



## A one-act dramatic play

# The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water

by Idries Shah

### CAST

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

Share the Lion

An elephant

A beautiful butterfly

The animals

*(see next page for a description of some of the animals pictured in the book)*

### IDEAS FOR PROPS

*(Props are optional and can all be constructed out of cardboard and other common items.)*

Reflective "pool of water"

"Jungle" (this can be as simple as taping green paper leaves around the stage or as elaborate as constructing cardboard trees and vines)

## **The Animals Living in Central Asia and the Middle East Over 700 Years Ago:**

**Chinkara:** a graceful gazelle with beautifully ridged horns and patterns of different colors on its face

**Turkomen Markhor:** an exotic goat, with very magnificent spiraling horns

**Black Buck:** a type of antelope also with long, spiraling horns

**One-horned Rhinoceros:** “rhino” means “nose” and “ceros” means “horn” and there are 2 types with one horn (Javan and Indian)

**Caspian Tiger:** a very rare (some say extinct) tiger with distinctive markings

**Snow Leopard:** an endangered leopard with light-colored fur and brownish spots

**Langur:** a very slender monkey, with a long tail and exaggerated eyebrows

**Rhesus Monkey:** also called “Rhesus Macaque”

**Fox (known as “Blanford’s Fox”):** has exceptionally large ears and bushy tail and fur colored brown and white with a long grey stripe

**Asiatic Black Bear:** an endangered bear black or dark brown in color, with a light-colored spot on the chest

**Asian Elephant:** has smaller ears than the African elephant, and only the males have elongated tusks

**Butterfly:** there are thousands of species of butterflies from this region, all colors and designs

### ***The Script for *The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water****

**Narrator 1:** Now, once upon a time there was a lion and his name was Share the Lion. And he was king of all the animals in the jungle.

**Narrator 2:** He had a lovely golden mane on his head, all furry — just like hair, only furry and golden. And he had a lovely golden coat.

**Narrator 3:** He used to go about and say...

**Share the Lion:** Grrrrrrrrrrrr!

**All of the Narrators:** ...because that’s how lions talk.

**Narrator 1:** But not all the animals knew that he talked like that. And some of them, when they heard him say...

**Share the Lion:** Grrrrrrrrrrrr!

**Narrator 2:** ...were a little frightened, and they ran away.

**Narrator 3:** And soon, because they saw some of their animal friends running, all the animals got a bit frightened, and they all started to run away.

**Share the Lion:** That’s funny! Why is everybody running away from me? Grr-grrr?

**All of the narrators:** which, in lion-talk, means, “Why are you running away?”

**Narrator 1:** Well, as we know, the other animals didn’t understand lion-talk, and Share the Lion was by this time shouting very loudly...

**Share the Lion:** Grrr – Grrr – Grrrr – Grrr!

**All of the Animals:** Share the Lion, King of the Jungle, must be very, very angry with us now!

**An Elephant:** So let's run away even faster!

**Narrator 2:** Of course, Share wasn't angry at all. He just wanted to know why they were all running away.

**Share the Lion:** Well, they are a silly lot of animals! I won't take any notice of them. I'm thirsty. I think I'll go and have a drink of water from a pool. Grrr, Grrr.

**Narrator 3:** And he looked all over the place until he found some water.

**Narrator 1:** Deep in the jungle there was a pool of water, and it was smooth and clear and shining just like a mirror. Share the Lion, now quite thirsty, said to himself:

**Share the Lion:** GRRRAR! I want a drink of waterrrr-grrr!

**All of the Narrators:** That's how lions talk.

**Narrator 2:** But as he leaned towards the water, which was shining like a mirror, he looked in and saw his own face reflected on the surface.

**Narrator 3:** Well, he had never seen that before, and so he thought there was another lion in the pool of water, who was looking back at him. And he was too afraid of this other lion to drink anything at all!

**All of the Narrators:** Wasn't he a funny lion?

**Share the Lion:** Oh, dear me! That's another lion, and he wants to stop me drinking his water.

...(looking into the water at his reflection) Grrrr!

**All of the Narrators:** ...which, in lion-talk, means 'I want some water too!'

(as all the other animals come back onto the stage)

**Narrator 1:** And then the other animals, who were now thirsty, came to drink water from the shining pool, and they saw Share the Lion.

**All of the Animals:** What are you doing looking into the water and going 'Grr-grr' and not having a drink?

**Share the Lion** (sighs): I can't have a drink of water because there is another lion in there, and he keeps saying 'Grr-grr' to me.

**Narrator 2:** Some of the animals begin to laugh a little when they hear him say this because they know that it is his reflection in the water. But Share the Lion didn't.

**Narrator 3:** And then a beautiful butterfly flew very close to the Lion's ear and said in her tiny little voice:

**A beautiful butterfly:** Don't be silly, Share the Lion. There's nobody in the water!

**Share the Lion:** Of course there's somebody in the water. I can see him!

**Narrator 1:** And everybody just stopped and waited to see what would happen.

**Narrator 2:** Share the Lion, King of the Jungle, got thirstier and thirstier and thirstier and thirstier, and in the end he said:

**Share the Lion:** I don't care. I've got to have water. I am terribly thirsty. I don't care about that lion in there, or how fierce he is!

**All of the Narrators:** And he put his head into the water, and when he did, he felt the lovely cool water in his mouth and began to drink. As he drank, he saw that the other lion had disappeared. Of course, it had disappeared because it was never really there at all. It was just his own reflection in the water.

**Narrator 3:** And when he took his head out of the water and saw all the animals standing there, he said:

**Share the Lion:** Well, at last I've learned that a reflection is not the same as the real thing!

**All of the Cast:** And so, everybody lived happily ever after.

**THE END**