The Hedgehog Family and the Old Owl:



Once upon a time, at the edge of a gentle clearing, there lived a small family of hedgehogs.

There was Papa Hedgehog, Mama Hedgehog, and their little one, Picotin, who was still sleeping in a nest of dry leaves.
Not far from there lived two old badgers. They had once been kind. But one day, their hearts hardened because of envy and jealousy...
They began telling stories that weren't true about the Hedgehog family, like to portray themselves as "victims," repeating to the other forest animals that they didn't understand why the Hedgehog family no longer welcomed them as they had in the past, and above all, that they regretted not knowing little Picotin better...
They even went so far as to say that the Marriage of Papa and Mama Hedgehog had once been celebrated by a cunning and wicked fox, when in fact it was the wise and just old Owl, friend of the forest, who had blessed them.
The more time passed, the more the old badgers' lies piled up; they shed tears of "fake sadness" to soften the hearts of the curious animals who always wanted to know everything...
This is how many animals in the forest ended up believing the lies of the old badgers and came to hastily judge the Hedgehog family, accusing them of having become hateful and cruel towards this “poor” badger family.



Every month, the two badgers would come and scratch hard at the entrance to the hedgehogs' burrow.

They shouted, "Open up! We want to see little Picotin, to find out how he is! We want peace! Open up to us... we are your friends, have you forgotten?" But their words of peace were like fallen leaves: they seemed soft, yet they hid thorns. For as soon as they were given a little opening, they would start lying again, accusing, and frightening, and little Picotin always ended up crying because deep down he knew that the two old fools weren't being sincere.
This story reached the ears of the Old Owl of the Forest. All the animals respected him for his Wisdom because he always dispensed Justice fairly.



One evening, the Old Owl quietly climbed down from his oak tree and spoke softly to Papa and Mama Hedgehog:

“Listen carefully, my friends, I know you are good people and that you are suffering terribly from this situation. I know you always end up opening your door, hoping that peace will return and that the conflict with the Badger family will end. But you must understand what forgiveness and reconciliation truly mean. Forgiving is like opening your heart to Heaven and saying, ‘I no longer want to hold anger inside me. I entrust those who cause me suffering to the Great Creator, to God!’ You can do this every day. But reconciliation is something else entirely. It is rebuilding a path together.”

But a path can only be rebuilt with someone who sincerely acknowledges their lies, their wrongdoing, and who truly decides to change! Without genuine repentance, the path remains dangerous. You have the right, even the duty, to protect Picotin and yourself from the petty attacks of these two liars embittered by life. Put up a beautiful fence of soft brambles around your burrow. This isn't malice. It's prudence and love. If one day the Badgers return with truly changed hearts, if they say to you, "We lied. We hurt. We're sorry. We want to learn to love differently," then perhaps the path can reopen, ever so gently. But as long as they continue to lie and scratch at the door angrily, keep the fence around the burrow. Shake the dust off your little paws and keep walking toward the Light.



Papa and Mama Hedgehog listened.

They forgave in their hearts.

They prayed for the badgers.

But they kept the fence firmly closed, so that little Picotin could grow up peacefully in a safe burrow under the watchful eye of Heaven. The Hedgehog family was gradually able to rediscover the gentle inner peace they had long since lost, but it took a long time...
And the forest understood that True Peace



is not the one who forces doors,

but the one that protects the smallest

while keeping one's heart open to Hope.



Morale:
To forgive is to open your heart and no longer hold onto anger.

It can be done even when the other person hasn't changed yet.
But reconciliation means rebuilding a path together.

This is only possible if the other person truly acknowledges their mistakes.

said "I'm sorry" from the heart,

and decides to do no more harm.
When someone continues to lie, to frighten, to harm

We must protect the little ones

and keep a nice fence around yourself.

Out of Prudence and out of Love!

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