

Story 1988 (1992 Tape 8)

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The Lion and the Cat

A lion was once walking through the forest when it met a cat. The lion said, “O friend, you look like us lions, but you are so very small. Why are you so little? Why haven’t you grown as large as we are?”

“I could grow no larger because I am owned by a human being.”

“Are human beings very strong?” asked the lion.

“Yes, indeed they are.”

The lion then said, “Show me a human being.”

The cat said, “Let us take a walk together, and somewhere along our way I shall show you a human being.”

When a giraffe crossed their path, the lion asked, “Is that a human being?”

“No, that is just a giraffe, not a human being.”

As they continued to walk, they saw a sheep. “Is that a human being?” asked the lion.

“No, that is only a sheep, not a human being. A human being can manage a flock of a hundred sheep or more. This sheep cannot be

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here by itself. He must be with a shepherd, the human being who controls many sheep. You will soon see a human being.”

When they located the shepherd, the lion asked him, “Are you a human being?”

“Yes, I am a human being.”

“Do you think that you are very strong?” asked the lion.

“Yes, I am very strong and very brave, too.”

“If you are really as strong as you claim to be, let us see you prove it! Would you be willing to wrestle with me?”

“Yes, I am willing to wrestle with you, but I must first go and get ready for wrestling. But to prevent you from becoming frightened and running away before I return, I should like to tie you to this tree.” The lion agreed to that. The shepherd then took a strong rope and tied the lion very tightly to the tree. He then gathered his flock and departed.

The lion fell asleep waiting for the shepherd to return. He was awakened by the voice of the cat. “Well, do you now know what a human being is like? That shepherd was a human being.”

“Now I know,” answered the lion. “I also know that for one owned by a human being, you are really quite large!”