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# The Tiger, the Brahmin, and the Jackal

## Getting Started

- \* Recall a situation when you were betrayed by a person you trusted. How did you handle the situation? Share your experience with the class.

Once upon a time, a tiger was caught in a cage. He tried in vain to get out through the bars, and roared and bit with rage and grief when he failed. A poor Brahmin happened to be passing by.

'Let me out of this cage, oh **pious** one!' cried the tiger.

'Nay, my friend,' replied the Brahmin mildly, 'you would probably eat me if I did.'



'Not at all!' swore the tiger with many oaths, 'On the contrary, I should be forever grateful, and serve you as a slave!'

Now, when the tiger sobbed and sighed and wept and swore, the pious Brahmin's heart softened, and at last he consented to open the door of the cage. Out came the tiger, and, seizing the poor man, cried, 'What a fool you are! What is to prevent my eating you now, for after being cooped up so long I am terribly hungry!'

The Brahmin pleaded for his life, but all in vain.

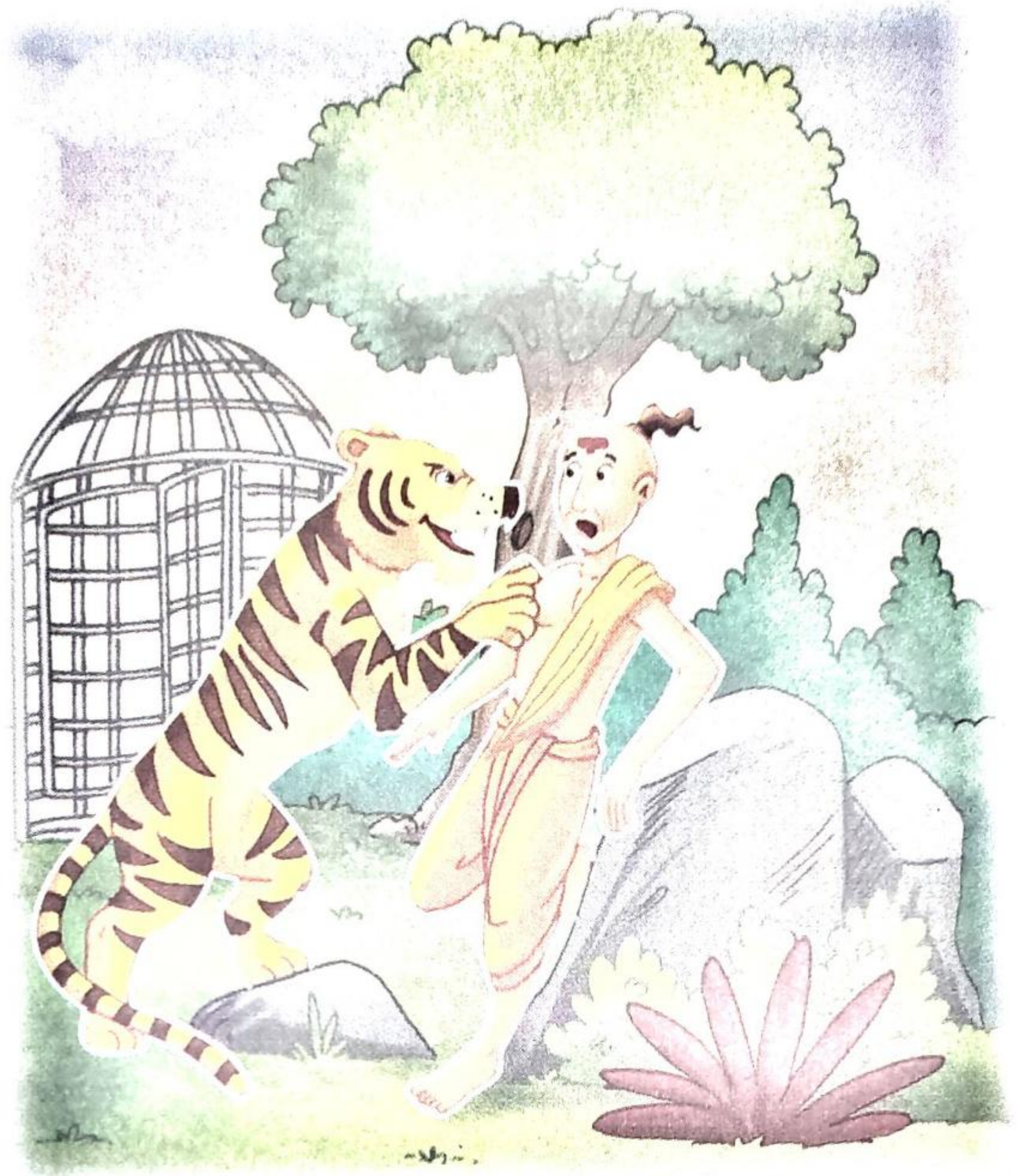
Finally, the tiger said, 'Alright, you may ask three things whether it is fair for me to eat you or not. If all three say no, I'll let you go.'

