

## **THE FARMER AND THE CRANES**

*(From Aesop's Fables)*

**Mean what you say**

**Do not give false threats**

**Don't pretend if you want to be listen.**

Some Cranes made their feeding grounds on some wheat fields. For a long time the Farmer, brandishing an empty sling, scared them away. When the birds found that the sling was only swung in the air, they ceased to take any notice of it and would not move. The Farmer, on seeing this, charged his sling with stones, and killed many of them. The remaining birds at once forsook his fields, crying to each other, "It is time for us to be off, for this man is no longer trying to scare us, but he is showing us what he really means"