

**OWEN and ORLY**  
**by**  
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Once upon a time there were two exceptionally good friends who lived in the jungle.

They were vastly different. Owen was an elephant and Orly was a lemur.  
They were different, but they loved to do many of the very same things, and they shared everything, fair and square, equally.

They loved to swim in the water hole together.  
They loved to eat the jungle berries together.  
They loved to play tricks on the other animals together.

They loved to dance in the moonlight together.  
They loved to stay up late and fall asleep under the stars together.  
They had a wonderful life sharing everything, fair and square, equally.

One day the King Lion called an emergency meeting of all the animals...  
“I have noticed that the jungle is changing,” said the King Lion.  
“We have too!” the other animals called out.  
“There are not as many berries as before!” shouted the monkey.  
“There is not much clean water to drink in the river!” called out the zebra.  
“It is far too cold at night!” cried the parrots.

“Yes!” said the King Lion. “You are all correct.” We must be careful to use the gifts of the jungle wisely. Do not waste our food and water. Do not harm too many plants. Take care of each other and we will make it through this problem!”

“We will!” promised the animals. Owen and Orly agreed with the other animals. Everyone tried to take care of the jungle, but little by little the differences between Owen and Orly began to stand out.

“It has been getting far too cold at night,” sighed Owen. “I think we need blankets. We can make them out of leaves!” “That is a good idea!” said Orly. Orly climbed up on Owen’s back and began to reach for leaves from the trees, but there were not very many he could reach. After awhile they had collected 12 large leaves.

“Let’s divide up the leaves, fair and square, equally, and make ourselves blankets.” Said Orly. “Okay,” said Owen. After awhile they both had made blankets out of their share of the leaves. They were incredibly happy with their work. But when they tried to crawl into bed that night....

...Orly was completely covered and got lost under his blanket, and Owen’s blanket did not cover him hardly at all. “This isn’t fair,” moaned Owen. I am still very cold, and you are toasty under your blanket.” “But how can this be?” cried Orly, we shared the leaves fair and square, equally. “You are right,” said Owen with a deep sigh, but he continued to shiver in the cold night.

The next day they were very hungry, so they went scavenging for berries and were able to collect eight quarts of berries. “Let’s divide up the berries, fair and square, equally” said Orly. “Okay,” said Owen. After awhile they had divided the berries into two piles and began to eat. A few minutes later Owen was done. “I’m still hungry,” he said. He looked at Orly, who was also done eating, but he still had an exceptionally large pile of berries in front of him. “This isn’t fair,” moaned Owen. I am still very hungry, and you have plenty of food left.” “But

how can this be?” cried Orly, we shared the berries fair and square. “You are right,” said Owen with a deep sigh, but his stomach grumbled loudly.

During the afternoon, the two friends were basking in the sun. “I’m thirsty,” said Owen. “Me too,” said Orly. Let us see if we can find any fresh water to drink.” They came to a small water hole that had a clean section with about 10 gallons of water. “Let us scoop up the water and put it in those two hollow spots in the fallen tree. Let us divide up the water, fair and square, equally.” said Orly. “Okay,” said Owen.

After awhile they had moved the water into the two hollow spots and began to drink. A few minutes later Owen was done. “I’m still thirsty,” he said. He looked at Orly, who was also done drinking, but he still had a lot of water in his hollow spot. “This isn’t fair,” moaned Owen. I am still very thirsty, and you have plenty of water left.” “But how can this be?” cried Orly, “we shared the water fair and square, equally.” “You are right,” said Owen with a deep sigh, but his lips were chapping, and his mouth felt dry.

Owen began to feel grumpy and annoyed with Orly. Orly could tell he was upset. He tried to talk to Owen. “I’m thirsty and hungry and sore from sleeping in the cold,” bemoaned Owen. “You are fine.” It isn’t fair!” “How can that be?” cried out Orly. We shared everything, fair and square, equally!” They talked and talked but they could not figure out what the problem was. They had shared everything fair and square, equally. Why was Owen so miserable then? They began to cry.

“Hey now! What is all this racquet? I have been listening to you two arguing for hours!” called a voice from the trees. It was the wise old leopard. “We have been sharing things, fair and square, equally,” yelled Orly up into the tree. “But Orly is not cold and hungry and thirsty, and I am!” yelled Owen up into the tree.

The wise old leopard jumped down from the tree branches and landed next to the friends. “Don’t you understand that equal is not always fair?” “Huh?” both Owen and Orly said at the same time. “How can that be?”

“Think about it,” continued the wise old leopard, “how many leaves do you need for a blanket?” he asked Orly. “One would be enough,” replied Orly. “And how many do you need?” he asked Owen. “About ten,” replied Owen. Then how can it be fair for Orly to have more than he needs and Owen to not have enough?” The two friends just looked at each other.

“And how many berries do you need to be full?” he asked Orly. “A half a quart would be enough,” replied Orly. “And how many do you need to not feel hungry?” he asked Owen. “About seven quarts,” replied Owen. Then how can it be fair for Orly to have more than he needs and Owen to not have enough?” The two friends just looked at each other again.

“And how much water do you need to not be thirsty?” he asked Orly. “A pint would be enough,” replied Orly. “And how much do you need to not feel thirsty?” he asked Owen. “About nine gallons,” replied Owen. Then how can it be fair for Orly to have more than he needs and Owen to not have enough?” The two friends looked at each other and burst into tears as they hugged each other.

“I’m sorry! I didn’t know I was being selfish!” cried Orly.

“I’m sorry that I was angry with you when you thought you were doing the right thing!” cried Owen.

“There, you see, it is important to see what each person needs before you decide what is fair and square, because often, equal isn’t fair.” said the leopard. And from then on, Owen and Orly always checked to see what each one needed before dividing things up and sharing and they were happy again.