



The Story of Jataka Mala

BOOK 3

Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust

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Publisher's Note

In the pursuit of one of its objectives, the dissemination of the Teachings of the Buddha, the Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust has published a number of books in different languages. It is hoped that the present book, the 82th publication of the Trust, will fulfill a long-felt need for a supplementary textbook for school children on the life of the Great Teacher born at Lumbini, Nepal. It is further hoped that both teachers and students would find it interesting and informative.

The Trust thanks the members of the textbook sub-committee, Venerable Kumar Kashyap, Mr. Nhuchhe Bahadur Bajracharya and Mr. Kesar Lall Shrestha for their efforts in bringing out this book.

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PREFACE

There is a theory that a living being is slowly evolving all the time towards a better life and enlightenment. Freedom from suffering is the aim and object of enlightenment. Death is not therefore the end of a living being. Birth takes place as a result of and according to karma or action. Every cause has an effect and every effect a cause. Accordingly, every living being can become a Buddha, the Enlightened One, eventually if he truly understands the Four Noble Truths and ardently follows the Noble Eightfold Path.

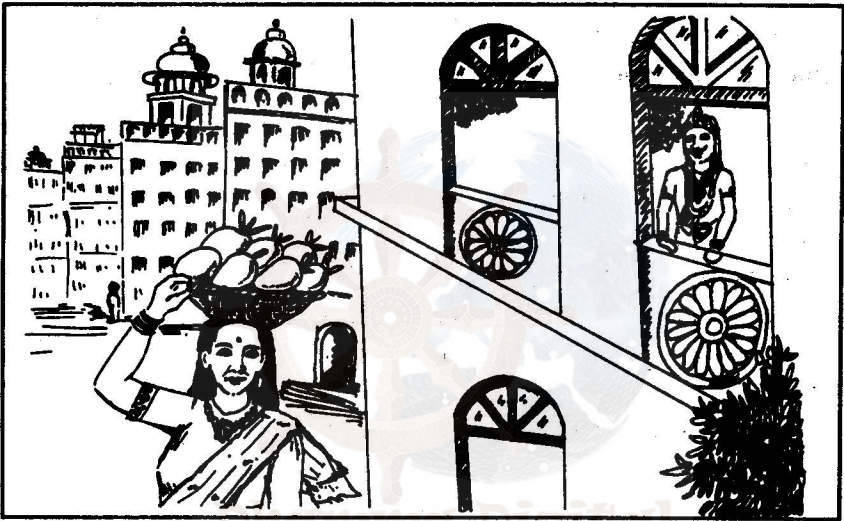
As an individual makes efforts in the process of becoming a Buddha to dispel his own ignorance and devotes himself to helping fellow beings, he is called a Bodhisattva.

In the course of his teaching, the Buddha Shakyamuni used various suitable means to explain the Dharma to those who came to hear him. One was the use of parables or birth stories called Jataka in the Pali language. There are stories of the Bodhisattva's life taking various forms, from that of the spirit of a tree to that of a divine being, from that of a bird to a human being, and as a man, from that of a farmer to a king. In every story there is a moral—a living being helping another creature in all possible ways, from showing his folly to saving his life.

The Jataka stories have formed very much a part of Buddhist teaching. An effort has been made in this collection to tell the stories in very simple language.

LESSON I

THE KING AND THE FRUIT GIRL



A

Once upon a time there was a king. His name was Brahmadata. He ruled in Varanasi in India. He saw a fruit girl in the street. She was very pretty. She was carrying a basket of mangoes on her head. She was selling the mangoes in the street. She spoke gently and walked gracefully. The king Brahmadata was charmed by her beauty. He fell in love with the girl. At once he sent his servant to fetch her. She was not afraid. They had a chat together. She spoke so charmingly with the king that he wanted to marry her right away. He proposed and she agreed. So they got married. The fruit-girl became a queen.

B

The king and the queen lived happily for one year. After one year she became very proud. One day the king sat with her at dinner. The servants brought a few mangoes for dessert, and put them on the table. She did not like to see the mangoes at all on the table. The sight of the mangoes on the table reminded that she was a fruit seller before. She was ashamed at the sight of the mangoes. She felt that she was degraded. The king was very upset at this. He was very angry with the queen because she did not accept his offer of the mangoes. The king did not love her any more. The king felt that she was rude and mean. They quarrelled over this matter.

The king had a minister in the palace. He was the Bodhisattva. Bodhisattva was a future Buddha. He was a kind and wise man. He liked the king and the queen. He saw the king and the queen were quarrelling foolishly. The Bodhisattva wanted to help them. He talked to them sympathetically. He said. "Do not quarrel over a small matter. People are likely to make mistakes. To forgive and forget is our way of life." In this way the Bodhisattva reunited the king and the queen. They were not angry any more. They lived together peacefully and happily for ever.

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NOTES AND EXCERCISES

A

1. Choose the right word and fill in the blanks:

- (a) Brahmadatta was a (a queen/king)
- (b) He saw a (pretty girl/ugly girl)
- (c) She sold (potatoes/mangoes)
- (d) The king fell in love with (a servant girl/street girl)
- (e) The king her very much (marriel/loved)
- (f) The fruit girl became a (servant/queen)
- (g) After one year the queen became (very angry/
very proud)

2. Finish the sentences :

- (a) The king and the queen lived happily
- (b) After one year the queen became
- (c) She did not like to see
- (d) Who was the queen before ?
She was a
- (e) Who was the minister ? He was a
- (f) "Forgive and forget is our
- (g) He reunited

3. Answer these questions :

- (a) Who was Brahmadatta ?
- (b) Where did he rule ?
- (c) Who became a queen ?
- (d) How long did the king and the queen live happily ?
- (e) Who was the minister ?
- (f) Who said this, Forgive and forget is our way of life “
- (g) Who reunited the king and queen.



LESSON 2

THE PRINCE AND THE HUNGRY TIGRESS



A

Once upon a time there was a king. His name was Maharatha. The king had three sons. The name of the first son was Maha Prasad. The name of the second was Mahadev and the third one was Mahasattva. Mahasattva was a Bodhisattva. He would be a Buddha in the future. One day the three princes went to a forest. There were many servants with them. They rode their horses very fast. They left the servants far behind. Soon the servants became separated and they were very afraid. They looked for the princes here and there in the forest. They could not find them anywhere.

B

It was a cool and nice day. The princes were very happy. They rode far into the forest. The forest was very thick. There were many flowers in the forest. The wild birds were flying from one tree to another. The wild animals were running about and jumping from one place to another. The whole forest seemed very pleasant. The three brothers enjoyed themselves very much.

Late in the afternoon the eldest brother Maha Prasad wanted to go back. But his younger brothers did not want to go back so soon. They liked to see more of the forest. So they rode deeper into the forest.

C

Suddenly the princes saw a tigress. She had five cubs. They were just born. The mother tigress seemed to have had no food for many days. She was starving. Her breast was dry. She had no milk to feed the cubs. So the cubs were also starving. They were dying for want of food. They could not move. The princes were very sad to see the starving tigress and her baby cubs. They did not like to kill other animals to feed them. In fact, they had never killed any animals or birds. So they could not help the tigress and the cubs. The youngest brother, Mahasattva, was kind and helpful. He wanted to save them. But his brothers went back.

