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S. Mallick



Kite, Balloon

ONCE a cloud, a kite and a balloon were floating in the sky. All the 3 asked each other the reason for their floating.

Colourful kite started telling her story. "I am a colourful kite. I too was flying in the sky with other kites. I was on the top. One kite came from somewhere and cut my string. And since then I have come here just floating away. But honestly, I am enjoying it. When I broke off from the string children ran after me. But I am clever too. I kept



And Cloud

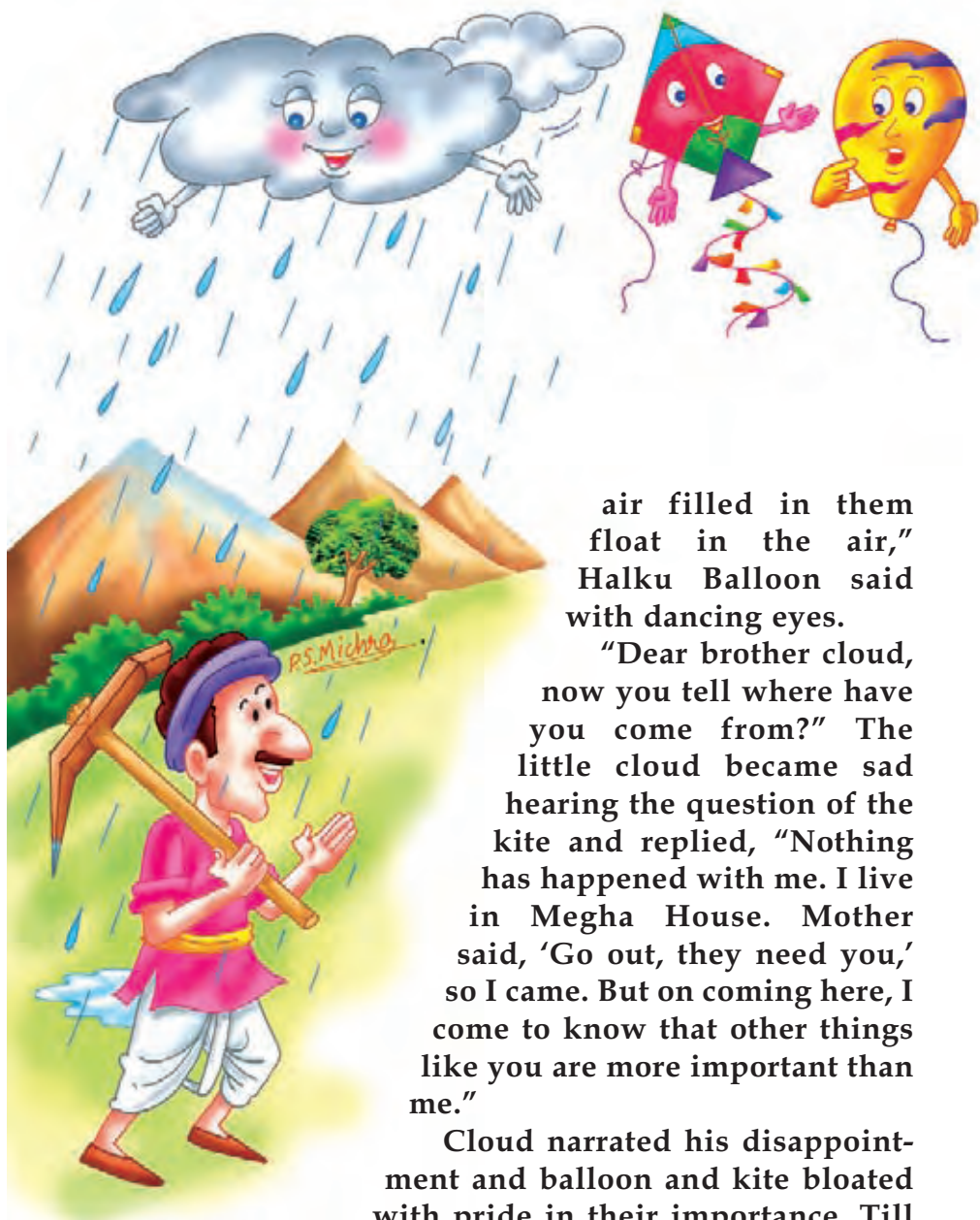
by Ilika Priya

floating high in the sky. Now the other kites are not even visible,” the kite said with pride.

After the kite, balloon started telling his story. “I am Halku Balloon. Cheeku had bought me from the balloon seller. My string was in his hands. I felt naughty and with a jerk broke off from his hands and flew off.”

The cloud roared, “How strange! You fool. Does the balloon at all float in the sky?”

“Not all balloons but the ones which have hot
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air filled in them float in the air," Halku Balloon said with dancing eyes.

"Dear brother cloud, now you tell where have you come from?" The little cloud became sad hearing the question of the kite and replied, "Nothing has happened with me. I live in Megha House. Mother said, 'Go out, they need you,' so I came. But on coming here, I come to know that other things like you are more important than me."

Cloud narrated his disappointment and balloon and kite bloated with pride in their importance. Till now children were running after them and the 2 were running far away from children to tease them. As the children ran and jumped to catch them, they

rose to height. After luring the little ones they settled at a height. Little Meghu was watching them. Not a single child was running to catch Meghu.

Suddenly, a cluster of clouds called out to Meghu and said, "Meghu, come on, fast." For once Meghu started with a jolt. Kite and balloon too tagged along with them.

"What place is this?" looking at the dry patch of land, Meghu asked.

"Don't ask any question. You have to bring greenery back to this place. Pour and pour till the time every bit of it is drenched," the balloon smiled and said.

Meghu poured and poured heavily. In no time the patch of earth became wet. The drain nearby also got filled.

Meghu happily screamed, "Oh, wow, I am so useful." Little Insects came out flying over the water. The farmers too came out with their spades in their fields.

Meghu was on top of the world. It poured sometimes here, sometimes there and the colourful kite and Halku Balloon saw it dance.

"It is very useful. We are not of so much importance," a sad balloon said.

"No Halku, importance is not in things but in its ways. Our importance depends on the way we work. By helping somebody we can increase or decrease our importance. Instead of troubling somebody, we must help them," the kite said.

After some time the balloon saw that its string was in the hands of a smiling child and the kite too was dancing in the sky amidst clouds. ●

Mysterious Fire

by Ratna Gupta

WHITY RABBIT worked as a reporter in *Jungle Times* in Champakvan. He was well known in the whole jungle for his intelligence and quick wit. He had



demonstrated it by saving the life of animals many a times.

Whity Rabbit became concerned after reading the news, 'Fire in 2 shops in Super Market in Champakvan,' This was no big news. It was the fifth or sixth incident in last 15 days in the jungle. Since last few days some mysterious fire had made life of the animals in the jungle very difficult. The jungle police too was in tizzy along with the animals. They were not able to find out the reason behind the fire.

Two days earlier bank employee Bhima Elephant's scooter and Billo Giraffe's motorbike were set on fire. Before that Rima Goat's new Indica car and Champu Monkey's house were also set on fire. The fear of fire was so much in their minds that the animals did not sleep the whole night but guarded their belongings keeping awake. Most of the time, the fire spread on Saturdays or Tuesdays.

After reading the newspaper Whity Rabbit kept it on the table and went to the Super Market. The market was being intensively supervised. Inspector Gendamal was investigating with his team. They found a bottle of petrol, a match-box and some match sticks on the spot. Whity understood that someone was doing this work to

harm the animals. But how can anybody be benefited by doing this?

As evening approached, Whity along with his companions hid behind the bushes.

Slowly, the night darkened and it was midnight.

All were feeling sleepy but Whity was alert. He sensed some movement. A black shadow moved towards the house. By giving a missed call to his friends he alerted them.

All of them advanced without a sound and nabbed the shadow. "Oh, she is Nandini Cow."

The animals were surprised and wondered why at all the cow did like this.

Nandini Cow gave her statement in the police station. She cried, "Two years back from now my 2 calves died. Since then I have not had any calf. Then I came to know about the saint on the hill. He



said that I had the ire of a bad spirit on me. If I harmed someone by fire, my troubles would be lessened. He had asked me to harm 11 animals in all. I have performed this 8 times. It was the 10th time today and you have caught me."

Whity was listening to them patiently. He said, "Can we benefit by causing harm to anyone, aunt? You are doing such mean and harmful things in superstitions and disbeliefs. Will your children come alive by doing all this or will you again become a mother? Being carried away by the talks of liar, imposter and wicked saint, you are only harming others."

Nandini aunt repented on her deed. She handed herself to the police.

Next day, the news on the first page of *Jungle Times* was, "Mystery of the imposter saint revealed, culprit of the secret fire arrested." Whity Rabbit was again praised and applauded by everyone. ●

Playing with letters

Given below are 5 words. If you interchange the letters in a word, you will get another word. Then try and form a sentence using both the words.

For example: ACT changes to CAT

Sentence: A film producer wants a cat to act in his film.

Change these words and make a sentence.

Words: 1. CORAL. 2. CHARM. 3. DIKES. 4. DRIVER. 5. EXIST.

Send your answers at—

CHAMPAK (Playing with letters)

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Tinku's New Friend

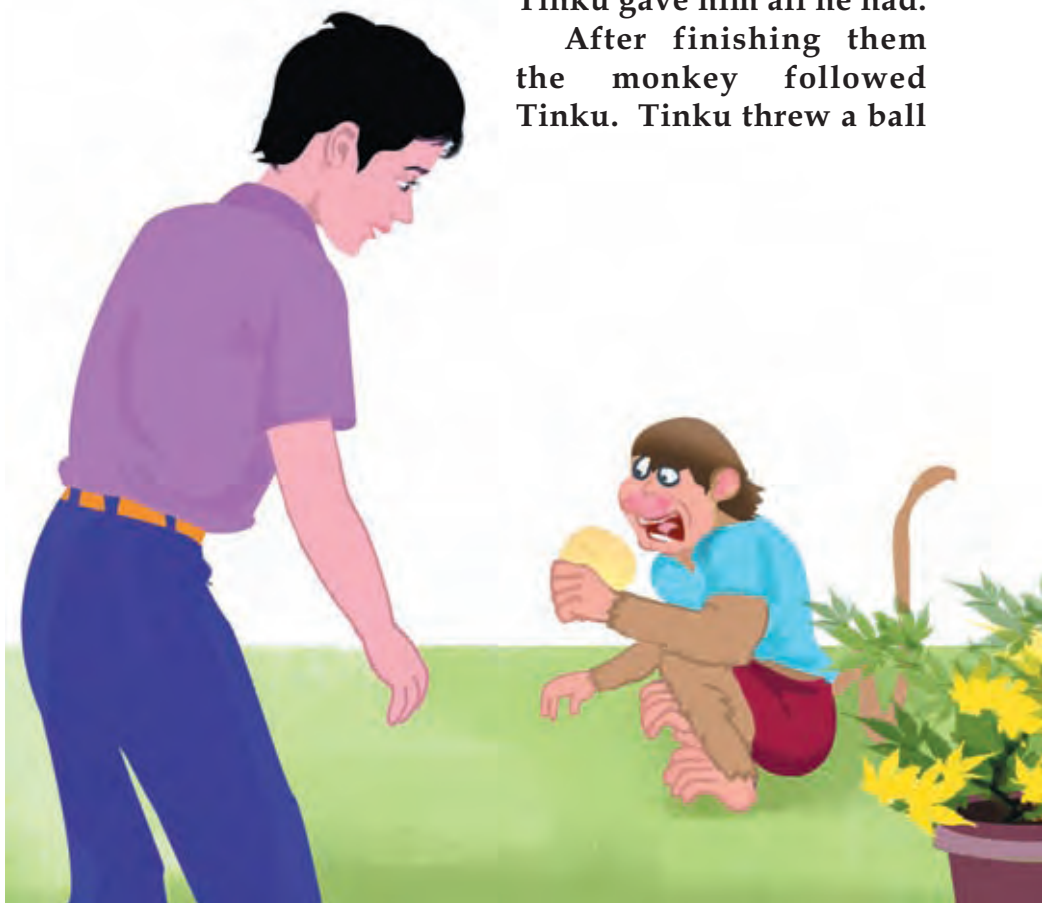
by Renu Singh

"A MONKEY..." Tinku shouted as he saw one in the lawn while having breakfast in the verandah.

