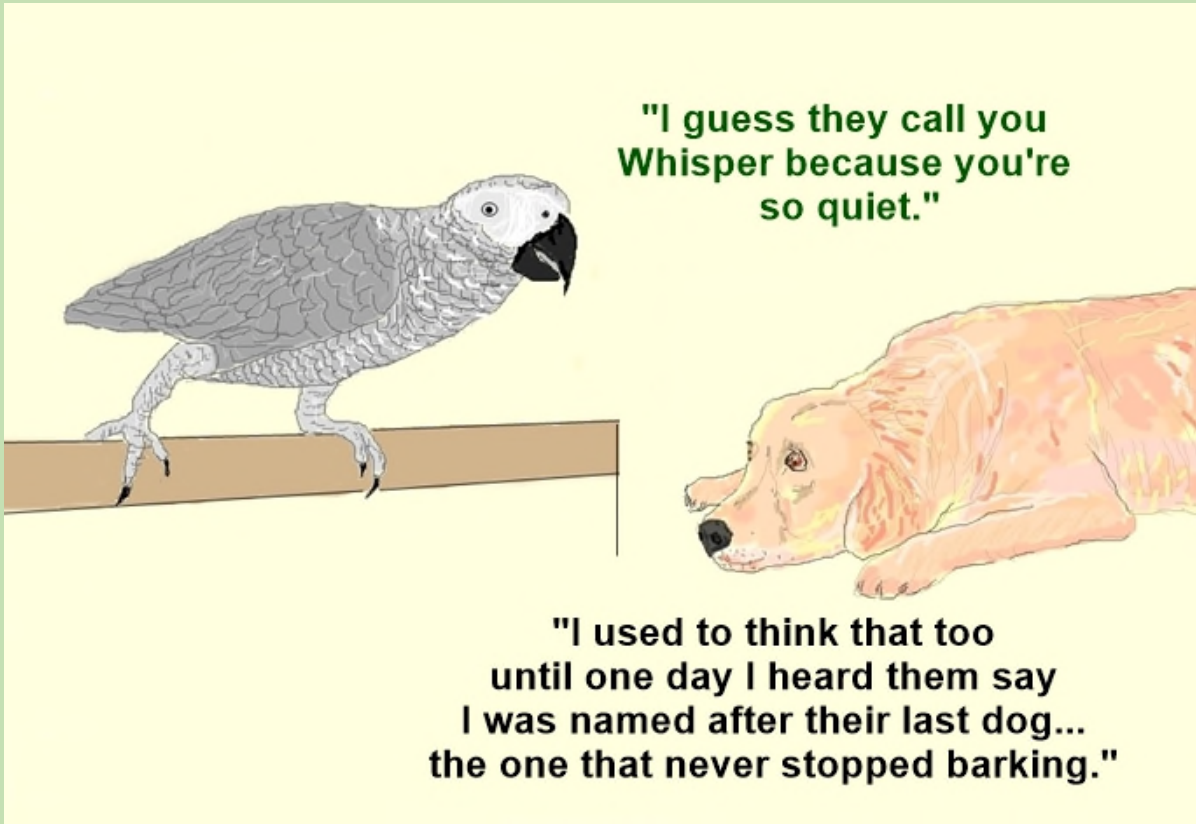
