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Painting by: Niranjan K.R.
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How Fox and Hen became Enemies



Dr. Rohini Chintla, Hyderabad. Illustrations: Murali, Kottayam



This is a story that happened long time ago. It was during a time, when the fox and the hen were best friends. They lived on a farm together. The fox helped the farmer hunt and the hen laid eggs. Every day after work, the friends sat together and talked till dinner time.

At dinner, every day, the fox had meat and the hen had grains. One day, the hen wanted to have meat for dinner. So she went and told the farmer that she too wanted meat. But the farmer just laughed and laughed. So the hen went back to her coop and sat there sadly. The hen did not eat anything. So the fox felt sad and shared his meat with the hen. Oh! How nice

the meat tasted! The hen just loved it. So, every day, the fox shared his meat with the hen and both were happy.

The hen liked the meat so much that one day she asked the fox for a larger share. The fox obliged the hen. Every day the hen wanted more and more of the meat. The fox gave her as she demanded.

One day the hen ate all the meat without giving the fox his share. There was nothing left for him. The fox scolded the hen for her greed. But the hen did not listen. And the next day also she ate all the meat herself. The fox was hungry and also very angry. He chased the hen away. From then on, the fox and the hen became enemies. And when the fox is not around, the hen pecks the ground in search of small pieces of meat as she is still greedy.

