



What eminent personalities say about this book

A book filled with meaning and inspiration. In its lucid and intelligible depiction and illustrations; it has the capacity to capture and impact the readers mind and heart. It is heartening to know that the soft copy of the book is available to all without cost and the proceeds of the hard copy are being donated to charity.

→ Amitabh Bachchan, Actor, Film Producer, Television Host & Playback Singer ←

I believe that it's the story that makes the most telling impact to communicate any message, that's the reason why Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagwatam have been with us for thousands of years. I enjoyed the book and I look forward to your continuing to collect such stories and passing them to us.

→ Ajay Piramal, Chairman, Piramal Enterprises Limited ←

Each story has such a positive thought embedded in them & some amazing life teachings.

→ Justice K.K Tated (Retd), Chairperson Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission ←

This amazing book delivers motivational sparks whenever you are in need of a little inspiration.

→ Harsh Goenka, Chairman, RPG ←

Thank you so much for the lovely book ..it speaks volumes of your insights and inner strength Motilalji,truly the way to live life.

→ Sooraj Barjatya, Filmmaker ←

I can especially relate with this book, the storytelling approach and cartoons as growing up it was my favorite pastime to read these kinds of books.

→ Girish Agarwal, Director, Dainik Bhaskar Group ←

Good short stories with big morals.

→ Suresh Prabhu, Member - Rajya Sabha & former minister ←

This book can change your life; I mean, literally change your life! Every story mentioned in the book has a profound meaning and message. I'm glad that Motilalji has curated such short stories and anecdotes that he has collected over the years into a book. This book is going to inspire many people like it inspired me.

→ Palak Muchhal, Bollywood Singer ←

This handy book of motivational stories contains short stories and anecdotes available on the internet. This book is a collection of either actual incidents of great thinkers and leaders or fictional stories with deep meaning and learnings.

This simple yet profound collection will provide you with a sense of inspiration and guidance.

Creative caricatures have been included to make the stories come alive.

*These thoughts and stories are compiled from various articles i read from time to time.
They have not been written by me.

Motilal Oswal



Tales of Wisdom

Stories to Motivate & Inspire

Tales of Wisdom



Motilal Oswal



Preface

This book has literally birthed itself! After books on quotes and reflections, I pivoted to the world of short stories. And what an enriching experience it has been. There is truth in the saying that the universe is made of stories, not of atoms! I started exploring this universe and sharing short snippets – mostly, stories and anecdotes - in our online world.

Over five years, I have shared 280 - one story per week. Many readers responded with positive feedback ! This feedback excited me no end! Like a child who - on being told he has a great collection of goodies - goes through the entire set and savours the experience; I had a delightful time in going through the treasure trove of stories to curate 52 stories that I felt had the best potential to enrich the lives of readers. And lo and behold, the book just manifested itself!

What is it about stories?

We tell ourselves stories in order to live, said Joan Didion, the writer. How true! As I read and selected each story for this book, I found every story created a context and space for reflecting on how we live, what we are making out of our own life. I have taken the opportunity to relate the meaning and lesson of the story to our own lives by asking two simple questions. One, what can we learn from this story? Two, how can we apply the learning to improve our lives?

Stories are powerful. They bring home truths in a way that is unsurpassed. Recall the story of the sage who said to the king,

'Start with one grain that will fill one square of the chessboard. Then double the grains for each subsequent square of the board'. The king soon realised that the grain required for a sixty-four square chessboard was simply beyond imagination. The story makes us 'see' exponential growth and we grasp its power!

We immerse ourselves in stories, identify with the characters and situations, and draw parallels with our own life. My endeavour has been to put forward my point of view on these stories and anecdotes, to share the parallels that I am making. So as to invite you to do the same. Doing this will make it possible for you to own the insights of that story and apply them to your life.

As a firm believer in the power of books and reading, may I offer a suggestion? The 52 stories are perfect for a yearlong cycle of sharing and learning. Why not share one story per week from this collection with your own social world and cultivate your very own learning circle? This generative sharing makes people bond at a deeper level. You empathise with each other as people seeking more out of life and create win-wins for each other. That is another example of exponential growth, isn't it?!

Paulo Coelho invites us to 'imagine a new story for your life and start living it'. This is such a powerful invitation. For at all times of reading this book, I wish for you to remember one ultimate truth.

You are the writer of your own story!

How would you like your story to be?! The freedom and possibility beckons us in Joan Didion's words again - 'Tell me, what is it that you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?' On deeper thought, we share the same stirrings of meaning and purpose, the yearning for making our unique contribution. Not to live as per the dictates of convention or imposed understanding, but to create our own meaning out of lived experience...out of our own stories!

If you are the writer of your own story, why not make it as interesting and enriching as possible?! The stories in these books may not be original; I have simply brought them together. But, your story is! Your story is original and who knows, it may become a part of the pantheon of inspiring stories for the coming generations!