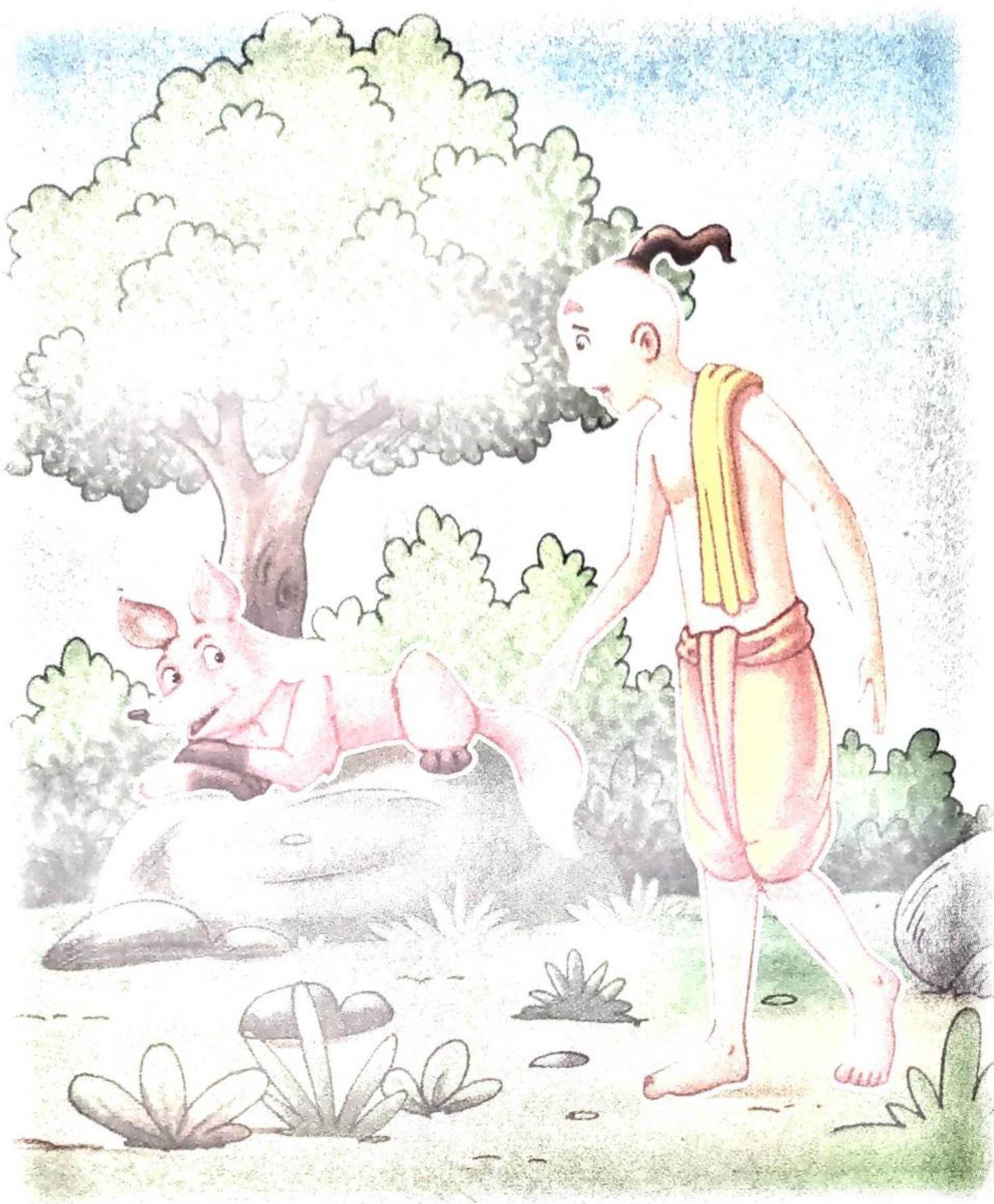
So the Brahmin first asked a peepal tree what it thought of the matter, but the peepal tree replied coldly, 'What have you to complain about? Don't I give shade and shelter to everyone who passes by, and don't they in return tear down my branches to feed their cattle? Don't whimper!'

Then the Brahmin, sad at heart, went further afield till he saw a buffalo turning a well-wheel; but he fared no better there, for the weary buffalo answered, 'You are a fool to expect gratitude! Look at me! When I gave milk, they fed me on cotton-seed and oil-cake, but now I am dry so they yoke me here and give me garbage as fodder!'

The Brahmin, sadder still, asked the road to give him its opinion. 'My dear sir,' said the road, 'how foolish you are to expect anything else! Here I am, useful to everybody, yet all, rich and poor, great and small, trample on me as they go past, giving me nothing, but the ashes of their pipes and the husks of their grain!'

