

A LITTLE LION IN OUR HOUSE



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The cat overheard the children reading a story out loud: "There's a little lion in our house: the cat." It said to itself, "If I'm a little lion, then I should visit my family in the jungle and see the big lion."



The cat walked and walked and walked until it finally reached the jungle. It went to the lair of the lion and found him sitting there with birds and animals around him saying, "We hear you and obey you, oh King of the Jungle!"



The cat drew close to the lion and said, "Greetings, King of the Jungle." This was the first time the lion had seen a cat, and he asked in surprise, "Who are you?" The cat said, "Rational humans say that I am of your family."



The lion was puzzled and said, "You do in fact resemble me, but why are you so small like that? And who are humans?" The cat told him, "Humans are creatures whose power is in their minds. They walk on two legs and have two hands, and I live with them."



Angered, the lion said, "Then they have deprived you of food and caused you to be so little and weak!" Before the cat could respond, the lion leaped up and walked off, saying, "Come with me. I want to meet these humans and punish them."



The cat walked silently beside him. On their way they saw a horse, and the lion stopped and asked, "Is that a human?" The cat said, "No, my Lord, that's a horse. Humans raise them in order to ride them."



The lion grew more vexed and said, "And why would a human ride a horse? That's unjust! I am King of the animals, and I'll prohibit humans from riding them." Further along the way, the lion saw a chicken. He stopped and said, "So that's a human. It walks on two legs, as you said."



The cat replied, "No, my Lord, that's a bird. It's a chicken, which humans raise to eat." The lion became infuriated and said, "That's unjust! I am King of the animals, and I'll prohibit them from doing that."



The lion and cat continued on their way, and in their path they saw a cow. The lion stopped and asked the cat, “Is that a human?” The cat said, “No, my Lord, that’s a cow. Humans raise them to drink their milk, eat their meat, and fashion from their skin shoes and bags.” At this point



the lion reached the full height of his fury. He was determined to defeat the human in battle and liberate all the birds and animals from the human's injustice. He continued his search for the human.



Suddenly the cat cried out, "That's a human!" He pointed to a woodcutter. Fearful of the lion, the man stood up straight. He told himself, "I have to conceal my fear so that this lion doesn't attack me." The lion drew near and angrily demanded, "Are you the human who has oppressed



all these birds and animals?" The woodcutter kept calm and said with confidence, "Yes, I am, who are you?" The lion replied, "I am King of the animals, don't you know me?"



“And what do you want?” replied the woodcutter. “I want to engage you in battle and defeat you,” said the lion. The woodcutter quickly thought of a trick with which to save himself. He said, “I agree, but you must wait for me until I collect my fighting power, for I forgot it at home



this morning when I left.” The lion said, “I agree. I’ll wait until you collect your force and return.” The woodcutter laughed and said, “You’re afraid of me and will run off. I won’t find you when I return.”



Angrily the lion retorted, "I'm not afraid and I won't run off." The woodcutter replied, "If you are truly courageous, let me tie you up with a rope to guarantee that you won't run off." The lion agreed and said, "It means nothing to me. Tie me up, go home, collect your force, and hurry back. Don't be long!"



