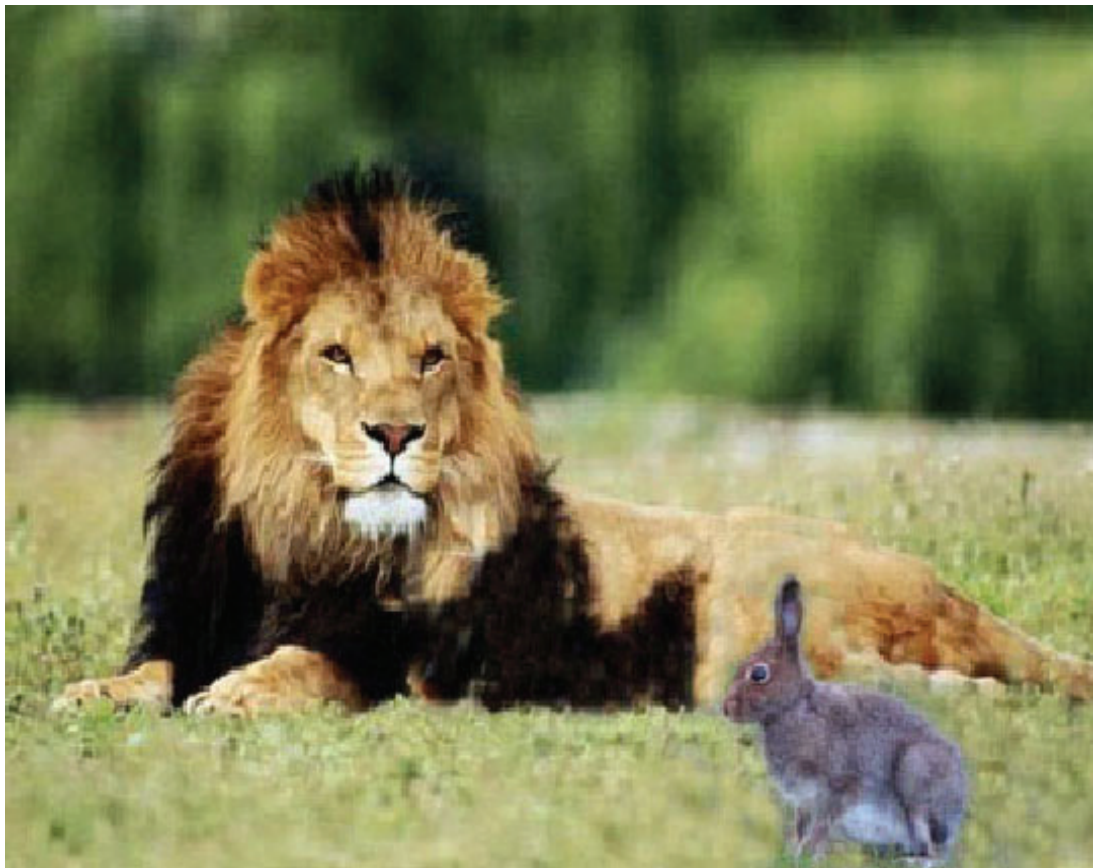
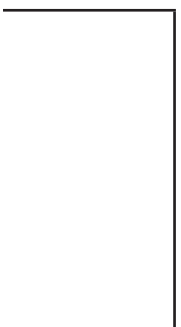
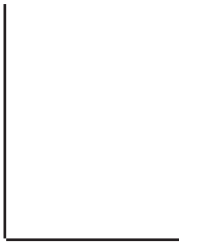
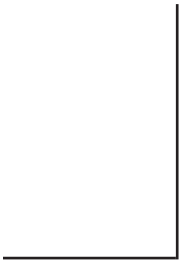


The Lion and the Hare

Class III Book 5





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The Lion and the Hare

Many years ago, in a deep beautiful forest there lived many animals. However, the animals were very unhappy. They could not roam the forest freely. They were very scared of the terrible lion that hunted them down every day. Those that could not run away fast were killed and eaten by the lion.



Courtesy: <http://www.theatlantatraveler.com>

One day the animals got together and discussed a plan. Of course it was not the most wonderful plan but at least not all the animals would need to run away and hide all the time.

Off they went to see the lion.

When they reached the lion's den, they shouted, "Mr. Lion, Mr. Lion, please don't kill us but listen to us. We have a plan"

"A plan? What plan?," roared the lion and the animals trembled with fear.

"Sir, we are very tired of running away from you every day. We cannot even go to look for food for our family because we are so afraid of you. So we decided that every day we will draw lots and who ever gets it will become your food.

That way the other animals don't have to hide from you." said the animals.

'Hmm, let me think. Hmmm...', said the lion as he shook his furry head. "Hmm... alright, but if I don't get my food, I will kill all of you,' roared the lion fiercely.

The little animals ran to hide behind the trees while the bigger ones trembled with fear. 'We promise you sir. We promise!' whispered the scared animals.

