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Readers' Club Bulletin

पाठक मंच बुलेटिन

Vol. 16, No. 10, June 2012





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Editor / संपादक

Manas Ranjan Mahapatra

मानस रंजन महापात्र

Assistant Editor / सहायक संपादक

Dwijendra Kumar

द्विजेन्द्र कुमार

Production / उत्पादन

Deepak Jaiswal

दीपक जैसवाल

Illustration / चित्रांकन

Children from Kolkata

कलकत्ता के बच्चे

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Contents/सूची

The Adventures of Rusty..	Mayank Mouli Sinha	2
A Little Adventure	Indrayudh Sengupta	4
ज्ञानी व चूहा	जयकिशोर कुमार	6
The Adventure of Lion	Binayak Prasad Ray	7
The Mosquito's Adventure	Aryan Tulsyan	10
शिकारी और मुन-मुन	मीता संगेलिया	11
Disowned	Kriti Sinha	13
The Lost Hero	Aditya Choudhry	15
The Adventures ...	Priyadarshini Bhowal	18
Galloping	Akansha Srivastava	20
Adventures of Manny..	Ramiz Khan	22
The Final Successor	Sumedha Mukharji	24
Adventure of a Golden Dog	Soumyajit Ghosal	26
The Story of Three Friends	Rajdeep Ghosh	28
काना गीदड़	सुभी लाठी	30

Editorial Address / संपादकीय पता

National Centre for Children's Literature, National Book Trust, India, Nehru Bhawan 5, Institutional Area, Phase - II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

राष्ट्रीय बाल साहित्य केंद्र, नेशनल बुक ट्रस्ट, इंडिया, नेहरू भवन, 5 इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, फेस-II, वसंत कुंज, नई दिल्ली-110 070

E-Mail (ई-मेल) : nbtindia@ndb.vsnl.net.in

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कृपया भुगतान नेशनल बुक ट्रस्ट, इंडिया के नाम भेजें।

This Bulletin is meant for free distribution to Readers' Clubs associated with National Centre for Children's Literature.

यह बुलेटिन राष्ट्रीय बाल साहित्य केंद्र से जुड़े पाठक मंचों को निःशुल्क वितरित किया जाता है।

Kolkata Festival of Children's Content

Coinciding with the World Book and Copyright Day, Kolkata hosted a week-long Indian Festival of Children's Content at Future Foundation School, Regent Park from 23-28 April 2012. Such a Festival of Children's Content was organised by National Centre for Children's Literature, a wing of National Book Trust, India for the first time in the country in collaboration with Publishers' and Booksellers' Guild, Kolkata and the Future Foundation School of Sri Aurobindo Institute of Culture. More than 5000 children and young adults from various schools of Kolkata took part in this festival.

The Festival along with an exhibition of books was inaugurated by eminent actor and wildlife photographer Shri Sabyasachi Chakraborty on 23 April 2012. In his inaugural address, Shri Chakraborty spoke about his desire to write a book for children to help them bond with the charm of the forests. "I do not believe that the young generation has entirely moved away from books, but we need to help them reconnect with the magic of creating self-impressions," he said. Shri Tridib Chatterjee, General Secretary, Publishers' and Booksellers' Guild presided over the programme.

Besides the exhibition of books brought out by more than 50 publishers, the festival included a 2-day Creative Writing and Illustration Workshop, an interactive session with the famous author Paro Anand, a workshop on how to review a book and a panel discussion on 'Bangla Children's Literature Today.' Shri Debashis Ghosh and Ms. Priya Nagarajan, eminent illustrators also conducted a workshop on Poster Design.

The artworks developed by children in the workshop were displayed in an exhibition in the Galerie La-Mere. Shri Pracheta Gupta, eminent author, Shri Ranjan Mitter, Principal and Ms. Virginia Redden, Activity Coordinator of the school, Shri D.Sarkar, Deputy Director (Art) and Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor and Head, National Centre for Children's Literature of NBT coordinated various sessions in the festival. The Kolkata Festival of Children's content will now be an annual event – India's answer to such events across the world.

The writings and illustrations developed by children during the festival has been put together in this issue of your favourite magazine.

The Adventures of Rusty, the Dog

Mayank Mouli Sinha



Rusty poked his head out of the bush in which he was hiding. "Ah!, that gardener has finally gone away!" he thought. But fate had thrust another problem upon him. "How am I going to get out?" the thought rang in his mind.

Rusty was a pet dog belonging to the Gupta family. "We are going for a dog racing competition, Rusty," Mohan, Rusty's master had told him two days ago. To Rusty's utmost

delight, he won the race. "I knew Rusty would win, we must buy him a present," said Mohan, jumping up and down in excitement. So Rusty got a huge bone and spent the afternoon, gnawing it greedily. Suddenly he heard something that made his blood run cold. 'I must hide,' he thought.

"Rusty, where are you my boy? It's time for your bath," Mohan called out. "Rusty has run away, Mom, afraid of his bath! Silly dog!" said Mohan grumpily. Rusty hated his baths. Ugh! They made him all soapy and wet. 'Where should I go?' thought Rusty. Then he thought about his favourite hiding place, 'Of course, I should go to the neighbour's garden'. He ran out of the gate and sneaked into the neighbour's garden through the back door. But he had trampled the flowers in this process, to say nothing of leaving mud paw prints

all over the place.

'I think I am in trouble' thought Rusty. 'The gardener comes twice in the afternoon to water the plants, I should hide and with that Rusty hid in the nearby bush. The gardener came, but he stopped dead when he saw the flowers, "Who has spoiled my beautiful tulips", he shouted. Then his eyes fell on the mud prints. "Ah, so it is that dog that lives nearby. Wait till I catch him!". Rusty was frightened. 'It won't be good for me if I get caught' he thought. Soon the gardener was tired of searching for him, and he went away. Seeing his chance, Rusty escaped.

" Phew! That was close" Rusty panted. By now, Rusty was very hungry. 'Mohan must have forgotten about the bath, I should go home' he thought, and started to trudge back towards home. But when he reached home, he was astonished. Instead of Mohan standing to welcome him, there was a big iron lock on the door. 'I should go to the public park nearby,