A monkey, wearing a shirt, was sitting near the pot. He was looking at Tinku with tempting eyes.

"Maybe he is hungry," Tinku thought and gave him bread that he had. The monkey leaped to take the bread and started eating it. Tinku gave him all he had.

After finishing them the monkey followed Tinku. Tinku threw a ball



and the monkey quickly picked it up and brought it to him. Both started playing in the lawn.

"Look mother, we have a monkey in our house. He has become my friend," Tinku said gleefully as mother came out.

"This monkey seems like some juggler's monkey. He has marks of bruises on his body. He must be surely beating him up that is why poor thing has run away," mother was sympathetic.

Tinku asked, "Can we keep him with us?"

"Not at all. Monkeys are naughty. If he creates mischief around we will have to face the complaints. Animals belong to the jungle," father said. He rang up the Forest Department. They took him along and released him in the jungle. Tinku could not help. He was sad.

Some days later, while returning from school, somebody called out Tinku. He saw Pramod, his father's office peon, standing near the gate and calling him.

"What is the matter?" he asked.

"Your father has met with an accident. Your mother has sent me to take you to the hospital. I have brought a vehicle from the office," he pointed towards the black van.

There was another man sitting in the van in the front seat along with the driver. Tinku went and sat with Pramod and the van wheeled off. After some time Tinku felt that instead of the hospital the van was going outside the town. He was frightened. Before he could say anything Pramod quietened him by showing him a knife. They took him to a deserted hut in the jungle and closed him inside. Tinku peeped out of the window but no one was there whom he could call for help.

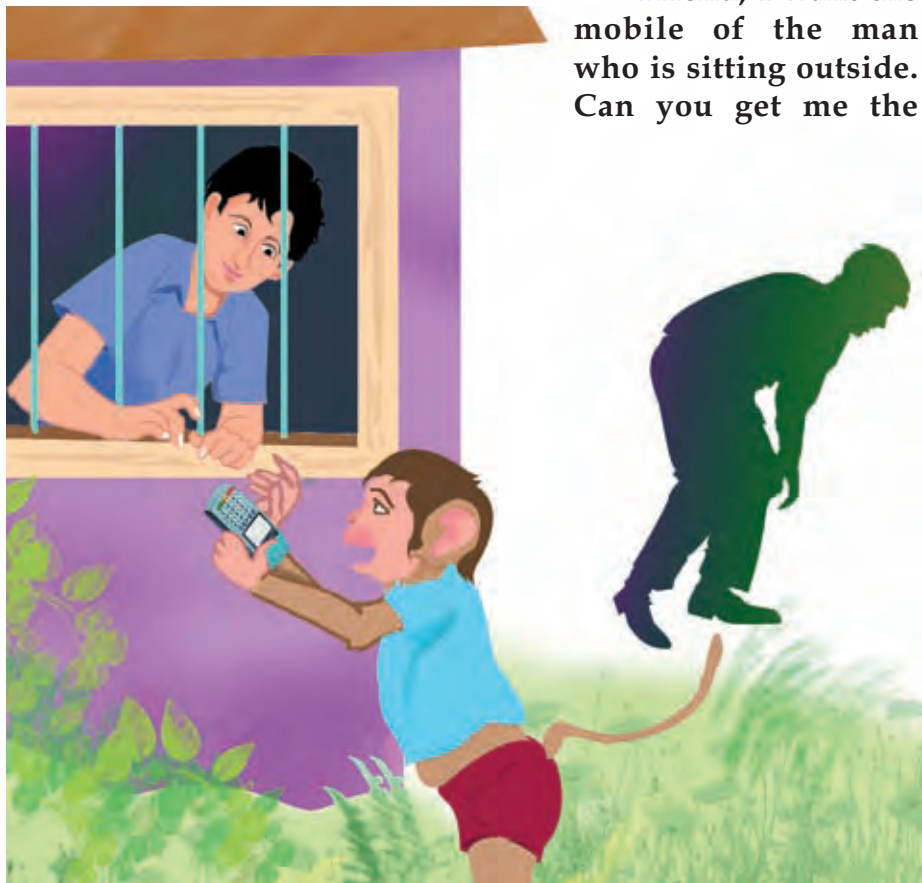


"Shyamu, we will be back after getting the number plate of the vehicle changed. We will also call the boy's father up to tell him that if he wanted his son alive he must be ready to dish out money. It will take us 2-3 hours, you be careful," and Pramod left with the driver.

Shyamu spread himself outside on a chair. His mobile was kept on a small table. Tinku was walking up and down in the room disappointed. A small window in the room opened outside towards the jungle. He was surprised to see the same monkey he saw at home, sitting outside and eating guava.

"Ssssh..." as Tinku called him with a gesture, the monkey promptly responded.

"Friend, I want the mobile of the man who is sitting outside. Can you get me the



phone somehow by shooing him aside?"

The monkey understood when Tinku explained him with gesture. After sometime he heard the screams of the man. The monkey had attacked him. He then quickly handed him over the mobile and again went and sat outside. The man kept standing far away with fear of the monkey.

"Hello police, my name is Tinku. Some miscreants have kidnapped me. They have kept me in a hut outside the jungle. They have gone to get the number plate of the vehicle changed. It is a black Maruti van and it has dents on one side and a broken light. They will return by the jungle route after about 2 hours. You can reach their hideout by following them," Tinku informed dialling 100 number. He then informed his father also and threw the phone outside.

Cursing the monkey Shyamu said, "You mischevious monkey, you have dropped my phone!"

Pramod and driver came back after two hours. All the three were sitting outside and talking amongst themselves when a police jeep came and before they could take control of themselves arrested them. Father too was with them. He took Tinku in his arms.

"Well done, Tinku. You have got the criminals arrested with your intellegence," Inspector said.

"Sir, this work has been done by my monkey friend. Had he not helped me I wouldn't have been able to ring you up," Tinku narrated the story. They all praised his quick wit.

"Your friend is very sensible. From today he will stay with us in our house," as father said this, Tinku jumped with happiness and embraced him lovingly. ●



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Fruit of Honesty

by Inderajit Kaushik

"LISTEN GOLDY, I have some work," a voice came from the window of a house. Goldy stopped.

"The match is about to start. If we stop here, we will be late. Then it will not be so interesting," Whity Rabbit said.

"Just a minute. Wait, I will meet Blacky Uncle and be back. Maybe, he has something important to



say," Goldy told his friend and went inside the house.

"Son, these are 10 thousand rupees. Will you get them deposited in the bank? I am not well or I would have gone myself," handing over a deposit slip and 20 notes of 500 rupees to Goldy, Blacky Bear said to him.

"Is it necessary to get the money deposited right now? If we go to the bank, we will miss the match," Whity Rabbit said.

"These days lots of thefts are taking place in the jungle. Therefore, it is necessary to get them deposited soon," Blacky replied.

"Well, then I will go right now and deposit the money in the bank uncle," Goldy took the deposit slip and the cash.

"Hm! You go if you want to. I am going to see the match," and Whity ran



towards the stadium.

Goldy Deer was not so well acquainted with Blacky. He often saw him sitting near the window. But he took this responsibility with the aim of being of some help to the elders and the needy.

He went to the bank. There was a long queue outside as the next 3 days were going to be holidays. Goldy too lined in queue.

"Let me count the money before depositing it," Goldy started counting. There were 21 notes. He thought, 'Uncle said they were 20 notes but these are 21. One extra.'

Goldy saw the slip on which it was written, '20 notes of 500-rupees. 10,000-rupees total.'

By then his turn came. Goldy handed over the slip and 20 notes of 500-rupees to the cashier. The cashier counted the money and gave a receipt to Goldy.

Goldy walked out of the bank. He had the 500-rupee-note in his pocket. Goldy's parents were very poor. A note of 500-rupee was of great value for him.

He started thinking of party with friends, new clothes, watch a movie and eat good food.

'This is wrong. This money does not belong to you. To think like this is wrong,' an inner voice said. Goldy was upset.

Goldy proceeded to give the receipt to Blacky. The match had ended. He met Whity on the way. When Goldy told his friend Whity about the confusion in his mind, Whity jumped.

"Forget returning the money. Think that you have got the fruits of doing service to someone. You have done a good deed leaving your match, so god has given you this gift," Whity advised.

"But friend, this is absolutely wrong. If Blacky has given me the 500-rupee-note by mistake, I must return it honestly," Goldy interrupted.

"You do what you like. I would have never returned this money if I were in your place. I would have enjoyed with them," Whity made a face.

Goldy did not like Whity's idea. He decided to return the 500-rupee-note.

"You had given a 500-rupee-note extra by mistake. Here is the receipt and here is the 500-rupee-note," giving the note to Blacky, Goldy said.

Yes, I gave you an extra note not by mistake but purposely," when Blacky said, Goldy was taken aback.

"What do you mean?"

"**D**ear son, now I have come of age. I am old and weak. I am not able to look after my work in the factory in the town. Since last few days I was in look out of a man who could take care of my factory. You have passed the test. From today you are the new manager of my factory," Blacky offered.

