

Panchatantra Stories - 5

THE RABBITS AND THE ELEPHANTS

Once upon a time, there lived a herd of elephants in a deep forest. Their king was a huge elephant by the name of Chaturdanta. In the middle of this forest, there was a big lake where all the animals went to drink water. Once it so happened, that it didn't rain for the whole year and the lakes went dry. The elephants, after a great deal of discussion, decided to move to the other forest, where there was a big lake. This lake was full of water and never went dry even if there were no rains.

And so, the elephants set out for the new lake. They felt very happy upon reaching the new lake. They bathed in the fresh water of the lake and also enjoyed playing and spewing water on each other by their trunks. After having bathed satisfactorily and quenched their thirst with the sweet water of the lake they came out of it and entered the deep forest.

But, there lived many rabbits in their burrows around the lake area. When the herd of elephants walked around they stamped the burrows with their heavy feet. Thus, many rabbits were either killed or were left physically handicapped.

So, in order to salvage the grave situation, the rabbits held a meeting and discussed this new calamity. At one point, they decided to shift from that dangerous place and live somewhere else. But a clever rabbit named Lambkarna advised them to exercise patience. He offered his services for the sake of all the other rabbits and said, "Don't worry friends. Just see, how I drive these elephants away from this forest."

The next day, Lambkarna sat on a high rock. The rock lay in the main path of the elephants, leading to the lake. When the elephant passed by the rock, the rabbit addressed the king of the elephants in a tough voice, "You're a cruel fellow. You've trampled many of my relatives and friends under your feet. I too am king of rabbits. I stay in the heaven with God Moon. God Moon is very much annoyed with you."

The king elephant was frightened to hear this. He said in a trembling voice, "Please take me to God Moon. I'll ask for his forgiveness." "All right", said the clever rabbit. "See me tonight at the lake."

The king elephant, then, as told by the rabbit, reached the lake at night. The king rabbit and

the king elephant both stood near the edge of the lake. It was a silent and moonlit night. Mild breeze was blowing. The rabbit asked the elephant to look carefully into the water of the lake.

As soon as the king elephant looked into the lake, he saw the reflection of half moon in the lake's water. Just then a mild breeze blew and the reflection of the moon in the water became wavy.

Pointing to the wavy reflection of the moon, the king rabbit said, "Look for yourself, how annoyed God Moon is with you. Better you ask for his mercy, otherwise, he might curse you to death." The king elephant became more and more frightened. He promised God Moon not to ever visit the lake with his friends.

The rabbits lived happily, thereafter.

Moral: Clever Move. Wit can win over Might.

COWS AND THE LION

Once upon a time, there lived four cows in a dense forest. They were very close friends and always stood by each other in times of need. Whenever some wild animal tried to attack them, all of them got together and chased them away. So, no animal in the forest, dared to attack them.

There lived a big lion in that forest who wished to kill and eat the cows. He had tried several times to attack them, but as always all four of them had chased him away. He understood that it was not possible for him to kill any one of them till they were united. So, he started to think on of ways to separate them. Finally, he hatched a devious plan. He started spreading rumours and telling false tales in the forest about the cows. With the help of some other animals, he was soon able to pitch the cows against one another. A huge rift was created between the cows and they started abhorring each other. The lion was elated to see his plan working.

After few days, the lion attacked one of the cows. The other cows did not come to help their former friend, even after seeing that she was being attacked by the lion. After some more days, the lion killed another cow. And then, the remaining two cows also had to face the same fate.

Moral: If we are united no one will be able to do anything to us.

Vishun Stotra:

**Shuklambharadharam Vishnum Shashivarnam Chaturbhujam,
Prasanna Vadanm Dhyayet Sarva Vignopa Shantaye**

Rama Mantra:

**Sri Rama Rama Rameti, Rame Rame Manorame
Sahasranama tattulyam, Rama Nama Varanane**

Durga Stotra:

**Om Sarva Mangala Maangalye Shive Sarvaartha Saadhike
Sharanye Triyambake Gauri, Naaraayani Namostute**

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

Ganesh Sloka:

**Vakra Tunda Mahaa Kaaya
Suryakoti Samaprabha
Nirvighnam Kurume Deva
Sarvakaaryeshu Sarvadaa**

Guru Stotra

**Gurur Brahmaa Gurur Vishnu
Gurur Devo Maheshwarah
Guruh Saakshaat Parabrahma
Tasmai Shree Gurave Namah**

Saraswati Stotra

***Saraswathi Namasthubyam
Varade Kamaroopini
Vidyarambham Karishyami
Siddhir Bhavatume Sada***

Coloring exercise: Cow

