



No. 91 Rs 2-50

HITOPADESHA

- Choice of Friends and other stories



Narayana, the author of *Hitopadesha*, has drawn most of his material from Pandit Vishnu Sharma's *Panchatantra*. *Panchatantra* was written between the second and third centuries B.C. but *Hitopadesha* came much later. Narayana reconstructed the first three *tantras* and added about fifteen new tales. The *raison d'être* of both books remains the same.

A certain Indian King was perturbed that his three sons were averse to any kind of learning. Taking the advice of his counsellors, the king sends the princes to one Vishnu Sharma, who was not only a learned Brahman but was also a remarkable teacher. Within a short period of six months, the pandit instructs the princes in the art of politics and wordly wisdom, by telling them stories about bird, beast and man. Each character in his stories becomes a vehicle of some precept, either directly or indirectly.

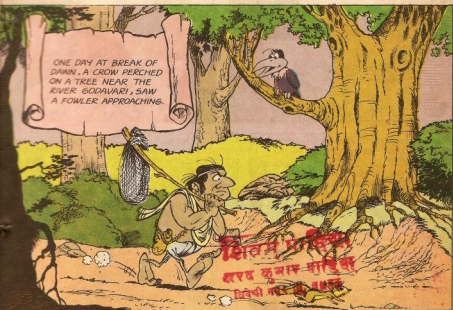
In the *Panchatantra* these stories are divided into five books. Narayana's work, however, has only four—*Mitralabha*, *Suhridbheda*, *Vigraha* and *Sandhi*. Our *Amar Chitra Katha* has been adapted from the first book — *Mitralabha* or *Winning of Friends*.

Amar Chitra Katha is a continuing series and two titles are published every month. Over 160 titles are now on sale.

अपना नाम दो बक डिपॉ
हिंदी, अंग्रेजी, उर्दू को नहीं बुरा १ कितनी
किराये व बिजली में सस्ते करे
मोसमबाग,
सीतापुर रोड, लखनऊ-20

CHOICE OF FRIENDS

ONE DAY AT BREAK OF DAWN, A CROW PERCHED ON A TREE NEAR THE RIVER GODAVARI, SAW A FOWLER APPROACHING.



शिवम पांडेय
हरद कुमार पांडेय
विशेषी नए नए कहानियाँ

O LORD! HERE COMES YAMA* IN PERSON. I WONDER WHAT HE IS UP TO.



THE FOWLER FIXED HIS NET ...



* THE GOD OF DEATH.

... SCATTERED SOME RICE ON THE GROUND ...



... AND HID HIMSELF IN THE HOLLOW OF A TREE.



A LITTLE LATER, THE KING OF THE PIGEONS AND HIS FLOCK HAPPENED TO FLY PAST.

LOOK! DO YOU SEE THOSE GRAINS?

O KING, LET US FEAST ON THEM.



NO! I SUSPECT A TRAP. HOW DID THOSE GRAINS COME HERE?

HE IS WISE.



BEWARE! GREED CAN LEAD US TO DOOM AS IT DID THE GREEDY TRAVELLER.



AND HE TOLD THEM THE STORY OF THE TIGER AND THE TRAVELLER. *AT THE END OF THE STORY THE MAJORITY OF THE PIGEONS AGREED WITH HIM, WHEN-

O BROTHERS, MUST WE GIVE UP A FEAST FOR VAGUE FEARS?

FOOL! FOOL!





HE PONDERED FOR A WHILE. THEN—

YES! WE WILL
FLY OFF WITH
THE NET.

GET READY! WHEN I GIVE
THE SIGNAL, ALL OF YOU
TAKE OFF AT THE
SAME TIME.

AT THAT MOMENT THE FOWLER, DELIGHTED
WITH HIS CATCH, CAME OUT OF HIDING.

QUICK! ONE!
TWO! THREE!
UP!

BRAVO! I'LL
FOLLOW THEM
AND SEE WHAT
THEY DO NEXT.

