A small brown and white bird is perched on a branch of a tree with green leaves. The tree trunk is brown and textured.

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.

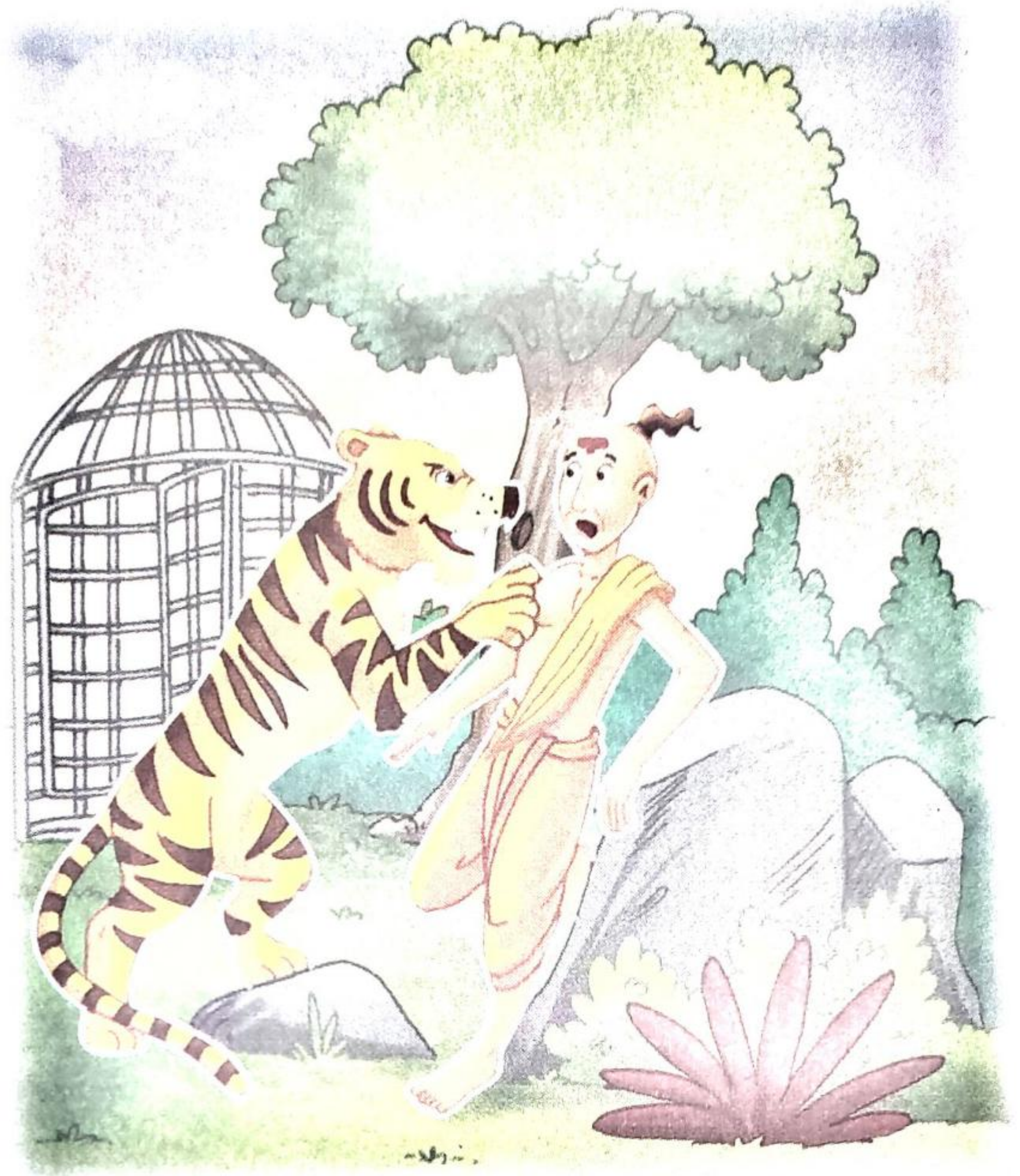
Finally, the tiger said, 'Alright, you may ask three things whether it is fair for me to eat you or not. If all three say no, I'll let you go.'

