



DUANE THE DUCK AND GAZELEM THE DEER

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 2 Timothy 6:9-10

NKJV

One day, Gazelem the duck was watching Duane the deer run with such grace and beauty. Whenever Duane would come to any kind of a hindrance, he would jump it with such ease and elegance. The duck watched Duane everyday and became very discontented with life. Whenever Gazelem would walk, his flat feet would make him waddle with awkward movements. When Gazelem would fly, he would flap his wings so frantically that at times he wasn't sure he was going to get off the water. When Gazelem swam, he felt as though every fish was laughing at this fat movement and slow strokes. Above all else, Gazelem wanted to be a deer, wanted to take Duane's place as a graceful deer leaping the mountains, climbing the crags, sprinting the meadows.

One day, Gazelem asked Duane if there was any way they could trade places and just for a day he could feel the pleasure of being graceful in motion and beauty of form. Duane agreed to the arrangement and they asked the Animal Lord if they could trade places for a day. The Animal Lord tried to convince Gazelem and Duane that they would not enjoy the day but they assumed the Animal Lord was just lazy and not up for the work, so they pleaded with the Animal Lord until He agreed.

As soon as Gazelem became a deer, he was chased by a pack of wolves. Duane, now a duck, began to "quack, quack, quack" for Gazelem to run for his life and to take care of his deer body.

Gazelem did just that, as hard as he could, but he did not know where to go. Just about the same time, Duane noticed a huge hawk that was very hungry and unable to find fish in the lake. The hawk swooped down to pick up Duane by the rear feathers. Duane dove under



water, deep as he could, only to find that every time he surfaced, the hawk was ready to pounce because he was so filled with hunger.

Meanwhile, Gazelem ran up mountains, across fields through the brush all day to keep from being eaten by the wolves. Duane dove and swam under water all day and kept from being captured by the hawk. Both were nearly caught, always barely escaping.

At the day's end, they ran back to the Animal Lord and asked if they could go back to their original bodies. Gazelem was beat up and bleeding at the knees and Duane had many feathers missing. When Gazelem became a duck and Duane became a deer again, they both felt how badly their bodies ached from all the work they had been put through by the other to avoid capture. Gazelem was not good at being a duck and Duane was not good at being a deer.

From that day on they both became content and enjoyed who they were.