

livelihoods

today and tomorrow

July 2013

Livelihoods

in



PANCHATANTRA

Prosperous and Equitable Telangana and Seemaandhra! - 6

Happy Small States! UPA is agreeable and Congress resolves to de-merge Telangana and Seemandhra with Hyderabad as common capital for 10 years. Formalities have to be initiated. It is also important that they display statesmanship and focus on smooth reconciliation and amicable settling down with lots of give and take from both sides. It is more important for Telangana to display statesmanship of higher order.

General Elections round the corner! Parties are ready!

However, Parties are not ready to come under the RTI.

Stories and arguments are part of our learning system in general and in India in particular. We have all grown up with listening to stories and picking up the lessons relevant for us. Many of them concern our lives and livelihoods. However, Panchatantra stories have a special place for us amongst all of them. Many a lesson in livelihoods could be derived from the stories within the stories in Panachatantra. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Livelihoods in Panchatantra' as a special issue.

You might have read 'Gitanjali' but do not miss to read another 'The Home and The World' by Rabindranath Tagore.

'How to' supplement discusses 'How to do fund raising?' Usual e-links introduces a video (Poverty Reduction and Livelihoods Promotion - UNDP), book (Tribes of India, Haimendorf), LEAP (Arikera Thanda), value-chain/subsector (Ginger/Cashew), seventh issue (institutions) of e-livelihoods learning course.

With the faith and hope that you find this edition's experiment to present stories of livelihoods useful, we remain.

the 'livelihoods' team

Warmer World Threatens Livelihoods in South East Asia— agricultural production, water resources, coastal ecosystems . Food shortages and shifting rain patterns leaving some areas under water and some without enough water makes south East Asia more vulnerable— Scientific report by World Bank Group.



Facilitating sustainable livelihoods by organizing and strengthening Elder Self Help Groups (ESHGs) not only increase their economic security and self respect but also enable them to help destitute older people.

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Focus:

Livelihoods in Panchatantra

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VCA	: Ginger	
Sub-sector	: Cashew	
e-Book	: Tribes of India	
v-Book	: Poverty Reduction and Livelihoods Promotion by UNDP	

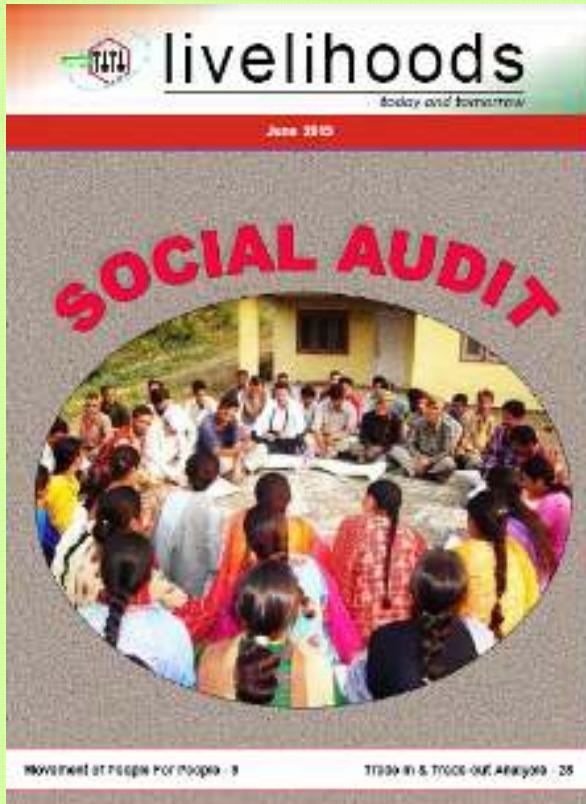
e- course
Institutions

http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/230-e-course-capsule-7-july-2013-

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'How to' Supplement
How to do fund raising

http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/231-how-to-do-fund-raising



I received magazine. In the magazine articles are good and informative.

Supplement: How to do Appraisal and e-course on 'Sub-project Proposals and Business plan' are good.

Ravi Prakash
Project Coordinator , HelpAge India
Adilabad



Can Employment
Generation and Marketing
Mission Provides
Sustainable Livelihoods to
the Youth?

NABARD'S Largesse Takes Rural Poor for Ride:

New evidence reveals a pattern of grants by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to dubious NGOs that are profiting from the rural poor instead of uplifting them. These NGOs have all been found to be connected to those managing Nabard's affairs, either in the board room or in the Finance Ministry. Shivalik Bank went on to become the lone beneficiary of this concession. Of total grants of Rs 7.88 crore disbursed to 303 NGOs in Uttar Pradesh in 2012-13, Janhit Foundation alone secured Rs. 6.01 crore. A meagre Rs. 1.87 crore accounting for an average grant size of between Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 80,000 was disbursed to the remaining 302 NGOs.

Pilot Scheme to Transform PACS:

Rural banking is all set to get a major boost with Nabard in association with APCOB launching a pilot scheme to transform Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) into Multi Service Centres (MSC). Keeping in view that only 50 per cent of one lakh-odd PACS in the country are active, Nabard wants to release funds to APCOB to enable District Central Cooperative Banks to assist and guide the PACS sanction various types of loans.

Andhra Pradesh Leads in Bringing Down Poverty:

Andhra Pradesh has halved the number of poor over the last two years from 176 lakh to 80 lakh, the latest National Sample Survey Organisation data has revealed. No other Indian State comes close to this rate of poverty reduction from 21.1 per cent to 9.37 per cent during the period 2009-10 and 2011-12. After helping them in project evaluation and finalising the project reports, the PACS concerned has to make its own assessment for sanction of loan to individual entrepreneurs. The NABARD initiative is driven by the fact that the commercial banks have about 35,000 branches and Regional Rural Banks about 15,000 branches in the rural areas. ❖

Weavers Evince Interest In Solar Projects, Tamil Nadu:

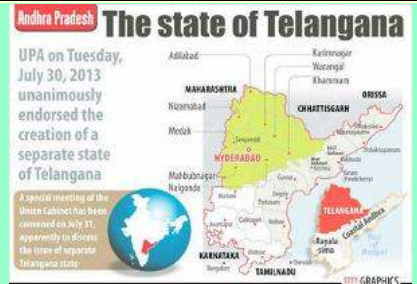
Nearly 100 power loom weavers in Coimbatore District are expected to go in for solar systems to run the power looms. The Coimbatore District Job working Power loom Weavers' Association organised a meeting and Canara Bank disbursed Rs. 5.85 lakh loan to one of the weavers who has established a demonstration system. The loan is repayable in eight years. They will go in for five kw solar systems. More than 500 weavers attended the meeting and showed interest in applying for loan to install solar systems.

CAG Report Finds Gaping Holes In Rural Job Scheme, New Delhi:

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit report on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for the year ending March 31, 2012, highlighted crucial gaps and shortcomings in planning, release and utilization of funds, registration and issue of job cards, employment, execution of works, monitoring and evaluation. The report highlighted that out of Rs 4152.54 crore available in Assam under MGNREGS during 2007-12, Rs 4060.48 crores (98 per cent) was spent on the creation of assets and employment opportunities.

Rs. 50 cr. Released For Copra Procurement:

Minister: Shamanur Shivashankarappa, Minister for Horticulture, has said that the government has released Rs. 50 crore for purchase of copra and asked growers to avail themselves of the benefits. Inaugurating a copra procurement centre on the premises of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) yard, Mr. Shivashankarappa said that the government was committed to protecting the interests of farmers. The price of copra in the open market had come down to less than Rs. 4,000 a quintal. Earlier, there were only 11 copra procurement centres in the State. Now there were 20. The Union government would give Rs. 5,500 a quintal and the State Rs. 1,000 a quintal as incentive for the copra purchased at the procurement centres. ❖



Rezoning 'Threatens Farmers' Livelihoods':

Farmers say Palerang Council's proposed planning changes will restrict grazing on their properties to protect wildlife, devalue the worth of their land and threaten their livelihoods. They say its creeping green agenda includes protecting kangaroos now in plague numbers. Bywong resident Mike Cramsie said: "What gets up the nose of those of us opposing the zoning is the idea that somehow we are not environmentally responsible, yet the countryside would not be what it is today had we not developed it, planted trees, eradicated noxious weeds, fertilised the ground, and improved the pasture.

UNDP Committed To Enhancing Livelihoods Recovery Through Food Security In The Aftermath Of Natural Disasters, UNDP:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Fiji have started a project to support the people in Fiji to restore and sustain their livelihoods and build their resilience around natural disasters. The Fiji Livelihoods Recovery through Enhanced Food Security project will work with community groups comprising of women, youths and cooperatives to develop their skills to enhance food security. The project is in response to the government's Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) recommendations. The Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries have collectively pledged US\$40,000 to support the project. ❖

Prosperous and Equitable Telangana and Seemaandhra!

Happy Small States!

Telangana appears a formality now!

India is gearing up for general elections!

Planning Commission announces drop in poor in the country to 22% from 37% in about 9 years. World Bank still thinks one-third of poorest one billion of the world live in India. At the US\$2 criterion, more than 60% of India is poor. But, all the statistics admit growing inequity in the country between the rich and the poor. There is near consensus on India's new jobs are not in sync with its growth. The moot questions are – is poverty reducing? The less poor among the poor may be crossing the income poverty line sometimes, is it translating into they crossing the nutrition poverty, social poverty and deprivation? Will they really cope with shocks? Are the poorest still remain excluded with increased inequity and intense poverty? We don't seem to know really or we are not ready to acknowledge.

Resolution of Congress Working Committee on de-merger of Andhra Pradesh into Telangana and Seemaandhra with Hyderabad as a common capital for 10 years has set the formal process in motion. It is expected that it will take some 100-300 days for formal notification, if everything goes right.

