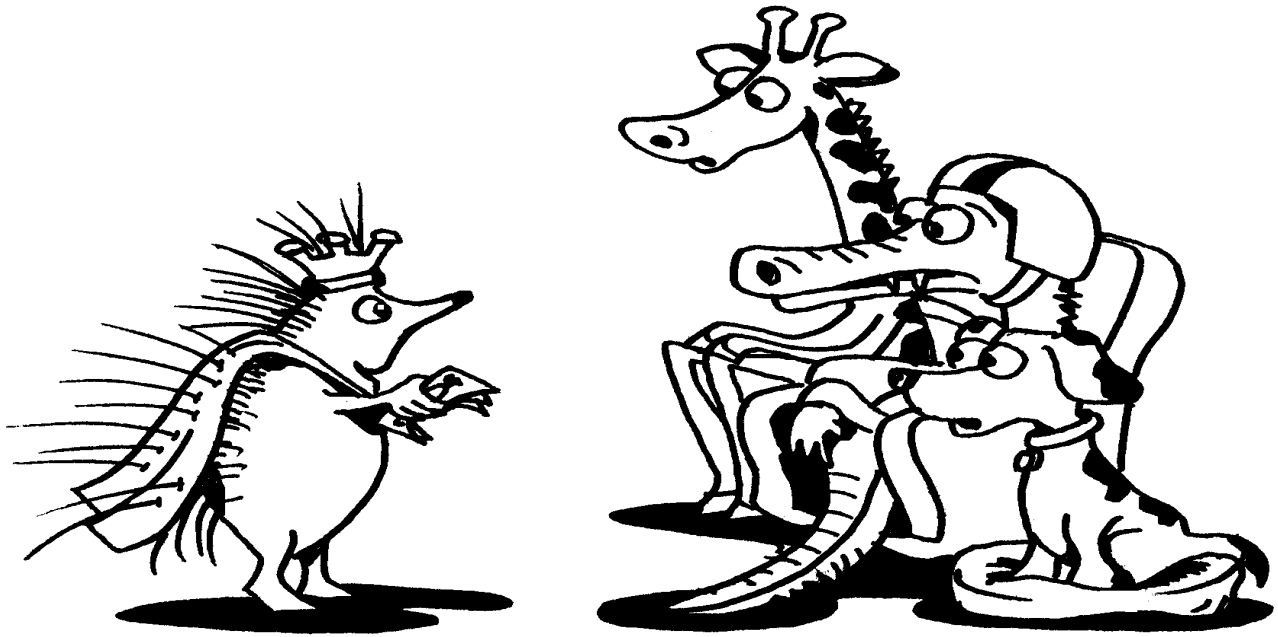


## Story 11. King Cupine



The good King of Hannimal lived on the other side of the island. Each year he would invite some of his animals to his palace to have a chat. The King wanted to be sure that his animals were happy and that they had all that they needed.

Today Crocosmile, Geelaugh and Dog had been invited to travel to meet the King. Geelaugh planned to take Crocosmile and Dog in his new white car.

It was an hour before Geelaugh would arrive so Crocosmile went outside, tied her hammock between two strong trees. In no time at all she was fast asleep.

At twelve o'clock Geelaugh collected Crocosmile. Dog was already in the car. Shortly after they screeched to a stop. But not at the King's Palace – the car stopped at Cupine's house. "What's happening?" wondered Crocosmile.

The three animals went inside. To their surprise, Cupine's house was completely different. Instead of dirty walls and old pictures there were brightly painted walls with gold trimming and portraits of Cupine's father and mother, grandfather and grandmother. All wearing crowns. It didn't look like Cupine's house, it looked more like – um – more like – a palace!

When Crocosmile looked at Cupine she was even more surprised. Cupine was usually a small shy animal. But now he was standing up on his back legs. He was wearing a very fine purple cloak and on his head was a crown. He looked like – um – he looked like – a King!

Then Cupine spoke. His voice was loud and strong as he said, "As you know I am now the King of this island."

Crocsmile did not know that he was the King. Geelaugh and Dog just sat there – maybe they knew. Or maybe Cupine was just playing a game. Maybe in a moment Cupine would say, “Just joking. Tricked you!”

Cupine then said, “You are my servants. I am rich. Much richer than Geelaugh. But I have to go away. I have to go to another island to buy more gold and more silver. I have chosen you three servants to look after my money.”

Cupine commanded the animals to stand before him. To Geelaugh he gave fifty dollars, to Dog he gave twenty and to Crocsmile he gave ten dollars.

Then Cupine said, “I want you to look after this money until I return. Do what you like with it but try to use it to make more money – and give it all back to me when I return.”

