

Children collection

Prince Siddhattha Saved the Swan

Retold by Ajahn Sujan

A long time ago, there was a Prince called Siddhattha in a ancient city of Kapilavatthu near himalaya.

Prince Siddhattha was very kind heart, friendly to everyone and hospitable. He never insulted anyone. He was very generous and always helped people in need. He also love animals and often play with them.

One day, Prince Siddhattha went out with his friends. Prince Ananda, Mahanama and Upali also joined in with this event!!!! Prince Siddhattha's close cousin, "Prince Devadatta" also joined on the day. Even though they were both cousins, they were very different. Their characters, manners and behaviors were very different. Prince Devadata was not a good man. He had a very cruel mind and unkind to friends. He liked to create troubles, easy to get angry and was full of jealousy and envy towards other people.

On that day, they all went out to have great fun. Prince Devadatta took his bow with him. He saw something flying in the sky from the distance. It was a beautiful white swan.

Devadatta took his arrow and shot it immediately and hit swan. The Swan fell down on the ground. When Prince Siddhartha saw the swan fell down, he ran to the swan. The swan was hit by Devadatta's arrow. It was bleeding and asking for help. Siddhattha felt sad and sorry for her.

The Prince gently hold the swan, and



comforted it so it would no longer be frightened then pulled the arrow out of its wing. After that, he found a herb which could cover and heal the wound of the Swan and stop it from bleeding. Prince Devadatta was very angry at Siddhattha and demanded that the swan was belong to him.

Hey!!! that's mine! Give it to me NOW!!!

'I can't', said Prince Siddhattha and would not hand the swan over to Prince Devadatta and replied: "She is injured".

"But I'm the one who shot it!!!! Stop messing and give it to me now !!!!

'It is true, indeed, that it is rightfully yours because you shot it. she is still alive. In that case, shouldn't she belong to the person that saved her?

But, it is still mine, I shot it!!!

No, it's mine.

It's mine!!!

No one was ready to give up. So, Prince Siddhartha suggested an idea, 'Why don't we go and ask the wise for help and find out who does the swan belong to? '

Prince Devadatta agreed with him, 'FINE'!!!

At the meeting the topic of the dispute was: "Who does the swan belong to?"

There were two different and opposing opinions. According to the Law of Kingdom, the swan rightfully belonged to the person who shot it. No, said the opposition, the swan should belong to the person who saved it's life!!! They could not come to any conclusion. They argued for a long time, but neither of them could accept the others opinion. But then, suddenly, a young man appeared in the meeting.

"Pardon me, my friends." It was a young wise minister, Mahanama. 'May I assist you to find the answer? We are talking about 'Life'!!! Don't you think that 'life' is priceless and very important to the living? If the argument is between the one who saved a life and the one who tried to destroy it... Then, which one should the swan belong to?

They whispered each other some few moment and finally the judges reached a conclusion concerning this issue. The right of the ownership of the swan should belong to Prince Siddhartha.

What!!!!?, Devadatta wasn't happy.

'Thank you for your kindness,' said Prince Siddhattha. When the discussion between the great wise had concluded, Prince Siddhattha took the swan home and very good care of the swan until it can fly back to the sky.

Prince Siddhatta was born in 543 BC in ancient Kingdom of Kapilavatthu present day Nepal. When he was 35 years old known as the Buddha, one who knows what should be known and always taught to love every one, share with others, respecting friends and families, not speaking lies and unkindly, and not eating or drinking things that clouds the mind.

The moral of the story is:

All living creatures belong to those who protect their life, not to those who destroy.