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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.

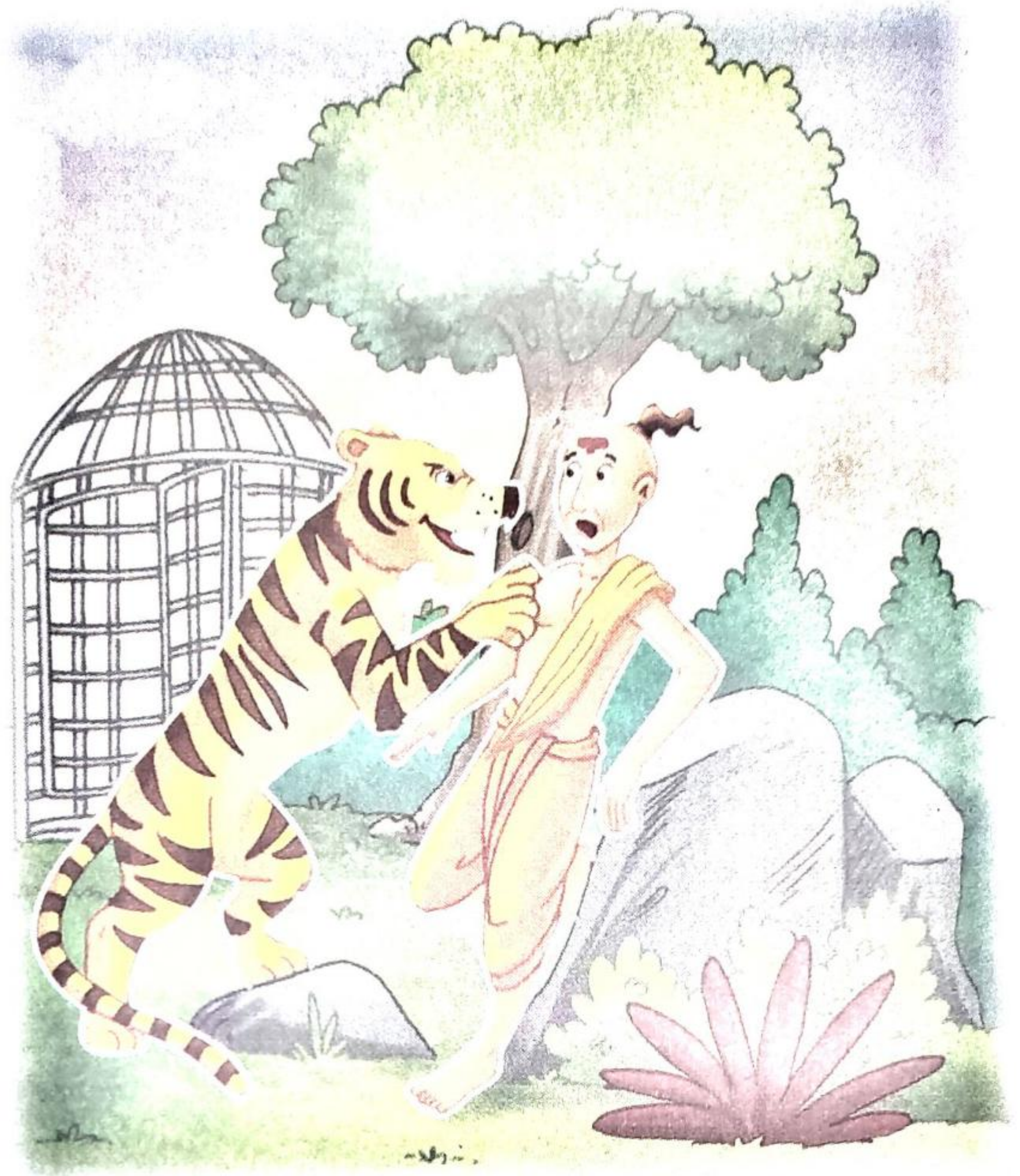
Finally, the tiger said, 'Alright, you may ask three things whether it is fair for me to eat you or not. If all three say no, I'll let you go.'

