The Truth Realized Too Late



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Once upon a time, in a village, there lived a farmer who worked hard to cultivate his fields. Monkeys, rabbits, peacocks, wild boars, tortoises, and birds often entered his fields and feasted on the vegetables, paddy, corn, and root crops he had grown. Their constant visits caused the farmer a great deal of trouble. To protect his crops, he would chase them away with a stick.

The animals and birds were very angry with the farmer.

"If only this farmer were not around, we could eat whatever we wanted from his fields without anyone stopping us. We wish he would die!" they thought.

One day, a tortoise arrived with some news.

"The farmer who owns this field has passed away!" it announced.

Hearing this, all the animals and birds were overjoyed! "At last, we are free! There is no one to chase us away or stop us from eating!" they exclaimed.

They jumped, danced, and celebrated their newfound freedom. However, a year passed, and things began to change.

There was not a single ear of corn or vegetable left in the field. The plants and vines had dried up, and the once-fertile farmland had become barren. No matter how hard the animals and birds searched, they could not find even a tiny morsel of food.

Seeing their suffering, the tortoise spoke:

"Do you understand now? Even if you go to other fields, the farmers there will protect their crops and chase you away. The very farmer who used to frighten you with his stick was the one who sowed the seeds, watered the plants, and grew the crops that fed you. Now that he is gone, there is nothing left for you to eat."

The animals and birds finally realized their mistake and began to weep.

"The farmer who placed restrictions on us was actually the one who provided us with food. We foolishly considered him our enemy, without realizing how much we depended on him. What a terrible mistake we made!" they cried.

Moral of the Story

In life, we should never mistake those who guide, discipline, or place restrictions on us for our enemies.

Our parents, teachers, and even the employers who provide us with our livelihood may sometimes correct us, set boundaries, or prevent us from doing certain things. But their actions often come from a sense of responsibility, care, and concern for our well-being.

Just like the animals who failed to recognize the farmer's importance until he was gone, we sometimes fail to appreciate the people who quietly contribute to our lives.

The true value of someone is often realized only in their absence. Wisdom lies in recognizing, respecting, and appreciating their contributions while they are still with us.