

# **LITTLE BADGER**

*By Giorda. From "Pomme d'Api" Mini Book.  
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## **Intent of this story**

- ✓ *Parents should encourage and help growing up children to be independent.*
- ✓ *And face life on their own*

## **THE STORY**

By now, Little Badger had already grown quite a bit.  
One day, he whispered to himself:  
"It has to be wonderful to live on one's own:  
To be in one's own little home, with one's little  
Things and not to be told when to go out and to come in!"

Soon after that day, unknown to all,  
Little Badger left the burrow of his parents.  
Then Little Badger decided to dig a burrow of his own,  
He worked with all his four paws. Mud was scattered on all sides.  
Little Badger was covered with dust and was making a thundering noise.

At this, the Old Owl, on a hunt in a neighboring thicket,  
Suddenly landed in front of him and growled:  
"Off with you! Get away! With the noise you are making,  
I shall not catch a single mouse! Little Badger was so  
Frightened at the sight of her, that he dared not move one paw!  
He stopped digging.

Discouraged, he rolled himself into a ball,  
Tail on to snout in the freshly disturbed earth.  
He did not know where to go  
He was feeling sad, alone and rejected.  
Yet, he couldn't make his mind to go back to his parents'  
Home. He spent a long and lonely night"

All of a sudden, in the morning, little Badger  
Heard some shouts, anxious shouts.  
They were his parents,' shouts.  
Little Badger was quite happy.  
His parents didn't sound angry but  
Friendly and concerned.

His father said: "Did you begin digging here?  
Not bad for a beginner:

Yet, you got discouraged very soon;  
 Look, I'll show you how we do it."  
 And he began to scrape the earth  
 With his front paws, while his hind paws scattered the  
 Loosened earth around him.  
 Then he stopped and said to his little one:  
 "Now it's your turn. Go on, son"

Little Badger got to work. He worked so well  
 That very soon, he dug a real burrow for himself.  
 Endearingly, his mother told him:  
 "All little badgers, one day or other feel like digging  
 A burrow of their own. Long ago, we too, like you, left  
 Our Parents' home and tried to dig a burrow for ourselves."

And his father added:  
 "Now go and have a good sleep in your burrow"  
 Little Badger got into a ball;  
 Then peacefully and contentedly  
 Fell asleep in the depth of his burrow, a burrow of his own!

## **POINTS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION.**

### **For Parents:**

- ✓ Parents have to honor their children as God honors them,
- ✓ Well settled, independent and happy children are the joy and consolation of old age.
- ✓ You have given to your children their bodies, not their souls
- ✓ Don't clip your children's wings; in due time, let them fly off the nest. If they come back to you, they were yours, if they don't, they have never been!
- ✓ Children are given to Parents by God on trust not in property
- ✓ Do not keep telling your children how much you have done for them.  
Tell them how much more you would like to do for them.
- ✓ When your children leave your home, tell them how proud you are to see them on their own; do not say how sad you feel to see them gone away.
- ✓ Do not scold your children when they are wrong, show them the right way.
- ✓ Do not deprive your children from their greatest treasures: **freedom of choice, a mind of their own, privacy and the right to be themselves.**
- ✓ Blessed be the Parents who know the difference between:
  - Giving example
  - Giving encouragement
  - Giving advice,
  - Giving correction

**For Children:**

- ✓ When young, you have both to honor and obey your father and mother.
- ✓ When a grown-up, you have honor your father and mother till death, not necessarily “obey them”
- ✓ When you become a grown-up and responsible person, you have to obey your conscience.
- ✓ Children once they grown up have to break the umbilical cord a second time.
- ✓ A chick will never be a chicken unless breaks the protecting egg shell
- ✓ To yourself be true.
- ✓ Children have to repay their parents’ love with affection and tenderness, not only with money and material things.
- ✓ Money and material help offered to Parents though coming from the pocket has to be given with the heart.

