

THE APES AND THE TWO TRAVELERS

(From Aesop's Fables)

**People want us to tell them what they want to hear
Flatter is more rewarding than truth.**

Two men were traveling together; one always spoke the truth and the other told nothing but lies.

They chance came to the land of Apes. One of the Apes, who had raised himself to be king, commanded to have them seized and bring them before him. He wanted to know what was said of him among men.

He made the two men stand before him and his monkey retinue. He asked them: "what sort of a king do I seem to be to you O strangers?"

The Lying Traveler replied, "You seem to me a most mighty king." "And what is your estimate of those you see around me?" He answered: "They are your most worthy companions, fit to be ambassadors and leaders of your armies."

The Ape and all his court, gratified with the lie, commanded that a handsome present be given to the flatterer.

On this, the truthful Traveler thought to himself, "if such great a reward be given for a lie, with what gift may not I be rewarded, if I tell the truth?"

The King of the Apes quickly turned to him. "I pray you now, how I and these friends around me seem to be to you?" "Thou art," he said, "a most excellent Ape, and all these thy companions after thy example are excellent Apes too."

The King of the Apes, enraged at hearing these truths, gave him over to the teeth and claws of his companions.