

# The Birds and The Hunter



Deep in the forest stood a very tall tree with its leafy branches spread out like strong arms.



This tree was home to flocks of birds and one very old bird. One day, this wise old bird noticed a small creeper growing at the foot of the tree. It spoke to the other birds about it,

"Do you see that creeper"?

it said to them,

"You must destroy it!"

Surprised,  
the other birds said,

"Why? It is so small  
it cannot harm."



"My friends,"

replied the wise old bird,

"that little creeper will soon grow, climb up on our tree, and become thick and strong. Someone could use it to climb up the tree. A hunter could easily do so and kill us all. Destroy it while it is still young."

the wise old bird advised.

"Now it is soft, and you can cut it easily, later it will be hard, so you will not be able to cut it."



"Will see, will see."

answered the birds. The birds forgot the advice and did not cut the creeper, which only grew more and more. It soon began to climb up the tree. As time passed, the creeper grew as strong as a sturdy rope.



One morning, while the flock of birds searched for food, a hunter saw their tree.

"So, this is where the birds live."

the hunter said to himself.

"When they come home in the evening,  
I shall catch them in my net".



He climbed up the tree by the creeper and spread his net. In the evening, the birds returned home and did not notice the net. As they flew into the tree, they were caught in the web. They struggled hard to get out but did not succeed.

"Help! Help!"

cried the birds.



"We are caught in the hunter's net. Oh, what shall we do now?"

"Do not make a complaint now."

said the wise old bird,

"Long ago, I told you to cut the creeper, but you did not listen, and now you see what has happened?"



They all wept and said they were sorry and foolish not to listen to the wise bird.

"Please, tell us what to do now to save our lives.",

the birds begged.



"Listen carefully!"

replied the wise old bird,

"When the hunter comes, you must all pretend to be dead. He will not harm dead birds and will throw us to the ground to be taken home. When the last bird is thrown, all must rise and fly away".



When the hunter came, he saw that all birds looked dead. He took them out of the net and threw them one by one. When the last bird was thrown, they rose up and flew away. Following the old bird's advice, they saved themselves.



We must listen  
to elders.

