

## The Lion and the Hunter

by Jean de La Fontaine

A braggart, lover of the chase,  
Had lost a dog of valued race,  
And thought him in a lion's maw.  
He ask'd a shepherd whom he saw,  
"Pray show me, man, the robber's place,  
And I'll have justice in the case."  
"Tis on this mountain side,"  
The shepherd man replied.  
"The tribute of a sheep I pay,  
Each month, and where I please I stray."  
Out leap'd the lion as he spake,  
And came that way with agile feet.  
The braggart, prompt his flight to take,  
Cried, "Jove, O grant a safe retreat!"

*A danger close at hand  
Of courage is the test.  
It shows us who will stand--  
Whose legs will run their best.*