

Progymnasma 1: The fable

Socialama: The End and The Beginning of Power

Long ago in the ravenous islands of Socialama, there was a clever and beautiful fox named Bali. She lived in the most fascinating wooden castle by the enchanting river valley. Through grand feasts in her castle, she would trap the other noble animals of the forest who lived in small houses, through their desires and their aspirations, by compelling them into being consumed by her innovations. She would secretly smile at their efforts of endlessly chasing popularity or a palace of their own or other material things that they lacked, and which she had deceivingly earned for herself by their foolishness to give her any resources she needed.

One day, she was riveted to introduce her new invention of a community platform called Instavillage where all animals could pose for good pictures, recount their stories and experiences and have those forever be available on Instavillage, respected and admired by the whole population. For a few weeks, this was a fun and engaging activity but as time passed by, animals started to spread false stories, ruining each other's reputations and treating their friendly hostile neighbours as enemies who needed to be vanquished.

A rabbit, Meshki, decided that it was time to call upon the Lion King, Mufasa, who rested in his cave of alpha packs, until his presence was needed. The wise Mufasa knew what needed to be done. The next day, he roared loud on the edge of highest cliff, and all the population was summoned. Between his jaws lay Bali's soulless body and before he destroyed the Instavillage platform, he showed the forest animals two videos, one of the peaceful harmony they had maintained before they let their darkness and cruelty take over them and then of the destruction and mayhem that followed when they did, making the animals realise that all their endless chase of power had only drained them and bought them nothing worthwhile.

Mufasa only said this much, "I am king and I have no power but the peace I maintain within myself and with others. In maintaining calmness within yourself and love for those around you, you, also are kings and queens of your own hearts. And that, is all the power you should ever need in this life."