

ENGLISH



THE FRIENDLY MONGOOSE

~Summary~

-by Khushwant Singh

The story "**The Friendly Mongoose**" is taken from the collection of **fables** called "**Panchatantra**". There was a **farmer** and his **wife**. They lived in a village along with their **baby**. The farmer wished to have a pet in his home because he thought that it would be a good **companion** for his son. So he brought home a **small mongoose**. Within five to six months, the mongoose had grown to its full size.

One day, the farmer's wife had to go out to buy **groceries**. But she didn't want to leave the baby alone with the mongoose. So she asked the farmer to look after the baby till she arrives. But the farmer felt bored and went out to take a look at the fields. On his way, he met some of his friends.

When the wife got back home, she saw the mongoose's face **smudged** with **blood**. She screamed, believing that it had **harmed** her baby. She threw the basket full of groceries at the mongoose and **killed** it. Then she ran towards her baby's cradle. When she saw the dead snake near the baby's cradle, she realised the truth; the mongoose was **innocent**, and it had saved her baby's life by killing the snake. She also realised her **mistake**. She acted rashly without knowing the truth.

The moral of the story is: "**Look before you leap.**" It means that any person must always think **twice** or **thrice** before they do something to avoid **problems**.



Think twice or thrice to avoid problems.

~Conclusion~

The story concludes that trust is very important in any bond. The Mongoose was loyal to the farmer's family but the wife's mistrust of him led to its unfortunate death. Loyalty should be repaid with trust and understanding. It also teaches us that our actions should not be guided by quick and reckless judgements. We should think responsibly before we act.