

A Scorpion's Sting

A fable tells of a scorpion, being a very poor swimmer, asking a turtle to carry him on his back across a river. "Are you mad?" exclaimed the turtle. "You'll sting me while I'm swimming and I'll drown."

The scorpion laughed as he replied, "My dear turtle, if I were to sting you, you would drown and I would go down with you. Now, what would be the point of that? I won't sting you. It would mean my own death."

The turtle thought about the logic of his argument for a few moments and then said, "You're right. Hop on!"

The scorpion climbed aboard, and halfway across the river, he gave the turtle a mighty sting.

As the turtle began to sink to the bottom of the river with the scorpion on its back, it moaned in dismay, "After your promise, you still stung me! Why did you do that? Now, we're both doomed."

The drowning scorpion sadly responded, "I couldn't help it. It's my nature to sting."

This fictional account provides valuable instruction. Study the character of a person before you make them a friend. The stage on which their character plays is going to be your life.

Your companions are like the buttons on an elevator. They will either take you up or they will take you down.

--Beecher Hunter