

Pragya Tales

For

Children

(Part - 1)



*Fables based on Pragyapuran and Preachings of
Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya*



By
BRAHMAVARCHAS





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Preface

During the past 79 years, the Gayatri Pariwar Mission has traveled a long way spreading its ideology of resurrection of morality and righteous thinking in global society through dissemination of spiritual disciplines of Gayatri and constructive efforts of mass awakening. Today, it has grown into a grand family of millions of members belonging to different classes, creeds, color, race and faith and residing in different parts of the world.

Behind the spectacular progress of mission's ideology amongst the masses was active participation of thousands of dedicated youth of India.

With its sight on the destined Golden Era of 21st century, foreseen by the seer-sage, Yug Rishi Pandit Sriramn Sharma Acharya, the mission has planned to bring out literature on the science of spirituality for the young citizens of tomorrow.

The illuminating literature, motivating teachings and sermons of the Yug Rishi encompasses almost all topics pertaining to happy progress and enlightenment of human life. The present publication "**Pragya Tales**" is compiled for children based on his inspiring teachings. It is hoped that it will be useful in making the children as responsible citizens in the forthcoming Golden Era of human values

Dr. Pranav Pandya
Shantikunj, Haridwar





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The Selfish Elephant


When a person becomes undisciplined, disobeys the elders and does not care about the convenience and comforts of family and neighbors, everyone dislikes him. Nobody wants to make friends with such a person. None comes forward to help a self-centered person when he is in trouble. Because of his arrogance, a selfish person is also compelled to live alone.

Once upon a time in a forest lived a herd of elephants. The members of the elephant family loved each other very much. They moved together in a herd in search of green leaves from trees for food and water from ponds.

However, one elephant in this herd was very disobedient and selfish. He never followed the orders of the leader of their family and always did whatever he liked. While other elephants of the family lived together, ate together and drank water together, this rogue elephant preferred to move alone.

When a person becomes undisciplined, disobeys the elders and does not care about the convenience and comforts of family and neighbors, everyone dislikes him. Nobody wants to make friends with such a person. None comes forward to help a self-centered person when he is in trouble. Because of his arrogance, a selfish person is also compelled to live alone.





The same thing happened to this elephant. He was pushed out of the herd.

One day, the herd of the elephant was moving in the forest following its leader in search of food. On the path of the elephants, a bird had made a nest in the grass. The bird had laid eggs in the nest. When the bird saw the leader of the herd coming, it became very worried. The bird became afraid that the elephants were going to trample on its nest and destroy the nest and eggs.

When the leader of the herd came near, the bird said, "Sir! I am afraid the elephants of your herd may trample on my nest and it will be destroyed. I have prepared this nest with much labor. I have my eggs in the nest. These will also be crushed. If you could kindly ask your fellow elephants to be careful and walk at a distance, my nest and eggs will be saved. For this favor I shall be extremely grateful to you."

The bird had spoken very sweetly and politely. If you speak softly and politely, all good people become your friends and help you.

The elephant-leader became very pleased by the politeness of the bird.

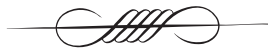


If you speak softly and politely, all good people become your friends and help you.





It is good manners to thank one who has helped you. When you thank people for some favor, they remember you as a grateful person and come to your help again and again when you are in need. Otherwise, if you do not thank one who has helped you, thinks that you are a selfish, ungrateful person and he may not come to your help when you need again.



The elephant said, “Sure! I will definitely help you. I will protect your nest and see to it that none of the elephants of my herd coming behind me would harm it in any way.”


Saying this, the leader elephant carefully moved forward placing its left two legs on one side and the other two on the other side of the nest bringing the nest under its belly. When other elephants following their leader from behind came near, he asked them to move by his left and right side. The elephants of the herd obeyed their leader and moved ahead from left and right of the leader. The nest of the bird was saved.

After the elephants had passed away, the bird said, “Thank you sir! Because of your help, my nest and eggs were saved.”

It is good manners to thank one who has helped you. When you thank people for some favor, they remember you as a grateful person and come to your help again and again when you are in need. Otherwise, if you do not thank one who has helped you, thinks that you are a selfish, ungrateful person and he may not come to your help when you need again.

Before departing, the leader elephant said, “I am happy that I could help you. Since I help everyone in need, God also helps me whenever I need. God provides me food when I am





hungry and water when I am thirsty. However, before going from here, I will give you an advice. After some time there is one more elephant coming behind us. We have turned him out of our herd, because he is very disobedient and selfish. Be careful of him. He may not save your nest.”

The bird again thanked the leader for his good advice.

To save the eggs from the lonely rogue elephant, the bird quickly took out the eggs from the nest and moved them to a safe place away from the path of the elephant. Then it came back to take away the nest. But it was too late. By that time the rogue elephant had arrived.

The bird again politely asked this elephant not to harm its nest. But this elephant was very cruel. He did not care for the convenience of others. Therefore, he did not pay any attention to the bird's request and deliberately put his heavy foot on the nest. The nest was destroyed.

The bird became very sad. It had worked hard to prepare the nest. Now it had to make it again.

The bird thought, if someone had punished the elephant for his bad deeds earlier, he would not have formed the habit of harming others.



*God always punishes
whosoever troubles a weak
person. It does not matter
how big or strong the
wrongdoer is, God gives
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weak to punish such a
person. God also sends
someone to help the
sufferer.*



However, who could punish the big and strong elephant? The elephant was the biggest and strongest animal in the forest. All animals were afraid of him.

God always punishes whosoever troubles a weak person. It does not matter how big or strong the wrongdoer is, God gives courage and ideas to the weak to punish such a person. God also sends someone to help the sufferer.

The bird did not lose courage. It decided to seek the help of its friends living in the neighborhood. One of its friends was a frog living in a nearby pond. Another friend, a crow, lived on a tree near the pond.

The bird, the crow and the frog were very close friends. They helped each other and shared amongst themselves, whatever food they collected during the day. It is always good to be friendly with your neighbors and share your things with them. They come to your help when you are in need.

Whenever the bird, the frog or the crow had any problem, they helped each other.

The bird told its friend frog about the mischief of the rogue elephant. The frog asked, “Is it the elephant with one broken tusk who has trampled on your nest?”


The bird said, “Yeah! Yes, it is that elephant only.”

The frog said, “We know that elephant is very quarrelsome. He fought with other elephants and during the fight they punished him by breaking his tusk.

This elephant destroys everything that comes in its way. He pulls down the trees and tramples on everything on his way. He has killed many frogs of this pond by crushing them under his heavy feet. We do not know how to save ourselves from him. We are too small and too weak”.

The bird said, “Let us talk to our friend crow. Together, we may be able to find a solution”.





The bird and the frog then invited the crow to discuss the problem.

The crow said, “The crows of this forest are also worried about this elephant. When we are asleep on the branches of the trees, he picks us up with his long trunk and throws us away. Many crows have got injured in this way. Yet what can we do? We are so small and the elephant is so strong and big.”

The bird said, “With cooperation, even small and weak persons can do great things. If we work together, we can definitely teach a lesson to this elephant.”

The three friends sat together and thought of a plan to punish the elephant.

Each morning, at dawn, the elephant came to the pond to take bath and drink water.

One day the crow sitting on top of the tree saw him the elephant coming to the pond. The crow found the opportunity to punish the elephant. According to the plan, the crows of the forest flew down from above and one after

the other struck in the eyes of the elephant with their beaks, and made it blind.

Losing its sight, the elephant could not find its way in the forest. Since he could not see, whenever he felt thirsty, he had to depend on his sense of hearing for searching the pond. From the sound of chirruping of birds he could know about the end of night. The croaking of frogs guided him to the pond.

Whenever he heard the croaking, he blindly followed the sound and quenched his thirst from the pond.

The three friends-the bird, the frog and the crow soon found one more opportunity to teach a lesson to the elephant.

One day, from top of the tree, the crow saw the elephant coming towards the pond to drink water.


The crow shouted a warning, “Caw caw caw... The bad elephant is coming towards the pond.”



MORAL

*No one likes to live
with a disobedient
and selfish person who
disobeys the elders.*

*An undisciplined
person has to live
alone. God gives
punishment to those,
who deliberately harm
others.*



According to the plan, all frogs suddenly stopped croaking. The elephant stopped in its track. Hearing no sound from the frogs, he did not know in which direction to go?

Then the frog, came out from beneath a rock besides the pond and began to speak,
“Croak croak croak...”

Croaking, the frog went in front of the elephant and began to move ahead, with the elephant following close behind. The elephant thought that the frog was going to the pond. It began to follow the frog.

Croaking all the way, with the elephant following from behind, the frog began climbing a hill and reached the top of the hill.

Following the frog, the elephant also reached the top of the hill. Croaking, the frog jumped on to the other side of the hill.

The opposite slope of the hill was very steep. The frog jumped down on the steep slope. The blind elephant could not know that the path ahead was a steep downward slope. Following the sound of croaking of frog, he moved forward, slipped down the slope and died.

In this way, the rogue elephant got severely punishment for his bad behavior.

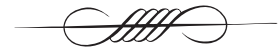


Chose your friends carefully

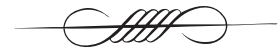
A tortoise and a scorpion lived as neighbors on the bank of a river. The tortoise was very kind hearted. It always talked sweetly and never harmed anyone. On the other hand, the scorpion had a different nature. He was in the habit of using bad language and quarreling without reason. The scorpion chased and stung everyone who came in his way or did not agree with him.

On the other hand, because of its good nature, all neighbors liked the tortoise. Throughout the day, the tortoise moved around, talking to other animals and helping them in need. Because of its helping nature and sweet language, he had made many friends. Everyone avoided the scorpion because of its bad behavior.

Since no one wanted to talk to the scorpion, it felt very sad and lived all alone, hiding in dark corners under the stones. During the nights only, when everyone had gone to sleep, it would come out in search of food. In the mornings when



The scorpion did not realize that the tortoise had made many friends because of its sweet tongue and helping nature.



everyone woke up and moved around, the scorpion again went hiding under the rocks.

Because the tortoise had many friends and the scorpion had none, the scorpion felt very jealous of the tortoise. The scorpion did not realize that the tortoise had made many friends because of its sweet tongue and helping nature.