THE FOWLER RAN FORWARD
WAVING HIS ARMS.

HEY!
STOP!
MY NET!

BUT ALL HIS WAVING WAS OF NO USE.

THERE GOES MY NET.
I MAY AS WELL RETURN
HOME.

HOW SHALL WE GET
RID OF THIS
WRETCHED NET,
O KING?

I TOO,
WONDER!



A FRIEND OF MINE, THE KING OF THE MICE, LIVES IN THE FOREST NEAR BY. WE WILL GO TO HIM. HE WILL CUT OUR BONDS.



DOWN IN HIS RETREAT WHEN THE MOUSE HEARD THE COMMOTION CAUSED BY THE DESCENDING PIGEONS, HE WAS ALARMED.

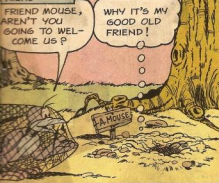
STRANGE SOUNDS! IT MAY BE SOME UNKNOWN DANGER AGAINST WHICH I MIGHT BE HELPLESS. I'D BE SAFER INSIDE.



WHEN THE PIGEON COULD NOT SEE HIS FRIEND -

FRIEND MOUSE, AREN'T YOU GOING TO WELCOME US?

WHY IT'S MY GOOD OLD FRIEND!



THE MOUSE RUSHED OUT.

I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU...



...BUT WHAT IS THIS? YOU SEEM TO BE TRAPPED IN A NET!



HE RAN FORWARD AND WAS ABOUT TO GNAW AT THE STRINGS WHEN -

NO, MY FRIEND. FIRST FREE MY FOLLOWERS.

BUT I AM SMALL AND MY TEETH TINY. SUPPOSE MY STRENGTH FAILS ME BEFORE I FREE YOU.



IT DOES NOT MATTER. MY DUTY IS TO PROTECT MY SUBJECTS, AT THE COST OF MY LIFE IF NEED BE.



NO! NO! I WILL FIRST FREE YOU. AND THEN ATTEND TO THE OTHERS. IT IS NOT WISE TO SACRIFICE ONESELF TO PRESERVE ONE'S DEPENDANTS.



THAT MAY BE TRUE. BUT DEATH WHICH COMES TO ALL COMES NOBLY WHEN WE GIVE OUR LIFE, OUR ALL, TO SAVE ANOTHER'S LIFE. YOU WILL FREE THEM FIRST.

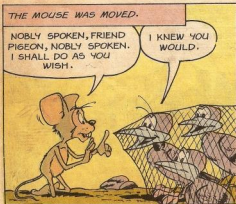
SUCH NOBILITY IS RARE.



THE MOUSE WAS MOVED.

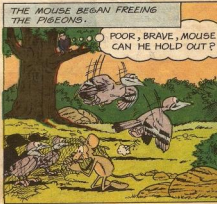
NOBLY SPOKEN, FRIEND PIGEON, NOBLY SPOKEN. I SHALL DO AS YOU WISH.

I KNEW YOU WOULD.



THE MOUSE BEGAN FREING THE PIGEONS.

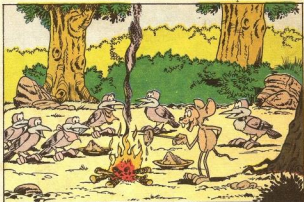
POOR, BRAVE, MOUSE CAN HE HOLD OUT?



THE MOUSE DID HOLD OUT.
HIS FRIEND'S NOBILITY GAVE
HIM THE STRENGTH.

AS SOON AS YOU ARE FREE,
YOU MUST LET ME TREAT
YOU AND YOUR
FOLLOWERS TO
A FEAST.

A TRUE FRIEND
INDEED. I WILL MAKE
HIM MY FRIEND
TOO.

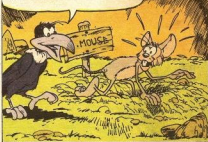


THEN, THANKING THE MOUSE, THE PIGEON AND
HIS FOLLOWERS FLEW AWAY.



