

No one gossips about other peoples secret virtues. *Bertrand Russell*

Every man, according to an ancient legend, is born into the world with two bags suspended from his neck—a small bag in front full of his neighbors' faults and a large bag behind filled with his own faults. Hence it is that men are quick to see the faults of others, and yet are often blind to their own failings. But there are some exceptional people who try and succeeded in bringing the large bag to front and small bag to back and thus become leader like Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, and Mother Teresa. The moral of the legend/story is that for success in life we must be capable of knowing and identifying our own faults and taking steps to correct them, instead of busy with finding faults with others.

The Ant and the Grasshopper

The ants were employing a fine winter's day in drying grain collected in the summer time. A grasshopper, perishing with famine, passed by and earnestly begged for a little food. The ants inquired of him, "Why did you not treasure up food during the summer?" He replied, "I had not leisure enough. I passed the days in singing." The ants then said in derision: "If you were foolish enough to sing all the summer, you must dance supper less to bed in the winter."

We must make friends in prosperity, if we would have their help in adversity.

Hercules and the Wagoner

A carter was driving a wagon along a country lane, when the wheels sank down deep into a rut. The rustic driver, stupefied and aghast, stood looking at the wagon, and did nothing but utter loud cries to Hercules to come and help him. Hercules, it is said, appeared, and thus addressed him: 'Put your shoulders to the wheels, my man. Goad on your bullocks, and never pray to me for help until you have done your best to help yourself. Depend upon it or you will henceforth pray in vain.' The carter realized his mistake and putting his own effort moved out the wheels from the rut and drove to his destination.

Self-help is the best help. God help those who help themselves.

The Lioness

Once a controversy prevailed among the beasts of the field, as to which of the animals-cat, dog, horse, donkey...deserve the most credit for producing the greatest number of whelps at birth. They went to the lioness and requested her to resolve the dispute. The lioness laughed and said "I have only one; but that one is altogether a through-bred Lion."

The value is in the worth, not in the number. (Sialor jak jak singhor ataye bhal.)

The fox and the goat

One day a fox while going to drink water fall into a deep well and could not find any means to come out of the well. A goat, over come with thirst, came to the same well, and, seeing the fox, inquired the fox if the water was good. The fox concealing his sad plight under a marry guise, indulged in a lavish praise of the water, saying it was beyond measure excellent, and encouraged him to descend. The goat, mindful only of his thirst, thoughtlessly jumped down, when just as he quenched his thirst, the fox informed him of the difficulty they were both in. The fox then suggested a scheme for their common escape. "If you will place your forefeet upon the wall, and bend your head, I will run up your back and escape, and will help you out afterwards." The goat readily accepted the second proposal without considering the fact that the fox was responsible for his plight and helped the fox to come out of the well. When the fox came out safely from the mouth of the well, he ran out from the site as fast as he could. The goat before dying cried: "You foolish old fellow! If you had as many brains in your head as you have hairs in your beard, you would never have gone down before you had inspected the way up, nor exposed yourself to dangers from which you had no means of escape."

Look before you leap. Think twice before you say analyze thrice before you act.

The Astronomer

An astronomer used to go out of a night to observe the stars. One evening, as he wandered through the suburbs with his whole attention fixed on the sky, he fell unawares into a deep well. While he lamented and cried loudly for help, a neighbor ran to the well, and learning what had happened said: 'Hi old fellow, why, in striving to pray into what is in the heaven, do you not manage to see what is on earth?'

We should manage our home/company well and safely before we think going overseas.

The goatherd and the wild goats

A goatherd, driving his flock from forest after the day found some wild goats mingled among them, and shut them up together with his own for the night. On the morrow it snowed very heavily, so that he could not take the herd to their usual feeding places, but obliged to keep them in the fold. He gave his own goats just sufficient food to keep them alive, but fed the strangers more abundantly, in the hope of enticing them to stay with him and making them his own. When the snow fall came to an end, he led them all out to feed, and the wild goats ran away as fast as they could to the mountains. The goatherd scolded them with their ingratitude in leaving him, when during the storm he had taken more care of them than his own herd. "That is the very reason why we are so cautious; for if you yesterday treated us better than the goats you have so long, it is plain also that if others came after us, you would, in the same manner, prefer them to ourselves."

Old friends cannot with impunity be sacrificed for new ones.

The kid and the wolf

A kid standing on the roof of a house, out of harm's way, saw a wolf passing by, and immediately began to taunt and condemn him. The wolf, looking up said: 'Sirrah! I hear thee: yet it is not thou mocking me, but the roof on which thou art standing.'

Time and place often give the advantage to the weak over the strong. But this does not make the weak equal to the strong.

The fighting cocks and the Eagle

Two game cocks were fiercely fighting for the mastery of the farmyard. One at last put the other to flight. The vanquished cock skulked away and hid himself in a quiet corner. The conqueror, flying up to a high wall, flapped his wings and crowed exultingly with all his might. An eagle sailing through the air pounced upon him, and carried him off in his talons. The vanquished cock immediately came out of his corner, and ruled henceforth with undisputed mastery.

Pride goes before destruction, no defeat is final if you have endurance.

The belly and the members of the body

The members of the body rebelled against the belly, and said, 'why should we be perpetually engaged in administering to your wants, while you do nothing but take your rest, and enjoy yourself in luxury and self indulgence? The members carried out their resolve, and refused their assistance to the body. The whole body quickly became debilitated, and the hands, feet, mouth, and eyes, when too late, repented of their folly.'