



The Clever Dog and the Crocodile

Emily Cuellar



Under the scorching sun near the majestic Nile River, a clever dog named Rusty approached the bank to quench his thirst. Knowing the dangers that lurked beneath the water, he kept moving and looked around cautiously while taking small sips.



Suddenly, a deep, raspy voice broke the silence as a large crocodile slowly emerged from the thick reeds, his predatory eyes fixed on the dog. The crocodile asked Rusty why he was drinking in such a hurry instead of relaxing by the cool river.



Though startled for a moment, Rusty quickly regained his composure because he recognized the dangerous creature. He politely replied to the crocodile that while walking and drinking wasn't the most comfortable habit, it was the safest one for him.



The crocodile smiled cunningly and pretended to care for Rusty's well-being, urging him to stop and rest by the shore. He insisted that the water was fresh and clean, promising the dog that no one would dare disturb his peace.



Rusty raised his ears, recognizing the crocodile's sweet words but sensing the hidden trap beneath his friendly tone. He openly questioned why the reptile was so deeply interested in having him stand still near the water's edge.



The crocodile let out a soft laugh, claiming he only wanted to help and that drinking peacefully was much better for a visitor's health. Rusty smiled back mischievously, refusing to take a single step closer to the river bank.



Realizing his deception was failing, the crocodile frowned and feigned offense, asking if Rusty truly believed he wanted to hurt him. Rusty firmly answered that he didn't just suspect it, he knew the crocodile's true intentions very well.



Rusty declared that he would rather drink while walking and leave safe and sound than stay still and become a crocodile's dinner. Defeated and thoroughly frustrated, the giant reptile hissed loudly and sank back into the dark, murky currents of the Nile.



Stepping back safely from the shore, Rusty watched the ripples fade and continued his journey with his head held high and his tail wagging proudly. Nearby animals, including a swift hare and a slow turtle, watched in amazement and praised his sharp wit.



High in a nearby tree, a wise old owl commended Rusty for his intelligence, noting that those who know their enemy are never fooled by sweet words. Rusty trotted away into the sunset, saved by his brilliant caution and good judgment.