

## The Lion and the Wolf

A wolf, roaming by the mountain's side as the sun was setting, saw his own shadow become greatly extended and magnified, and he said to himself, "Why should I, being of such an immense size, and extending nearly an acre in length, be afraid of the lion? Ought I not to be acknowledged as king of all the collected beasts?" While he was indulging in these proud thoughts, a lion fell upon him and killed him. He exclaimed with a too-late repentance, "Wretched me! This overestimation of myself is the cause of my destruction."

**Moral:** It is not wise to hold too exalted an opinion of oneself.

## The Fox and the Crow

A crow, having stolen a bit of meat, perched in a tree and held it in her beak. A fox, seeing her, longed to possess himself of the meat and, by a wily stratagem, succeeded. "How handsome is the crow," he exclaimed, "in the beauty of her shape and in the fairness of her complexion! Oh, if her voice were only equal to her beauty, she would deservedly be considered the Queen of Birds!" This he said deceitfully, having greater admiration for the meat than for the crow. But the crow, all her vanity aroused by the cunning flattery and anxious to refute the reflection cast upon her voice, set up a loud caw and dropped the meat. The fox quickly picked it up and thus addressed the crow: "My good crow, your voice is right enough, but your wit is wanting."

**Moral:** He who listens to flattery is not wise, for it has no good purpose.

## The Quack Frog

An old frog once informed all his neighbors that he was a learned doctor. In fact, he could cure anything. The fox heard the news and hurried to see the frog. He looked the frog over very carefully. "Mr. Frog," he said, "I've been told that you cure anything! But just take a look at yourself, and then try some of your own medicine. If you can cure yourself of that blotchy skin and that rheumatic gait, someone might believe you. Otherwise, I should advise you to try some other profession."

**Moral:** Those who would mend others, should first mend themselves.

## The Vain Jackdaw

Jupiter determined, it is said, to create a sovereign over the birds and made proclamation that on a certain day they should all present themselves before him, when he would himself choose the most beautiful among them to be king. The jackdaw, knowing his own ugliness, searched through the woods and fields and collected the feathers that had fallen from the wings of his companions and stuck them in all parts of his body. When the appointed day arrived, and the birds had assembled before Jupiter, the jackdaw also made his appearance in his many-feathered finery. Jupiter proposed to make him king on account of the beauty of his plumage, but the birds indignantly protested and each plucked from him his own feathers; the Jackdaw was again nothing but a jackdaw.

**Moral:** Hope not to succeed in borrowed plumes.

## The Fighting Roosters and the Eagle

Two roosters fought for the sovereignty of the dunghill. One was severely beaten and ran and hid himself in a hole. The conqueror flew to the top of an outhouse, flapped his wings, and crowed out, "Victory!" Just then an eagle dived, trussed him, and carried him off. The other, seeing this from his hiding place, came out and, shaking off the recollection of his late disgrace, strutted about among his hens with all the dignity imaginable.

**Moral:** Pride goes before destruction.