

# Aslan's Apprentice

Based off of the chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

Reepicheep, the faithful, adventure seeking mouse who sailed alongside Prince Caspian to the End of the World, stumbled out of his hole in Narnia. He was a young mouse still trying to find his place among the valiant warriors of Narnia. Today, he would punctuate his bravery while exploring the perilous mountains north of Narnia. With haste Reepicheep dashed to the foothills, with only the summit in his view, when suddenly a terrible lion pounced on him, and Reepicheep began blindly thrashing about with his wooden sword. With a thunderous roar, the mouse suddenly realized it was the great Aslan!

"Greatest apologies my Lord," panted Reepicheep, "for my mind was already well within the journey ahead."

"Perhaps you should be most concerned with the path you are on, prior to weaving your tail into what it to come, my eager friend," calmly remarked Aslan, "indeed, my dear mouse, that is the nature of my abrupt visit."

"My Lord," cried Reepicheep with a deep bow, "it is but the glory of a mouse to have a great tail, and to have you weave a longer one would be greater than any cheese."

"Nay, a mouse tail is the reflection of the heart, and that is what I've come to explore with you"

"Alas, ADVENTURE!" shouted the mouse with all his might.

From there the two companions discussed the many ways of the great Narnian warriors, reading together the Narnia classics of combat and ethics, strategy and order. Once again little Reepicheep drifted from the path and task at hand, and allowed his mind to wander towards adventure homecomings and both tales and a tail of greatness.

As the master and his apprentice ventured out, in the manner they had done over the many days of their lessons, Aslan could sense his pupils increasing urgency to find new perils. Aslan, began his lecture with a walk down the wide and straight path that cut through the thick woods. Aslan announced that virtuous paths are ones that are taken with intention, and that would bring them to their next subject, 'trail navigation'. Reepicheep soon noticed a fork in the trail that drifted left down to a clearing. Excitement and curiosity pulled Cheep down the left path, abandoning Aslan and his counsel, to this mysterious clearing. To Reepicheep's dismay, the clearing only provided another fork in the path. Another turn to the left was taken. Deeper into the woods Reepicheep scurried, illusions of greatness and strength of tail darted into his mind, hopeful that activity towards adventure would triumph over education, as he took a third left turn. This new tangent took Cheep into a particularly treacherous ribbon of trail. The rocks

and roots were nearly dragging him down to all fours when suddenly a chord pinched tightly around his back leg and up the little mouse went into the forest canopy above.

“Winner, winner, mousey dinner.” Purred a hungry down below the trapped mouse. “How lucky to be alone here with breakfast, I was worried someone might RAT me out to Aslan for illegal trapping in his woods.”

“That joke smells worse than your breath my feline foe, now release me and allow us to fight in a civil fashion.” Urged Reepicheep.

“Oh, a talking mouse! Nothing is more enjoyable than a light conversation during a meal.” Replied the cat as she began to lick her razor sharp teeth.

As the cat widen her mouth around the head of Reepicheep, a roar so great and terrible came upon the two, that in a blink of an eye cat vanished and alone hung the trembling mouse.

“Aslan, forgive me, for I have strayed from your guidance and your lessons, never again shall I stray off your straight paths of truth.”

“Brave mouse, know that while this time your three left turns, did in fact end up turning you “right” back to me, next time you may not find yourself as fortunate. Large tails and heroic mice come with the paths of knowledge and patience. Passions are the traps of hungry mice. Be comforted in knowing that you will find your future is filled with large tails AND acts of heroism. I have great faith in you little mouse, just stay on your path of virtue and never stray.”

And with a mighty roar, the Lion vanished, leaving Reepicheep glowing from his latest adventure and new found truth. Reepicheep turned to his home, a little wiser than before and perhaps tail a little longer.