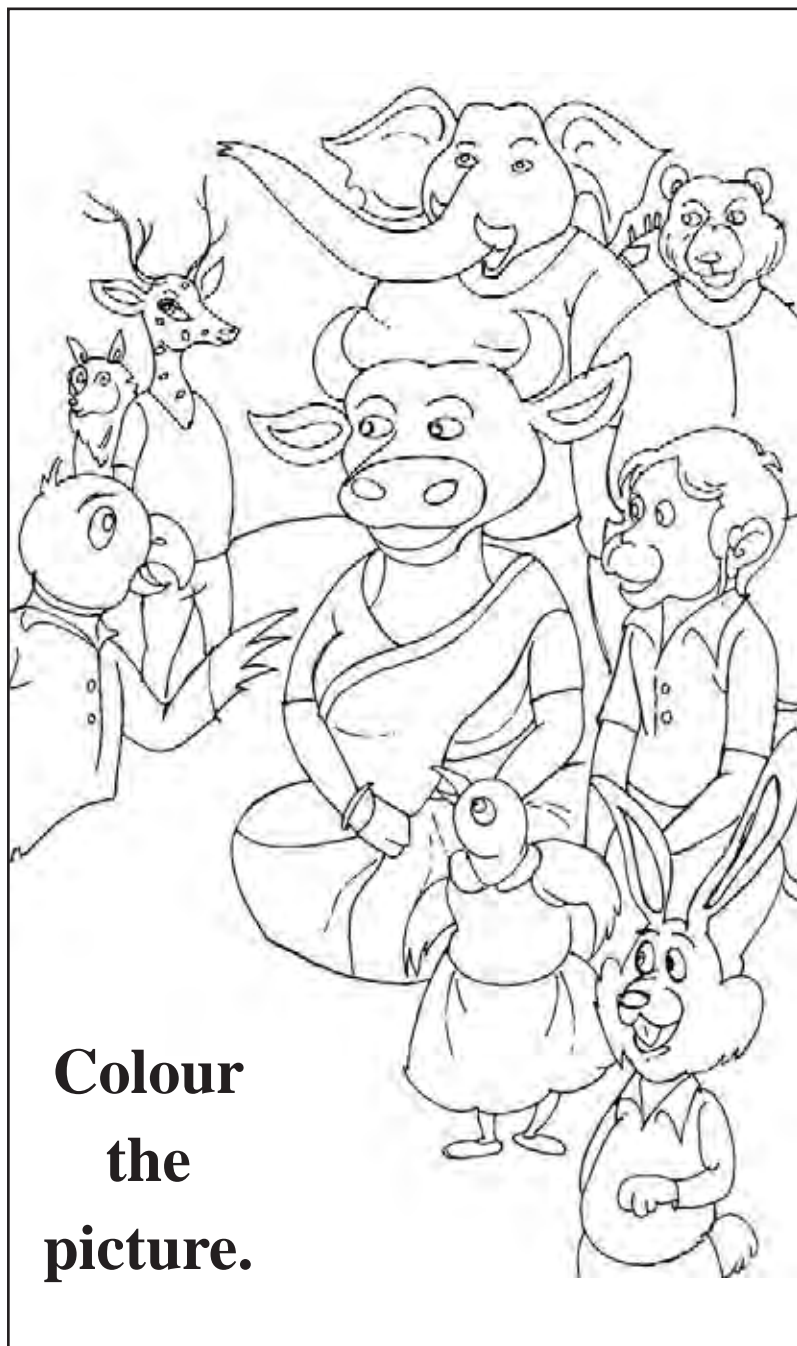
"Me?...but... Goldy was hesitant. "Such big responsibility....? How me?"

"You like serving elders. You are kind and hard-working. I require a person like you. Don't refuse, son,"

Goldy had tears of happiness in his eyes when Blacky said this. He touched Blacky's feet in reverence and Blacky quickly took him in his arms.

A salary of 10,000 rupees every month and post of a manager. Goldy got the fruit of his honesty. Anyone who heard it was surprised. Goldy was very happy. He ran home to give this happy news to his parents.





A Lesson

by Aparna Majumdar



ONE DAY a worker named Lallu who worked with us and lived in our colony went to buy some sweets from Nawab sweet maker's shop. He looked at the counter in the shop. It suddenly struck him to play some mischief

with the shopkeeper.

Lallu said to the sweet-maker, "Did you not make Sohan Papri uncle?"

Sweet-maker asked, "How many do you want?"

Lallu quickly turned and replied, "One kilo."

Lallu was sure that he did not have Sohan Papri. The sweet maker was disappointed, "Take something else today, Sohan Papri tomorrow." Actually, Lallu did not want any Sohan Papri. He was only playing mischief. Finally he left saying that his family wanted Sohan Papri only.

While leaving the shop Lallu heard the sweet maker shout at his workers. "I told this stupid man to make Sohan Papri yesterday but he is a fool. He does not listen to anyone. You saw the customer has gone. Many will go away like this."

Lallu came back to the same shop after 2 days. He again looked around the shop and registered in his mind what all was on the counters. He could not see besan laddoo. He again asked, "Uncle, don't you have besan laddoos?"

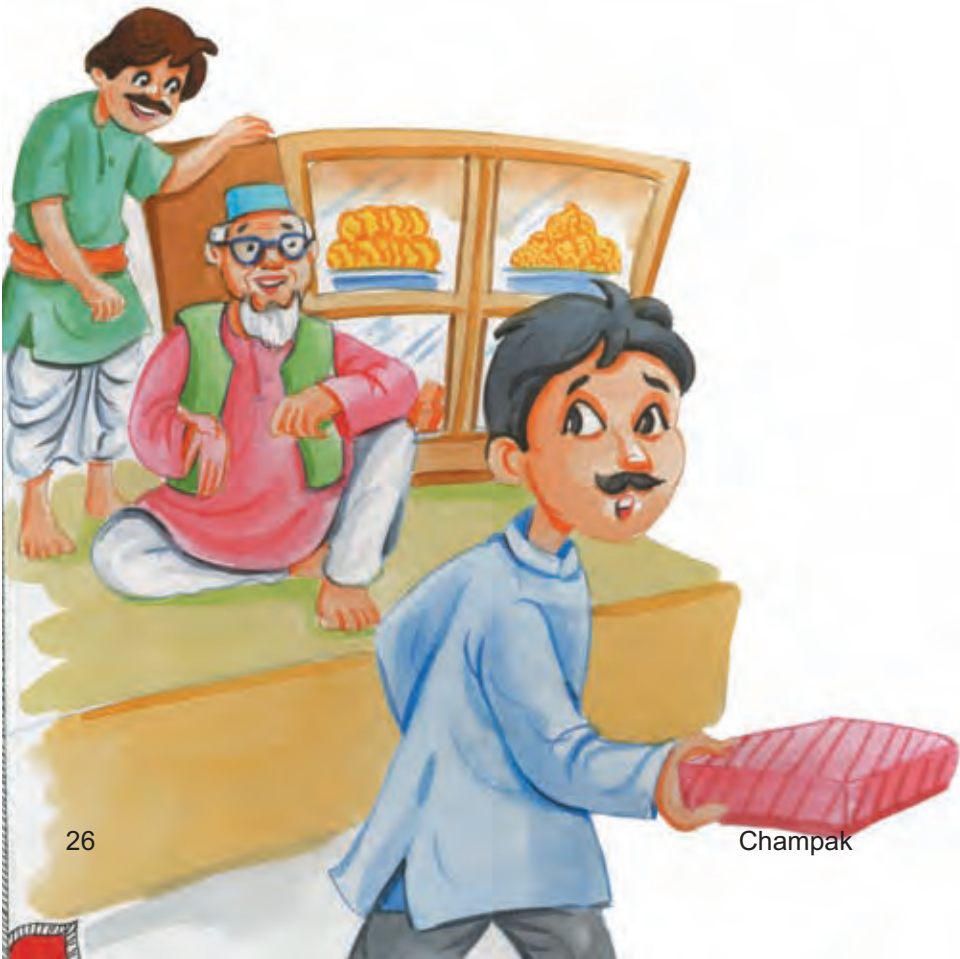
The sweet maker got wild. But as he considered customer next to god he spoke very sweetly to him, "Dear Lallu, take bundi laddoos today and we will keep besan laddo

ready for you tomorrow."

As it were, Lallu did not have to take laddoos, so he refused to take bundi laddoo.

Saying so, Lallu went away home. Nawab again got irritated and shouted badly at his worker Gattu. At the same time, the sweet maker Nawab had some doubt on Lallu too, as he asked for a sweet that was not on the counter. He thought of teaching Lallu a lesson.

After 4-5 days, Lallu again reached the shop. Again looking at the counters he said, "Uncle, do



you have milk cake?"

Nawab did not answer. Now Lallu was sure that he did not have milk cake. In a little louder voice Lallu again asked, "Are you listening uncle, do you have milk cake?"

The sweet maker asked indifferently, "How much do you want?"

Lallu was sure that there was no milk cake therefore he asked for one kg.

Nawab was very happy. He called out his worker very coolly, "Gattu, give Lallu one kg of fresh milk cake."

Actually, milk cake was kept hidden in a dish under a paper in the corner of the shop. Being fresh he had not transferred it in a tray.

Gattu quickly turned the dish into the tray. Lallu did not know what to say now. He started looking sides. He saw that the rate list had milk cake as 120 rupees per kg and Lallu did not have that much money. As he did not have to take anything, he had not brought money with him.

Gattu handed over 1 kg milk cake lovingly to Lallu.

"Brother Lallu, it costs Rs 120," the sweet maker said.

Lallu digged his pockets hesitantly and borrowed 50 rupees from his friend who had come along.

Nawab and his servants had a hearty laugh after Lallu left hurriedly.

Nawab said to Gattu, "Today, Lallu really became a fool. He must have known that one must not fool around with others."



Interview with Annie Ant

by Shailendra Saraswati

CHEEKU RABBIT was chatting to Annie Ant on internet on his laptop. He proposed, "I am thinking why not interview you this time for *Champak Times*?"

Annie jumped with joy.

"That is superb. But it would be better if you take the interview in the ant colony itself, instead of taking it on net. This will help you know better about our lives," Annie suggested.

Champak

"How can this be? How will my big body enter in your tiny ant colony?" surprised Cheeku asked.

"Don't worry about that. Reach my ant hill tomorrow at 10 am and then see my magic. How I will take you inside the ant colony," Annie smiled and said to Cheeku.

"Ok. Tomorrow morning I will come to see your magic," Cheeku agreed.

Next morning when Cheeku reached Annie's burrow, Annie was already standing there to receive him.

"You have come at the right time Cheeku. Meet him. He is the famous scientist of ant city Professor Einstein Ant," Annie introduced the ant to Cheeku.

Cheeku Rabbit, being much bigger in size could not shake hands with the Professor, so he said, 'hi'.

"Cheeku, Professor Einstein has invented a medicine by which the biggest living being can become small like us in no time. Take, have it, you will quickly become tiny like us," Annie offered a pearl-sized tablet to Cheeku.

As Cheeku swallowed it, he started reducing in size. In a short while Cheeku became as tiny as Annie.

Then Annie and Cheeku along with Professor entered the ant hill. Professor Einstein had to go somewhere so he sat in his car and whizzed off. Annie, in her open car, drove Cheeku with her to the ant colony.

"We ants are social animals and hard workers. We are mainly divided into 3 categories—Queen ants, labour ants and soldier ants," Annie informed

Cheeku while driving.

"Can I meet Queen Ant? I love meeting queens and kings," Cheeku was excited.

"Yes, why not? I will take you there first but there is no surety that the queen will talk to you," Cheeku gave Annie a surprised look.

Annie took Cheeku to Queen's palace. Cheeku saw a big and winged ant lying on her bed eating food with the help of small ants.

Pointing out at the queen, Annie said, "She is our Queen Ant. Most of her time is spent in eating and laying eggs. Therefore I told you that the queen may not talk to you."

Cheeku asked Annie, "It is very strange that the queen has wings but you don't. Why so?"

"In ants, only the queen and male ants have wings. These ants who are feeding the queen and collecting eggs are worker ants. The brain of these worker ants are bigger than queen and male ants. But their eyes are very small," Annie informed.

"Brains of worker ants are bigger, probably because they have to do the work sensibly. Am I right?" Cheeku asked Annie.

"Right. Now come, I will take you to the nursery, where the eggs and the larvae from the eggs are taken care of," Annie proceeded.

The nursery had many chambers. Eggs and larvae were kept in thousands of chambers.

