

## INDUCTION FOR NEW CUBS – THE JUNGLE STORY

Once upon a time, far away in India, Shere Khan (a tiger) was prowling about looking for food. Soon he came to a woodcutter's camp and thought that he would try to get a sleeping man or even better a fat child to drag away and eat for his supper. But he did not look carefully where he was going, and stepped into the hot coals of the woodcutter's fire. The pain made him howl, which woke up all the people, and he had to limp away and go hungry.

One of the little boys in the camp (a toddler really) ran off into the bushes to hide with all the noise, and there he met a big grey father wolf. But the wolf was nice and kind and seeing that the child was not afraid of him, picked him up gently in his mouth like a puppy and took him back to his family's cave nearby. The mother wolf (Raksha) decided to keep the little boy and bring him up with her own small wolf cubs. She said that she would call him Mowgli, because he had no fur and his skin was smooth like a frog.

Soon after, Tabaqui (a jackal) came to Shere Khan and told him that he would tell him where Mowgli was if Shere Khan would give him some of the boy to eat after he had eaten most of him. A jackal is a nasty sneaky sort of animal who never does his own hunting or killing, but always wants the scraps of other animal's meals.

So Shere Khan went to Raksha and Father Wolf's cave and tried to get in. But his body was too big for the entrance to the cave and he could only put his head inside. Father Wolf told him to go away and hunt for his food somewhere else. He said that the Jungle Law said that you must not steal what others have caught, and also that you must not kill a human because it would make all the villagers angry and they would come to the jungle to find the killer, bringing trouble to all the animals. Shere Khan was not happy with this, and tried to bully Father Wolf, but Raksha came and told him to go away and not come back. She said that one day when Mowgli was grown up he might come and hunt Shere Khan himself.

So Mowgli stayed and grew up with the family of wolves. One night, when all of her young cubs were strong and old enough, they were taken to the Council Meeting of the whole Wolf Pack, where they were introduced to all the other wolves, so they would recognise them as one of their own Pack if they saw them alone. The meeting was held on the night of a full moon, around a rock called the Council Rock. Akela was a great grey Lone Wolf in charge of the Wolf Pack, and lay in the middle of the Council Rock

As Mowgli was being brought up with the other wolf cubs, he had to be introduced too, although Shere Khan had said to Raksha that the other wolves would probably not accept him because he was not really a wolf. He was hoping that Mowgli would not be allowed to stay with the Pack and then he would be able to kill and eat him. He said "What have the Free People to do with a man's cub in the Pack".

To start with, the wolves agreed (except for Raksha and her family), because they were also hungry, and they had never had a human in the Pack before. Because there was an argument over whether or not to accept Mowgli into the Pack, Raksha was reminded that the Jungle Law said that two animals that were not his parents must offer to help look after him. Raksha was worried that no-one would offer, and she got ready to fight for him.

Then Baloo, the brown bear who was allowed to attend the Pack Council meetings because he only ate nuts and honey spoke up and offered to help teach him the way of the jungle and the Pack, if they would let Mowgli stay and grow up with the Pack.

They still needed another animal to speak up for Mowgli. Then Bagheera the black panther who had been listening in, dropped from the trees. He said that the Jungle Law also stated that a cub's life could be bought. The other young wolves agreed, and then Bagheera said that he would swap the bull that he had already killed for his own dinner and give it to the hungry young wolves instead, if they would let Mowgli live.

So then Mowgli was accepted into the Seeonee Cub Pack, and Shere Khan had to go away hungry and very upset. Baloo taught him the Law of the Jungle, and Bagheera taught him how to stalk and hunt.