Whenever the tortoise entered the river, for swimming all animals gathered on its bank to watch.

Everyone wanted to learn swimming from the tortoise. They knew that amongst all animals living on the bank of the river only tortoise was familiar with the places in land and river. They believed that because of this knowledge only the tortoise could teach them swimming at the right place.

On the other hand, the scorpion believed that everyone liked the tortoise because it knew how to swim. He thought until he also learnt swimming, he could not have friends like the


tortoise. However only the tortoise could teach him.

One day the scorpion went to the tortoise and said, “Dear friend! Please teach me how to swim in the river?” Since the tortoise was always helpful to others, it agreed to teach swimming to the scorpion.

The tortoise said, “Very well. I will teach you swimming. However, first you have to learn to swim in shallow waters on the bank of the river. Only after learning to swim in the shallow water and developing strength, you should enter the deep waters”.

The scorpion agreed to this suggestion. It began to practice under the guidance of the tortoise. After practicing for a few days, the scorpion could easily swim in the shallow water on the bank of the river. However, even after learning to swim, the scorpion found that no one approached him to learn swimming. The animals still wanted to learn swimming under the guidance of the tortoise because of his sweet nature. It made the scorpion all the more jealous of





the popularity of the tortoise. The scorpion thought, if he could somehow kill the tortoise, he would be left as the only swimmer amongst the animals. Then other animals will have no other choice. They will have to come to him to learn swimming and become his friends.

He made a plan to kill the tortoise. One day the scorpion went to the tortoise and said, “ You have taught me swimming in shallow water. I also want to learn to swim in the swift current in the middle of the river. Could you carry me on your back to the middle of the river and teach me there.”

As a matter of fact, the scorpion had no desire to swim in the middle of river. He wanted to take the tortoise to the middle of the river, where he could kill it with its poison. He thought that after being stung with his poison in the middle of the river, the tortoise would become unconscious. Then he will not be able to swim back to the bank and will be drowned in the river. After the death of the tortoise he would become the only swimmer and everyone will become his friend.

The tortoise did not suspect the wrong motive of the scorpion and agreed to take it to the middle of the river. He asked the scorpion to sit on his back and they swam together for some length in the river.



Only the teacher knows, how much the pupil has learnt. Without the help of his coach, the learner can never perform satisfactorily. For this very reason, in the scriptures, the status of the teacher has been considered equal to that of the God.



When they had reached where the water was somewhat deeper and current was swift, the scorpion thought of killing the tortoise without any delay. However, they had gone quite far from the bank of the river. The tortoise was not certain whether he could swim back to the bank of the river on his own.

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The scorpion thought, if his teacher, the tortoise, told him that he had learnt sufficiently well to swim long distances, he would sting the tortoise there itself and go back safely to the bank. He had to think of some way to know whether he had become an expert swimmer.

He told the tortoise, “I just remembered that I had asked a friend to meet me today at my house at the bank. If I am delayed my friend

may go back without meeting me. I have to go back to ask my friend to wait till I return. Can I swim back to the bank on my own without your help now?”


The teacher always knows more than the pupil. A student can never befool the teacher by cunning or telling lies.

The tortoise became suspicious. He could understand what the scorpion had in mind. He thought, why should the scorpion think about going back alone without learning to swim?

The tortoise said, “Yes you can swim back to the bank on your own. However you will have to learn a few tricks of swimming in the fast flowing current. It is easy to swim, where the current is slow. The current here is too fast for you to swim. If you want, I can quickly teach you the way to swim in such swift current. After that you may go back on your own?”

The scorpion thought that he had befooled the tortoise. The tortoise had not suspected anything fishy. Now he could learn the





method as well as kill the tortoise. After that he could happily go back to the bank of the river.

The scorpion said, "Okay! Please teach me the method?"

The tortoise said, "The force of gravity pulls you down under water. In order to oppose this force, you have to produce an upward force opposite to the force of gravity. While swimming in the middle of the river you also have to face the forward, horizontal force of water, which is not there in the still water of a pool or at the bank of the river.

For creating this force you will have to practice jumping up and down by pushing the water downwards. In course of practice, when you will fall down, I will support you on my back, till you learn to support yourself.

The tortoise was convinced. As told by the tortoise, he held his breath, and jumped upwards with all his might. As soon as he jumped up in the air, the tortoise immediately dived into the river, leaving the scorpion without any support.

The scorpion sank deep down in the river and was drowned.



MORAL

- 1. You can make friends and influence people by talking sweetly and helping others.*
- 2. One should never trust a person who is jealous by nature.*

Faith in God removes All Fears


On the bank of a river there lived an old Sadhu. He was very gentle and helping in

nature. He felt very sad when he found someone suffering. He never harmed anyone. Nor did he speak ill of others.


The Sadhu was extremely polite and soft spoken. He never got angry even when someone criticized him or spoke to him harshly. The Sadhu also did not accept anything, which belonged to other persons.


Such good habits had made the mind of the Sadhu very pure. God had given him supernatural powers. People came to him from far and near asking for many favors.

The poors came to him for his blessings. He prayed to God and they became rich. His prayers made sick persons healthy. He prayed for the weak and they became strong. He prayed for the blind and they began to see. He prayed for the cripple and they were able to walk.



God bestows supernatural talents upon such persons who are pure in mind and never think of harming others.



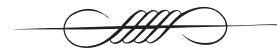


God bestows supernatural talents upon such persons who are pure in mind and never think of harming others. Millions of people around the world pray daily to God asking for something or the other but God answers only to the prayers expressed through heart and with a pure mind. If one desires to have God's grace for something, one has to develop a habit of purity of thoughts, words and deeds. On the other hand, if one is cunning and has a habit of lying, God considers his prayer also as a lie. Prayers of liars and wicked and selfish persons do not yield results.

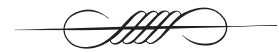
God also gives extraordinary powers to people who help others. If one sincerely prays for helping others without any selfish personal interest, God immediately sends help in some way. HE removes the difficulties faced by the one who helps others and also inspires many other persons to work with him.

If the devotee has a pure mind and loves everyone, God makes his wishes come true. When a person loves everyone, speaks kindly, politely and sweetly to everyone, never harms anyone and works only for the welfare of others, God gives that person supernatural powers. Only such a person is regarded as a true devotee by God. Whatever a true devotee wishes, God makes it happen.

Coming back to the story: One day when the Sadhu was taking bath in the river near his hut, he saw a small mice



God also gives extraordinary powers to people who help others. If one sincerely prays for helping others without any selfish personal interest,



drowning in the water. The mice could not swim. It was weeping and praying to God to save it from death. Since the mice were praying with a pure heart, God heard its prayers and decided to help through a devotee.

The Sadhu heard the wailing of the drowning mice.

Driven by pity, he gently took the mice out of water and brought it to his hermitage.

Under the loving care of the Sadhu, the mice gradually grew up to become an adult mouse. The Sadhu named it Mickey. Mickey became so much attached to the Sadhu that it followed him everywhere like a faithful dog.

One day, the Sadhu said to the mouse, "Mickey! Now you are grown up. You should learn to live alone."

Mickey said, "Sir! I cannot live alone. During the night when I am lonely in the hole of my residence, I feel scared. Fear keeps me awake throughout night."

The Sadhu said, "What do you fear? You should never be afraid of anything. You must have faith in God who has created you. You cannot see God, but HE is everywhere to protect you. HE protects everyone. Didn't HE send me to save you when you were drowning in the river? "


Mickey said, "Sir! I cannot see God. You saved me. Therefore, I feel protected when I find you near me. I wish that someone who I can see and who is as strong as you, to be always near me."

The Sadhu smiled and said, "I am very busy. I have to spend a lot of time in prayers, meditation and religious rituals. Therefore I cannot always remain by your side. However, I can pray to God to provide you the company of someone who is strong and powerful."

Mickey said, "Sir! If you cannot give me company all the time, please find someone who is as powerful as you to protect me."

The Sadhu replied, " Very well! I will pray to





God to send someone to protect you. When I find one who is strong and powerful, I will call you. But you will have to make a choice and tell me who you would like to have for your company?”

Next morning, at sunrise, the Sadhu called Mickey. Pointing out at the sun, he said, “ Look! Would you like to have sun as your protector?”

Sun is most powerful. Without the light, heat and energy of sun, nothing on earth can survive. If the sun was not there, no plant could grow. In absence of sun all insects, birds, animals and human beings will have nothing to eat. They will die of hunger. The sun rays also protect everyone from disease. If there were no sun, all of them will become sick and die.

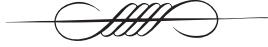
The energy of sun gives strength to the body and mind of all living things. That is why; God has made the arrangement of alternating day and night. During the day, all living beings draw in energy from sun for physical and mental strength for working. The nights are meant for physical rest. Those who sleep during the day after sunrise cannot become strong and wise.

At dawn, the sun rays transmit special energy. That is why it is said, “Early to bed and early to rise makes one healthy, wealthy and wise. Only a healthy person can become wealthy and wise.




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*“Early to bed and early
to rise makes one
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wise.”*



The sun is so powerful. Would you like to have sun as your friend?”


Mickey said, “No Sir! The sun is too hot. It is a ball of fire. When the sun is there I feel very uncomfortable. It is so hot that, I have to find a shade. How can I stay near the sun? I want someone for company who is cool. Who can also save me from heat.”

On the next day, there was a cloud in the sky. The sadhu called the mouse and said, “Look up at the sky. The cloud has covered the sun. It is not permitting the heat of sun to reach the earth. Isn't the cloud more powerful than sun? What about having the cloud as your companion?”

Mickey asked, “How did the cloud appear? It was not there yesterday.”

The Sadhu replied, “When the rays of the sun fall on wells, ponds, lakes, rivers and seas on the earth, the water gets heated up and is changed into steam. The steam rises up and up in the air towards sky. High up in the air, the drops of water in the steam collect up as cloud.

When the weather up there in the sky becomes cool, the water vapors in the cloud change back into drops of water. These fall down on earth as cool rain and snow.



Would you like the cloud to stay with you? It will protect you from the heat of sun and also provide you water when you become thirsty.”

But Mickey was not satisfied.

