



Shihan Molly's Parable About Self-Discipline

The Ant and the Grasshopper

A grasshopper lived in a beautiful garden. On a pleasant summer day, the grasshopper was having a lot of fun. It was hopping about, singing, dancing and playing to its heart's content when he noticed a line of ants working hard, marching along carrying food grains.

"Where are you going with that heavy load?" the grasshopper asked to one of them. "We are taking these seeds to our anthill" to prepare for the winter said one of the ants.

"It is such a beautiful day, why don't you come and play with me?" asked the grasshopper. "There is food in each and every tree out here. Just eat, relax and have fun instead of working so hard."

The ant replied, "We are helping to store up the food for the winter and you would be smart to do the same. You need to be more disciplined and work without being told what to do!"

But the grasshopper said, "Why bother about winter now? Winter is still far away." The Ant ignored him and continued his work. All throughout the summer, the grasshopper did nothing but eat, sleep and play. The weather turned cold. All the food in the garden where the grasshopper lived was now covered with a thick blanket of snow. The grasshopper was miserable because he was so hungry. Every day the grasshopper watched as the ants delivered grains to all the other ants that had been collected in the summer. Their tummies were nice and full!

The grasshopper realized his foolishness and understood the importance of being more disciplined and working toward the future.