Now is the time to begin the fresh visioning in both Telangana and Seemaandhra for growth, prosperity and freedom from multi-dimensional poverty. The leadership in both the states have to work in building this vision and realizing the same. The visioning would entail looking at –

Size and number of districts for better governance and efficient administration, Natural Resources including forests, coast, mines, water and land, Rainfall patterns and conservation and harvesting of water in the catchment, Water-efficient and organic farming – agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, livestock etc., Traditional Occupational Groups Collectivization of the producers at various levels around their produce, Collectivization of the consumers, Special Attention to Tribal Areas and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups and Nomadic Tribal Groups, SC, ST, BC, minority, disability and elders sub-plans, Saturated mobilization of the poorest and vulnerable into self-help movement, Planning for distributed growth, Decentralization and empowered local governments, Participatory Five-year Perspective and Annual Village and Town Plans, 100% 3R (reading, writing and arithmetic) literacy, No child (school going age) outside the school, Investment in Quality Education for All and Gurukulams for the meritorious, Investment in ensuring Quality Health Services to All, Better Nutrition to All and reduced IMR and MMR, Food Security, Health Security, Life Security and Livelihoods Security for All directly or through mutual support systems, Ration Cards to All without any benami cards, Universal and Decent Social Security for Elders, Persons with Disability etc., Attention on Migration and Migrant Workers, Spread-out Higher Education Institutions, 2 young professionals in each village or for every 1000 people in villages Paraprofessionals, Community Service Providers and Community Resource Persons in each cluster of villages, Transfer of all the 33 subjects to Panchayats, Functional Library in each village, Cottage and/or Local Value-addition Activity in each village, Functioning Youth Association in each village, Student Activity Centre in each school, All-weather Connectivity to each village, Electric Power to All, Affordable E-connectivity to All, Knowledge kiosks and hubs in each cluster of villages, Affordable entertainment, Affordable information, business/market intelligence and development communication, Access to Community Radio, FM Radio and TV channels relevant to commoners, Extension Services in the hands of the community, Enabling mutually-aided cooperation, Functioning Tribes Advisory Council, Accessible and responsive Government and Governance

Prosperous, equitable and knowledge-centric Telangana and Seemaandhra are possible. Let us build them. Let us support them. Let us be part of them. Let us begin our efforts. Let us co-exist together. ❖

Livelihoods in Panchatantra

Panchatantra is a collection of ancient stories written by Vishnu Sharma. The central characters of the stories are usually animals and each story conveys an important moral. Panchatantra stories are staple reading for children, for they encourage moralistic behavior and induce sound values.

The Panchatantra stories are a repository of spiritual, human and social capital. Many stories depict the importance of these capitals and how they complement each other. In this sense, the stories provide important lessons for the livelihoods/development worker.

Importantly, these stories remind us of the significance of the simpler and more commonplace elements in life such as common sense, valuing relationships, unity, rational behavior, etc. Often, acquiring 'higher' knowledge brushes away these basic elements, rendering the knowledge useless. Yet, it is these basic elements that lend maturity to a livelihoods/development worker.

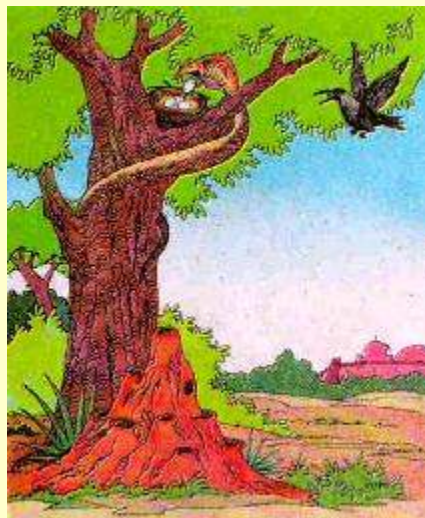
This issue of 'livelihoods' presents a small collection of Panchatantra stories that convey relevant lessons to the livelihoods worker.

The Crow and The Snake

Once upon a time, there lived a pair of crows with their young ones on a huge peepal tree on the outskirts of a small village. And at the root of the tree there lived a big black serpent in a deep hole. Every time the crows laid their eggs, the serpent crept up the tree and ate all the eggs and the young ones. With the result, the crows were never able to raise their young ones. This made the crows very sad. They planned that they can only get rid of the killer serpent not with physical strength but with intelligence.



Nearby this tree, King's palace is situated. One day the crow observed the queen taking bath in an open swimming pool, inside the palace. The queen, while taking bath always removes all her ornaments and keeps them by the side of the pool. While she is busy taking her bath, the crows sweep down upon the lake and picked up two diamond ornaments and flew towards the snake's hole. The guards ran after the crows brandishing their sticks and swords. They chased the crows and soon reached that big peepal tree, where the big black snake lived. They found the diamond necklaces, lying inside the serpent's hole. Afraid of the snake, they first killed the snake by sticks and swords and then took out the ornaments and returned to the palace.



The crows thus got rid of the snake and lived happily in the peepal tree, thereafter.

"Intelligence Is Greater Than Strength"

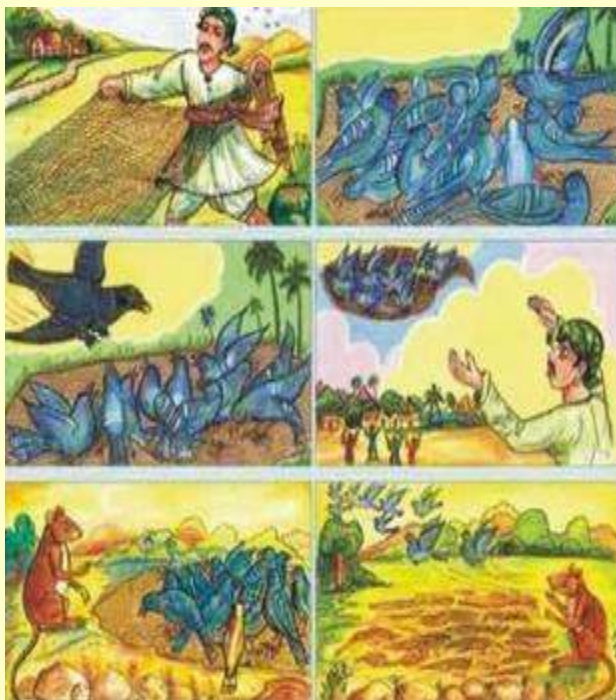
Doves and the Fowler

Once, a fowler came to take a rest there. He also had a huge net with him. He set his net under the tree and strewed some grains of rice to lure the birds. A crow living in the tree saw it and cautioned his friends not to go down to eat the rice.

But at the same moment, a flock of doves came flying over the banyan tree. They saw grains of rice strewn around and without losing a moment, descended on the ground to eat the grains of rice. As soon as they started eating the rice, a huge net fell over them and they were all trapped. They tried everything to come out of the net, but in vain. They saw the fowler coming towards them. He was very happy to find a large number of doves trapped inside the net.

However, the king of doves was very intelligent and clever. He said to other doves, "We must do something immediately to free ourselves from the clutches of this fowler. I've an idea. We should all fly up together clutching the net in our beaks. We will decide our next course of action later. Now, come on friends, let's fly."

So each dove picked up a part of the huge net in his beak and they all flew up together. Seeing the birds flying along with the



whole net, the fowler was surprised. He could never imagine this. He ran after the flying birds, shouting madly, but could not catch them. Soon the birds flew out of his sight.

When the king dove saw that the fowler had given up the chase, he said to his friends, "Now we all have to get out of this net. There lives a mouse on the nearby hillock. He is my friend. Let's go to him for his help."

All the doves flew on to meet the mouse. When the mouse heard the doves making noise in front of his hole, he got frightened and hid himself deeper into the hole. He came out only when he heard the king dove saying, "Friend, it's I, the king dove. We're in great difficulty. Please come out and help us."

Hearing the dove, his friend's voice, the mouse came out of his hole and saw the king dove and his friends trapped in the net.

"Oh!", said the mouse, "Who's done all this to you?"

The king dove narrated the whole story. The mouse immediately started nibbling at the net around the king dove. The king dove said, "No, my friend. First set my followers free. A king cannot keep his subjects in pain and enjoy the freedom for himself."

The mouse praised the king dove for his nobleness and nibbled at the portion of the net, which would set free the other doves first. And only at last, he freed the king dove.

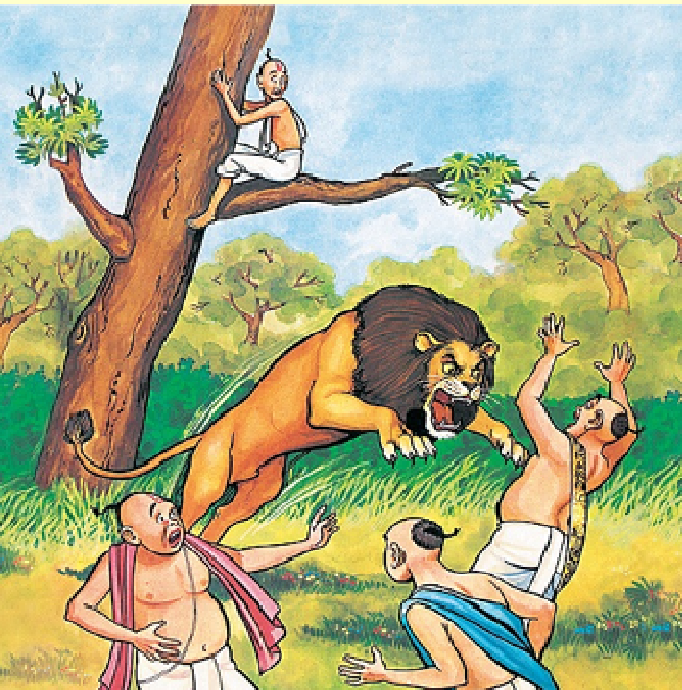
All the doves were very grateful to the mouse. They thanked the mouse and then flew to their destination happily.

"Unity Is Strength"

Lion that came back to life

Long, long ago, there lived four friends in a village. Three of them were very learned, but they absolutely lacked in common sense. The fourth one, although not much learned, had a lot of common sense. He, at least, knew what was good and what was bad and was practical to quite an extent.

Once the three learned friends decided to travel to far off towns and cities in order to make their fortune. They were not ready to take their fourth friend with them, because he was not learned, but ultimately agreed to do so, considering that he was their childhood friend.



Soon the four friends set out on a long journey. They walked from one city to another, looking for an opportunity to amass wealth. Once, while they were passing through a dense forest, they came across a heap of bones lying under a tree.

One of the learned friends observed the bones and said, "Here is a fine opportunity to test our knowledge. These are the bones of a lion. Let's bring this lion back to life."

Then he assembled all the bones together to make it into a skeleton of a lion and chanted some mantras.

The second learned man chanted some other mantras and put skin, flesh and blood into the skeleton. Now it looked like a lion, but lifeless.

And the third learned man got up to do the final act of putting life into the lifeless body of the animal.

As he started chanting the mantras, the fourth friend shouted, "Stop! please don't do this. It might prove dangerous to bring this beast back to life."

"Shut up, you fool," said all the three friends. "What do you know in the field of learning and knowledge. Better you keep your mouth shut."

"Wait a minute please," said the fourth friend and quickly climbed up a nearby tall tree.

His three friends laughed. They put life into the lifeless body of the lion. As soon as the huge lion came back to life, he roared loudly and killed all the three learned men. He ate their flesh and disappeared behind the thick bushes.

"Knowledge Without Common Sense Is Useless"

The horse that dragged a lion to death

Long ago, there was a farmer who had an old horse with him. As the horse had become old, the farmer told the horse to leave his house and live in some forest. The horse became very sad. He said to his master, "Master, I'm your old servant. I have served you all my life. I have always been faithful to you and there has been no slackness on my part in carrying out my duties. So long as I was physically strong, you had all your affections for me but as soon as you realised that I have become physically infirm; I, no longer, have that vigour and vitality in me, you asked me to leave your house and go and live in some forest. Is this a reward to the services rendered by me with all my honesty and faithfulness?"