"The worker ants look after these eggs and larvae day and night. Out of these lakhs of eggs only few will survive to grow up as queen ants and will then go to different areas to make their ant cities."

“That means out of these most of the larvae will become worker ants.”

“Not only workers, they will also become soldier ants,” Annie answered smilingly.

“What is fed to these larvae, Annie?” Cheeku asked.

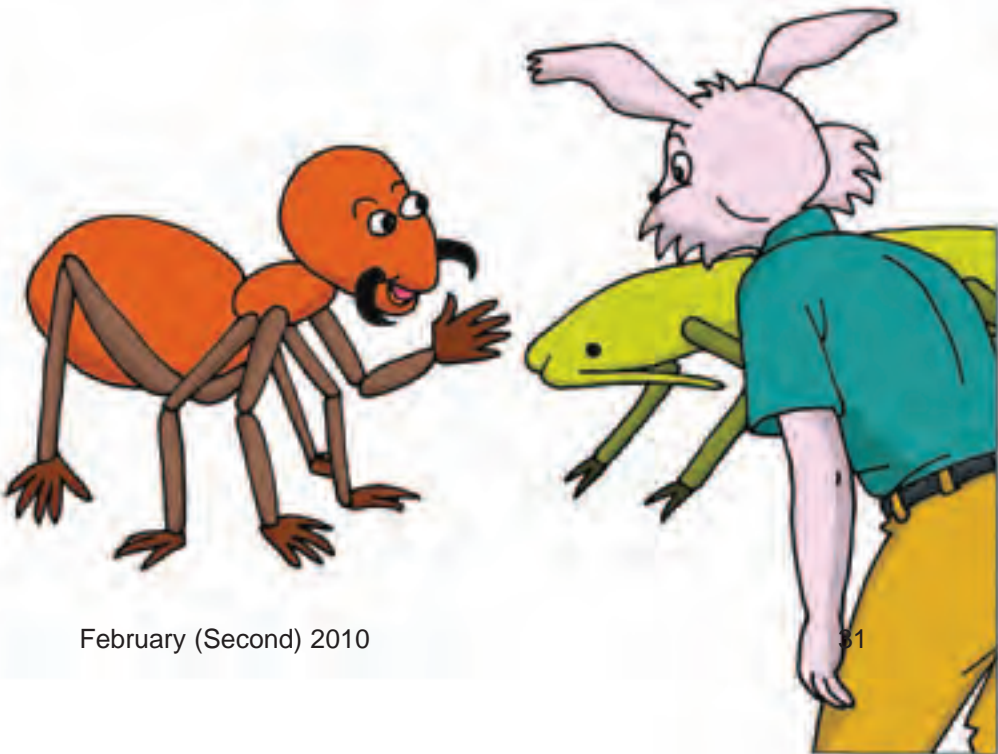
“You want to know what they are fed? Then come with me,” Annie took Cheeku ahead.

Annie took Cheeku to an area in ant colony where there was fungus everywhere.

“What a sweet smell!”

“This is the food that is fed to the larvae, Cheeku. Not only the larvae but we ants too have it with great taste,” pointing towards the fungus, Annie said.

“Tell me Annie, how do you grow this fungus?”





"Worker ants choose leaves from outside and after collecting them leave them at a place to rot. Fungus that grows on these rotten leaves is the favourite food of all ants."

"The good smell of fungus is now tempting me to have it."

"Close by, there is an ant's restaurant where you get pizzas and snacks of fungus. First, let us drink a glass of milk and then we will go to the restaurant," Annie said.

"So you ants drink cow milk too?" Cheeku asked with surprise.

"Yes, Cheeku, but our cow is different from the cow outside and she lives with us."

"So tell me where is your cow?"

Annie took Cheeku to the next chamber near the fungus one.

Seeing their cow Cheeku was shocked," Oh! This is some insect!"

"Actually, our cow is a kind of an insect. It is called 'Aphid'. These insects are found around ant hills. The worker ants captivate them and take them inside the ant hill. When the worker ants pat these insects on their back with their antennas, they drop honey kind of liquid from their bodies which is eaten with great taste by the ants and their larvae."

Then both Cheeku and Annie had the milk in cups made of leaves. After that Annie took Cheeku to the ants' restaurant.

"Wow! What a restaurant!" Cheeku exclaimed.

Annie ordered a pizza and soon a waiter brought

a fungus pizza for them. "It is wonderful," Cheeku ate and said.

"By now you know Cheeku that in our society worker ants do most of the laborious work. But this does not reduce the importance of soldier ants. Soldier ants keep themselves positioned around the ant hill all 24 hours and as soon as they spot an enemy, they attack him.

Sometimes, the soldier ants attack the neighbouring ant hill cliffs and take away their Pupae (newly born babies) and bring them up lovingly. When the Pupae grow up, they are treated like slaves."

Later, Annie gave him some more information about other things.

"Leaving alone cold areas, ants are found everywhere and anywhere. Some ants weave leaves of trees and make their home. Four thousand species of ants are found on earth but they are only two in colour—black or red.

"The most dangerous ants are American ants that are called American Red Ants.

"In some areas, a paste of Red Ants is made and eaten with taste. We have 2 stomachs in our body. One is real and the other duplicate. We collect food in the second stomach. Scientifically, this stomach is called 'crop'.

"Eighty per cent ants of our society are blind."

Cheeku was noting all the information given by Annie. Suddenly, he felt giddy.

"Don't worry, Cheeku. The medicine you took to become tiny is now becoming ineffective. Now I will have to quickly take you out from here otherwise your increasing size will destroy our

city,” and Annie quickly ran out in her car with Cheeku.


Cheeku became unconscious in a short time. When he gained consciousness, he found himself in his original shape.

“Hope you have got all the information that you required about ants,” Annie, standing at one corner, said to Cheeku.



“Actually, interviewing a disciplined being like you I have also learnt to be disciplined,” Cheeku said.

“I too enjoyed giving you an interview, Cheeku. From this others will learn that it is not so important to be big or small in size but discipline, unity and hard work is more important.”

Then both left for their homes thanking each other. ●



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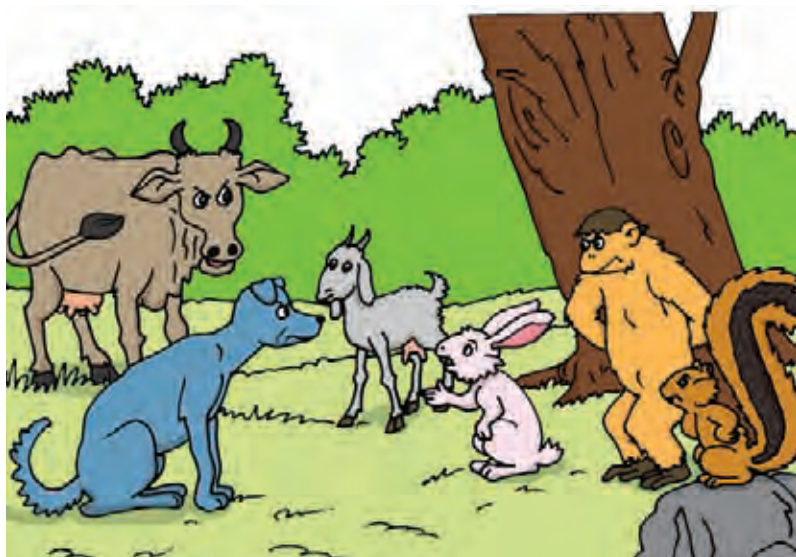
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Bo Bo Got Caught

by Munnu Lal

BO BO WOLF came from town after undergoing training in wrestling at a training centre. He started establishing himself in Sundervan. On seeing small animals, he would start his stunts on them.



Barely a month had passed when Bo Bo came to the jungle and most of the animals were hurt some way or the other. Some were not even left capable of walking and moving. Someone's hand was broken and some others leg was factured. Somebody had a broken waist and somebody's muscle was torn.

All the small animals got together and complained to King Sher Singh. Sher Singh gave the responsibility of tackling the problem to Prime Minister Mighty leopard. Mighty was an old friend of Bo Bo and so he started delaying the action on complaints purposely.

Small animals were disappointed. One day, they all gathered under a tree and started discussing on how to get rid of the problem.

Kunkun rabbit said, "This meeting has been called uselessly. Actually, we can not harm Bo Bo anyway. He has Mighty supporting him. It would be wiser if we leave the jungle."

Doggy dog barked at him loudly, "What are you saying Kunkun? This jungle is our motherland. Why should we leave our motherland for fear of someone. You are an absolute coward. It is because of animals like you that Bo Bo and the like are getting smarter."

"Talk some sense. Tell us some way to teach that wolf a lesson. The meeting has just started and you have started scaring us."

"Yes, Kunkun, Doggy is right. You should think and speak," Timtim squirrel, Tony tomcat, Bony cat and Jumpy monkey spoke together.

"Sorry, if you have felt bad. I had no intention to scare you of Bo Bo," Kunkun replied.

"I will tell you a trick," Bony cat gave an idea, "Let us take Bo Bo to the big bridge with some excuse. Then we will push him down. He will fall into the river and surely, on falling from such height he will not survive. Then we will be totally tension free."

All the animals laughed and laughed at Bony's

suggestion, "Bony's idea is very kiddish. Why will such a clever wolf go to the bridge on your insistence."

The animals were still laughing when a loud sound of 'ha... ha... ha... ha... ha... ha... ha' was heard.

All looked around. It was Bo Bo wolf. Everyone fled. Bo Bo also ran behind them and came and stood in front of them. "Today none of you will escape from me. Consider it your last day today. What all were you planning against me?

Today I will eat up everyone then only will the fire in my heart cool down."

"No, no, wolf sir, don't do that please. Now we will not plan anything against you," all animals pleaded together.

"Ha... ha... ha... ha..." Bo Bo again laughed sadistically and then stepped ahead slowly.

The animals again turned and ran but Bo Bo went around the tree and taking a whole round came in front of them under the tree where they were earlier sitting and discussing.

"Now, tell me where will you go? Now you must be knowing that I am more agile and clever than all of you," the wolf growled.





"Yes, brother, we know it. You are really great," Doggy dog praised him. "But forget it, let it be. All are animals of this jungle. Nobody is an outsider. We must not do anything which hurts others. Brother, you are a decent and kind wolf. We know that you have a big heart. We also know that you are just scaring us and will not harm us anyways. Isn't it Bo Bo sir?"

Bo Bo got more irritated. He shouted, "Oye..you dog, don't try to fool me. Now save yourself, I am coming."

As Bo Bo marched ahead the animals ran. But lo! As the animals turned backward to see, Bo Bo was struggling to get his neck freed.

"Come friends, come help me or this wolf will escape from my clutches," a sound came from somewhere from the tree.

All the animals reached there. This time they jumped with happiness. Bo Bo's neck was caught up in a noose hanging from the tree. One end of the rope was in the hands of Chimpu monkey who was sitting on the top of the tree. All were very happy.

Chimpu screamed, "Help me, help me this wicked wolf is struggling badly. He may get himself off the hook and escape."

"Tie the rope to the tree Chimpu, don't you have that much sense? Why are you defaming the monkey clan," Jumpy shouted.

Chimpu tied one end of the rope to the tree

branch and came down.

Kunkun rabbit asked Chimpu, "After all, how did you get this idea of catching Bo Bo?"

