

**550 BC**

**AESOP'S FABLES**

**THE CAGE BIRD AND THE BAT**

**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. The Cage Bird and the Bat (550 BC) - "Precautions are useless after the crisis."

***THE CAGE BIRD AND THE BAT***

A singing bird was confined in a cage which hung outside a window, and had a way of singing at night when all other birds were asleep. One night a Bat came and clung to the bars of the cage, and asked the Bird why she was silent by day and sang only at night. "I have a very good reason for doing so," said the Bird. "It was once when I was singing in the daytime that a fowler was attracted by my voice, and set his nets for me and caught me. Since then I have never sung except by night." But the Bat replied, "It is no use your doing that now when you are a prisoner: if only you had done so before you were caught, you might still have been free." Precautions are useless after the crisis.

**THE END**