The farmer was at a loss of words. He had no logical answer.

"All right!" the farmer said to the horse. "You can stay in my house provided you bring me a lion. I want a lion's skin."

So the worried horse set out for the forest. There he met a fox. The fox took pity on the horse and enquired from him the reason of his sadness. The horse narrated the whole story.

The fox being good natured offered to help the horse. He said to the horse. "You lie down here on the ground as if you were dead."

The horse followed the advice of the fox and lay there on the ground as if he were dead.

Then the fox met king lion and said "Your Majesty, there is a dead horse lying in an open field. It's better you come and see for yourself."

When the fox and the lion reached the spot, where the horse was lying pretending to be dead, the fox said, "Let us pull this horse and put it behind the bushes so that we could have a peaceful meal. What I'll do is that I'll tie your tail to the tail of the horse."

"Yes, I agree with you," said the lion.

So the fox, instead of tying lion's tail to that of the horse, tied the horse's tail with the leg of the lion. Then he asked the horse to get up and run fast.

The horse, at once got up and started running as fast as he could.

All this happened so suddenly that the lion didn't get a chance to balance himself. The horse was running so fast that he was literally being dragged like a dead animal. His body slammed against big rocks so many times and was caught by thorny bushes in the way. He was getting injuries after injuries and was bleeding profusely.

The lion began to cry and threaten, but the horse didn't stop. At last, the lion couldn't take any more of it and succumbed to death. The horse stopped at his master's house with the dead lion tied to its tail. The farmer was very happy to see the dead lion. He permitted the horse to stay at his house as long as he wished.

"Mind Is Mightier Than Body"



Brahmin and his wife

Once upon a time, there lived a poor Brahmin in a village. He used to perform poojas and hawans in the nearby villages. Once another Brahmin came to his house and said, "I've to perform some pooja. Will you kindly allow me to stay in your house for a few days?"

The Brahmin gladly received him and allowed him to stay in his house.

One day, the Brahmin said to his wife, "Today is Sankranti. See that our Brahmin guest is fed well. A guest is equivalent to God. So be courteous to him."

The Brahmin's wife became angry to hear this and said, "It's not enough to be courteous only. There must be something in the house to offer to the guest for eating. Unfortunately, I've nothing in my kitchen to offer. Besides, you never made ornaments for me nor did you ever buy good clothes for me. Such is the situation in this house. And you ask me to take full care of your guest."

She argued with the Brahmin but he kept his cool.

The Brahmin consoled his wife, "Dear, I know, we're poor but even then we should offer some food to our guest. It's more of the expression of our good feelings than the real food."

Then the Brahmin's wife said, "I've a little sesame seed in the house. I'll make some dish of it and offer to the Brahmin guest."

She prepared the sweet dish from the sesame seeds and offered it to the guest.

"Courtesy Is The Sign Of Good Behavior"

Barber and the Monks

Once upon a time, there lived a merchant called by the name of Manibhadra, in a town known as Patliputra. He was of a charitable nature. But, somehow, due to misfortune, he lost all his wealth and became a pauper. His status in the society gradually came down. He became sad and dejected.

One night, as he lay in his bed, he started cursing his fate and thought of committing suicide by starving himself to death.

While thinking thus, he fell asleep. A Jain monk appeared in his dream and said to him, "Don't worry! I'm wealth, gathered by your forefathers. You are their legitimate heir. It's your legal right to possess me. Tomorrow, I shall come to your house in the guise of a Jain monk. Just hit me on my head with a stick and I'll turn into solid gold."

The next morning, when the merchant woke up he felt pain in his head. He didn't believe his dream. In the meantime, his wife had called in a barber to massage her feet. Soon after the arrival of the barber, a Jain monk came to the merchant's house. The merchant welcomed the monk. He offered him seat and a glass of water. Then he hit the monk's head with a stick. The monk fell down and turned into gold from head to toe.

The merchant picked up the gold and hid it in a basement room.

The barber who was a witness to all this thought to himself: 'I'll also invite these magical monks to my home to dine with me. When they come, I'll hit them on their heads, to turn them in gold. Soon I'll be a wealthy man'.

Then the barber went to the head monk and invited him and other monks to his house to dine with him. But the head monk refused the invitation. He said, "We are no Brahmins, who're invited to the houses to eat. Everyday, we collect alms and accept food only from the first devotee of the day. We eat to live only and not live to eat."

The barber then waited outside the monastery. When the monks came out, he requested them to come to his house and conduct prayers. A few monks agreed to it and went to the barber's house.

As soon as the monks entered the house, the barber hit them on their heads with a heavy stick. A few monks died, whereas a few others were badly injured.

The news of the barber hitting the monks spread in the town like wild fire. The barber was arrested by the authorities and taken to the court of law.

The judges, in the court, asked the barber, "Why did you do this?"

The barber then narrated the whole story. He said, "I did it because saw the merchant doing it."

Then the merchant was ordered to appear before the court. The merchant narrated the whole story.

The judges then ordered, "Let this wicked barber be hanged till death." The barber was then hanged to death.

"A Blind Imitation Is Always Dangerous"

How crows became enemies to owls

Long, long ago, all the birds of a jungle gathered to choose a new bird as their king. They were not happy with their king the Garuda, who they thought always enjoyed his time in the heaven and never cared for the birds. So, they thought it was better to choose a new bird as their king.

A heated discussion followed in the meeting and ultimately it was decided to make the owl the king of birds. The birds started making preparation for the coronation of the newly elected king.

Just then a crow flew in and raised an objection in the meeting. He said laughing, "What a bird you've chosen as your king. An ugly fellow. He also goes blind during the day. Moreover, owls are birds of prey. He might kill other birds for his meals rather than save them. Didn't peacocks and swans suit as your king?"

The crow's arguments made the birds think over their decision again. It was decided to choose the king on some other occasion and hence the coronation ceremony was postponed.

The owl chosen as the king of birds, still waited for his coronation as king. He realized all of a sudden that there was absolute quiet around him. No one was talking, nothing was happening. Since, it was day time, he couldn't see anything around him. He grew very impatient and a little suspicious also. At last, overcome by his curiosity and eagerness for his coronation as king, he enquired from one of his attendants, the reason behind the delay.

"Sir:" his attendant said, "The coronation ceremony has been postponed. All the birds have decided to choose a new king. Now not even a single bird is here. They have all gone back to their respective places.

"Why?" the owl asked angrily.

"A crow put up arguments against us,-the owl family. He said we're ugly and killers."

The 'would be' king owl further lost his temper and said to the smiling crow who was still present there, "You've deprived me of the honor of becoming a king. So, from now on, we are sworn enemies of each other. Beware of us."

The crow realized his folly, but it was too late now.

"Think Twice Before You Do Or Say Anything"

Friends and the Bear

Golu and Molu were fast friends. Golu was a lean and thin boy, whereas Molu was fat. People, in the village laughed at this combination. For a major period of the day, they would be seen together.

Everyone admired their friendship. Once, they got an invitation from one of their friends, who had invited them to attend his sister's marriage.

The marriage was to take place in a nearby village.

But in order to reach the village, one had to pass through a forest, which was full of wild animals like tigers and bears etc.

While walking through the forest, Golu and Molu saw a bear coming towards them. Both of them got frightened.



Golu who was lean and skinny, ran towards a big tree and climbed on it.

Poor Molu being fat could not run fast and climb up the tree. But he showed his presence of mind.

He had heard that bears did not eat dead bodies. So he lay down still on the ground and held his breath for a while, feigning himself dead.

The bear came near Molu growling. He sniffed at his face and body.

He took Molu to be a dead body and went away.

When the bear had gone away, Golu climbed down the tree. He went to Molu and asked, I saw the bear talking to you.

What did he say to you, my friend?"

"Don't call me a friend", said Molu. "And that is what the bear also told me.

He had said to me, "Don't trust Golu. He is not your friend." Golu was very ashamed. He felt sorry to have left his friend alone when in danger. Thus, their friendship ended forever.

"A Friend In Need Is A Friend Indeed"

The Horse Who Wanted To Be More Beautiful

A cosmic god had a horse. The horse was beautiful and also it had many good qualities. But it wanted to be more perfect in every way. It especially wanted to become beauty unparalleled.

One day the horse said to the cosmic god, "O Lord, you have given me beauty. I am so grateful to you.

But I would be extremely, extremely grateful if you could make me more beautiful."

The cosmic god said, "I am more than ready to make you more beautiful. Tell me in what way you want to be changed."

The horse said, "It seems to me that I am not well proportioned.

My neck is too short. If you can make my neck a little longer, my upper body will be infinitely more beautiful.

And if you can make my legs much longer and thinner, then I will look infinitely more beautiful in my lower body."

The cosmic god said, "Amen!" Then immediately he made a camel appear in place of the horse.

The horse was so disheartened that it started to cry, "O Lord, I wanted to become more beautiful.

In what way is this kind of outer form more beautiful?"

The cosmic god said, "This is exactly what you asked for. You have become a camel."

The horse cried, "Oh no, I do not want to become a camel I wish to remain a horse. As a horse, everybody appreciated my good qualities. Nobody will appreciate me as a camel."

The cosmic god said, "***Never try to achieve or receive more than I have given you. If you want to lead a desire-life, then at every moment you will want more and more. But you have no idea what the outcome will be. If you cry for a longer neck and legs, this is what will happen. Each thing in my creation has its own good qualities. The camel is not as beautiful as you are, but it carries heavy loads and has a tremendous sense of responsibility.***"

The Farmer's Dog


A farmer had a dog who used to sit by the roadside waiting for vehicles to come around. As soon as one came he would run down the road, barking and trying to overtake it.

One day a neighbor asked the farmer "Do you think your dog is ever going to catch a car?" The farmer replied, "That is not what bothers me. What bothers me is what he would do if he ever caught one."

Many people in life behave like that dog who is pursuing meaningless goals.

***"Life is hard by the yard,
but by the inch, it's a cinch."***

Three Fish and the Fishermen



Your plans are not good. Why should we leave this pond, ancient home of our forefathers, because of fisherman have evil intentions

Long, long ago, there lived three fish with their families in a pond. Their names were Anagatavidhata, Pratyutpannamati and Yadbhavishya. Anagatavidhata was very practical. She always planned her actions in advance.

Pratyutpannamati too was practical and always tendered good advices to her elder sister Anagatavidhata. Yadbhavishya, the youngest of them all, loved to laze around only. She didn't like to work at all.

One day, some fishermen came to the pond. One of them said, "This is the pond I was telling you about. There are many fish in this pond. Let's come here tomorrow and catch all of them."