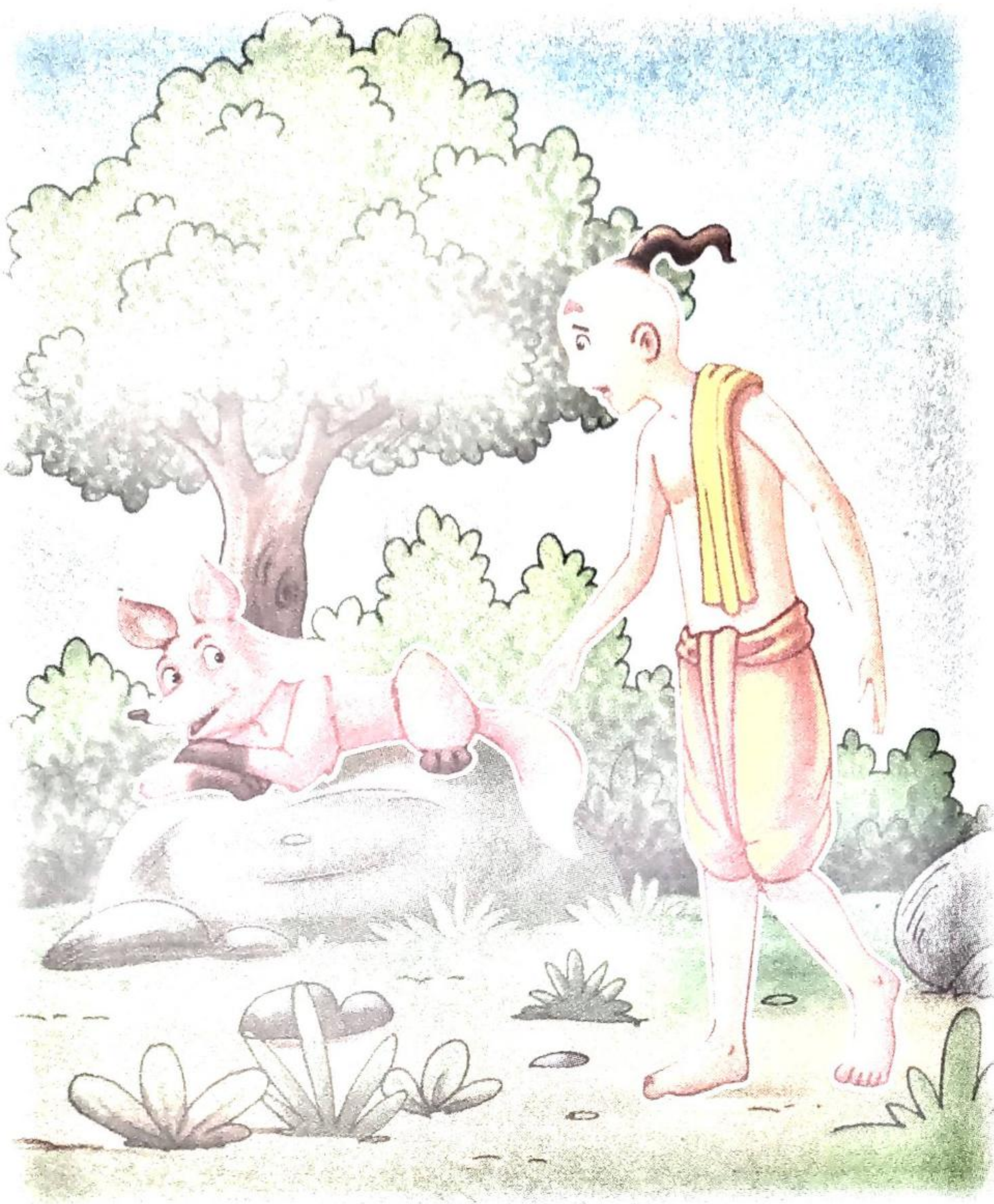
So the Brahmin first asked a peepal tree what it thought of the matter, but the peepal tree replied coldly, 'What have you to complain about? Don't I give shade and shelter to everyone who passes by, and don't they in return tear down my branches to feed their cattle? Don't **whimper!**'

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:- 15 June 2020

Day:- Monday

Class V
English 2

Chapter 3

The Tiger, The Brahmin, and the Jackal

- Vishnu Sharma.

[Continuing]

Exercise.

c. Answer the following questions.

1. Why was the tiger rolling with rage and grief?

→ The tiger was caught in a cage. He tried in vain to get out through the bars of the cage but he failed to get out. So the tiger was rolling with rage and grief.

2. What did the tiger do when the cage was opened?

→ When the cage was opened, the tiger came out, seized the Brahmin who had opened the cage, and cried telling the Brahmin that he was a fool and nothing could prevent him from eating the Brahmin then after being confined for so long and being terribly hungry.

3. What did the tiger say when the Brahmin pleaded for his life?

→ When the Brahmin pleaded for his life, the tiger ~~said~~ said that the Brahmin might ask three things whether it was fair for him to eat the Brahmin or not and if all three said no, he would let the Brahmin go.

Home work

2. Read the extract and answer the following questions:

'Give me five minutes, my lord!' he pleaded.

i) who is 'he'?

ii) who is referred to as 'my lord'?

iii) why did 'he' want some time?

iv) what was ~~supposed~~ supposed to happen after five minutes?

Answers → Home Work.

- 10 i) The Brahmin pleaded for his life to the tiger.
- ii) The Brahmin opened the door of the cage in which the tiger was caught. The tiger came out, seized the Brahmin and told the Brahmin that he would eat him. This activity of the Brahmin made him to plead.
- iii) The jackal saved the Brahmin.

To be continued.

Next Class → English 2 → 17 June 2020.

Answers will be provided to you in the next English 2 class.

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE