

# A lesson

Bittoo was a very naughty boy. One day he sat atop a tree with his catapult. Just then, he saw the priest of the village temple passing by. His bald head was shining in the sun. Bittoo could not resist himself, so he took a stone and aimed it at the priest's head. The stone struck the priest's head causing a wound that started bleeding. The priest cried out in pain. He looked around and soon spotted Bittoo on the tree with the catapult in his hand. He called Bittoo down and said, "Your aim is excellent, son. Tomorrow the king will pass this way. You must hit a stone to his head. He will reward you for the excellent aim."

Next day when the king passed by, Bittoo hit a stone on his forehead.

As the king started bleeding, he sent his guards to get Bittoo. The king ordered that Bittoo be whipped a hundred times in public.

Bittoo cried for forgiveness. The king forgave him when he promised not to be naughty anymore.

# A priceless lesson

Once upon a time, a student named Rakesh lived in an ashram. Every night he used to jump over the ashram's boundary wall and roam around. He used to return before dawn. No one knew that Rakesh went out at night.

One night as usual, Rakesh found everyone asleep. He peeped into Guruji's room and saw him sleeping. Then Rakesh crept out towards the wall. He climbed up a ladder he had and jumped over the wall. But actually Guruji was awake and had seen Rakesh going out.

He got up and took away the ladder from the spot. A few hours later, Rakesh returned. In the dark, he tried to climb down from the wall. But Guruji stood where the ladder was. He helped Rakesh to get down and said, "Son, at least take a warm shawl, when you go out at night."

Guruji's gentle manner made Rakesh realize his own folly. He apologised and never went out at night again.

# Ability of the coward

Once, a coward lived in a village. Even the smallest sound would scare him. One day the royal messenger announced in the village "The king has asked every young man of the kingdom to join the royal army. It's an order. Everybody must follow it."

The coward was also forced to follow the royal order. So he too left for the city to join the royal army.

On the way the coward passed by a large and tall tree. Many crows were sitting on it and making a lot of noise. Loud noise of the crows scared the coward. He stopped due to fear. After standing for a few moments, he moved forward to go on but the crows again started to make a noise. Once again, the coward's mouth went dry with fear. He shivered in fright and in shaky voice he cried, "Yes. Go on. Make as much noise as you want to. But I know you still cannot eat me up!"

The coward was so scared that he thought the crows would eat him up. Actually he did not have the ability to join the royal army. A man must do only the task for which he is fit.

# Advice of the goat

Once, a villager owned a donkey and a goat. He used the donkey to carry loads of articles from the village to the city where he would roam around the whole day selling his articles. Sometime he could lend his donkey to others on hire when they needed it. As the donkey worked hard the whole day, the villager used to feed the donkey more food than he gave to the goat.

The goat felt jealous of the donkey. He advised the donkey, "You work all day long and hardly get any rest. You must act that you are ill and fall down unconscious. This way, you'll get rest for a few days." The donkey agreed to this and acted as if he was ill. The villager called the doctor. The doctor said, "Your donkey has a strange illness. To cure him, you must feed him the soup made of a goat's lungs."

The villager at once killed the goat and cooked soup out of his lungs. Then he fed the soup to the donkey.

The goat had tried to harm the donkey out of jealousy but he had been killed for his evil nature.

# Aman learns a lesson

Aman was a good and obedient boy. His parents loved him very much. But Aman had one bad habit. He ate a lot of sweets and chocolates. His mother always told him, "Aman, don't eat so many sweets. You will get toothaches."

His mother used to keep all the sweets in a glass jar. It had a narrow mouth and a tight lid on it.

One day when his mother went to the market, Aman saw that his father was asleep. So he tiptoed to the kitchen and got the sweet jar. With great effort, he opened the tight lid and put his hand in the narrow mouth. Aman picked a fist full of sweets. But when he tried to pull his hand out, it got stuck in the jar.

