

flattered, as the wheelwright was by his wife, to discredit the evidence of his own senses. After that I hurried back to inform your majesty; and the parrot, as herald from the peacocks, will soon be here.

The goose-king and his minister held a secret council, at which the minister avowed his conviction to be, the younger officers of their own army desired war, and had made the crane their tool. A sick man is best for the doctor, a debtor for the sheriff, an ignoramus for the school-master. Confidential spies were appointed, and before the council broke up, the arrival of the parrot was announced, and a warder was instructed to shew him suitable apartments. It was decided to construct a fort and provision it at once. Very soon a crow with his retinue came from Ceylon, to proffer his aid in the coming war. The king said crows saw much, and knew almost everything, and he might be received. But the wary minister said crows were land birds, and their natural place in a fight was with land birds. Moreover, the fool who deserts from his own side generally meets with his reward, as did the blue jackal of whom he would tell the king. A prowling jackal one night fell into an indigo vat, from which he could not get out. By feigning to be dead, he was next morning thrown on a rubbish heap by the dyer, and at the first chance skulked back to the woods. When he saw his pelt, from the indigo, had been made a fine blue color, he thought he could turn his mishap to some account. So he called the jackals together, and informed them that he had been appointed by the presiding divinity of that forest as king over all its animals, and that the goddess had installed him as sovereign by anointing him with the essence of certain sacred herbs, which gave him the royal color as badge of his supremacy. His right to rule was soon recognized by all the forest-dwelling animals. In the early part of his reign, his body guard and confidential attendants were jackals; but when lions, tigers and such like noble animals came to his court, he favored them and neglected, and affected to despise, the whole jackal race. The jackals were sorely dejected at being scorned by their capricious king, and an old and cunning member of the tribe planned a scheme to be revenged on him for his injustice. At twilight, when the full court had assembled, all the jackals, at a preconcerted signal, altogether, began to yell. Taken by surprise, the race instinct of the king was dominant, and he yelled with the rest.