

AFTER THEY CAME OUT OF THE ARK

TOLD AND PICTURED

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NEW YORK

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS

LONDON



2. Lost

Though Noah counseled them to go forth and start anew they loitered on the way, and gave themselves up to the joy of living. But when night came they began to feel frightened, and lost their good spirits. Boarding so long in the Ark had made them forget how to take care of themselves. And then everything had been so washed away and changed, that they didn't know which way to turn to find their old homes.

And now they were not so joyful at being free. They felt lonely, and were afraid, and huddled together to keep up their courage.

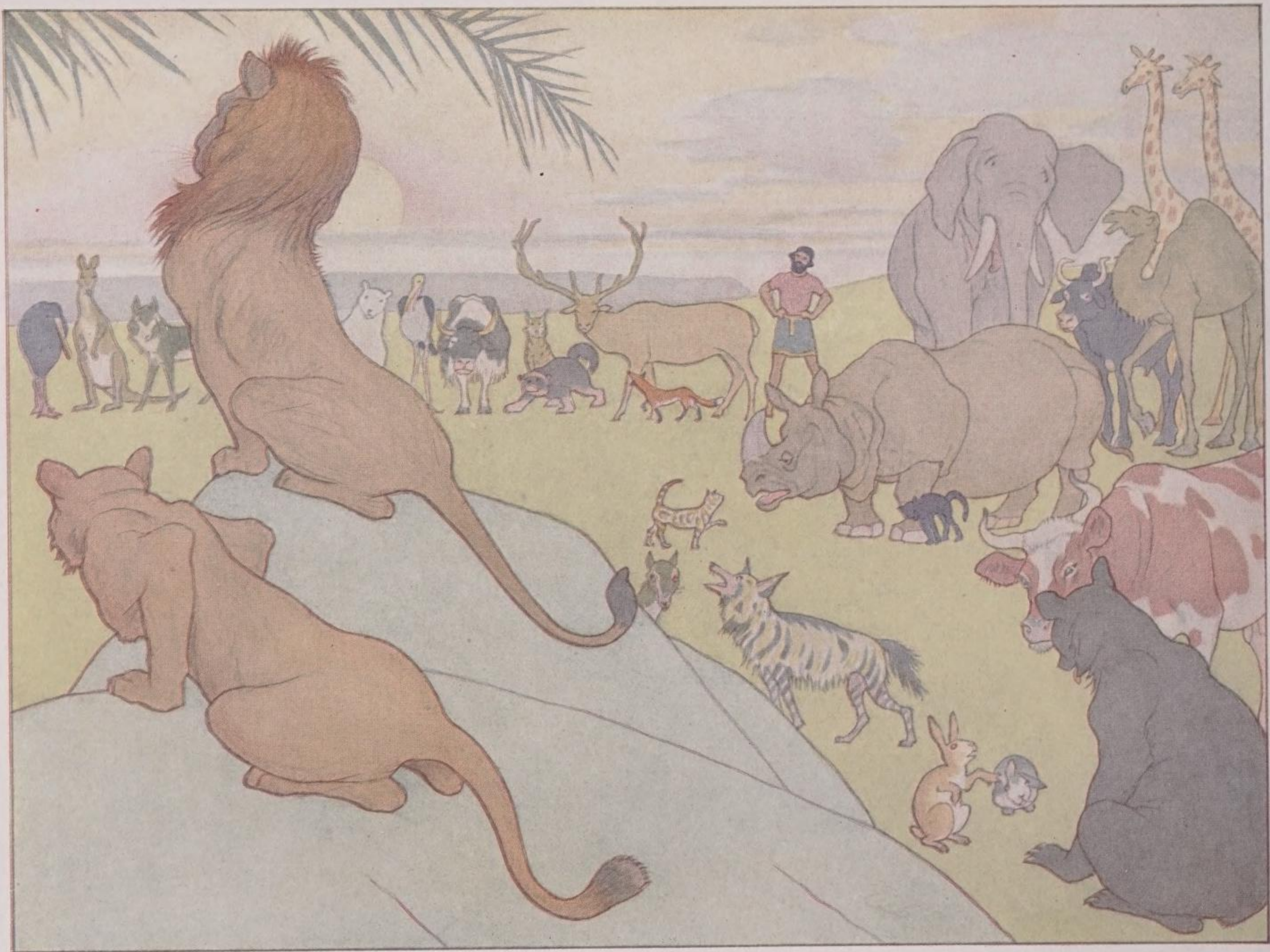


8. The Council (Continued)

But how to decide who should be king? The giraffe suggested a way—who could reach highest? The elephant—who was the strongest? The leopard—who was the most beautiful? The monkey—who could climb best? The alligator proposed—how about swimming? The cow said—who can eat the most grass?

Now this word grass produced bad feeling, for the tiger complained that he had eaten grass till he was “black in the face”—and was still hungry.

They talked and talked, and couldn't agree, till at last the lion said, “I'll be king,” and as no one had any better suggestion, that is how he became the king of the beasts, and has always been known as such ever since.



9. Interlude

Great things were expected from this arrangement, and for a while there was peace.

The lion sat alone in his dignity—though he was still just as hungry.

The rhinoceros and the camel exchanged views about the new king, for they were all rather gossipy in those days.

The eagle didn't mind him at all and boasted that *he* was free and could fly anywhere. "Well," said the old hen, "being a king may be all very fine and all that, but give me a comfortable, peaceful life, and enough to eat." And since the old hen said this many people have said and thought exactly the same thing. The elephant and the wolf discussed grass diet. "Very strengthening," assured the elephant. "I don't find it so," said the wolf; "I eat and eat and still have that 'all gone' feeling, and it makes me *feel* green, too."



10. Unwelcome Neighbors

And now Noah found that though it had been a big task to get the animals together and "save" them, it was a bigger one to scatter and get rid of them. Mrs. Noah even said that either those animals would have to move or *she* would.

Ham's wife complained that the moles were spoiling her seed patch. "Well, well, it's too bad, my dear, but we must live and let live," encouraged Noah. "But they won't let my lettuce live."

Said the hippopotamus to the monkey, "Now those people are just laying out trouble for themselves. The more things they have the more they want, and bye-and-bye they'll just be working every minute. It's foolish, I say, we're better off, we've got what we want and we know it. No progress for me, no sir, here I stick."

Since then the hippopotamus has refused to learn anything new. No one has ever been able even to teach him to count to five.



21. Ham in Africa

When the creatures, or nearly all of them, had gone Ham found things dull, and became restless. He was of a wandering disposition, and began to travel. In time, many years after, he journeyed as far as Africa—so it has been said—and here he sometimes met old acquaintances of the Ark days.

In the trees the monkeys would chatter, boasting that their ancestors used to be a sea-faring people—this was what the story of the Ark had come to.

Ham reared a large family, and his descendants, from living in a hot country, have generally been quite dark in complexion.

