If You Have Enough
(A Retelling of One of Aesop’s Fables)

Once there was a dog that was walking along an alley. Suddenly, he lifted his nose into the air and sniffed; he smelled something coming from a construction site nearby. As he rooted around in a pile of trash, the odor grew stronger. He quickly discovered the source of his attraction: a large sausage!

Soon he had the sausage in his possession. It was a good one, too, because it was fresh and juicy. The dog could not believe his good luck and looked forward to devouring this tasty treat. But he decided not to risk eating it there in the alley, fearing that other dogs would come by and steal it. So he tucked the sausage into his mouth and headed for his home where he could eat in peace.

To get home, the dog had to cross a low bridge over a shallow creek. As he trotted across, the dog looked down and saw another dog holding a sausage in his mouth. His impression was that the other dog was holding an even bigger piece of meat. Adopting a ferocious expression, he dropped the sausage and jumped off the bridge, thinking that he would snatch this large prize. Once he hit the water, the other dog disappeared!

Realizing that the other animal had merely been his own reflection, the dog scurried back up onto the bridge to retrieve his prize. But it was gone! While the dog had been in the water, a hawk had swooped down, snatched the sausage, and flown away. The dog slunk home in a state of depression, knowing that his own action had caused him to lose his dinner.

The moral: If you have enough, don’t risk it to go after more than you need!