

*The Lion and the Mouse*

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One day a little mouse was scampering along when he came upon a great sleeping lion. At first, the mouse did not know it was a lion. He ran up the lion's tail and jogged along the lion's back. When he realized he was climbing on a lion, the mouse turned to run away. But by that time, it was too late. The lion has woken up.

The lion was very angry at being disturbed. He gave a ferocious roar and scooped the mouse up with his big paw.

"How dare you wake me up!" bellowed the lion. "Don't you know I am the king of beasts?"

The lion was just about to swallow the mouse when the tiny animal cried out, "Please, your majesty! I didn't mean to disturb you. If you will let me go, I will be grateful to you forever. And if I can, I will do you a favor someday."

The lion laughed a big laugh. He could not imagine any way in which a tiny mouse could help a big, strong lion like himself. But since the very thought of a mouse helping a lion had made him laugh and had put him in a better mood, he decided to let the mouse go.

Not long after, the mouse was running along in the jungle when he heard a terrible roaring nearby. He went closer to see what the trouble was, and there he saw the lion. The lion was caught in a hunter's net and could not get out.

The mouse remembered his promise to the lion, and he began gnawing the ropes of the net with his sharp lion teeth. He kept gnawing until he had made a hole in the net big enough for the lion to get free.

"You laughed when I said I would repay you for letting me go," said the mouse. "But now you see that even a little mouse can help a lion."

So, the moral of the story is: "LITTLE FRIENDS MAY BE GREAT FRIENDS."