

The Lion and the Donkeys

Story by H.W.L. Poonja



One day in India, a Tobi (launderer) was taking his laundry to the river. On the way, he saw a hunter shoot a lion. The hunter skinned him and went away. The man saw that the lioness had been pregnant and had given birth to a little lion cub. He took the lion cub with him and raised it.

When it was big enough, he let it play outside with the donkeys. Very soon he also loaded laundry onto the lion's back to lead it to the river together with the donkeys. One day a hungry lion came out of the jungle and saw the herd of donkeys, which are good food for lions. But how was this possible? Among the donkeys was a lion eating grass. He jumped out to catch the little lion and ask him what was going on. The donkeys ran away in panic. The big lion caught the little one - who cried out in fear: "Oh, please Mr Lion, don't eat me! Let me go back to my brothers, the donkeys!" The big lion said, "What are you talking about, you're a lion!"

"No, no, Lord, I am a donkey, please let me go".

So the big lion grabbed the little one by the scruff of the neck and carried him down to the river. "Look into the water, do you see our faces?" "Yes," said the little lion, "they are the same."

"Now open your mouth and roar!" and the little lion opened his mouth and roared!

