

LITTLE BADGER

*From the book of P. Ribes, s.j. "Foundry Workers or Gardeners"
Published by the Gujarat Sahitya Prakash.*

Intent of this story

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

Target Audience:

- ✓ *Parents and children.*

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!

(By Giorda. From " Pomme d'Api" Mini Book. Quoted by prime Time. Jan. 1982

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING.

1. What's the main thrust of the story of the Little Badger?
2. Do Parents usually feel happy or sad when their grown up children leave their homes? Why? Should they feel let down? Why?
3. Do Parents have a right to keep their children tied to their apron strings? Why?
4. Explain: Parents have to love their children, yet, be detached from them?
5. May Parents rule the life of their children once they grew up? Why?
6. How should parents deal and relate with their children when they are already married?
7. What are the consequences of Parents meddling with their children's family life?
8. How to educate our children to start life and their new homes in a responsible and independent way?
9. In today's ethos and world culture is the joint family system possible or advisable anymore? Why?
10. Did any of your children already marry and started an independent life? How did you feel about it?

INPUT EXPLAIN THE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES;

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.

For Parents:

- ✓ Parents have to honor their children as God honors them,
- ✓ Well settled, independent and happy children are the jewels of old age.
- ✓ You have given to your children their bodies, not their souls
- ✓ Don’t clip your children’s wings; 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 of them, not how sad you feel!
- ✓ 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 advice,
 - Giving correction
 - Giving example.

