

## The Goatherd and the Goats

One cold stormy day, a goatherd drove his goats for shelter into a cave, where a number of wild goats had also found their way. The shepherd wanted to make the wild goats part of his flock, so he fed them well. But to his own flock, he gave only enough food to keep them alive. When the weather cleared and the shepherd led the goats out to feed, the wild goats scampered off to the hills. "Is that the thanks I get for feeding you and treating you so well?" complained the shepherd.

"Do not expect us to join your flock," replied one of the wild goats. "We know how you would treat us later on if some strangers should come as we did."

**Moral:** It is unwise to treat old friends badly for the sake of new ones.

## The Father and His Two Daughters

A man had two daughters, one married to a gardener and the other to a tilemaker. After a time, he went to the daughter who had married the gardener and inquired how she was and how all things went with her. She said, "All things are prospering with me, and I have only one wish: that there may be a heavy fall of rain in order that the plants may be well watered."

Not long after, he went to the daughter who had married the tilemaker and likewise inquired of her how she fared; she replied, "I want for nothing and have only one wish: that the dry weather may continue and the sun shine hot and bright so that the bricks might be dried."

He said to her, "If your sister wishes for rain and you for dry weather, with which of the two am I to join my wishes?"

**Moral:** What helps one person may ruin someone else.

## Jupiter and the Monkey

There was once a baby show among the animals in the forest. Jupiter provided the prize. Of course, all the proud mammas from far and near brought their babies. But none got there earlier than the mother monkey. Proudly she presented her baby among the other contestants. As you can imagine, there was quite a laugh when the animals saw the ugly flat-nosed, hairless, pop-eyed little creature. "Laugh if you will," said the mother monkey. "Though Jupiter may not give him the prize, I know that he is the prettiest, sweetest, dearest darling in the world."

**Moral:** Love sees only beauty.

## The Two Goats

Two goats frisking happily on the rocky steeps of a mountain valley chanced to meet, one on each side of a deep chasm through which poured a mighty mountain torrent. The trunk of a fallen tree formed the only means of crossing the chasm, and on this, not even two squirrels could have passed each other in safety. The narrow path would have made the bravest tremble. Not so our goats. Their pride would not permit either to stand aside for the other. One set her foot on the log. The other did likewise. In the middle they met, horn to horn. Neither would give way, and so they both fell and were swept away by the roaring torrent below.

**Moral:** It is better to yield than to come to misfortune through stubbornness.

## The Man and the Lion

A man and a lion chanced to travel in company through the forest. They soon began to quarrel, for each of them boasted that he and his kind were far superior to the other both in strength and mind. They reached a clearing in the forest and there stood a statue. It was a representation of Heracles in the act of tearing the jaws of the Nemean Lion. "See," said the man, "That's how strong we are! The King of Beasts is like wax in our hands!"

"Ho!" laughed the lion. "A man made that statue. It would have been quite a different scene had a lion made it!"

**Moral:** The story all depends on the point of view and who tells it.