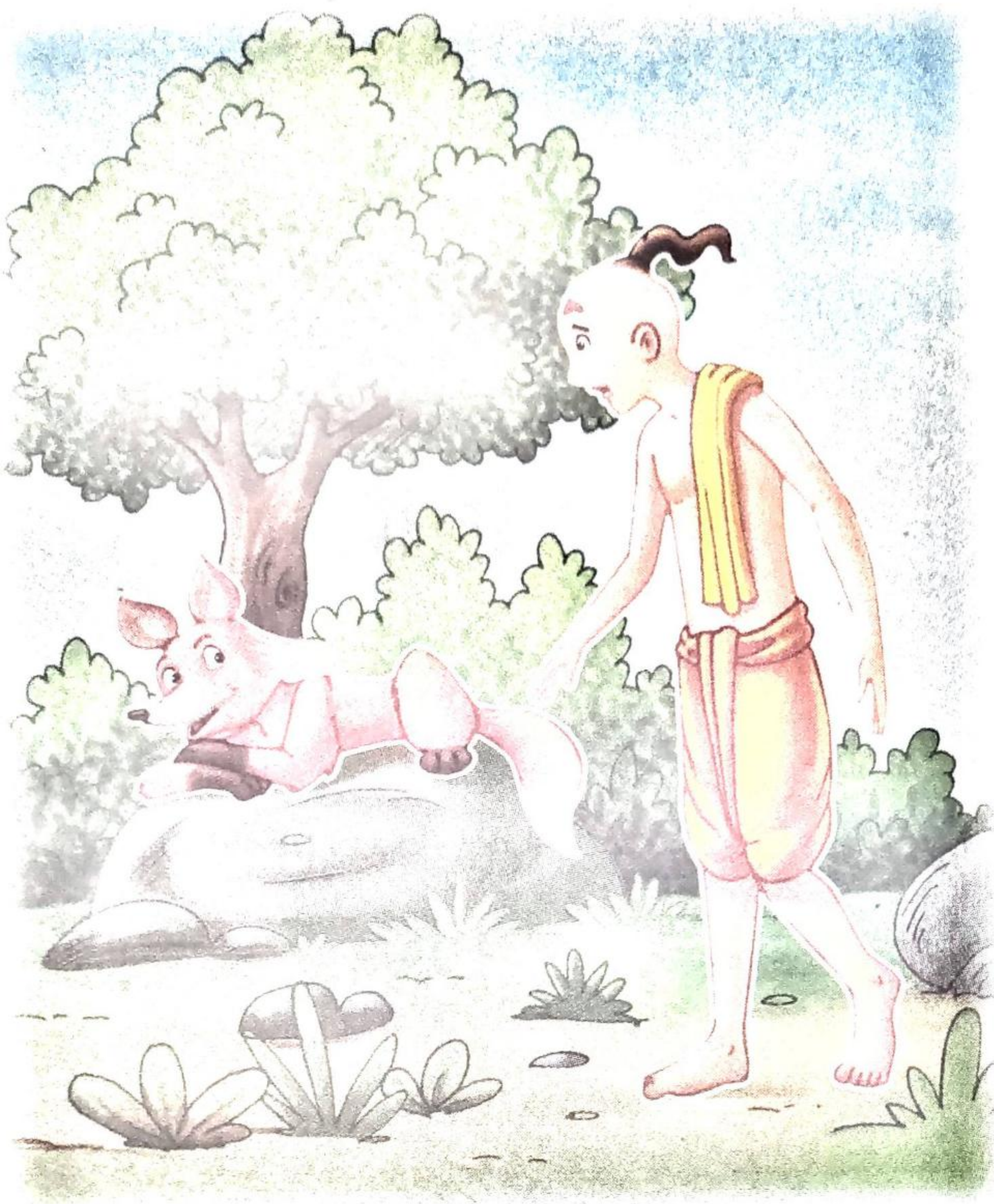
So the Brahmin first asked a peepal tree what it thought of the matter, but the peepal tree replied coldly, 'What have you to complain about? Don't I give shade and shelter to everyone who passes by, and don't they in return tear down my branches to feed their cattle? Don't whimper!'

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 :- 19 June 2020

Day :- Friday

Class V

English 2

Chapter 3

The Tiger, the Brahmin, and the Jackal

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[Continuing]

D. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1. "Give me five minutes, my lord!" he pleaded,  
"So I may explain matters."

a) Who is the speaker? Who is his lord?

→ The Brahmin is the speaker.  
The Tiger is his lord.

b) To whom does the speaker want to explain matters?

→ The speaker wants to explain matters to the jackal.

c) What matter does the speaker want to explain?

→ The matter which the speaker wants to explain is the story related to the tiger and the Brahmin. ~~where~~ The tiger was caught in the cage and the Brahmin opened the cage ~~and~~ door and let the tiger <sup>out</sup> of the cage feeling pity on the tiger. Coming out, the tiger ~~is~~ wanted to eat the Brahmin as he is

terribly hungry and the Brahmin is <sup>unable</sup> ~~used~~ to save his life.

This is the matter which the speaker wants to explain.

d) After losing his patience, how does the 'lord' try to explain the matters in the end?

→ After losing his patience, the 'lord' tries to explain the matters in the end in a practical way. He jumps into the cage and tells the jackal that in that way, ~~the lord~~ <sup>he</sup> was in the cage when the Brahmin opened the door of the cage and ~~the lord~~ <sup>he</sup> came out. He asked the jackal whether he understands how it was.

e) What was the consequence of the 'lord's' action in the end?

→ When the 'lord' jumped into the cage to show the jackal how the matter was, the jackal dexterously shut the door of the cage and the 'lord' was again caught in the cage. This was the consequence of the 'lord's' action in the end.

Answers → Home Work.

3 i) The tiger is the speaker.

ii) The jackal is referred to as 'you'.<sup>5</sup>

iii) The speaker told 'you' a fool as the speaker thought that ~~the~~ you ~~was~~ was really unable to understand the matter narrated ~~the~~ by the

Brahmin and who had been caught in the cage and who had opened the cage. The speaker thought 'you' slow in his wits.

Dear Students,  
There ~~will~~ will be English 1 class next Monday. A new chapter (English 2) will be started in next English 2 class.

Next day → English 1 class → 22 June 2020.

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE