

Story 1160 (1989 Tape 11

Narrator: Yasemin Ertas, 13

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Kayseri

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A Crow and a Snake

A crow once made her nest in a very large tree, where she thought it would be safe. She did not know, however, that a snake had long been living in a hole beneath that tree. Every time that the crow laid eggs in her nest, the snake would climb the tree and eat them.

Disturbed by these repeated losses, the crow decided to consult her friend the Jackal about the matter. "Brother Jackal," she said, "if that snake continues to eat my eggs, I shall never be able to have a family. I am very angry at that snake, and I am thinking of blinding him by pecking out his eyes with my beak while he is asleep."

But the jackal gave her some wise advice against this procedure. "Sister Crow," he said, "that could be a very dangerous way to try to solve your problem. You must use your wits instead of your beak."

"How shall I do that?"

The jackal responded, "Fly into the city and steal a valuable piece of jewelry from the house of some wealthy family. As you do this, make sure that everyone sees you flying away with the jewelry. Then take the jewelry to the snake's home

drop it inside."

The crow could not understand the jackal's thinking, but because she was helpless and because she had asked the jackal for advice, she decided to follow his directions

Going to the nearby city, she flew into a rich-looking house and stole a valuable necklace. After letting herself be seen by everyone in the house, she flew back to the tree and dropped the necklace at the entrance of the snake's hole

As she flew away slowly with the heavy necklace, the people of the house ran after her. They could not catch the crow, but from a distance they saw her fly to the large tree where her nest was located.

When they reached the foot of the tree, they saw the snake lying on the ground beside the necklace. They killed the snake and recovered the necklace.

Observing all of this, the crow finally understood the meaning of the jackal's remark. The jackal was right. A person's wits are superior to even the sharpest weapon.