

## The Dog in the Manger

A dog was asleep in a manger filled with hay and was awakened by the cattle, which came in tired and hungry from working in the field. But the dog would not let them get near the manger and snarled and snapped as if it were filled with the best of meat and bones all for himself. The cattle looked at the dog in disgust. "How selfish he is!" said one. "He cannot eat the hay and yet he will not let us who are so hungry for it eat it!" Now the farmer came in. When he saw how the dog was acting, he seized a stick and drove him out of the stable with many a blow for his selfish behavior.

**Moral:** It's wrong to begrudge others what you cannot enjoy yourself.

## The Eagle and the Beetle

A beetle once begged the eagle to spare a hare that had run to her for protection. But the eagle pounced upon her prey, the sweep of her great wings tumbling the beetle a dozen feet away. Furious at the disrespect shown her, the beetle flew to the eagle's nest and rolled out the eggs. Not one did she spare. The eagle's grief and anger knew no bounds, but she did not know who had done the cruel deed. The next year, the eagle built her nest far up on a mountain crag but the beetle found it and again destroyed the eggs. In despair, the eagle now implored great Jupiter to let her place her eggs in his lap. There none would dare harm them. But the beetle buzzed about Jupiter's head and made him rise to drive her away; as he did, the eggs rolled from his lap. So Jupiter commanded that ever after, while the eagle's eggs lie in the nest in the spring, the beetle will sleep in the ground.

**Moral:** Even the weakest may find means to avenge a wrong.

## The Father and His Sons

A certain father had a family of sons who were forever quarreling among themselves. No words he could say did the least good, so he cast about in his mind for some very striking example that should make them see that discord would lead them to misfortune. One day when the quarreling had been much more violent than usual and each of the sons was moping in a surly manner, he asked one of them to bring him a bundle of sticks. Then, handing the bundle to each of his sons in turn, he told them to try to break it. But although each one tried his best, none was able to do so. The father then untied the bundle and gave the sticks to his sons to break one by one. This they did very easily. "My sons," said the father, "do you not see how certain it is that if you agree with each other and help each other, it will be impossible for your enemies to injure you? But if you are divided among yourselves, you will be no stronger than a single stick in that bundle."

**Moral:** In unity is strength.

## The Bee and Jupiter

A bee ascended to Olympus to present Jupiter with some honey fresh from her combs. Jupiter, delighted with the offering of honey, promised to give her whatever she should ask. She therefore asked him, "Give me a stinger so that if any mortal should approach to take my honey, I may kill him." Jupiter was much displeased, for he loved the race of man but could not refuse the request because of his promise. He thus answered the bee: "You shall have your request, but it will be at the peril of your own life. For if you use your stinger, it shall remain in the wound you make and then you will die from the loss of it."

**Moral:** Spiteful wishes often backfire.

## The Bald Man and the Fly

A fly bit the bare head of a bald man who, endeavoring to destroy it, gave himself a heavy slap. Escaping, the fly said mockingly, "You who have wished to revenge the bite of a tiny insect with death: See what you have done to yourself to add insult to injury?"

**Moral:** A wise person does not seek revenge for small annoyances.