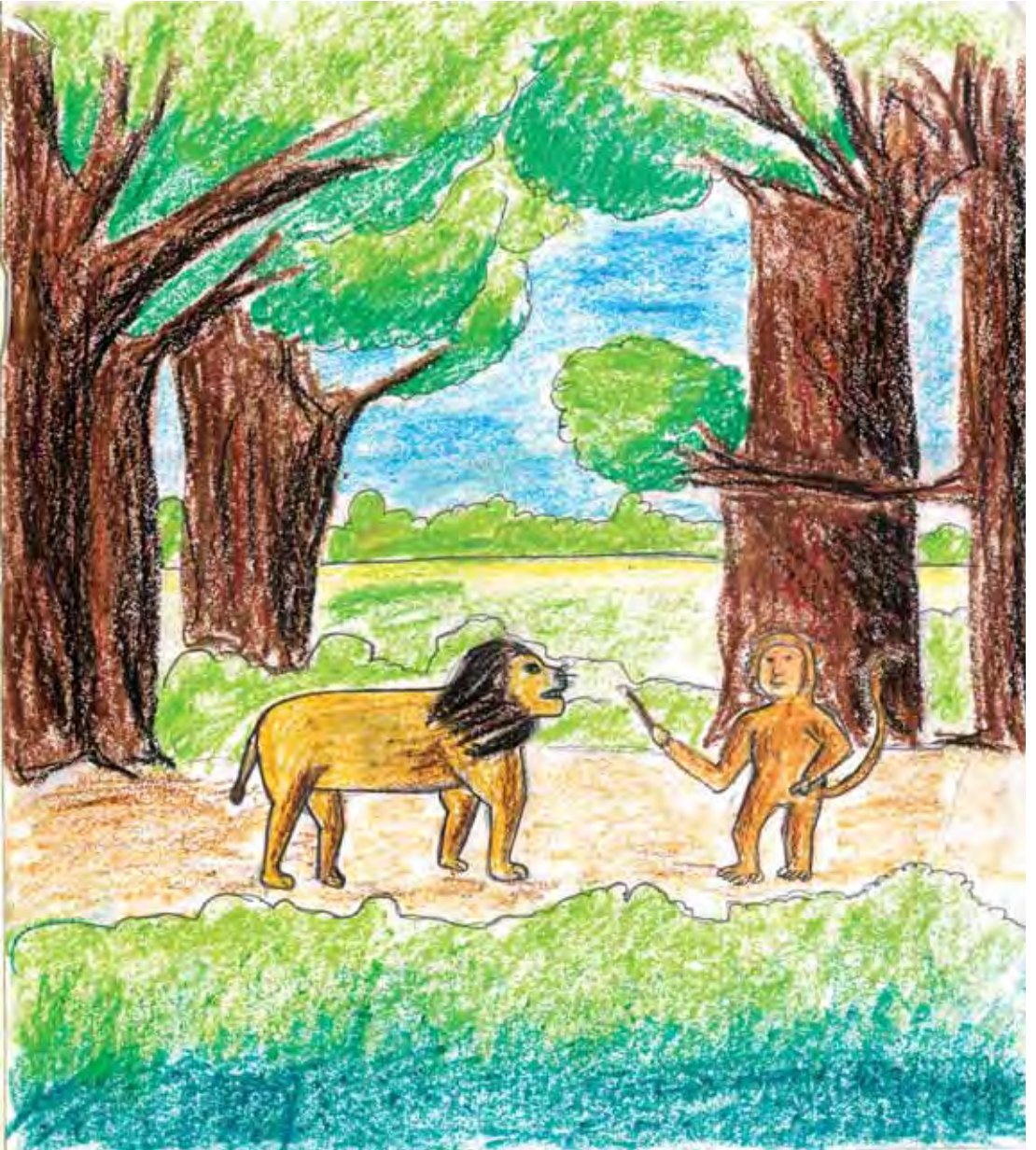
who knows I might get something to eat there' Rusty thought, unaware that Mohan and his family had gone to the police station to look for him.

The park was not crowded since the sun had already set. But there were some biscuits on the ground, probably scattered by a jogger. Rusty's heart skipped a beat. 'Food! At last' he thought rejoicingly. He ran eagerly towards the biscuits. But suddenly he saw a pack of stray dogs approaching him. 'I don't like the look of these dogs, they look very fierce and revolting' thought he.

Suddenly one of the dogs leaped at him with a terrifying bark. "I'm done for" thought Rusty, crouching back, anticipating pain. But suddenly the dogs started running away. Rusty looked around and saw Mohan , shouting at the dogs with a stick in his hand. 'Rusty, down boy down, where have you been?' said Mohan. Rusty was whining happily. Little did Mohan know what an adventure he had had!

A Little Adventure

Indrayudh Sengupta



Some years ago in the Sunderbans, there lived a family of Royal Bengal tigers.

However, they lived in fear as hunters frequented their dwelling place. Tigers

were reducing in number everywhere. So one day, the father, Veer Singh said, “We have to find another home for ourselves.” Soon, Veer Singh along with his wife, Baghini and young cub, Sheroo started their journey in search of a new home.

They struggled through the thick and dense foliage in their search. After a long while, they found themselves in a part of the jungle where they had never been before. Little Sheroo was quite scared by his new strange surroundings. He trembled and clung to his mother and said, “I,m really scared and hungry Maa.” Veer Singh boomed and said, “Don’t be afraid little one! You are a brave tiger! Won’t you protect Maa while I go and search for some food ?” Sheroo nodded his furry little head and stood up paws apart.

It was getting late and Veer Singh had not returned. Sheroo was getting worried. Suddenly, he heard some weird sound. Alarmed, he looked over at his mother. She was in a deep sleep! Sheroo thought, “Papa had asked me to protect Maa while he is gone. I must not let him down!” So Sheroo gathered his courage and stealthily went towards the place from where the sound was emanating.

What he saw when he peered through the undergrowth made his heart leap! There were men in the jungle different from the normal human beings. They had two faces on their heads facing opposite

directions!

It is a fact that honey collectors who venture into the Sunderbans wear masks on the back of their heads to confuse wild animals ... but how was Sheroo to know this? These creatures were frightening enough to be demons to him! However, Sheroo thought, 'I must remain calm. Papa had told me to be brave. I will be brave!'

Just then a brilliant idea struck him. Sheroo silently climbed up a nearby tree and crept to the bee hive to which the ‘demons’ were trying to get. With a swift strike from his small yet strong paw, Sheroo sent the hive flying towards his foes! The hive broke in front of them and a huge swarm of honey bees rose up and started inflicting painful stings! The ‘demons’ ran for their lives screaming in pain.

Sheroo heaved a sigh of relief. He went back to his mother and found that his father had returned with a lovely deer for dinner. When he had finished narrating his story, his father gave a roar of applause. Baghini said, “That’s my dear brave little tiger for you,” licking him fondly. Sheroo felt rather proud of his feat.

Then on they lived as happily as one can in a world where one is constantly being hunted. But Sheroo became brave tiger and was always able to protect his dear ones in times of trouble.

