



The Elephants and the Mice



In a great, sun-scorched forest, a magnificent herd of elephants roamed. Led by their wise and gentle king, Gajendra, they were on a desperate search for water, for the summer heat had dried up all their usual watering holes.



Their long journey brought them to the ruins of a deserted city. Great stone buildings crumbled silently under the sun. It seemed empty, but deep within the cracks and foundations lived a bustling colony of mice.



The thirsty elephants lumbered through the city's ancient streets. With each heavy footstep, the ground trembled, and the tiny homes of the mice were crushed. Squeaks of terror filled the air as the mice scurried for safety.



The leader of the mice, a brave little creature named Mushika, knew he had to do something. "I must speak to their king!" he declared to his trembling subjects. "We cannot survive this!"



Mustering all his courage,
Mushika climbed onto a
high wall and called out to
the elephant king. "O,
mighty Gajendra! We beg
you to choose another path.
You are crushing our homes!
If you spare us, we promise
that one day, we may be of
service to you."



Gajendra looked down at the tiny mouse. He was amused that such a small creature could ever help an elephant, but he was a kind king. "You have a brave heart, little one," he rumbled. "We will trouble you no more." He then led his herd around the city.



Years passed. One day, the King's hunters came to the forest. They dug deep pits and laid clever traps of thick rope. Gajendra and his finest elephants were caught! They were destined for the King's army, bound and helpless.



News of the capture spread through the forest. A traveling mouse, who had once lived in the ruined city, heard the hunters boasting. He ran as fast as his little legs could carry him to tell Mushika what had happened to their kind friend, Gajendra.



"We must help him!" cried Mushika. "He showed us mercy, and now we will repay our debt!" He gathered his entire colony, and a great army of thousands of mice scurried through the night towards the hunters' camp.



The mice swarmed over the trapped elephants, their sharp teeth making quick work of the thick ropes. Nibble by nibble, they cut the great beasts free. Gajendra bowed his head in gratitude. The elephants and the mice remained friends forever, proving that a kindness is never wasted, and that even the smallest of friends can be the greatest of allies.