AS THE MOUSE WAS ABOUT TO GO
BACK TO HIS RETREAT, THE CROW
FLEW DOWN TO HIM.

O STAUNCH FRIEND, LET
ME TOO BE YOUR FRIEND.



THE MOUSE WAS AMUSED.

HOW CAN THAT BE? I AM YOUR
NATURAL FOOD. THE NEXT THING
I KNOW, YOU WILL BE EATING ME.
WE CAN NEVER BE FRIENDS.



AND THE MOUSE TOLD HIM THE
STORY OF THE DEER, THE
JACKAL AND THE CROW.*

BUT AT THE END OF IT—

YOU NEED HAVE NO
FEAR OF THAT. YOU ARE
TOO TINY TO BE EVEN A
FULL BREAKFAST FOR ME.



BUT YOU ARE SO FLIGHTY. HOW CAN I DEPEND ON YOU?

DEAR MOUSE, I VALUE YOUR FRIENDSHIP. IF YOU REFUSE IT, I WILL FAST UNTO DEATH AT YOUR DOOR!

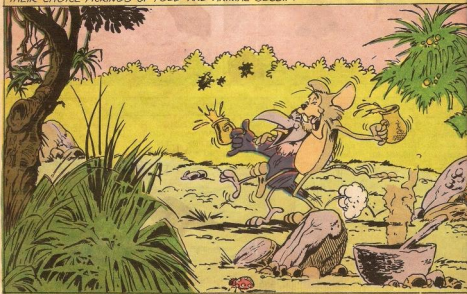


THE MOUSE WAS TOUCHED BY THE CROW'S DEVOTION.

COME MY FRIEND, LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU WITH THE BEST OF MY HOARD OF FOOD.



AND FROM THAT DAY THE TWO BECAME THE BEST OF FRIENDS, GIVING EACH OTHER THEIR CHOICE PICKINGS OF FOOD AND ANIMAL GOSSIP.



THEN ONE DAY -

O FRIEND MOUSE, FOOD FOR ME IS GETTING SCARCE IN THIS FOREST. MUCH AS I HATE TO LEAVE YOU, I WOULD LIKE TO MOVE AWAY.

WHERE TO ?

TO THE FOREST WHERE MY OLD FRIEND TORTOISE LIVES. HE WILL GIVE ME FISH AND OTHER FOOD.

THE MOUSE HAD COME TO LOVE THE CROW SO DEARLY THAT -

IF YOU INSIST ON GOING, I TOO WILL GO WITH YOU. I CAN'T IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT YOU.

SO THE TWO FRIENDS SET OFF FOR THE FOREST WHERE THE TORTOISE LIVED.

WHEN THE TORTOISE SAW THE CROW, HE WAS OVERJOYED.

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, MY GOOD OLD FRIEND?

FOOD WAS SCARCE IN OUR FOREST.



AND WHOM HAVE YOU BROUGHT ALONG?

MY LOYAL FRIEND, THE KING OF THE MICE. HE IS THE MOST VIRTUOUS AND KIND SOUL I'VE EVER MET.

WELCOME TO OUR FOREST, O MOUSE. THERE IS ENOUGH FOOD HERE FOR ALL OF US, AND MORE.



AND SO THE THREE FRIENDS LIVED HAPPILY TOGETHER. ONE DAY, AS THE TORTOISE WAS ABOUT TO GO FOR A SWIM IN THE TANK, A DEER CAME PANTING UP TO THEM.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

A HUNTER. HE'S AFTER ME.

COME FRIEND, REFRESH YOURSELF WITH SOME GRASS AND WATER. MY FRIENDS WILL LOOK AFTER YOU. I AM GOING FOR A SWIM AND SHALL JOIN YOU LATER.



THE DEER HAD HIS REPAST AS THEY WAITED FOR THE TORTOISE.

WE MUST FLEE FROM HERE. I TOOK A SHORT CUT. THE HUNTER WILL SOON DISCOVER THIS FOREST. IT'S ON HIS ROUTE.