ज्ञानी व चूहा

जयकिशोर कुमार



अब वह बिल्ली बाहर जाकर खेलने लगती है । तभी वहां एक कुत्ता आ जाता है । वह उससे बचकर हांफती हुई ज्ञानी के पास आती है । ज्ञानी उसे कहता कि अब आप कुत्ता बन जाओ ।

वह कुत्ता बनकर घूमने लगता है । तभी वहां एक शेर आ जाता है और वह उससे बचकर फिर उस ज्ञानी के पास आ जाता है । ज्ञानी अब उसे शेर

एक ज्ञानी था । वह एक झोंपड़ी में रहता था । उसकी झोंपड़ी में एक चूहा बिल बना कर रहता था ।

एक दिन जब वह चूहा झोंपड़ी से बाहर आया तो उसको एक बिल्ली ने देख लिया । वह बिल्ली से बचने के लिए हांफता हुआ उस ज्ञानी के पास आया । ज्ञानी ने उससे कहा, 'तुम बिल्ली से डरते हो, जाओ बिल्ली बन जाओ' । वह चूहा बिल्ली बन गया ।

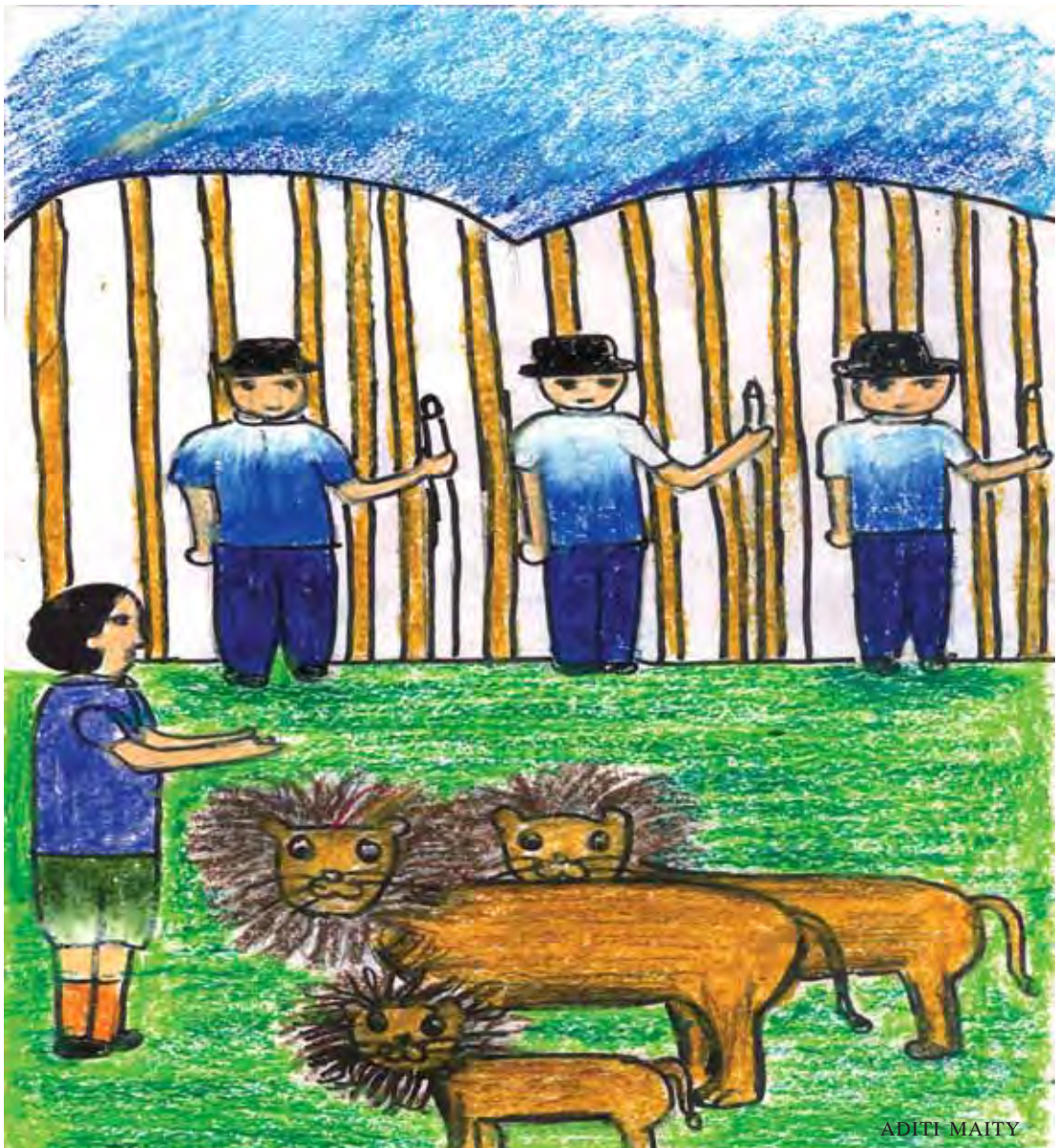
बना देता है ।

एक दिन शेर ने सोचा कि अगर वह ज्ञानी को खा जाए तो वह हमेशा के लिए शेर बना रहेगा । वह उसे खाने को चलता है लेकिन ज्ञानी उसके मन की बात को जान लेता है । वह उसे फिर से चूहा बना देता है ।

सियाराम आदर्श शिक्षा समिति स्कूल, कामा
भरतपुर {राजस्थान}

The Adventure of Lion

Binayak Prasad Ray



Once upon a time, there lived Babun, the lion. He was a cub when both his parents

had been taken away by the circus people. He had no one except for a little

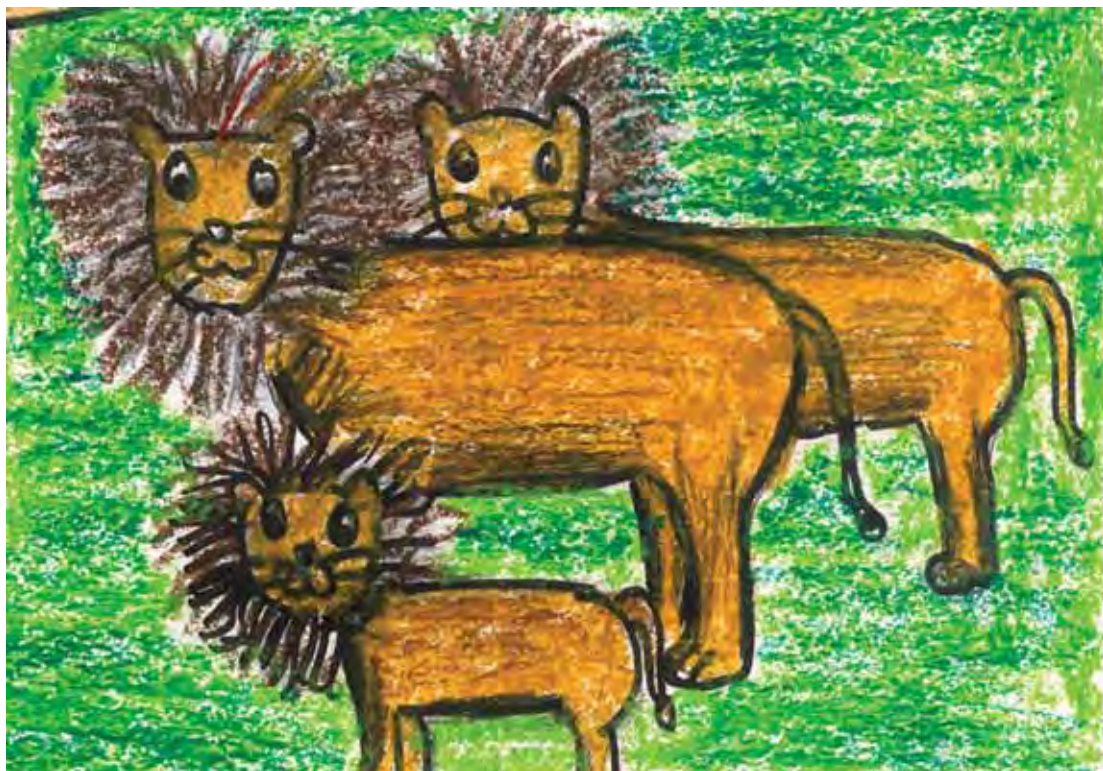
boy who had stayed with his family. Both of them were like brothers. Babun was five years old when he got an idea as to how he could find his parents.