Anagatavidhata overheard the fishermen's talk. She gathered all the fish in the pond

and narrated to them what she had heard about.

She said, "It's better that we move out of here to some other safer pond. Our life will, at least, be safe." Everybody agreed to this proposal including Pratyutpannamati.

But Yadbhavishya said, "Why should we run like cowards from this pond. Let the fishermen come.

We'll see to it together that we're not caught in the net.

Besides, who knows the fishermen would really turn up here. After all, everyone has to die one day. So why be afraid of death."

But Anagatavidhata and Pratyutpannamati didn't agree with Yadbhavishya's ideas.

They moved out to another pond with their families to live with their other near and dear ones.

The next morning, the fishermen came to the pond. They cast their net in the pond and trapped Yadbhavishya and her family along with a large number of other fish living in the pond.

"Always Plan Your Future Intelligently "

Merchant's Son and His Destiny

Long, long ago, there lived a merchant by the name of Sagaradatta. He had a son. The son once bought a book of poems. He recited a line of the poem so many times that he came to be known as, 'You get what you are destined to.'

One day, a beautiful princess by the name of Chandrawati went to a festival in the city. There the princess saw a handsome prince and fell in love with him. Not being able to check her emotions, she said to her maid servant, "Find some way for me to meet this prince."

The maid met the prince and gave him the message of the princess. The prince agreed and asked, "But where and how do I meet the princess?"

"Well," said the maid, "when it's dark you come to the white palace. There, you'll find a rope hanging from one of its windows. Climb up this rope to reach the princess' room."

But on the appointed day, the prince backed out. He didn't turn up.

Meanwhile, 'you get what you are destined to' came wandering near the white palace. He saw a rope hanging there from one of its windows. He climbed up the rope and entered the room of the princess. As it was dark, the princess could not see the face of 'you get what you are destined to.' She thought that it was the same prince with whom she had fallen in love. She entertained him lavishly and talked to him for a long time, but the so called prince kept mum for all the while.

"Why don't you speak?" asked the princess.

"You always get what you are destined to," answered the merchant's son.

Hearing this princess took a closer look at the merchant's son and soon realized that she was all through talking to a wrong man. She became furious and turned him out of her chamber.

Then 'you get what you are destined to', went to a nearby temple and slept there.

The watchman of the temple had an appointment with a woman of bad character in the same temple. So he requested the merchant's son to go and sleep in his quarter, which was situated in the rear side of the temple.

'You get what you are destined to,' instead, entered a wrong room. There the watchman's daughter Vinayavati was waiting for her lover. As it was pitch dark, she could not recognize the merchant's son and married him in the room itself according to Gandharva rites. Then she said, "Why don't you talk to me?"

"You get what you are destined to," replied the merchant's son.

Vinayawati soon realised that she had been talking to a wrong man. So, she kicked out the merchant's son out of her house.

When he came out, he joined a passing marriage procession. The name of the bridegroom was Varakeerti.

When the marriage ceremony was about to start, a mad elephant, who'd already killed its master, appeared on the scene. Every one ran helter - skelter to safety.

Then 'you get what you are destined to' rushed to the brides help. He drove the elephant out by jabbing a long nail into its head. When the bridegroom returned and saw 'you get what you are destined to' holding his 'would-be' bride's hands he became angry. But the girl said that since 'you get what you are destined to' had saved her life from the mad elephant, she would marry him only.

And this girl was the same princess who had mistaken 'you get what you are destined to' for the prince, who she had been waiting for in her room in the palace and after coming to know the truth, had kicked him out.

The whole city came to know about the girl's decision.

The king also came to know of his daughter's love.

Then, the king with great pomp and show married the princess with 'you get what you are destined to' and both of them lived happily, thereafter. So, at last, he really got what he was destined to.

"Destiny plays an important role"

The Giant And The Helpless Brahmin

Once a Brahmin was passing through a jungle to reach another town, when a huge and cruel giant hiding somewhere behind the thick bushes, attacked the Brahmin and jumped upon his shoulders. The giant dangled both his legs in front of the Brahmin and sat comfortably on his shoulders.

The Brahmin began trembling with fear, but he was helpless. He didn't know what to do. The giant said to the Brahmin, "I'm very fond of human flesh. But before killing and eating you I wish to have a joy ride on your shoulders. So take me where I say."

The Brahmin had no choice, but to obey the giant. So he kept on walking. While walking the Brahmin noticed that the giant's feet were extraordinarily small and soft. The Brahmin asked the giant, "I'm very surprised to see that you're so huge, but your feet are so small and delicate. How is it?" The giant thought, there was no harm in revealing the secret of his feet to Brahmin since very soon the Brahmin is going to be killed and eaten up by him. So he said, "I never walk on ground with my feet wet. Walking or running on wet feet gives me great pain."

The Brahmin kept the giant's words firmly in his mind and kept on walking. After walking quite a distance they reached on the banks of a river. The giant said to the Brahmin, "Let me down here and you yourself stay here, till I come back, after taking my bath." The Brahmin became very happy seeing the giant taking a dive in the river. By the time the giant took another dive in the water, the Brahmin took to his heels and ran away to save his life.

The giant saw the Brahmin running away from the river bank, but he could do nothing to stop him. He was wet all over because he was taking his bath. In this situation, with his feet wet the giant was quite helpless to chase the Brahmin. Thus, the Brahmin escaped from the clutches of the giant and saved his life.

"It Always Pays to be Alert"

The Fake King

There lived a jackal in a jungle. His name was Chandarava. One day, he hadn't eaten anything since morning and was so hungry that he wandered and wandered across the jungle, but couldn't find anything to eat. He thought it better to walk a little farther and find something to eat in some village. He reached a nearby small village. There on its outskirts he ate some food, but the quantity was not sufficient and he was still very hungry. Then he entered another village with the hope of getting some more food.



The dogs growled at the fence. Little Jackal was now safe in the bucket. When he was sure the dogs were nowhere in sight out he popped from the bucket.

As soon as the jackal entered the village, a few dogs roaming there charged at him barking loudly. The jackal was terribly frightened. He began running through lanes in order to save himself from the dogs. Soon he saw a house. The door of the house was open. It was a washerman's house. 'This is the right place for me to hide', the jackal thought to himself and ran into the open door.

While trying to hide himself, the jackal slipped and fell into a tank full of blue colour, which the washerman had kept ready to dye the clothes.

Soon the barking of the dogs ceased. The jackal saw them going away. He came out of the tub. There was a big mirror fixed on a wall of a room. There was no one around. The jackal entered the room and saw his image in the mirror. He was surprised to see his colour. He

looked blue. He came out of the house and ran back to the jungle.

When the animals of the jungle saw the blue jackal they were frightened. They had never seen such an animal. Even the lions and tigers were no exceptions. They too were scared of the seemingly strange animal.

The jackal was quick to realise the change in the behaviour of the other animals. He decided to take advantage of this funny situation.

"Dear friends", said the blue jackal, "don't be afraid of me. I'm your well-wisher. Lord Brahma has sent me to look after your well-being. He has appointed me as your king."

All the animals of the jungle developed unshakable faith in the blue jackal and accepted him as their king. They brought presents for him and obeyed his commands. The blue jackal appointed the lion as his commander-in-chief; the wolf was appointed the defence minister and the elephant the home minister.



Thus, the blue jackal began living in luxury with the lions and tigers also at his command. What to talk of the smaller animals? The tigers and leopards brought him delicious food everyday.

The blue jackal now was ruling the jungle. He used to hold daily darbar. All the animals were like his servants. Even the lion hunted small animals and gave them to the blue jackal to eat.

Once, when the blue jackal was holding his famous darbar, he heard a pack of jackals howling outside his palace. Those jackals had come from some other jungle and were howling, singing and dancing.

The blue jackal forgot that he was a king and not an ordinary jackal any more. Instinctively, he too began howling, singing and dancing. All the animals were

surprised to see their king howling like a jackal. Soon the word spread around that their king was simply a jackal and not a representative of Lord Brahma. He had fooled the animals. All the animals, in a fit of rage, killed the blue jackal immediately.

"One Can't Fool All the People All the Time"

The Donkey Who Sang a Song

Once upon a time, there lived a washer man in a village. He had a donkey by the name of Udhata. He used to carry loads of clothes to the river bank and back home everyday.

The donkey was not satisfied with the food, that was given to him by his master to eat. So he wandered into the nearby fields stealthily and ate the crops growing there.

Once, the donkey, while wandering around, happened to meet a fox. Soon, both of them became friends and began to wander together in search of delicious food.

One night, the donkey and the fox were eating water-melons in a field.

The water-melons were so tasty, that the donkey ate in a large quantity. Having eaten to his appetite, the donkey became so happy that he was compelled by an intense desire to sing. He told the fox that he was in such a good mood that he had to express his happiness in a melodious tone. "Don't be a fool. If you sing, the people sleeping in and around this field will wake up and beat us black and blue with sticks," said the fox worriedly.

"You are a dull fellow", the donkey said hearing the words of fox. "Singing makes one happy and healthy. No matter what comes, I'll definitely sing a song."



The fox became worried to see the donkey adamant to sing a song in the midst of the field, while the owner was still sleeping only a little distance away.

Seeing his adamance, he said to the donkey, "Friend, wait a minute before you start. First, let me jump over to the other side of the fence for my safety."

Saying so the fox jumped over to the other side of the fence without losing a moment.

The donkey began in his so-called melodious tone. Hearing, suddenly, a donkey braying in the field, the owner woke up from his sleep. He picked up his stick lying by his side and ran towards the donkey who was still braying happily. He became very angry and beat him so ruthlessly that the donkey was

physically incapacitated temporarily. He, somehow, managed to drag himself out of the field with great difficulty.

The fox looked at the donkey and said in a sympathetic tone, "I'm sorry to see you in this pitiable condition. I had already warned you, but you didn't listen to my advice." The donkey too realised his folly and hung his head in shame.

"Think Before You Act"

The Prince And The Seedling

Once there was a king whose son was very ill-tempered and bad mannered. The king, the courtiers and many other eminent citizens tried to reform the prince and make him understand the bad impression his ill manners and wicked ways would create on the public. But the prince paid no heed to their sensible advices.

One day, the king saw a sage walking in front of the palace. He had an alms bowl in his hand. The king saw his glowing face with radiance and was very much impressed with the way the sage was walking. His gait suggested that the sage was full of confidence and divine knowledge. The king asked one of his ministers to invite the sage to his court.

The sage came to the king's court. He was received with great honor by the king and his courtiers.

When the king came to know that the sage was trying to find out a good dwelling place for himself, he offered him a hermitage in his palace. The sage accepted the offer of the king and started living in the hermitage.

