

The Story of Aristotle

By Tad Lyon

Long ago, in Africa, a powerful backward kingdom, called Ynnaryt, was in a crisis. The problem was that there was an uncertainty about who should rule the kingdom in the place of the dead King Drummel, who as everyone knew had been poisoned by his evil wife Foragata. They had three choices to pick from, the Queen, the brother of the dead king, Fargast, or the dead King's three-year-old son Loof who was a very cute baby. The way it was to be decided was by elections. Now just as the kingdom was backwards so were the elections. The way the elections were decided was whoever had the least number of votes would rule the kingdom for life.

Queen Foragata and her brother-in-law had gone into a secret part of the palace to discuss the elections, and after a long discussion decided that in order for one of them to be the ruler, they would have to kill the Baby Loof, but the secret part of the palace had to be cleaned every day and a maid had overheard them speaking of the plot.

This maid, Jasmine, had a special liking to the prince and decided to steal Loof and bring Loof to her father Knowledge, who was a shepherd. In order that he could be taught how to fight and lead men, so that Loof might come back and kill whoever was ruling and rule the country with a strong arm, a gentle heart, and with good judgment. The night before he was going to be killed Jasmine had taken Loof out of bed and put a pillow with weights in it in his place, then quietly left the palace to visit her Father Knowledge.

Everyone knew who was going to get voted for the least. It was Loof, for he was so cute with his chubby cheeks and adorable eyes that they just could not

resist to not vote for him. Some had even voted more than they were supposed to for Fargast the brother in law and Foragata. The two plotters knew this too and that was why they were going to kill Loof.

While the votes were being counted in the dead of night, Fargast and Foragata walked quietly up to the prince's bedroom Chamber. When they opened the door it made a slight creek. They stopped, hoping that they did not wake the prince up with the noise. After waiting a minute they crept up to the bed and plunged their daggers into the disguised pillow, since they could not tell in the dark if he was dead or not, they carried him to the palace moat and tied a weight to "him" and sank the pillow into the river. Then they left as quietly as they came. Well, after counting the votes they found the baby to be the winner with the brother with a close second, but then the Queen said in the most solemn voice, "A most unfortunate accident has occurred. Our beloved Loof has drowned," so Fargast became king. When Fargast became king he made Foragata his wife without thinking that she might kill him. Of course as can be expected the evil queen once again killed her husband and then she became ruler.

But where was Loof? He was with his adoptive father Knowledge who taught him many things like Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, Quantum Physics, and stuff a baby would need to know, so that by the time he was five years old he was the smartest baby in all the earth. He had also decided to change his name to the grand sounding name of Aristotle, because he thought that Loof sounded foolish. But Loof was not brought up to be just a nerd he was also brought up to fight and to lead, he fought with all the animals in the dark and enchanted Fire Forest, which had every animal in the whole world like cobras, bears, tigers, lions, cheetahs, apes, and even mysterious ones like Bigfoot and the Hydra. He was also

taught how to make friends, and quickly befriended all the animals that he had fought; he was also named King of the Forest by all the animals. Whenever a dispute came up, he would settle it in a most wise manner, so wise that all the animals revered him. He ruled his forest well.

Meanwhile in the kingdom of Ynnaryt, the evil stepmother was being an evil stepmother Queen. Soon the people discovered that the queen was not only evil but that she was also a wicked witch. She caused evil things to the people and had turned the beautiful palace into a horrid palace surrounded by thorn bushes. Pain and suffering was all over the land. The only food that people were able to eat was this horrible green vegetable called Ilocorb. Wails were constantly going up to the queen from the people in the street asking for mercy from the horrible food, much to the amusement of the ears of the evil queen, who loved to sleep hearing the children crying.

Soon the people could stand this ruler no longer and rebelled against the queen, but they could not get past the thorn bushes that grew thickly around the palace. The queen only laughed at their futile attempts and cast a spell on them that made them have the worst sores ever and to add insult to injury she made the only thing able to grow a fungus, smoorhsum, as punishment.

When Jasmine the maid had told the people that Loof still lived, the people rejoiced, for he was sure to save them. So they sent their fastest and toughest man named Dalipus to find him. He ran for many days and nights to find Jasmine's father Knowledge. He asked where he could find Loof, but was told that Loof, now Aristotle, was in the Fire Forest ruling his people.

When Dalipus asked if he could lead him to Aristotle, Knowledge agreed, and led him through the Fire Forest and its many dangers. Finally they came to a clearing

where Aristotle was sitting on a stump being a judge of a dispute between a lion and cheetah who were both accusing each other of something that had happened in a game. Soon the dispute was settled and the lion and cheetah were good friends again. After it was settled Aristotle ran to his adoptive father Knowledge and hugged him and asked what he could do for him. When he was told “your subject Dalipus has something to say to you” he listened. When Dalipus told him all about how Aristotle’s people were being treated he became enraged and called for a meeting of all his friends.

Aristotle told them of the horrible things that were happening to his subjects and that he would be leaving to deal with his stepmother and asked for his friend’s help. They all quickly volunteered their service to him. And they ran to the kingdom of Ynnaryt with Aristotle and Dalipus on the backs of two cheetahs.

When the people saw the boy on a cheetah followed by Dalipus on another one, they cheered loudly, feeling confident they were going to be saved. When the Queen heard the commotion she looked out the window to see what had caused such an unusually merry noise. She saw it and laughed, knowing that no beast could walk through the thorn bushes. Then she saw a dragon swoop down and burn all the thorn bushes up to a crisp; that was when she got frightened, especially when she saw all the people and all the animals of the Animal Kingdom charging into the palace. She rushed to the most secret part of the palace and hid hoping that they would think that she had run away, but the dogs quickly sniffed out her hiding place and ate her.

The kingdom rejoiced at their freedom and installed Aristotle as King. He issued an edict to ban the vegetable ilocorb and the fungus smoorhsum. All the animals were free to roam his kingdom and the children loved the animals playing with

them day and night. Aristotle ruled over them justly and wisely and whenever his kingdom was attacked by invaders he would go with his army of men mounted on fearsome beasts to destroy the enemy. By the age of ten Aristotle's fame had gone far and wide, and in a place in Greece, called Halkidiki, a father named his son Aristotle hoping that he would become as great as Aristotle of Ynnaryt.