

## It is for the Best

This is an ancient story from India about a king and his minister. One day they were preparing for a hunting trip. The king accidentally dropped a heavy box on his foot and cut off one of his toes. Almost immediately his minister who was known as an optimist said "it is for the best." The king was furious, "I am bleeding and in great pain and you tell me it is for the best, you fool!" The king ordered the palace guards to throw the minister in prison. The minister paused then and said, "It is for the best." "Out!" shrieked the king. The next day the king went hunting alone. He hobbled into the forest on his bandaged foot and decided to take a brief nap under a tree. Soon after he fell asleep he heard a noise, he was startled and horrified to see a lion. As the lion sniffed at the king's feet, he abruptly turned and went away. Elated, the king got up and walked as fast as he could back to his castle. As he walked he reviewed what had happened. He remembered that lions do not like to eat wounded prey. My minister was right! The lion sensed my wounded foot and rejected me as his next meal. As soon as he got back to his castle, he asked that his minister be brought forth. The king thanked the minister for his great wisdom and then he said, "But when I sent you into prison you said it is for the best. What did you mean by that?" "Well sire," said the minister, "if I had gone hunting with you, the lion would have eaten me!" They all laughed heartily and the king gave the minister even more power in the kingdom.