He said, “Sir! It is true that the cloud will keep me cool and save me from the heat of sun and give me water, but it will also make me wet. It will bring down rains and make me wet. The snow will make me cold. I would require air to dry me up. Therefore please find a friend who is more powerful than the sun and the cloud.”

The Sadhu said, “Okay! I will try to search for someone who is more powerful than the cloud and can provide you air.”

After a few days, the Sadhu again called Mickey. It was a cool windy day. The wind was blowing fast. Trees were swaying back and forth because of the force of wind. It had also uprooted many trees.

The Sadhu said, “Look Mickey! The wind is so powerful; it is moving everything with it. The wind has also chased the cloud away.

Would you like to have wind for your company?”

Mickey said, “I see that the wind is stronger than the cloud. But there is one problem. The wind also creates dust and snowstorms. During the dust- storm, the dust gets into my eyes and I cannot see. When there is a snowstorm, I am afraid of getting buried in snow. Therefore I need someone who is more powerful than the sun, the cloud and the wind?”

The Sadhu said, “I will tell you who protects you from the heat, rain snow, dust and wind. Please show me the place where you live.”

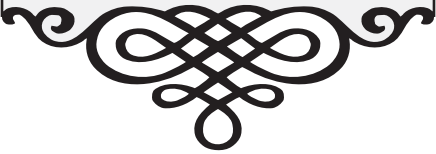
Mickey asked the Sadhu to accompany him to his rat hole, which was his residence.

Reaching there he said, “Is it not the place where you are safe from heat, cold, rain, snow and wind? God has provided you with this safe, comfortable place for living right from the day you were born. Here you don't have to bear the heat of the sun, rain, snow, or cold during winter or dust storm from the wind



MORAL

*Fear is always
because of ignorance.
Those who believe in
God
and have true faith
in HIM
and therefore always
do good works
are never afraid of
anything.*



When God creates a living being, he also makes a provision for its food and protection beforehand.

HE provides fresh, warm milk in the body of the mother to feed the baby. He gives physical and mental strength to the young parents for bringing up their sons and daughters.

When the little infants grow up, God gives enough intelligence and knowledge to them to protect themselves without the help of their parents. However, God helps only on one condition. You should never harm or destroy anything created by HIM.

If you have faith in God and do not harm anyone or destroy any natural thing made by God, you will never have anything to fear. God will always protect you, wherever you are.

Fear is always due to ignorance. You feel afraid when you do not know the reality of things. A rope in darkness looks like a snake. The shape of a moving bush in the dark appears like a ghost.

A faith in God removes your ignorance. It makes you see the reality of things. Try to protect everything created by God. Believe that whatever is happening in this world is as HE wants it to happen. Nothing can happen without HIS knowledge and will. Always remember that HE is always there near you. Then you will be never be afraid of anything.



You cannot Be fool

All the People all the Time

There was a village besides a hill. In the hill and in the forest on the other side of the village, there lived many animals. The majority of smaller animals like birds, rats, rabbits, squirrels, lizards, Jackals, cats, monkeys and mongoose lived on the hill near the village. The larger animals like tigers, tigers, elephants, bears and deers preferred to live in the dense forest.

The animals of the forest had chosen tiger as their king. The tiger was the strongest animal amongst the bigger animals of the forest. He guarded the forest throughout night and did not permit tigers of other areas to enter the forest. For his meals, the tiger frequently killed the smaller animals living on the hill.

The smaller animals living on the hill were living in fear of the tiger. They desired to have a king who could protect them from the tiger. They wanted to make the largest and strongest animal of their habitation as their king.

In a small cave, at the bottom of the hill, there lived a cunning jackal. He wanted to become the king of the little animals living on the hill. However, he knew that they would not easily accept him as king, because he was too small and weak like his other neighbors. Besides, other animals of the hill did not trust him because he frequently lied.

Nevertheless, the jackal was too eager to become king by hook or crook.

There were large trees and thick bushes on the plain at the base of the hill. The villagers threw away the leftovers of their food and meat in the bushes around the hill. Everyday, during the night, the jackal went to the bushes in search of food and returned back to his house in the morning at sunrise.

One morning, while coming back, he saw a very large dark animal, standing in the bushes in front of the rock face besides his house.

At first glance, the jackal was terrified. He had never seen such a large animal on the hill. The animal looked like a large jackal. "Who could it be?" he wondered.

He cautiously and slowly moved forward towards his den at the foot of the hill. As he came closer to the hill, he found that the large animal gradually became smaller in size.


On reaching the door of his house he realized, that the large animal was only his shadow. The early sun rising at his back had cast his shadow on the thick bushes in front of his den. The shadow was large when he saw it from a distance and it became smaller on approaching the hill.

An idea flashed across jackal's mind. He thought if his shadow could deceive him by appearing like a large animal, it could also convince the other animals about existence of a large animal living at the foot of the hill.

The jackal thought of a plan to become the king by proving himself powerful with the help of his shadow. He waited for an opportunity to work out his plan.

One day, the animals of the hill called a meeting of the residents of the hill to choose their king.





One by one all animals were called to prove their special qualifications and strength. However, none amongst them was considered sufficiently strong and powerful for becoming their king.

Finally, came the turn of jackal. The jackal said, “None amongst us has the strength and power to be a king. We are all small and weak. However, we may choose the one animal, which is largest amongst us, as our king.

I have employed a big, powerful animal to guard my den, during the night, when I go out in search of food. My friend is much bigger and stronger than all of us. Until I return back to my den at sunrise, he stands guard at the door of my house.

My guard is so ferocious, that tigers dare not enter my house. If you accept this animal as our king, he will be able to protect all of us.”

The animals were not aware of any large animal living on the hill. Since the jackal was a habitual liar, they did not believe him.

A monkey expressed his doubt. He said, “I have never seen the animal you are talking

about. We shall believe you only after seeing this animal with our own eyes. Let us see how he looks like?”

The cunning jackal said, “My guard is very shy. He never comes out of the house. He would not meet or talk with anyone except me. He never comes out my house. Only when I return back to my den in the morning, he greets me at the door of my den. My guard is too shy to face you.

However, when I return from the fields after collecting food in the morning, you may see him from a distance. Tomorrow, all of you may gather in front of my house at sunrise and I will show you what my friend looks like?”

Next morning, before sunrise, all animals living on the hill gathered beneath a banyan tree on the plain at the foot of the hill to see the large animal.

At sunrise, shadows of animals moving around fell on the thick bushes at the foot of the hill. However the banyan tree, beneath which the animals stood, was so far away from the hill that they could not make out the difference between a shadow and a living animal. The

jackal had also asked the animals to gather under the big banyan tree, so that their own shadows could not be seen.

The animals of the hill had never gone down the hill. They had never seen the large shadows of animals moving on the plains falling on the bushes at the foot of the hill.

This way, the cunning jackal had taken all precautions to befool the animals into believing that his shadow was indeed some living animal.

While the animals waited beneath the tree, returning back to his house in the morning, the jackal carefully chose a path, from where his shadow on the bushes could be clearly seen.

The sun rose, and the animals saw the huge shadow of the Jackal on the thick bushes in front of his den. As the jackal came to the door of the den, the shadow disappeared.

Standing at the door of the den, the jackal said, “My friend guard has gone in to sleep. Did you notice how big and fearsome he is?

Isn't he bigger than a tiger? If you agree, I may ask him to be our king. I assure you that with this animal guarding, the tiger would not be able to enter the hill.”

All animals were greatly impressed. However, the jackal agreed to speak to the guard on a condition.


He said, “Everyday you will have to bring food for the guard at my house. Since my friend does not meet anyone, you may leave the food at my doorstep.”

The animals unanimously agreed to declare the animal as their king and provide him food at the den of the jackal. Everyday, they brought all types of fruits and vegetables and kept these at the door of jackal's house. The clever jackal took these inside and everyday enjoyed a hearty meal. He no longer had to work and go out in search of food.

In this way a few days passed. However, you cannot fool all the people for all by telling lies.

A monkey living on the hill became suspicious. He knew that the jackal was in the habit of





telling lies. He decided to investigate. Everyday climbing on top of the banyan tree at the base of the hill, he watched the jackal and his shadow.

One morning, when the jackal was returning to his den, a patch of cloud covered the sun and the shadow disappeared. After some time when the sun came out of the cloud, the shadow could be seen again.

The monkey jumped down from the tree and stood facing the hill, with his back towards the rising sun. A large shadow of his body formed on the bushes in front of the hill. He moved towards the hill and the shadow became smaller. He had solved the mystery of the big guard

He called other animals one by one and they too saw their big shadows on the bushes in front of the hill. They became very angry at the cunning of jackal and decided to stop speaking to him.

Thereafter, the poor jackal had to live all alone. No one wanted to meet or talk to him. He had to look for his food.

Once the jackal became sick. He could not go out for collecting food. He did not get anything to eat for many days. He went from door to door to all his neighbors telling that he was not well, but none believed him. They thought that he was lying. None gave him anything to eat.

He died of hunger.



MORAL

If you have a habit of telling lies, you develop a bad reputation. When people come to know that you are a liar by habit, they never believe you even if you tell the truth. Nobody helps a liar even when he is actually in need of help.

Good Habits

are More Important Than Good Clothes

A jackal lived in a small dark hole in a hillock besides the fields adjoining a village.


During the night he would go out in search of food in the nearby forest.

He would follow the large wild animals like leopards, tigers and tigers in the forest. When they killed some animal for their food and left the place after satisfying their hunger, the jackal ate the leftover remains of their prey.


At times, when the large animals did not go for hunting, the jackal did not get anything to eat and had to go without food for many days.


Near the den of the jackal, a farmer lived in a small hut built in the middle of his field. He had kept a small white dog as his pet. He had built a pretty, small doghouse for his pet.

Everyday, in the morning, the farmer took the dog for walking around the field. On return, he fed the dog with fresh meat and biscuits. Then he tied him in a small



that one should not feel envious of those animals that have better facilities for living. It is fruitless to imitate those who are in a better company.





doghouse. He cleaned the doghouse daily and kept there bowls full of milk and water for the dog to drink. Sometimes he also gave the dog meat and eggs to eat.

During the night, the dog kept watch on the field. It chased away the intruding animals and thieves. In course of day, it slept in his doghouse or in the shade of a tree in the field.

