

DON'T MAKE AN ASS OF YOURSELF

(From Aesop's Fables)

Don't try to be someone else! Be yourself.

A MAN had an Ass, and a Maltese Lapdog of a great beauty. The Ass was left in a stable and had plenty of oats and hay to eat.

The Lapdog knew many tricks and was a great favorite with his master, who often fondled him and seldom went out to dine without bringing him home some tidbit to eat. The Ass, on the contrary, had much work to do in grinding the corn-mill and in carrying wood from the forest and burdens from the farm. He often cried over his fate and felt jealous of the Lapdog. He always wanted to be treated like the Lapdog.

At last one day he broke his cords and halter, left his stable and galloped into his master's house, kicking up his heels without measure, and frisking as well as he could. He next tried to jump about his master as he had seen the Lapdog do, but he broke the table and smashed all the dishes. He then attempted to lick his master and jumped upon his back. The servants, seeing the commotion and perceiving the danger of their master quickly came to help him. With kicks and clubs and sticks they drove out the Ass to his stable. The Ass, as he returned to his stall beaten nearly to death, lamented: "I should have been contented being an Ass and not try to be a little Lapdog!"