

Story #351 (Collected orally and then in written form; not taped.)

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The Clever Judge

Once a lion, a fox, and a donkey set off for a day's hunting, after agreeing that each was to have an equal share of what was caught. After a time, they were able to pull down and kill a fat buck; and the lion asked the donkey to be so good as to divide the prize. As fairly as he could, the obliging donkey cut up the buck into three equal parts, and then he invited the lion to take his choice.

At this, the lion flew into a violent rage, sprang on the poor donkey, and killed him with a powerful blow.

Then the lion told the fox to divide the meat. This the fox did; but he was cunning. He put aside a big heap for the lion's share, and kept only a small piece for himself.

On seeing this, the lion looked very pleased. "Master Fox," he said, "this is indeed a most satisfactory division. Who taught you to be so clever?"

"The dead donkey has been my teacher," replied the fox. "From his foolish conduct I have learned to be wise."