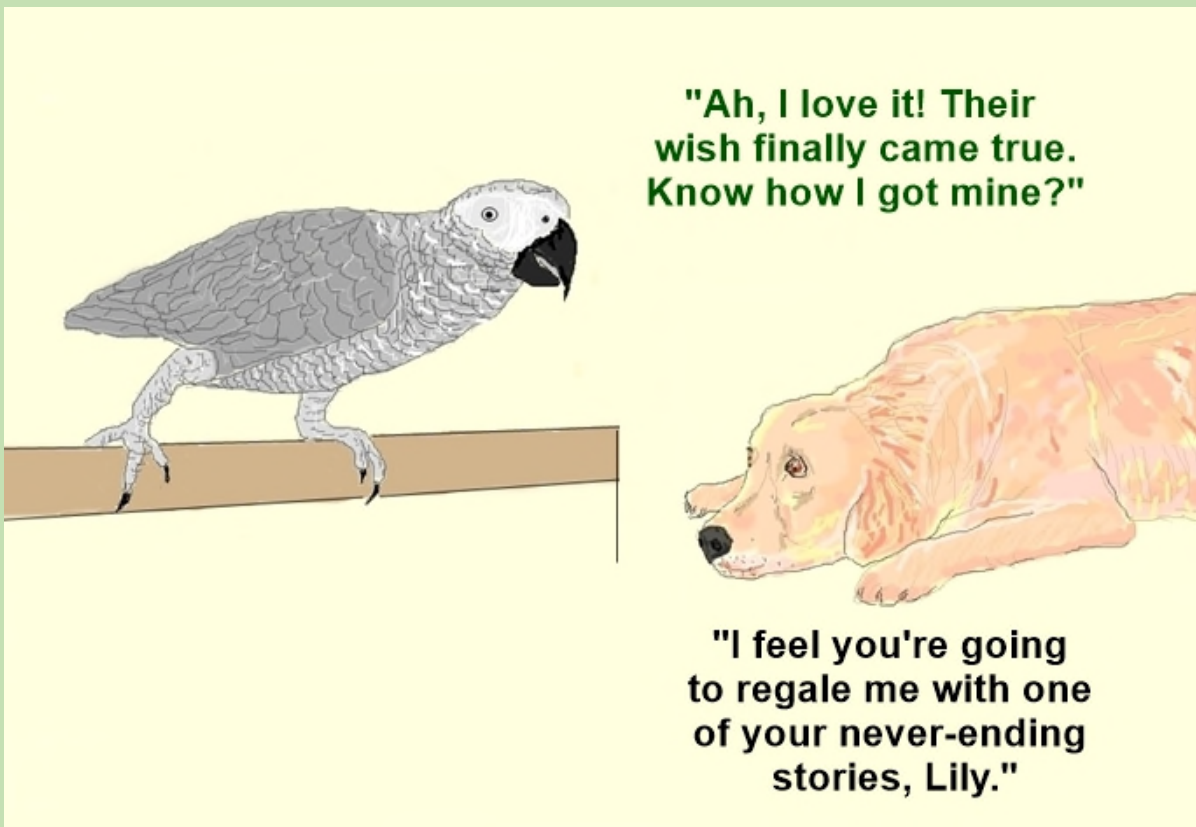


