

Love Begets Love

In my childhood, I read a story. I don't know whether it is true or false but I recently received some news clippings which show how even a ferocious lion can love his rescuer. In contrast, we see how a man today is ready even to harm, abuse and even kill his mentor/guide/relations and friends for personal gain or greed!

The story goes like this. Once a slave, tired of servitude, ran away from the palace of a king. He reached a forest where he saw a lion roaring with pain. He felt pity on him, went near him, noticed a big thorn pierced into the lions paw. He gently removed it and caressed him offering him relief. The lion walked away. A few days later, the slave was caught by the king's soldiers and brought back to the palace. The king ordered him to be thrown in front of a hungry lion in the presence of all his subjects and slaves so that no one would dare to flee in the future. As the lion approached the slave, roaring, contrary to expectation, instead of pouncing on the slave or attacking him, he started licking the hands & feet of the slave while wagging his own tail to express pleasure on meeting the slave again. No surprises for guessing that it was the same lion that the slave had helped earlier. The slave too started to fondle the lion. The greatly surprised king on hearing of the whole incident freed both the slave & the lion. If a lion can recognize and acknowledge the language of love and kindness & also reciprocate the same, how much more relevant does it become to us human beings who live on a much higher intellectual plane!

-- Rev. Prakash Joshi Ji

