

The lion, the hedgehog, and the donkey.

This is the story of a lion who summoned a hedgehog and said to him, "Please, if there is any friendship between us, you have to find me some meat. It's been a month since I've eaten anything."

"All right," said the hedgehog, and he went to find the donkey.

The hedgehog said to the donkey, "You need to come with me and we need to go visit uncle lion, because he's sick."

"My dear friend," said the donkey, "the lion can't stand me. He'll do for me in a single mouthful."

"No, no," the hedgehog reassured him, "If someone pays you a visit when you're sick, he can't be anything but your friend."

So the donkey went with the hedgehog.

When they arrived at the lion's den, the hedgehog told the lion, "Pretend to be bedridden."

Then, seeing him lying down like that, the trickster said, "What happened to you to leave you stretched out like that all day long?"

"I have a headache," said the lion.

"Your head hurts?" asked the hedgehog.

"Yes," moaned the lion.

"Please," said the hedgehog to the donkey, "go and sit on his head."

As soon as the donkey sat down, the lion tried to catch him (catch him, catch him), but he only managed to bite an ear. M'sieur the donkey ran away.

When the donkey had traveled a good stretch of road, the lion said to the hedgehog, "I beg you, my friend, try to bring him back."

"My dear," said the hedgehog, "the moment he left, it became impossible that he would come back."

"But still you have to try," said the lion.

When he had met up with the donkey again, the hedgehog pretended to be shocked. "Why did you run away, my dear?"

"Run away!" said the donkey. "That guy was about to devour me!"

"No, no," the hedgehog reassured him. "It's just that when you press someone on a sore spot, they automatically jump. It's the pain that made him react."

In brief, the hedgehog brought the donkey back.

Once the lion caught the donkey, he killed him and ate all that he wanted. Then he took himself off, with this recommendation to the hedgehog: "Keep an eye on this donkey for me: don't let anyone eat any of the meat because if they do, for sure they'll eat the heart."

As soon as the lion went off, the hedgehog took the heart and ate it.

When the lion came back, he asked the hedgehog, "Where's the heart?"

"This donkey didn't have a heart," said the hedgehog.

"What do you mean? Can there be an animal that doesn't have a heart?" asked the lion.

"Just this precise donkey," said the hedgehog.

“How can that be?” asked the lion.

“If he had had a heart,” said the hedgehog, “after it saved his life by helping him escape from you, it would never have let him come back.”