He discussed the issue with his friend Rahul. “It is up to us to find our parents.” Rahul nodded but had a doubt. HOW? This soon became clear when Babun spoke to him. “You have to go looking in all the circuses in the nearby town. I have heard that ‘Ma and Pa’ are present somewhere there. So the little boy who was around 10 years old went

off alone to find their parents.

Rahul had left the jungle without any idea of where their parents could be. He reached the town and asked a person. “Uncle, can you tell me how many circuses are there in this town?” “Six” he replied. On hearing this, he asked if he knew any of them had lions. The man shrugged. He did not know. So Rahul had no other option but to go to all the six circuses.

He went from one circus to the other without any luck. Since he could



not find them, he returned to the jungle without any success. Babun was disappointed to hear the news and told Rahul, "Listen, now both of us will go together to find them." They went to the town the next day itself. As soon as the people saw Babun, they ran away. One of them called the zoo authorities and some people were sent to capture Babun. Babun was taken to the zoo. But the very next day, Rahul came to visit him and told him that he had found their parents.

Rahul told whatever he knew. He said, "Babun, I have found our parents. They are in this zoo itself. They had been sent here after they failed to do anything in the circus. I have heard that they are shifting them tomorrow to another zoo in some other town. So we have to do something tonight."

Babun told Rahul what to do. He told him to hide somewhere till everyone had left. Then he told him to quietly come to his cage, jump over the fence and unlock the door which could only be

opened from outside. Rahul did as he was told. He came out at around 10 o'clock when everyone had left and the guards were sleeping. He opened the cage of Babun and both of them went where their parents were kept. Rahul quietly opened the door and went in after Babun. Their parents were so happy that they roared very loudly. On this, the guards woke up and came running.

All the four ran out of the cage and went towards the gate. There the gate was closed and three people were there. Babun suddenly felt scared as more people were coming and they were also locking the big gate. Babun without wasting any more time pounced on the three people who were guarding the gate. All of them fell down and Rahul opened the gate. All four of them ran out. They ran towards the forest at full speed. When they reached, they stopped running. They were very happy and Rahul was crying. It looked as if the lions were also crying. After this incident, they stayed in the forest happily.

The Mosquito's Adventure

Aryan Tulsyan

“Hello Friends ! My name is Chini Mini Mosquito, said the small little mosquito who lived in a city named Mosqueche. Chini Mini always complained about human beings, “You people are so bad .The doctors take away bottles of your blood and we mosquitos only one drop . You will make so many types of sprays to kill us and do nothing to those doctors”. But the people did not hear because he was a just a small little mosquito.

The mosquito said: OK! Forget everything. Now I am going to tell you an incident of my life. One day I was sleeping in a small petal of a flower. Suddenly I heard a weird voice. I woke up. I saw that there was work going on in that place. Now, I got fed up of it. This was the 1099 time that I had to change my house. So I thought I will move away to China.

Chini Mini started circling around its house and then continued the story: When I reached China, I saw that there was no dirt in the city, Beijing . I decided

that I will explore the city, and then leave for my journey back. I first entered a restaurant . There were many people eating different kind of things. Suddenly some particle of a vegetable entered my eye. I closed my eyes for a second, and then, when I opened it I found myself in somebody's mouth. I did not know what was going on . Then I realised that when I closed my eyes, I got into somebody's mouth. The man drank water and I ,with the water, went inside the man's body.

Many years had passed . One day when the man was sleeping, I decided that I would explore the man's neck. I ran through his stomach. He was snoring and opening his mouth every second. This was my chance ! I got out of his stinky mouth.

Suddenly I heard a weird sound . I woke up. There was work going on in that area. I realised that I was dreaming.”

“Oh! how I love my dear Mosqueche” shrieked Chini Mini.

शिकारी और मुन—मुन

मीता संगेलिया



बहुत पहले की बात है । एक बहुत सुंदर जंगल था जिसमें बहुत से पशु—पक्षी और खरगोश जैसे सुंदर—सुंदर जानवर रहते थे। पर उनसे अलग सबसे सुंदर और सबसे समझदार मुन—मुन नाम की चिड़िया थी । वह बहुत मधुर गाना गाती और सभी का

मन मोह लेती थी । सभी जानवर मुन—मुन का गाना खुश होकर सुनते और उसके गाने पर झूमने लगते ।

एक शाम मुन—मुन अपनी दोस्त कोयल के पास गई तो मुन—मुन ने देखा कि एक शिकारी खरगोश को मारने के लिए उसके

पीछे भाग रहा है । मुन-मुन को खरगोश और जंगल के जानवरों को शिकारी से बचाने के लिए एक उपाय सूझता है । मुन-मुन हिरन को अपने साथ ले जाकर उसे समझाती है कि उसे शिकारी को चकमा देने के लिए शिकारी के आगे-आगे भागना है । और जहां शिकारियों ने हाथी को पकड़ने के लिए लोहे के खांचे रखे हुए हैं वहां शिकारी को लाना है । पर अपने पीछे शिकारी को ऐसे भगाना है कि उसे लोहे के खांचे दिखाई ना दे ।

हिरन मुन-मुन से कहता है : क्या तुमने सोचा है कि अगर शिकारी की जगह मेरा पैर खांचे में फंस गया तो मैं क्या करूंगा? मुन-मुन : तुम चिन्ता मत करो । मैं आसमान में गाना गाती-गाती तुमसे आगे रहूंगी और जब मेरा गाना रुक जाए तो तुम समझ लेना कि तुम्हारे पैरों के पास खांचा आने वाला है । और तभी तुम एक लम्बी सी छलांग मारना । हिरन ने कहा: ठीक है । हिरन वैसा ही करता है जैसा मुन-मुन ने कहा था ।



हिरन शिकारी को खांचे वाले रास्ते की तरफ ले जाता है और जोर से शिकारी के आगे भागने लगता है । अचानक शिकारी का पैर खांचे में आ जाता है । और वो जोर से मदद के लिए चिल्लाने लगता है । थोड़ी देर बाद मुन-मुन ओर जंगल के जानवरों को शिकारी के उपर दया आ जाती है । वे शेर से इस खांचे को खोलने को कहते हैं । हाथी को अपनी सूड़ से शिकारी को बाहर की तरफ खिंचने के लिए कहा गया । हाथी और शेर ठीक वैसा ही करने लगे । और शिकारी उस खांचे से बाहर आ गया ।

