

## The bird in the hand

There was once a son who didn't like his father, despite the fact his father was so well-thought of in the village. His father was considered wise and important by the villagers and often held important meetings to discuss this and that about the village.

Thinking his father was rather pompous, the son decided upon a plan to undermine him. He would catch a bird which he could hold between the palms of his hands and take the bird to his father saying, "Father, what have I got between my hands?"

If his father replied, "A bird," the son planned to squish the bird between his hands and say, "No Father. Blood, feathers and bones - see you don't know everything!" and show him what remained in his hands. If, however, his father was to reply, "Blood, feathers and bones," the boy planned to open his hands to reveal the living bird, saying "No Father! You're wrong." Either way, the son thought he would be able to show his father up.

The son waited until there was a very important meeting, found a bird and cupped it between his hands. In front of all those assembled, the son asked the question he had planned. His father looked upon him sadly. "Son," he said. "The answer is in your hands."

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