



A TALE OF TWO BIRDS

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1. How did the two baby birds get separated?

Ans. The two baby birds lived with their mother in a nest in a tall, shady tree. One day, a storm blew down their tree. The strong wind blew the baby birds away to the other side of the forest. They landed at different places. In this way, they got separated.

2. Where did each of them find a home?

Ans. One of the birds came down on a tree near a cave occupied by robbers. The other bird landed on a tree outside a rishi's ashram. In this way, they found home in different trees, a little distance away from each other.

3. What did the first bird say to the stranger?

Ans. The first bird cried out, "Quick! Hurry up! There is someone under the tree. Come and take his jewels and his horse. Hurry, or else he'll slip away."

4. What did the second bird say to him?

Ans. The second bird said to him. "Welcome to the ashram. Sir. Please go inside and rest. The rishi will be back in a short time. Drink the cold water from the pot. Also make yourself comfortable."

5. How did the rishi explain the different ways in which the birds behaved?

Ans. The rishi explained the different ways in which the birds behaved as follows.

One is known by the company one keeps. That bird has always heard the talk of robbers. On the other hand, this bird has always heard the talk of rishis. Therefore, the former bird imitated the words of the robbers. The latter bird repeated the words of the rishis.

- 6. Which one of the following sums up the story best?
 - (i) A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.
 - (ii) One is known by the company one keeps. .
 - (iii) A friend in need is a friend indeed.
- **Ans.** (ii) One is known by the company one keeps.