Chimpu answered casually, "Very simple. I was sure that the wolf must have got a clue that we were holding a meeting here. He somehow always got to know everything. I also knew that he would surely come here. Therefore, I planned to trap him. I hid on the tree much before all of you. Thankfully the noose thrown from the tree fell exactly into his neck."

"Wow! Chimpu, you have done wonders," everyone praised Chimpu. Then all the animals went near Bo Bo angrily.

"Spare me, please leave me, I will not trouble anyone now," Bo Bo pleaded mercy.

Suddenly, Doggy picked a big piece of wood and hit Bo Bo on his head.

Bo Bo shriveled with pain. He said, "Please leave me. I will not do any mischief again. After all, we are animals of the same jungle."

With her eyes dancing Timtim squirrel chided, "So you have suddenly remembered that we are animals of the same jungle. When Doggy said the same thing you had rebuked him. Now it is our turn. We too will take your life. Doggy, hit him hard."

Doggy again picked up the wood.

"No, no, please spare me. I promise I will not trouble anyone now. I apologise to all," Bo Bo cried.

"Ok, Doggy let him go for once," Bony said, "if he does it again then we will see. He has sworn on his parents."

"That's correct but it is not good to leave him off simply," Tonny tomcat said, "we must inform king

Sher Singh about it. He will put him behind bars. Staying there for a few days will bring him to the ground."

"Yes, that is good. Let him be tied like this. Come on, let us inform Sher Singh," all spoke together and proceeded towards the palace. ●

HA! HA! HA! HA!

Honey: I thought you to be very well-natured.

Honey: Yes, you were right, but I committed a mistake.

—Deepa Bisht, Utrakhand.

*

Raju: When mummy sings a lullaby to Gudiya, why does Gudiya goes off to sleep?

Mayank: Yes, because Gudiya has become bored of listening to lullaby again and again.

—S. Vinayak, Cheenai.

*

A Boy was running with his bicycle.

Man: Son, why are you running with the bicycle? Why do you not sit and ride the bicycle?

Boy: I am in a hurry and I cannot sit even for a while.

—Shudhakar, Kolkata.

*

Teacher: Why does moquitoes sit on the water.

Student: So that water does not get evaporated.

—Naresh, Chennai

*

Papa: Sunny, look at the watch and tell me what is the time?

Sunny: Papa, I do not know how to see watch.

Papa: Why?

Sunny: Both my hands are inside the watch.

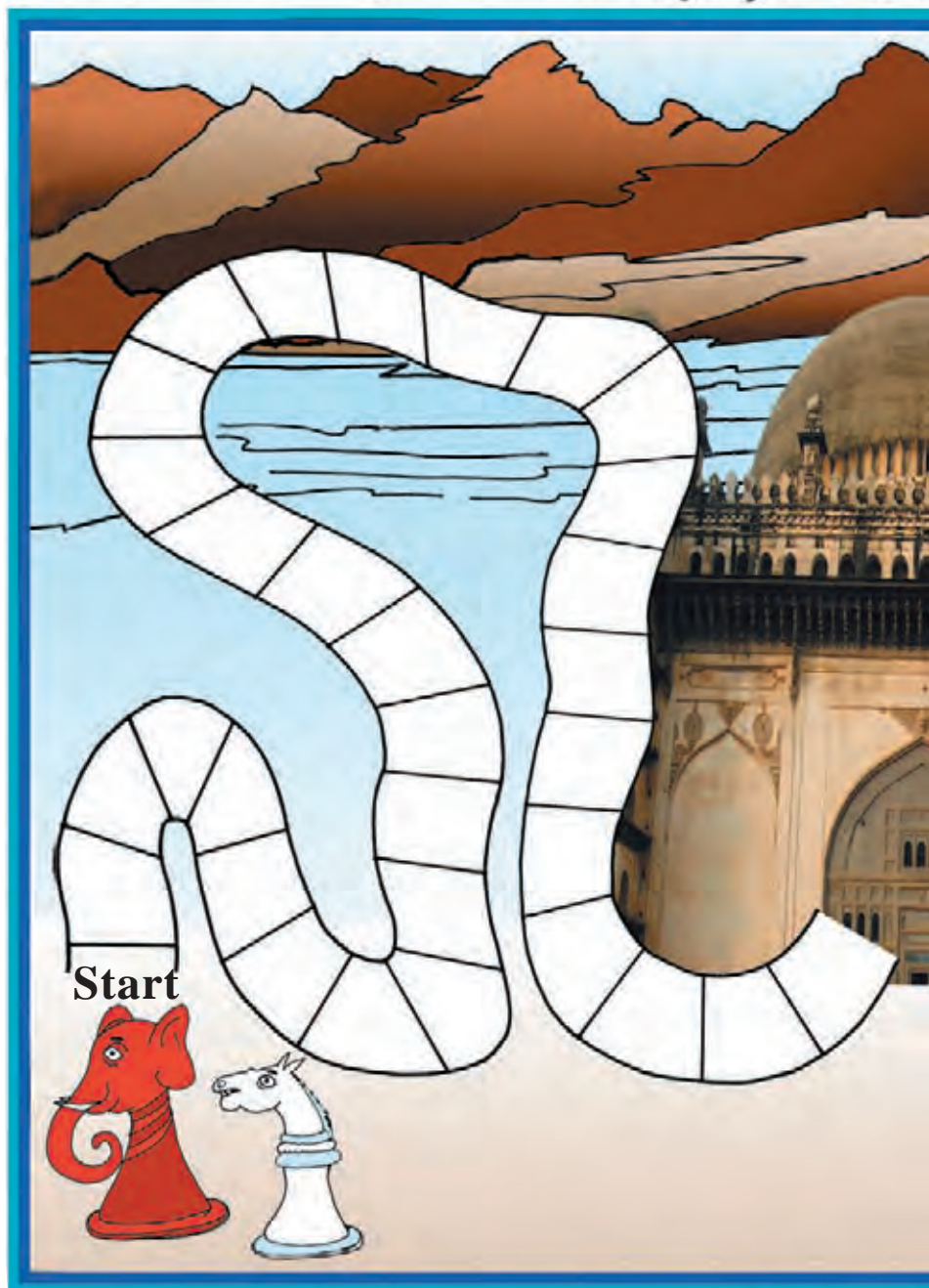
—Rohit Naik, Patna.

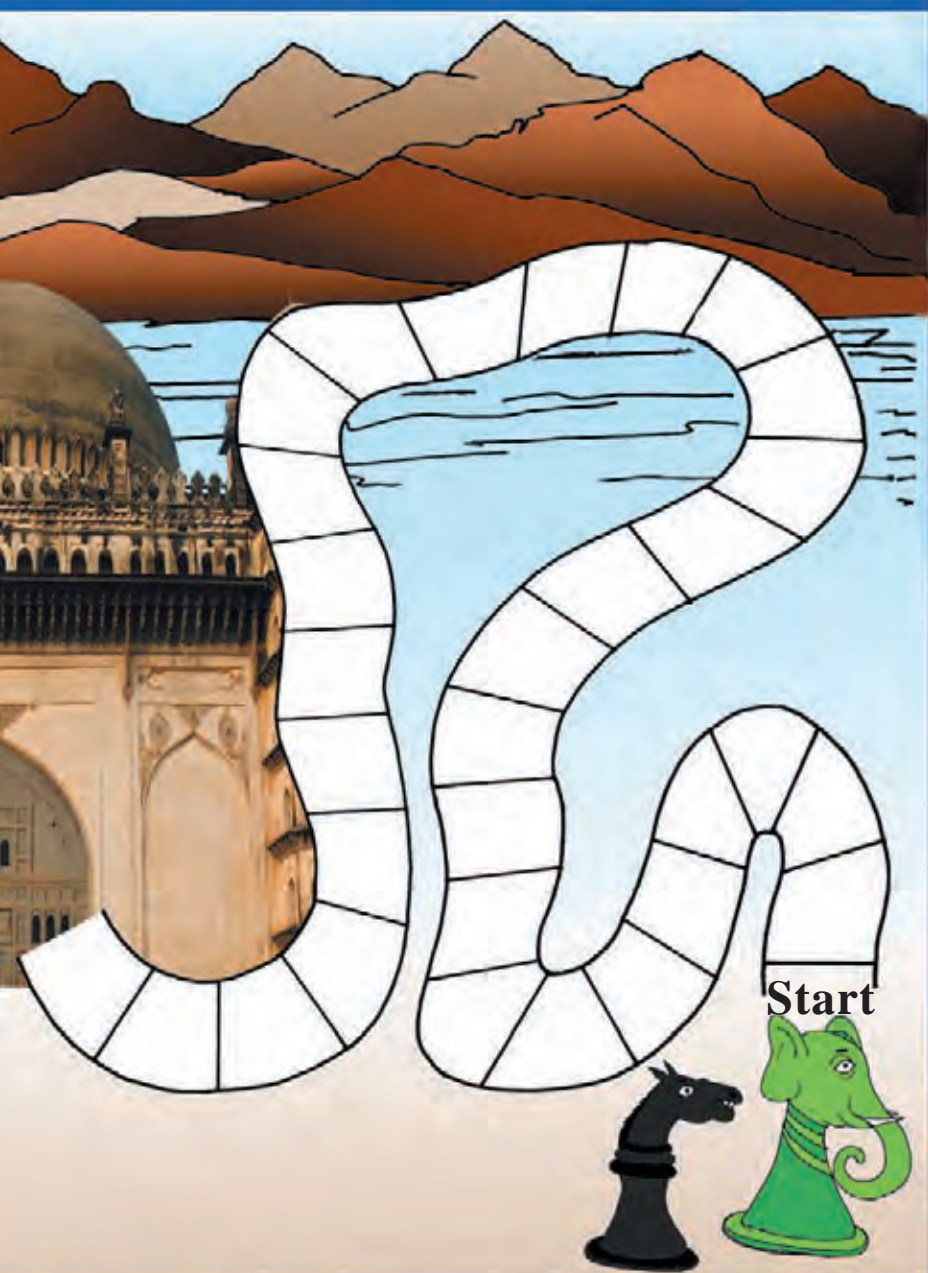
CHAMP AK CHEKERS-187

Rules of the Game

- In this game 2 players can play the game, for which coloured buttons or coloured balls are required.
- Each player will have 2 balls in the form of an elephant represented by red colour and a horse represented by green colour, according the coloured button or balls may be selected.
- As per the rules of the game both the players have to take the armies of all sides together to the castle in one go and not in turns.
- Both the players have to throw their dice and move their horse and the elephant. If the horse has been moved in 1st turn then the elephant has to be moved in the 2nd turn , which was left behind.
- On reaching near the castle as per the count on the dice, player has to enter the castle with his army. If one of 2 the players enter the castle, he will get another chance to throw the dice. If other army also enter the castle, shall be treated as the winner or else the 1st player shall return to the old box and the 2nd player will throw the dice once again.













Good for Evil

by Vivek Chakrovorty

COOL BREEZE was blowing in the jungle and Bony monkey was enjoying his walk very much.

As Bony went close to a tree, he saw a nest of a bird falling to the ground.

He thought, 'Somebody's nest has fallen down with the breeze. Do I place it back on the tree or the bird will be worried,' and he started climbing the tree with the nest in his hand to keep it safe.

He was finding it difficult to climb the tree with the nest in one hand but he did not give up and kept climbing.