Peeping out of the hole of his den everyday, the Jackal watched the dog with envy. He thought the dog was very fortunate because he did not have to go anywhere in search of food or water. He also saw that the dog had nice things to eat. The dog was provided with a clean pretty house to live, whereas he had to live in his dark dirty hole. The dog also did not have to clean his house.

The jackal kept worrying about the bad condition of his living. Being small, dark and dirty, his house was very uncomfortable to live. Unlike the pet of the farmer, he had to run here and there for his food and water.

Since the jackal lived in a dark house, he frequently became sick. Sunrays did not enter

his house. In order to keep the atmosphere of the house free of the germs of diseases, sunlight was necessary.

The jackal thought, that being a pet of the farmer the dog had many advantages over him. The dog did not fall sick because his doghouse got plenty of sunlight. He also did not have to worry about food or water. His master provided it daily.

The jackal wondered why the farmer preferred to keep a dog as his pet and not some other animal like him? His friend jackals told him that the farmer liked to keep the dog for guarding his fields because the dog was better looking than any other animal.

The jackal thought, if he could also appear as fair as the dog, the farmer would perhaps take him as a pet. Being a pet he could live comfortably like the dog. Then, like the dog, he could also have nice food to eat, milk to drink and a good place to rest and sleep, whenever he desired.

The Jackal considered himself more qualified than the dog. He thought that, he was cleverer

than the dog. He could follow tigers and tigers, whereas, the dog was afraid of them. For guarding the fields, he could also keep awake during the night and run fast like the dog.

However, while comparing himself to the dog, the only difference he found was in their appearance. The jackal did not have a white coat like that of the dog. Perhaps the farmer liked to keep the dog as a pet because he looked very clean with his white coat. The jackal's dark skin made him appear dirty. He thought if somehow, he could also look clean and white like the dog, perhaps the farmer would prefer to keep him as a pet than the dog.

One evening when the dog was moving about alone, the Jackal met him on the way.

The jackal said; "I am your neighbor. I want to become a pet of your master. Could you come to my house and tell me how to do it?"

The dog said, " I am prepared to help you, but I won't come to your house. It is too dark and dirty. You are not keeping your house clean. Living in a dark and dirty place has made you sick.

It also appears you have not taken a bath since long. The stench of your body is unbearable.


The Jackal said: "But I do not feel any bad odor in my house or body."

The dog: "You have become used to the odor because you are living with it for a long time. You do not feel the dirty odor of your body because it is always there with you. You are not bathing regularly to clean yourself. From the bad odor of your body people near you can easily find out, that you have not taken bath since long.

No body likes to stay close to a person who does not take bath daily. If one takes bath daily, the skin remains clean. All dirt accumulated on the skin due to perspiration is removed and there is no bad odor left on the body. Like the growing hair and nails, the skin of the body is also continuously growing. Taking bath removes the scales of dead skin from the body. It exposes the pores of skin.

The rays of the rising sun have a special quality of keeping all living beings healthy. The early morning rays enter through the





many pores in the body and clean the blood of germs of diseases. If you do not take bath, the pores are closed with dirt and perspiration and your blood does not get purified. That is why it is necessary to get up early in the morning before sunrise and take a bath.

Since you are living in a dirty place, dirt and perspiration is sticking to your body and creating a bad odor. How can I come close to you? I may also become sick in your company. Therefore, first have a bath and then talk to me.”

The Jackal felt very ashamed to hear it. Now he understood why he was becoming sick frequently and why no one wanted to stay close to him. He had very few friends. People were avoiding him because of his dinginess. No one came to his house.

He resolved to clean his house and began to take bath daily.

But still he was worried about the dark color of his skin. He kept on thinking, if somehow he could get a white coat, he could meet the farmer and request him to become his pet.

The jackal decided to talk to his friend rabbit that also had a white coat like that of the dog.

He spoke to rabbit, “Dear friend! You have a white coat like the coat of the farmer's dog. Please tell me how can I have a similar coat so that the farmer accepts me as his pet?”

The rabbit said, “Why do you want to look like others? God has given coats of different colors to the beings of this world according to their class, habits and place of living.

The variety of color also provides beauty to the world.

The sky is blue. The grass is green. Flowers have many colors. The insects, reptiles and animals too have a variety of colors. How beautiful the world looks with so many colors.

The color of their skin saves many animals from their enemies. The green grasshopper can hide in the green grass. The color of the butterfly saves it from being eaten by the birds and reptiles. Sitting on the leaf of a plant a butterfly looks like a beautiful flower. The skin of the polar bear is white. The animals it hunts

for its food cannot see it in the whiteness of snow. Even the color of the skin of man varies from country to country. There are white people, yellow people, brown and black people. The color of skin does not make them inferior or superior to others. Each race has its own different living and food habits, but all live happily together, without trying to imitate others.

If jackals had white coats like the dog, they will not be able to hide in the darkness of night and will be killed by tigers and tigers.

The jackal said, “On having a white coat, I will be able to impress the farmer.”

The rabbit said, “It is a wrong notion that you can impress others by wearing good clothes. You are liked or disliked because of your manners, character and qualities. Whatever be the shape size or color of your body, people will like to have your company if you had four qualifications.

The first qualification is your proper understanding of things.

You should have sufficient intelligence and knowledge to understand that whatever you think, speak or do is useful for others. To learn it you need not imitate other persons. Something in other persons, which creates good impression, may not be good for you. Who would like to have a cow barking like a dog or a dog mewling like a cat as a friend?


The second qualification is courage to perform one's duty in difficult circumstances. However big or strong the intruder is, a dog does not run away, on seeing a stranger entering his master's property.

The third qualification is a sense of responsibility. Nobody likes an irresponsible person. A responsible person never ignores duty. The dog carries out its duty of keeping a watch day and night without any regard for personal comfort.

The fourth qualification is honesty.

Honesty means always speaking truth, never cheating anybody or stealing anything for personal use. You will never find the farmer's dog stealing food from the kitchen of his





master. He eats only what belongs to it. On the other hand, you and your friend jackals are in the habit of stealing meat leftover by other animals.

The Jackal said, “Even if I had these qualifications, the farmer won't accept me as a pet because of my dark skin.”

The rabbit said, “The farmer does not keep the dog as his pet simply because it has a white coat. He likes the dog because he is intelligent, useful, courageous, responsible and honest in his work. The dog is very obedient, faithful and guards his house and field. The farmer would not like to keep a jackal like you because you are neither intelligent, useful, courageous, faithful, honest nor hard working.

If you become helpful to others, everyone will like your company. Otherwise not.

You should learn good habits like hard work and faithfulness like the dog. The color of your skin does not matter.”

However, the Jackal was very foolish and obstinate. He considered himself very

intelligent. He thought that he was always right. He liked to follow the advice of only those animals that flattered him.

People befool the person who is fond of flattery. They flatter for their own selfish interests.

A fox always praised jackal for whatever he did. Although the fox flattered the jackal only for getting morsels of meat from him, the jackal thought that the fox was his friend. He thought that he could get the right advice from the fox. Persons, who like flattery, seek the advice of flatterers.

The jackal went to the fox for advice.

The fox was also a big liar. Everyone in the forest knew that the fox had the habit of exaggerating things. Speaking truth means describing things exactly as they are. Exaggeration also means telling a lie. One should not believe a person who exaggerates things. Company of such persons should be avoided. Those who have a habit of exaggerating, never tell the truth.

On meeting the fox, the jackal said, “Dear friend! I want to work for the farmer, but he won't accept me because of my dark skin. Could you tell me a way to make me as fair as the white dog of the farmer?”

The fox bragged, “It is very simple to have a white coat. I change my coat every day according to my necessity. When I go to meet the swan in the pond, I wear a white coat. In the company of tigers I wear a yellow coat. With the parrots, I move, wearing a green coat. ”

The jackal asked, “How do you change the color of your skin?”

The fox lied, “I have a painter as my friend. He paints me the way I require. When the painter is not available, I apply the paint myself on my skin. However for a white coat I use cotton and glue. It gives the beautiful appearance of a skin with fur.”

The jackal was a fool. Though everyone in the forest knew that the fox was a liar and fond of exaggerating things, the jackal believed that the fox was speaking truth.

He asked the fox, “ Tell me how can I use the cotton and glue to have a white coat on my skin?”

The jackal said, “ It is very simple. Spill a bottle of paste. First roll your body in the paste and then in cotton. The white cotton will stick to your skin and it would appear as though you had a white skin with a thick fur.”

The foolish Jackal did the same.


With his new coat of white cotton sticking on his body he again went to meet the dog.

He said, “Look. I am taking bath everyday. I am also cleaning my house everyday. I have also got a new white coat like you. Could you now teach me how to guard the fields so that I may ask your master to employ me as a pet?”

The dog was impressed to see the change in the Jackal. He agreed to teach the jackal. They began to take rounds of the field together.

After some days, the dog invited other dogs from the neighborhood for dinner. The Jackal too requested him to take him to the party.





The dog said, “Dogs do not like the company of other animals. Though you look like a dog, you do not know how to bark. You cannot join us. When you speak, my friend dogs will find out that you are not one of us.

But the dog insisted. He was too eager to join the company of dogs and show his new fur.

He said, “ I wouldn't speak a word during the party. I will keep my mouth shut.”

He went to attend the dinner with the dogs.

When they were enjoying the meals, it suddenly began to rain. The cotton on the skin of the Jackal was washed away exposing his dark skin.

When the dogs saw the true color of the jackal, they became very angry. Barking together they rushed towards the jackal to bite him.

Trembling with fear, the Jackal ran for his life and hid in his hole.

He remembered the advice of the rabbit, that one should not feel envious of those animals that have better facilities for living. It is fruitless to imitate those who are in a better company.



MORAL

1. People like you for your character and qualities. It does not matter how you look like or what you possess.

2. Do not try to imitate persons who have better toys, cloths and other things than you.

A Foolish and Lazy Man is Worse Than an Animal


At the hermitage of a Sadhu, there lived a baby elephant. Everyone at the hermitage loved him for his politeness, faithfulness and hard working nature. He would go to the forest and bring dry wood required for cooking food for the residents of the hermitage.

Everyday, early in the morning, the Sadhu went for taking bath in a river, a few kilometers away from his cottage. The baby elephant carried him to the river on his back. On reaching the bank of the river, the sadhu dismounted the elephant for taking bath.