शिकारी ने सभी जानवरों से हाथ जोड़कर माफी मांगी और वायदा किया: “आज के बाद किसी भी जानवर को नहीं मारूंगा । मैं जान गया हूं कि जब जान पर बन आती है तो कैसा लगता है । मैं तुम्हारे साथियों को मारकर उन्हें बाजार में बेच देता था । पर तुम सबने मेरी आंखे खोल दी है । अब मैं कभी भी किसी भी जानवर को नहीं मारूंगा ।”

शिकारी वहां से चला गया और फिर वहां कभी नहीं आया । सभी जानवरों ने मुन-मुन का शुक्रिया अदा किया । फिर मुन-मुन गाना गाती हुई अपने घोंसले की ओर चल दी और सभी जानवर खुशी-खुशी जंगल में रहने लगे ।

25/15 जय विहार, गुड़गांव (हरियाणा)

Disowned

Kriti Sinha



"Your white fur is a dishonour to us, we brown owls can't keep you in our family," her father had said to her. "You will have to find another family, live your life without us and learn to be by yourself. I am sorry but we can't keep you," Luna's mother had said. All these words of denial kept circling around her mind. Thinking of her family made her so gloomy that she couldn't keep her mind on searching

Luna had been starving for two days now. She had nowhere to go, nowhere to live and nowhere to find food. 'How am I going to survive,' she thought to herself. Her family had disowned her.

for food. She decided to leave her stomach rumbling and return to her shabby twig-made nest.

The day was arriving but the nocturnal Luna wasn't getting any sleep.

Her sadness was so overpowering that all she could think about was her family; food was still a minor worry for her. But soon her stomach began to rumble and she even started dozing off to sleep. Luna decided to take a little nap and look for food at night.

Night had come and she started her search. She searched high and low but all she got was misfortune. ‘How unlucky can someone be!’ Luna thought. All night she looked around, tears still rolling down her cheeks. Her sorrow was so huge that it was really difficult for her to forget it. ‘How could my family do this to me,’ Luna sobbed. Four days had gone by but Luna wasn’t being able to accept the fact that her family had left her.

It was heart-breaking but Luna decided to move on. “I have to be strong, being a cry baby isn’t going to help me.” Luna encouraged herself. With this thought in her mind, she set to the other forests to look for food.

It was taking long but Luna at last gathered some courage and she did not let it get wasted. ‘I am not going to give up, my parents don’t think much of me but I am going to prove to them that I am not useless,’ Luna thought to herself. She sped up, felt courageous and nothing could stop her now. She flew towards the ground but still found nothing. But giving up was not an option now. So she continued to search.

Suddenly she saw some owls, some she knew and some she didn’t. They were having a nice time dining together. “Can I have some more,” Luna heard an owl say. The delicious smell of mice filled her nose but she was not going to be distracted. She had a gut feeling that her destination was right ahead of her and she couldn’t let it go.

“What is that I hear? They almost sound like mice, delicious mice.” Luna’s mouth started to water. “Squeak, squeak” she heard again. Luna saw a tree nearby and dug a hole, a mouse hole in it. There was a lot of movement going on there. ‘Finally, finally I have got some food,’ Luna thought to herself. She reached near the tree and the sight of so many mice was dumbfounding to Luna.

Though her family had been mean to her, she decided to tell them about this place, after all they were her family members. ‘I am not going to give up hope. They still might accept me again.’ Luna tried being optimistic.

Luna reached the old nest, her home. “I am so sorry I did this to you, I shouldn’t have let you go away,” her mother said soothingly. Luna’s father was so ashamed of what he did that he couldn’t even meet her eyes. “It’s ok daddy, I have forgiven you all,” Luna said. The whole of Luna’s family understood her ability and accepted her back in the family.

The Lost Hero

Aditya Choudhry

“Kalika, can’t you do anything properly,” said Kalika’s friends in the same tone, as Kalika shrunk back in shame. It was nothing new. Kalika, the tortoise, was disliked by everyone. He was good for nothing and never behaved normally.

“Why can’t you be more strong and courageous, Kalika?” said his friends. For all these reasons his family and his friends discouraged him. So Kalika thought, ‘I will prove it to everyone that I am not worthless. I have an idea.’

Kalika had thought of learning wrestling from the great champion Bholu. He went to Bholu to request him to teach how to wrestle. Bholu was sleeping at the moment. He got up to find Kalika in front of him. “What do you want?,” snapped Bholu. “Please Bholu, teach me to wrestle. Could you teach me to do so?” replied Kalika. “Why should I? You are weak and timid. How will you wrestle?”

After a long conversation Bholu agreed to teach Kalika how to wrestle. Kalika and Bholu had long practice sessions of kicking and punching everyday in the morning. Soon after four months, Kalika had expertised the art of jumping, kicking and punching, almost like Bholu.

But this power made him over confident. He wanted to show everyone what a great fighter he was. He would

boast that he could defeat anyone in a wrestling match. To prove his point, he used to kill many animals everyday.

Animals got scared of Kalika and he was like their villain. Now only Bholu could save them. Bholu thought, ‘to teach Kalika a lesson I will have to defeat him in a wrestling match.’ So, Bholu agreed for a match.

When Kalika came for the match, he laughed. He was so confident that he thought he could even defeat Bholu. “I know you have taught me how to wrestle, but I am more stronger than you now. I have even defeated Hasth, the elephant,” shouted Kalika. “Let’s see,” replied Bholu.

So, the much awaited match started. It was growing tense. Each kick and punch of one was stopped by the other. At last Kalika threw Bholu on the floor. Everyone was amazed. But, soon Bholu jumped up and stood. Kalika was not happy.

He said, “You did not teach me this.” “I need to keep something for myself too,” came the reply.

Bholu punched Kalika hard before he could react and he fell on the floor and broke his arm.

So, Kalika lost the match and broke his arm. He could not wrestle for the time being and obviously learned his lesson. Kalika became more humble yet stronger.



1— एक समय की बात है । एक राजा था जिसका नाम कृष्ण चंद्र था । इस राजा का दरबार विद्वानों, कवियों, और एक विदूषक गोपाल भांड के लिए मशहूर था ।

एक दिन एक विद्वान जिनका नाम पंडित मसाई था, राजा के दरबार में आए और उन्होंने राजा से विनती की : क्या मैं आपके दरबारियों से एक प्रश्न कर सकता हूँ? राजा ने उत्तर दिया : बेशक, क्यों नहीं ।



3— सारे दरबारी एक-दूसरे के कानों में फुसफुसाने लगे। एक दरबारी ने कहा : तमिलनाडु। दूसरे ने बताया : मगध। सारे अनुमान गलत निकले ।



2— पंडित ने दरबारियों के समक्ष अपने प्रश्न रखे : आपमें से कोई यह बता सकता है कि मैं किस प्रदेश का निवासी हूँ। आप सभी को सिर्फ एक-एक मौका मिलेगा ।



4— तभी गोपाल भांड का आगमन हुआ । राजा ने उसे सारी बातें बतायी : गोपाल, अब तुम ही इस प्रश्न का सही उत्तर दे सकते हो ।

और पंडित



5— उस रात जब पंडित मसाई अपने कमरे की ओर लौट रहे थे तो रास्ते में गोपाल एक जगह छिप गए और परदे के पीछे से अपने पैर को इस तरह आगे कर दिया कि वह पंडित उसे देख नहीं सके । पंडित मसाई नीचे गिर पड़ते हैं ।

पंडित — {ओड़िया में बोलते हैं} ये दरी तो बेहद बेवकूफ हैं ।

गोपाल भांड {मन ही मन} हा हा, हो हो ।



7— अगले दिन गोपाल राजा के पास जाते हैं और उनसे कहते हैं — महाराज, पंडित ओड़िया के निवासी हैं । पंडित — लेकिन आपको कैसे पता चला ?