One day, the king said to the sage, "You would have probably come to know by now, that my son is very ill-tempered and bad mannered. The people of my kingdom call him an unworthy prince. They don't want him to succeed me as king. I request you kindly to teach the prince to mend his ways." Then the king discussed other matters of his kingdom with the sage and left his son under his direct care and guidance with a confidence that the sage will definitely ameliorate the prince and bring a positive reform in him.

The next day, the sage took the prince for a walk through the garden of the palace. Pointing to a tiny plant the sage said to the prince, "Eat a leaf of this plant and tell me how it tastes."

The moment the prince tasted the leaf he immediately spat it on the ground. "It seems to be a poisonous seedling. If it is allowed to grow into a big tree, it may prove dangerous for the health of many people." The prince pulled the tiny plant out of the ground and tore it to pieces.

Then the sage picked up the torned and mutilated plant and said to the prince, "As you've reacted in the case of this plant, the people of your kingdom may, one day, react in the same manner with you, because they think you are a wicked prince. They may not allow you to rule the kingdom and may send you to exile. So it is much better that you mend your ways to create a feeling of mercy, compassion and kind heartedness all around "

The prince understood the message of the sage. From that day onwards, he tried to grow humble and kind hearted, full of mercy and love.

The king was pleased and extremely happy to see such a big change in his son. He thanked the sage and expressed his gratefulness for his kindness.

"Bad Temper Doesn't Win the Hearts of People "

The Broken Pot

In a village, there lived a poor brahmin. He used to beg for living and one day somebody gave him lots of wheat flour. After he finished his dinner, there was still lot of wheat flour left so he hung the remaining flour in a earthen pot with a hook in the ceiling above his bed. As night progressed, he could not take away his eyes from the pot. All the while he started thinking about his future.

He started making grand plans, "This pot will be filled to overflowing with wheat flour soon. I wish, If a famine should come to the land, then I would sell it for a hundred bucks. Then with that money I would buy a pair of goats. The pair of goats would breed and soon I would have an entire herd of goats. I shall then sell the goats and buy cows and cows will give berth to calves. Once I have lots of cows, I'll trade them for buffalo. With buffalo, I'll buy horses and then elephants. Eventually I shall sell the elephants too and get lots of money. He kept dreaming....

He dreamed that with his money he'd buy a large house and marry a beautiful girl and have kids. He kept dreaming about playing with his kids and suddenly kicked in air in excitement.

He kicked on the pot and all the flour fell on him, and he woke up to his reality.

"One Should Not Build Castles In The Air"



Hello..! Cave

Long ago, there lived a lion by the name of Kharanakhara. He had been trying to hunt for his prey for the last two days, but could not succeed due to his old age and physical infirmity. He was no longer strong to hunt for his food. He was quite dejected and disappointed. He thought that he would die of starving. One day, while he was wandering in the jungle hopelessly, he came across a cave.

'There must be some animal who lives in this cave'; so thought the lion. 'I will hide myself inside it and wait for its occupant to enter. And as soon as the occupant enters the cave, I shall kill him and eat his flesh.' Thinking thus, the lion entered the cave and hid himself carefully.

After sometime, a fox came near the cave. The cave belonged to her. The fox was surprised to find the foot-marks of a lion pointing towards the cave. '

Some lion has stealthily entered my cave', he thought to himself. But to make sure of the presence of the lion inside the cave, the fox played upon a trick.

The fox stood at some distance from the cave to save himself in case of a sudden attack and shouted, "Hello cave! I've come back. Speak to me as you have been doing earlier. Why are you keeping silent, my dear cave? May I come in and occupy my residence?"

Hearing the fox calling the cave, the lion thought to himself, that the cave he was hiding in, must in reality be a talking cave. The cave might be keeping quiet because of his kingly presence inside.

Therefore, if the cave didn't answer to the fox's question, the fox might go away to occupy some other cave and thus, he would have to go without a meal once again.

Trying to be wise, the lion answered in a roaring voice on behalf of the cave, "I've not forgotten my practice of speaking to you when you come, my dear fox. Come in and be at home, please."

Thus, the clever fox confirmed the presence of the lion hiding in his cave and ran away without losing a single moment, saying, "Only a fool would believe that a cave speaks."

"Presence Of Mind Is The Best Weapon To Guard Oneself In Every Sphere Of Life"

The Dhobi's Donkey

Once upon a time, there lived a dhobi in a village. He had a donkey and a dog as his pets. The dog guarded his master's house and accompanied him wherever he went. The donkey used to carry the load of clothes. The dhobi loved his dog very much. And the dog, whenever, he saw his master, would bark a little and wag his tail. He would raise his front legs and put them on the chest of his master. And the dhobi would pat his dog in return, for his loving gesture.



This made the donkey jealous of the dog's fate. He cursed his ill-fate; 'What a bad luck I've. My master doesn't love me in spite of my putting in hard labour. Now, I must do what this dog does to please my master.'

So, the next time, when he saw his master coming, he ran towards him. He brayed a little and tried to wag his tail. He raised his front legs and put them on his master's body.

The dhobi got frightened to see his donkey's abnormal behaviour. He thought that the donkey might have gone crazy.

So he picked up a lathi and beat up the donkey till it fell on the ground.

"Jealousy Is Harmful"

The Sage And The Mouse

There lived a famous sage in a dense forest. Everyday, the animals of the forest came to him to listen to his spiritual preaching.

They would gather around the meditating sage and the sage would tell them the good things of life.

There was also a little mouse living in the same forest. He too used to go to the sage daily to listen to his preaching.

One day, while he was roaming in the forest to collect berries for the sage, he was attacked by a big cat, who was watching him from behind the thick bushes. The mouse was scared. He ran straight to the ashram of the sage. There he lay prostrate before the sage and narrated to him the whole story in a trembling voice. In the meantime, the cat also arrived there and requested the sage to allow him to take his prey.



The sage was in a fix. He thought for a moment and then with his divine powers transformed the mouse into a bigger cat. Seeing a huge cat before him the other cat ran away.

Now the mouse was carefree. He began to roam about in the forest like a big cat. He meowed loudly to frighten other animals. He fought with other cats to take revenge on them and in this way killed many of them.

The mouse had hardly enjoyed a few carefree days of his life, when one day, a fox pounced upon him. This was a new problem. He had never taken into account that there were yet bigger animals who could easily maul him and tear him into pieces. He, ran for his life,- He, somehow, saved himself from the fox and ran straight to the sage for help. The fox too was in his hot pursuit. Soon both of them stood before the sage.



The sage seeing the plight of the mouse this time transformed the mouse into a bigger fox. Seeing a big fox before him the other fox ran away.

The mouse became more carefree and began roaming about in the forest more freely with his newly acquired status of a big fox. But, his happiness was short-lived.

One day, while he was moving around in the forest freely, a tiger pounced upon him. The mouse, somehow, managed to save his life and as usual ran to take shelter in the ashram of the sage.

The sage, once again, took pity on the mouse and transformed him into a tiger.

Now, the mouse after acquiring the status of a tiger, roamed fearlessly in the forest. He killed many animals in the forest unnecessarily.

After having been transformed into a tiger, the mouse had become all-powerful for the -forest animals. He behaved like a king and commanded his subjects. But one thing always bothered his mind and kept him worried; and that was, the divine powers of the sage. "What, if, one day for some reason or the other, the sage becomes angry with me and brings me back to my original status," he would think worriedly. Ultimately, he decided something and one day, he came to the sage roaring loudly. He said to the sage, "I'm hungry. I want to eat you, so that I could enjoy all those divine powers, which you do. Allow me to kill you."

Hearing these words the sage became very angry. Sensing tiger's evil designs, he immediately transformed the tiger back into the mouse.

The worst had happened. Now the mouse realised his folly. He apologised to the saint for his evil actions and requested him to change him again into a tiger. But the sage drove the mouse away by beating him with a stick.

"One should not forget their roots"

Sparrows that killed an Elephant

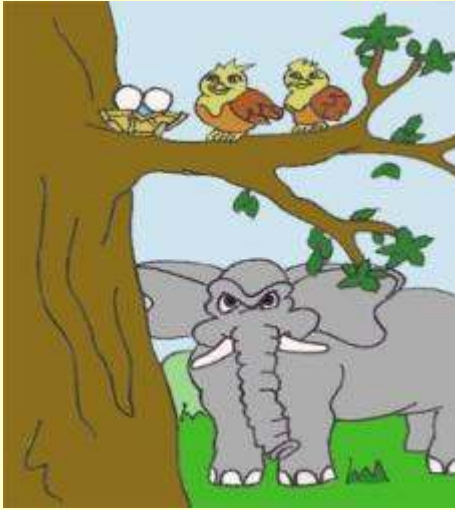
In the middle of the jungle there stood a big peepal tree. A pair of sparrows lived on one of its branches. They had built a strong and comfortable nest and had two beautiful nestlings. They roamed the whole day in the jungle, collecting food to feed their young ones in the evening.

One day a huge elephant came to take rest under that big tree. He was hungry. So he tore off the branch on which the sparrows had built their nest. The branch fell on to the ground and the young ones of the birds were killed.

When the sparrows returned home in the evening, they found their young ones dead. They saw a big elephant lying under the tree and taking rest. Everything became crystal clear now. The elephant was the cause of the death of their loved young ones. The mother sparrow was grief-stricken. She began wailing over the loss of her nestlings.

Seeing her weeping bitterly, a woodpecker, who lived in a nearby tree, came to her to know the reason of her sorrow. The sparrows narrated the whole story. They expressed their wish to take revenge upon the elephant, for his cruel act. They wanted to see him dead.

"You're right", said the woodpecker. "This elephant has no consideration for others. He might, one day, kill my young ones too. Come with me. There is a sweet honey bee around here who's my friend. She is very intelligent. She might be able to tell us how the cruel elephant can be killed."



Having decided upon this, they went to meet the sweet honey bee. They narrated the whole story to her and expressed their wish to revenge themselves on the rogue. The bee consoled them and said, "Don't worry. I've a plan to kill that elephant-Listen, first I'll go to the elephant and sing a song in his ears. The elephant will close his eyes to listen attentively to my melody and when I have hummed him to sleep, the Woodpecker would poke his long beak into the elephant's eyes. This will turn him blind. Once he is blinded our job will be easy. I will go and express my sympathies and tell him to pour a few drops of the extract of a particular plant in his eyes to cure them. The elephant will go to fetch that plant. There will be a huge pit full of water lying on his way to the plant. When the elephant goes to collect the plant he will fall into the pit. Since, he will not be able to come out of it, he will die."

Then, as planned, the honey bee sang a song into the ears of the elephant. The elephant closed his eyes to listen to the melody more intently, and the woodpecker, without losing a single moment, made him blind by pecking at his eyes.

The cruel elephant shrieked with pain. He began crying-'Oh, I have lost my eyes. I cannot see anything. Is there anyone who can help me?'