At a short distance away, the elephant too enjoyed bathing in the river. He would first roll his body in the mud on the bank of the river. Then he would fill his long trunk with plenty of water. After that, raising the trunk high over his head he would shower his body with the cool water of the river.

There were a large number of banana trees on the bank of the river. Elephants like to eat bananas. While the Sadhu took bath, the baby elephant would go to the forest on the





bank of the river to eat bananas. Having a stomach full of bananas, he would also bring a bunch of bananas for his master.

The path leading to the river was very dusty. While returning back to the hermitage, the baby elephant would also carry plenty of water in his trunk, and sprinkle it on the path ahead to keep the dust from rising up and spoiling the clothes of the Sadhu.

During the night, when the Sadhu went to sleep, he would sweep the compound of the hermitage to clean it of the dry leaves and stems of wood, which had fallen from the trees during the night.

Though the Sadhu never asked him to do work for the hermitage, the baby elephant liked to carry out these tasks.

When one carries out work without worrying for results, one gets a lot of pleasure in working. Generally, during work, people also keep on thinking about the results. Working, while thinking about the results, one cannot give full attention to the work in hand. If there is no anxiety for results, rewards or appreciation for the work being carried out, the mind remains concentrated in work itself. With greater concentration, one performs better and at the same time gets greater enjoyment in working.



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The baby elephant did not desire any appreciation or reward and felt happy in helping people. However, there was one thing he did not understand. When he went out to the nearby town with the Sadhu, he saw people living there very comfortably in big houses, wearing a variety of clothes and eating many types of food. He wondered why human beings did not have to work so hard for their food and living comfort like animals.


Now and then the baby elephant asked people about the reason for this difference in living conditions of animals and human beings. Everyone told him that human beings did not have to do more physical labor for searching for food and shelter because they had better brains than animals.

The baby elephant wondered, whether he could also have a brain like that of man. Though he enjoyed doing hard work, much of his time was spent in looking for his food and shelter when he went out during bad weather. He thought that he could work more for helping others if he did not have to spend a lot of time for his food and protection.

One day, the Sadhu called the elephant and said; “I find that you are regularly carrying out many tasks for the hermitage without asking for anything. You are also never complaining about your difficulties. I am very pleased to notice it and want to give you some reward. Tell me what do you want to have? I shall pray to God to give you anything you want. God answers to my prayers and makes things happen according to my request.”

*I do not want a reward
for my work. I enjoy
helping others.*





The baby elephant thought for a while and said, “Sir! I do not want a reward for my work. I enjoy helping others. But if you are pleased, please ask God to give me the brain of man, so that sometimes I may go to the town and help more people.”

“How would you help the people in the town after having a brain like that of a human?” asked the Sadhu.

The elephant said, “I see that because of his greater intelligence man has to spend little time and effort for a more comfortable living than animals. Since man does not have to worry much for his food and protection, he has more time and energy for helping others.

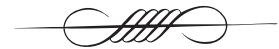
With his better brain, man easily builds a house for himself. His house protects him from heat during the summer, rains during the monsoon and cold during the winter. On the other hand, an animal has to waste a lot of time looking for his food and shelter everywhere in the forest and has to bear the hardships of summer, winter and monsoon. I am much stronger than man. Only if I had the intelligence of a human being, I could work better than man.

Could you pray to God for giving me a brain like that of a human?”

The Sadhu said, “It is true that man is the most intelligent being on this earth. Because of his great intelligence man can



“I see that because of his greater intelligence man has to spend little time and effort for a more comfortable living than animals. Since man does not have to worry much for his food and protection, he has more time and energy for helping others.”





“God has created human beings to work as his managers to look after the things made by HIM. God has given a greater intelligence to man so that after arranging for his food and shelter, he has enough time and energy left for working for God. However, if a human being does not use this extra time and energy for working for God, and spends life in self-enjoyment only he does not achieve any success in life.



easily acquire many things of comfort for himself. But do you know why has God made human beings more intelligent than animals?”

The elephant, “Why has God favored the human beings by making them more intelligent than other beings of the world?”

The sadhu said, “God has created human beings to work as his managers to look after the things made by HIM. God has given a greater intelligence to man so that after arranging for his food and shelter, he has enough time and energy left for working for God. However, if a human being does not use this extra time and energy for working for God, and spends life in self-enjoyment only he does not achieve any success in life. He lives and dies like an animal eating, sleeping and producing children. People forget such a person soon after his death. Those who work for God are remembered for a long time after their death.


The elephant asked, “How does man use his brain for God's work?”

The sadhu replied, “ Working as a manager of God means ensuring that everything created by God works properly.

Working for God means maintaining the ecological balance.

Cutting of trees should be restrained to maintain the natural vegetation.





Wild animals should not be killed or disturbed in their natural environment.

The atmosphere should not be polluted with harmful gases by burning a lot of wood or petroleum products.

Plastic products should not be thrown here and there to pollute the earth and natural sources of water.

Besides, the most important work of God is to make other human beings happier and more comfortable. God does not like one who harms a fellow being by thoughts or deeds.

The elephant said, “Why the human beings do not have to face so many difficulties as we animals do.”

The sadhu said, “Man too has to face many problems that animals do not. If man does not use his brain rightly he has to face many difficulties in life in spite of having good food and home right from his childhood.

Right from their birth, the animals know how to look for their food. By nature they know what to eat and when to eat their meals.

On the contrary, unlike animals, man has to learn how to use his brain for acquiring his food and learning what to eat and when to eat throughout life? With his greater intellect he also learns how to read, write, and do things with hands and feet



“Man too has to face many problems that animals do not. If man does not use his brain rightly he has to face many difficulties in life in spite of having good food and home right from his childhood.”



that animals can't. However, good knowledge makes man capable of doing God's work.

In spite of these qualifications human beings have to face many problems in life.

You may go to the town and see for yourself; the many problems human beings face in life.”

Next day, the baby elephant went to the city. There he found men women and children suffering from diseases. He saw sick persons being carried to hospitals.

He was surprised to see that amongst the human beings no one tried to help each other. Men, women and children quarreled and injured each other over small matters. He found people snatching and stealing things belonging to other persons.

He also found men, women and children consuming drugs and liquors. Under the effect of drugs, they appeared sleepy and limped while walking.

The elephant had never seen animals living in the forest falling sick. In the forest no animal ever required medicines or a doctor. The animals did not fight unless one intruded in

other's territory. Animals also did not steal food from other animals.

The baby elephant came back to the hermitage and asked the sadhu the reason for such peculiar behavior of human beings.

He asked: “Why do the human beings fall sick and need medicines? When human beings have strong legs, why do they walk with bent backs and need a stick for walking. Why does man quarrel over small matters?”


The Sadhu replied, “ When man develops a habit of eating and drinking without feeling hungry or thirsty he becomes sick

When he eats for taste only without feeling hungry, human body does not digest the food the undigested food creates all types of diseases.

The other reason for man's sickness is eating food, which is not, meant for human body. The non-vegetarian food does not suit man. God has not made human body suitable for eating and digesting animal food.

The teeth of man are small. These cannot be used for tearing flesh like the canines of meat-eating animals.





Man's intestines are very long in comparison to those of animals. Because the intestines of flesh eating animals are small, the waste and poisonous products of animal food eaten by them do not remain long in their body for a longer period.

On the other hand intestines in a human body are long and meant for digesting vegetarian food only. They retain the food eaten for a longer time.

On taking non-vegetarian food human stomach becomes infected with the germs of diseases, carried by the animal. These poisonous substances of non-vegetarian food lying in long intestines of human body for a long time, begins to rot and creates diseases.

The baby elephant asked, “Why does man eat when he is not hungry?”

The Sadhu: “It is in the nature of man to imitate other human beings. Right from the childhood a human being learns by imitating. The liking for a particular type of food also begins by imitating others. By repeatedly eating some particular type of food people develop a taste for it. In this way, some

persons become habituated to eating junk food, sweets, and spicy-, fat- rich food. Because of such habit man is tempted to eat for taste only, even when he is not hungry.

The baby elephant, “How does eating without hunger make one sick?”

The Sadhu: “ When more food is taken than is required by body, the excess fat and protein makes the joints in the body stiff, which makes movement of limbs difficult. It also spoils the digestive system. When undigested food remains in the long intestines of the stomach for a long time it begins to rot. It also makes man sick.

The baby elephant: “Why does man smoke and take drugs?”

The Sadhu: “No one likes the taste of cigarette or drug initially. Initially one takes these things in bad company. Imitating persons, in bad company, children begin to smoke and take drugs. Sometimes they imitate the grown up persons who had formed such habits during their childhood. After some time, it becomes a habit. Thereafter the habit changes to necessity. The

person becomes an addict. He is unable to leave the habit even though he knows that it is harmful.

The baby elephant, “How do the intoxicating substances harm human body.”

The intoxicating food like alcohol, drugs and tobacco creates an addiction.

The body of man is unable to digest these things. Man cannot digest unnatural food or drink. The harmful chemicals in tobacco and drugs damage his liver, lungs, throat and heart. Long time smoking; chewing tobacco, drinking liquor shortens life of man. His organs become diseased; he suffers from diseases and dies early.

God has given more intelligence to man than to animals, but HE has also given man more responsibility to use his brain properly. God desires man to eat only that food which is good for his body.

Baby elephant: Does the better intelligence of man not help him in selecting the right food?

Sadhu: God has given independence of thinking to man. However when he is very young, man

has to learn from his parents, what to eat, when to eat and how to eat? From very childhood his parents and teachers teach him how to live properly. It requires total obedience. Children who do not obey their parents and teachers remain ignorant when they grow up and have to face many such problems.

The baby elephant: “Does it mean, animals have better food habits than man?”

The Sadhu: “Yes! Animals are definitely more fortunate than those human beings who do not use their intelligence properly in forming good eating habits.

Animals do not eat until they feel hungry. They also do not eat in excess, or beyond what their body needs. That is why, unless forced to live in an unnatural environment with human beings, they do not suffer from diseases or die of diseases.

The baby elephant: “Does it mean if animals had a brain like that of man, they won't be able to work better than man.”

The Sadhu: “Simply having a brain like man will not help you to work better than man.



