

Belling the Cat

An Adaptation of Aesop's Fable

Long ago, some mice got together to discuss how they could get rid of the cat in their house. Many ideas were discussed. Finally, a young mouse got up and said he had an idea that would solve their problem for good.

"I think you all will agree," he said, "that the main problem with the cat is the sneaky and dangerous way that she approaches us. She is so quiet that we don't know she's there until it's too late. We need a signal that will let us know when the cat is coming, so we can escape. Therefore, I think we should tie a bell around the cat's neck. Whenever we hear the bell ringing, we will know the cat is near, and we will be able to get away safely."

The mice talked about this suggestion. They all agreed it was a brilliant idea. Then an old mouse got up and said, "That's a great idea, but I have one question: Who will put the bell on the cat?"

No one volunteered, and all the mice realized that the suggestion wouldn't work because it was too dangerous.

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