

The Wolf, the Fox, and the Ape for judge

Whoever has once become notorious by base fraud, even if he speaks the truth, gains no belief. To this, a short Fable of Aesop bears witness.

A Wolf indicted a Fox upon a charge of theft; the latter denied that she was amenable to the charge. Upon this, the Ape sat as judge between them; and when each of them had pleaded his cause, the Ape is said to have pronounced *this* sentence: "You, *Wolf*, appear not to have lost what you demand; I believe that you, *Fox*, have stolen what you so speciously deny".

By Henry Thomas Riley

Whoe'er by practice indiscreet
Has pass'd for a notorious cheat,
Will shortly find his credit fail,
Though he speak truth, says Esop's tale.
The Wolf the Fox for theft arraign'd;
The Fox her innocence maintain'd:
The Ape, as umpire, takes his seat;
Each pleads his cause with skill and heat.
Then thus the Ape, with aspect grave,
The sentence from the hustings gave:
"For you, Sir Wolf, I do descry
That all your losses are a lie
And you, with negatives so stout,
O Fox! have stolen the goods no doubt."

By Christopher Smart