

## **The Lions**

*How to manage relations with another kind.*

*Among lions, be a bird.*

*Among snakes, be an elephant.*

*Among antelope, be a lion.*

*What are you? asked the Lion.*

*I am a deer, said the man, and the Lions ate him!*

*What are you? asked the Lion.*

*I am a monkey, said the man, and the Lions threw him into a pit.*

*What are you? asked the Lion.*

*I am a Lion, said the man, and the Lions tore him with their claws.*

*What are you? asked the Lion.*

*I am a mouse, said the man, and the Lions played with him till he died.*

*What are you? asked the Lion.*

*I am a beetle, said the man, and the Lions crushed him absent-mindedly.*

*What are you? asked the Lion.*

*I am a man, said the man. The Lions had never met a man before.*

*Just to be safe, they let him go his own way.*

*Tudka Mason*