

## The Bear and the Two Travelers

by Aesop

Two men were traveling together. On the path a bear suddenly met them. Quickly one of the men climbed up into a tree and concealed himself in the branches. Seeing that he must be attacked, the other fell flat on the ground. When the bear came up, felt the traveler with his snout, and sniffed him all over, the man held his breath and pretended to be dead. The bear soon left him because it is said he will not touch a dead body. Then the other traveler descended from the tree and jokingly inquired of his friend what it was the bear had whispered in his ear. "He gave me this advice," his companion replied. "Never travel with a friend who deserts you at the approach of danger."