

# BE HAPPY WITH YOURSELF!

An Aesop's Fable

Adapted by Carole L. Cooney

**Setting:** A huge forest and a nearby lake

**Characters:**

**Narrator**

**Bion, a great Stag, *full of life***

**Paulos, a *small* marsh rabbit**

(The italicized words above give the meaning of the Greek names.)

**Narrator:** The many-colored leaves were reflected on the lake's silvery-blue water. Bion, the great Stag, slowly walked through the trees while enjoying the cool morning breeze.

**Bion:** What a beautiful day to roam about the forest. I think I'll trot down to the refreshing water's edge and have a drink.

**Narrator:** Paulos, a little marsh rabbit, hopped about looking for dandelions and crabgrass for breakfast.

**Paulos:** What a huge patch of de – licious dandelions and crabgrass! I've never seen so much. Oh, happy day! It's a feast!

**Narrator:** While Paulos was munching flowers and grass, Bion sped through the trees and almost stepped on her with his mighty hoof.

**Paulos:** Ouch! Why don't you look where you're going, Bion. Am I so tiny that you *really* didn't see me?

**Bion:** Oops! I'm so sorry little one. I am very thirsty and I was hurrying to get to the water's edge.

**Paulos:** Well, that's all right. At least I'm not squished. Do you mind if I continue to eat my breakfast?

**Bion:** Please, go right ahead. I'm off to the lake, full speed ahead!

**Narrator:** The stag began to run to the water. Soon he was slurping it up as fast as he could. Once satisfied, he stopped and looked at his reflection in the water.

**Bion:** Look at my antlers! How they've grown. They are so beautiful. I have never seen such perfect antlers.

**Paulos:** Bion, I heard you admiring your antlers. They are wonderful! I wish I had antlers to help me dig up some goodies to eat.

**Bion:** You would look silly with antlers on your fluffy head. What would you do with your long ears?

**Paulos:** Hum... I hadn't thought of that. Well, I'll just be happy the way I am. Bion, would you mind taking me to that little island over there?

**Narrator:** The stag lowered his head.

**Bion:** Of course. Hop up on top of my head and hold onto my antlers. Okay?

**Narrator:** Bion waded in the shallow water toward the island. Once he landed on the soft dirt, he lowered his head once again to let Paulos hop off.

**Paulos:** Thank you, Bion!

**Bion:** You're welcome. Anytime.

**Narrator:** Bion was happy to be of help to his friend, Paulos. He briskly pranced through the water thoroughly enjoying its refreshing coolness against his legs. Standing on the dry sandy bank, he shook his body to rid it of water. Once dry, he looked at his reflection once again.

**Bion:** Oh, how I love my antlers! But, look at my skinny legs. I wish I had big muscles to make me proud.

**Narrator:** Suddenly, there was a snap of a breaking twig and a hunter's arrow sped by. Bion leaped into the woods. The hunter was running and coming closer and closer.

**Bion:** All right, my skinny legs, get me out of here!

**Narrator:** With tremendous speed, the stag out-ran the hunter and made it to safety. The next morning, Bion returned to the lake for his morning drink. Once again, he looked down at his reflection.

**Bion:** Well done, skinny legs! Without your speed I would not be here this morning. I thank you and I'm proud of you. Paulos was right. I am happy to be just the way I am.