

a fellow, while Jacob was full of selfishness and deceit. Jacob seems to have been born with a selfish nature that always wanted to get the start of some one else. At the time of his birth he took hold of Esau's heel. This seems natural to some, always envying the one a little ahead, like the boy who shouts "Whip behind!" when the other boy catches on the sleigh that he missed.

Another day Esau returns from the field, where he has been in search of game, and though a "skilful hunter," for some reason that day had failed to take anything; but he had a brother, and he naturally went to him in his distress. There sat Jacob cooking "pottage," the sight of which made Esau hungry, so he asked Jacob to share up. Now, the most natural thing for Jacob to have done would have been to have given his brother—his only brother, his twin brother—his dinner. But no; Jacob was a man of bargains, and would not move until he saw he was likely to make something. This is where a man's true self becomes manifest: when another is in his power. Somehow the devil always has some Jacob around to tempt a weak Esau. "Well," said Jacob, "I'll tell you what I'll do, Esau; if you give me the thing you hold next dearest to your life, if you will sell me your birthright, I'll give you your dinner;" and poor, foolish Esau was taken in by his clever brother and swallowed the bait. He was sorry for it afterwards, as men generally are who walk by sight and act when in the