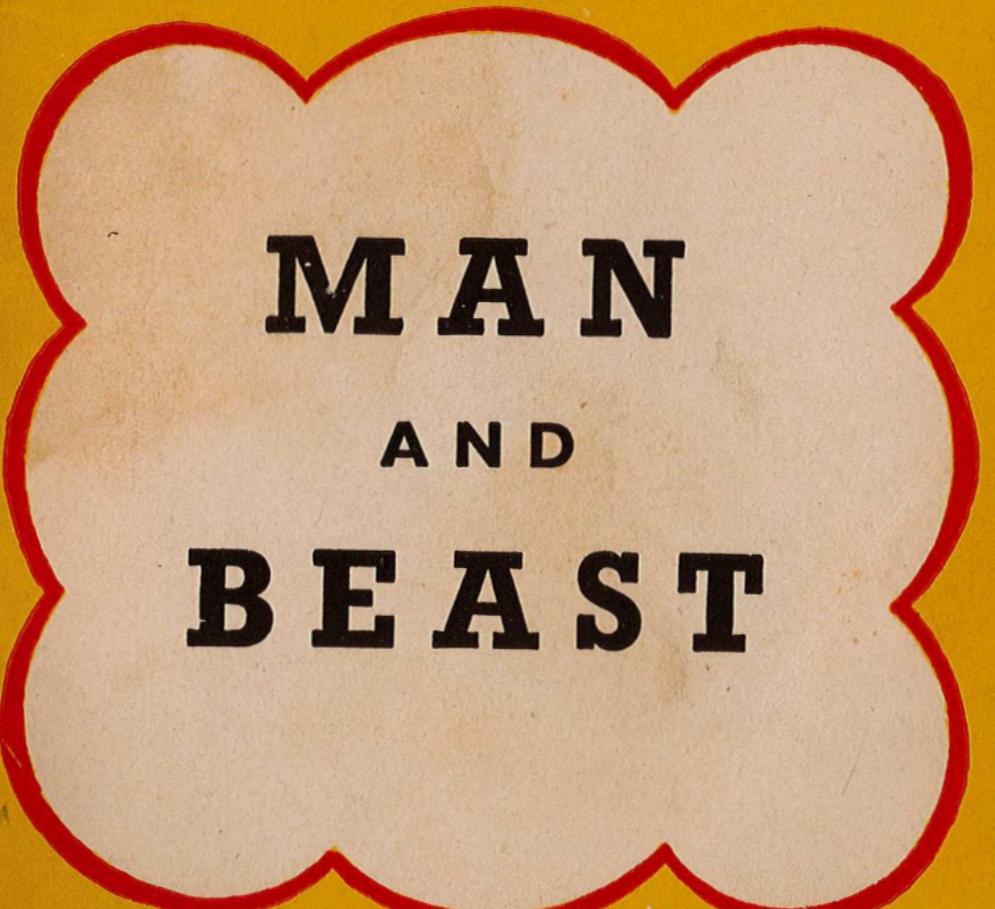


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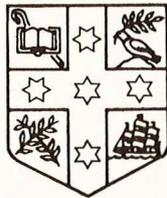
**FOUR
TALES THAT TEACH**



**MAN
AND
BEAST**

by

Dr. J. W. McMILLAN



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FOREWORD

"Man and beast Thou savest, O LORD"
(Psalm 36 : 6).

So sang King David as He thought of the stedfast love and faithfulness that Almighty God had shown towards him. In this little book there are four little stories about 'men and beasts' which illustrate some of the ways of God with men. Apart from the first, which was reported in a local news-paper, all are from the personal knowledge and experience of the author.

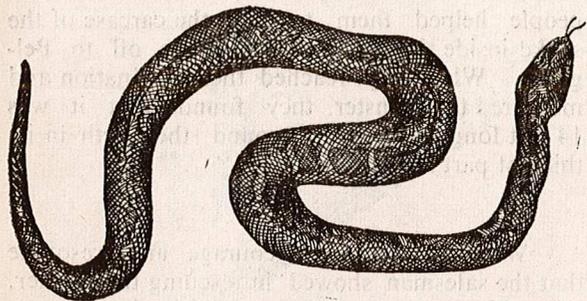
It is his hope and prayer that they may help some readers to gain a clearer understanding of the great plan that God has made to enable men to be cleansed from sin and to gain true peace, satisfaction and hope.

Any request to translate this little book, in whole or in part, into other languages will be sympathetically considered by the author, who would be glad to hear also from any who are helped through reading it.

Sankeshwar,
Belgaum Dist.,
INDIA

J. W. McMillan

CAUGHT BY...