On reaching the top, when he tried placing the nest, a strong gust of wind blew and Bony lost his balance and fell down along with the nest.

Bony had just taken control of himself on getting up when some birds surrounded him.

"You naughty monkey, why did you break the nest of Menu maina? You will be punished for it. Come on to the king," Gauri sparrow said.

"But what did I do? The nest fell down with the gust of wind. I was just placing it in its place on the tree branch," Bony said.

"Don't tell lies. I have seen the nest in your hands and then a strong wind blew and you fell down," Meenu spoke angrily.

Bony tried a lot to justify



but the birds did not listen to him and took him to King Sher Singh. The king heard both the sides patiently.

“Bony all proofs are against you. So you are responsible for breaking the nest. As this is your first offence you will be given a mild punishment. From today you are not supposed to go near any tree which has a bird's nest. If you do not follow the instructions you will be given a stricter punishment next time,” the king announced

and dismissed the court.

Bony was highly disappointed hearing the verdict. From that day Bony stopped going near the trees which had nests of birds on them. He did not feel like doing a good deed for anyone.

Some days passed. One day Bony was sitting on a branch of a tree. Suddenly he saw smoke coming out from between trees far away in the jungle.

"How is smoke coming out from between trees?" Bony whispered to himself and went to see it closely.

Bony saw that a mirror was placed diagonally on a stone and with the sunrays falling on it further being reflected on the dry leaves the leaves were catching fire.

Bony quickly picked up the mirror and threw it far away. Seeing the fire he started calling out animals for help.

Surprisingly nobody came. Quickly breaking some branches of trees Bony made a soft couch at a distance and climbing trees he brought down small children of birds on the couch so that in case of fire spreading the little ones may be safe.

The fourth time when Bony returned after placing the little ones of birds on the couch he found that someone had doused the fire by throwing water on it.

As Bony was taking the little ones to place them back in the nests some birds came there.

Seeing their little ones in Bony's hands they attacked him.

"Earlier when you tried to break our nests we complained to the king but now you are

trying to harm them, mischievous monkey," Menu maina screamed.

"There was fire here on the trees. It was spreading very fast. So I brought the children down," trying to save himself from the birds' attack, Bony said.

"Fire? We cannot see fire anywhere. You wanted to harm our little ones. Now as we had caught you red-handed you are making this excuse," Gauri said.

Soon the birds beat and hurt Bony black and blue and took him to King Sher Singh.

"Your majesty, today this monkey has crossed all limits. He has tried to harm our small ones. He was trying to hurt them and destroy our nests. He should be given severe punishment. He should be told to leave the jungle," Meenu said.

"Your majesty, I was....."

"Quiet! The shameful deed that you have done today will be punished....."

"Wait, your majesty, today you are going to give such a decision for which you will have to repent for years," Happy elephant warned loudly, entering the court.

"What do you mean?"

"Your majesty, the trees had actually caught fire. This was due to a piece of glass. I had seen Bony when he threw the glass to stop the fire.

When Bony was saving the little ones I quickly brought water from the river to douse the fire. Then the fire cooled down and the flames went out. If I had not acted that time fire would have spread in the whole jungle. Then you would have realised

that Bony had put himself into trouble for the sake of little children of birds,” Happy narrated.

All the birds apologised to Bony after listening to Happy.

“Bony, you and Happy have done your duty. You, by acting as a good citizen of the jungle and Happy, by stopping me from taking a wrong decision. Therefore you both will be honoured on the Republic Day of our jungle,” King Sher Singh declared.

All clapped and welcomed the decision.

They made Bony their friend and lived happily. ●

Find out the mistakes: Win prize - 62

Selected 5 Candidates–

Pulkit Kukreja, Gurgaon (Haryana). Vaishnavinagar, Avadi (Chennai).

Jawed Akhter, Katihar (Bihar). Tanweer Raza, Dhanbad (Jharkhand).

Saumya, Ahmedabad (Gujarat).

Champak English Sharp Eye-70

Selected 5 Candidates–

Alan Samion, Connaught Place (Delhi). Neeraj Mahindrar, Anand Nagar (Pune).

Pulkit Bansal, West Chandigarh. Parth, Surat (Gujarat). Guddu, Nawada ara.

Champak English Sharp Eye-71

Selected 4 Candidates–

Khushi K., Subrato Park (New Delhi). Niharika, Vasundhra (Ghaziabad).

Aashi, Anisabad (Patna). N. Sathvik, Chennai.

WHENEVER MICKY monkey passed through the dense jungles of Champakvan, he felt that somebody was following him. He kept turning around and looking but could not see anything but a shadow.

Micky found the shadow very mysterious. Though he was courageous, he was scared of the shadow following him everyday.

Another strange thing about it was that when he entered the boundary of Champakvan the shadow disappeared instantly.

by Dr Rajiv Gupta

One day Micky monkey met a sorcerer of Champakvan – Nandaswami Lomaddas.

Mysterious

Hearing Micky's experiences he became serious and after thinking something he said, "There is nothing to worry, this is your mother's spirit. Your mother has just died last month, isn't it?"

"Yes, but why should my mother's spirit follow me?" Micky was surprised.

"She loved you a lot. That is why she follows you to protect
Champak



you from wild animals in the jungle,” sorcerer Nandaswami said and took 101 rupees from Micky as donation.

Micky found the talks of Lomaddas strange. He did not believe in supernatural things at all. He did not lose hope and tried to find the truth by himself.

One day, when he was passing through the dense forest, the mysterious shadow caught him and dragged him to the nearby den. Micky was terrified. But he did not want to lose his self confidence.

Shadow

As he reached the den he was shocked. Four men were working on many machines kept there. These

men had no resemblance to each other and were different from men on earth.

Micky soon understood that they were aliens – residents of other planets. He was shocked to see that the mysterious shadow that brought him here was appearing the same as these men. They were all wearing strange dresses.

They talked a

February (Second) 2010



different language which was not understood by Micky. They laid Micky down on a table like machine and started experimenting on him. They wanted to know something from him but could not understand the language.

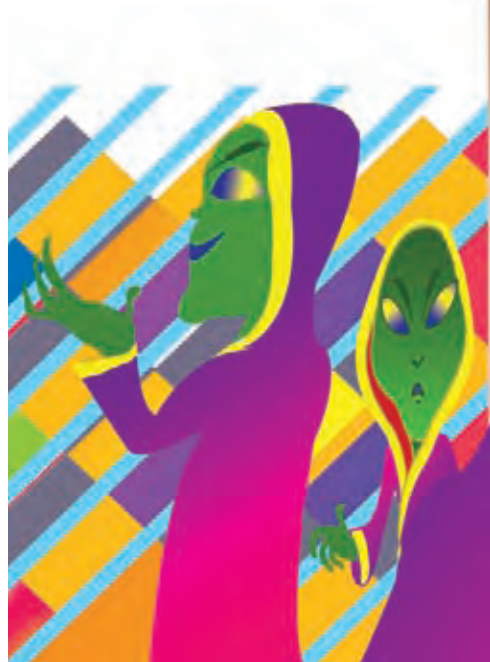
After sometime Micky understood that they had a button on their special dress, on pressing which they turned into shadows. Possibly they were experimenting about the phenomenon of invisibility.

Micky was in their custody for 3 days. At night they made Micky wear that special uniform which had the button by which he could turn invisible. They probably wanted to experiment something on him today.

Micky was waiting for such opportunity. On wearing the dress he quickly pressed the button and as he turned into a shadow he ran away.

The four aliens followed him for some distance but it was not possible to catch the monkey in the darkness. Micky knew every corner of the jungle. He quickly sneaked out and reached Champakvan. Poor aliens returned to their den disappointed.

Next day the news spread in Champakvan like fire.



All animals were singing praises of Micky's bravery. They all ganged up together and reached the den but by then the aliens had left the place with all their belongings.

Great scientist of Champakvan Chemi Chimpanzee now devoted himself to studying

about what material the special dress was made of. He was sure that they could make a similar dress by which an animal or man could become invisible by making some improvements.

But sorcerer Nandswami Lomaddas was ashamed and could not see eye to eye with Micky. He knew that this business of magic would not work now in Champakvan as all the animals of the jungle had become sensible and conscious. ●



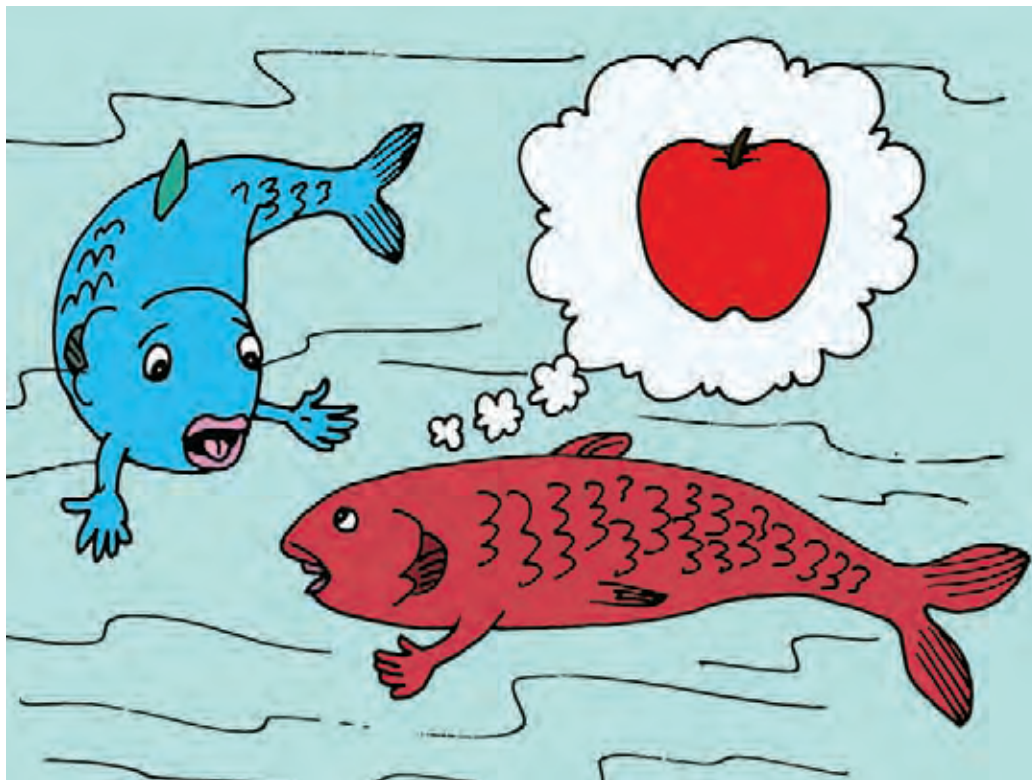
Colour the picture.



There are some mistakes in picture 2. Find out how many mistakes are there. Send your answers through SMS. First type the keyword DPBCB. Then leave one space and then type the total number of mistakes. For example, DPBCB 7, as shown in the photo of mobile. Then send the SMS on 57007. You may send as many SMS as you like. Any 5 correct respondents will be asked to send their complete address. They will be given a gift of Rs. 100 each. You can also send your answers by Post Card. Your answers should reach us by 20 February, 2010.



Find out the mistakes: Win prize-69



THE APPLE trees in Himalaya were loaded with red and yellow apples. Roha fish, who lived in the Beas river said to her friend Soha fish, "This time neither did a storm come nor apples dropped from trees and reached into the river."