Cupine went outside where a large carriage with golden trim and purple cushions was waiting. The carriage was pulled by four white horses.

Cupine stepped inside the carriage and waved goodbye to his three servants. “Come back here in exactly one month. Be at my palace when I arrive,” he called as the carriage disappeared down the road.

In exactly one month, Geelaugh picked up Crocsmile in his new yellow car. After collecting Dog, they drove to Cupine’s house, oops, King Cupine’s palace. They waited outside.

It wasn’t long before the golden carriage arrived. As King Cupine walked into his palace, Geelaugh and Dog bowed low. When Crocsmile saw her friends bowing, she bowed too. She hoped the King didn’t notice that she was a little slower than the others. Then they went into a bright room and waited for Cupine to enter.

When Cupine entered the room, Geelaugh, Dog and Crocsmile again bowed deeply. Then they stood silently waiting for Cupine to speak.

Cupine sat on the throne and said to Geelaugh: “Servant, what have you done with my money?”

“Your Majesty,” Geelaugh replied. “You gave me fifty dollars and now I can repay you seventy dollars.”

“Well done you good and faithful servant,” said the King. “You have done very well. I am going to put you in charge of all my gold.” Cupine placed a golden cloak around Geelaugh’s shoulders to show that he was an important animal in the King’s palace.

“How did you make the extra money?” whispered Crocsmile.

“Easy,” answered Geelaugh. “I bought petrol with the King’s money and gave rides in my beige car. I charged two dollars for a ride.”

Crocsmile replied in a whisper, “What if the animals didn’t want a ride? You would have lost the King’s fifty dollars.”

Before Geelaugh could answer the King said, “Now Dog, what have you done with my money?”

“You gave me twenty dollars and now I can give you thirty,” said Dog wagging her tail as she handed King Cupine the money.

“Well done you good and faithful servant,” said the King. “You have done very well. I am going to put you in charge of all my silver.” He placed a silver cloak around Dog’s shoulders to show that she also was an important animal in the King’s palace.

“How did you make your money?” whispered Crocosmile.

“Easy,” replied Dog. “I used the King’s money to buy some powders. Then I made them into medicines and sold them.”

Crocosmile again whispered. “But what if the animals hadn’t bought the medicines? You would have lost the King’s money.”

Before Dog could answer King Cupine asked, “Now Crocosmile, what have you done with your ten dollars? Made two dollars? Maybe even five? Tell me, what have you done?”

“Nothing,” replied Crocosmile.

“Nothing! What do you mean? Nothing? I don’t understand,” said King Cupine in a surprised voice.

Crocosmile was very scared but she replied, “Cupine – er - um – I mean Your Majesty, I knew that you would be very angry if I lost the ten dollars you gave me.”

“I would have been angry if you had lost it, but I would be angrier if you hadn’t used it. But I suppose you at least put it in the bank so that I would get a little bit of interest?” said the King.

“Well no. I – er – hid it – er - er – under a log – in the – er -river,” stammered Crocosmile.

“Hid it? In the river? Under a log? How does hiding money in the river under a log make more money? Does money grow like water lilies?” asked King Cupine laughing.

“I didn’t make more money. I knew you would be angry if I lost the money, so I hid it. I fished it out this morning. Here it is,” said Crocosmile giving two very wet five dollar notes to the King.

“You wicked, lazy animal. Get out of my palace and never return,” said the King as he snatched the soggy notes from Crocosmile. King Cupine gave one of the wet five dollar notes to Geelaugh and the other to Dog.

“Wake up, wake up,” said Geelaugh as he shook Crocosmile’s hammock.

“Where am I? Where is King Cupine?” asked Crocosmile as she wiped the sleep from her eyes.

“King Cupine? Cupine isn’t a King,” said Geelaugh laughing.

Crocosmile realized she had been dreaming. She explained her dream to Geelaugh. “Cupine isn’t a King. His house is not a palace.”

“It’s almost twelve o’clock. The real King wants to see us. Here comes Dog. We mustn’t be late. “Let’s go,” said Geelaugh as they sped off in his new hot pink car to visit the good King.

“At least now I know that I should work harder when someone trusts me. In my dream, I learnt a good lesson,” said Crocosmile as she climbed into the back seat.

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## **Source Notes and Discussion**

### **Story 11. King Cupine**

#### **Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25: 14 - 30**

The requirement of a happy ending demanded that the story be a dream. The happy ending is that Crocosmile has learnt her lesson. Parables are written so that we can comprehend a Godly truth and the dream gave Crocosmile that understanding. The understanding is that we must use our God given talents or gifts and that sometimes that may involve risk.