

THE PANCHATANTRA

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Scene: A Forest. Rabbit Enters.

RABBIT: Tsk tsk tsk. I'll...am a rabbit! (Bows) The hero of the forest. (*Taps foot*). For I have defeated kings. (Sings) Lion Kings! Shall I tell you how? Just watch! I shall hoppit for now. There's a lion around my dear man, and he may eat you up...(We hear LIONS roar) RUNNNNNNN!

LION: ROOAAAR! I WANT MY LUNCH! I WANT MY DINNER! Where are the animals! I will eat you up ROOAAAAR!

RABBIT enters.

RABBIT "OooOooOoo" "AaAaAa" "EeEeeEee"

LION (*Shades his eyes, looks into the audience*) Who's there? It's dark, and I can't see!

RABBIT: Squeek squeek!..It's me..One of the animals...Of the forest..Oh King! Your Highness! Sirrrr!

LION: (*TO AUDIENCE, but pointing backwards*) All delicious meals out theeeree! (*To RABBIT*) What do you want? Tell me QUICK! Or I shall eat you AAAL!

RABBIT: We'll send you...A good dinner...One of us...Will come every day...You won't have to hunt! We'll BE your dinner!

LION: I want my LUNCH! ROARRR!

BOTH go off.

RABBIT enters.

RABBIT: Oh dear oh dear, it's my turn to be eaten by the lion today! Oh dear oh dear!....I know! (*Snaps fingers*) I'll FOOL HIM! How clever of me! (*Hops to one side.*)

LION enters.

LION: I want my lunch and dinner, I'm getting thinner and thinner. As you can see my clothes don't fit me. I just live on plain tea. I'm really getting no dinner as you can plainly see
Roarr.

RABBIT comes forward.

RABBIT: Hop-hop-hop! Stop-stop-stop! I'm here!

LION: ROARRRR! (*Bending over RABBIT*) Just one tiny rabbit for my dinner?

RABBIT: (*Taps LION on shoulder*) I want to tell you something!

LION: YEEEEEEES?

RABBIT: There were three of us! (*Holds up three fingers*)

LION: YEEEEES?

RABBIT: But another lion ate the other two...

| a n | t h o | l o | g y |

LION: WHATTTT-T?!!! ROARRR!

RABBIT: ..and he sent me to tell youuuu that HEEEEEE is the king of the forest, not YOUUUUUUU!
(Points finger at LION)

LION: (Getting worked up as he listens. Then) ROARRRRRRRR! Take me to that other Lion...

RABBIT: (Cunningly) But he is younger...and stronger...

LION: TAKE MEEEEEEEE!!!!

RABBIT: Follow me, Your Highness!

Both exit.

Re-enter, The LION is bent, holding his back, and using a stick. We see a WELL half showing..

LION: Such a long journey (in a quivery voice). My back aches, my knees shake and I'm using a stick! Where is that other lion?

RABBIT: Hop-hop-hop! Stop-stop-stop! In his well, sir! (Points to well)

LION wobbles over and peers in.

LION: I can see him!

ROOAAR! (ECHO: Rooaar)

I can hear him! ROOAAR! (ECHO: Rooaar)