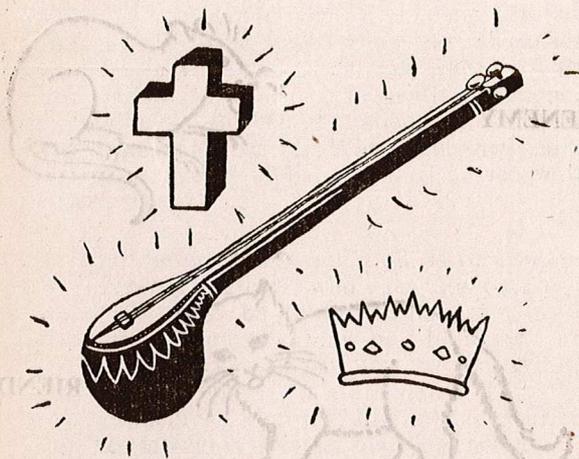
A PYTHON !!

On Thursday, July 11th, 1963, a small party of men were travelling in a van from Karwar, a port on the West coast of India, along the road through the hilly jungle up to the inland city of Belgaum, just over a hundred miles away. They stopped on the road outside the village of Ramangali and the cleaner of the van (the driver's assistant) went into the jungle on the side of the road to relieve himself. A few moments later the salesman who was travelling in the van heard him scream with terror. He ran to see what had happened and to his horror found that a big python had coiled itself around the cleaner's body. He ran back to the van and returned with a sickle. He waved his hand in front of the big snake's head to distract its attention, and when it partly uncoiled itself to snap at his hand he brought the sickle down with all his strength on its neck, and succeeded in cutting off its head. In its death struggles it pulled the cleaner more than six feet along the ground. By this time the poor man was unconscious, and he did not regain

consciousness for three hours. Some of the local people helped them to put the carcass of the snake inside the van, and they drove off to Belgaum. When they reached their destination and measured the monster, they found that it was 14 feet long and 3 feet around the girth in its thickest part!

We must admire the courage and resource that the salesman showed in rescuing the cleaner. But this true incident brings to mind an even greater deliverance in which you and I can have a part. The Bible tells us that the reason that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross was (1) to *destroy* the power of Satan, who had the power of death and (2) to *deliver* from him those who were in bondage to fear (Hebrews 2: 14, 15). Many people nowadays are inclined to think of the Devil as a myth, but God's word makes it plain that he is a real being. He is called "the god of this age" and we are told plainly that the whole world lies in his power (II Corinthians 4: 4, I John 5: 19). The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into this world for the very purpose of undoing the Devil's work (I John 3: 8) and if we cry to Him for help, He is willing and able to save us from the power of sin and Satan, and to give us the authority to become the children of God (John 1: 12).

There is an Indian Christian lyric which puts this very beautifully:—



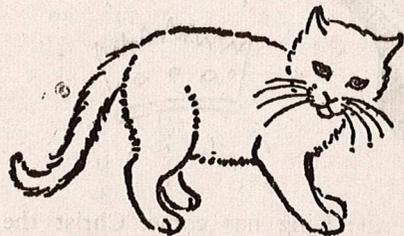
- Ch. Christ the King has come, Christ the King has come,
He has come to conquer Satan, Christ the King has come!
1. On the cross He suffered, bearing our sins' burden;
He has risen as the Victor, Christ the King has come!
 2. He has brought salvation, peace and satisfaction
To the ones who trust in Him: Christ the King has come!
 3. He is King of kings, He is Lord of lords:
Ever let us sing His praises, Christ the King has come!

THE LEPROSY PATIENT'S

ENEMY



AND



FRIEND

It is estimated that about 20,00,000 people in India are suffering from some form of Leprosy. Most of them are not infectious, but many even of these have parts of their body which are anaesthetic, i. e. in which they have lost the sense of touch and pain. This is especially true of the hands and feet, and for this reason minor injuries are likely to be over-looked, leading to ulceration, and eventually to the loss of fingers and toes and the other deformities that are so often seen in leprosy patients. (Incidentally, the fact that neither anaesthesia nor deformities are mentioned in the references to leprosy in the Bible strongly suggests that the disease referred to is *not* the same disease as occurs today.) One of the nastiest kinds of

injury which occur in leprosy patients is due to rat-bite. It is very difficult to make a house which is impossible for rats to enter and these little animals can so easily chew an anaesthetic toe or finger while the patient is asleep. These bites readily become infected, with very serious consequences. But leprosy patients, like all other people, must have sleep. What can they do to keep rats away? What practical advice can be given to them?