Immediately, thereafter, the honey bee again flew to the elephant, who on the advice of the bee set out to fetch the miraculous plant. But in the way the blind elephant fell into the pit and died.

Thus, the cock and the hen sparrows avenged the untimely death of their young ones and by causing death to the cruel and foolish elephant; they saved many more lives of innocent creatures.

"United We Stand: Divided We Fall"

The Louse And The Bed-Bug

There lived a white louse by the name of Mandarisarpini in the spacious bedroom of a mighty king. She used to live in the corner of the bedsheet spread over the king's beautiful bedstead. Everyday, when the king was fast asleep, the louse sipped his blood and crept back again into a corner of the bed-cover to hide herself.

One night, a bed-bug by the name of Agnimukha strolled into the bedroom of the king. The louse saw him and told him to get out since the whole of the bedroom was her territory only. But the bed-bug said to her cleverly, "Look, you ought to be a little courteous to your guests. I'm your guest tonight."

The louse got carried away by the bed-bug's sweet talks. She gave him shelter saying, "It's all right. You can stay here tonight. But, you will not bite the king to suck his blood."

"But I'm your guest. What will you give me to eat?" the clever bedbug asked. "What better food you can serve me than the king's blood."

"Well!" replied the louse. "You can suck the king's blood silently. He must not get hurt in anyway."

"Agreed", said the clever bed-bug and waited for the king to arrive in the bedroom and sleep on the bed.

When the night fell, the king entered into his bedroom and slept on the bed. The greedy bed-bug forgot all about his promises and bit the sleeping king hard to suck his blood.

"It's a royal blood", thought the bed-bug and continued sucking till the king felt a terrible itching in his skin. The king woke up and then ordered his servants to find the bed-bug and kill it. But the bed-bug hid himself very cunningly into the joints of the bedstead and thus escaped his detection. The servants of the king, instead, found the louse on the bed sheet. They caught her and killed her. ***"Never Trust The Strangers"***

Clever Fox

Long ago, there lived a lion in a dense forest. One morning his wife told him that his breath was bad and unpleasant. The lion became very angry and got embarrassed to hear this comment. He wanted to check this fact with his councilors, as well. So he summoned them one by one to his court.

First came the sheep.

"Hello friend sheep," said the lion, opening his mouth wide, "tell me, if my mouth smells bad?"

The sheep thought that king lion wanted an honest answer from him, so he said, "Yes, Your Majesty. There seems to be something wrong with your breath."

This plain speak did not go well with king lion. He pounced upon the sheep, killed him and ate him.

Then king lion called the wolf and said, "What do you think? Have I a bad breath?"

The wolf knew the fate his colleague, the sheep, had met. He wanted to be very cautious in answering a royal question.

So, the wolf said, "Who says that Your Majesty's breath is unpleasant. It's as sweet as the smell of roses."

When the king lion heard the reply he roared in anger and immediately attacked the wolf and killed it. "The flatterer!" growled king lion.

Finally, came the turn of the fox, who was lion's third councillor. When the fox came, the lion asked him the same question.

The fox was well aware of the fate of his two colleagues. So he coughed and cleared his throat again and again and then said, "Your Majesty, for the last few days, I have been having a very bad cold. Due to this, I can't smell anything, pleasant or unpleasant."

The king lion spared the fox's life.

"One Should Keep Quiet In The Times Of Danger"



Crow and the Water Pot



Long ago, there lived a crow in a jungle. Once he was wandering in search of water to quench his thirst. At last, he came flying over a village. There he saw a pitcher lying in front of a house.

There was some water in it. The crow tried to reach the water, but couldn't succeed. The water level was too low in the pitcher.

The crow began to think of some practicable device and finally came up with a bright idea.

He looked around and found a pebble. He picked up the pebble in his beak and dropped it into the pitcher.

The crow realised that the water level had risen a little. So he dropped more pebbles in the pitcher till the water level was high enough for his beak to touch it.

The thirsty crow then drank the water to his hearts content and flew away.

"Necessity Is The Mother Of Invention"

Stag and Its Beautiful Antlers

Once upon a time, there lived a stag in a dense forest. One day, he went to a nearby lake to quench his thirst. There he saw his reflection in the water and thought to himself, 'I've got beautiful antlers, but my legs are ugly. I can't understand, why God has given me such thin legs.'



Just then, he heard a lion roaring at a short distance. The stag knew that if he stayed there, the lion will kill him. So he started running. The lion too started chasing the stag.

The stag ran faster and faster and soon he outdistanced the lion. But alas! all of a sudden, the antlers of the stag got entangled with the overhanging branches of a tree. The stag struggled hard, but could not free his antlers from the branches. He thought to himself, 'My thin legs helped me get

away from the danger, but my antlers proved dangerous for me.'

By that time the lion had already reached there. He pounced upon the stag and killed him.



"A Beautiful Thing Might Not Be Useful Also"

Who Will Bell The Cat

Once upon a time, there lived many mice in a grocer's shop. There in the shop, they ate delicious wheat and rice, pulses and nuts, bread and butter and biscuits. They grew fat day by day.



One day, the grocer thought about the heavy losses that he had to suffer because of the menace of the mice. This angered him so much, that the next day, he brought a big fat cat to his shop.

The big fat cat began to catch and kill the fat mice everyday.

The mice became worried. They called a meeting to discuss the problem.

"Let's get rid of this cruel fat cat," the leader of the mice said.

"But how?" the other mice asked.

All of them began to think. Then one mouse said, "We should tie a bell round the neck of the fat cat. So, whenever she would move towards us, the bell would ring and we will run into our holes immediately."

"Making A Plan Is One Thing, But Executing It Is Something Entirely Different"



The Rich Mohan and The Poor Sohan

All the mice became very happy to hear this. They began dancing with joy. But their joy was short-lived. An old and experienced mouse interrupted their merry-making and shouted, "Fools, stop it and tell me, who'll bell the cat?"

No mouse had the answer to this big question.

Long ago, there lived two friends in a village. They were known as Mohan and Sohan. Mohan was a jeweller and was very rich, while Sohan was very poor. Once on the occasion of his sister's marriage.

Sohan took a few gold ornaments worth rupees five thousand from Mohan and promised to pay the price of it within six months from the date of buying on credit.

But only a few days after the marriage of Sohan's sister, Mohan began asking for the money which he was supposed to get from Sohan for the gold ornaments bought by him on credit.

"You know, I am a poor man," said Sohan. "How can I make the payment so soon.

Moreover, if I remember correctly, I had already told you that I shall be able to pay you back in six months' time.

Anyway please give me some more time. I'll pay the money."

But Mohan had an evil design on Sohan's properties.

He wanted Sohan to sign some documents in the court of law, saying that he mortgaged his house and other properties against the gold ornaments.

Sohan again pleaded his helplessness, but Mohan was adamant on his demand.

So, seeing no way out Sohan said to Mohan, "How will I go to the court? I don't even have a horse to reach the court."

"You can take my horse to ride to the court," said Mohan.

"I don't have nice clothes to wear," said Sohan.

"You can put on my clothes," said Mohan.

"I don't even have shoes to wear," said Sohan.

"Take my shoes," said Mohan.

Now Sohan agreed to go to the court. He put on Mohan's clothes and shoes and rode to the court on Mohan's horse.

When the judge called the name of Sohan, he said, "My Lord, I want to ask Mohan certain questions."

"Go ahead," said the judge and ordered Mohan to answer to the questions put up by Sohan.

"Tell me, Mohan," asked Sohan, "to whom do these clothes, I'm wearing, belong?"

"They're mine," replied Mohan.

"To whom do these shoes, I'm wearing, belong?" .."They're mine," said Mohan.

"And the horse that I rode to the court?" .. "The horse too belongs to me," shouted Mohan.

The people present in the court began to laugh.

Sohan said to the judge, "My Lord, you can yourself judge the mental state of Mohan. He thinks everything that I possess belongs to him only."

The judge also laughed and dismissed the case saying that Mohan had lost his mental balance and has started thinking that everything that Sohan owned belonged to him.

Thus, Sohan foiled Mohan's evil designs.

"Greed Is Evil. It Must Be Destroyed With Shrewdness"

The Bird With Two Heads

Long, long ago, there lived a strange bird in a huge banyan tree. The tree stood beside a river. The strange bird had two heads, but only one stomach.



Once, while the bird was flying high in the sky, he saw an apple shaped fruit lying on the bank of the river. The bird swooped down, picked up the fruit and began to eat it. This was the most delicious fruit the bird had ever eaten.

As the bird had two heads, the other head protested, "I'm your brother head. Why don't you let me also eat this tasty fruit?"

The first head of the bird replied, "Shut up. You know that we've only one stomach. Whichever head eats, the fruit will go to the same stomach. So it doesn't matter as to which head eats it. Moreover, I'm the one who found this fruit. So I've the first right to eat it."

Hearing this, the other head became silent. But this kind of selfishness on the part of the first head pinched him very much. One day, while flying, the other head spotted a tree bearing

poisonous fruits. The other head immediately descended upon the tree and plucked a fruit from it.

"Please don't eat this poisonous fruit," cried the first head. "If you eat it, both of us will die, because we've a common stomach to digest it."

"Shut up!" shouted the other head. "Since I've plucked this fruit, I've every right to eat it."

The first head began to weep, but the other head didn't care. He wanted to take revenge.

"People Living In A Family Should Never Quarrel Among Themselves"

The Golden Bird And The King



Long, long ago, there lived a magic bird by the name of Sindhuka in a thick forest. It laid golden eggs.

Once, a fowler came to the forest. While hunting, he came near the tree in which lived the magic bird. He saw the bird laying golden eggs. He caught the bird in his net and returned home. But he was afraid of keeping the bird in his captivity.

He thought that the magic bird would lay him golden eggs. Soon he would be rich.

The king might think that he became rich by stealing others' money. He might send him to jail.

So it was better that he himself presented the magic bird to the king.

Thinking thus, the fowler presented the magic bird to the king. The king was very happy to have such a magic bird.



He ordered his servants to take care of the bird, so that it laid more and more golden eggs.

But the attendants said to the king, "Your Majesty, this is all a hoax. How can a bird lay golden eggs?" This created doubts in the mind of the king.

He ordered his attendants to release the bird in the woods.

The attendants, thereafter, released the bird in the woods.

The bird flew in the sky and thought to itself, "This seems to be a fool's kingdom. The fowler knew that I laid golden eggs, but he gifted me to the king.

The king in turn gave me to the attendants to release me in the woods. The attendants too didn't ever believe in my magical qualities and spoke to the king

against me. And the biggest fool of them was I, who landed into the fowler's net."

