FABLES

Aesop

For other stories, an introduction to fables in general and to Aesop fables see The Allyn and Bacon Anthology of Traditional Literature edited by Judith V. Lechner. Allyn and Bacon/Longman, 2003

The Tree and the Reeds

From Joseph Jacobs’ The Fables of Aesop. London: Macmillan, 1894. (A few of the expressions were changed in order to make the stories sound more colloquial to modern ears).

“Well, little one,” said a Tree to a Reed that was growing at its foot, “why do you not plant your feet deeply in the ground, and raise your head boldly in the air as I do?”

“I am contented with my lot,” said the Reed. “I may not be so grand, but I think I am safer.”

“Safe!” sneered the Tree. “Who shall pluck me up by the roots or bow my head to the ground?” But it soon had to repent of its boasting, for a hurricane arose which tore it up from its roots, and cast it a useless log on the ground, while the little Reed, bending to the force of the wind, soon stood upright again when the storm had passed.

Obscurity often brings safety.