You will also have to learn what to eat and when to eat. God has built the brains of animals in such a way that from their very birth they know when to eat, what to eat, and how much to eat, without having to learn from others.

Animals do not eat stale food. They do not eat, when they are not hungry. They also do not overeat something for the sake of taste. If they are forced to eat something, which is not natural for them, they become sick.

All animals in this world have their own particular natural food for keeping healthy and alive. Animals do not eat what is not meant for them by God. God has made the bodies of the herbivorous and carnivorous animals suitable for their own particular type of foods. For healthy living the herbivorous animals do not eat non-vegetarian food and the carnivores consume only flesh of other animals.

As an animal you should be thankful to God for whatever HE has given you. Otherwise, with a brain like that of man, you would have required to learn a lot to keep yourself happy and healthy.

Do you still want to have a brain of a man and live with the human beings in the city?"

The baby elephant said, "I think most of human beings are living a life worse than the animals. I am happy to live here with whatever God has given me.

MORAL

For keeping healthy one should not take food without feeling hungry and eat only that kind of food, which is good for health. One should respect and maintain the system of Nature.

Courage & Intelligence Always Brings Success



On the battlefield you have to depend on your own self. Unless you become bold and courageous and do things without someone's assistance, you will never develop courage and confidence in yourself to become a soldier.



Once upon a time there lived a poor washer man in a small hut in a village. He made his living by washing clothes of the residents of the village. On his small pony, he would collect the dirty linen and carry these to the nearby river for cleaning. His son Arjun also accompanied him to help his father in work.


Arjun was a very timid and shy boy. He was afraid to speak to strangers and go out alone in the dark. His father often scolded him for his timidness. One day Arjun's father asked, "What do you want to become in life?"

Arjun said, "I want to become a soldier and serve my country."

His father said, "On the battlefield you have to depend on your own self. Unless you become bold and courageous and do things without someone's assistance, you will never develop courage and confidence in yourself to become a soldier.

Courage has to be developed from childhood itself. Only courageous persons are asked to do difficult things.





Only those persons are given difficult jobs, who take courage to do those things, which other persons refuse to do.

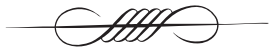
By successively taking up more and more difficult jobs, man develops greater confidence and experience. In this way, ultimately people become successful in life. This is how people become successful leaders, sportspersons, soldiers, stars, writers, singers, musicians, stage anchors, fashion designers, artists, doctors, scientists, journalists, computer experts, businessmen, and achieve top positions in all fields of life.”

Arjun asked, “When would I get an opportunity to develop and show my courage?” His father said, “Opportunity comes very often. You have to be alert to see and grab it before it slips away.”


One day, when Arjun and his father were washing clothes in the river, the sky suddenly became covered with dark clouds. In order to avoid getting drenched, they decided to return back home early.

In the meantime, while grazing, their pony had wandered deep inside the forest. They tried to look for it but did not succeed.

After searching for some time, they returned back to their hut. They knew that the pony knew the way back to home and could return on its own.



*By successively taking up
more and more difficult
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life.*



However, deep in the forest, the pony had lost its way.

Soon the night fell. It became dark and there was no sight of pony.

It was a moonless night. Thick clouds had made the night pitch dark. It began to rain heavily. The roof of their hut was covered with old broken tiles. Rainwater began to drip all over the hut.

The washer man murmured, “This DRIP-DRIP is terrible. I am not afraid of any tiger, but when this DRIP-DRIP arrives I am unable to face it. Here it comes again to trouble me.”

Outside the hut, a tiger was passing by. When he heard the man talking about the terrible DRIP-DRIP, he stopped to listen.

The tiger thought, “DRIP-DRIP must be some animal more powerful than a tiger. That is why, this man, who is not afraid of tiger, is afraid of DRIP-DRIP.”

Thinking that the DRIP-DRIP was inside the hut so much terrified the tiger that to save

himself from this unknown animal, he decided to hide behind the bushes near the hut.

Inside the hut, Arjun and his father did not know that there was a tiger hiding nearby. After sometime, the heavy rain changed into a drizzle. In the meantime somehow the pony had also found its way back home.

When Arjun opened the door and looked out, he saw his pony standing there in a corner. It has got injured while coming through thorny bushes. Blood was oozing out of its legs.

Arjun thought, some wild animal had attacked his pony and injured it. He decided to go out and look for the animal that had injured his pony. He remembered his father's advice. His father had told him not to be afraid of darkness and always be courageous. This was an opportunity to prove his courage. He thought he would go out and punish the animal.

To avoid getting drenched, Arjun covered himself head to foot in a dark plastic cover. Then with a rope in one hand and a stick in the other, he came out to find out the animal that had injured his pony.





He saw the tiger hiding behind the bushes. When the tiger saw Arjun approaching him, he thought it was the DRIP-DRIP he had heard the man talking about. Because of the dark plastic cover, he could not see that it was a man. He thought that the animal DRIP DRIP was coming to attack him.

Out of fear the tiger started trembling and hid his face in between his legs. In the darkness, Arjun also could not see that it was a tiger. He thought that it was the animal who had injured his pony.

The boy tied the tiger around the neck with the rope and thrashing the tiger with the cane all the way, dragged it to the shed near his hut.

The tiger did not utter a word. Thinking that he was being pulled by the DRIP-DRIP, he nervously followed the boy.

Arjun fastened the tiger by a peg in the shed outside his house.

After entering the hut, he told his father, "An animal had injured our pony. It was hiding in the bushes behind our house. I gave it a good

thrashing. I have bound it and brought it here for further punishment. What shall we do with it?"

Arjun's father said, "I am happy to note that you were not afraid to go out alone in the darkness of night and even had the courage to tie an unknown wild animal.

However, now it is too late in the night. Tomorrow morning we shall decide what to do with this animal."

Early, in the morning, the washer man woke up on hearing the sound of a large number of persons gathered in front of his hut.

People passing by had seen the tiger tied near his hut. News had spread throughout the village that a tiger was tied at the house of the washer man. People from neighboring villages too had begun to gather to see the strange sight of a tiger tied in the village.

On coming out of his hut, the washer man too was surprised to see the tiger. Then he remembered, what his son Arjun had told him on previous night.

He asked his son to come out of the hut and patting him on his back told people, “Arjun had caught this tiger.”

Everyone began to congratulate Arjun on his brave feat. By word of mouth, the news reached the king. His spies told him that there was a very courageous boy in a village, who had tied a tiger in the night and brought it to his hut. The king sent a messenger and called Arjun to his court.

The king rewarded Arjun and said, “Since a long time I was in search of a brave person to become the commander of my army. You are fit for this job. From this day, I declare you as the commander of my army.

Arjun said, “But sir! I do not know how to ride a horse? I also don't know, how to use a sword? How shall I command your army?”

The king said, “It does not matter. You can easily learn these things. The most important thing is to be courageous, intelligent and hard working. You have shown that you have all these qualities. I am confident that you will be able to defend the country from the enemies.”

Arjun decided to take lessons in archery under the guidance of an officer of his army. He wanted to prove that by hard work anything could be achieved.

In this way, a few days passed. One day, the king's spies brought the news that the ruler of the neighboring country was planning to attack his kingdom with a large army.

The king called Arjun and asked him to make preparations to defend the country.

The king said, “Although our army is small in comparison to the army of the enemy, but I am sure you with your courage and intelligence you will be able to save our country from the enemies.”

Although Arjun did not have the experience of battle, he did not lose courage. He thought that he could scare the enemy by creating an impression that his own army was stronger.

He thought of a clever plan.

He asked the chief minister of the king to make arrangement for collection of as many hawks and big dogs as could be found in the





country. Under the order of the king, his subjects captured thousands of hawks and mastiffs.

Arjun asked painters to paint the dogs with colors to resemble tigers, leopards and bears. Thousands of dogs were painted yellow, with black stripes, like tigers and with black and brown spots like leopards. Others were painted black to look like bears.

He also asked his people to tie small mirrors on the necks of the hawks.

The painting was carried out secretly in a house, where none could enter. People of the kingdom did not know about the work.

Through his spies, Arjun spread a rumor that he had caught many wild animals from the forests and was training them in this building to fight with his soldiers.

The commander of the enemy across the border too heard the new

His spies told him, that Arjun was going to fight him with animals in his army. Although, the commander had heard that Arjun was so

brave that he had once caught a tiger, he did not believe that animals could be trained to fight like an army.

However Arjun carried forward with his secret plan.

He asked all his soldiers to tie branches with green leaves on their waists

When the final day for the war arrived, he ordered his soldiers and animals to collect on a large field

He asked the soldiers holding the thousands of hawks with mirrors tied around their necks, to stand behind him.

Behind the hawks, he asked the painted dogs to be assembled.

At the back of the painted dogs, stood the soldiers mounted on the horses with branches of trees tied around their waists.

Arjun had not yet learnt riding a horse. Climbing the back of the horse with the help of his soldiers, he asked his soldiers to tie his legs with the stirrups. Holding a sword in his

right hand, he shouted that he was going to lead the army, and the members of the army were to follow him as told.

He told his soldiers that after he had proceeded up to some distance, the hawks were to be released behind him from their cages.

After the hawks flew up in the sky, the dogs painted like tigers and leopards and bears were to follow him towards the enemy.

Finally, at the back of these dogs, the soldiers with branches of trees tied to their waists were asked to follow.

After giving these directions, Arjun jerked the reins of his horse and galloped forward at great speed towards the enemy. He held the sword tightly in his left hand.

On the way, he thought, if he could also hold one more sword in right hand, it would appear that he could fight with both hands.

However, for bringing the other sword out of its sheath from his waist-belt, it was necessary to stop the horse. The horse was galloping at

great speed. Because he had his left hand holding the sword, he tried to pull the reins again and again with the right hand to stop the horse with all his might. But the horse kept on running.


Then he got an idea. He saw a tall slim tree in the distance. As soon as the fast running horse passed besides the tree, Arjun caught hold of the trunk of the tree with his right hand to stop. However this too did not stop the horse.

On the other hand, because of the force of the speeding horse, the tree was uprooted. Now Arjun rode holding a sword in the left hand and a tree in the right.

From atop a hillock, the commander of the enemy's army was watching the battlefield with his binoculars.

