

THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE

By John Ward

"Is it far to go?" said Tortoise to the Hare
"No," said the Hare, "it's round the corner somewhere."
"From here to eternity," said Tortoise to his friend,
"If I start now I'll never get to the end."
"Nonsense," said Hare, "just follow me, quick."
"Quick's not for me," said Tortoise, "I'll be sick."
Hare said, "You go at your speed, I'll go at mine.
I'll see you at the end when you get there sometime."
Tortoise said, "You may have to wait weeks for me to arrive
And when I get there you may not be alive."
"Rubbish," said Hare, "where do you get these ideas?"
What have you got between those small silly ears?"
"Ah, big ears like yours do not mean you think better
I have more time to work things out to the letter.
While you're rushing off to do what you ought,
I spend my time in thinking great thoughts."
"Great thoughts are no good, you need action," said Hare.
"Now if you'll excuse me I'm expected somewhere."
So Hare bounded off where he wanted to rush
While Tortoise had a little rest under a bush.
After an hour or two, Tortoise, thinking great thoughts,
Decided to look for his Hare friend of course.
He plodded off in the direction Hare ran
And looked right and left, as if he had a plan.
As he padded round a corner at the end of a path
He stopped to take a look and he just had to laugh
There was his friend caught up in a cage
Poor Hare was getting in a terrible rage
"Oh, Tortoise, I'm so glad that you're here
I got caught up in this cage, I fear.
I cannot escape. I can't figure it out.
Can you give some thought as to how I get out?"
"Well, if you hadn't just bounded around
Without any thought of what might be found,
You wouldn't be in this fix, with such a hullabaloo."
"Never mind that," said Hare, "Tell me what to do."
Said Tortoise, "I'll have to think about this hard and well."
As his head disappeared back into his shell.
"Don't go to sleep," yelled Hare to his friend.

“I have to get out quick or this is the end.”
“You rushed to get in that cage, no doubt,
But I’m not in a rush to get you out
This has to be thought through and planned, you see.
We’ve only one chance to set you free.”
Tortoise looked like he’d stay still for an age
As Hare thrashed about inside the cage.
After a while Tortoise stuck his head out
And said, “I may have figured it out.”
“Oh, thank you.” Said Hare, “I’ve imagined all my fears.”
“I’m going to try,” said Tortoise, “but hang on to your ears.”
Then he butted and butted the cage with his shell
Until the cage rocked and rocked ‘til it fell
It rolled over and over ‘til the catch came undone
And Hare tumbled out; no harm had been done.
Hare said, “Tortoise, you’ll be my best friend forever
For getting me out after all your endeavor.”

The moral of this story; the moral of this rhyme
Is don’t rush without thinking, you’ll get there in time
Action is necessary, it must be said,
But work out solutions first, inside your head.