

Story #69 (Tape 19)  
1961-1962

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#69 #69  
The Cat and the Snake

A cat and a snake were once good friends. They got along well together until one day they were on a trip. When they came to a river, the snake said to the cat, "I do not know how to swim. Will you carry me across the river?"

"Very well," said the cat. "Coil yourself around my body and hold your head up above the water and I shall carry you across."

The snake coiled himself around the cat's body, and they started across the river. When they were in the middle of the stream, the snake began to crush the cat within his coils - of snake

"What are you doing, friend?" asked the cat. "Do not kill me yet. There is an inscription written under your chin, and I want to live long enough to read it to you. Wait until then to kill me."

When they reached the opposite bank, the cat pretended to look at the inscription he said was written on the snake's throat, but instead he bit the snake's throat and killed him. As he walked away, he remarked, "I don't want a crooked friend, anyway. I want a straight friend."