its wounds. Then he left the snake at home and went to the market to get some milk for it. When he came back, the snake had become conscious. It bit the farmer and he died instantly.

The villagers said sadly, "The farmer did not know that an evil creature never changes its nature."

63.The Two Friends:

John and James were two friends who were crossing a forest when suddenly they stumbled across a huge black bear. Imagine how terrified they were! They tried to run away but the bear chased them. John managed to climb up onto a tree. James, just as he was about to be caught, fell to the ground and pretended to be dead. He knew, "A bear only attacks something if it is alive."

The bear sniffed him all over, while the man tried to hold his breath as best as he could do hoping that the animal would not find out. In the end, after sniffing thoroughly, the bear must have thought that the man really was dead, because it walked away.

With the danger over, John came down from the tree and he felt like making jokes. So he asked his friend, "Well, what did the bear whisper in your ear?" But James was not in the same mood for jokes.

'The bear said,' he answered, looking John straight in the eye, 'it would be advisable for you not to travel again with a friend, who runs off and leaves you when danger threatens!' Because, a friend in need is a friend indeed."

64.The Lion, the Wolf and The Fox:

The lion was near to death and all the other animals tried to flatter him, hoping to be named as his heir. The wolf tried to put down the fox by telling the lion that the fox had not even bothered to visit the king. The fox arrived just at the right moment and overheard this.

'Who could love you more than me?' the fox asked the lion. 'For I have been all around the world, in search of the miraculous cure I bring you!'

'And what is it?' asked the lion.

'If you want to get well again, skin a live wolf, replied the fox, 'and wrap yourself in the fur while it is still warm!'

The wolf ran out of the place.