



**THE
TALKING CAVE**

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Once upon a time in a forest, there lived a lion. Although he was considered the King of Beasts, our lion was not...well... the brightest. He was all brawn and no brains.

One day while strolling around the forest trying to find easy prey, he spotted a cave.

Being *siesta* time, he was hoping to be lucky enough to trap an animal inside the cave. "There would be nothing like it!" he thought to himself.

Once inside the cave, he realized to his disappointment the occupants were out. "Maybe they have a real job," the lion thought as he settled inside the cool and comfortable cave. "I'll just wait. Today might be my lucky day."



The lion hadn't been there long, when the fox that lived in the cave returned. But, the sly fox saw the lion's paw prints on the sand leading to the cave but none leading out, and he stopped short.

Realizing the danger lurking inside, he quickly thought up an idea. Hoping to confuse the lion, the quick-witted fox spoke to the cave. "Howdy cave! How are you this fine afternoon?" he asked.

The cave did not answer.

The lion listened, not sure of what was going on. Did the cave really speak? Had the cave dozed off?

The fox continued, "What's up cave? What's the matter? Are you upset with me?"

But still, there came no answer from the cave.

The lion didn't understand what was going on. He remained in the cave listening for a response.



The fox finally said, "Well, we agreed to greet each other every time we met. If you don't want to stick to your side of the agreement, I'll just move out and find myself a new place to live."

The silly lion who had been waiting for the cave to speak finally thought to himself, "Uh, Oh! My lunch is standing right in front of me. I don't want to lose it! If the cave won't talk, then I will." He jumped to his feet to greet the fox.

Rooooaarr!!! Rooooaarr!!!

The fox took to his heels laughing, and yelled at the lion long behind him, "You bought that story, lion? A cave that could talk?!?"



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