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One Man’s Love Heals Another Man’s Cruelty!

Human cruelty hurts a swan, but human love heals it. The power of human being to hurt or heal is indeed incredible! Late afternoon, yesterday, Kofi, a young swan of 5 years was brutally injured while looking for food. The ignorance of humans who practice the cruel profession of hunting nearly cost him his life. He has just taken up a new nest in the south end of the forest. Earlier Kofi used to live with his parents, until his dad wanted him to live the life of a grown up swan. “Kofi needed to find himself and take more responsibility as a young swan. So I suggested he go out into the forest to live on his own,” said Kofi’s dad when we spoke to him in the north end of the woods.” Kofi led a pampered childhood because his dad seemed to have provided him with food and a plush pad in his own nest. Kofi naturally loved his life with his parents but he understood that he needed to survive in the wild by himself. And thus began Kofi’s struggle to live on his own. His nearest food supply was over 500 metres away! Imagine having to fly like that every morning. Swans can sure shed some excess weight

but without any history of workout, Kofi the couch potato found himself out of breath. Yesterday was his third day of living on his own. He had started



Siddhartha with Kofi

early in the morning to get his food supply. He got tired quite easily but he kept on flapping his wings and never stopped. He was flying and all of a sudden an arrow shot through his wing. According to an eye-witness, Goei the seagull, “Kofi smashed into the ground from a height of 15 feet. He was yelling with agony of pain.” Kofi admits that he thought he would die. That’s when he noticed two men running towards him. Kofi was sure that

they were going to come and take him home for dinner. One man was faster than the other and was approaching Kofi. But, surprisingly, the first man knelt down and gently pulled the arrow that had pierced Kofi’s wing. Kofi’s body felt relieved of the excruciating pain but he was still losing blood. The kind man then took some juice from the leaves of a bush and put it on the wing to stop the bleeding. We later found out that this compassionate human being who saved one of our own brothers is named Prince Siddhartha. He started to stroke Kofi’s wing to ease the pain. “I am very thankful to Siddhartha for taking the pain out of my body,” says Kofi. Just then the other man arrived. He is the one who had shot Kofi with an arrow. All he wanted was Kofi for dinner. The man didn’t care about Kofi’s condition, only about his hunger. If that man had been struck by an arrow and had someone wanting to eat him, maybe then he would’ve at least understood Kofi’s pain. But this man didn’t think for a moment about Kofi’s pain. All he wanted was something for himself. His name was Devadatta. It turned out he was related to the compassionate human who saved Kofi. He started to fight with Siddhartha, asking him to hand over Kofi

Siddhartha: Symbol of Compassion... (cont'd)



His unconditional Love

to him as he had shot it. A bystander, Grandma Goose said that she was so impressed with how Siddhartha calmly turned to Devadatha and said, "If you had killed it, it would have been yours. But now, since it is only wounded, it is not yours." They both then decided to meet a wise sage to settle their fight and decide whom Kofi belongs to. The sage ruled that Siddhartha should keep Kofi because when he needed someone to care for

it, Siddhartha was there to help.

We've always witnessed cruelty of the human race. Hence, this man's selfish action comes as no surprise to us. However, the unconditional love that Siddhartha bestowed on Kofi was very touching and gives us some hope that there are good people in this world. Kofi says, "I will forever be grateful to this man who gave me life. He showed me another side to these creatures that I once feared. Not all people are bad – some of them just don't know any better."

Many people kill others for their gain, and those people are cruel minded. But on the other hand, many people are good, and will help others. Siddhartha is one of those good people in the world. We definitely need more people like

him to care for all creation with love and compassion. The value of love can cure this world even if some wants to destroy it with greed and selfishness. One man's unconditional love can heal another man's cruelty.

Written by
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Story Originally from India taken from the religion of Buddhism. Buddhism believes in non-violence and respecting all animals as one for they too have feelings.

Siddhartha and the Swan

One day he was walking in the woods with his cousin Devadatta who had his bow and arrows with him. Suddenly Devadatta saw a swan flying and shot at it. His arrow brought the swan down. Both the boys ran to get the swan. As Siddhartha could run faster than Devadatta, he reached the bird first and found, to his surprise, that the swan was still alive. He felt a great sadness in his heart and gently pulled out the arrow from the great swan's wing. He

then got a little juice from cool leaves, put it on the bird's wounds to stop the bleeding. With his soft hand, he stroked the swan which was very frightened. He whispered prayers over the swan as Devadatta approached breathless.

When Devadatta came to claim the swan, naturally Prince Siddhartha refused to give it to him. Devadatta was very angry to see his cousin keeping the swan away from him. "Give me my bird, I shot it down, it be-

longs to me" said Devadatta.

"No, said Siddhartha. I am not going to give it to you. It is not yours. It belongs to the sky and should be set free to go on its way as soon as it is able. Until it recovers it is mine since I saved its life," said Siddhartha.

Devadatta still did not agree. Then Siddhartha suggested, "Let us go to the Elders and ask them who really owns the swan."

Devadatta agreed, so of them went to the Court of the Elders to tell them about their quarrel. The Elders said, "A life certainly must belong to him who tries to save it, a life cannot belong to one who is only trying to destroy it. The wounded swan by right belongs to Siddhartha."