THEN WE MUST LEAVE THIS FOREST.

YES, IT WOULD BE SAFER.



BUT HOW WILL GOOD OLD TORTOISE MAKE IT ACROSS THE LAND?



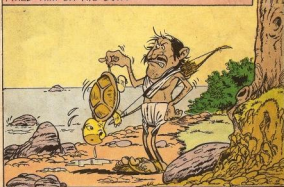
SUDDENLY-

HELP!
HELP!

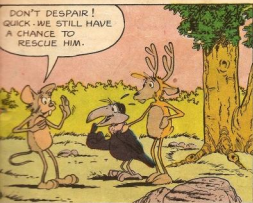
ALAS! OUR FRIEND HAS BEEN CAUGHT!



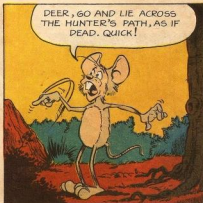
THE HUNTER PICKED UP THE TORTOISE AND FIXED HIM ON HIS BOW.



DON'T DESPAIR!
QUICK - WE STILL HAVE
A CHANCE TO
RESCUE HIM.



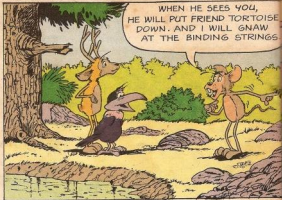
DEER, GO AND LIE ACROSS
THE HUNTER'S PATH, AS IF
HEAD. QUICK!



FRIEND CROW WILL
HOVER OVER YOU AND
PECK AT YOUR BODY.



WHEN HE SEES YOU,
HE WILL PUT FRIEND TORTOISE
DOWN. AND I WILL GNAW
AT THE BINDING STRINGS



THE DEER AND THE CROW TOOK THEIR POSITIONS. AS EXPECTED,
THE HUNTER SOON CAME BY.

A DEER! IT'S BEEN
A GOOD DAY FOR
ME.



HE PUT THE TORTOISE DOWN
AND DREW HIS KNIFE.



SHOO! SHOO!

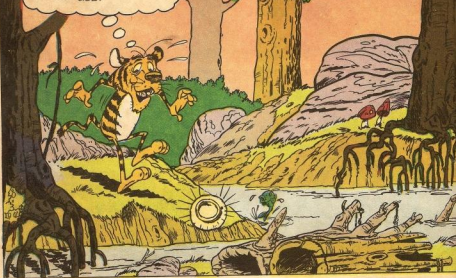




THE TIGER AND THE TRAVELLER

ONE DAY A TIGER, TOO OLD TO HUNT, WAS WALKING BY A MARSHY POOL WHEN HE SAW A GOLD BANGLE.

I MAY AS WELL PICK IT UP. IT COULD BE OF SOME USE.



I'VE GOT THE BAIT.
NOW I MUST WAIT FOR
THE CATCH.



JUST THEN A TRAVELLER PASSED
BY THE OPPOSITE BANK.



THE TIGER SPOTTED HIM.

MEN ARE TASTY
AND MEN LOVE
GOLD.



HEY! YOU THERE! DO YOU
WANT THIS GOLD BANGLE?
I HAVE NO USE FOR IT.



A GOLD BANGLE! IT'S
TEMPTING. BUT NO.
I MUST NOT RISK MY
LIFE FOR IT.



HE LOOKED AT THE TIGER.

HM-M-M, I'D LOVE TO HAVE THE BANGLE. BUT HOW CAN I TRUST A FIERCE BEAST LIKE YOU?

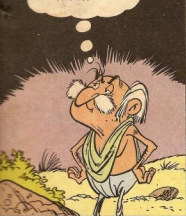
YOU HAVE EVERY REASON TO SUSPECT ME. I HAVE BEEN WICKED IN MY TIME. BUT NOW? ON THE ADVICE OF A SANYASI I AM CHANGED. SO COME ACROSS AND TAKE THIS.