D

All the time on the way back Mahasattva wondered how to save the dying tigress and her cubs. He thought of a plan. He suddenly stopped and said to his brothers, "I have lost a valuable thing in the forest. Please let me go back and find it." The brothers allowed him to go back and Mahasattva found the dying tigress and her cubs. He took his knife and cut pieces of flesh from his own body and fed the dying tigress. The prince cut so much flesh from his body that he could hardly move. The tigress then killed the dying Mahasattva and ate him up. The tigress became quite strong and fed her cubs on her milk. Thus Mahasattva saved the

dying tigress and her cubs. He died to save them, but his selfless spirit of helping others even at the cost of his own life never died.

E

The other two brothers, Maharatha and Mahadev, waited for their brother, Mahasattva, on the way for a long time. When Mahasattva did not return they went back to look for him. They did not find him. They found his clothes hanging from a tree. They also saw pieces of bones on the ground. They knew then that their brother had killed himself to save the dying tigress and her cubs.

The two princes were very sad. They went back and told the king and the queen what had happened. The king and the queen also cried. At last They calmed themselves and thought of their son's great sacrifice "Our son deserves his name of Mahasattva." They said. He has a great heart. He has sacrificed himself to save other creatures. "Maha means great and sattva means soul. he is indeed a great soul."

F

The king, queen and the princes went to the place in the forest where Mahasattva had died. They collected all the bones and put them in a chaitya they built in memory of their great son, Mahasattva, on the hill. This chaitya is known as 'Namura'. It is near the town of Panauti. We can see this chaitya even today. It is a memorial to a great son of Nepal. He died long, long ago, but his spirit of sacrifice is still alive. We must always remember him and his sacrifice. Let us always try to follow his footsteps.

Long live the prince Mahasattva!

NOTES AND EXERCISE

A

1. Which of the following are true and which are false:

- (a) Once upon a time there was a king. His name was Maha Prasad.
- (b) Mahasattva was the youngest prince.
- (c) The tigress had six cubs.
- (d) The princes always liked animals and birds.
- (e) The tigress was not starving.
- (f) The eldest prince saved the life of the dying tigress.
- (g) The tigress killed Bodhisattva.
- (h) Mahasattva was kind and helpful.
- (i) The king and the queen built a chaitya in his memory.
- (j) We cannot see the chaitya today.

2. Fill the right word in the blanks according to the story:

- (a) Once upon a time there was a king. His name was
- (b) The youngest prince was
- (c) Suddenly they saw a
- (d) The mother tigress seemed to have had no food for
- (e) The youngest prince, Mahasattva, was kind
- (f) Mahasattva cut of flesh from his own
- (g) The king and queen built a
- (h) The chaitya was known as
- (i) Let us always follow his

3. Choose the right meaning from the following:

- (a) lost: unable to find, separated, forgot.
- (b) nice: pretty, fine, good.
- (c) save: deliver from danger, protect, get rid of.
- (d) starving: hungry, dying of hunger, wanting to eat.
- (e) suddenly: quickly, at once, freely.
- (f) flesh: blood, meat, bone
- (g) sadly: badly, sorrowfully, fearfully.
- (h) cried: talked sadly, laughed, wept.

4. Answer these questions:

- (a) Who was Mahasattva?
- (b) How many cubs did the tigress have?
- (c) How many sons did the king have?
- (d) Who saved the dying tigress?
- (e) What is the chaitya called?



LESSON 3

THE FOOLISH FRIEND



A

Once upon a time the Bodhisattva was born as a trader in a village in Kasi. He went from one place to another, selling and buying goods. One day he came to a small forest. He sat down for a rest under a tree. He saw an old carpenter working there. He was making a piece of wood plain and smooth with his plane.

A mosquito sat down on his bald head. It began to sting him. The old man felt it irritating him. He was holding the plane with both hands and levelling the surface of the wood. He did not want to stop the work to drive away the mosquito. He saw his son playing nearby "Dear son" he said, "will you drive away the nasty mosquito from my head?" "It is disturbing me."

B

“All right, my father,” said the young boy. He came up at once silently and hit his father on the head with a stick to kill the mosquito. The poor old man fell dead instantly. The trader who was sitting near the tree saw this sad scene. He said, “It is far better to have an enemy with common sense than a stupid friend without a practical knowledge. A foolish friend is worse than a wise enemy.”

The trader thought that it was not safe to stay close to a fool. He went away from the place at once.



NOTES AND EXCERCISE

1. *Learn about words:*

- trader: one who buys and sells goods
plane: a tool used to level the surface of wood.
to sting: to prick and suck
irritating: troubling
nasty: hard to deal with
disturbing: giving trouble, upsetting
at once: suddenly
silently: quietly
instantly: immediately
Pick out the correct ones:

2. *The story you have just read is about*

- (a) a carpenter who was born as an old grey-haired man.
(b) a carpenter who was killed by a foolish friend.
(c) a boy who killed his father because of his foolishness.

3. *When a mosquito stung him on his head, the old carpenter*

- (a) killed it in a blow
(b) told his son to run away.
(c) told his son to drive it away.

4. *The trader saw*

- (a) a man who bought and sold goods
(b) the mosquito that flew away.
(c) The boy who killed his father.

5. *What did the boy intend to do when he hit his father on his head?*

- (a) to kill his father.
(b) to drive away the mosquito.
(c) to drive away the trader.

6. *What did the trader say when he saw the boy kill his father?*

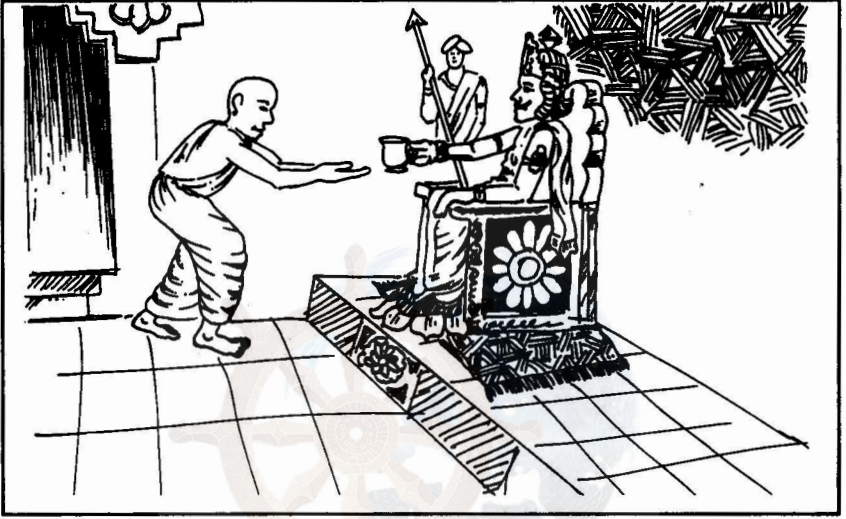
- (a) A foolish friend is worse than a wise enemy.
(b) A wise enemy is worse than a foolish friend.
(c) it is safe to stay close to a fool.
How well did you understand?

7. *Answer these questions:*

- (a) Who was the trader?
(b) What did the trader see in the forest?
(c) Why did the boy hit his father on his head?
(d) Who said this "a foolish friend is worse than a wise enemy."

LESSON 4

THE WISHING CUP



A

Once upon a time there was a merchant in the city of Varanasi. A son was born to him. The merchant was a Bodhistattva. He had a treasure of gold, silver, and other goods. He gave alms to the poor and helped the people until he died. Then he was born again in heaven as Sakka, the king of the gods.

B

His son was not wise nor learned. With so much wealth he fell into bad company. He made a fine pavillion with a pond and beautiful garden. He spent all his time with many friends around him. He paid much money to singers, dancers and passed his time with bad women and in drinking and eating. He squandered all his property in merry-making only. So, in a short time he spent all his treasure. He became very poor. Soon he was penniless.