6— गोपाल — अब मैं जान गया हूं कि पंडित ओड़िया के निवासी हैं क्योंकि उन्होंने ओड़िया में अपशब्द कहे ।



8— तब गोपाल सारी बातें पंडित को बताते हैं । गोपाल — जब लोग सतर्क नहीं हों और अचानक उनके साथ कुछ बुरा हो जाए तो वे अपनी मातृभाषा में अपशब्दों का प्रयोग करते हैं । आपने कल ओड़िया भाषा में अपशब्द कहे, इसलिए आप ओड़िया के निवासी हैं ।

पंडित — (आश्चर्य से) हूं। तो ये बात है ।

चित्रांकन एवं लेखन : गौरव पति

The Adventures of a Street Dog

Priyadarshini Bhowal



ARUSHI DUTTA

I'm a street dog. Well, I am actually very hungry because I hardly get a morsel of food. It's become a habit, so I never feel it. I roam about the streets all day, if a kind man gives me something. While I'm going about, I see so many tragic moments. I want to share one of them with you.

I was roaming about the streets as usual when I came to a street bend and I heard something. "Raghu did you bring your gun, if you don't, I will kill you with mine!". Now another man started speaking in a gruff voice. "Oh! Shut up! you want everyone to know what you want to do. Oh yes, I did bring my gun!"

I thought that it was just a joke. But, after some time, a car came speeding by. A bone dropped at my feet. I looked up to see a kind face with a pug nose. But

soon he was bounded by two horrible looking men with dirty rags tied around their heads. The kind man started to cry for help. All of a sudden, a gunshot rang through the air. I could do nothing but to bark. No one could understand my language. The dying man thrust his hand at me but I could do nothing. The blood was gushing out of his head. I was feeling like I would burst out crying but not a single tear came out of my eyes.

It was a moment I could never forget. His hand fell down from his grasp and he died with no one except me knowing how it happened. The police came over to the place just to see me standing there as an eye witness and blood drops splattered over me.

The blood of the man is still on my body. It didn't rub off. I wished in my mind that the kind soul may rest in peace. Nowadays I regularly visit the spot where the tragic moment took place. 'What did he do that made someone kill him? The world has become a treacherous place with a few of kind people left. I have become very weak and ill these days. I have been starving for a week. My life now hangs on a thread. I am counting the days before I die and go to meet my kind master in heaven.

बगीचा

अलका



एक आदमी के पास एक सुंदर सा बगीचा था जिसमें तरह-तरह के रंग-बिरंगे फूल खिले थे। उस बगीचे में वहां के बच्चे रोज खेलने आते और फूलों को तोड़ देते थे। इस बात से वह आदमी काफी नाराज रहता था। उसे अपना बगीचा काफी प्यारा था। वह रोज पौधों और फूलों में पानी देता था। बच्चों को समझाने के बावजूद कई बार बच्चे उसी बगीचे में खेलने आते थे क्योंकि उन्हें भी वही बगीचा अच्छा लगता था।

एक दिन उस आदमी ने निश्चय किया, मैं इन बच्चों को डरा-धमकाकर बगीचे से

बाहर कर दूंगा। उसने वैसा ही किया और बच्चे डर गए। उस दिन के बाद से बच्चे वहां नहीं गए। कुछ दिनों के बाद बगीचे के सारे फूल मुरझा गए। वृक्षों के पत्ते सूख गए। पानी देने के बाद भी पत्ते नीचे गिर जाते। बगीचा सूखे जंगल के समान हो गया। उस आदमी ने सोचा, 'कहीं बच्चों

के नहीं आने के कारण तो बगीचा सूख गया। मैं बच्चों को दुबारा बुला कर देखता हूं। अगर बगीचा पहले की तरह हो गया तो मैं बच्चों से माफी मांग लूंगा।'

उस आदमी ने उन बच्चों से कहा कि वे सभी इस बगीचे में आकर खेल सकते हैं। फिर धीरे-धीरे बगीचा पहले की तरह हरा होने लगा और लहराने लगा।

राजकीय उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालय
पोलियां पुरोहितां, ऊना (हिमाचल प्रदेश)

Galloping

Akansha Srivastava



BISWAJIT PALIT

‘Chomp ! Chomp !’ The lone horse was grazing in the field. The life of this horse had become very boring . It stayed in this field through out the year. It had no friend. No one took it for any ride.

It was one fine morning , a day just like any other day for everyone. But, different for this bored horse. It thought, ‘ I have already spent an year in this lone field. Today I will go for an adventure



and make my life interesting, amazing and full of fun.'

The horse moved out through the open gate of the field. It was going to see the world outside the field. It did not know where to go. Yet, it turned right, then left and galloped away as fast as it could.

Suddenly it came to a halt. "What a massive cave!" It thought to itself. The horse had stopped in front of a cave. It was very thrilling for the horse. It cautiously moved inside the cave.

There was a river flowing inside the cave. Also to be found were several, bright pink lotuses and a few white lilies. The bank was rocky where now the horse stood. The horse thought to itself, "I shall explore what is at the other end of the cave".

The horse walked, ran and galloped, still could not reach the other end of this endless cave. The horse was quite tired now. It was still following the path of the river hoping to reach the end of the cave. Suddenly it saw a bright patch of sunlight a few steps ahead. The horse had reached its destination!

But something more exciting and thrilling was awaiting the horse. The scenery outside the other opening of the cave was like one we see in our sweet dreams. There was a lush, green forest.

The smell of the fruits and flowers was so very inviting.

The horse was **SPELLBOUND**. It neighed happily. It decided to live in this forest forever.

Adventures of Manny, the Monkey

Ramiz Khan



“Manny,” asked Albert, “Oh! Manny where are you?”

Manny the cute and friendly monkey, came running and jumped on Albert.

“Hey Manny,” said Albert smiling, “what are you doing? You seem very

happy and active.” Manny gave a happy scream.

“Listen, today I am going to Tanzania to visit my aunt. But I cannot take you there because my aunt is allergic to animals. So, you have to stay in the

garden as usual because I know you won't leave. Please keep my promise."

With that they left the house. Manny was a bit sad, but he liked the garden like anything.

On the other side, when Albert reached Tanzania, Africa, they saw one of the most visited sites of Mount Kilimanjaro. They lived in the beautiful town, Moshi.