IF I COME CLOSE, YOU MAY FORGET THE SANYASI'S ADVICE WHEN YOU SMELL ME.

I WON'T. BESIDES I'M OLD. MY CLAWS ARE BLUNT. SO DO NOT FEAR. COME, WADE ACROSS THE POOL AND TAKE THIS.

THE TRAVELLER'S LOVE OF
GOLD OVERCAME HIS
NATURAL FEAR OF THE TIGER.

HE SEEMS TO BE
TELLING THE
TRUTH.



I WILL WADE
ACROSS AND
TAKE IT.



BUT HARDLY HAD HE TAKEN A FEW STEPS WHEN -

OH! OH! IT'S A
MIRE! I'M STUCK!
HELP!



HO! HO! SO YOU ARE
STUCK IN THE MUD, I SEE.
NEVER MIND. WAIT THERE.
I'LL COME AND HELP
YOU OUT.



THE TIGER WADED MENACINGLY UP TO THE
TRAVELLER...



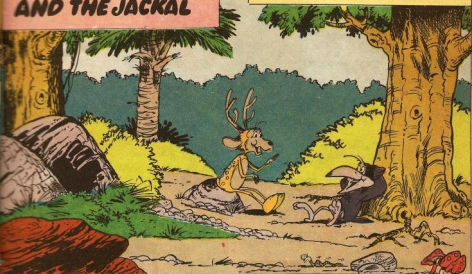
... AND POUNCED ON HIM.

ALAS! WHAT A FOOL
I'VE BEEN. I LET
GREED OVERCOME
MY REASON.



THE CROW, THE DEER AND THE JACKAL

LONG, LONG AGO THERE LIVED A DEER
AND A CROW. THEY WERE GOOD FRIENDS
AND LOVED EACH OTHER DEARLY.



ONE DAY A JACKAL SAW THE DEER.



HE WENT UP TO THE DEER.



I AM A LONELY JACKAL.
I HAVE NO FRIENDS. BUT
NOW THAT I HAVE MET
YOU, I HAVE ONE. WILL
YOU BE MY FRIEND?



THE DEER WAS MOVED BY HIS WORDS.

POOR JACKAL. OF COURSE I'LL
BE YOUR FRIEND. COME, LET ME
TAKE YOU TO MY FRIEND,
CROW.



WHEN THE CROW SAW THE TWO TOGETHER,
HE WAS SURPRISED.

WHO'S THIS?

MY FRIEND, JACKAL.
HE IS LONELY AND
SEEKS OUR FRIEND-
SHIP.



DON'T YOU KNOW
THAT YOU MUST
THINK TWICE BEFORE
MAKING LITTER
STRANGERS YOUR
FRIENDS?

NO!
BUT WHY?



THE CROW TOLD HIM THE STORY OF THE VULTURE, THE CAT AND THE BIRDS. *AT THE END OF IT-

...AND THAT IS WHY ONE SHOULD ALWAYS BE MARY OF STRANGERS.



BUT THE JACKAL WAS NOT TO BE TALKED OUT OF HIS DINNER BY SUCH ADVICE.

SIR CROW, YOU SEEM TO FORGET THAT ON THE FIRST DAY HE MET YOU, YOU TOO WERE A STRANGER TO HIM. AND YET YOUR FRIENDSHIP ONLY GROWS STRONGER EACH DAY.



HE IS MY FRIEND. WHY DON'T YOU ALSO BE MY FRIEND?

THE DEER DID NOT LIKE SCENES.

COME, FRIEND CROW, LET US ALL LIVE TOGETHER IN AMITY AND JOY.

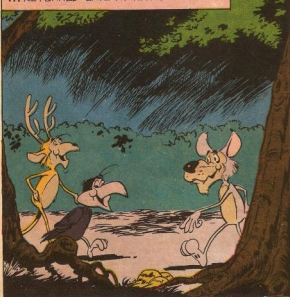
ALL RIGHT. DO AS YOU WISH.



