A man who greedily hopes to have the skills and senses of a different animal is so impatient to have his wish granted that he finds himself limiting his abilities, rather than enhancing them.

This is one of a series of illustrated books for the young written by the Afghan philosopher and educator Idries Shah, whose collections of narratives and teaching stories have captivated the hearts and minds of people from all walks of life.

Teaching stories are designed specifically to foster thinking skills and perception. They suggest in their structure and in the movement of their characters ways of looking at difficulties that can help solve problems. Among other things, this simple story shows children how a blind impulse to 'win' without considering the consequences can end in the opposite effect.