Aman father was awake and watching. He said to Aman, "You have picked up too many sweets in your fist. It's more than your little hand can keep. Your fist cannot come out of the jar. Let go of the sweets and pick only one sweet in your two fingers and you can pull your hand out easily. Always take as much as you can handle."

Aman pulled out his hand from the jar easily and thus learnt a lesson.

# Better than ministers

One day a poor washer man loaded the clothes on his donkey's back. Then he also sat on the donkey. On the way, some people laughed at him and said, "Hey! Look, a fool is riding another fool!"

The washer man replied, "He is no fool, for my donkey is smarter than the king's ministers!"

Soon the washer man's comment reached the king's ears. He summoned the washer man and asked, "What made you claim that your donkey was so smart?"

"Your Majesty, one day as we crossed a bridge, my donkey's feet were caught in a gap between two slabs of wood on the bridge. Since then, each time when he reaches that spot, he crosses the bridge carefully. But your ministers have been spending money from the royal treasury again and again but have not learnt that they are making a mistake."

At this, the king scolded his ministers and started keeping an eye on their spendings.

# Blame

One day a man went for a walk on the beach. He saw that a ship full of passengers struck a rock and capsized in the sea. The ship went under water and all the people on board fell into the sea. As they did not know how to swim, they drowned one by one. The man watched all this from the shore but could not do anything to help the people.

In the evening, he narrated the sad event of the ship's drowning to his friends. Everyone felt sorry for the dead people. The man said, "God has not been just. To kill one sinner aboard the ship he killed so many other innocent people."

As he was saying this, he felt a pinch on his feet. He looked down. A red ant was biting his toe. Many other red ants were near his feet. In anger, he started stamping his feet to crush the red ants.

God appeared at the spot and said, "See, how you are killing other innocent ants to kill the one which bit you. You were blaming me for my unjust act. Look at your own actions before blaming me for anything."

The man felt ashamed as he realized his mistake.

# Character remain same

Once, a cat saw a smart young boy. The cat fell in love with him. She wished that she could marry him. But how could a cat marry a boy. So she reached to God, "Please do something to help me marry that boy."

Immediately God turned the cat into a beautiful girl. The boy saw the girl and fell in love with her. He proposed to her and soon they got married.

After all the ceremonies were over, the boy and the girl were alone in their bed chamber. The God decided to test whether the cat which he had turned into a girl has changed her habits or not. So he let a mouse loose in the bed chamber. Soon the girl smelt the mouse and saw it too. She immediately got up and chased the mouse till she caught it.

God was sad at this event. He turned the girl back into a cat and thought, "How could I forget that changing one's body or clothes do not necessarily bring a change in his habits or characters. People stay the way they are."



# Clever farmer

One night a clever farmer was returning home from a cattle fair. He bought a buffalo from there. As he passed through a dense forest, a dacoit came in front of him. He had a thick stick in his hand. He said, "Hand over all that you have."

The farmer got scared and gave his money to the dacoit. As he turned to go, the dacoit said, "Give me the buffalo too. Why are you taking it away?"

The farmer handed over the buffalo's rope to the dacoit. Then the farmer said, "You have taken everything of mine. Can you give me your stick?"

"Why do you need it?" the dacoit enquire "My wife will be pleased that at least I got a stick from the fair."

The dacoit gave the stick to the farmer happily. Immediately the clever farmer started beating the dacoit with the stick. The dacoit ran off to save his life leaving the buffalo and the farmer's money behind. So the clever farmer saved himself and his belongings too.

# Clever Monu

Monu was a small boy. He was very naughty, clever and witty. His witty replies amazed everyone. One day Monu's mother sent him to get some fruits and vegetables. Monu bought some vegetables and then went to a fruit vendor. He bought half a kilogram of pear. But the vendor was dishonest. He was cheating and weighed three fifty grams of pears only. Monu observed this and said, "These are not half kilogram of pears. These appear less."

"No, they are all right and anyway they will be easy for you to carry home."

Monu was clever. He gave money for three fifty grams of pears to the vendor. The vendor said, "I gave you half kilogram of pears. You are giving me less money."