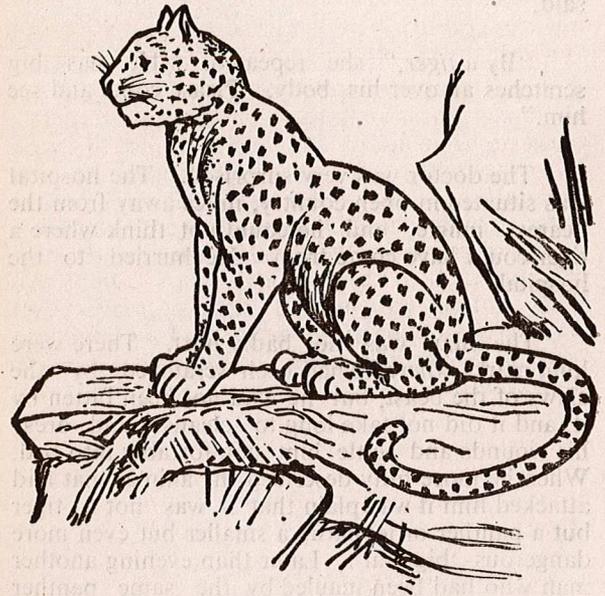
The answer to this question is very simple: every leprosy patient who has any patches of anaesthesia must be told to keep a cat in his (or her) house. The cat will not bite his hands and feet, but it will keep away the rats that will certainly do so. With a cat in the house, the patient can sleep securely, knowing that he has a friend in the house who is stronger than his enemies. If you happen to be one of the 20,00,000 leprosy patients in India here is a word of advice for you. Get a cat, and look after it well. It will help to look after you. But even if you are not a leprosy patient, you can learn a lesson from the leprosy patient's friend and foe.

The Bible tells us that all men are suffering from a worse disease than leprosy, and that is the disease of sin. The Apostle Paul wrote: 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3: 23). For in the same way that leprosy makes parts of the *body* insensitive to injury, sin makes our *hearts* and consciences insensitive, so that we are easily attacked by our great spiritual enemy, Satan. The Bible tells us that 'he prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour' (I Peter 5: 8). While we are

spiritually asleep, he is ready to come and attack us. His one object is to weaken and destroy us. He wants to make us useless to God and useful only to fulfill his own wicked plans. What can we do to thwart Satan's attacks?

The Bible makes it plain that we can do *nothing* in our own strength to resist the Evil One, but it also tells us about the One Who is stronger than Satan. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The reason He appeared in this world was to 'destroy the works of the Devil' (I John 3 : 8) and to do this He gave His life for us on the cross of Calvary. He rose from the dead on the third day as the great Victor (Ephesians 4 : 8) and today is ready and willing to save completely all who come to God through Him (Hebrews 7 : 25). How can we enjoy His protection? We must confess our sins to Him, receive Him by faith as our Saviour and Lord and live in obedience to Him. As we do this He will guide us and guard us from all the attacks of the Devil. Have you received Him as *your* Saviour?

THE NIGHT



THE PANTHER CAME...

Just as the doctor was preparing to have his evening meal he heard someone calling at the door of his office. He went to the door and found one of the nurses from the hospital standing there.

"Sir, a man has come to the hospital. He has been mauled by a tiger . . ." she began.

“By what?” the doctor replied. He did not think that he had understood what she had said.

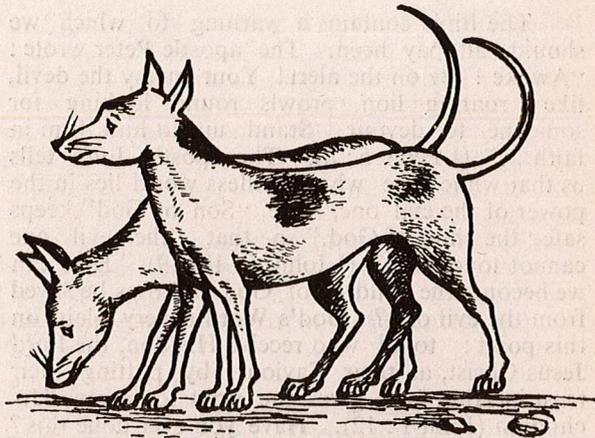
“By a *tiger*,” she repeated. “He has big scratches all over his body. Please come and see him.”

The doctor was very surprised. The hospital was situated in open country, miles away from the nearest jungle, and he could not think where a tiger could have come from. He hurried to the hospital.

The man was not badly hurt. There were long marks where he had been scratched by the claws of the beast, but he had not been bitten by it, and it did not take long to cleanse and dress his wounds and settle him comfortably into bed. When he more fully described the animal that had attacked him it was plain that it was not a tiger but a panther or leopard, a smaller but even more dangerous ‘big cat’. Later than evening another man who had been mauled by the same panther was brought into the hospital, and it became known that two other men had been killed by it.

The news that a dangerous animal was prowling around spread quickly through the village. Those who had guns went out to try and shoot it. Many people came to see the man who had been mauled and to ask him about his experience. People hesitated to go out at night, and when it was necessary that they go out they kept up a continual shouting to frighten the panther.

