

Aesop's Fables

The Hare and the Tortoise

The Hare was once boasting of his speed before the other animals. "I have never yet been beaten," said he, "when I put forth my full speed. I challenge any one here to race with me." The tortoise said quietly, "I accept your challenge."

"That is a good joke," said the Hare; "I could dance round you all the way."?"

"Keep your boasting till you've beaten," answered the Tortoise. "Shall we race?"

So, a course was fixed, and a start was made. The Hare darted almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, to show his contempt for the Tortoise, lay down to have a nap. The Tortoise plodded on and plodded on, and when the Hare awoke from his nap, he saw the Tortoise just near the winning-post and could not run up in time to save the race. Then said the Tortoise: **Plodding wins the race or slow and steady wins the race.**

The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

A Wolf found great difficulty in getting at the sheep owing to the vigilance of the shepherd and his dogs. But one day it found the skin of a sheep that had been flayed and thrown aside, so it put it on over its own plot and strolled down among the sheep. The Lamb that belonged to the sheep, whose skin the wolf was wearing, began to follow the Wolf in the Sheep's clothing; so, leading the Lamb a little apart, he soon made a meal off her, and from some time he succeeded in deceiving the sheep and enjoying hearty meals.

Appearances are deceptive.

The Lion and the Mouse

Once when a Lion was asleep a little Mouse began running up the down upon him; this soon wakened the Lion, who place his huge paw upon him, and opened his big jaws to swallow him. "Pardon, O King, cried the little Mouse: "forgive me this time, I shall never forget it: who knows but what I maybe able to do you a good turn some day? The Lion was so tickled at the idea of the Mouse being able to help him, that he lifted up his paw and let him go. Some time after the Lion was caught in a trap, and the hunters who desired to carry him alive to the king tied him to a tree while they went in search of a wagon to carry him on. Just then the little Mouse happed to pass by, and seeing the sad plight in which the Lion was, went up to him and soon gnawed away the ropes that bound the King of the Beasts. "Was I not right:" said the little Mouse.

Little friends may prove to be great friends.