Monu remarked, "No, the amount is correct. Besides they will be easy for you to count and carrying our pocket."

The fruit vendor was amazed at the small boy's words. Clever Monu had given him a befitting reply.

# Cleverness of Mohit

Once, Mohit and his younger brother Sumit were alone at home. Suddenly, two men got in to the house and said, "We are your father's friends. We want a blue file he has." Actually they were terrorists.

Mohit's father was a police officer and he had brought a file home. It had information about the dens of notorious terrorists. Mohit knew the file was safe inside the cupboard. But Mohit said, "I had seen the file on the table." As the terrorists searched for the file on the table, Mohit signalled to Sumit. Sumit started crying loudly.

One of them shouted, "Stop crying, you fool!"

Mohit said, "He wants biscuits to eat. They are in kitchen's cupboard. I can't reach it."

Both of them got into the kitchen to get the biscuit. Mohit quickly locked the kitchen door and called his neighbours. Soon the police also reached Mohit's house and arrested both of the terrorists.

# Cure for the king

Once there was a very lazy king. He hardly did any physical activity. As a result he started staying ill. He called the royal doctor and said, "Give medicine to get well. If you don't cure me, I will kill you."

The doctor knew laziness was the main cause of the king's illness. Next day the doctor gave the big dumbbells to him and said, "Your Majesty, you must swing these magic balls in your hands every morning and evening for an hour. Do these till your arms start sweating and you will start getting cured."

The king did this everyday not knowing that it was an exercise. Within a few weeks his body became fit and he felt alert and energetic. He thanked the doctor and asked the cure's secret.

The royal doctor said, "Your Majesty, the magic of this cure will keep you fit till you keep swinging these dumbbells. The day you stop you will become ill again."

The doctor had taught the king to keep fit without offending him.

# Different ways

Once, an aged man was going to attend a religious gathering. A young man left his home to go and meet his fiancée. As they went on their way, their paths led them to the same road. They met on the road. Soon, both the travellers began to talk and they became very friendly with each other.

The aged man said to the young one, "Why don't you come with me to attend the religious gathering? You will learn about religious teachings too."

"No, thank you. I think you should come with me to meet my beautiful fiancée. You can also have a grand lunch with us."

But the aged man refused and soon both the friends went on their different ways. But at the religious gathering, the aged man kept thinking of the beautiful woman he could have met. While the young man kept wandering about the religious teachings he could have heard of.

So it's truly said that a person may not change himself but always thinks for the things, the other person possesses.

# Do what you say

Once, a poor and lonely old man lived in a small village. Many a times, he would say, "I have no family. It would be better if I was dead."

Every morning, he went to the forest. He would cut some trees and gather the woods in a bundle. Then he would sell it in the market. With his earned money, he would eat some food at a small food stall.

Once, he had high fever. But he still went to work because if he would not go, then he would not get the money for food and medicine. As he was carrying back the bundle of woods, he again said, "I have no one to help me. I wish Yamraj takes me away."

Yamraj, the Lord of Death was passing by. He heard the old man's voice. So he appeared before the old man and asked him to accompany him to Heaven with him. But the old man got scared and said, "Oh! I was only asking for some help." Yamraj helped the old man to carry the bundle and thought with a smile, "He does not believe in doing what he says."

# Do you know swimming?

Once, a miser priest used to keep teasing people, "Oh! You don't know how to do this task properly. You know nothing about religion and life's philosophies. So your life is worthless."

One day the priest had to cross a river to go to another village. He saw a boat and sat in it. The boatman asked the priest to pay him to row him across. The priest said, "You ask me for money! On the way I will give you the precious treasures of knowledge. Do you know about Tulsi Das and about Ramayana?"

The priest kept boasting but did not want to pay any money. The boatman got fed up of his talks and thought of teaching him a lesson

When the boat was in the middle of the river, the boatman rocked the boat and the priest fell into the river water. He started drowning. The boatmen asked, "Oh! Don't you know how to swim? You seem to know everything else."

