

Story 1200 (1990 Tape 12)

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The Life Span of Man Established

After the father God had created the world, he ordered all his creatures, both human beings and animals, to appear before him. There were some things that he wanted to tell them

When they were all gathered, he spoke first to the human beings. He said, "Listen to what I have to say, human beings! I have created the whole world and all of its beauties just you, and I have endowed you with the ability to think. You to use all this world as your own. Enjoy it to the utmost Take pleasure in it and love it." He then assigned a life span of forty years to human beings.

Well, the human being is by nature rather impudent, and those first human beings were not satisfied with the life span that God had given them. Seeing how beautiful the world was and thinking about how pleasant their lives could be, they said, "Our God, this life span which you have assigned to us is not sufficient. Can't you allow us to have more time on this earth?"

"Be patient!" God answered. "Wait for a while and see what happens. If there should be other creatures who find their life span too long, I shall shorten their life span and give the leftover time to you."

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God then spoke to the animals, passing before them and addressing each kind of animal separately. When he came to the donkey, he said, "See here, donkey. I am placing you in the service of human beings. You will tolerate whatever unjust treatment and oppression they may inflict upon you. You will carry out all their commands, and you will show humility and good-naturedness despite their insults and abuse. I have assigned you a life span of forty years.

The donkey thought about this for a moment and then replied, "Can anyone endure the abuse of mankind for such a long period of time? My God, it is too much! Take back half the time you have allotted to me!"

Hearing this, God took twenty years from the life span of the donkey and added it to the life span of man. As a result of this change, human beings then had a life span of sixty years. But they were still not satisfied, and again they complained, saying, "Our God, this is still not enough time for us to spend in this beautiful world. Sixty years is still too short a life span."

God did not answer this complaint. Instead, he proceeded to speak to different animals. When he came to the monkey, he said, "Monkey, I placed your livelihood in the treetops. All of your life will be spent high in the branches of trees. There you will find food to eat, and there you will also engage in

buffooneries to amuse human beings and make them laugh. I am giving you a life span of forty years."

After thinking about this for a minute, the monkey said, "It will be a hard job to gather enough food to survive in the treetops, and it may be even more difficult to keep human beings amused. My God, it will be too much for me to endure for forty long years. Take back half of that time from my life span."

So God took twenty years from the life span of the monkey and again he added the leftover time to the life of man. Since that time it is said that people first live forty years as human beings, then twenty years as donkeys, and finally they spend their last twenty years as monkeys!