

## THE EAGLE AND HER BROOD

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### Intent of the story

- ✓ *Teach your children independence and responsible freedom.*
- ✓ *Help your children and wards. never rescue them*
- ✓ *Do not make things too easy for them if they have to grow as mature persons.*

## The Story

Once upon a time, an ornithologist said to bird lovers:

“It’s interesting to know that the Eagle always builds her nest in the tallest trees or on the loftiest mountain edges. When building her nest, she first lays down briars, jagged stones and all kinds of sharp and hurting objects, which seem completely unsuited for the purpose. Then she covers the structure with a thick layer of wool, feathers and the fur of animals. This makes her nest very soft, comfy and warm – a delightful home – where to hatch her young.

But the Eaglets will not remain in their comfy nest for very long. As the Eaglets grow a little bigger, - very unkindly – the mother says to her little ones: “Now, all your comforts are over! I will make things hard and unpleasant for you to stay in the nest” And with that, she begins stirring the nest. With her strong and sharp talons she tares away, bit by bit, all the soft materials, which were padding the nest, so that the little ones may feel the sharp edges underneath. She makes it as uncomfortable as possible for them to stay in the nest any longer

Then, she tells them: “Until now, I fetch food for you and dropped it into your mouths. From now on, I will not feed you any longer. You will have to fend for yourselves”. Then, the little ones feeling miserable and hungry are forced out of the nest to look for food and a place to stay.

On hearing this story, some good people remarked: I never knew that mother birds could be so cruel and unloving! Of course, after all, they are animals!”

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- **Growth demands pains and sufferings. It is unkindness to your children to spare them the pains of growth**
- Let your little darlings suffer a little to be able to become independent and responsible men and women. It’s worth the pain.
- **Don’t try to keep them forever your “darling babas or babies”**
- Weaning causes pain to a baby, yet it’s a must. Weaning from paren protection it’s also painful, but necessary.
- Teething is part of growth. Painful and troublesome, as it is, figuratively speaking, it has to be gone through over and over again in every stage of life.

- Progressively, but steadily loosen the apron strings for your children, right from their tender age.
- Early in life, push your children – if need be - out of the nest. Gradually, of course, but consistently.
- A single child or even a two-child family is in danger of pampering their darlings.
- It is better to lose a child, than to cripple him/her for life!
- Freedom and responsibility is sort of a binomial relationship. The more freedom you give to your children, the more responsibility you should demand from them.
- Help your children, with your advice and guidance, to solve their problems.
- **Do not take their problems upon “ yourselves Helping your children is healthy, rescuing them is harmful”.**
- Over-anxious parents bring up shy, withdrawn, nervous and angry children.
- The best thing to teach your children is self-confidence and self reliance, and assertiveness
- Do not brand assertiveness in an adolescent child as rebelliousness, disobedience or haughtiness. He is just experimenting with his freedom, and struggling to be him/herself
- Allow your children to suffer the painful consequences of their free choices
- Assist them to bear their sufferings, but do not take them away from them.
- Do not expect your children to be more responsible and reliable than what you are.