Then the kind boatman rescued the priest. Then the priest realized that everyone has knowledge of his own job only.

# Doctor Croaky

One day a frog left the pond of the village and hopped to a lake in a nearby forest. He went to the forest to make his new home there. When he reached there he did not see anyone around. He wanted to meet everyone and make new friends. So the frog climbed a high rock by the lake and said, "Friends, please come here. I am new here. I want to meet all of you. I have come from the village."

Many animals heard his voice and came to the lake. The deer, the tortoise, the duck, the rabbit, the birds, the squirrel, the butterfly and the fox came there. The frog said, "Let me introduce myself. I am Dr. Croaky. I am a doctor who can cure any ailment that you might be suffering from. I have medicines for all animals' diseases. You can come to meet me anytime."

Hearing this, the fox said, "If you can cure everyone then why haven't you cured your lame legs? See how you keep hopping around all the time."

All the animals and birds laughed at the frog. The frog went red with shame for his lie had been detected.



# Everyone is important

The lion king was busy appointing various animals at different posts. The cheetah had been made the army commander because he was quick to think and the fastest runner. The wise elephant had been made the prime minister. Time passed by and other animals also got their posts. In the end only the rabbit, the tortoise and the donkey were left.

At this, the animals started laughing. The zebra said, "The rabbit gets scared easily and the tortoise takes hours to move an inch. The donkey is a fool. They cannot get any post in the royal court."

But the lion king said, "No friends! Please don't tease them. All animals have different and unique qualities. The rabbit will be our messenger because he runs fast. The tortoise can hide and spy on the border posts. The loud voice of the donkey can be used as a bugle call. We must learn to respect everyone. "

Thus all the animals of the forest learnt a new lesson that day.

# Evil has an evil end

Once, there was a poor and old hermit. The villagers used to give him alms everyday. The hermit had the habit of sharing his food with the beggars or needy people.

Once he reached an old woman's house. She was a cruel woman and a miser. On asking for alms, she gave some leftover food to the hermit. The next day the hermit went to her house for food once again. She gave it with a heavy heart. On seeing the hermit on the third day the old woman got irritated. She mixed poison in rice and gave it to him.

The hermit reached his hut and was about to eat. Just then a young man came and said, "I am hungry. Can you feed me something?"

The hermit gave all the rice to him. The young man ate the poisoned rice and to the hermit's surprise he died instantly. The young man was the old woman's son and had returned after a long journey of many days.

So the evil woman's plan resulted in loss of her only son.

# Failure of cruel wolf

Once, a very fierce and cruel wolf lived in a forest. One year, there was a severe drought all over the country. There were no rains. So streams and rivers had dried up. There were no grains or fruits growing anywhere. Many animals died due to hunger and thirst. Lack of animals made the wolf very hungry. He soon became so thin that he looked like an ill animal.

One day, the wolf strayed into a meadow stealthily. The shepherd had left his flock of sheep unattended. He had left some buckets of water for them to drink. The wolf spotted the sheep and thought, "Oh, I am so lucky. Here are many fat sheep. I'll eat them and drink all the water too."

He said aloud, "Friends, I am very thirsty. I cannot move at all. Can one of you bring some water here to me?"

But the cautious sheep replied, "We are not fools. We are sorry for your state of health but we won't come to you to become your lunch."

So the cruel wolf's plan failed due to the alert sheep.

# Fruits of labour

Once, a group of fishermen went out to sea. Their leader was an old, intelligent and wise fisherman. He always guided them well.

At sea the fishermen spread their large net in water. When they pulled out the net, it was empty. This happened about two or three times and the fishermen lost heart, but their leader advised them to keep trying.

Once again, the fishermen threw in the net. It felt heavy when they pulled it out. But some small fish, logs from wreckage and seaweeds were all that it had. They were about to sink the net back into water but the old fisherman said, "Pull out the net and empty it in the boat. Throw the empty net and try once again."

