



Short Story || Short Story

## The importance of company

By: Debajyoti Bhattacharya

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Once upon a time, a hunter lived near a forest. One day the hunter caught two chicks from a parrot nest. The chicks were soft and cute. The hunter decided to keep those chicks with him as his pets. He put both the chicks in the cage. After a few days, one of the chicks slipped out from the open cage door and fly away. The other chick remained with the hunter. Later, the first took shelter in a sage's hut. The hunter had friendship with many notorious criminals and robbers. They visited his house and hatched plans for robbery. The parrot was hanging out there inside the cage. He had been seeing those notorious visitors every day and learning their language. One day a king came to the forest for hunting. While chasing a deer, he came close to the hunter's hut. No sooner did he reach there, the parrot cried out sharply, 'A visitor is coming. Be ready to rob him.' Scared of those remarks the king pulled the rein and rode away swiftly. The parrot's call, chased him from behind, 'Kill him! He is running away.' After trotting for some time the king came to another hut. Outside the hut there was a parrot sitting. The parrot spoke in a sweet voice "Welcome, honorable guest! Please come inside and sit comfortably."

The king was amazed by seeing such a well-mannered parrot. That very moment, a sage came out of the hut. It was the hut of a sage. The sage welcomed the king, took inside and gave him some fresh water. The parrot again said. "Please drink cold and fresh water." Then the king didn't remain quiet. He asked the sage "o learned man! I met a similar looking parrot in the hut of a hunter. "The parrot was very rude." He was speaking foul and threatening language, but here this parrot whose behavior is so nice. Why is this difference? Then the sage said. "It's perhaps because of the company in which the birds are living. Here the parrot listens to nice calm words, therefore is learning the same. I believe that the other parrot must be in the contact with wrong people and learning their language." Then the sage preached these birds should always live in good company as it brings many positive changes in their life in their life. The king heard that sage for some times, and he happily went away from there.



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