

## Panchatantra Stories - 3

### The Crows and the Serpent

Once upon a time there lived a crow couple, who had built a nest on the top of a tree. But unfortunately the tree was inhabited by a serpent at its bottom. So the serpent used to crawl up the tree and eat all the eggs that the lady crow used to lay. The crow couple were deeply grieved and when this happened time after time, then they decided that the serpent was to be get rid of by a plan.



So the crow then approached his friend the jackal and asked for a plan. The jackal then told him to go and fetch a costly thing from the palace of the king and throw the thing in the burrow of the snake. The crow went to palace, and stole a necklace of the queen while she was bathing. The guards of the palace ran after it. The crow then dropped the necklace in the burrow of the snake beneath the tree.

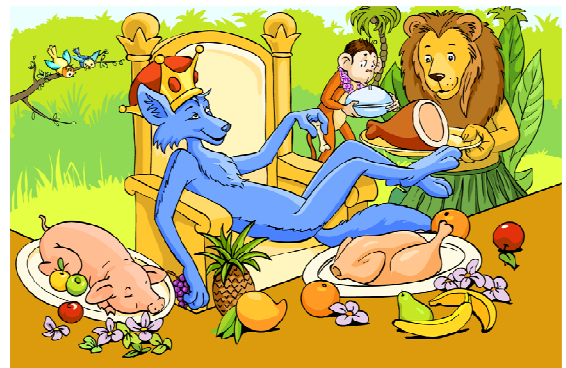
The guards on reaching the bottom of the tree, found the necklace guarded by the serpent. Then they lynched the serpent and recovered the necklace. So the crow family was now happy that their eggs were safe now.

***Moral: Intelligence is greater than strength.***

### The Blue Jackal

Once upon a time there lived a jackal who strayed into a city in search of food. He was hungry and was being chased by a group of dogs. He accidentally entered the house of a dyer and fell into a vat of indigo (blue), and was stained blue from head to toe. When he escaped from the house back into the forest, all animals were surprised at his appearance and could not place its identity. Taking advantage of the situation, the jackal decided to play the situation to his advantage. He proclaimed that he was Fierce Owl, sent by the king of Gods, Indra, to earth to guard the forest.

The gullible animals believed the jackal. The jackal then appointed the Lion as his Prime minister, tiger



as his guardian of the bed chamber and the elephant was made the door keeper. He then drove all the jackals out of sight from the forest for fear of being recognized.

The animals would hunt food and bring it to the self proclaimed king and the king would distribute the food to all equally just as a king would do. So he was leading a life of luxury. One day a herd of jackals were passing by howling to their glory. Unable to control his natural instinct, Fierce Owl showed his natural voice and howled at the top of his voice. Hearing this howl, the animals realised that they had been fooled by a jackal and killed the jackal instantly.

***Moral: Excess of Greed is harmful***

***Vishnu Stotra:***

**Shuklambharadharam Vishnum Shashivarnam Chaturbhujam,**

**Prasanna Vadanm Dhyayet Sarva Vignopa Shantaye**

*Meaning: (We Meditate on Sri Vishnu) Who is Wearing White Clothes, Who is All-Pervading, Who is Bright in Appearance like the Moon and Who is Having Four Hands, Who is Having a Compassionate and Gracious Face, Let us Meditate on Him To Ward of all Obstacles.*

**Rama Mantra:**

**Sri Rama Rama Rameti, Rame Rame Manorame**

**Sahasranama tattulyam, Rama Nama Varanane**

*Meaning: Lord Shiva addressed Devi Parvati: "O Varanana (lovely-faced woman), I chant the holy name of Rama, Rama, Rama and thus constantly enjoy this beautiful sound. This holy name of Rama is equal to one thousand holy names of Lord Vishnu (Vishnu-sahasra-nama-stotram)."*

**Durga Stotra:**

**Om Sarva Mangala Maangalye Shive Sarvaartha Saadhike**

**Sharanye Triyambake Gauri, Naaraayani Namostute**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfKdcmpprVY>

*Meaning: Goddess Durga resides in us as physical strength, will power, determination, perseverance, courage and valor. She can be awakened by positive thinking, positive speaking, and positive actions.*

Coloring exercise: Jackal

