

## Jabu and the Lion

There was a young herdboys named Jabu who looked after his father's cattle. And his father had many cows!

Jabu was taking his cows to the river when he saw a lion was caught in one of the traps laid by the men of the village. His head was firmly wedged in it. A large part of Jabu's heart was sore for the creature.

"I am caught in this stupid trap and I cannot free myself," said the lion. "Please, come and free me before the hunters kill me!"

Jabu had a tender heart, but he was no fool. "I know that as soon as I do so you will eat me for your dinner."

"I could never eat someone who set me free! I promise that I will not touch a hair on your head!"

Jabu finally decided to trust him and set him free.

"Oh, thank you!" But now the lion was thinking to himself, "Hmmm.... Pity to waste such an excellent meal!" Jabu could see what he was thinking.

"You promised!" Jabu began. "I saved you and you promised not to eat me!"

"Yes," said the lion, "but I am awfully hungry!"

"Don't you know you shouldn't break promises?" said Jabu desperately.

Just then a jackal stepped between the two.

Jabu told Jackal how he had freed the lion from the trap, and how Lion had promised not to eat him, and how now Lion was intent upon doing that very thing!

"Oh, what a silly story!" said Jackal. "The great king of all the animals, stuck in a little trap made by humans? Impossible! I don't believe it."

"It is true," said the lion. "It is a strong and terrible trap!"

"Oh, I can't believe it. Stick your head in the trap to show me."

So Lion stuck his head back in the trap just the way he had been when Jabu had found him. Then, quicker than lightning, Jackal locked it shut. Lion was caught fast once again!