

## Fairy Tale - The Lamb and the Lion

Once upon a time, a little lamb was born. He was perfect and precious and had no marks on him. He had only one problem he was born in a lion suit, (this would not have been a problem to him because he did not know who he was). His parents were also wearing lion suits and they lived by three ponds. Two of the ponds were frozen and the third had fresh water it appeared when the lamb was born. It has no ice on it.

The lamb's parents began to teach the lamb who he was and how to wear a lion suit. They also told him what lambs looked like. They beat the little lamb and said mean and horrible things to him. They treated him like a lion treats things. Lions hate lambs, they want to devour them. They all drank from the third pond because the other two were frozen. The more the Lions drank the more the water froze and they would have to travel on top of the ice toward the center of the pond to get water.

Now the lamb knew how to act like a lion. Lions hate everything, even lions. They hate being lions. One day the lamb who did not know he was wearing a suit met some lambs. They were really lion suits wearing lamb masks. They told him how bad lions were and how wonderful lambs were. They told the lion suit, (that was all that was seen by the lamb now) that they loved him. The lamb inside the lion suit hurt badly, because he knew lions were bad, and he was a lion so how could they love him. And so the lion began to run towards the pond, he hated being a lion. He had no idea lambs were real; he thought they were only masks that lions wore to get what they wanted because he could see the lion suits under their mask. He came to the pond and it was freezing at an alarming rate because many other ponds in the area had frozen over completely and there were now many lions drinking out of his pond, in fact every lion he had ever met came to drink out of his pond at their leisure.

It didn't take long for the pond to freeze solid and the suit was in complete control now. The Lion suit roared and set out to drink up water and destroy everything it could. It roared and roared and the water in his pond got harder and harder until it cracked. At that moment the lion suit wanted to destroy itself so the lion suit ran off a cliff. He was falling and falling and the pond was cracking more and more.

Suddenly there was a stick hanging out from the cliff and it snagged the lion suit and tore it just a little bit and the lion saw a small piece of a beautiful white coat, the coat of his true self the precious lamb. Now he had hope and he began to call out for help.

A Bird unlike any other Bird he had ever seen before flew down from the highest part of the sky. It grabbed the lion and wrapped him in its wings and carried him back to the top of the hill. "Thank you, you saved my life" cried the lamb inside the suit. The beautiful bird replied, "You do not need to thank me because I am not my own. You should thank the one who heard you." "Who is the one who heard me?" asked the lamb in the suit. To which the bird replied with the greatest joy "the great Father who made us both has heard you. You are a lamb and the lion suit is just a suit. The Father never makes masks or suits only perfect lambs!" The more the bird talked of the Father the brighter his face got. The lamb rejoiced but the lion suit was still strong, the pond had just started to melt around the edges. The little lamb looked and the bird was again high in the sky.

The lamb in the suit still thought of himself by the suit he wore; but he remembered a story he had once heard.

Once there was a great pasture and the parents of all the other lambs lived there. It was perfect and so were they. They walked every day with the Great Shepherd. One day the greatest of all the birds that flew realized how great he was without remembering the Great Father who created him, and he fell into the pasture. When he hit the ground he became a lion. He put a lamb mask on and went to talk to the lambs. There was only one pond at this time and so the sheep shared it. The Great Shepherd told them not to leave his pasture or they would die. They heard the lion wearing the mask outside of the

gates of the pasture. The lion who is the father of all lions called to them and told them to come out. They discussed it and came out of the pasture. Outside of the pasture they forgot they were lambs and lion suits were put on them instantly. The suits took over. Lions can only see lions. Each lion had its own pond now and they forgot the pasture existed. Lions destroy everything and all they see is destruction.

The Lions thought that the Great Shepherd was angry with them because of their suits and so they tried to hide from him. The Great Shepherd promised to lead them back to the pasture. He gave some of the ancestors of today's lambs a way to see themselves as lambs, but they always seemed to go back to their lion suits. The Great Shepherd loved them so much and he wanted them to be able to see that they were lambs so he came out from the pasture into the land of the lions. He wore a lion suit and to the lions he looked like a lion. But the lambs could see him. His pond never got one piece of ice on it, not even one and the lion suits tried to drink his water up but it never changed. They beat him and cursed him and tortured him and he never fought back. He told them that he was a lamb and that the Great Shepherd had given him all things and that if anyone in a lion suit wanted to take off their suit that they only call on His name. They killed the Lamb and three days later they went to look for him in the tomb but he was gone.

Later he appeared to be the lion suits who had believed him as a lamb. He told them that he had died so that they could be the lambs they were created to be and that they were to tell all of the lion suits about him so that they could be lambs too. And that he was going to take their lion suits off when they died and not to be deceived by the suits or the lion into believing that The Lamb was a lion or that they were not lambs. He also gave them the gift of the Shepherd's voice that would go with them everywhere, and The Lamb promised that the pasture would be restored as it once was. He told his lambs to only drink from his pond because it would be their strength. And to be aware of lion suits wearing lamb masks. It was further explained that the lion had been killed his power was gone and so was the power of his suits to those who believed the Lamb.

The lamb in the suit remembered this and he called on the name of the Lamb. He told him that he had tried to get this suit off but couldn't and that the Great Shepherd had sent his bird from high above to save him and that he had heard of the Lamb who could restore all the lambs and take their suits off. And the voice of the Shepherd came and told him he was free to be a lamb. The suit stayed on and the lamb got confused he saw how the other lion suits hurt each other and had lied to him about who he was. He asked the Shepherd why did you make me this way. Why did you hurt me? And he noticed that his suit was taking over again. Some fake lambs came and told him that if he wanted to be a lamb then all he had to do was act like one and some other fake lambs told him that some lambs were met to me destroyed.

The lion suit took over once again and he forgot he was a lamb; he couldn't even hear the Shepherd's voice or find the Lambs pond. One day the lion suit was walking around and he saw the Good Shepherd and the Shepherd asked him why are you wearing that suit, didn't you hear my voice tell you that you were a lamb. The little lamb said yes I heard you but all the lions tell me I am a lion. I hate this lion suit. The Shepherd said "You get to decide what to believe, you can decide to trust me and believe that you are a lamb even though you have a lion suit on, because I told you long ago that the suit was only real outside of the pasture, that the suit is a lie." The little lamb said he knew it was a lie and that the Shepherd was real, but that the suit controlled him. Then the Shepherd said to the little lamb, "You get to decide how powerful it is. You can believe in the Lamb and that he broke the suits power or you can believe the liar, the lion and the suit."

The lamb rejoiced because he knew in that moment that he could choose to believe the Lamb and that the Lambs pond was the little lambs pond too. They all shared the same pond, all of the lambs, and it was the suit that makes him hate the Shepherd and fear and drink from the many ponds and freeze

them up. Lions destroy everything around them that is the purpose and they go on doing so until they destroy themselves. They are scared of the Shepherd because all a lion suit can see is destruction.

**Some observations about the lions and lambs:**

Only the Shepherd can give life to a lamb. All the lambs share the same pond.

If a lion suit is wearing a lamb mask the only way it can become a real lamb is to take off the mask and admit it is wearing a suit.

The pond is what the Shepherd values most.

Lambs know that they can't create anything and rely on the Shepherd.

Every time a lion kills a lion seven more lions are created.

Lamb masks only create other lamb masks and greatly multiply lions.

Masks, suits and the dark area outside of the pasture only have as much power as the lambs give them.

Some masks are flatterers some are scarier but none are real.

The Shepherd hates masks and suits, but he loves lambs.