

Runaway Wild Goats

Once upon a time, there lived a goatherd who had a sizeable flock. One evening, as he drove his animals out of the pasture, he noticed several wild goats mixed among them. He shut all of them up together.

Later that night, a blizzard swept across the land and confined the herd to their fold. During the days that followed, the goatherd fed his own animals just enough food to keep them alive, but he gave the wild goats an abundance of food, hoping they would stay with the herd once the weather changed.



At the first thaw, the goatherd led the animals out to pasture. The wild goats broke away from the others and ran toward the mountains. The goatherd shouted in anger, “You ungrateful beasts! I took you in and offered you shelter. I gave you more to eat than what I gave my own.”

“That’s why we’re leaving,” said one wise, bearded goat. “Yesterday, you treated us better than the herd you’ve had for so long, and tomorrow others will receive even better treatment.”

The lesson: Don’t sacrifice old friends for the promise of new ones.

Appreciate what you have.

– Beecher Hunter