The Perceptive Lion

One day the lion ordered all of the animals to assemble. After they had gathered around him, it was discovered that the sparrow had not come. The lion sent an ambassador to the sparrow to request his presence at the meeting, but he still refused to come. Instead of growing angry, the lion queried his ambassador.

"Did you make my order known to the sparrow?"

"Yes, I did."

"Was the sparrow alone when you delivered this order to him?" asked the lion.

"No," said the messenger, "his wife was with him."

"Ah, if that is the case," said the lion, "then I can understand his refusal."