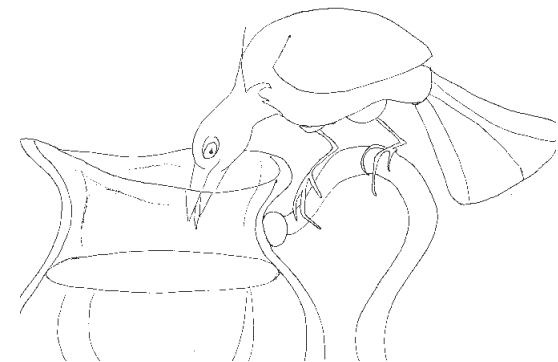


The Crow and the Pitcher

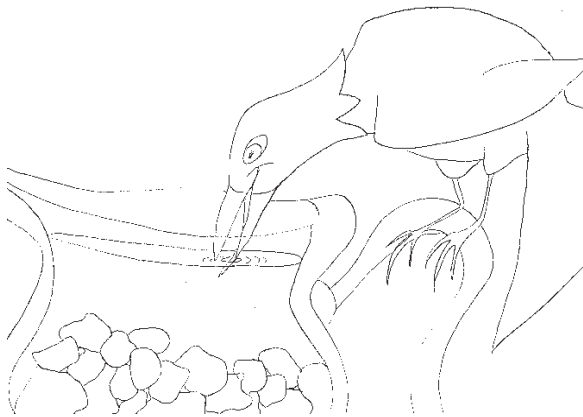
by
Aesop



One day, a crow was flying over a small village. The crow had been flying for many hours. He was getting tired and thirsty. In a town far below him, he spotted a pitcher of water that had been left outside. The crow was very happy to see the sparkling water, and he flew down to the pitcher.



to get some water," said the crow to himself. "I will not give up!" He walked over to a pile of pebbles. He picked one up in his beak, and he carried it over to the pitcher and dropped it in. It only made a little splash. It looked very little in the bottom of the pitcher, but the crow kept up his work just like the ant. In no time, the crow had dropped in enough pebbles to make the water level rise to the point where he could drink as much as he wanted.



When he reached the pitcher, he saw that the water was a few inches below the rim of the pitcher. He tried very hard to reach the cool water. He tried sticking his tongue into the pitcher, but he could only dip the very tip of his tongue into the water. As you can imagine, this only made him even more thirsty.

The crow was a smart bird. He decided to try another way to get the water. He stepped back a few steps, and then ran and head-butted the pitcher as hard as he could. The pitcher was too big and very full of water. This did not get the poor bird any water. It only gave him a sore beak and a headache. Now the crow was even thirstier than before from his hard work.



The crow stood still. He tried to think of another way to get the water. As he looked on the ground, he saw a little ant. He watched the small ant pick up a grain of sand and carry it all the way to the top of his castle and set it down. The ant made his trip over and over. Soon the thirsty crow noticed that the ant's castle was much bigger than it had been when he had first started watching the ant. "If a little ant is able to keep working and keep trying to make his castle, then I am certainly able to keep trying