

Story #33 (Tape 11)
1961-1962

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Location: Village of Zir
Date: January 1962

How to Hunt Horses

We have been told that the lion is the greatest of all the animals, but he is also known to be a very generous creature at times too. He has often helped other members of the animal kingdom, especially by dividing his food with poor or sick friends.

One day a hungry wolf met the lion in the forest and he said to him, "I have not eaten anything for three days. Please have pity on me and help me to find some food."

The lion climbed up on a high place and looked down toward the plain. There he saw a pack of horses grazing. He called the wolf to come up and see the game for himself. "Let us approach these horses very quietly," said the lion, "and try to avoid being noticed."

The two of them walked on from the high ground rapidly, and very quietly they began to approach the pack of horses. When they were quite close to the horses, the lion whispered to the wolf, "Watch me very closely now, and see how I behave. You will see certain signs."

"Very well," said the wolf.

"Are my eyes getting red?" asked the lion.

eyes -- red

"Yes, they are," answered the wolf.

mane -- erect

"Is my mane rising?" asked the lion, and indeed his mane had started to stand up on end.

teeth -- grinding

"Yes, it is," answered the wolf.

tail -- twitching

"Are my teeth grinding?" asked the lion.

The wolf listened a minute and then he said, "Yes, they are grinding."

"All right, now stand behind me," said the lion. "Is my tail twitching?" he asked.

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"Yes, it is," said the wolf.

"All right, then, watch me," and saying this the lion leaped on horse, knocked it down, and killed it. "Now come and help yourself to it," he said to the wolf. "Eat the horse quickly and don't stay around here long, for it is dangerous. Get away quickly."

Saying this, the lion left. The wolf ate all of the horse except the skin and the bones. When he had finished eating, he headed for the mountains, but on the way he met a fox who said to him, "I am very hungry. I have been without food for days. You look so well fed that perhaps you could tell me how to find some food."

Partly concerned for the fox and partly interested in eating still more horse flesh, the wolf decided to teach the fox how to kill horses. "Follow me," he said, and he returned to the pasture by the same route that he had come. ^{Wolves -- greedy} As wolves are very greedy animals, he chose a very large horse from the pack to attack, but unknown to him, this large horse had had a considerable amount of experience with wolves.

The wolf asked the fox to observe him closely as he prepared to kill the horse. "Are my eyes red?" he asked the wolf.

"No, they are not," answered the fox.

"But you are supposed to say 'Yes,'" said the wolf angrily.

"Very well," said the fox, "they are, red."

"Is my mane rising?" asked the wolf.

"No," replied the fox.

"You are supposed to say 'Yes,'" said the wolf again.

"Are my teeth grinding?" asked the wolf.

"I don't hear them grinding," said the fox.

"You stupid fox!" shouted the wolf, "You are supposed to say

"Go around behind me and tell me if my tail is twitching."

"No, I don't think it is," said the fox.

"Never mind that," said the wolf, "You will answer 'Yes.'"

So the fox said, "Yes, sir!"

"All right," said the wolf, "then watch me!" And saying this, he sprang toward the large horse. This experienced horse knew just what to do, and he dealt the wolf several fierce kicks, and at last the wolf rolled on the ground dying.

Observing the behavior of the wolf now, the fox called out, "Oh, yes, now I see your eyes getting red. Now I see your mane rising. Now I can hear your teeth grinding. Now I can see your tail twitching. What you were saying a few minutes ago now seems to be coming true. But I don't believe I shall ever become a hunter of horses." Saying this, the fox ran away and looked for food elsewhere. This story shows the result of greed.