"Take A Decision After Verifying The Facts"

The Golden Birds And The Golden Swans

Once upon a time there lived a mighty king in the state of Rajasthan. He had a beautiful palace in the 'city of lakes'. One such lake surrounded his palace with a beautiful garden around it. There were many golden swans living at this lake. These golden swans used to shed golden feathers every day. The king collected all such feathers and kept them in his state treasury.

Once, a huge golden bird came and flying to the lake. He perched on the branch of a tall tree standing near the lake. He liked the lake's sweet water very much and decided to make the lake his home.

But the other swans didn't tolerate his presence there. "Who're you?" the golden swans asked the golden bird. "What for have you come here? Better get out otherwise, we'll beat you."

"Why? Is this not king's palace ground?" the golden bird asked. "It was," the swans replied, "but, not now. We've bought this place from the king. Now even he can't enter the lake area without our permission. Do you understand? Now get out of this place."

The golden bird then flew to the palace garden and waited for the king to arrive to take a walk in the garden. Soon the king came there with his armed guards and began to take morning stroll in the garden.

The golden bird then flew to the king and said to him, "Your Majesty, I came to your beautiful kingdom from a foreign land. I wanted to settle here. But, the golden swans already living here drove me out of the lake.

They are very arrogant. They say that they have bought the lake from you and now even you can't enter the lake without their permission. I advised them not to speak ill, but still they talk arrogantly."

Hearing this the king became very angry. He ordered his soldiers to go to the lake and kill all those arrogant golden swans, because they had spoken ill of him.

However an elderly swan guarding the lake saw the soldiers coming towards the lake with naked swords in their hands. He was quick to know what was going to happen. He called a gathering of golden swans and said to them, "Let's fly to some other lake. The king's soldiers are coming to kill us."

Acting upon his good advice, all the golden swans took to their wings, well before the king's soldiers arrived there to kill them. It was a great loss for the king, for he believed a stranger blindly and ordered his soldiers to kill the golden swans. Now he would never get those golden feathers. The golden swans too had to abandon the beautiful royal lake because of their arrogant nature.

The king became so dejected to lose those golden swans that he asked the golden bird to find a different home for himself somewhere else.

"Never Act Hastily Believing a Stranger's Words. It's Also Undesirable to Be As Arrogant As The Golden Swans Were"

The Four Foolish Brahmins

Once upon a time, there lived four Brahmin friends in a village. They were learned persons, but were not satisfied with the knowledge they possessed. So one day, they decided to join some good university in some other part of the country for the sake of learning.

The next day, they travelled to Kanyakubja. There they got admission in the university. They studied at the university for ten long years.

One day, they said to each other, 'We've now acquired enough knowledge of Sanskrit and other subjects. Let us go back to our native village.'

The four learned friends, then, set off for the long journey. After travelling for hours they arrived at a place, where two roads met. The four pandits got puzzled. They didn't know which road to follow. At the same time, a funeral procession passed by on its way to crematorium. There were some prominent citizens walking along with the procession.

One of the Brahmins consulted his shastras: 'Follow the road, which is followed by eminent people.' So all of them started following the procession. When they reached the crematorium, they saw a donkey standing there. They didn't know what to do with the donkey. So the other Brahmin took out his Shastra and began to read it: 'Whosoever meets you at the crematorium is your true friend.'

And so, while one of the Brahmins put his arms round the donkey's neck, the others touched his feet with respect. Just then, they saw, at a distance, a camel moving quickly towards the crematorium.

The third Brahmin, then consulted his books, which said: 'Religion spreads rapidly. It must be tied with something friendly.'

So the four Brahmins thought, that the camel was the religion because it was walking swiftly and so the friendly donkey should be introduced to the camel - the religion. When the camel came nearer, they tied its neck together with the donkey's neck.

When the owner of the donkey, a washerman, came to know of this, he picked up a stick and started chasing the Brahmins. All the four Brahmins ran for their lives.

While being chased by the washerman, the four Brahmins came to a river. There in the river, they saw a Palash Leaf floating on the surface of water. One of the Brahmins said, "This leaf is like a raft. It'll save our lives." And with these words, he jumped on to the leaf. As a result, the Brahmin began to drown as he did not know how to swim.

The second Brahmin, then, caught hold of his hair and said, "When a thing is going to be fully destroyed, a wise man saves at least half of it." So he cut the drowning Brahmin into two halves with a sword.

The remaining three Brahmins proceeded further on their journey. They reached a village, where they were welcomed by the villagers and invited for lunch and dinner.

One of the Brahmins was served with a noodle like long substance. The Brahmin, then, consulted his Shastras and read out the verse, which said: 'Anything lengthy is a cause of destruction.' So he didn't take his meal and went away hungry.

The second Brahmin was served a coconut dish in his lunch. Seeing the dish, the Brahmin remembered the verse that said: 'Frothy things have temporary life.'

So, the Brahmin left his food and went away without eating anything.

The third Brahmin was served with a dish round in shape. Seeing the hole in the middle of the cake like round rice and pulse dish, the Brahmin thought of the verse which meant: 'the holes are like defects and are a sure sign of approaching disaster'.

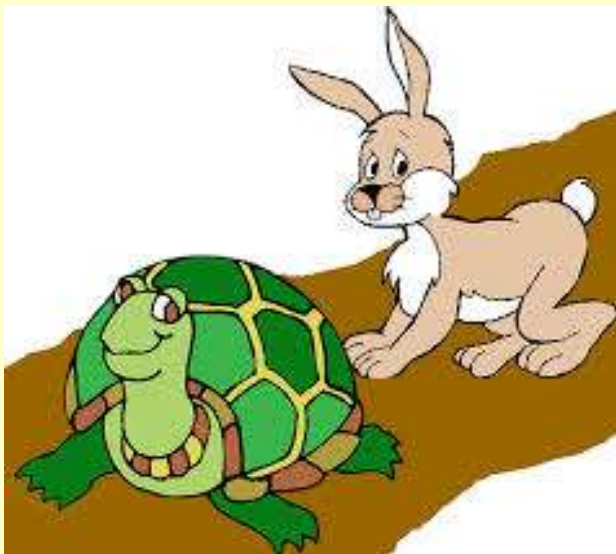
So, the third Brahmin also left the village without taking his meals.

In the end, the three learned idiots had to go hungry for days till they returned to their native village.

"Theoretical Knowledge Without The Practical Experience And Commonsense Is Useless"

Hare And Tortoise

Once upon a time, there lived a hare. He was proud that he could run fast and beat several of the animals in his surroundings. He always used to ridicule the tortoise, a poor fellow who could not carry his bulk with agility and hence could not win others.



To make fun of the tortoise, the hare once invited the tortoise for a race. Never to say no, the friendly tortoise agreed. Both of them started the race on the appointed time. The hare shot ahead briskly for some time. After running for a while, the hare saw that the tortoise was far behind. "Poor guy! He will not be able to catch up with me even if I have a nap," thought the hare. He sat under a tree to relax before continuing with the race. Under the tree, he soon fell asleep.

The slow tortoise, unmindful of the sleeping hare, continued to walk. By the time, the hare woke up, it was very late. He ran as fast as he could, only to find the smiling and friendly tortoise at the goal post. Alas! The fastest buddy in the surroundings lost! The tortoise emerged as the undisputed champ!!

The moral: Slow and steady wins the race.

The story till now is familiar to all of us. But, the story does not end here.

With a crushed ego, the hare wanted to take a revenge. The hare analyzed the reasons for his defeat and found that his lackadaisical attitude and resting in between resulted in his defeat. If he had not taken things for granted, there was no way that the tortoise could have beaten him. Having realized this, the hare once again challenged the tortoise to a race. The tortoise readily agreed again, not knowing the learnings of the hare.

They raced again. This time, the hare implemented his learning; shun his attitude of superiority and did not rest till he reached the goal post. A long, long time after wards, the tortoise came lumbering around, only to find the hare already at the goal post. The hare won by several minutes.

Moral: Fast and consistent will always beat the slow and steady. If you have two people in your organization, one slow methodical and reliable, and the other fast and still reliable in what he does, the fast and reliable chap will consistently climb the organizational ladder faster than the slow and methodical person.

Thus, it is good be slow and steady. But it is better to be fast and reliable.

The story does not even end here!

The tortoise analyzed his failure. He realized that there was no way he could beat the hare in a race in its present format, i.e., on the ground. The structure of the race had to change for him to win - he could win easily if the race was in water. Having realized this, the tortoise challenged the hare for a race once more, but this time, on a slightly different track. The hare agreed.

They started off. In keeping with his self-made commitment, the hare took off and ran at top speed until he came to a broad river. The finishing line was a couple of kilometers on the other side of the river. The hare sat there wondering what to do. In the meantime, the tortoise trundled along, got into the river, swam to the opposite side, continued walking and finished the race.

The moral: First recognize your core competence, then change the playing field and rules of the game to suit your core competence. In an organization, if you are a good speaker, make sure you create opportunities to give presentations to enable the senior management to notice you. If your strength is analysis, make sure you do some sort of research and send the report to the top.

Working to your strengths will not only get you noticed, but will also create opportunities for growth and advancement.



The story has still not ended.

The hare and the tortoise, by this time, had become pretty good friends. They did some thinking together. Both realized that the last race could have been run much better. So they decided to do the last race again, but to run as a team this time.

They started off, and this time, the hare carried the tortoise on its back till the river bank. There, the tortoise took over and swam across with the hare on his back. On the opposite bank, the hare again carried the tortoise and they reached the finishing line together. They both felt a greater sense of satisfaction than they had felt earlier.

The moral: It is good to be individually brilliant and to have strong core competencies; but unless you are able to work in a team and harness each other's core competencies, you will always perform below par because there will be situations at which you will do poorly and some one else does well. Team work is mainly about situational leadership, letting the person

with the relevant core competency for a situation take leadership. Pooling resources and working as a team will always beat individual performers.

There are more lessons to learn from this story. Note that neither the hare nor the tortoise have given up after failures. The hare decided to work harder and put in more effort after each failure. The tortoise changed his strategy because he was already working as hard as he could. In life, when faced with failure, sometimes it is appropriate to work harder and put in more effort. Sometimes it is appropriate to change strategy and try something different. And sometimes, it is appropriate to do both.

“Slow and steady wins the race; but fast and consistent is much better. Individual strengths pave way for opportunities; teamwork rules.

The hare and tortoise story also offers another important lesson. When we stop competing against a rival but compete against the situation, we perform far better. Thus, the race for the hare was not against tortoise. Rather, it was against the time clocked earlier.”

Being Of The ‘Nothing’!

Once upon a time there was a fish. And just because it was a fish, it had lived all its life in the water and knew nothing whatever about anything else but water. And one day as it swam about in the lake where all its days had been spent, it happened to meet a turtle of its acquaintance who had just come back from a little excursion on the land.

"Good day, Mr. Turtle!" said the fish. "I have not seen you for a long time.. Where have you been?"