He wandered about like a begger in the street along the river bank of Varanasi.

C

His father, Sakka, in heaven thought of his son. He came to know how his son had foolishly spent all the wealth and became a pauper. So, he gave his son a wishing cup and said, "My dear son, be wise now. Keep this cup. Take care not to break it. As long as you do not break it, you will not be poor. So take good care of it." then the father returned to heaven.

The son kept the cup with him all the time. He was very careful. Sometimes he used to drink from it.

D

One day he was in a merry mood because he was drunk. He began to play with the cup. He threw the cup into the air, catching it as it fell down. But once he missed it and it fell on the ground and broke into pieces. Then he became poor again. He went about in the streets begging for his food. At last he became ill. He laid down by a wall and died.

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NOTES AND EXERCISES

1. *Learn about words:*

- alms: clothes, food, money to be given to the poor.
pavillion: a building used for pleasure.
treasure: valuable things such as money, gold, silver, etc.
property: things owned.
squandered: money spent wastefully.
pennyless: without money.
pauper: a poor person.
missed: failed to catch.

2. *Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the following list.* *until, never, but, about, as, from, again, into.*

(A)

- (a) He gave alms to the poor and helped the people ... he died.
(b) Then he was born again in heaven ... Sakka, the king of the gods.

(B)

- (c) He wandered like a begger in the street and along the river banks of Varanasi.
(d) Sometimes he used to drink ...it.

D

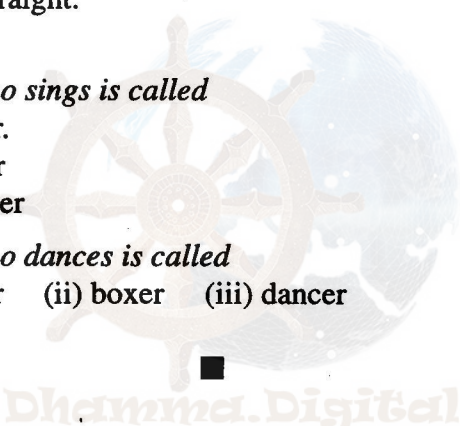
- (e) ... once he missed it and it fell upon the ground and broke ... pieces.

How well did you read?

Complete these sentences by picking out the right answer from the choices given.

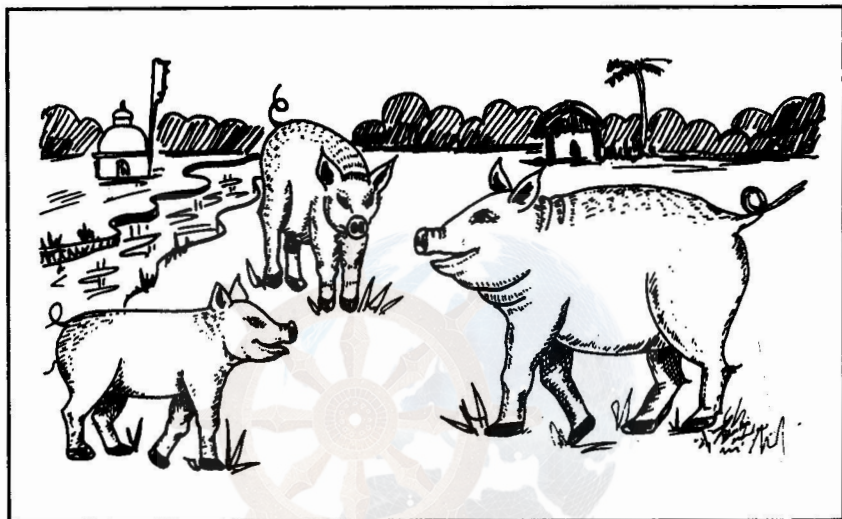
3. *His son became very poor*

- (a) because he bought many pieces of furniture.
(b) because Sakka came and took the wishing-cup from him.
(c) because he passed his time with bad women in drinking and eating.

4. *When the man threw the cup into the air he*
(a) wanted to ask for something.
(b) was drunk.
(c) wanted to break it.
5. *Answer each of the following correctly:*
(a) Which of these is a piece of furniture (a bag, a book, a chair)
(b) After death, a good man usually goes to
(i) The bank (ii) hell (iii) heaven
6. *Most men who are drunk cannot*
(a) throw cups into the air.
(b) stand straight.
(c) speak.
7. *A person who sings is called*
(a) a Player.
(b) a Singer
(c) a Speaker
8. *A person who dances is called*
(i) a wrestler (ii) boxer (iii) dancer
- 

LESSON 5

THE OXEN AND THE PIG



A

Once upon a time Bodhistva was born as an ox named Big Redcoat. He had a younger brother called Little Redcoat. Both of them worked for a family in a village. In this family there was a young girl. She was asked in marriage by another family.

Now the first family had a pig called Suluka. It was well fed to be fat. They gave it good food to eat and it slept in a sty. They wanted to kill the pig to serve its meat on the wedding-day of their young daughter.

B

One day Little Redcoat said to his elder brother, "Brother, we work very hard for this family and we help them to earn their living. Yet they give us only grass and straw. But they feed that pig

with very good food and let it sleep in a sty. What can it do for them ? “ “Brother,” said Big Redcoat, “ Don’t envy its good food. They want to make a feast of it on our young lady’s wedding-day. So they feed it with good food to make it fat. Wait a few days, and you will see it dragged out of the sty, killed, cut into pieces, and eaten up by the guests. Be content and eat the grass and straw that will give you a long life.”

C

A few days later, the wedding-day came. Many guests were invited for the wedding party. The poor Sulaka was killed and eaten. Both oxen saw what had happened to the fat pig. They thought that their own food was the best.



NOTES AND EXERCISES

1. Learn about the words:

content: (adj) satisfied.

to drag: (v) to pull or draw with force.

to envy: (v) to feel discontent and have ill-will because of another's good.

to feed: (v) to give food to.

guest: (n) a person who is received at home.

straw: (n) cut and dry stalk of wheat, rice, oats or other grain.

sty: (n) a place in which a pig is kept.

wedding: (n) marriage ceremony.

How well did you read?

Complete these sentences by picking out the right answer from the choices given.

1. *When the first family fed the pig with good food they thought that*
 - (a) It would be fat and, then, they would give it to the grown-up girl on her wedding-day.
 - (b) It would be fat and, then, it would be killed to make a good meal for the guests.
 - (c) It worked very hard and they had to make it fat.
2. *When the younger ox, Little Redcoat, saw the pig eating good food and sleeping in a sty, he*
 - (a) thought that the pig was very lazy.
 - (b) wanted to have good food and sleep happily like the pig.
 - (c) thought that the pig would be too fat to walk.
3. *Hearing what the younger brother said, Big Redcoat*
 - (a) agreed with him.
 - (b) dragged the pig out of the sty.
 - (c) taught him to be content with his food.