A Bird and Her Buddy



**"I guess they call you
Whisper because you're
so quiet."**

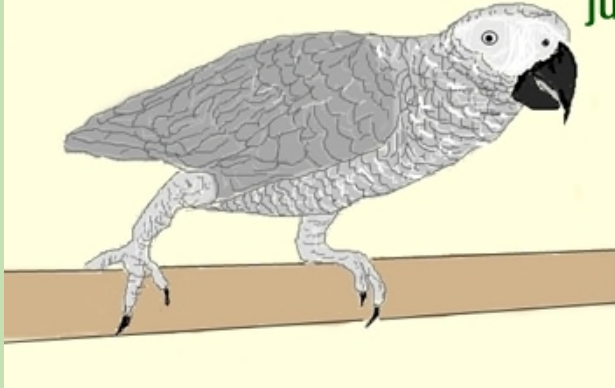
**"I used to think that too
until one day I heard them say
I was named after their last dog...
the one that never stopped barking."**



**"Ah, I love it! Their
wish finally came true.
Know how I got mine?"**

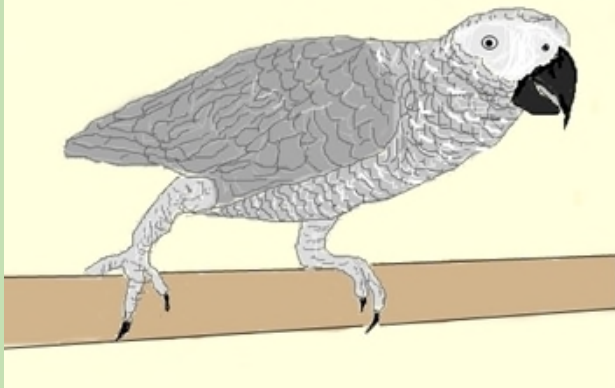
**"I feel you're going
to regale me with one
of your never-ending
stories, Lily."**

"When I was born my mother thought I was the most beautiful creature she'd ever seen... just like the lilies of the field."



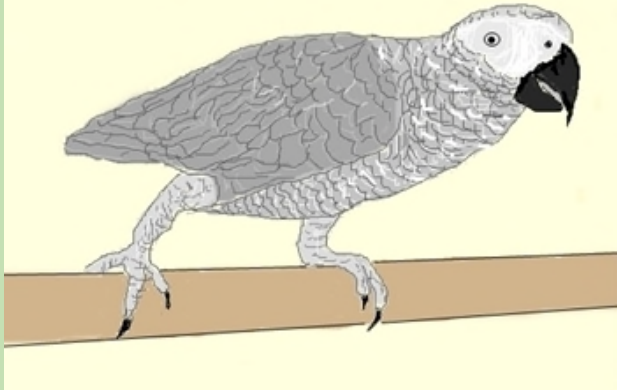
"She must have had a great sense of humor."

"Now, now, you scoundrel. I'll have you know she was a very discerning woman."



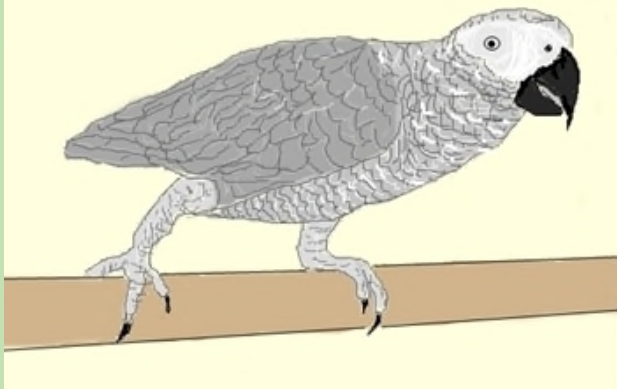
"A very discerning woman ...with a great sense of humor."

**"Okay, Mr Know-all,
who was almost called
Zacharias?"**



**"Oh dear, I think
I've walked into this one."**

**"Answer: John the Baptist. They
were going to name him after his
dad, but his dad wrote down his
proper name, the one given
him by the angel.**



**"And then his dad got his voice back!
Tell me, Lily, has anything like that
ever happened to a parrot!"**

**"Hey, can you believe it?
The humans think they
went to the moon!"**



**"Yeah, my mum told me
about it. One small lie
for man, one big lie
for mankind."**

**"Now they say the oceans
are rising. And the guys who
are saying it are building
mansions by the sea."**



**"All the same,
I'm glad my kennel
is made of wood."**

"Aw, poochie, what's with this wooden kennel stuff? You know it's all nonsense."



"Yes, I know, but they have me worried all the same."

"Listen to yourself, poochie! Your fears are clouding your mind. That's what the fearmongers want."



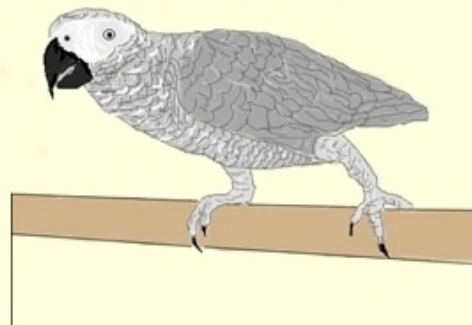
"But Lily, I'm not as rational as you. They keep saying these things over and over. It's hard to blot them out."

