

The Shepherd's Boy Fable

There was once a young Shepherd Boy who tended his sheep at the foot of a mountain near a dark forest. It was rather lonely for him all day, so he thought upon a plan by which he could get a little company and some excitement. He rushed down towards the village calling out "Wolf, Wolf," and the villagers came out to meet him, and some of them stopped with him for a considerable time. This pleased the boy so much that a few days afterwards he tried the same trick, and again the villagers came to his help. But shortly after this a Wolf actually did come out from the forest, and began to worry the sheep, and the boy of course cried out "Wolf, Wolf," still louder than before. But this time the villagers, who had been fooled twice before, thought the boy was again deceiving them, and nobody stirred to come to his help. So the Wolf made a good meal off the boy's flock, and when the boy complained, the wise man of the village said:

A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth.

Aesop

The Tongue

PSALMS 140:3

3 They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips. Selah

Adder:the common European viper, *Vipera berus*, a venomous viper species that is extremely widespread and can be found throughout most of Western Europe and all the way to Far East Asia. Bites are very painful, but seldom fatal.

Exodus 20:16

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Proverbs 6:19

19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

“Soweth discord”= telling lies to bring about contention, strife, disagreement.

Proverbs 17:20

20 He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.

Proverbs 17:28

28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: *and* he that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

Proverbs 18:6-8

6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

7 A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

8 The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Talebearer=whisperer or tattler

Proverbs 19:1,5,9,22

1 Better *is* the poor that walketh in his integrity, than *he that is* perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall not escape.

9 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall perish.

22 The desire of a man *is* his kindness: and a poor man *is* better than a liar.

Proverbs 20:19

19 He that goeth about *as* a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

Proverbs 21:6,23

6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue *is* a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 25:23

23 The north wind driveth away rain: so *doth* an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

Driveth Away=bringeth forth

Proverbs 26:20,23,28

20 Where no wood is, *there* the fire goeth out: so where *there is* no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

23 Burning lips and a wicked heart *are like* a potsherd covered with silver dross.

28 A lying tongue hateth *those that are* afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Proverbs 29:20

20 Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

James 3:5-10

5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6 And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

8 But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Sticks and Stones can break my bones,
But words can also hurt me,
Stones and sticks break only skin,
While words are ghost that haunt me

Bats and bricks leave some aches,
But bruises I can hide,
Yet those nasty unforgiving words
They pierce and stick inside

The pain from words has left its scar,
On mind and heart so tender,
Cuts and bruises have now healed,
Its words that I remember

Poem by Kimberly, New Zealand