SO THEY BEGAN LIVING TOGETHER. IN THE MORNING EACH WENT IN SEARCH OF HIS OWN FOOD AND...



... RETURNED LATE AT NIGHT.



ONE MORNING A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN THE CROW HAD LEFT -

FRIEND DEER, IN ONE CORNER OF THIS FOREST THERE IS A FIELD FULL OF SWEET GRAIN. LET ME SHOW IT TO YOU. COME.



THE INNOCENT DEER ACCOMPANIED HIM AND GRAZED IN THE FIELD.

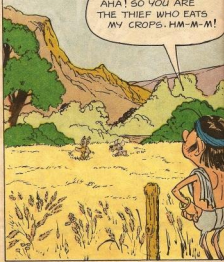
THIS GRAIN IS INDEED VERY SWEET. I SHALL COME HERE EVERY DAY AND FEED ON IT.

HA! HA! AND I WILL SOON FEED ON YOU.



ONE DAY, AS THE JACKAL HAD HOPED, THE OWNER OF THE FIELD SAW THE DEER.

AHA! SO YOU ARE THE THIEF WHO EATS MY CROPS. HM-M-M!



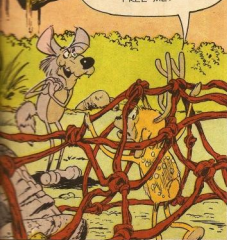
HE SET A SNARE TO CATCH
THE DEER.

OH! OH! HELP! I'M TRAPPED.
THIS IS THE END OF ME IF MY
FRIENDS DON'T COME AND
RESCUE ME.



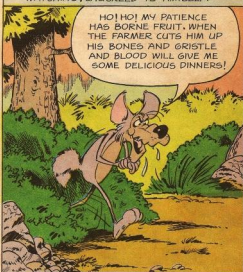
THE DEER CAUGHT SIGHT OF HIM AND
HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF.

QUICK! DEAR FRIEND,
YOU ARE JUST IN TIME.
GNAW AT THIS NET AND
FREE ME.



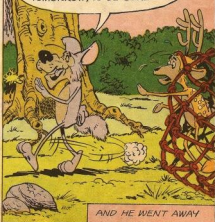
THE JACKAL, WHO WAS WAITING AND
WATCHING, CHUCKLED TO HIMSELF.

HO! HO! MY PATIENCE
HAS BORNE FRUIT. WHEN
THE FARMER CUTS HIM UP
HIS BONES AND GRISTLE
AND BLOOD WILL GIVE ME
SOME DELICIOUS DINNERS!



TO HIS DISMAY THE JACKAL REFUSED.

I'M SORRY, MY FRIEND. THIS NET
IS MADE OF SINEWS. SINCE I AM
FASTING TODAY, I CANNOT BITE
THEM. IT WOULD BE A SIN.
I'LL COME AND FREE YOU
TOMORROW, TO BE SURE.



AND HE WENT AWAY

WHEN THE CROW RETURNED HOME THAT EVENING AND DID NOT SEE HIS FRIEND, HE WAS WORRIED.

WHERE COULD HE BE?
I HOPE HE IS NOT IN DANGER.
I STILL DON'T TRUST THAT JACKAL.

AFTER SEARCHING EVERYWHERE FOR HIS FRIEND, HE CAME UPON THE FIELD.

ALAS! MY POOR
DEAR FRIEND. HOW
DID THIS HAPPEN?

THE JACKAL
...I SHOULD
HAVE TAKEN
YOUR ADVICE.

AH! THE TRAITOR!
THE SLY KNAVE!
WELL, I WARNED YOU.

I KNOW!

NEVER MIND.
WHERE IS
THAT RASCAL?

HE IS WAITING
SOMEWHERE NEAR
BY. WAITING TO
TASTE MY FLESH.
FLY AWAY LEST YOU
TOO FALL INTO
DANGER.

NO! DEAR FRIEND, I SHALL
WAIT WITH YOU TILL THE
END. PERHAPS I MIGHT
STILL SAVE YOU.



