

## Legend of the Quail

A time-honored legend tells of a covey of quail that lived in a forest. They would have been happy except for their enemy, the quail catcher. He would imitate their call, and then when they gathered together, he would throw a net over them, stuff them into his hunting basket, and carry them off to market.

One wise quail said, "Brothers, I have a plan. When the fowler puts his net over us, we each should put our head into a section of the net and begin to flap our wings. We can lift the net together and fly away with it." All agreed.

The next day, they did just that, making a successful escape. After several days, and more escapes, the fowler's wife asked him, "Where are the quail to take to market?" He replied, "The trouble is that all the birds work together and help one another escape."

Awhile later, one quail began to fight with another. "I lifted all the weight on the net. You didn't help at all," he cried. The other quail became angry and before long, the entire covey was quarreling.

The fowler saw his chance. He imitated the cry of the quail and cast his net over them. Preoccupied with their quarreling, they didn't help one another and lift the net in flight.

A fanciful story? Yes, but from it we are reminded that, sometimes, pointing out the faults of others can "do us in" as well. Every person should have a special cemetery lot in which to bury the faults of friends and loved ones.

The Bible states it eloquently: "And be ye kind one to another; tender-hearted, forgiving one another; even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

--Beecher Hunter