4. *On the wedding-day, the family.*
- (a) killed the pig and gave a feast for the guests.
 - (b) made a meal for the grown-up girl.
 - (c) let the two oxen see the pig and its food.
5. *Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the following list: fed, living, content, marriage, serve,*
- (a) The grown up girl was asked in by another family.
 - (b) The pig named Saluka was made fat to on the wedding-day.
 - (c) The two oxen worked for the first family and they helped them to earn a
 - (d) The first family the pig with good food to make it fat.
 - (e) Big Redcoat said to his younger brother, "Be and eat the grass and straw that will give you a long life."
6. *Answer each of the following correctly:*
- (a) A common synonym for the verb "to drag" is to (dig, call, feed, pull,)
 - (b) Many people envy me or women who are (good to them. talking with them. better than they are.)
 - (c) If someone is happy enough with what he has, we say that he is (handsome, fat, content, lazy)
 - (d) When you are grown up, you may be called a (child, king or queen, man or woman)
-

LESSON 6

THE STUPID MONKEYS



Once a king was very happy. He gave a holiday to all his people for a whole week.

The town-crier went all over the town. He beat his drum and said loudly: "Hear me, Good citizens, Hear me. The King has given you a week's holiday. Have a good time !"

The people were very glad. They came out of their homes into the streets. Some made music and others danced. The children ran here and there joyfully. At the food stalls, men, women and children met and ate and talked. Everyone was happy.

There was a big park near the city. The park was a pleasant place with many trees. A man lived in a little house there. He took care of the trees in the park. The man also wished to go to the city for the holiday. But he said to himself: "Who will water the young trees if I go? They are newly planted. Without water, they will surely die."

The man had an idea. There lived a troop of monkeys in the park. An old monkey was the chief of the troop. The man went to the chief monkey and said: "There is a holiday in the city. I'd like to go and enjoy myself. But I cannot go without your help. Will you help me?"

"Tell me how I can help you," said the old monkey.

The man replied: "Can you get the young monkeys to water the small, newly-planted trees during my absence? Without water, the trees would die."

The monkey chief said to the man: "Oh, sure, we can take care of watering the trees. You just go ahead and have a good time."

"Thank you very much," said the man. He gave his watering-cans to the monkeys, and left for the city.

The chief of the monkeys said to his troop: "Now, mind you, don't waste the water. Let each plant get as much water as it needs, no more nor less."

"How do we know that?" asked the young monkeys.

"Easy," said the old chief, "If a plant has a short root, it needs little water. If it has a long root, it needs more water."

"How are we to know how long is the root?" the monkeys asked again.

"Oh, you little fools," said the old one, "Can't you just pull it out of the ground and see?"

The monkeys enjoyed their work. They were very pleased with themselves.

Just then a Bodhisattva happened to come to the park with some of his followers. He was rather surprised at what the monkeys were doing. He asked the nearest monkey: "But why do you pull out the plant?"

"That's what our chief told us to do," the monkey replied, "so that each plant has enough water. Short root, little water; long root, more water."

At this reply the old man said to his followers:

"Without knowledge nothing can be done;

In ignorance the trees are being destroyed

Although the monkeys meant to do good."

NOTES AND EXERCISES

- Town-crier: One who make announcements
Troop: group, crowd
water (V) pour water into plants
watering-can: a pot for pouring water into plants.
Bodhisattva: A person who would become a Buddha in the future
followers: those who follow or go after
knowledge: understanding, know something gained by experience
ignorance: want of knowledge, misunderstanding
destroy: break, damage

Fill in the blanks:

- (a) The children joyfully.
- (b) The park was a place.
- (c) the trees would die.
- (d) If a plant has a short root ...
- (e) it needs more water.
- (f) Without knowledge

Understanding the story

Answer these questions:

- (a) Why were the people very glad?
- (b) Who watered the young plants and trees in the park during the absence of the man who used to take care of the park?
- (c) What did the chief monkey tell the young monkeys how to water the plants?
- (e) How did the young monkeys know how much water the plants needs ?
- (g) what did the wise man say to his followers when he saw what the monkeys were doing?
- (h) what do you learn from the story? Describe it briefly.



LESSON 7

THE GOLDEN GOOSE



Once the Bodhisattva was born in a Brahman's family. When he grew up, he married a young woman and established his own household. Within a few years, three girls were born to him and his wife.

One day the Brahman suddenly became ill and died. The widow and her small daughters had to live on the charity of friends and neighbours.

The Bodhisattva was born again as a golden goose. He had the power of remembering his past life. He thought that even as a goose he could still help his former wife and children to live well and in comfort.

So, the goose went in search of the widow and her girls. He found them finally living in a small hut. He flew in straight to their

rooms. He explained that he was none other than their father, in his past life. He said that he had come to help them.

“How can you help us?” the woman asked.

“I’ll give you a golden feather from time to time. You can sell it and get enough money to live happily.”

He gave a feather and flew away.

From time to time the golden goose came and left a feather.

In course of time, however, the woman became greedy and impatient for the return of the goose. One day, she spoke to her daughters: “Perhaps, a time will come when the goose will cease to come. Therefore, when he comes the next time, we’ll take all his feathers at once.”

The girls were not so sure it was a good idea. “It would give him pain,” they said.

The mother however made up his mind to pluck all his feather at once. When the goose came the next time, she cruelly plucked him clean of all the golden feathers.

Without the feathers the goose could not fly. So the woman threw her into a basket and let him live in it. After some time plain white feathers grew again all over and the goose flew away. He never came back again.

The woman has vary surprised to find that all the feathers she had plucked and stored for future use turned out to be ordinary, white feathers.

NOTES AND EXERCISES

- (a) established: set up, settled
- (b) reborn: born again
- (c) charity: kind help
- (d) neighbours: those who live next to your house
- (e) widow: a woman whose husband is dead
- (f) in search of : looking for
- (h) cruel: not kind

Learning words

Find a word in the story which means:

- (a) a person who will be born as a Buddha in future.
- (b) former life or previous living.
- (c) again and again
- (d) after many years
- (e) a person who always wants more and more
- (f) restless

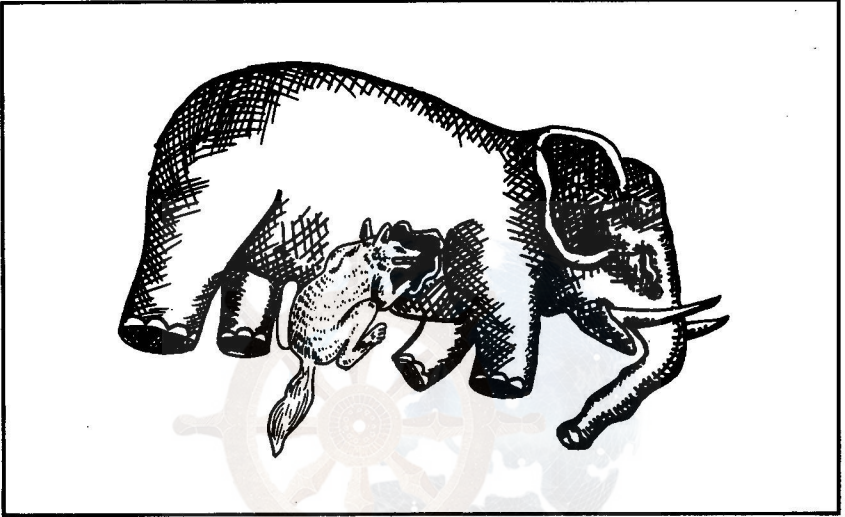
Understanding the story

Answer these questions:

- (a) Why did the widow and her daughters have to live on the charity of friends and neighbours?
 - (b) How did the goose help the widow and her daughters?
 - (c) Why did the widow pluck the goose clean of all the golden feathers?
 - (e) What do you learn from this story?
-

LESSON 8

THE GREEDY JACKAL



Once the Bodhisattva was born as a jackal. He lived by the bank of the Ganges river. It flowed through a dense forest.