THE CROW RACKED HIS BRAINS BUT
COULD FIND NO WAY OUT. AT LAST
DAY BROKE.

ALAS! THERE COMES THE
FARMER WITH HIS CLUB. IF
ONLY I COULD THINK OF
SOME MEANS TO SAVE MY
FRIEND.



SUDDENLY AN IDEA STRUCK HIM.

I HAVE IT! LIE ON YOUR BACK,
PUFF YOUR STOMACH OUT,
STIFFEN YOUR LEGS AND BE VERY
STILL. I WILL PECK AT YOUR EYES.
THEN WHEN I CROAK, SPRING TO
YOUR FEET AND RUN FOR
YOUR LIFE.

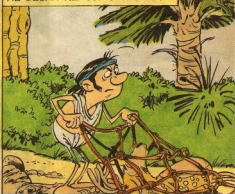


THE DEER DID EXACTLY AS HE WAS
TOLD - WHEN THE FARMER CAME
UP TO HIM -

AHA! THE FELLOW
IS DEAD - OF FRIGHT
NO DOUBT. WELL,
THAT MAKES MY
TASK EASIER.



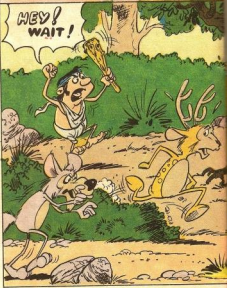
HE BEGAN REMOVING THE NET.



AS HE WAS BUSY FOLDING IT—



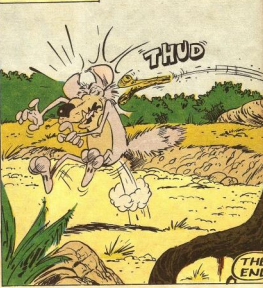
THE DEER SPRANG UP AND MADE OFF.



ANNOYED AT HAVING BEEN TRICKED, HE FLUNG HIS CLUB.



IT HIT THE JACKAL AND KILLED HIM ON THE SPOT.



THE VULTURE, THE CAT AND THE BIRDS

ONE DAY A BLIND OLD VULTURE CAME TO LIVE IN THE HOLLOW OF A TREE, WHERE BIRDS ROOSTED AT NIGHT.



THE BIRDS HELD A HURRIED CONFERENCE.

POOR OLD BIRD. HE CAN
HARDLY MOVE AROUND. LET
US GIVE HIM A SHARE OF
OUR FOOD OR ELSE HE WILL
SOON DIE OF STARVATION.



THE OLD VULTURE WAS
TOUCHED BY THEIR KINDNESS.

I SHALL MAKE IT MY
DUTY TO PROTECT THEIR
YOUNG WHEN THEY ARE
AWAY GATHERING FOOD.



ONE DAY A CAT HAPPENED TO PASS BY,
WHEN THE BIRDS WERE AWAY. HE DID NOT
SEE THE VULTURE WHO WAS NAPPING,
PERCHED ON A HIGH BRANCH.



HE SWOOPED DOWN.



JUST THEN HE NOTICED SOMETHING.

OH! THE FELLOW'S BLIND, AND HIS TALONS BLUNT WITH AGE. WHAT A RELIEF.

WHO GOES THERE, SPEAK UP!



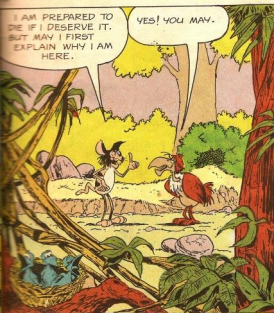
I AM A CAT.

BE OFF!
OR I'LL
SLAY YOU.



I AM PREPARED TO DIE IF I DESERVE IT. BUT MAY I FIRST EXPLAIN WHY I AM HERE.

YES! YOU MAY.



I LIVE ON THE BANKS OF THE GANGA. THE BIRDS THERE CONSTANTLY SPEAK OF YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR LEARNING. I HAVE COME TO STUDY LAW FROM YOU.

