

THE LION AND THE MOUSE



**As Told by
The Stroud Puppets**



"Ho, hum, I think I'll take a nap.", said the Lion, "That was a big meal I just ate. I'm so sleepy."



The Lion stretched, laid his head down and began to snore.

"Tum de dum", sang a little field mouse as he walked along the path. The mouse did not even notice the lion.



The mouse walked right up over the lion's back, then over his head and down his paw, happily singing all the way.

The lion woke up, looked at this bold mouse and, just after the mouse stepped down from his paw, lifted his paw and grabbed the mouse.



The mouse struggled to get free. "Help, help!!", he cried

"Aha, caught you!", the lion shouted. "How dare you walk over me, a lion, the King of the jungle!"

"Pl-pl-please let me go, Mr. Lion.", pleaded the mouse. "Please don't eat me."

"And why not!?", asked the lion.

"Why??", the mouse said. "Because I'm just a little mouse who runs around on the ground all day and your a great lion. I'm not worth eating, I'm so small -- and besides I might even get your paw dirty."



"You are awfully small, aren't you?", agreed the lion. "and I do have a very delicate constitution, you might give me heartburn. But on the other hand, you did show a complete lack of respect for the crown by walking on me that way. Hmmmm, I don't

know.”

“:Oh, please, please let me go.”, cried the mouse. “If you let me go, then someday when you need help, I'll help you out.”

“You, help me!”, said the lion. “Nonsense!! What could a lowly mouse every do for a great lion like myself.” The lion paused to think. “Oh, alright, you can go.”, he said as he released the mouse.

The mouse thanked the lion and ran off along the path.

The lion yawned and went back to sleep.



Just then two hunters saw the sleeping lion.

“There's a lion. Get him, get him.”, shouted Calvin

“Shhhhhhh”, said Jake. “Calvin, you go back around that tree and throw the net over the lion.”

“Ok, “, Calvin said. “But what are you going to be doing?”, he asked.

“Oh, I'll stay over here and supervise”, said Jake. “On the count of three you throw the net.”



Calvin was so excited that he accidentally threw the net over Jake instead of the lion.

"Hey wait a minute.", Jake exclaimed. "Not me, the lion!!"

"Sorry about that.", Calvin said. "I'm a little nervous."

Calvin took the net off Jake and got ready to throw it over the lion.



"One, two, three", Calvin said as he threw the net over the lion. "Got him!! ", he exclaimed.

The lion roared. "Oh no, I'm caught!!", he said. "What an embarrassing thing to happen to the king of beasts!!"



"Come on," Jake said, "let's get the ropes and the cage and tell the boss we caught a big one!"

"Yeah, Let's hurry," Calvin exclaimed nervously, "I don't think this lion is too happy about being caught."

Calvin and Jake hurried off to get the ropes while the lion struggled to get out of the net.

"Oh me ... Oh me ... Oh me ..." cried the Lion. He struggled to get free, but the net was too strong. If only he had something sharp to cut through the net.



Just then the little field mouse came back down the path singing all the way. "La de da, la de da do. Oh! What's this?" Said the a mouse. "Well, you've sure got yourself in a mess this time, Mr. Lion"

"Shhhh." Hushed the Lion, "Can you help me, ... friend??"

"Friend!??", the mouse remarked, "So now it's friend, is it?? A little while ago, you were ready to eat me!!"

"But, I didn't eat you!", justified the Lion, "I let you go, out of the kindness of my heart."

"Yeah, right!", exclaimed the mouse, "I don't know ...Well, you did let me go, so I guess I owe you one. Ok ... let's see ... how to get you out of that net. I could go get my hack saw and saw through the net."



"There isn't time for that," said the Lion, "I think I hear the hunters coming. Just crew through the net."

"Chew through them!!!!?????" the mouse exclaimed. "Are you kidding!? I just had my teeth cleaned at the dentist!!"

"Oh, come on, hurry, please.", the Lion begged.

"Oh, alright!.", the mouse agreed as he chewed through he ropes. "There! It's chewed through! You're free! Hurry run!"

The lion and the mouse ran off and hid behind a tree just as the hunter came back with the ropes and cage.



"Hey, He's gone!" Calvin exclaimed.

"Oh no!, Jake said. "Oh well, 'that's the way the cookie crumbles'." "Yeah." Calvin agreed "We can't cry over spilt milk", Jake continued. "Yeah." Calvin agreed "Nothing ventured nothing gained" Jake went on.

"Uhh excuse me.", Calvin interrupted, "but that's enough of the old sayings don't you think?" "Oh Sorry about that.", Jake apologized as the two hunters went back to their camp site.



The lion and the mouse came out from behind the tree. The lion was so grateful to the mouse that he kept thanking and thanking him. "Aw shucks," said the mouse."it was nothing"

THE END