One day, he wandered from one place to another in search of food, and came across a dead elephant.

“Ah, what luck ! “ he said to himself, “This dead body should last a long time.”

The jackal at once set to work. He nipped here and there—the trunk, the ears and the tail. But the dead old elephant was tough indeed, he couldn’t get a mouthful until he tried the rear and found it easy going. So, he ate his way right into the belly. At last he was satisfied and spent the whole day inside the elephant’s dead body eating, resting and eating again. He ate as if he had never eaten before.

By evening, he was too full in the stomach. He became lazy and sleepy and didn't want to move. So, he spent the night within the dead body itself.

The next day, the jackal didn't find any reason to come out.

He said to himself, "The elephant is both food and home for me."

So for many days the jackal lived inside the dead body. The sun and the winds of summer dried the hide and shrank it. The jackal could not come out. He was shut off from the sun and air. Then, in panic, he moved about within the dead body until he was exhausted and could hardly move.

Fortunately, a heavy downpour of rain soaked the dead body and swelled it to its former size. The jackal then saw a hole by which he had made his entry and he was able to crawl out of the dead body.

The jackal came out into the sunshine. He heaved a long sigh of relief and cried out, "Thank God, I am saved."

He sat still for a long time on the lush green grass and felt that a new lease of life was given to him. As he thought of his last few days, he said to himself:

"Ah, great was my fear never see the light again,
Greed drove me in, not hunger, nor thirst;
Never shall greed goad me, never again."



NOTES AND EXERCISES

dense:	thick
in search of:	looking for
nipped:	bit
belly:	stomach
exhausted:	tired
panic:	sudden fear
soaked:	wet
relief:	getting rid of, deliverance
lush:	thick and soft
heaved:	breathed deeply, took a long breath, groaned
pondered:	thought
greed:	wanting badly, keen desire
goad:	drive, stimulate, incites

Choose the correct word from the box and fill in the blanks:

(as, by, until, into, as if, within, inside, out)

- (a) Once the Bodhisattva was born a jackal.
- (b) He lived the bank of the Ganges river a dense forest.
- (c) So he ate his way right the belly.
- (d) So for many days the jackal lived the dead body.
- (e) He ate he had never eaten before.
- (f) He spent the night the dead body itself.
- (g) He came out the sun, the jackal heaved a long sigh of relief and cried "Thank god, I am saved."

Understanding the story

Answer these questions:

- (a) Who was the jackal and where did he live?
- (b) Why couldn't the jackal get a mouthful?
- (c) Why did the jackal become lazy and sleepy and did not want to move?
- (d) How was the jackal shut off from the sun and the air?
- (e) How was the jackal suffering within the dead body of the elephant?



LESSON 9

THE HUNGER'S MESSENGER



A

Once upon a time there was a king. His name was Brahmadatta. He ruled in Varanasi. A cleaver son was born to him. He was a Bodhisattva. The prince grew up and finished his education in Takchhyasila. After his father's death he became the king.

The king was very fond of different varieties of rich food. He spent a lot of money on one dish alone. He was very particular in the manner of eating. He made a pavillion adorned with jewels at the door. When it was time to eat he had his pavillion decorated and there he sat upon a royal seat made of gold under a white parasol. He ate together with many princesses around him.

B

Now a greedy man saw the king's manner of eating varieties of delicious and tasty food. He envied him and desired to have a taste of the food. He ran to the king with his hand held high and called out loudly—"Messenger ! messenger ! O King. As a rule, no one would stop any messenger coming to the king. So the crowd let him pass towards the king. The man ran up quickly. He took a handful of rice from the king's dish and put it into his mouth. The King's bodyguard drew his sword to cut off his head. But King Brahmadedatta stopped the guard and said to the greedy man, "Fear nothing, eat on ! " The king washed his hands and sat down, watching.

C

After the meal the king gave his own drinking water and betel nuts to the man and said, "Now, my man, you said you have a message; what is that message ?"

"O king, I am a messenger of Desire. Desire said to me, 'Go' and sent me here as her messenger. O Lord ! Don't be angry. For hunger's sake, men will go very far even to an enemy to ask for mercy. all men upon the earth must be obedient to it both day and night."

When the king heard this, he said, "That is true. All men are hunger's messengers. Desire make them uncontrollable. How well have you spoken !"

D

The king was very pleased with the greedy man and said to him, "Brahmin, all of us are Hunger's messenger. So I give you a thousand cows and a bull as a messenger should give to another messenger."

At last he added, " I have heard something I have never heard or thought of before." The king was so pleased with the man that he gave him many things.

NOTES AND EXCERCESES

1. Learn about the words.

to adorn :	to make beautiful, to decorate
to desire:	to want very much
desire:	wish
for hunger's sake:	to satisfy our hunger
manner:	a way of doing something, a person's style of doing or speaking
mercy:	kindness shown by one person to another
messenger:	one who carries a message
particular:	very careful in choosing what one likes

How well did you read ?

2. Pick out the right choice which best completes the sentence.

The story you have just read is about

- (a) The king who ate so much that the swordsman wanted to cut off his head.
- (b) a man who ate the king's food saying that he was sent as a messenger by
- (c) a swordsman who cut the greedy man's head in order to eat the king' food.

3. The greedy man called out loudly that he was a messenger because

- (a) he had news to tell the king.
- (b) he wanted to come up to the king and eat his food.
- (c) the swordsman wanted to kill him.

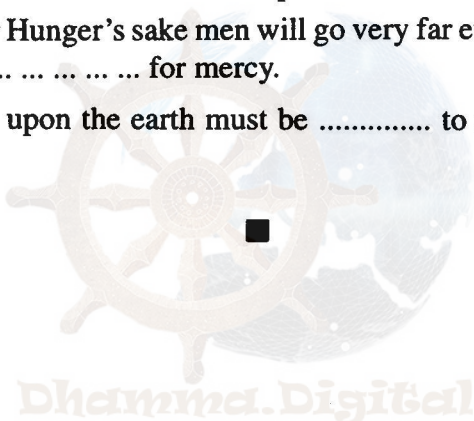
4. When the greedy man put a handful of rice in the his mouth

- (a) the king was very angry and told him to get out.
- (b) the swordsman wanted to cut off his head with a sword.
- (c) he washed his hand and sat down.

5. The greedy man told the king that

- (a) he had some news from the king's every.
- (b) he was a messenger from the king named Hunger.
- (c) he was sent there as a messenger from desire.

6. *The king was pleased with the greedy man because.*
- (a) he ate up his rice.
 - (b) he said something which the king had never heard or thought of before.
 - (c) desire and hunger made him pleased.
7. *Fill the blanks with the correct word from the list given below.
manner, let, finished, obedient, ask*
- (a) The prince grew and his education in Takchhyasila
 - (b) Now the greedy man saw the king's of eating and desired to have a taste of the food.
 - (c) The crowd him pass.
 - (d) For Hunger's sake men will go very far even to an enemy to for mercy.
8. All men upon the earth must be to it both day and night.



LESSON 10

THE THREE FISHES



Once the Bodhisattva was born as a fish. He lived with two other fishes in a stream in a forest.

One day they thought how nice it would be to travel and see where their stream would lead them to. So, they left the wilderness where no men dwelt.

After several days of swimming they came to a large river. And soon they found themselves going past the great city of Varanasi where King Brahmadatta reigned. The three fishes were very excited.

There were a great many people at the river bank. There were also many boats. It was a wonderful sight. However, the fishes soon saw some men moving about in the boats with nets, traps and baskets full of fish.