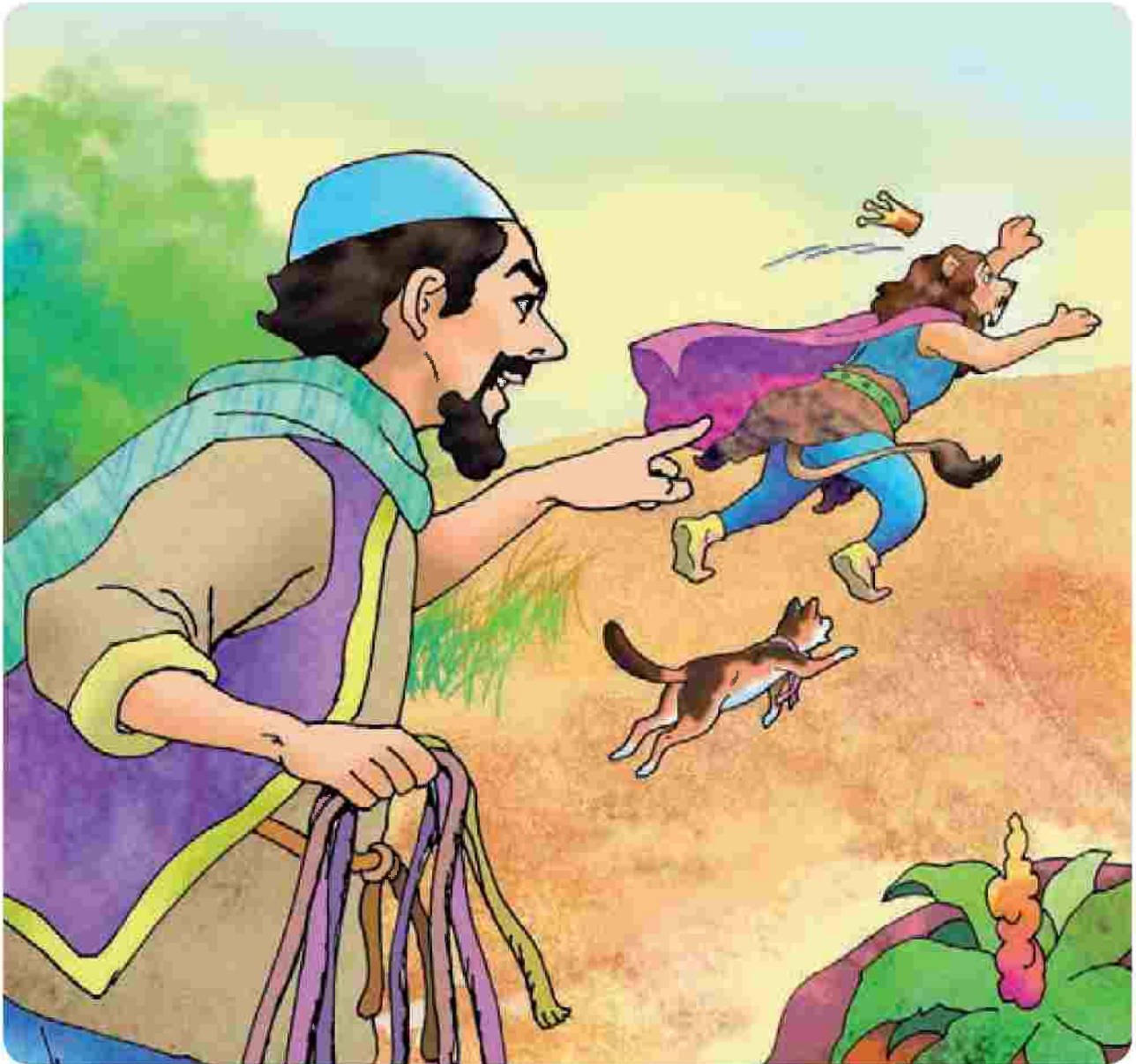
The woodcutter collected rope and tied the lion up securely. Upon completing his handiwork, he stood back and looked at the lion, chuckling with scorn.



Angrily the lion demanded, "Why are you laughing? Why don't you go to your house and collect your force?" The woodcutter said, "Don't you realize that my power is right here with me in my mind?" The lion grasped the trick that had been played on him and roared in fury.



He tried to free himself from the rope but wasn't able to. Sobbing, he said, "Forgive me, human, forgive me!" The woodcutter said, "I'll forgive you if you acknowledge me as your master and master of all these birds and animals."



Sobbing, the lion said, "I acknowledge you, Master, for with the mind that God granted you, you are worthy of being my master and the master of all creatures." The woodcutter untied the rope and let the lion go. The lion ran off like a huge cat!