The Bible contains a warning to which we should all pay heed. The apostle Peter wrote: “Awake! Be on the alert! Your enemy the devil, like a roaring lion, prowls round looking for someone to devour. Stand up to him, firm in faith...” (I Peter 5: 8). The apostle John tells us that while “the whole godless world lies in the power of the evil one,” the “Son of God” keeps safe “the child of God,” so that “the evil one cannot touch him” (I John 5: 18, 19). How can we become the children of God and thus be saved from the evil one? God’s Word is very plain on this point: to all who receive His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as their Saviour, by putting their trust in Him, God gives the right to become His children (John 1: 12). Have you ever done this? If not, put your trust in this wonderful Saviour *today*.



THE TWO DOGS

Some years ago there were two dogs living at a Leprosy Hospital in India. They both looked alike, for they were not pure-bred animals, but yellow pariah dogs. However, there was one very important difference in their behaviour.

For some reason or other one of the dogs did not like Europeans. It may have been their colour: it may have been their clothes: it may have been their smell. Whatever the reason, whenever a missionary appeared on the hospital grounds the dog would slink away. He never went near the house where the missionaries lived.

The other dog had no such dislike. If a missionary came, he would allow himself to be patted, and would wag his tail appreciatively.

Before long he learned to present himself at the door of the missionaries' house while dinner was in progress and was often rewarded by being given a fine big bone.

We can learn a lesson from these two dogs. God is the great Giver: He has given us 'life, and breath, and all things' (Acts 17.25). He is also the Giver of eternal life (Romans 6. 23). How can we get this eternal life? John gives us an important clue in his first Epistle: 'God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life' (I John 5. 11-12). To get eternal life (and every other one of God's blessings) we must come to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and receive Him as our Saviour and Lord. God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son for us, and *with Him* He freely gives us all things (John 3: 16, Romans 8: 32). If you come to the Lord Jesus, and accept Him as your own Saviour, you will receive every blessing that God can give you. But if we neglect or reject Him, we can never receive any of God's other and lesser spiritual gifts.

I am sure that the dog who disliked missionaries would have been delighted to have received some of the big bones that the other dog received, but this was impossible while it refused to come near the giver. If we want to have 'peace with God' (Romans 5: 1) we can find it only through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace. Who made peace through the shedding of His blood upon the cross (Colossians 1: 20), and Who is now risen and ascended, seated on the right hand of God, and ready to save all those who call upon His name. Have *you* done this?

CONCLUSION

The careful reader of this little book will have had his or her attention drawn more than once to two great personalities, Satan and the Lord Jesus Christ. The first story provided us with an illustration of the way that the Lord Jesus came to destroy Satan's power and to deliver men from his grip. The second illustration reminded us that sin makes us easy victims for Satan's attacks, and made it clear that the Lord Jesus is the only one who can protect us from him. The third story reminded us of the need to be alert lest Satan should seek to devour us, and a verse was quoted to prove that the Evil One is unable to touch those who are kept safe by the Son of God. The final story made it clear that this salvation is not through believing a religion, but by faith in a *Person*, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every reader of this book is doing one of two things,

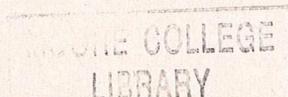
1. Some are listening to the lies that Satan is whispering to them: remember, it is a characteristic of all liars that they say one thing to one person and another thing to another. But be sure of this, that any teaching that you can be saved by any other way apart from the Lord Jesus Christ is a lie of the Evil One.

2. Some have put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. They know that He is their Saviour and they are seeking to be obedient to Him.

The Bible makes it clear that this is a matter of the most vital importance. Just a few days

before He died on the cross, the Lord Jesus gave His disciples an illustration about a shepherd with a mixed herd of sheep and goats. He told them that, when He comes again to this earth, He shall divide all mankind into two groups. Those who have received Him as Saviour will possess the kingdom that has been prepared for them from the time the world was made. But those who neglect Him will go to the eternal fire that is ready for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25 : 31—46).

Which group will *you* be in ?



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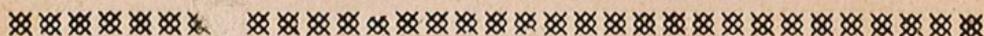
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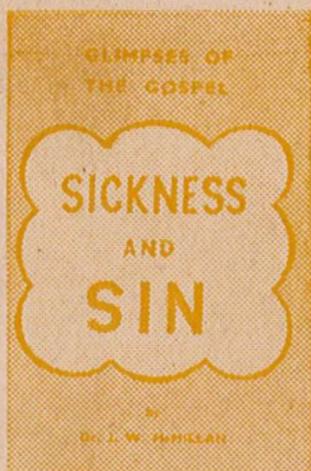
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