He became thoughtful. He said to his friends:

“This is a dangerous place to live. We too shall be caught by the men in their net. Let’s go back to our own wild country where we are quite safe.”

But his friends were thoughtless and lazy. “Let’s stay on for some days,” They replied, “We shall be careful. We’d not get into the trap.”

And so they postponed their departure from one day to another. After three months in the city, one day, they wandered up and down the river in search of food. The thoughtful fish saw his two heedless friends blindly rush into a net. “I must save them,” he said to himself.

He at once splashed about in the water in front of the net as a fish that has broken through the net and gone up stream. He dived into the water and came up behind the net and splashed about like a fish that has broken through and gone down stream.

When the fisherman saw the fish swimming this way and that way, he believed that the fishes in his net have broken through and gone away. So, he pulled up the net by one corner rather carelessly and in doing so, he made a hole in the net and the two fishes were able to make their escape. Thanks to their kind and wise friend, the two fishes were saved.

NOTES AND EXERCISES

Wilderness: a small place where no man lived; forest; desert

excited: moved to strong emotion

several: more than two but not many.

postponed: put off

departure: going away

heedless: careless

dived: jumped down into the water

Understanding the story

Answer these questions:

- (a) Why did the three fishes leave the wilderness?
- (b) Where did the fishes come to after several days of swimming?
- (d) How was the fisherman led to believe that the fishes in his net had broken through and gone away?

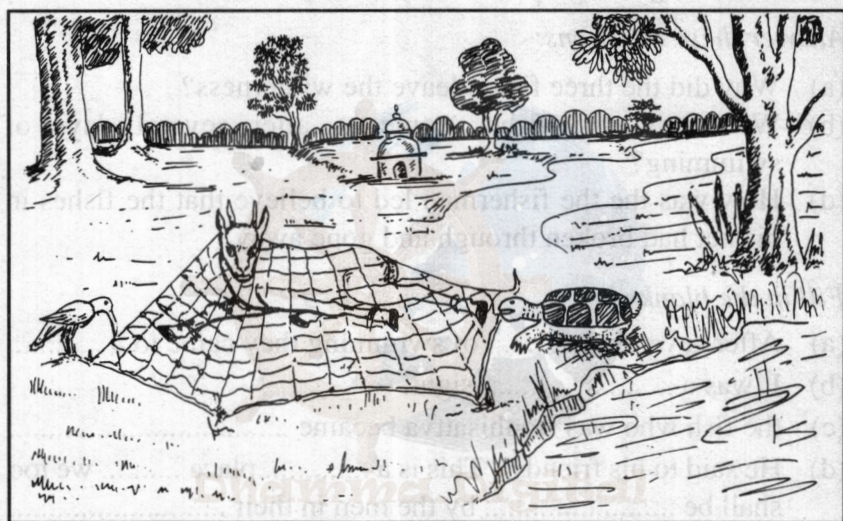
Fill in the blanks:

- (a) After several of swimming they came to a
- (b) It was a sight.
- (c) the fish who was Bodhisattva became
- (d) He said to his friends, "This is a place we too shall be by the men in their"



LESSON 11

THE WOODPECKER, THE TORTOISE AND THE ANTELOPE



A

Once upon a time the Bodhisattva was born as an antelope. He lived in a forest near a lake. A woodpecker had built a nest for himself in the same forest. And in the lake there lived a tortoise. The antelope, the woodpecker, and the tortoise were great friends.

One day a hunter came to the lake to drink water. He saw the footprints of an antelope in the mud near the lake. He set up a snare along the forest path and went away.

In the evening, the antelope went as usual to the lake to drink, and he was caught in the hunter's snare. He cried out loud

and long in pain and fright. The woodpecker and the tortoise heard the antelope and found it in the snare. They decided to do their best to save their friend's life. The tortoise at once began to gnaw the strings of the snare.

B

The woodpecker flew away to the hunter's hut to delay his coming. As soon as he saw the hunter come out of the hut, the woodpecker flew down and cried. He flapped his wings and struck the hunter in his face. The hunter was surprised. "A bird of ill omen has struck me," he thought. He then went back and laid down for a while. After a short time, he took his hunting knife again and prepared to go out. "When I went out of the front door he thought. I was met with an ill omen. Now I will go by the back door."

The woodpecker had anticipated it. He was waiting by the back door. As soon as the hunter came out he cried out and struck at him violently with his wings.

The hunter was surprised indeed. "It is not good to go out at this hour. I'll wait until sunrise," he thought.

In this way the woodpecker stopped the hunter in his own hut. He flew back in haste to the place where the tortoise was working ceaselessly to cut the snare.

C

In the early hours of the next morning, the hunter appeared. The woodpecker cried out in alarm, "Here he comes."

By this time the antelope was held by only one string. He made a mighty effort and burst through the snare. He quickly hid himself in the forest. The tortoise, however, was too exhausted and he just lay on the ground helplessly.

The hunter was very disappointed to find his prey gone. He saw the tortoise there. He picked him up and put him into his bag. From his hideout in the forest, the antelope saw the tortoise picked

up and put into his bag. He was alarmed and wanted to save the tortoise. The antelope came out of the forest and the hunter took his knife and ran after him. When he did not see the antelope he went back to the tree. The antelope returned swiftly by another way. He ripped open the bag and let the tortoise out before the hunter arrived. The woodpecker also was there soon. When the hunter returned he saw his bag empty. He went home sorrowfully.

Thereafter, the antelope, the tortoise and the woodpecker lived happily to the end of their lives in unbroken friendship.



NOTES AND EXCERCISES

1. *Learn about the words:*

footprints:	footmarks
track:	mark
snare:	trap
fright:	fear
gnaw:	bite away, cut away by teeth
flapped:	wound, moved wings up and down
omen:	bad or good sign
anticipated:	expected beforehand
violently:	forcibly
ceaselessly:	without stopping
exhausted:	tired
helplessly:	without help
disappointed:	felt unhappy
alarmed:	filled with fear
ripped:	cut open
swiftly:	quickly

2. *Find the word in the story which means*

A

(a) footmarks (b) spread his wings (c) amazed

B

(a) made ready (b) realised

C

(a) in fear (b) forcibly (c) tired (d) quickly (e) vacant

How well did you read ?

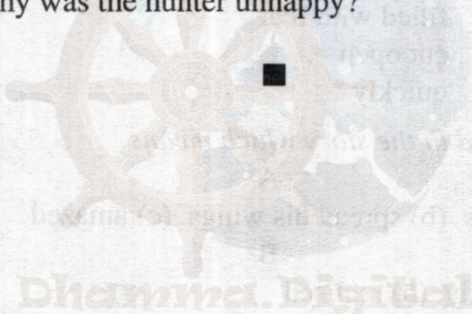
3. *The story you have just read is about*

- (a) a hunter who killed a tortoise.
- (b) a woodpecker that beat a hunter.
- (c) an antelope that got caught in a trap and was saved by his friends.

