

550 BC

AESOP'S FABLES

THE TWO FELLOWS AND THE BEAR

Aesop

Aesop (620-560 BC) - A Greek writer and/or collector of fables about whose life little is known. He is said to have been born a slave and later released, but many believe he is a legendary figure. Aesop's Fables are animal stories with moral lessons, many of which are from Oriental and ancient sources dated hundreds of years before his time. Two Fellows and the Bear (550 BC) - "Never trust a friend who deserts you in a pinch."

THE TWO FELLOWS AND THE BEAR

Two fellows were traveling together through a wood, when a Bear rushed out upon them. One of the travelers happened to be in front, and he seized hold of the branch of a tree, and hid himself among the leaves. The other, seeing no help for it, threw himself flat down upon the ground, with his face in the dust. The Bear, coming up to him, put his muzzle close to his ear, and sniffed and sniffed. But at last with a growl he shook his head and slouched off, for bears will not touch dead meat. Then the fellow in the tree came down to his comrade, and, laughing, said: "What was it that Master Bruin whispered to you?"

"He told me," said the other, Never trust a friend who deserts you in a pinch.

THE END