"Check out Jeremiah 5:22 and put your heart at rest. The LORD said the sea will NEVER be able to cross the sandy shore. It's a fixed boundary, you see!"



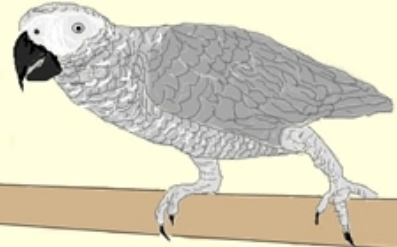
"D'you know you're the only one to ever point that out. If only our pastors could read!"

"I tell you, they're making up new lies all the time! It makes my feathers crawl."



"Ah, Lily, you're a great one for raking over the coals and asking hard questions."

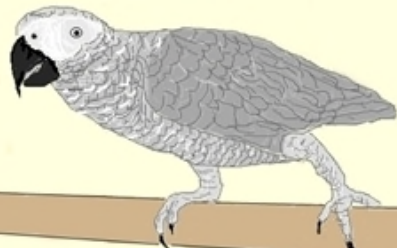
**"Well, if I don't ask them,
who will?"**



**"Surely the journalists and
media pundits are paid to
do just that?"**



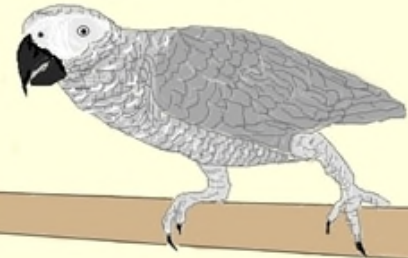
**"Journalists!! Don't make
me squawk! They'll
never bite the hand
that feeds them."**



"What about the politicians?"

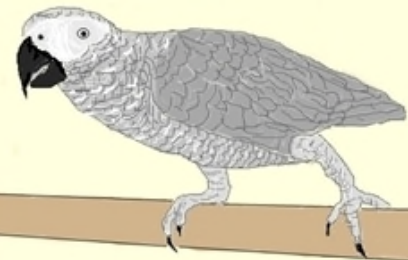


**"Do you know what, poochie,
you're the biggest puppy in town.
The same guys who own
the journalists also own
the politicians."**



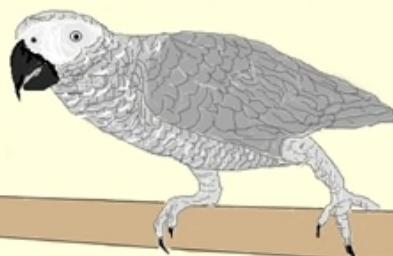
**"Then how on earth are
we supposed to know
what's really going on?"**

**"Ah poochie, you've
arrived at Square One!
Well done. Maybe it IS
possible to teach an old
puppy new tricks."**



**"Me, old? I must be at least
thirty years younger than you."**

**"I guess God made us
so we'd live long enough
to figure everything out."**



**"Giving rise, dear friend,
to your endless questions!"**

**"A few decades ago, when I
started to ask the hard questions,
I first asked myself,
'Who's running the show?'"**

**"If that's
'Square One',
as you call it,
I don't think
I'm there yet."**



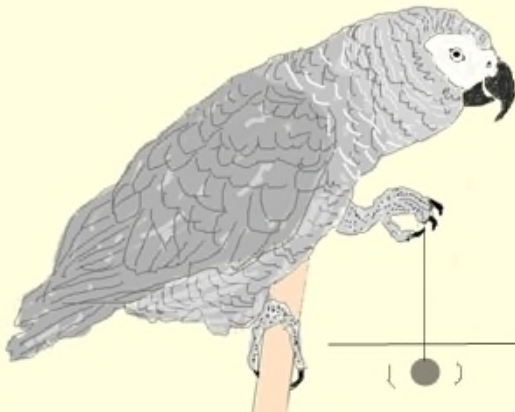
**"Yeah, that's normal.
A lot of guys get to
Square One and never
get any further."**