4. *The last string of the snare was destroyed by*

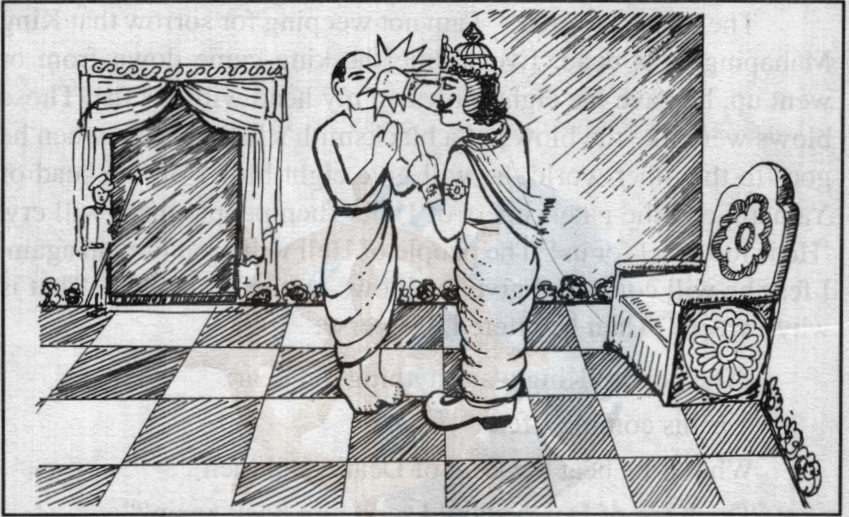
- (a) the hunter (b) the antelope (c) the tortoise

5. *The antelope led the hunter into the forest so that*
- (a) the hunter might be killed by some animals in the forest.
 - (b) he might be able to help the tortoise.
 - (c) the tortoise might be able to lie as he likes.
6. *Answer each of the following correctly:*
- (a) When you want to catch mice in your house, you usually use (a trap, a knife, a stick)
 - (b) When the tortoise gnawed he had to (run, bite, jump, cry)
 - (c) The time that the sun rises is called "sunrise"; the time the sun sets is called
7. *Answer these questions:*
- (a) How did the hunter know that there was an antelope nearby ?
 - (b) How was the antelope saved ? Describe it.
 - (c) Why was the hunter unhappy ?



LESSON 12

THE GREAT YELLOW KING



Dhamma A Digital

Once upon a time there reigned at Varanasi a king named Mahapingala, the Great Yellow King. He was wicked and unjust. He was cruel to all the people.

Now King Mahapingala's son was a wise prince. He was a Bodhisattva. The King died after a long time. When he died all the citizens of Varanasi were overjoyed. They laughed a great deal. They burnt his body with a great fire and put out the fire with thousands of jars of water. Then they made the prince their king. The people were very happy and joyful. They beat the drums throughout the streets and made all kinds of merriment.

B

The new king sat upon the royal seat under a white parasol. The citizens of Benares stood around their king. But one doorkeeper stood not far from the king and wept.

“Good gatekeeper”, said the king, “ all the people are making merry for joy that my father is dead, but you stand weeping. Was my father good and kind to you ?”

The man answered, “ I am not weeping for sorrow that King Mahapingala is dead. Every time the king came down from or went up, he gave me eight blows on my head with his fist. Those blows were like the blows of a blacksmith’s hammer. So when he goes to the other world, he will give eight blows on the head of Yamaraj and the gatekeepers of Hell. Then people there will cry, ‘He is too cruel for us!’ The people of Hell will send him up again. I fear he will come and give me blows on the head again. That is why I weep.” Then he uttered this verse:

“The yellow King was anything but dear:

It is his coming I fear.

What if he beat the king of Death, and then

The King of Death should send him back again?”

Dhamma.Digital

NOTES AND EXCERCISES

How well did you read ?

1. *The story you have read is about*
 - (a) a young prince who was made king when he came of age.
 - (b) a cruel king who was burnt to death by his citizens.
 - (c) a doorkeeper who wept for fear that the king should be sent back to earth and beat him again.
2. *When King Mahapingala died the citizens of Varanasi.*
 - (a) were very glad.
 - (b) wept very much
 - (c) beat drums.
3. *The doorkeeper was weeping*
 - (a) for sorrow that he was dead.
 - (b) for joy that they had the new king who was good.
4. *According to the doorkeeper, King Mahapingala would be sent back to earth*
 - (a) because he was a very good king.
 - (b) if he gave blows on the head of the King of Death.
5. *After his death, the body of Mahapingala was*
 - (a) thrown into the water.
 - (b) buried in the ground.
 - (c) burnt to ashes.
6. *If the statement is true, put T before it, if it is false, put F.*
 - (a) The new king sat under a white parasol in order to get wet.
 - (b) Mahapingala was good and kind to his doorkeeper.
 - (c) The new King was the son of Brahmadata, the king of Benares.
 - (d) When King Mahapingala died, all the citizens except the doorkeeper were very glad.
 - (e) The doorkeeper said that the blows of Mahapingala's fist was as heavy as those of a blacksmith's hammer.

7. *Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list.*
to, with, under, from, in, for, on.

- (a) The new king sat upon his royal seat a white parasol.
- (b) The people made merry.....joy that King Mahapingala was dead.
- (c) The doorkeeper was afraid that King Mahapingala would come back and give blows.....his head again, and that was why he wept.

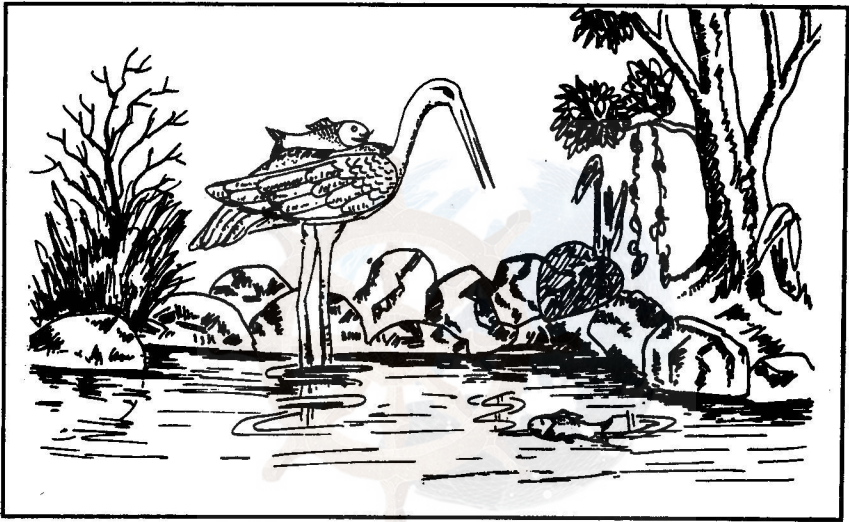
8. *answer each of the following correctly;*

- (a) What are the opposites of the words: wicked, cruel, unjust.
- (b) A citizen is a person who lives in a (town, village, city)
- (c) When you are sad you often (laugh, stand up, weep)
- (d) Which of these is the end of life (birth, rest, sleep, death)
- (e) If you put your coat into the water it will be (hard, dry, wet)

Dhamma.Digital

LESSON 13

THE CRANE AND THE CRAB



Once the Bodhisattva was born as a spirit and dwelt in a tree in a forest. The tree grew big and tall on the bank of a large pond full of blooming lotus flowers of different colours.

There was another pond nearby much smaller in size but full of fish. During the dry season, the water in the small pond fell very low.

A crane had a cunning idea. He flew to the edge of the small pond.

With one leg up, he stood silently. He closed his eyes and pretended to be like a monk in meditation. Thus he spent many hours.

After a few days, the fishes in the pond became curious. Some of them swam close to the bank and asked the crane: "Why are you standing motionless? Is something wrong with you?"

"No, it is all right with me," said the crane, "But I am thinking of the shrinking water and worrying about you."

The fishes were surprised.

The crane explained. "Every summer the water gets very low in the pond. Without water, you fishes cannot live. Not far from here there is another pond, much larger than this and it never dries up. It is also full of lotus flowers. I wonder why can't you go and live there."

