

Chapter 1

1. How did the two baby birds get separated?

Ans: One day, there was a big storm, and the wind blew down many trees including the tall tree in which the birds lived. A big, heavy branch hit the nest and killed the bird. But the strong wind blew the baby birds away to the other side of the forest. Both landed at different places. This is how the two birds were separated.

2. Where did each of them find a home?

Ans: One baby bird found a home near a cave where a gang of robbers lived, the other landed outside a rishi's ashram a little distance away.

3. What did the first bird say to the stranger?

Ans: The first bird cried out to the stranger to hurry up and come quick as there was someone under the tree. It said come and take away his jewels and his horse in a hurry, or else he would slip away.

4. What did the second bird say to him?

Ans: The second bird welcomed the stranger in a gentle voice to the ashram, and requested him to go inside and rest. He then said that the rishi would be back soon, and asked him to drink some cold water and make himself comfortable.

5. How did the rishi explain the different ways in which the birds behaved?

Ans: The rishi smiled and explained the different ways in which the birds behaved by saying after all one is known by the company one keeps. The first bird has always heard the talk of robbers, imitates them and talks about robbing people. The other bird repeats what he always hears and so welcomes people to the ashram.

6. Which one of the following sums up the story best?

(i) A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.

(ii) One is known by the company one keeps.

(iii) A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Ans: The line that sums up the story best is "One is known by the company one keeps".

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