

The Little Bird

A mother bird was raising her children. As they grew older, she started teaching them to fly and forage for food. All of the little birds except for one learned these skills. That one little bird refused to even try to learn how to fly. It just stayed in the nest and the mother was forced to keep feeding it. The mother was very concerned and beseeched the little bird to learn how to fly. She told the little bird that if it did not learn to fly before the time came for the winter migration, she would be forced to abandon it. The little bird's response was to just stay in the nest and squawk until it was fed.

On the day of the migration, a teary eyed mother said goodbye to the little bird. The little bird just assumed that the mother would continue to show up and feed it regardless of what the mother had said. After all, the mother had been warning the little bird for months.

When the mother didn't return and it started to snow, the little bird was hungry and cold. It squawked louder and jumped up and down demanding food. Eventually, it fell from the tree. It had never been out of the nest before. It raised a terrible racket with its squawking.

Eventually, a cow heard the racket and came to see what was happening. The cow said, "Little bird, why are you raising this racket? What's the matter?" The little bird replied in a hostile, angry voice. It said, "I'm hungry. My mother stopped feeding me and disappeared. I'm cold and this terrible stuff is falling from the sky and its making me even colder. No one loves me."

The cow asked the little bird why it didn't leave with the rest of the birds when they migrated. This caused the little bird to get angrier and squawk louder. The cow was wishing it had never met the little bird, but it felt sorry for the little bird because the cow knew it might freeze to death or starve to death.

The cow turned around and dropped a big cow patty on the little birds head. Then the cow left. It knew the hot paddy would keep the little bird warm for awhile and that the seeds in the paddy would provide it with some food. It also knew that this was a temporary solution, but it concluded that there was nothing more it could do.

The little bird reacted with total indignation. It jumped and squawked and made a terrible ruckus. A passing fox spied this jumping paddy and approached it with great curiosity. It had never seen such a sight. The fox said, “What’s the matter cow paddy?” The little bird spoke from within the paddy and said I’m a bird, I’m not a paddy.”

The fox immediately picked up the paddy and brushed off the little bird. The fox said, “Little bird, how did you come to be in this cow paddy?” The little bird told the fox a terrible tale of how its mother abandoned it and how the sky began to fall on it and how it was hungry and how a terrible cow only added to its misery by dropping a paddy on its head. “

The fox was deeply moved and told the little bird that it was indeed the victim of a terrible mother and an ill mannered cow. It made sure the little bird was completely free of any residual cow paddy, and stroked it gently. The little bird smiled because it had finally found someone who understood and was sympathetic. Then the fox ate the little bird all up.

The moral of this story is everyone who dumps on you is not necessarily your enemy and everyone who lends you a hand is not necessarily your friend. And, of course, when you are in dung up to your forehead, keep your mouth shut.