

The Lion and the Mouse

Once upon a time, a strong, powerful lion lay asleep in the jungle. A little mouse, who was in a big hurry, scampered over the lion's nose. This disturbed the lion. He awoke very angry and quickly scooped the mouse into a paw.

"Even though you are of a worthless size, I shall eat you up!" roared the lion to the mouse.

The mouse trembled with fear. "Oh, good lion, I did not mean to bother you. Please set me free. You are too mighty to bother with a little creature like me."

The lion thought a minute, and then smiled and agreed with the mouse. The lion set the mouse free.

Time passed. One day, the mighty lion was hunting for food. Suddenly the lion stepped onto a clever trap that had been hidden by hunters. Whoosh! The lion was caught in a tangle of ropes.

The lion panicked. "How can I ever escape?" He let out a roar that rocked the jungle.

The little mouse was nearby. He heard the pleading cry of the lion who had spared his life and hurried to the trap. The mouse used his sharp teeth and quickly nibbled the ropes apart.

The lion said, "Kind mouse, thank you for saving me. You have taught me a lesson. You have taught me that every act of helping is an important one. And you do not have to be big to be important."