
Two Little Ducks

Once upon a time there lived two ducklings, Pihu and Paaki. They used to play together. They used to swim together. They even got trained together for take-offs and landings.

Pihu was growing up at a good pace while Paaki was slow. Pihu started taking good flights at very early stage while Paaki was still swimming. The time was not that far when they were to themselves struggle for their survival.

Since Pihu picked things up faster, she enjoyed the new phase. She used to take quick flight and grasp food early while Paaki was slow and could not reach on time, not even to arrange for food.

One day Paaki requested, "Dear Pihu, You are stronger and take good flights. Can you help me? Once you finish with your meal, can you bring some for me as well? Someday I will also help you". But Pihu said, "Why should I bring back food for you? Why should I bear if you have not grown up well?"

Paaki tried to convince her but all in vain. Their friendship was getting sour with each passing day.

Time passed, since Pihu was growing up faster, she entered into the old-age phase earlier than Paaki. Paaki by that time got strong enough to take good flights. Now Paaki used to reach food early while Pihu used to somehow manage with short flights and swims.

It was now turn of Pihu to seek for help but she was embarrassed. She did not even have words to talk to Paaki on that. She was very sad. Paaki came to her and asked, "What happened, Pihu? Why are you so sad?" Pihu somehow managed to let Paaki know of the reason. She looked at Pihu with some hope. Pihu replied instantly, "No problem Paaki, you should have told me about this earlier. Now you take rest and I will bring back meal for you".

Paaki was happy to hear that but was more ashamed now. She asked her that why she was helping her when she herself refused her earlier. To this Pihu replied, "What would be the difference between me and you if I also refuse to help? When you refused me, I got hurt and I do not want you to feel the same."

Pihu got more embarrassed and she promised Paaki that she would now do her best to get the sweetness back in the childhood bond they shared. Since that day both are living a very happy life and enjoying swim rounds together.

Moral: One should not forget ones friends during their good time.

- I. S. Marwaha