

# The Ass and the Mule CARE



*a* muleteer set forth on a journey, driving before him an ass and a mule, both well laden. The ass, as long as he travelled on the plains, carried his load with ease, but when he began to ascend the steep path of the mountain, felt his load to be more than he could bear. He entreated his companion to relieve him of a small portion; but the mule paid no heed to the request.

Shortly afterwards the ass fell down dead under his burden.

Not knowing what else to do in so desolate a region, the muleteer placed upon the mule the load carried by the ass in addition to his own, and on the top of it placed the hide of the ass, after he had skinned him.

The mule, groaning beneath his heavy burden, said to himself: "If only I had been willing to assist the ass a little in his need, I would not have been bearing his burden as well now."

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*When you are good to others, you are best to yourself.*  
– Benjamin Franklin