YES. BUT CATS LIKE MEAT AND THERE ARE YOUNG BIRDS HERE. I WILL HAVE TO SLAY YOU.



O WISE BIRD, WOULD YOU KILL A STRANGER WHO COMES TO YOU AS A DISCIPLE? BESIDES, I KNOW THE SCRIPTURES AND I'VE OVERCOME PASSION.

HE SEEMS TO BE TRUSTWORTHY.

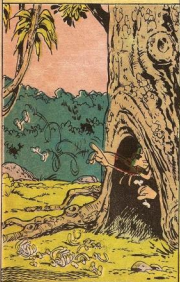
ALL RIGHT. YOU MAY LIVE IN THE HOLLOW WITH ME.



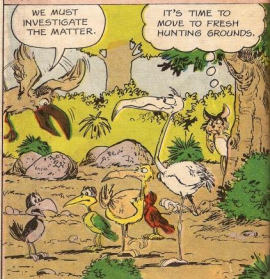
DAY AFTER DAY, THE CAT STOLE SOME FLEDGLINGS AND...



...DEVoured THEM IN THE HOLLOW.



EACH EVENING WHEN THE BIRDS RETURNED HOME, THEY FOUND SOME FLEDGLINGS MISSING.



WE MUST INVESTIGATE THE MATTER.

IT'S TIME TO MOVE TO FRESH HUNTING GROUNDS.

HE SLUNK AWAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



MEANWHILE AS THE BIRDS FLEW HITHER AND THITHER, ONE OF THEM CHIRRUPED LOUDLY.

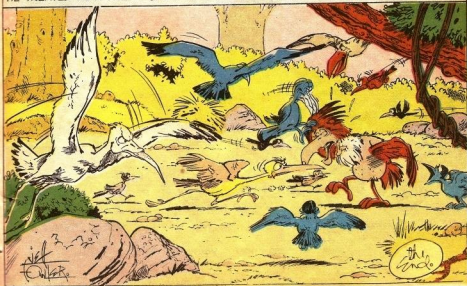
TWEET! TWEET!
SEE WHAT I'VE
FOUND. I'VE GOT
THE CULPRIT!

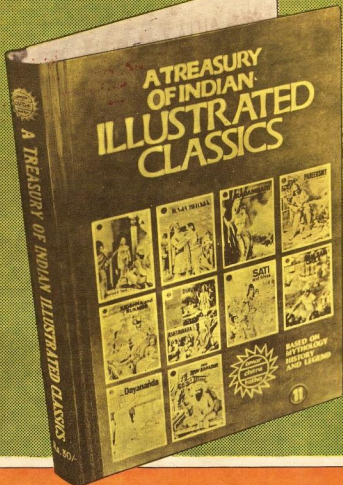
THE UNGRATEFUL
WRETCH. HE HAS
REPAID OUR KIND-
NESS BY EATING
OUR HELPLESS
ONES.

HE MUST BE
PECKED TO
DEATH.



SO THEY PECKED TO DEATH THE POOR VULTURE WHOSE ONLY FAULT WAS THAT HE TREATED AS A FRIEND ONE WITH WHOM HE WAS BARELY ACQUAINTED.





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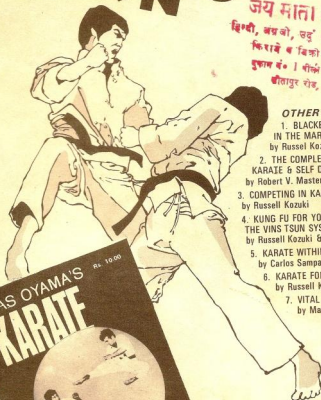
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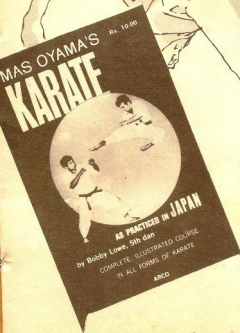
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