Aunt Fox

Zeus and the Serpent



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Synopsis

At Zeus's wedding, the animals offer gifts. The serpent brings a rose, but the god rejects it because of its venom.



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AGE	CATEGORY	READING TIME
3-9 years	Secret Fables	3 min

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It was the celebration of Zeus's wedding. Animals of all kinds gathered to honor the king of the gods, each carrying a special offering: birds sang golden melodies, lions brought rare mountain fruits, and bees offered the purest honeycomb in the world.





Hidden amidst the low-growing grass, the serpent also wished to impress the great ruler of the heavens. To mask its dangerous nature, it plucked the most dazzling and fragrant rose from the imperial garden as it slithered toward the throne.



Upon approaching the altar, the serpent held up the flower, expecting applause for such elegance. However, Zeus raised his hand, stopped the reptile, and flatly refused the offering; he declared that, although the rose was beautiful, the fact that it came from a mouth laden with deadly venom turned any gift into an unacceptable, disguised threat.



The serpent retreated in shame, realizing that no deed can hide who we truly are. The gods do not judge an offering by its outward beauty, but by the nature of the one who presents it. After all, an act of kindness from a poisonous source never loses its underlying danger.



Moral: True intention is revealed in the heart of the giver.



THE END

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