"I too was thinking the same. No apple rolled into us from the terrace gardens. Last summers and winters we ate apples daily," Soha avered.

"We too thought the same," many voices were suddenly heard together. On turning around they saw all their friends laughing.

"I have a garden near my riverside house. A branch of an apple tree bends over the river. It has a bunch of red apples on it," Rina fish said.

"Moving her tail Shyana fish asked, "Why didn't you take them then?"

"Next week, exactly after 7 days, is my birthday. That day I will cut those apples and celebrate my birthday. You all must come and eat apples."

Shyana and the other fishes made fun of Rina.

Rina was serious and said, "Shyana, you are the most sensible of all the fishes. Just think what I mean."

Happy Apple Day

by Ashesh

Shyana promptly asked, "How far are the apples from the water?"

"Right now they are so far that none of us can touch them even on jumping high."

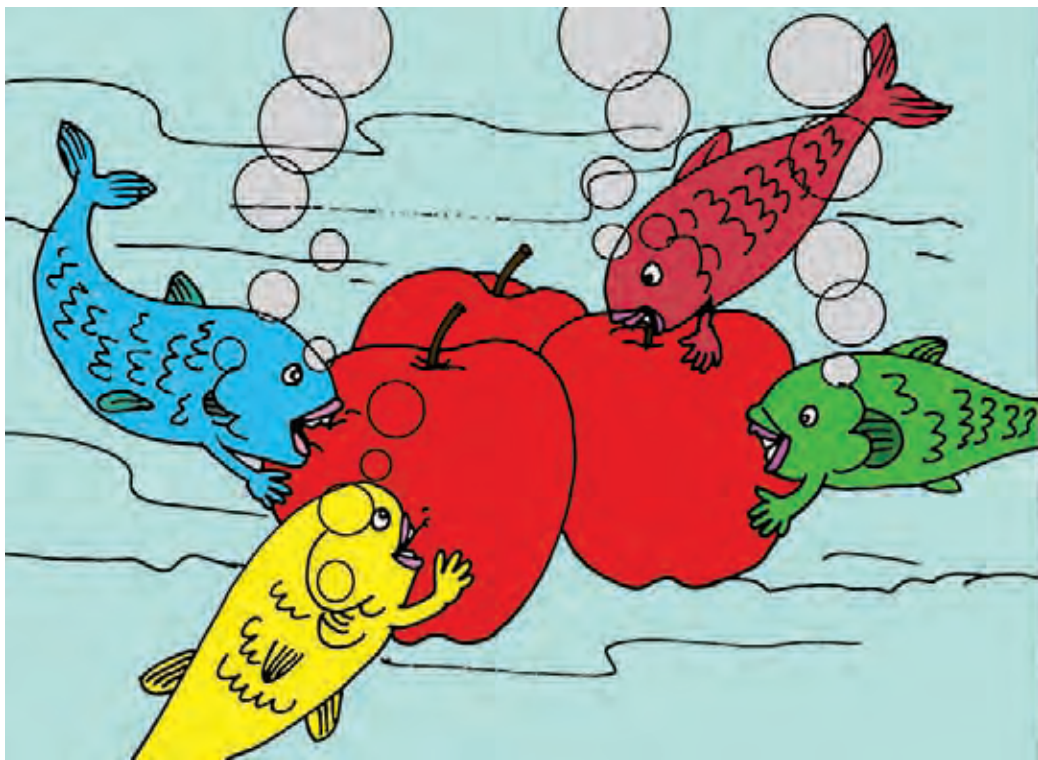
"I have understood," Shyana said, "In a week's time the apples will grow so big that the branch will bend down more."

"Good, but this is not a complete answer," Rina shot back and all fishes looked towards Shyana.

"Then listen," Shyana asserted. "The snow on the mountains is melting fast with heat. In a week's time water in the river will rise and we fishes will be able to reach the apples easily."

"Hurrey!" all fishes shouted together with glee.

"Wait," Rina interrupted, "Why did Shyana say



that we will reach the apples easily? I have seen the apples and it is my birthday."

"Because somebody can steal the apples before your birthday and the waters can rise in level even tomorrow..., the apples can become heavier earlier also," the biggest fish Shyana asserted.

"Then what do we do?"

"I have always come first in high jump. I will pluck the apples for Rina's birthday right now as some human beings can take them away tomorrow."

Shyana jumped and pulled the apples. After a week all the fishes were having apples on Rina's birthday.

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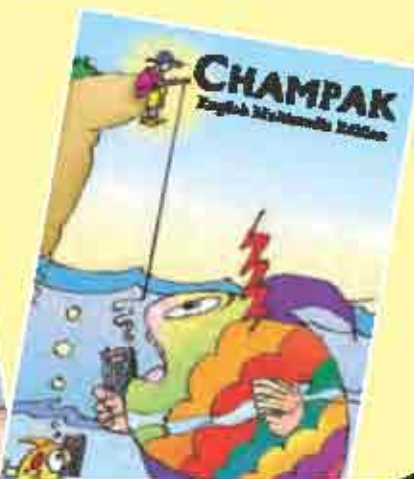
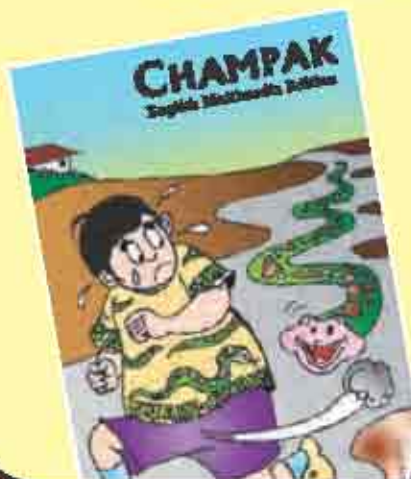
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Signature

Date

Colour the picture.



Chilu and Forcep

by Sunny Ashesh

A FARMER was shivering with cold. His hands were turning blue while digging out vegetables from the field. Every leaf was covered with the dew that fell all night.

The sun was up but a blanket of thick fog was hiding it.

'Why don't I warm myself by lighting some fire?' the farmer thought and took out a bundle of dry grass from inside the hut and lit it up.

He suddenly saw a tree stump. It was once a part of the root but now it had dried up.

'The grass will burn off soon but the stump will keep burning. Then ambers will be left,' farmer thought and he placed the stump in the fire.

After warming himself, he again started plucking green vegetables and returned home.

"Why is this piece of dry wood not burning properly?" a forcep in the hut in front of the farmer's hut asked the griddle (tava) which was lying close to it.

The griddle yawned, "You go and ask him."

Walking with his long legs, forcep reached near the burning stump.

"Please save us, brother forcep!" the ants sitting on top of the stump screamed. The stump was burning from the bottom with ambers on all sides. But it had not caught fire on top.

"We live inside the stump. On feeling hot we came out. When we tried escaping we realised that there was fire all sides," ants said worriedly.

"So what do I do?" seeing them nervous, the forcep laughed.

Suddenly an old ant suggested, "You tilt towards us like a ladder and we will walk out from here by using you as a bridge."

"I have come here not to save you but to see why was this stub not burning properly. When our master returns after breakfast he must get lots of burning wood to warm himself," and the forcep, digging itself under the wood, started moving the ambers underneath.





“Brother forcep, first save us, we will gather dry straws for you.”

“Wait for 5 minutes,” and the forcep placed both his legs on the ambers.

The old ant said, “We will get burnt when you walk on the iron.”

“This is what I want,” the forcep laughed loudly.

Suddenly a kite dived down from the skies and with its sharp beak swooped upon the forcep’s head. Meanwhile its son Chilu too flew and sat on the stump. Chilu ordered the ants, “Climb on my legs quickly.”

After sometime the ants were making a new home in the field. The forcep immersed itself in a deep pond and cooled itself.



Who Am I ?



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Gifted with hackle on head
Beautiful is his coloured coat
Never rests in home
Rather he dances when it rains.</p> | <p>3. A thing of great utility
Less than half the size of finger
But has a long tail
It is must in mother's box</p> |
| <p>2. Though it is a bow
But has no arrow
So not used in wars,
appears when
Sun plays hide and seek in rain.</p> | <p>4. Strange is this fellow
Guards your home
When you are away
Never demands anything in return.</p> |

How Much Do You Know?

- Who was in the news recently for landing the helicopter in the darkness?
(a) Sonia Gandhi. (b) Rahul Gandhi.
(c) Mayawati. (d) Rita Bahuguna Joshi.
- For which state recent protests had taken place?
(a) Telangana. (b) Gorkhaland.
(c) Bodoland. (d) Poorvanchal.
- Which country has 'Agni' missile?
(a) Pakistan. (b) China.
(c) India. (d) Iran.
- What is the state capital of Andhra Pradesh?
(a) Telangana. (b) Vishakhapatnam.
(c) Bangaluru. (d) Hyderabad.
- Berlusconi is the Prime Minister of which country?
(a) Italy. (b) France.
(c) Libya. (d) Thailand.



Answers

Who Am I? : (1) Peacock. (2) Rainbow. (3) Needle and thread. (4) Lock.
How Much Do You Know? : (1) b. (2) a. (3) c. (4) d. (5) a.

SONA CAT was the pride of Mayur Nagar. Her beauty was the talk of the town. All her friends were jealous of her and no one wanted to make friends with her. They kept away from her. Sona was deeply unhappy. She was not at all proud of her beauty but others were jealous of her good look.

One day, it was announced in Mayur Nagar that Mayur Fashion Contest was being organised after 15 days in which all animals of Mayur Nagar could take part.

Friends of Sona cat decided to participate in the contest. On the other hand Kim monkey and Chinki fox wanted to show down Sona.

Fashion contest was round the corner. One day Chinki went to Kim and said, "Mayur Fashion

Golden Body And Heart

by Amrita Prakash



Contest is nearing. We must do something."

"Well, come on, let us think about it."

Kim sat down and pondered when she suddenly remembered Kalu monkey. She said to Chinki, "Why don't we ask Kalu monkey to join us."

"Yes," and Chinki called up Kalu on the phone. After hanging up Kalu quickly went to meet them.

Kalu ironed clothes for animals. All three Chinki Kim and Kalu together planned to defeat Sona in the contest.

Sona was very excited. She got a new dress stitched for the contest. She had given her dress that morning to Kalu to iron it.

The contest was to start at 11 o'clock. All the animals collected at the contest spots. Kalu purposely delayed pressing her dress. He even





burnt it a little. He went to give her the dress at 10.55, just 5 minutes earlier.

Seeing the dress burnt Sona started crying but her best friend Rinku boosted her spirits, "Don't cry and go on the ramp confidently. Everything will be all right."

Sona's parents too encouraged her.

When her name was called out on the ramp, she went wearing the same dress on the stage. In spite of her burnt dress Sona was looking very pretty. The audience clapped and clapped for her.

Kalu and Chinki could not tolerate this. To let her down, they threw a banana skin on the ramp before her.

Sona slipped and fell down. Everyone present there laughed.

Sona became very nervous but without losing self confidence she got up and again started walking.

Seeing her courage and confidence, the audience clapped for her loudly.

Finally, the result was announced. Sona cat was the first prize winner and she was declared Miss Mayur Nagar.

The 3 wicked animals repented on their act. They came to Sona and apologised, "Forgive us Sona. We will not harm you again ever."