The day Albert came back home with a happy smile, he got the saddest surprise of his life. When he called out to Manny, there was no response.

Albert was very sad and didn't eat anything for about a week.

Manny actually met another monkey and went with him to the Amazon forest. But to their bitter disappointment, they got separated.

Manny met a crocodile, who was dying to eat him. Manny was chased on the banks of river Amazon. They came to a point where they got surrounded by trees. Of not getting to think of a solution,

Manny climbed a tree. He was safe and secure there.

Manny roamed around for a week and finally, got the way back to Albert's home.

"Manny", cried Albert, "where were you for so long? It hurt me."

They hugged each other and they promised that they won't leave their hands ever again. They became 'best friends forever'.



The Final Successor

Sumedha Mukharji



The lion couldn't find his minister. 'Where did that careless fox go?' He was filled with frustration. "Aah! There you are! Where were you, you worthless piece of rock?" "I was just arranging your breakfast, your majesty," he said, exhausted. "Well, whatever. Round up some of my subjects. We're having a meeting. " The fox was astounded. "A m-m-meeting, sire?" "Yes, a meeting!

Are you deaf or what?" The fox went away quietly.

'A meeting! At this age the king is holding a meeting! For what?' Still, the minister had no choice. First, he went to call the elephant. Then all the others. All of them were amazed.

The animals assembled in front of the king's throne. They were all silent, and anxious. 'What would the king say?'

Everyone stood up and bowed when the king arrived. The lion spoke, “You all know that I’m aged. My back is humped. My voice is cracked. All this is because I have been king of this forest for thirty years. Now the time has come that I choose my successor to the throne.”

No one spoke for a while. Then someone asked, “Your majesty, how will the successor be chosen?”

“I have devised a method for this. You just have to solve a simple riddle.”

Everyone was thinking that if the king is saying the test is easy, then it must be very simple. Obviously, everyone wanted to become the king. So another animal said, “Then we would be very

pleased to hear the riddle, your majesty.” “As I said, it’s very simple. Anyway, the riddle is this- can any of you tell me, what kind of water neither comes from the sky nor from the ground?”

After thinking a little, everybody was irritated. ‘How can they find water that neither comes from the sky nor from the ground?’ The meeting hall was very quiet. Then the bear broke the silence. He said, “You majesty, we’ve failed you. None of us can say about such a water. It’s ridiculous!” Gloomy faces looked at the king. All of them were disappointed.

Then suddenly, the owl said, “Your majesty, I have the answer. I cannot

understand why the others failed in such an easy test. The kind of water that can neither be found from the ground nor from the sky can be found inside a coconut.”

Everyone was looking at the owl amazed. Then the king said heartily, “Well done, my boy, well done! Now the successor has been chosen.” An applause broke out. Every animal was dumbstruck by the thought to have an owl as the king!!



Adventure of a Golden Dog

Soumyajit Ghosal



“Goldy” called Peter. A golden dog ran out of a bush and jumped on his master, Peter, and licked his face. “Stop Goldy, stop” cried Peter and the dog obediently moved off him. Peter took out a bone

from his back pocket and threw it in the air.

The bone, by mistake hit a bird and it landed on the ground with a thud. Peter quickly ran to it and picked the bird up.

“No Goldy, stop right there. This bird is hurt, don’t do anything to it.” But this time the dog didn’t listen to his master and advanced on the injured bird in Peter’s hand. Peter tried to run away but he couldn’t, the dog soon caught him.

Peter stopped and turned around. The dog jumped for the bird as Peter slapped Goldy hard. Goldy stopped right there and saw his master walk away. He was very hurt. Peter never even scolded him, and today because of a little bird he hit him.

The dog thought to himself that his master did not care for him anymore. Goldy feeling very sad, ran away from his home as well as his master.

A few weeks later, when the bird was alright, Peter set it free. After the bird was gone he realised that the dog was missing.

He set in search for Goldy. As he went to find Goldy, he saw that there were footprints of a similar dog like Goldy’s. Peter suddenly remembered that Goldy’s paws were coloured so wherever he went, the dog left footprints.

Peter followed it and at last found Goldy in a garbage, thin and weak. Peter ran to him and hugged him till Goldy was out of breath.

Peter promised Goldy that he would never hit him again and they never ever parted again.



The Story of Three Friends

Rajdeep Ghosh



Once upon a time a frog , a mouse and a turtle were good friends. They always used to play among themselves and had fun together. Once the frog said, “Why

don’t we go for a big long tour and discover many new places”. They all agreed to it.

One day they started for their

journey. They started to discover new places. They had much fun while they stopped in front of a river. The river had enormous flow. As the frog could cross the river, he told his friends, “I can easily cross this river and discover many new places but goodness you can’t. So good bye”.

Soon, the mouse got an idea. He told the turtle, “If we cannot swim across the

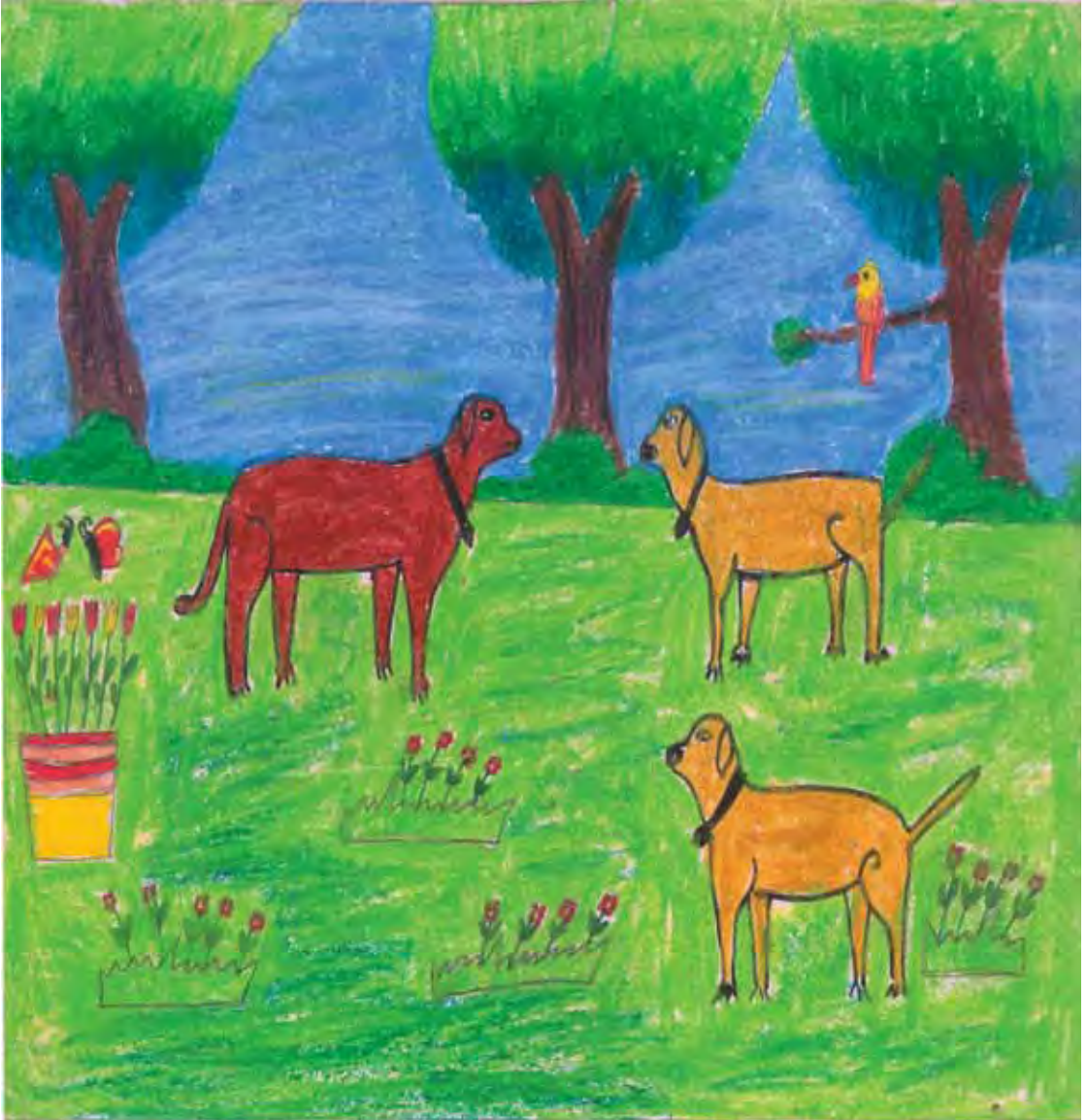
river then we can surely cross the river by making a boat”. So both of them started thinking as to how they can make a boat and cross the river. The mouse got a big coconut leaf and fixed a hole and tied it with a leaf. The turtle brought a medium sized leaf. They made a boat type thing.

