

One way or the other... It's coming

*Learn to fly
or you'll
never know
what hit
you!*

Green Side Up



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Once upon a time in a little village called Flog there lived an ostrich and an eagle. Of course, they had some obvious differences, but all the ornithologists in the world agreed they were indeed birds. They lived in peaceful harmony with their neighbors, the humans.

One day, the humans that shared the village with the ostrich and the eagle decided the feeding and living habits of these two birds might be fouling the forests, fields, and streams. The village elders met one night and made up a list of rules that the ostrich and the eagle must obey if they were to remain living in the village of Flog. The elders did not tell the ostrich and the eagle about the rules. They merely posted a notice containing the rules in the village square. The notice said the ostrich and the eagle had 30 days to comply with the rules or they must leave.

The next morning the eagle saw the notice, and flew over to tell the ostrich. The ostrich was too busy to talk to the eagle. He didn't have time to discuss rules and regulations. He had work to do. So, the eagle went home to think about the new rules on his own and decide what to do. The next day the eagle went back to the ostrich's house to get him to go with him to talk to the elders about the rules, but once again the ostrich was too busy to sit down and talk to the eagle. So, the eagle went by himself to see the elders.

The eagle reminded the elders that there were many things that he did to help the village. While he might take fish from the stream for food, he also kept mice from stealing the grain. And while he might use some kindling to build his nests he also gave warning when strangers appeared.

The elders began to understand that they might have acted hastily in making the rules, so together they wrote some new rules that both could agree upon for the good of the village.

When they were through, the eagle said, "Tomorrow, come out to the meadow and I shall show you some flying tricks that you've never seen before."

The next day the elders crowded into an ox cart to go to the meadow to see the eagle fly. The way to the meadow passed by the ostrich's house. The ostrich could hear the sound of voices as the cart drew closer. He went outside to see what was going on. When he saw the cart full of elders coming around the bend, he thought they were coming to discuss the rules with him. Being an ostrich, he did the only thing he could do in this situation. He stuck his head in the sand, and hoped that they would go away.

Just then one of the elders spied the eagle practicing some loops and dives. "Look! Look! There's the eagle," he cried! The cart driver was looking over his shoulder trying to see the eagle and the oxen veered off the path and trampled the poor ostrich.

Moral of the story: You can fly with the eagles or you can stick your head in the sand with the ostriches. In either case, the ox cart is coming!