

### (3) The Unfaithful Helper

In a dense forest, there was a pond hidden among the trees that drew all kinds of animals with its cool, clear water. The pond was not just a place for animals to drink—it also filled with fish. In this lively picture, there lived a crab next to a graceful swan. They were best friends, enjoying the peace of their neighborhood until one day, a snake made its home near the pond and caused trouble. Every day, the swan laid an egg, but the snake ate it right away.

"I have to find a way to save my eggs," thought the swan.

"I beg you, my dear friend, please help me protect my eggs from the sneaky snake," pleaded the swan, her eyes filled with worry.

The clever crab thought for a bit, then came up with an idea. "I've got it! Let's catch some fish from the pond and drop them from the snake's house to the mongoose's house."

The mongoose lived in a nearby tree. Together, the crab and the swan caught some fish, tempting the mongoose with a path of fish that led to the snake's home. They hid behind a tree and watched as the mongoose, drawn in by the surprise meal, appeared.

"What a nice surprise! Fish right outside my own house!" cried the mongoose, enjoying every bite of fish as he followed the trail to the snake's home. Peering from their hiding spot behind the trees, the crab and the swan watched and followed after the mongoose.

When the snake saw the mongoose, it got ready to fight. The snake quickly slithered toward the mongoose with its mouth wide open, looking scary. They got into a savage battle, twisting and turning in a fierce struggle. Their hisses and growls filled the forest. After some time, the mongoose killed the snake.

Watching from behind the tree, the swan and the crab let out a sigh of relief. However, their joy didn't last long because the next day, the mongoose, looking for more fish, came upon the swan's nest. There the mongoose found the eggs of the swan. He ate all of them right away. The swan and the crab now felt helpless. They had brought this new threat upon themselves. They did not know that the mongoose was the dangerous helper.

As the golden light of the setting sun faded and the darkness spread over the forest, the swan and the crab sat close together. Their hearts heavy with sadness over the loss of the eggs. They felt worried and wished they had not teamed up with the mongoose. They looked at what was left of the snake, their minds filled with fear. The crab and the swan exchanged worried looks, knowing the mongoose could return at any moment. They realized that their actions had carelessly brought a new threat upon themselves. Full of regret and wishing they could turn back time, they agreed they were wrong. But by then, it was all too late to fix what they had done.

"Our carelessness has brought us a new enemy. Even more dangerous than the last," cried the two friends.