



#70 *The Lion and the Mouse*



Two friends from a theater company were taking a break in between performances. They walked through town and stopped on a bridge overlooking the river. The one actor was nicknamed ‘the Lion’ because he commanded boastful roles with authority.

He roared in a booming voice and always seemed to be invincible and in control. The other was nicknamed ‘the Mouse’ because she was so meek, often playing the role of the supporting actress to give the Lion center stage. She always appeared vulnerable, yet she was quietly distinguished and vibrant. In real life, the two actors were colleagues for oh-so many years, and in fact, were quite like the roles they loved to play, except for one very important difference. When things got tough and you had to let the heart decide, the Mouse was the master and the Lion was the servant. For although she remained vulnerable to her friend,

the Mouse was the wiser of the two. She was gifted enough to know that the Lion often needed to feel that no one would challenge his supremacy. Therefore, to support him, she would habitually feed him lines to say - as if all of life were a play.

This day, as they gazed into the river, the Lion burst into tears, bleating, "I am not up to the task of playing the king in this play. Do not tell anyone I said this, but I am discouraged." "Why, of course you are a up to this role," soothed the Mouse, "you are every inch a king, royal and majestic!" Here was the Mouse-master and the Lion-servant at their best. Here was the strength of their friendship. And as long as the Lion knew he owed his existence to his lifelong friend, the Mouse ... as long as he could actually be the follower ... together they were invincible.

*WISDOM IS THE MASTER
WE WOULD BE WISE TO SERVE*