**"I guess, like me,
they thought God
was "running the show".**



**"Actually, He IS!
But He is running it
according to His own
righteousness.
That means we all
have free will.
And you know
what that means."**

**"Let me guess -
the bad guys are secretly
doing everything they can
to get rid of the good guys."**



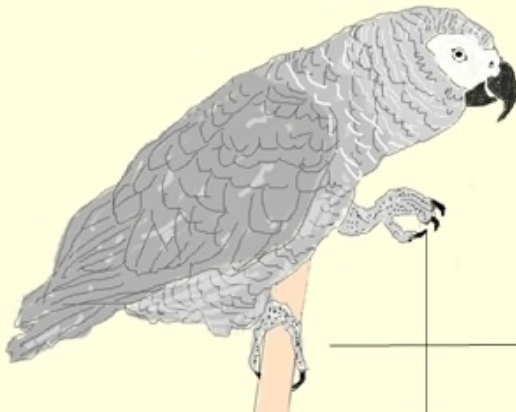
**"Good heavens, poochie!
There are days when you
really surprise me.
You hit the nail
on the head."**

**"Does this mean I'm ready
to move on from
Square One?"**



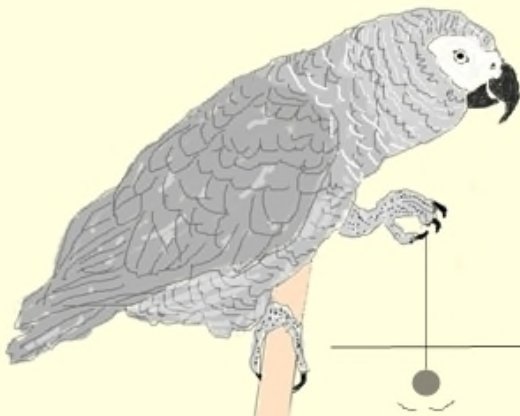
**"You must be the judge of that.
But in my opinion, you are.
Just remember the
Yo-yo Principle!"**

"What's that?"



"No matter where your explorations lead you, you must always return again and again to God's Word."

"Ah, good advice. I'll remember that. By the way, could you not have called it the Boomerang Principle?"



"Look, smartie-pants, I'm trying to illustrate something here. I can safely operate a yo-yo but I won't risk throwing a boomerang!"

"Sorry, Lily. I forgot you're from Africa, not Australia!"



**"I think I'll stay
on Square One!
There's far too much
stuff out there
I don't like."**



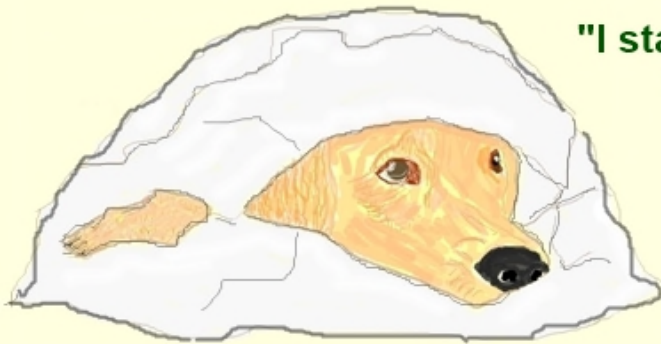
**"To be honest with you,
poochie, I went through
that phase myself."**

"And...?"



**"I got through it the same
way everyone does, by
remembering the words
of John's epistle:
"perfect love
casts out fear.""**

"How do you do that, Lily?"



**"I stand on the Rock, poochie,
I stand on the Rock."**

"It's that simple?"



**"It's only simple when you
do it, Whisper.
Until you do, you're just
another lonely soul
in this vale of tears."**



"Ah, that feels a whole lot better!"

**"Super. Well done...
Now, why not go the whole way and throw it in the trash?"**



**"Good heavens, no!
I'll still need it to dry off!"**

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