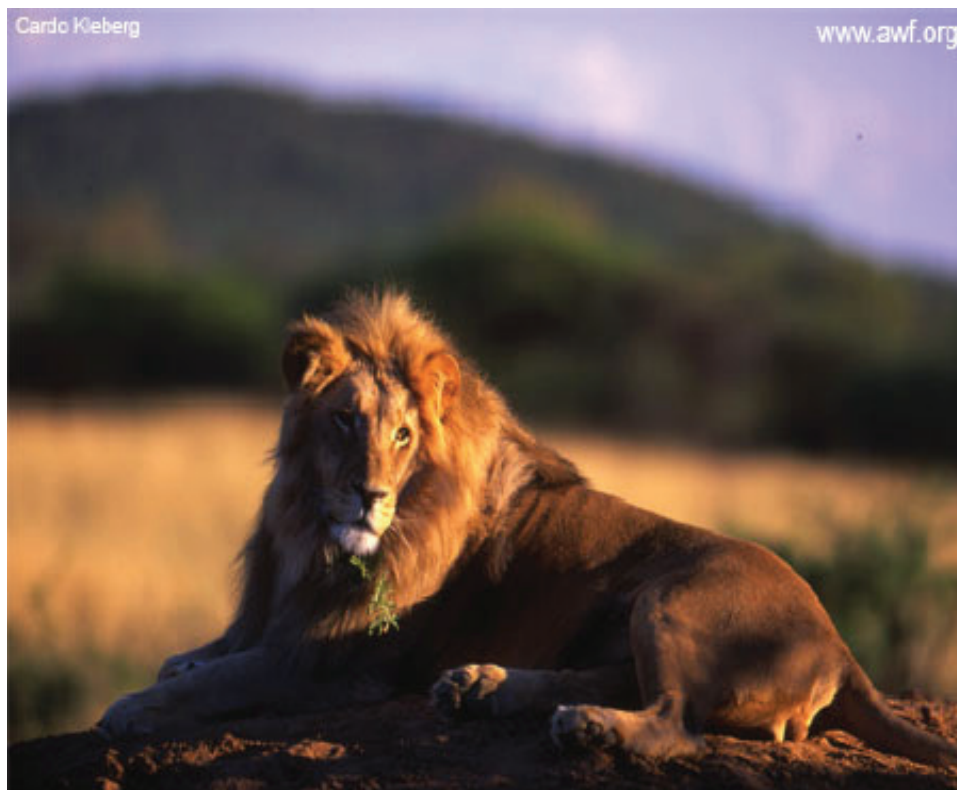
"All right then. But remember not a minute late. I hate waiting. Otherwise I will hunt you down and tear you apart with these great big teeth," said the lion as he opened his big scary jaws.

“Ohhhh,” cried the animals, “no sir, we promise. We promise.”

From that day onwards, just as the animals promised, one of them went as the lion’s food. The lion enjoyed sleeping and eating. He did not have to hunt and tire himself anymore. One day, it was the hare’s turn to go as the lion’s food. His parents cried. His relatives cried. His friends cried. Everyone cried, but the hare did not.

He said, ‘Don’t cry. I am not dead yet. I will come home soon. So don’t worry’. They looked at him and cried even more loudly. Without looking back, the hare went towards the lion’s den.

Meanwhile, the lion waited and waited. He yawned and shook his great furry head. He waited some more. His food did not come. He became very angry and roared loudly. The birds on the trees flew into the air. The little rabbits ran into their holes. The forest became still. 'Where is my food?' roared the lion





Courtesy: <http://www.zoologi.no>

‘Here I am,’ whispered the hare pretending to be scared.

‘Why are you late?’ questioned the angry lion.
‘Sir, actually, I am not your food. It was my cousin’s turn. I was with him when another lion jumped onto him and killed him on the way,

I hid until he was gone with my poor dead cousin.
Sir, the other lion ate your food!’

“What? Another lion?’ roared the lion.”

“Yes sir, another lion.” cried the hare.

“Was he big like me?” asked the lion.

“Sir, much bigger.” answered the hare.

“What? Much bigger?” roared the lion.

“Yes sir, and bigger teeth,” said the hare covering his eyes with his paws pretending to be scared.

“What? Bigger teeth?” roared the lion loudly.

“I am afraid so sir,” whispered the hare.

“Take me to him now!” ordered the lion.

The lion and the hare walked until the hare suddenly stopped and pointed to a deep pit.

“There sir, right there. I am so afraid. I cannot go near it”, said the hare shaking.

“In that hole?” asked the lion still very angry.

The hare nodded. The lion went to the edge of the pit and looked inside. There was some water at the bottom of the pit. Another lion looked at him. He roared and the other lion roared back. He shook his big furry head, and the other lion did the same. The lion showed his strong nasty claws and the other lion did exactly the same. The lion became very very angry. With a mighty roar, he jumped into the pit. That was the end of the terrible foolish lion.



Courtesy: <http://www.fotosearch.com>

The hare went home. His parents cried with happiness. His relatives cried with happiness. His friends cried with happiness. Every one was happy. The animals were happy at last. The beautiful forest became a happy home for all the animals.

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