

The Lion and the Lamb

There was a lion. He had been held in captivity by his owner since he was a cub. He had spent all his years in his cage, and paced round and round, back and forth, and really knew no different. His owner looked after him well. The lion was never without food or drink, and his cage was cleaned and new bedding laid regularly. He had no complaints, except, that he would many times have the same recurring dream. He would dream that he was out in a huge plain, amongst the grasslands, and he would see himself racing across the savannah, chasing down a wildebeest, pulling it to the floor and killing it by biting its jugular vein, so that he and the other lions could feed on the beast's carcass. The lion thought this dream very strange and wondered how on earth it kept coming to his mind, when all he could ever remember was the cage, that he had paced back and forth in for so many years.

One day the lion was lying quietly in the corner of his cage, when a stranger passed by.

"Don't you get tired of pacing back and forth and round and round in that cage?" The stranger asked.

"Well, not really", the lion answered him. "After all it's all I've ever known".

"What about your dream?" asked the stranger.

"How do you know about that?" The lion replied.

"Oh I know a lot of things, and I know a lot about you too", said the stranger.

"Wouldn't you like to get out of there", the stranger continued.

"Well I must admit, if I could actually realise my dream, and be able to run across the savannah, and chase those wildebeests down, I guess I would have to answer you; of course. I'd love to be free from this cage".

"I can let you out", said the stranger. "I can let you out easily. The door opens from my side, would you want me to let you out?" he asked.

"Yes, yes I would", replied the lion.

"Before I do", continued the stranger, "I do have two provisos, and if you do not agree to them, then I'm afraid I will be unable to let you out".

"OK", the lion said, "what are they?"

The stranger then went on to explain to the lion, that if he let him out of his cage he would indeed be free, but not free to chase down and kill wildebeests. He explained to the lion, that if he were to free him from his cage, he would have to agree to two things.

"Just tell me, just tell me, what these two things are", said the lion, somewhat impatiently.

"The first is this", replied the stranger. If I let you out, you must be willing to be made a lamb.

"Oh!" thought the lion. This confused and worried him somewhat. But he thought about it, and he remembered his dream and the wonderful feeling it gave him, when chasing across the plains. He counted the cost, and thought to himself, "surely it is better to be able to run free, as a lamb, than to be caged as a lion".

"Ok", he said to the stranger, "what's the second proviso"?

"The second proviso is simply this", replied the stranger. "You do not have the ability within yourself to become a lamb. I know that you will find yourself chasing the first wildebeest that walks in to your view. So my second proviso is, that you must give me your total reliance, and your total trust, in changing you from a lion to a lamb. Any assistance from you can only hinder this process, so I must insist that you give me, your total obedience". The stranger paused, as if to run over in his mind the words he had just spoke. "Before you answer me", he said, "you must think seriously about this, after all, this for you is going to be a life changing experience". The lion knew in his heart what he wanted already. He had dreamed his dream, so many times, he just could not turn down the stranger's offer. "Yes, yes", replied the lion. " I will do it, I will give you my total reliance, I will give you my total trust. In fact I will give you my will". When the stranger heard this, his heart jumped for joy, and he couldn't wait to get the door of the cage open.

Did the lion ever get changed in to the lamb?

Well, what do you think?