At this, the Brahmin turned back sorrowfully. On the way he met a jackal, who called out, 'Why, what's the matter, Mr Brahmin? You look as miserable as a fish out of water!'





The Brahmin told him all that had occurred. 'How very confusing!' said the jackal, when the Brahmin finished his story, 'Would you mind telling me over again, for everything has got so mixed up?'

The Brahmin told it all over again, but the jackal shook his head in a confused sort of way, and still could not understand.

'It's very odd,' said he, sadly, 'but it all seems to go in through one ear and out through the other! I will go to the place where it all happened, and then perhaps I shall be able to give a judgment.'

So they returned to the cage,

by which the tiger was waiting for the Brahmin, sharpening his teeth and claws.

'You've been away for a long time!' growled the savage beast, 'But now let us begin our dinner.'

'Our dinner!' thought the **wretched** Brahmin, as his knees knocked together with fright, 'What a remarkably delicate way of putting it!'

'Give me five minutes, my lord!' he pleaded, 'So I may explain matters to the jackal here, who is somewhat slow in his wits.'

The tiger consented, and the Brahmin began the whole story over again, not missing a single detail, and spinning as long a yarn as possible.

'Oh, my poor brain! Oh, my poor brain!' cried the jackal, **wringing** his paws. 'Let me see! How did it all begin? You were in the cage, and the tiger came walking by—'

'Pooh!' interrupted the tiger, 'What a fool you are! I was in the cage.'

'Of course!' cried the jackal, pretending to tremble with fright, 'Yes! I was in the cage—no I wasn't—dear! Dear! Where are my wits? Let me see—the tiger was in the Brahmin, and the cage came walking by—no, that's not it, either! Well, don't mind me, but begin your dinner, for I shall never understand!'

'Yes, you shall!' returned the tiger, in a rage at the jackal's stupidity. 'I'll make you understand! Look here, I am the tiger.'

'Yes, my lord!'

'And that is the Brahmin.'

'Yes, my lord!'

'And that is the cage.'

'Yes, my lord!'

'And I was in the cage, do you understand?'

'Yes—no—Please, my lord!'

'Well?' cried the tiger impatiently.

'Please, my lord! How did you get in?'

'How! In the usual way, of course!'

'Oh, dear me! My head is beginning to whirl again! Please don't be angry, my lord, but what is the usual way?'

At this the tiger lost patience, and jumping into the cage, cried, 'This way! Now do you understand how it was?'

'Perfectly!' grinned the jackal, as he **dexterously** shut the door, 'and if you will permit me to say so, I think matters will remain as they were!'

—Vishnu Sharma



## About the Author

Vishnu Sharma was an Indian scholar who is believed to have written The Panchatantra in the 3rd Century BCE in Sanskrit. Later it was translated into English and other languages.

Date :- 12 June 2020

Day :- Friday

ENGLISH 2  
Class V

### Chapter 3.

The Tiger, the Brahmin and the Jackal.  
- Vishnu Sharma.

### Word Meanings.

pious - religious; devout

on the contrary - quite the opposite; in contrast.

consented - agreed

cooped up - confined

pleaded - request

whimper - to cry softly

gratitude - thankfulness

yoke - tie

trample - to crush something by walking on it.

wretched - very miserable

wringing - twisting

dexterously - skilfully

### Exercise

A. Choose the correct answer from the options provided below.

1. The tiger tried in vain to get out of the cage through the bars.

- a) through the gate, b) through the window,  
c) through the bars.

2. The Brahmin first asked the peepal tree what it thought of the matter.  
a) the jackal, b) the peepal tree, c) the road
3. 'When I gave milk they fed me on both (a) and (b)'  
a) cotton seed, b) oil-cake, c) both (a) and (b)
4. The road said 'I am useful to one and all.'  
a) rich and poor, b) great and small, c) one and all.
5. 'You've been away for a long time,' growled the savage beast.  
a) growled, b) whimpered, c) shouted.

B. State whether the following sentences are true or false.

- 1) 'Nay, my friend,' replied the Brahmin mildly, 'you would probably be grateful if I did' False
- 2) The peepal tree gives shade and shelter to the passers-by. True
- 3) The jackal understood the incident very clearly when the Brahmin narrated what had occurred. False
- 4) The tiger sharpened his teeth and claws as he waited for the Brahmin. True
- 5) The tiger thought that the jackal was very clever. False

## Home Work.

→ Read the extract and answer the following questions.

'The Brahmin pleaded for his life, but all in vain.'

- i) To whom did the Brahmin plead for his life?
- ii) What activity of the Brahmin made him to plead?
- iii) Who saved the Brahmin?

[To be continued]

Next class → ENGLISH 2 → 15 June 2020

Answers will be provided in the next English 2 class.

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE