



Self Ignorance

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In a dark jungle, a lioness died as she gave birth to a cub. A few minutes later, a herd of sheep and goats passed by. The cub seeing a large number of four-legged animals around and also his own four legs, quietly and inevitably joined the herd of grass grazing sheep and goats. As the time passed, the cub grew to become a young lion. Brought up as a goat, fed on their milk, the young lion also behaved like them. He had no means to know that in reality he was a lion. Whenever a lion would roar in the jungle, our young lion would also run helter-skelter like sheep and goats. Induced with the fear common to the herd, he would start trembling even at the sight of a lion.

One day a great lion came out to hunt in this jungle. As the great lion roared, he saw that along with the sheep and goats a young but scared lion was also running along with the herd. He was extremely surprised to see a lion with sheep and goats. He left his hunting halfway and ran to catch the young lion to find out the reasons for this unusual situation. When he caught the young lion he was even more astonished to see the young lion trembling with fear. Looking at the face of the young lion, and the overall condition, the mature and experienced lion quickly realized what had gone wrong and intuitively knew the tragedy which the young one had suffered. He felt great sympathy for the young one and earnestly desired to cure the young lion from the disease of lost identity.

He wanted the young lion to go with him to a secret spring where a pool of cool and clear water was formed since eternity. This was the traditional place, not only to quench all thirst and to drink but also a place to reflect. The young lion initially resisted but when the great lion frowned, the fear of his wrath made him move to the traditional pool. At the spring, the young lion looked into the pool of water and saw his own reflection along with that of the great lion. He immediately realized what he was being taught. The resemblance of the two reflected images was sufficient allusion for him to realize that he truly was a lion in the likeness and resemblance of the great lion. It was not difficult for him to comprehend that he had nothing in common with a goat or a sheep. When the great lion roared this time, the young one attempted to imitate and to his great surprise was successful in making as great a roar as his master. This enormous and awe-inspiring roar which was produced by the young lion had similar affects on the animals in the jungle and they ran helter-skelter with fear. The young lion was cured of the most chronic disease of the heart; **“SELF IGNORANCE”**.