



The Lion, the Wolf, the Hyena, and the Honest Donkey

Mulugeta



In the lush, sunlit realm of Green Valley, King Lion ruled with wisdom and fairness, promising that every creature would be protected. Among his most dutiful subjects was Barnaby the Donkey, a hardworking soul who spent his days happily carrying heavy loads of fresh grain and cool river water to help his fellow woodland neighbors.



Barnaby possessed a heart of pure gold, but his innocent nature led him to believe that every animal shared his gentle honesty. Watching from the shadows, a clever Wolf and a greedy Hyena whispered scheming plans, realizing they could easily trick the unsuspecting donkey for their own gain.



Pretending to be a devoted friend, the sly Wolf showered Barnaby with compliments and convinced him to take on the solemn duty of guarding the kingdom's central food store. Eager to serve his king and community, Barnaby proudly agreed to watch over the precious grain reserves throughout the quiet night.



Under the cover of darkness, while Barnaby stepped away for a brief drink at the river, the Wolf and Hyena quietly raided the storehouse and stole sacks of delicious fruits and grain. To complete their wicked deception, they left stolen wheat stalks scattered around Barnaby's sleeping mat to make him look guilty.



The next morning, gasps rang out across the valley as King Lion discovered the empty storehouse and summoned all the animals to the stone hill. The crafty Wolf immediately pointed an accusing paw at Barnaby, but King Lion paused, remembering the donkey's years of faithful service, and decided to search for the truth before passing judgment.



Though heartbroken by the false accusations, Barnaby chose not to hide in shame, remaining patient and holding fast to his truth. Nearby, a perceptive little songbird noticed subtle tracks leading into the dense forest and flew directly to King Lion to report what she had witnessed from the treetops.



Guided by the songbird's directions, King Lion silently tracked heavy footprints deep into the woods, discovering a hidden cavern tucked behind wild brambles. Inside sat the missing sacks of food, guarded by the Wolf and Hyena, who were boasting aloud about how perfectly their scheme had framed the gentle donkey.



Emboldened by his desire for justice, Barnaby arrived at the cavern just in time to hear the villains laughing over their trickery. Stepping forward with newfound courage, the humble donkey confronted the dishonest duo, showing no fear as he stood up against their greed.



King Lion emerged from the shadows with a mighty roar, exposing the deceitful Wolf and greedy Hyena before all the gathered creatures of Green Valley. Ashamed and trembling, the tricksters were banished from the kingdom, while the truth shone bright and clear for everyone to see.



The valley burst into joy as King Lion officially commended Barnaby for his unwavering loyalty, honesty, and brave heart. From that triumphant day forward, the animals remembered that while deceit may temporarily cause trouble, true integrity and courage will always prevail.