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The Parable Of The Sacred Nanny Goat

By Graham Lake

I have been to India upon a number of occasions. The primary purpose of these memorable journeys was not only to revel in India's spiritual and magical energies, but also to observe and experience the techniques and examples of the Masters. Many of the profound parables I share with you on my blog are my versions of stories based loosely from the lips of those Masters. The stories are pregnant with meaning.

"If a million people say or do an idiotic thing, it is still an idiotic thing."

Many hundreds of years ago there lived a great saint named Ramaswami. The enlightened Ramaswami had many devotees at his ashram. Each day at sunset, they would meet to sing spiritual songs (bhajans) and chant sacred mantras. After this session, Ramaswami would give a thirty-minute discourse from the sacred Vedas and when finished, all would share in the evening meal.

Ramaswami also had a pet nanny goat gifted to him by a devotee. The saint had no use for a goat but accepted the gift with humility and reverence.

Each evening, after all had eaten, the goat was fed with the leftovers from the communal meal.

A problem gradually arose. Because the goat would hear the singing and realize it was near feeding time, she would wander over to the group and disrupt the devotees singing and chanting. These disruptions became a down-right nuisance and it wasn't long before a few of the grumpy elderly devotees asked their guru if the matter could be brought under control.

Ramaswami made a decree. Before the bhajans began each day, the goat would have to be collected from the surrounding fields and tied up near the gathering. The problem was thus solved. After all, a decree is a decree!

The years went by. The crowds were now larger. The new arrivals soon realized that the collection of the goat was the significant sign that meant bhajans were soon to begin. Indeed, the person given the privilege to collect the goat was one of the most respected elders of the group. He even adorned

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himself with an ochre colored robe so that others would see the importance of the ritual. Several of the women of the group took it upon themselves to wash the goat each day, so as to keep the bhajans area pure and clean. They even embroidered a blue and gold sash for the goat's back.

Ramaswami merely smiled as he saw the development of this ritual and did not attempt to hinder the devotees.

Eventually the now ageing goat died and another was immediately chosen to replace the old goat.

Many years later, Ramaswami also dropped his body. The ashram was in a quandary. What to do now? Disband or continue?

The elders soon agreed that the ashram should keep going in memory of Ramaswami. They appointed themselves as guardian officers of the ashram. They insisted that there should be as little change as possible. Naturally, the goat was still required.

A hundred years went by. The sect was now known as the Sect of the Golden Goat. At sunset, the procession of the goat would begin. The high priests would lead the goat to the altar. The sacred goat would be adorned with garlands of flowers and robed with an exquisite blue and gold sash. The devotees would bow and clasp their hands in reverence as the goat was led by.

After the bhajans, the priest would give a half hour discourse on the spiritual significance of the holy goat. These discourses would explain in some depth, how the goat unselfishly gives milk, wool and meat, how the goat survives in the most rockiest and steepest terrains without losing it's footing and how goats have been placed upon this earth to give us deep spiritual insights. Ramaswami was honored at each session as the enlightened one who discovered the holy connection between goats and spirituality.

Books were created from these discourses. Of course, each scholar added his or her own philosophical interpretation and knowledge to the text as each book was written. Soon a whole library of literature was available upon the esoteric teachings of the Sect of the Golden Goat.

A beautifully carved statue depicting Ramaswami's body with a goat's head was eventually placed upon the altar. Devotees would often prostrate themselves before the statue and ask the image of the Goat God to grant them favors or healings. Because of, either devotion or coincidence, often these favors would appear to be granted and healings would, indeed, take place. Tales of miracles spread throughout the land like the Ganges in flood.

The high priests stature rose with each added million followers. Temples were built throughout the world. Money, gold and precious stones flowed into the vaults of the new religion's hierarchy.

The religion of the Goat God was thus born.

If a million people say or do an idiotic thing, it is still an idiotic thing.

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How To Hire A Nanny

By Mary Williams

Hiring a nanny is one of the best solutions. People may consider daycare instead of nanny. So which choice is better than another? Why would you choose to hire a nanny instead of using a daycare? Here are some questions you should ask yourself as well as what you should look for when choosing a nanny for your children.

In some parents' eyes, daycares are less favorable than a nanny. Some parents feel the personal attention a nanny can give to their children is a valuable service many daycares are not capable of providing due to the number of children in their care. Another reason that families choose nannies is for the convenience of having the childcare available outside of standard daycare operating hours. A nanny will become an integral part of the family so choosing wisely is an important step to selecting the best nanny for your children.

What should you consider then? 1. Do you want a live-in nanny, day time nanny, full-time, part-time or on call? What is your budget? Will you want the nanny to clean the house, cook meals or transport your children to after school activities or play dates? What other responsibilities are you looking for in a nanny?

2. Will you allow smoking or visitors in your home during the care period? Do you care if the nanny speaks your native language or any other language? Au pairs are commonly younger women from foreign countries; is it important to you to have a caregiver from your locality?

3. What is the rate? Before you start looking for a nanny you should find out what the local rates are and determine if you can afford the care you are looking for. Perhaps making arrangements with another family to share a nanny will better suit your budget. If you choose to share a nanny you will also need to make a clear agreement with the other parents as to the responsibilities you both require.

Nannies can be found through agencies, personal references and by posting an ad in the newspaper. Wherever you go to find a nanny you will want to ask them for references (make certain that you are able to contact the references), a driver's license or other ID, criminal check and child care experience or education depending on your personal requirements. Asking for a nanny with First Aid or CPR is

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also common.

It is better for you to ask the agency about their background and work experience. Arrange to meet the candidates in person and don't commit to a hiring until you've had the chance to interview them.

Mary Williams maintains a number of contractor websites, including

<http://www.contractorsecrets.info>

,

<http://www.contractorsguide.info>

, and

<http://www.freecontractor.info>

. Please visit her websites and

find more interesting articles about contractor.



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