

What is possible to be accomplished by stratagem cannot be effected by exploits: a crow brought about the destruction of a black serpent by means of a gold chain.

Karataka asked how it was. Damanaka related—

#### FABLE VII.

A pair of crows lived in a certain tree. Their youngs were eaten by a cobra who lived in the hollow of the tree. Thereafter, the female crow, when again breeding said to her mate—My dear, let us abandon this tree. As long as the serpent lives here, our offspring can never live. For,

P. 52. A wicked wife, a cunning friend, an insolent servant, and a residence in a house infested by a cobra, mean undoubtedly death.

Don't you be afraid, my dear, replied the crow. I have pardoned his great crime again and again. But it shall not be tolerated now. The female crow observed—How will you be able to contend with one who is powerful? The crow replied—Away with this doubt. For,

He who has talent has strength; how can he, who is without talent, have strength? Behold, a haughty lion was killed by a hare. The female asked how that was, whereupon the male thus related—

#### FABLE VIII.

On the mountain named Mandara there dwelt a lion Durdanta by name, who always used to slaughter the beasts. Then all the beasts having assembled together made this representation to the lion—Sovereign of the beasts, why are so many animals slaughtered at a time? If it please Your Highness, we ourselves shall send one beast every day for your food. To this the lion replied—If you desire it let it be done. Thenceforth he ate one animal that was offered him. Now one day the lot fell on an aged hare. He meditated—

It is in the hope of saving one's life that a supplication is made to the source of fear:—If I am to die why should I conciliate the lion?

I shall go then slowly. The lion who was oppressed with hunger, asked him in anger—Why hast thou come so late? The hare replied—My lord, I am not to blame. On my way I was forcibly seized by another lion. Having pledged my word that I would return to him I have come here to represent it to Your Highness. The lion said