

The Appropriate Punishments



By [borderlessgl](https://borderlessjournal.com/author/borderlessgl/) <

<https://borderlessjournal.com/author/borderlessgl/>>



[March 14, 2025](https://borderlessjournal.com/2025/03/14/the-appropriate-punishments/) < <https://borderlessjournal.com/2025/03/14/the-appropriate-punishments/>>

By Naramsetti Umamaheswararao



From Public Domain

In a small forest next to Ramapuram, there lived a crow and a monkey who were friends. They would help each other when needed, but they were

mischievous by nature and often looked for opportunities to harass others. Over time, they befriended a cunning jackal, and the three would team up to trouble travelers passing through.

The residents of Ramapuram and nearby villages had to cross this small forest to reach the town. Whenever a traveler passed through the forest with a bag in hand, the monkey would jump from the tree and snatch the bag, hoping to find food inside. It would climb up a tree, rummage through the contents, and if there was anything edible, it would keep it, tossing the rest to the ground. The monkey would then mock the traveler, showing its teeth and laughing at their distress. Once the traveler left, the monkey would share the food with its friends.

The crow, on the other hand, would swoop down and peck at the travelers' heads with its beak or legs, causing them to flinch. If anyone rested under a tree, the crow would defecate on them and then hide in the branches, laughing at their misery.

The jackal was skilled at imitating the roar of a tiger. It would hide behind a tree and roar like a tiger, scaring the travelers who would then run away in fear, much to the jackal's delight.

One day, a farmer named Rama from the neighbouring village of Shantipuram was passing through the forest. He was on his way to buy jewelry

for his daughter's wedding, carrying money in his bag. The monkey, mistaking the bag for food, leaped in front of Rama and snatched the bag, quickly climbing a tree. "Oh no, my bag!" cried Rama as he ran after the monkey. But the monkey, sitting on a branch, began searching through the bag. Finding nothing to eat, it became angry and tore the money into pieces, throwing them down.

Seeing this, Rama was filled with both sadness and anger. He spotted a dry branch on the ground and thought of using it to threaten the monkey. But before he could act, the crow swooped down and pecked him on the head. Meanwhile, the jackal, hiding behind a tree, roared like a tiger. Terrified, Rama ran away from the forest.

When he reached his village, Rama told the villagers what had happened. The villagers felt sorry for him and promised to help with his daughter's wedding expenses.

A young man in the village suggested, "I know a sorcerer. Let's tell him about this and put an end to these troubles." So they took Rama to the sorcerer.

After hearing the story, the sorcerer said, "I will secretly observe what's happening in the forest and punish the culprits." He kept his promise and observed the mischief of the crow, monkey, and jackal for a few days to understand their behavior

completely. Then, he devised a plan and set out for the forest.

When the monkey saw the sorcerer coming with a bag in hand, it followed its usual habit and jumped down to snatch the bag. But the moment its hand touched the bag, it stuck to it. No matter how hard the monkey tried, it couldn't free itself. The sorcerer had applied strong glue to the bag beforehand, knowing this would happen. The monkey screeched in fear.

Hearing the monkey's cries, the crow flew down intending to peck the sorcerer. But the sorcerer quickly threw a net over the crow, trapping it.

Meanwhile, the jackal, watching the humiliation of its friends from a distance, tried to roar like a tiger again. It went behind a tree to hide, but the sorcerer's disciple, who had been waiting there, threw another net over the jackal, capturing it.

Realising that the sorcerer was not an ordinary traveler, the animals pleaded, "Oh, please forgive us. We won't trouble anyone anymore."

The sorcerer laughed and asked, "When you were troubling the travelers, where was your sense of right and wrong? Now that you're in trouble, you suddenly confess and promise to end your mischief? How can you change so quickly?"

They replied, “We never expected someone like you would come. Please let us go. We promise to live without bothering anyone.”

The sorcerer, however, was unmoved. “There’s no question of letting you go. I will hand you over to the zoo so that travelers passing through this forest won’t be troubled anymore.”

The animals pleaded once again, “We’ve learned our lesson. Please let us go.”

Even the sorcerer’s disciple requested, “Please forgive them and let them go.”

But the sorcerer responded, “Don’t show mercy on these creatures. The monkey tore up Ramayya’s money. I’ll release the crow, and if it ever causes trouble again, I’ll capture it and starve it to death in a cage. I’ll train the monkey to perform tricks and take it with us for shows. As for the jackal, I’ll hand it over to the zoo.”

And the sorcerer did exactly as he said. He disciplined the three of them and put an end to their mischief. From that day on, travelers passing through the forest were no longer troubled by the crow, monkey, or jackal.