When he saw Arjun leading the army with a sword in one hand and a tree in the other, he was terrified. Then he saw the great dust raised by the approaching dogs. The painted animals appeared like thousands of tigers, leopards and bears charging forward at great speed. He also saw the numerous birds in the





sky. Behind the dogs appeared the mounted soldiers wearing branches of tree with green leaves on their waists

He had heard about Arjun`s courage. He also remembered what his spies had told him that Arjun had wild animals in his army.

When he found thousands of hawks, with mirrors shining in sunlight, in the sky allover the battlefield, he thought, Arjun had trained these birds to fight from the sky with some special weapons.

The commander of enemy's force was horrified. How could he fight an army with such a brave commander and an enemy, which used trees as its weapons? He thought it was impossible to defeat an army, which was attacking from above with hawks and with wild animals and soldiers on the ground with strange weapons.

He raised a white flag for surrender and ordered his army to retreat from the battlefield to safety as quickly as possible.

Thus, with the help of his intelligence and courage, Arjun could win the battle without fighting.

Later on, he worked hard to learn techniques of war and became a great soldier. His courage made him so famous that no army dared to attack his country in future.



MORAL

With intelligent thinking, hard work and courage you can do anything. Courage is developed early from childhood by taking up great responsibilities

Knowledge Gives Strength

Twelve years old Shreya and her five years old sister Sumedha lived in a small village with their parents. Shreya's friend Pragya living in their neighborhood, had a pretty, white dog as her pet. Sometimes they went together to Pragya`s house to play with the little puppy.

The little pet fascinated them. For hours they played hide and seek, running in the fields around Pragya`s house with the little pup yelping and following them.

When the little pup felt hungry, it would look innocently with its little pretty eyes, at the girls, asking for food. They threw crumbs of bread and biscuits high up in the air. Wagging its tail it would jump and catch these in its mouth in mid air.

Sometimes, the girls and the little pup played cricket. The three friends and their little pet formed the team. While two girls did batting at either ends of the wicket and the third girl threw the ball, the little doggie participated in the game





as the lone fielder. It would run fast after the ball, retrieve it and bring it back to the bowler.

Because of frequent running in the muddy fields the shiny white coat of hair of the little pup would become dirty. Knowing that taking bath regularly was necessary for its health, the children would lovingly bathe the pup on alternate days.

The girls did not permit anyone to feed the pups. They knew that dogs are faithful to one who gives them food. . They were given food only twice a day, since feeding many times would have made it sick.

Children from the neighborhood also came to play with the girls and their little dog. These children were very naughty. They teased the cattle and dogs by throwing stones at them.

Shreya, Sumedha and Pragya did not let these children tease their pup. Their parents had told them that animals too felt hurt like human beings, but since they could not speak, they could not express their feelings by

complaining or weeping. Whatever the animals desired to say, they expressed through their eyes.

Their parents also told that God is displeased with people who hurt animals.

The three girls very much enjoyed playing with the little puppy. The baby dog also enjoyed playing with the little girls.

Shreya wished if she had a pup of her own, she and her sister Sumedha did not have to go to Pragya's house for playing with her puppy. If they had a pup, they could have their own small team to play cricket at home. Then they could do batting and balling alternatively with their pup doing the fielding. However, they did not know where and how to acquire a pup for them.

One day, when Shreya went to Pragya's house to play, she was delighted to find that her pet bitch had given birth to four little baby dogs. Shreya requested Pragya's father, whether she could take one of these little pups home.

He said, “I can give you one of these puppies, but first you have to prove that you can take care of it.”

Shreya said, “Sir! I know how to feed, clean and bathe dogs. I have learnt it by watching Pragya do it.”

Pragya`s father said, “Besides bathing regularly, the dog has also to be taken out everyday, so that it does not make the house dirty. While walking the dog outside, you have to take care that it does not enter into a fight with other dogs of the street. Otherwise it may get hurt or catch infection from other dogs.

Shreya said “Sir! In the company of Pragya, I have also learnt how to take care of a baby dog while it is being taken out for a walk. ”

Pragya`s father also had a big burly Alsatian at his house.

He said, “Everyday, in the morning and evening, I take this Alsatian out for walk.

Tomorrow, I am going out of the village with Pragya. There won't be anyone at home to take care of the dog. You may take it out for walking tomorrow morning.

Let me see how you take care of this dog, when you take it out. Please be careful that it does not bite anybody or hurts itself in any way.”

Next morning, Shreya and Sumedha took the dog out for walking.

The big dog was tied around its neck with a long leash. It walked, here and there, sniffing around the bushes for a suitable place to ease itself.

The girls did not know that at place behind a bush, the villagers had dug out a shallow pit in the ground.

The dog slipped and fell into the pit. It struggled to come out of the pit again and again. But each time it put its forelegs on the edge of the pit to pull itself out, it slipped back into the bottom of the pit.





The girls tried to take the dog out by pulling at its leash, but the dog was too heavy for their combined strength. Each time the girls pulled the leash outwards, the frightened dog pulled back and slipped into the pit. The girls narrowly escaped themselves falling in the pit.

However Shreya and Sumedha did not lose courage. They were brave girls. Their parents had told them that there was always some way to solve any problem.

They often told the girls, that worrying or crying could not solve any problem. The best way to solve a problem was to think with a cool mind and have a conviction that a solution was always possible.

One cannot think with a cool mind unless one has faith in God. If you have faith in God and pray, HE gives you some idea, with which you could help yourself. Sometimes God sends someone to help or changes the circumstances that create the problem.

The girls did not panic. With faith in God, they looked around for help.

Nearby, a few men were digging earth for building their mud houses. The girls requested them to come to their help. However, when the men saw the ferocious looking Alsatian, they did not dare to come forward. They were afraid of being bitten by the dog.

But the girls did not lose faith in God. They were convinced that God was going to help them in some way or the other. HE would give them some other idea for seeking help.

God does not disappoint a true believer.

An idea clicked in Shreya's mind.

She remembered the story of the thirsty crow, her mother had once told her. In this tale a crow had found a jar of water, but could not drink it because the level of water in the jar was, near its bottom. The crow could not reach the bottom of the jar with its small beak.


The crow picked up small pebbles and dropped them one by one into the jar, till the level of water rose up near to the mouth of



MORAL

*1. When facing a
problem never
lose courage. God
always helps
those who have faith
in HIM
and who help
themselves.*

*2. All good ideas,
which help
one in necessity, are
gifts of
God to the believer.*



the jar. Then, with the level of water within the reach of its beak, the crow quenched its thirst.

Shreya thought, as the crow had raised the level of water by putting pebbles into the jar, they could also raise the bottom of the pit by filling it with earth. She requested the men who were digging the earth nearby to fill their buckets with mud and rubble. The little girls then carried these buckets one by one, and threw the material into the pit.

Each time the earth from the bucket fell into the pit, the dog trampled over it, raising the bottom of pit a little higher. After some time, the bottom of the pit near its edge was gradually was raised up to enable the dog to jump out of the pit easily.

With a calm mind, courage and faith in God, the girls could do what several strong men could not.

Happily the girls returned home and told the entire story to Pragma's father.

He was so pleased that he gifted Shreya and Sumedha with two little pups.



The Rabbit and the Angry Tiger

In a forest, there lived many animals and a tiger. The tiger was very proud. He thought that he was so powerful that none could harm him. Because of this conviction, he often troubled the animals living in the forest.

Though all animals were unhappy because of tiger's behavior, none could think of a way to escape his anger.

One day the animals called a meeting to find solution to their problem.

One by one, all animals expressed inability to face the tiger. Everyone told that the tiger was very strong and swift in his movement. When he charged to attack, none could run away from him.

The animals came to the conclusion that the tiger could only be defeated if they could find out his some weakness.

However, none could think of any weakness in the tiger. A small rabbit, who was listening to the discussion got up and

said,” Sir! I know the weakness of tiger. The tiger gets instantly angry, when someone says that he is weak. The weakness of tiger is his anger.

The tiger is able to attack and kill other animals, because at the time of pouncing on his prey he remains very calm. He calmly follows his prey without making any noise. He quietly watches around to find a place from where his prey cannot run away.

Then he waits for an opportunity to jump and kill. On account of his coolness at the time of attack, the tiger does not make any mistake. If somehow we could make the tiger angry when he is about to attack, he would not be able to kill.

In anger, he will not be able to think properly. At that moment we can find out some way to take revenge.”

The animals laughed at the suggestion of rabbit. Though they admitted that anger was weakness of tiger, but who could dare to make the tiger angry. None was prepared to take the

risk of going near to an angry tiger. They considered an angry tiger all the more dangerous.

However, the little rabbit was not disheartened.

He said, “I know of a way to make the tiger angry without getting hurt by him. If you permit me I shall work out my plan.”


The animals laughed at the suggestion of the rabbit. They thought the rabbit was a fool. When all the big animals of the forest were afraid of the tiger how could the little rabbit kill him?

Though the animals doubted the capability of the rabbit to kill the tiger, they had no alternative but to give him a chance.

The tiger's den was at the base of a hill besides a forest. Facing the hill in which the tiger lived, was a rocky hillock.

At the foot of this hillock, there was a narrow tunnel with an opening on the back of the hillock. Both openings on the two sides of this tunnel were very small. Only a small animal





such as rabbit could pass through the tunnel. To reach the other side of the hillock in search of its food, the rabbit often crossed this tunnel.

Hidden within the hillock, from the opening in the tunnel, the rabbit often saw the tiger coming out of its den from the hill opposite the hillock. In order to avoid facing the tiger, he would come out only after the tiger had gone away.

For several days, the rabbit examined the routine of the tiger. The tiger would come out of its den from the hill, walk for some distance towards the hillock and then go away in another direction in search of its prey. One evening, the rabbit came out and sat near the opening of the tunnel facing the track, on which the tiger passed each day. The rabbit sat with his back hiding the small opening of the tunnel and waited for the tiger to come out.

The tiger was very pleased on finding a rabbit sitting carelessly on the track in front of him; He thought he had found an easy meal, too soon.

The tiger slowly and cautiously moved towards the rabbit without making any noise. From a little distance from the hillock, he examined the field. He thought that if he attacked, the rabbit had no place to escape.

However, with the body of the rabbit hiding the tunnel, the tiger could not see the opening in the hillock.

