

#87 The Crow

There once was a crow that flew from flock to flock offering his services as a builder of nests. "My nests cost very little and go up so quickly," he would announce as he came to each new flock and introduced himself. "And they are very strong. They will probably last for years." He was a good salesman, usually finding someone to pay him to build a nest as soon as he arrived. And he disappeared as swiftly as he appeared. The moment a nest was done he would fly by night to the next flock.

The curious, and completely enigmatic fact about the crow was that his nests were terribly built! Not one of them had ever lasted a week! The truth was that he was leaving families in dire straits! In point of fact, he was spreading destruction wherever he went. But, because the crow never saw the long-term results of his handiwork, he genuinely thought that his nests were every bit the triumph of which he boasted.

> SHORT-TERM CONSTRUCTION MAY BE LONG-TERM DESTRUCTION