"Oh", said the turtle, "I have just been for a trip on dry land.""On dry land!" exclaimed the fish.

"What do you mean by on dry land? There is no dry land. I had never seen such a thing. Dry land is nothing."

"Well," said the turtle good-naturedly. "If you want to think so, of course you may; there is no one who can hinder you. But that's where I've been, all the same.""Oh, come," said the fish. "Try to talk sense. Just tell me now what is this land of yours like? Is it all wet?""No, it is not wet," said the turtle. "Is it nice and fresh and cool?" asked the fish."No, it is not nice and fresh and cool," the turtle replied."Is it clear so that light can come through it "No, it is not clear. Light cannot come through it."

"Is it soft and yielding, so that I can move my fins about in it and push my nose through it?"

"No, it is not soft and yielding. You could not swim in it."

"Does it move or flow in streams?"

"No, it neither moves nor flows in streams."

"Does it ever rise up into waves then, with white foams in them?" asked the fish, impatient at this string of Noes.

"No!" replied the turtle, truthfully. "It never rises up into waves that I have seen."

"There now," exclaimed the fish triumphantly. "Didn't I tell you that this land of yours was just nothing? I have just asked, and you have answered me that it is neither wet nor cool, not clear nor soft and that it does not flow in streams nor rise up into waves. And if it isn't a single one of these things what else is it but nothing? Don't tell me."

"Well, well", said the turtle, "If you are determined to think that dry land is nothing, I suppose you must just go on thinking so. But any one who knows what is water and what is land would say you were just a silly fish, for you think that anything you have never known is nothing just because you have never known it."

And with that the turtle turned away and, leaving the fish behind in its little pond of water, set out on another excursion over the dry land that was nothing.

"For many the unknown does not exist. But this is a fallacy. No one person can have all the knowledge and capacities to know the 'whole'. We learn as we go along through direct or indirect experiences, through interactions and many more ways. Learning at times also come the hard way. What is important is to have an open mind to learn and unlearn. Learning is a lifelong phenomenon. "

The Honest Woodcutter

Once upon a time a very strong woodcutter asked for a job with a timber merchant, and he got it. His salary was really good and so were the working conditions. For that reason, the woodcutter was determined to do his best.

His boss gave him an axe and showed him the area where he was supposed to fell the trees.

The first day, the woodcutter brought fifteen trees.

"Congratulations," the boss said, "Carry on with your work!"

Highly motivated by the words of his boss, the woodcutter tried harder the next day, but he only could bring ten (10) trees.

The third day he tried even harder, but he was only able to bring seven (7) trees. Day after day he was bringing less and less trees.

"I must be losing my strength." The woodcutter thought. He went to the boss and apologized, saying that he could not understand what was going on.

"When was the last time you sharpened your axe?" the boss asked.

"Sharpen? I had no time to sharpen my axe. I have been very busy trying to cut trees..."

Most of us never update our skills. We think that whatever we have learned is very much enough. But good is not good when better is expected. Updating our skills from time to time is the key to success.

So 'keep sharpening the axe'.

"Most of us never update our skills. We think what ever we learnt is enough to lead the life forever. However, this is not true. If we do not update our skills our efficiency will reduce, forbidding our growth. This short story of the woodcutter tells us this fact."



Only One Move

This is a story of one 10-year-old boy who decided to study judo despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident. The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training, the master had taught him only one move. "Sensei," the boy finally said, "Shouldn't I be learning more moves?"

"This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the Sensei replied. Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training.

Several months later, the Sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals.

This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the Sensei intervened. "No," the Sensei insisted, "Let him continue."

Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion.

On the way home, the boy and Sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind. "Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?" "You won for two reasons," the Sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm."

The boy's greatest weakness had become his greatest strength.

"We sometimes allow our weaknesses to be our downfall rather than using them to our advantage. We tell ourselves we cannot do something because we do not feel it is our strength. But, if we didn't dwell on our weaknesses, we may find that we could succeed. We tend to give up rather than persevere. We all need to be reminded that sometimes what we perceive as our weakness could actually turn out to be our strength. This inspirational short story offers words of wisdom about our strengths and weaknesses."

Know Your Value

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a Rupee 500 note. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this Rupee 500 note?"

Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this note to one of you but first let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the note up.

He then asked, "Who still wants it?"

Still the hands were up in the air.

"Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty.

"Now who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth Rupee 500/-.

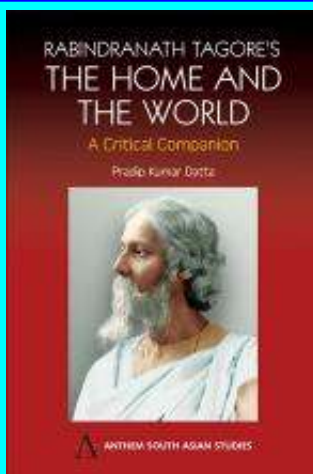
Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way.

You may feel as though you are worthless! But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value.

"You are special. Don't ever forget it!

Never let yesterday's disappointments overshadow tomorrow's dreams." ❖

The Home And The World



Name of The Book: The Home and The World

Author: Rabindranath Tagore

Set on a Bengali noble's estate in 1908, "The Home and the world" is a tale of freedom and love against the backdrop of Indian freedom movement.

The central character, Bimala, is torn between the duties owed to her husband, Nikhil, and the demands

made on her by the radical leader, Sandip. Being an ideal husband, Nikhil encourages his wife to experience the outer world through his revolutionary friend Sandip. This had a cataclysmic effect on Bimala, who suddenly felt the pull of the outside world like never before. The Bimala who whose life used to revolve around her husband and her home, was transformed into a revolutionary. Her attempts to resolve the irreconcilable pressures of the home and world reflect the conflict in India itself, and the tragic outcome foreshadows the unrest that accompanied Partition in 1947. ❖

The Art Of The Start



Name of The Book: The Art Of The Start

Author: Guy Kawasaki

At Apple, Kawasaki helped turn ordinary customers into fanatics. As founder and CEO of Garage Technology Ventures, he has tested his iconoclastic ideas on real- world start- ups.

The Art of the Start gives the essential steps to launch great products, services, and companies..whether you are

dreaming of starting the next Microsoft or a not-for-profit that's going to change the world.

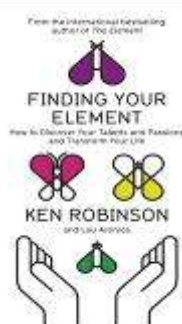
It also shows managers how to unleash entrepreneurial thinking at established companies, helping them foster the pluck and creativity that their businesses need to stay ahead of the pack.

Kawasaki provides readers with GIST..Great Ideas for Starting Things..including his field-tested insiders techniques for bootstrapping, branding, networking, recruiting, pitching, rainmaking, and, most important in this fickle consumer climate, building buzz. ❖

New Book

Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD):It's vision is economic and social justice together with sustainable environment prevails in rural communities of Marathwada region of Maharstra and beyond. It works to explore livelihood alternatives that are inclusive of poor and the marginalized.

Www.iird.org.in



Name of The Book: Finding Your Element

Edited by Ken Robinson

LEAP: http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/226-leap-arikerathanda-final

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e-Book: http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/rarebooks/downloads/Haimendorf_Tribes_of_India.pdf

v-Book: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MfDmx1Lv6Q&list=PLGyZiO3g3Xir6dPEfSsSe5C8WvGMGUAsX>

e- Course

Capsule 7 July 2013: Institutions:

http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/230-e-course-capsule-7-july-2013-

Ramzan ki Jaan—Haleem



Shining Livelihoods

Surma Selling



Declining Livelihoods

July 11th WORLD POPULATION DAY



'Yoga'kshemam

Telangana is announced!

India is getting ready for Elections!

Parties are not ready for transparency in their affairs: they say no to 'comply with RTI'.

This month endorses living in the moment as the way for us – happiness is a by-product; success is being useful to the world through our own calling; first things first; being brave is doing the right things despite our fears; strongest people feel the pain, accept it, learn from it and fight through it; only we, no one else, hold ourselves back; there are no automatic entitlements from others; there is some discomfort in while we grow; and it is never too late for anything.

Most of us in the business of being useful are entrepreneurial in our modus operandi. Benjamin Franklin offers us a set of lessons –

- * Having and adhering to a strict personal code of conduct
- * Well-maintained daily routine
- * People skills
- * Doing more and saying less
- * No procrastination
- * Assessing pros and cons
- * Perseverance
- * Seizing opportunities
- * Keep trying something new and learning from mistakes
- * Welcoming change

For many of us who are in teams and team managements, meetings are a must. But, we know meetings are the biggest productivity killers. Some tips, I gathered during the month, to reduce the loss include –

- * having a note circulated before the meeting;
- * giving 10-15 minutes to ensure that this note is read before the discussion begins;
- * no presentations, but only clarifications and discussions;
- * defining the objective of the meeting and identifying the driver of the meeting;
- * taking time to define jargon, semantics and first principles;
- * assigning someone to take notes and circulating the notes taken; and
- * summarizing conclusions and next steps

Being useful to the universe is a function of our ability to

influence and get influenced. Influence is a function of likeability of our cause and/or our persona. If we don't like people, people won't like us. And to like people, we need to accept them. If we accept them, they'll accept us. For acceptance, we need to appreciate that –

- * an individual is not either 1 or 0;
- * everyone is better than us at something or the other;
- * at a basic level, people are more similar than they are different;
- * people have reasons for their behavior;
- * in the end, we all die equal; and
- * it begins with a real smile

I can't agree more with Peter Buffet when he says –

- * Nearly every time someone feels better by doing good, on the other side of the world (or street), someone else is further locked into a system that will not allow the true flourishing of his or her nature or the opportunity to live a joyful and fulfilled life.
- * There are people working hard at showing examples of other ways to live in a functioning society that truly creates greater prosperity for all. Money should be spent trying out concepts that shatter current structures and systems that have turned much of the world into one vast market.
- * As long as most folks are patting themselves on the back for charitable acts, we've got a perpetual poverty machine going on.

Humanism is an expression of love for the universe. Humanism is being useful to the universe in the way universe wants. Leading with humanism involves thinking, articulation and doing. It requires listening to the ground, unlearning, learning and practice over a long period of time with dedication, intense and concentrated effort and discipline. Humanism means mentoring ourselves to be truly human and humane and lead.

This journey is spiritual! This journey is the bliss! This is [krishnamaargam](#).

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** If we are human! If we live in the moment with the people! If we practice deep and intense reflection deep within for unlearning and learning for being useful to the 'universe'! If we mentor leaders to lead with humanism! Krishna confirms – supreme (paramaatma) and free soul (jeevaatma) are meant to be together in thought, speech and action and they are meant to co-exist in each other eternally.

Join us in the world of yoga – for leading with humanism – towards krsnamaargayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

G Muralidhar



livelihoods

Body and Backbone