Reaching closer to a place, from where he could jump and attack the rabbit easily, he sat down. Then he calmly waited for an opportunity to attack.

However, the rabbit had already seen the tiger coming towards him from a distance.

He looked at the tiger and mischievously shouted, "Good Evening Uncle! Have you not eaten anything since a long time? You appear very weak and tired."

The rabbit knew that any, comment on his strength made the tiger very angry.

As expected, the tiger thought, "How dare this tiny, weak rabbit challenge my strength? All animals of the forest are afraid of me. How dare this rabbit talk to me so arrogantly? I

shall teach him a lesson by killing him immediately”

In his anger, the tiger did not pause to think, why the little rabbit was not afraid of him?

Angrily he roared and leaped forward to kill the rabbit. He knew that the rabbit could not run faster than him and there was no place around for him to escape.

In his great fury the tiger did not see the hole behind the rabbit.

Before, the tiger could reach him; the rabbit rapidly turned back and vanished in the hole of the tunnel behind him.

With all his force behind his attack, the tiger collided with the rock face and got badly hurt.

The tiger had never failed in killing a small animal. The escape of the rabbit into the hole increased his anger very much.

He sat a little distance away, waiting for the rabbit to come out of the hole. The tiger knew that the rabbit could not remain hidden in the

tunnel for long. He had to come out sometime, for eating or drinking water. He did not know about the other opening on the back of the tunnel.

Hours passed and there was no sight of the rabbit.


The tiger had not eaten anything since a number of days. He waited and waited. Each moment of wait made him more hungry and angry. He waited throughout the night but there was no sign of rabbit.

In the mean time, the rabbit went out of the hill from the entrance of the tunnel on the other side of the hillock, took his food and water and returned back to watch the tiger from within the tunnel.

After waiting throughout night, the tiger had got exhausted. The night was over. It was dawn.

Deciding to come again in the evening, he turned to go back to his den.





Seeing the tiger going back, the rabbit quietly came out of the hole. Again sitting close to the tunnel with his back hiding the opening of the tunnel, he said, “Good Morning Uncle! I hope last night you had a hearty meal and a nice sleep?”

The tiger was very much hungry and tired from lack of sleep. The remark of the rabbit made him angrier.

Without thinking for a moment, he swiftly turned back and with all his strength again charged forward to kill the rabbit.

However, as he had done earlier, the rabbit quickly turned back and again disappeared in the tunnel.

In his great anger, the tiger had charged with all his might. His head collided against the rock and he was killed.

The animals of the forest congratulated the rabbit for his courage and the clever plan. They realized that in spite of being small and weak anyone could defeat an enemy with courage and intelligence.



MORAL

1. You cannot take right decisions when you are angry. If you do anything with calm mind you will always be successful in your effort.

2. Only physical built of body does not make one strong. The strength of a person lies in courage and

The Greedy Monkey

A circus owner had a few monkeys in his circus. In order to feed the monkeys, he kept grains of food in several jars. There was one jar for each monkey.


After performing their acts in the circus, the monkeys would come to their personal jars one by one and take out handfuls of food from the jar till their stomachs were full. Since each monkey had his own jar of food and could eat as much as he liked, the monkeys never quarreled amongst themselves.

One day, the circus owner brought one more monkey for his troupe. He kept an additional jar of food for this monkey.

The new monkey was fat and greedy. He liked to eat ahead of other monkeys and took out grains of food from their jars as well.

When the other monkeys approached their jars for taking out their food, the fat monkey would grimace, chatter and





baring his teeth, frighten and chase them away. The other monkeys could not eat till the fat monkey had had enough of food from their jars.

Out of fear of the fat monkey, the other monkeys would quietly sit at a distance, waiting for his departure.

The owner of the circus decided to teach a lesson to the greedy monkey.

He bought one bigger jar for keeping food for the monkeys. The mouth of the jar was so narrow that a monkey could barely push his hand into it.

He kept a large guava in the big jar and kept it near the jars in which he kept the food for the other monkeys. Near the big jar he also kept a number of small bamboo sticks.

The smell of the fruit attracted the fat, greedy monkey to the big jar. He pushed his hand in the jar and closed his fingers to take out the fruit.

However, because of the narrow mouth of the jar, he could not take out his hand while grabbing the fruit. He tried again and again to pull his hand out along with the fruit but did not succeed. He could withdraw his hand, but not with the fruit in his hand.

The monkey was too greedy to leave without having the fruit. He had himself stuck his hand in the jar because of his greed.

Meanwhile the other monkeys were watching him from a distance. After waiting for a long time when they found that the fat monkey was not moving away, they cautiously advanced towards the jar.

The fat monkey bared his teeth and chattered to scare them away, but with one of his hands in the jar, he could not move and run after them.

In the mean time, one amongst the other monkeys picked up one of the bamboo sticks kept near the big jar and began to waive it.


Monkeys have a habit of copying other's actions. Seeing the monkey waive the stick,



MORAL:

*1. Those who
deprive others of
their due right have
to suffer
punishment.*

*2. Greed ties hands
of the greedy person
to the object of greed.*



the other monkeys too came forward, picked up the sticks and began to waive them. Accidentally, one of the sticks fell on the back of the fat monkey. The fat monkey cried in pain, but still did not take his hand out of the jar because of his greed for the fruit.

However, the other monkeys had found out that they could easily beat the fat monkey. Soon, all of them began to beat him with their sticks.

The greedy monkey could not face thrashing by so many monkeys, and ran for his life leaving the fruit behind in the jar.

From that day onward, the circus owner kept a bamboo stick besides each jar of food.

The fat monkey had learnt a lesson. He never went near the jars where sticks were kept.

Dishonesty

Never Pays

In a small village near a town, there lived some cowherds. Each one amongst them kept a cow. They were very poor and earned their livelihood by selling milk in the nearby town.

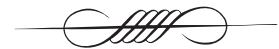
One of the milkmen amongst them was very greedy. He was not satisfied with his simple living. He desired to be richer and live luxuriously like the milk vendors of the town.

He thought if he had one more cow, he could have earned twice the money he was getting from the milk obtained from his one cow. The thought of earning more money troubled him day and night.

One who keeps on desiring more and more things for comfort than is necessary for simple living, seeks dishonest means for acquiring these things. The milkman thought that he could increase his earnings twofold if he doubled the quantity of his milk by adulterating it with an equal quantity of water.



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We consider our gain or loss as our good or bad luck. However, there is nothing like good or bad luck in life. Each of our action has a reaction. What we call good luck is God's way of giving reward for goodness. On the other hand, a bad luck means punishment given by God for something bad done earlier. The punishment is to tell the person not to repeat the mistake.



He could not do so in his village. In the village everyone knew him as an honest person. Cheating by adulteration of milk openly would have spoiled his reputation. It was also not possible to add water to his milk in the town where he sold the milk. In the town, there was a possibility of being caught in this dishonest act by someone known to his customers.


Therefore, he thought he could add water to milk only on his way to the town.

While going to the town for delivering milk, the milkman had to cross a river. Everyday on his way to the town, he took rest for a while in the shade of a tree on the bank of the river.

The milkman thought that the lonely place on the bank of the river was the right place for mixing water in the milk. When no one was around him he could secretly take water from the river and add it to his can of water. He did not know that God was present everywhere watching every thought and action of everyone in the world.

However secretly one carries out any dishonesty, it does not remain hidden from God. HE watches each and every action of man day and night, and gives reward and punishment for the good and bad deeds.





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God decided to teach the milkman this lesson.

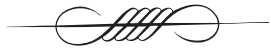
At the end of month, the milkman went to the town to collect his dues from his customers.

On his way back home, it began to rain heavily. He became worried about carrying his money safely. The paper currency was likely to get drenched and soiled on his long journey back to home.

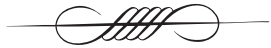
He requested his customers to pay him in coins, for the milk sold to them. He was worried, if he carried paper currency in his cloth bag, it was likely to get spoiled by rainwater.

Keeping the coins in a cloth bag, he began his journey back home.

As was his routine, on reaching the bank of the river on his way, he lied down beneath a tree to take rest. He kept the bag of money besides him and fell asleep.



We cannot retain for a long time anything acquired by dishonest means.



A monkey on top of a tree besides the river saw the milkman and his bag. The monkey was very hungry. In search of something to eat, it came down and taking the bag of money swiftly climbed up the tree.

When the milkman woke up, he found his bag missing. He looked around and saw the monkey sitting on top of the tree with his entire earnings of the month in the bag.

He became worried about his money. He thought somehow he had to get his bag back from the monkey. He tempted the monkey by showing it a loaf of bread, but the monkey refused to throw the bag or climb down.

The milkman thought he had to use some other way to get his money

Knowing that monkeys have a tendency to imitate actions of man, the milkman thought of a clever way.

The milkman had an additional bag in which he carried his personal things. He emptied this bag and filled it with pebbles from the bank of the river.

Then in full view of the monkey, he climbed up a nearby tree. From atop the tree, he began to take out pebbles one by one out of the bag, and threw these down on the ground beneath the tree.


The milkman knew that imitating him, the monkey would also take out the coins from the bag and would throw them down. Then he could easily pick up his money on the ground.

As he had expected, the monkey imitated his action. The monkey too took out the coins from the bag one by one and began to throw these down.

However, the monkey did not throw all coins of the bag beneath the tree. One by one he took out the coins and he threw one coin on the ground and the other in the river alternatively.

The milkman began to cry upon his loss. Keeping his bread away he sadly began to collect the coins thrown down by the monkey.





In the meantime, the monkey climbed down and took away the bread kept by the milkman.

After collecting all coins, the milkman sat down to calculate his loss.

He found, that the monkey had thrown half of his earnings into the river.

This way, he had got only half of his total earning. The other half earned dishonestly by mixing water in the milk had gone into the river. He got back only what was his due from his honest earning.

The milkman took a vow to be honest in future. It is impossible to know God's ways of working. He had simultaneously given punishment to the milkman for his dishonesty, provided food to a hungry monkey and saved the customers of the milkman in the town from adulterated milk.



MORAL

There is nothing like good or bad luck in life. God keeps a watch on all our actions. Sooner or later we get in return exactly what is due to us for our good and bad deeds.