When the fishermen emptied the net in the boat, they found a box in it. It had gold coins and gems in it. The leader divided it equally among all the fishermen and everyone went home happily. It is truly said that one must not leave any work unfinished if one wants to enjoy the fruits of labour.

# Long trunk of elephant

A long, long time ago, the elephants had a small trunk. It was not as long as it is now.

One day an elephant saw a crocodile in a river bank. The elephant teased said, "Hey, you crawling creatures, I wonder why you are not small like the other creatures. You are too long for your comfort."

The crocodile lost his temper at being called a crawler. So he said, "Now I'll show you how strong a crawling creature can be!"

So immediately the crocodile caught the elephant's trunk in his mouth. The elephant cried out in pain and tried to pull his trunk out but the crocodile held on to it. Soon the other animals heard the elephant's cries and came to help. They pulled the elephant by the tail and so this pulling caused the trunk to be stretched long. The elephant grew very sad at this, but the animals told him the advantages of a long trunk. So the elephant felt happy again.

# Look where you walk

Once, there was a very famous astrologer. Day and night he kept himself busy studying the positions of the Sun, Moon, Stars and Planets to predict the future. He used to get so engrossed in looking up at the sky that many a times he did not even know where he was stepping.

One day he was walking as usual with his head up and eyes observing the sky. Suddenly he tripped on a large stone and fell by the roadside. He got stuck in a thorny bush. The thorns started piercing his skin and he was in great pain. Some passers-by helped the astrologer and then asked him how he had fallen into the thorn-bush. When the astrologer told them, one of them commented, "You look up at the sky and can calculate good and bad times and even predict the future. But how come you cannot see what is right here in front of your very eyes? Stop dreaming and start living in the real world."

The astrologer felt ashamed on hearing such comments.

# Maria the foolish girl

Maria was a girl, who always forgetting things. She was very careless. She used to lose a lot of toys, pencils, colours and books due to her carelessness.

Maria's mother used to say, "Maria, you are a good and obedient girl but you must learn to be careful. You must realize the value of your belongings."

One day Maria's father brought a beautiful doll for her. Maria loved her doll very much. She played with it the whole day and even slept with the doll. She promised her father that she would not break or lose the doll. After playing with the doll for some days she kept it in a cupboard.

One evening her father decided to take Maria for an outing. Maria rushed into her room. She picked up her small doll, tied it to her back and came out of the house. When her father asked her why she was doing this, she replied, "My doll will be lost if I leave it here. But if I carry it along wherever I go, I will never lose it."

Maria's father laughed out at little Maria's foolishness.

# Patience pays

Once, a king had announced that anyone who wanted the post of personal assistant must meet him. Many people gathered in the palace. The king led them to a pond and said, "Whoever will fill this pond's water in this pot will be chosen for the post. But remember, there is a hole in the pot."

So some people left without a single try. While some people tried for once and then said, "The king has already chosen someone else. Let's go."

But one man kept filling the pot with pond water patiently. He filled the water in the pot from the pond and came out on the ground. But always within few moments, the water poured on the ground completely. He tried that uncountable numbers of times. At last the pond became empty. The man found a diamond ring in the empty pond and he gave it to the king. At this the king said, "This ring is a reward for your patience and hard work. You are fit for the job."

So the man confirmed that patience pays.



# Revenge of fox

Once a hungry fox entered a village. He went near a field with large juicy pumpkins. He looked around and saw no one around. So he quickly bit into a pumpkin. Just as he finished eating it, the farmer whose field it was, rushed to him and said, "How dare you eat my pumpkin?"

"Please sir, I was hungry and I ate just one of them." But the angry farmer took a piece of cloth and dipped it in kerosene oil. Then he tied the oily cloth around the fox's tail and lit a match to it. The fox's tail was on fire and he was in pain. Now the fox was angry, "You are punishing me for just one pumpkin. Now it's my time to take revenge."

The fox went to the wheat field that belonged to the same farmer. The ripe wheat was standing to be harvested. The fox jumped around the field with his burning tail. Immediately the crops caught fire and soon turned to ashes.

