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The race of animals

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In this second tale, the animals living in the forest should elect a new king, as was the custom every year. A race was held, and the winner would be reigning over the kingdom of animals. Would the race be fair and peaceful? What were the tricks each contender used to win the throne of the forest?



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جنگل

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In one of the thick forests, the animals gathered in the afternoon to celebrate the birthday of the beginning of the spring.

They were used to choosing a new king.

As was the custom, the animals took part in the race at the end of the celebration, and the winner was given the banner of the kingdom.

Then, each species of animals chose its representative in the race.

The racers stood in the same starting line, and the other animals, like rabbits, wolves, gazelles, lions, hedgehogs, foxes, apes, and so on, would encourage their delegates with songs and constant handclaps...

Suddenly, all the animals fell silent.

The old wolf moved forward, turned back to all, and then howled aloud, announcing the starting of the race.

The rivals dashed ahead in a wild race and amazing excitement. Every racer ran fast to arrive the first on the finish line, where the jury members waited them near the great river, which flowed through the eastern side of the forest.

In the middle of the forest, the running young wolf told himself:

- I prey on the rabbit before the arrival!

And so thought the fox.

The lion said:

- I kill all the runners to win this race!

لَيْسَ نَبِيٌّ مِثْلَ مَا يَأْتِيكُمْ

بِالْحَقِّ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



The rabbit did not say nothing.

The race went fierce, and the runners split their ways, each searching for the right path leading to the riverbank, but they all crashed into trees, sending the birds flying away their nests in confusion!

There arrived rabbit on the finish line, panting and sweating from the two ears.

The members of the jury, all of them domestic animals (the cat, the dog, and the lamb), were startled. They applauded the rabbit for winning the race. They waited the coming of the remaining racers, while the rabbit prepared himself to bathe in the river.



After a short moment, the fox arrived with a swollen belly, saying:

- I am late because I was busy chasing a raven who wanted to attack the eggs of a little bird. I hate injustice!

The dog said:

- But you have eaten both the black raven and the little bird with her eggs. The wolf told us that!

The fox went angry and said:

- Where is the cunning wolf? I guess the wolf withdrew from the race when he saw a flock of sheep grazing near the forest! I am going to warn the shepherd of the intention of the wolf!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

مِنْ جَنَّاتٍ مِنْ تَحْتِهَا يَجْرِي الْمَاءُ وَيَنْبَغِي مِنْ فَوْقِهَا الثَّمَرَاتُ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ فِيهَا عِزَّةٌ وَلَهُ فِيهَا جَنَّةٌ كَثِيرَةٌ لِيُدْخِلَ فِيهَا الَّذِينَ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ وَالرَّسُولُ يَدْعُو بِهِمْ وَيَأْتِيهِمْ فِيهَا الْوَقْتُ الْأَجْمَعُ



Moments later, the lion arrived, walking slowly. He was panting as he was tired. The blood stained his great mouth and his two forelimbs.

The members of the jury looked surprised when they noticed the condition of the lion, wondering:

- What happened to you, lion?

The lion pretended to be sorrowful, replied:

- A bullet hit my leg as I was trying to defend a gazelle from a hunter, who wanted to kill her with his gun.

The jury detected the lies of the lion, said:

- Yet, we see blood on your teeth, and it is a conclusive proof that you have devoured the beautiful gazelle. Besides, we did not hear any sound of a gunshot!



The lion stammered and then said regretfully:

- Yes, I have eaten the gazelle when I saw all the animals of the forest preying on each other.

The jury turned back to the rabbit, asking him:

- How did you do to arrive safe and in the first position?

The rabbit replied:

- Because I did not covet any animal. Rather, I arrived before all of them as I was running away, scared of being attacked by the other racing beasts!

تسألنا ما لوتينا لقميا ميلاحتنا المستجبات روتنا

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The members of the jury discussed among them, and then decided:

- Congratulations, rabbit! From now on, you become the king of the forest!

The rabbit did not jump for joy, he rather said to the members of the jury:

- Thank you, but I did not accept the throne. I would rather live amongst you in the village beside the domestic animals, far from the forest. That is to say far from the beast!

After consultation, the jury agreed upon the withdrawal of the rabbit.

تَسْتَحِقُّا نَأْمَهُ فَكَلِمَاتُ

