

## Fable of the Porcupine

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold and harsh conditions. The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions even though they gave off heat to each other. After a while they decided to distance themselves one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen.

So the others, still alive, had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the earth. Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. This way they learned to live with the little wounds that were caused by the close relationship with their companion, but the most important part of it, was the comfort of the warmth that came from the others. In this way they were able to survive.

**Moral of the story:** Relationships are not always perfect, but they are always necessary.

I would dare to guess that most everyone at one time or another has been hurt or wounded by someone they were close to. Our relationships with other are not always perfect, to say the least. What really matters in all this is not that someone did something to hurt or offend us, but in the way we handle the situation.

There are numerous ways that these things can be handled. Like the porcupines in the fable above, we can decide to resign ourselves to the fact that others are going to cause us some discomfort at times, and then do nothing other than accept that fact. Most folks have a really hard time with that.