

A Tale of Two Birds

Once there lived a mother bird in a forest. Her two new-born babies also lived with her. Their nest was in a tall tree.

One day, there was thunder, lightning and rain. The stormy wind blew down the tall tree. Unluckily, the mother bird was killed. The strong wind blew away the little birds. One of them came down near a cave. A gang of robbers lived there. The other bird came down a little distance away. A rishi's ashram was near that place. Thus the two birds were separated.

The first bird made his home on a tree near the cave of the robber. The second bird made his nest on a tree near the rishi's ashram. After some time, the baby birds became big. One day, the king came there. He was following a deer. He was very tired. He got off his horse. There was a tree near a cave. The king sat under it to take rest. Just then, the king heard a big brown bird's voice. It was inviting some robbers to come and snatch the king's jewels and horse. The king got afraid. He got on his horse and rode away.

Soon, the king reached the rishi's ashram. He sat down in the shade of a tree there. He heard a big brown bird asking the king to take rest inside the ashram. The king was amazed. He said, "This one looks like the other bird outside the cave." The bird told the king that his brother had made friends with robbers. He talked like robbers.

The rishi returned soon after. He invited the king to share his food. The king told the rishi about the different behaviour of the two birds. The rishi told him that it was the result of their company.