"That may be true," said the fishes, "But how can we ever get there?"

"Well, if you would trust me, I'll take you there in my beak one by one."

The fishes were suspicious. They said: "First, we don't know if there is a pond which is always full of water. Secondly, no crane in the world has ever been a friend of the fish."

"I agree with what you say," said the crane, "for, unfortunately that is very true. But have you ever heard before of a crane who has worried about you fishes?"

"No," replied the fishes.

Said the crane: "So, at least one of you should go and see whether there is a pond such as I described to you not too far from here. Trust is built up gradually and someone has to make a beginning. Isn't there any fish among you who would volunteer to go with me and see the big, beautiful pond and come back and tell you whether I speak the truth or not."

A silly, fat fish volunteered to go with the crane.

The crane gently picked up the big, fat fish in his beak and flew away and the other fishes waited anxiously for his return.

Before long, the crane flew back and dropped the fish gently into the water and said: "Tell them the truth."

The big fish was full of praise of the new lotus pond. It was exactly as the crane had described, an ideal home for the fishes. There was plenty of water, deep and clear and plenty of food too.

The fishes believed that the crane meant well. So they said to the crane: "We believe in your words. Please take us to the other pond."

So, the crane picked up the big, fat fish again in his beak and flew away. When he came to the pond, he alighted instead on a branch of the tall, big tree and without much delay or ceremony, he ate up the foolish fish.

The crane was soon back at the pond and said to the fishes: "Well, who's the next? Your old friend says you are to come soon."

The fishes were taken in completely. They eagerly let the crane pick them up, one by one, and fly away. A few days later there was not a single fish left in the pond. At the foot of the tall tree in the other pond, there was a heap of fish bones.

The crane was very delighted at the success of his scheme. He had never been so happy as before. But there was still a crab left in the pond and he thought how delicious crab meat would be for a change from fish.

One morning, he went to the pond and said to the crab: "Dear friend Crab, I've put all the fishes in the new pond. Won't you like to go and join them in their new home?"

"But I am afraid of travelling in your beak," said the crab who was very suspicious of the crane, "You might drop me and then I am finished."

"You need not fear," assured the crane, "I'll keep a tight hold all the way."

"Still I dare not leave the ground," said the crab, "unless you let me ride in your neck, for we crabs have a good grip with our claws and I shall feel safe enough to take a ride in the air."

The crane, full of guile and greed, was fooled. He let the crab get hold around his neck with his claws and he flew away.

The crane was soon flying over the lotus pond and the crab saw the beautiful flowers below. The crane however flew straight to the big tree as usual.

“Where are you going now, crane,” cried the crab, full convinced that the crane was no friend of his.

“Well, I am going to eat you,” said the crane triumphantly, “Look at the foot of the tree, See those fish bones, the remains of your friends and neighbours in the other pond.”

“The fishes died through their own folly,” said the crab, “But you won’t eat me.”

Without another word, the crab tightened his claws around the crane’s neck.

The crane then knew that he would be killed even as he flew to the tree. So, he pleaded: “Please, Sir, don’t hold me so tightly. I’ll not eat you, I promise.” I’ll let you down into the water.”

With these words, the crane alighted on the bank of the pond but the crab anyway made him pay for his crime . He deftly nipped off the crane’s head as if it were a lotus stalk.

The tree spirit who dwelt in the tree and who was a witness to the crane’s crime and punishment, said aloud for everyone in the forest to hear:

“Mark ye all well,

Guile profits none.

The crane got what he deserved,

It was his own doing.

NOTES AND EXERCISES

Divine:	like God, Godly
blooming:	bearing flowers
cunning:	tricky, bad
pretend:	feign, make believe
motionless:	without moving, still
curious:	wanting to know
meditation:	thinking deeply, exercise in mind
shrinking:	growing smaller, falling low
trust:	(v) believe, (n) belief
suspicious:	doubtful
volunteer:	(v) do or work willingly
alighted:	came to rest after a flight
eagerlly:	willingly
guile:	trick
greed:	bad wish, selfish desire
convinced:	believed
triumphantly:	successfully, glad with success
deftly:	skillfully, cleverly
witness:	a person present at an event, a person who serves as proof
crime:	bad deed or action
punishment:	suffering because of bad deeds; penalty for bad deeds
profits:	gains
deserved:	worthy

LANGUAGE WORK

Choose the correct word from the box and fill in the blanks.

shrinking, without, during, fell, motionless, volunteered, folly, through

- (a) dry season the water in the small pond very low.
- (b) Why are you standing?
- (c) "But I am thinking of the water.
- (d) water you fishes cannot live.
- (e) A silly, fat fish to go with the crane.
- (f) the fishes died their own

How well did you understand the story ?

Answer these questions:

- (a) Who was born as a divine being?
- (b) Why did the crane close his eyes and pretend to be like a monk in meditation?
- (c) How did the crane take the fishes to the pond?
- (d) Why did the fishes believe the crane?
- (e) Why was not a single fish left in the pond?
- (f) How did the crab travel with the crane?
- (g) How was the crane killed by the crab?
- (h) What did the Bodhisattva say when he saw the crane's crime and punishment ?



LESSON 14

THE TORTOISE AND THE GEESE



Once upon a time a tortoise lived all by himself in a pond. One day two young geese came to this pond from the Himalaya mountain. Before long the geese and the tortoise became good friends.

After some days the geese wanted to return to their home in the mountains. They said to the tortoise: "Friend, we must go now. We would be very sorry to miss you. We wish you could come with us. We have a lovely lake in the mountains. Will you come with us.

"Thank you, I'd love to come," said the tortoise, "But you can fly through the air and I can only crawl on the land. How would it be possible for me to come with you to your mountain home?"

"We'll take you along with us if you will only keep your mouth shut while we fly with you."

"I'll keep my mouth shut," said the tortoise.

The geese found a strong stick. They made the tortoise hold the stick between his teeth.

The geese took hold of the two ends of the stick in their own mouths. They warned the tortoise, "Don't open your mouth." Then they sprang up into the air and flew swiftly over the fields.

The two geese flew with a tortoise in a stick between them. In the villages and towns people saw the strange scene in the sky. Everybody cried: "Look, there is a tortoise in the sky! The geese are taking him away. Have you ever seen anything like that before?"

There was quite an outcry throughout the land. The tortoise was amazed too. He wished to shout down to the people, "Mind your own business." As soon as he opened his mouth, he fell right down into a courtyard. His body was split into two and he was killed.

The king heard of the tortoise that fell from the sky. The king came to see for himself with his retinue. There was one wise man among the attendants. He was the Bodhisattva.

When the king saw the dead tortoise, he asked the wise man, "How did the tortoise die?" In reply to the king, he said, "This is what happens to a person who speaks too much unnecessarily and foolishly. The king was very talkative. He learnt a very good lesson from the tortoise. From that time on he never spoke too much."

NOTES AND EXERCISES

all by himself: alone
crawl: move on hands
amazed: surprised
retinue: crowd of followers

Understanding the story

Answer these questions:

- (a) How did the tortoise go with the geese to the lake?
- (b) Why did the tortoise fall down from the sky?
- (c) What do you learn from the story? Describe it briefly.

Match the words with the meaning

all by himself	don't interfere
lovely	quickly
stout	surprise
swiftly	
amazement	in the same way
Bodhisattva	beautiful, delightful
likewise	strong
	future Buddha
mind your own business	alone

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THE END



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