This way they could again continue their journey discovering new things.



काना गीदड़

सुभी लाठी



एक जंगल में एक बहुत ही सुन्दर तालाब था। उस तालाब में जंगल के सभी जीव-जन्तु

अपनी प्यास बुझाने आया करते थे। एक दिन दूसरे जंगल से एक काना गीदड़ भी

उस तालाब में पानी पीने आया। उसे वह तालाब बहुत सुन्दर लगा और उसका मन वहीं रहने को किया। लेकिन गीदड़ एक ऐसा जानवर है जो धूर्त स्वभाव का होता है। वह अपने स्वभाव को बदल नहीं सकता।

स्वभाव के अनुसार उसने वहाँ पर एक पेड़ के नीचे कुछ हड्डियों को इकट्ठा किया और उनको गोबर से लीप कर एक चबूतरा तैयार किया। वह गीदड़ सज-धज कर उस चबूतरे पर बैठ गया और स्वयं को उस तालाब का राजा समझने लगा।

वह धूर्त काना गीदड़ उस तालाब में पानी पीने वाले जानवरों को तंग करने लगा। जो भी जानवर वहाँ पानी पीने आता वह गीदड़ उनसे कहता कि मैं इस तालाब का राजा हूँ, तुम मेरी आज्ञा के बिना इस तालाब का पानी नहीं पी सकते। तुम्हें पहले मेरी शान में एक श्लोक का गान करना पड़ेगा। तभी तुम इस तालाब के मीठे जल का आनंद ले सकते हो। वह श्लोक था— “चाँदी का तेरा चौतड़ा, सोने से लीपा है, कानों में तेरे बालियाँ, तू कोई राजा बैठा है।” इस तरह वह प्यास से व्याकुल जानवरों से अपनी तारीफ करवाता। फिर उनको पानी पीने देता।

एक दिन एक नेवला उस तालाब पर पानी पीने आया। उसने उस काने गीदड़ को सबक सिखाने का मन बनाया। जैसे ही नेवला तालाब में पानी पीने लगा गीदड़ ने उसे भी अपनी तारीफ करने को कहा।

नेवला बोला : देखते नहीं हो मैं प्यास से मरा जा रहा हूँ। पहले मुझे पानी पीने दो, फिर तेरी तारीफ करूँगा। गीदड़ ने उसे पानी पीने दिया।

पानी पीकर नेवला बोला— “हड्डियों का तेरा चौतड़ा गोबर से लीपा है। सिर पे तेरे जूतियाँ, तू कोई काना गीदड़ बैठा।”

यह बोलकर नेवला भाग गया। काना गीदड़ यह सुनकर आग बबूला हो गया और उस नेवले को मारने भागा। नेवला भाग कर अपने बिल में घुस गया। पर उसकी पूँछ बिल के बाहर रह गई। अब नेवला मुसीबत में आ गया। लेकिन नेवला



बहुत बुद्धिमान था। वह गीदड़ से बोला—
“तू वही गीदड़ है न जो एक आँख से
काना है।”

गीदड़ ने जैसे ही अपना मुँह हाँ कहने
के लिए खोला, नेवले की पूँछ उसके मुँह से
छूट गई।

नेवले ने अपने बिल में जाकर उस
गीदड़ को खूब चिढ़ाया। गीदड़ अपनी इस
बेइज्जती से इतना शर्मसार हुआ कि वह
तालाब छोड़कर भाग गया। उस जंगल के
जीव-जन्तु पहले की तरह वहाँ सुखी से
रहने लगे।



पुस्तक समीक्षा

आंध्र प्रदेश की लोक कथाएं



आन्ध्र प्रदेश चावल की भारी पैदावार के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। घने जंगल, वन्य जीव, पर्वत-श्रृंखलाएं, जल-स्त्रोतों के अतिरिक्त असंख्य प्राकृतिक

संसाधन राज्य की अमूल्य संपदा हैं।

स्वर्णिम इतिहास के लिए विख्यात आन्ध्र प्रदेश के निवासी अपने कुशल व्यवहार, परिश्रम और वाकपटुता के लिए जाने जाते हैं।

इस संग्रह में प्रस्तुत 16 कहानियां इन्हीं विशेषताओं का वर्णन करती हैं।

उत्तराखण्ड की लोक कथाएं



मंदिरों और तीर्थ-स्थलों की नगरी उत्तराखण्ड को देवभूमि के नाम से भी जानते हैं।

बर्फ से ढकी भव्य हिमालय की चोटियां, चमचमाती हिमनद, फूलों से भरी घाटियां और घने जंगलों से सजे इस राज्य के लोगों का अपने परिवेश से गहरा लगाव है। प्रकृति की पूजा ही इनके लिए सच्ची साधना है।

सोलह कहानियों का यह संग्रह इंसान और प्रकृति के बीच इस घनिष्ठ रिश्ते को दर्शाता है।

आन्ध्र प्रदेश की लोक कथाएं

गीता आर्यंगार

चिल्ड्रन्स बुक ट्रस्ट

रु 80 / -

उत्तराखण्ड की लोक कथाएं

दीपा अग्रवाल

चिल्ड्रन्स बुक ट्रस्ट

रु 100 / -



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