Sona had a heart of gold. She not only forgave them but invited them to her party in the evening. ●

What is life?

Life is a challenge, meet it.

Life is a gift, accept it.

Life is a sorrow, overcome it.

Life is a duty, perform it.

Life is a game, play it.

Life is a song, sing it.

Life is a promise, fulfil it.

Life is a puzzle, solve it.

Life is a love, enjoy it.

Life is a beauty, praise it.

—R. Romu, Chennai.



WRONG DECISION

BY VENU VARIATH

ONCE THERE LIVED A MONKEY AND THE YOUNG ONE OF A SPOTTED DEER. THEY WERE GOOD FRIENDS. ONE DAY—



THE DEER WAS SEEING THE DRUM FOR THE FIRST TIME.



THIS IS CALLED A DRUM. IF YOU BEAT ON IT, YOU WILL HEAR THE SOUND- 'DUM... DUM...'



SOON, THE DEER STARTED BEATING THE DRUM.







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It is Funtime

Pintoo (to Soham):
Can you tell me what gives you sweet result?

Soham: When you pop up candy in mouth.

Pintoo: And which gives you bitter result?

Soham: No idea , you tell me.

Pintoo: Exam result.

—Yogesh,Lucknow.

*

Principal (to Chintoo):
What happened ? How did you fail? Does your

teacher not teach you?

Chintoo: Yes she does.

Principal: Then?

Chintoo: Sir when she wrote on board, I copied, and when she erased, I also erased my note book.

—Harish Sinha, U.P.

*

Sonu (to his mother):
Mummy, I have 2 breaking news, 1st good and 2nd is bad



news, which one you want to hear first?

Mummy: Tell me the good news first.

Sonu: The good news is that I have stood 1st in the class.

Mummy: And what's the bad news?

Sonu: The bad news is, what good news you just heard is false.

—Chandan, Almora.

*

Munna Bhai's Son came to the school for an admission.

Principal: You have 4 apples in front of you, how would you distribute among 3 people?

Munna Bhai's Son: Sir, it's very easy, we will kill the 4th fellow.

—Rajan Singh, Nainital

*

Mother: Sonu, you know Lord Krishna

lifted a huge mountain with his little finger?

Sonu: I can't believe this Mom.

Mother: Why?

Sonu: Because it is not in the Guinness Book of World Records.

—Ranjana Ashok, Mumbai.

*

One day, John was teaching his parrot how to talk. John: Repeat after me, I can talk.

Parrot: I can talk.

John: I can walk.

Parrot: I can walk.

John: I can fly.

Parrot: That is a lie.

—Asmitha Sethi, Hisar.

*

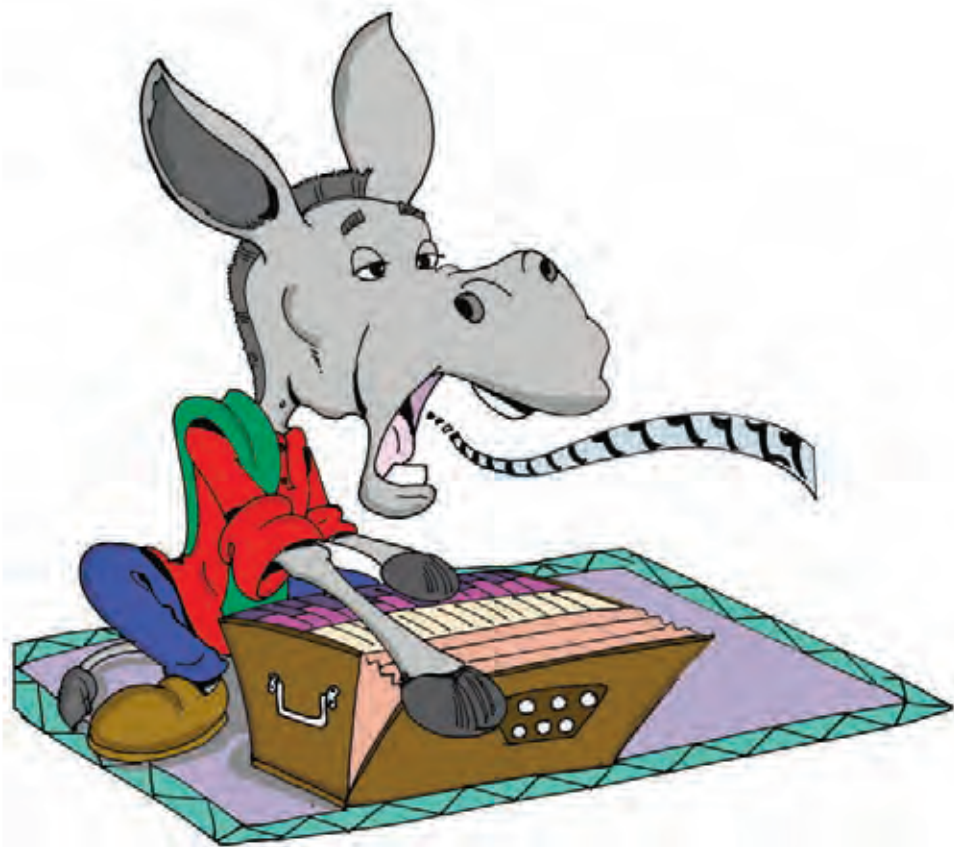
Chintu: Mintu, if I succeed to climb on the Mount Everest, what would you give me?

Mintu: I will give you a 'hard push.'

—Vishal, Aurangabad.

*





Monty's Ambition

by Renu Mandal

MONTY DONKEY was sad. He used to get scolding in his office every day. But the other day his boss Blacky Bear crossed all limits. He threw papers at his face and said, "It has been more than 2 months in the office learning things, but not a single day has passed when you have not committed any mistake. You will remain a donkey all the time."

Monty Donkey could not stay in his office any longer. He picked up his bag and returned home. On the way home he came across Cheeku Rabbit who asked, "What happened Monty, you look very sad?"

Monty Donkey was holding his tears which spilled out. He said, "Cheeku tell me one thing, what to talk of human beings, even the animals tell us we are donkeys and fools of the highest order, are we really fools?"

Cheeku smilingly said, "You go home, I will answer your question later."

Monty reached home and found a banner hanging on the pole in front of his house 'Reality Show for the first time in Champakvan. Golden opportunity for animals interested in music'.

An idea that struck in Monty's mind that he was a good singer and if he becomes a star singer overnight, then nobody would call him a fool.

The very next day he went to the market and bought a harmonium for himself and started polishing his singing skills. His wife shouted, "You sing so bad, you better go out of the house and sing outside."

Monty Donkey was hurt at his wife's comment. He said, "You are right.

February (Second) 2010



You hardly appreciate my singing, but when other animals in Champakvan would listen to my singing they would definitely like my songs."

"Indeed then, better go out and sing for them," replied his wife.

Monty Donkey hung the harmonium in his neck and came out of the house. He saw Chinni Sparrow on the tree. He said, "Chinni, will you listen to my songs?"

"Sure, but I don't have the time right now, I have to go and collect food for my kids," said Chinni and flew away. Monty moved ahead and saw Deepu Deer watering his plants. Monty was delighted and asked him, "Hello Deepu, will you listen to my song." What?... Songs by you?... Deepu asked with his eyes wide open. Monty was embarrassed but still he said, "I do sing very well, listen to my songs, at least, once."

"Can't you see me watering my plants?" shrugged Deepu to avoid him.

Monty Donkey said, "Today you are avoiding me, but tomorrow when I will win the reality show, you will run after me to listen my numbers."

Deepu Deer laughed. Monty did not stop any further and he moved ahead. He saw Tinku Bear standing under the tree and enjoying honey. Monty stood in front of Tinku who gave him an inquisitive stare and asked him, "What's the matter? Do you want honey?"

"No, I do not want your honey but listen to my song," said Monty in a sweet voice.

Tinku made a bad face and said, "What did you say? Songs from you? I am yet not facing bad days to listen to your songs."



T i n k u
picked his
honey jar and
walked away.

Suddenly,
Monty heard
s o m e b o d y
laughing. He
looked up and
saw Jumpy
m o n k e y
swinging on
the mango tree
and laughing
away to glory.

Monty got
cheesed and asked
him, "What's so
funny to laugh
about?"

"Why are you
taking my laugh so seriously? I was just having
little fun and enjoying my swinging. Look, Tinku
has no interest in music, how can he enjoy music?
If you want an audience, I am there in front of you,
I will listen to your songs."

Monty was delighted at Jumpy's request. He
sat under the tree and started playing harmonium
and began singing 'denchoo...denchoo' in natural
tone at the top of his voice.

Jumpy had cramps in his tummy as he could
not stop laughing. When Monty finished his
singing Jumpy said, " I have not listened to such a
beautiful music so far, you sing even better than
the cuckoo."

"Swear you are not telling a lie?" said Monty.

"Not at all. I swear, I am speaking the truth. Take it from me, you will surely be adjudged as the best singer in the reality show."

Monty was on cloud nine to hear Jumpy's comment. He began working hard, day in and day out to sharpen his singing skills. He did not care even when he was fired by Blacky Bear for taking frequent leave from work.

Ultimately, the reality show day arrived. The auditorium was filled to its capacity with the audience. One by one, animals were taking turns and were presenting their music. At last, it was Monty's turn to sing a song and he began singing. But as he started singing, the crowd in the hall started hooting Monty for his singing, 'Bore...bore...bore'.

Sher Singh laughingly commented, "Monty this is not singing, this is braying."

Monty said, "But Sir, Jumpy was saying that I can sing even better than cuckoo."

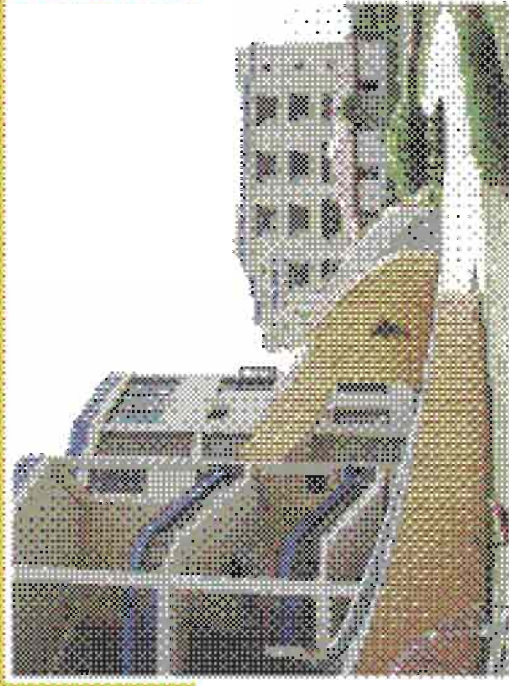
All the animals in the hall had a hearty laugh. Sher Singh said, " Jumpy commented and you agreed with him? Do not you know how mischievous he is?"

Monty came out of the auditorium and found that Cheeku was starting his bike.

"Remember, you had asked me the other day why other animals call you fool? Today you must have realised that in order to be a singing star, you even lost your decent job. You could niether become a good singer nor a good worker," said Cheeku and he walked away.

Monty was puzzled and started scratching his head. He wondered if Cheeku was right? ●

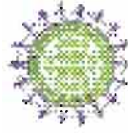
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