

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 1: A TALE OF TWO BIRDS



A TALE OF TWO BIRDS

~Summary~

-by Gordon B. Greer

This story is about the importance of the companionship one has, how one's companionship can affect one's conduct and build a personality.

The story is about a **mother bird** and her **two newborn birds**. The **mother died in a storm**, and the sons got **separated from each other** in the **thunderstorm**. One of them reached near a **gang of robbers**, and the other one landed near the **Rishi's ashram**. One day, a king got weary while following a deer. He came and sat under the tree near the cave of robbers. There, the king heard a big brown bird's voice. It was calling the **robbers to rob the king**. The king speedily got up from there and rode away.

Next, he reached near the Rishi's ashram. Again he heard the bird's voice, but it was a complete contradiction to what he heard earlier. This bird asked the king to **take rest inside the ashram** and wait for the Rishi to come. The King was surprised to see the same appearance of the birds, but this voice was too kind. The bird told the king that his brother had learned that from the robbers. When the Rishi came, the king shared the story of the birds with him. The Rishi smiled and said it was the **consequence of the company that was being given back** on the actions of birds. That bird was not wrong. He was replicating what he had heard, and the forest was **full of surprises**.

~Conclusion~

The two birds show that our company determines our conduct. The story concludes that one ought to choose one's company wisely. While bad company corrupts us, good company makes us gentle and kind.

NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 3)

Question 1. How did the two baby birds get separated?

Answer: The two baby birds lived in a tall tree with their mother. One day a big storm blew. The tree came down. The mother bird was killed. The strong wind blew the two chicks away to the other side of the forest at a little distance from each other. Thus, they got separated from each other.

Question 2. Where did each of them find a home?

Answer: One of the young birds came down near a cave. A gang of robbers lived there. The other bird landed outside the ashram of a rishi at a little distance.

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

Answer: The first bird saw the stranger (the King). He called the robbers to hurry up and rob the man of his jewels and his horse. Indirectly he asked the stranger to leave the place at once.

Question 4. What did the second bird say to him?

Answer: The second bird welcomed the king to the ashram. He requested the stranger to drink water, take rest and make himself comfortable. He added that his brother lived in the company of robbers, so he talked like them.

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

Answer: The king told the rishi about the different behaviour of the two birds. The rishi explained that the first bird repeated the words of the robbers. The second bird repeated what he had always heard at the ashram. Their different ways were the results of their company.

Question 6. Which one of the following sums up the story best?

- a. A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.
- b. One is known by the company one keeps.

c. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Answer:

b. One is known by the company one keeps.

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