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| **A slave named Androcles once escaped from his master and fled to the forest. As he was wandering about he came upon a Lion lying down moaning and groaning. At first he turned to run away, but finding that the Lion did not pursue him, he turned back and went up to him.**  **As he came near, the Lion put out his paw, which was all swollen and bleeding. Androcles found that a huge thorn had got into it, and was causing all the pain. He pulled out the thorn and bound up the paw of the Lion. Soon the lion was able to rise and lick the hand of Androcles like a dog. Then the Lion took Androcles to his cave, and every day he brought him meat to eat.**  **Shortly afterwards both Androcles and the Lion were captured. Androcles was sentenced to be thrown to the Lion, after the latter had been kept without food for several days. The Emperor and all his Court came to see the spectacle. Androcles was led out into the middle of the arena. Soon the Lion was let loose from his den. He rushed bounding and roaring towards his victim.**  **As soon as he came near to Androcles he recognised his friend. He was gentle with him, and licked his hands like a friendly dog. The Emperor, surprised at this, summoned Androcles to him.Androcles told the emperor the whole story. When the emperor heard this he freed Androcles and let the Lion loose in his native forest.** |

***Moral of this Fable: Gratitude is the sign of noble souls***