The farmer thought, "If I had forgiven the fox's small sin, he would not have caused such a huge damage to me."

# Snake among the frogs

Once, a large number of frogs lived happily in a well. One day, two frogs got involved into a fierce fight. The other frogs were supporting each of them separately. And this way, two groups of the frogs were formed, each group supporting one frog. Soon the feud grew and the hatred spread among all the frogs of the two groups. They were always trying to demean the frog members of the other group.

One day, one group of frogs went to a snake and said, "In our well, some frogs have become our enemies. Please come to live in our well and eat up all of them. So that you will get food there and we will get rid of our enemies."

The snake agreed to stay in their well. Days went by and the snake started to eat three frogs of the enemy group everyday. Soon all the frogs of that group got killed. Then the other group's frog leader asked the snake to leave the well as the job was done. But the snake was used to get the free food now. So he refused to leave the well. He stayed there and ate up all the other frogs too.

Thus due to a silly fight all the frogs lost their lives.

# The caged monkey

Once there was a poor man. He owned a monkey. The monkey used to display a variety of tricks. He worked hard the whole day. The people who watched him would throw coins for him. He would collect them and gave them to his master.

Once, the master took the monkey to the zoo. There he saw a caged monkey. People were feeding him fruits and biscuits. The monkey thought, "This caged monkey is lucky. He does not need to work hard to get food. He is having free food here."

That night, he went to live in the zoo's cage. He loved the rest and the free food for a few days. Then he started getting bored. He had to wait for the visitors who would come to see him in the cage. After a few weeks, the monkey got fed up of such a life. He ran away from the zoo and came back to his master who welcomed him warmly.

The monkey realized that it is hard to earn a living but sitting idle can be even more hard and dangerous.

# The dishonest bear

Once, the wolf said some insulting words to the lion king during a conversation and ran away. In anger the lion king started chasing the wolf to kill him.

As the wolf ran around the forest he saw a bear. He said, "Please save me. The king is chasing me. He will surely kill me. Can you hide me somewhere?"

"Yes, why not?" said the bear. "Come to my cave. You can hide there as long as you want."

The wolf went and hid in his cave. A few moments later, the lion came and asked the bear, "Have you seen the wolf?"

The bear replied, "No, I haven't, Your Majesty." But he signalled the lion to look in the cave. The lion did not understand the signal and went away. Soon the wolf came out of the cave and started to walk away.

"Won't you thank me?" the bear asked.

"What for?" the wolf said, "For lying to the lion or signalling him about me. You are not an honest friend at all."

# The three questions

King Mansingh had the habit of posing puzzles in the royal court. If someone could not answer them, he used to give them punishments.

Once a man came to the royal court and challenged him, 'You must answer my three questions correctly or you will have to give up the throne as a punishment.' King Mansingh agreed.

The man asked, "Which runs faster than the wind? Who helps in trouble? And which is the sweetest thing in the world?"

Neither the king nor his courtiers could answer the questions. Now the king feared losing his throne. But his clever queen told him the answers and said, "Promise me never to pose questions to the people."

The king promised and went to court. Then he gave the answers. "A heart's wishes are faster than the wind. Support helps a man in trouble and polite words are the sweetest in the world."

The man went after hearing correct answers.

# Value of time

Once, a king and a lazy man named Haria were very good friends. One morning, the king said, "Why don't you do work to earn some money?"

Haria said, "No one gives me job. My enemies told everyone that I never do any work in time."

The kind king said, "You can go into my treasury and collect as much wealth as you can, till sunset."

Haria rushed home to tell this to his wife. She said, "Go and get the gold coins and gems now."

"I cannot go now. Give me lunch first."

After lunch, he took a nap for an hour. Then in the late afternoon, he picked some bags and went to the palace. On the way, he felt hot so he sat under a tree to rest. Then, two hours later, he got up to go but saw a man showing some magic tricks. He stopped to watch for an hour again.

When he reached the palace it was already time for sunset. The palace gates had been shut. So Haria had lost a golden chance because he had not learnt the value of time.