Happy Reading!

#1

Four monks were meditating in a temple when the prayer flag on the roof started flapping all of a sudden.

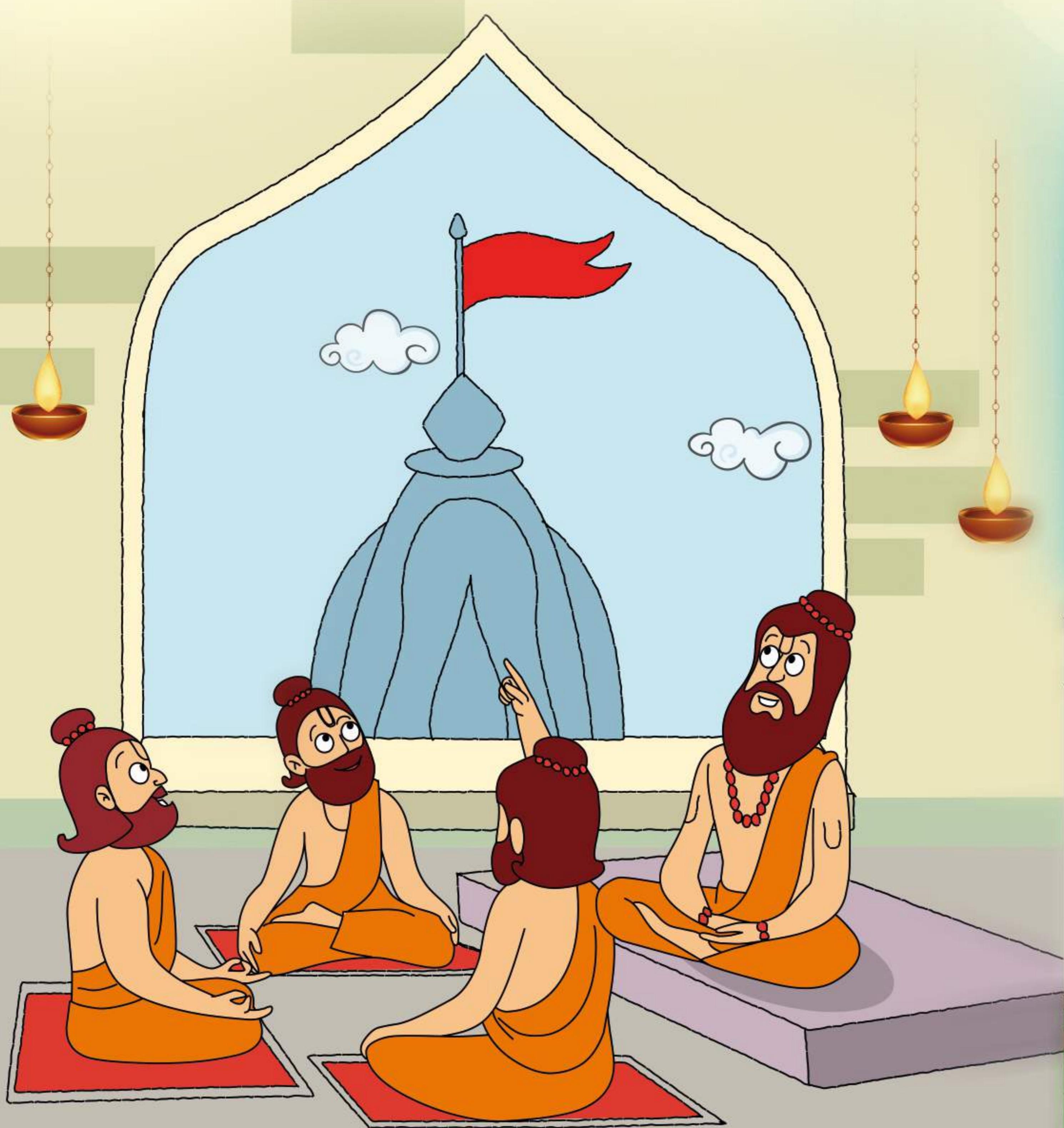
The youngest monk came out of his meditation and said, "Flag is flapping."

The second, more experienced monk said, "Wind is flapping."

The third monk, who had been there for more than twenty years, said, "Mind is flapping."

The fourth monk, the eldest, said, "Mouths are flapping!"

Don't get distracted by what others are commenting. Remain focused on your goal.



#2

Once upon a time, there was a small-time businessman from a small village who used to sell butter in the nearby town. A big shop owner in the town was his regular customer.

The villager used to deliver the shop owner the required butter every month in 1 kg blocks, and in turn, he used to get grocery items like sugar, pulses, etc., from the big shop owner.

Once the shop owner decided to weigh the butter, every block of butter weighed 900 grams instead of 1 kg.

Next month when the villager came to supply butter, the shop owner was very angry and told him to leave the shop. The villager replied courteously, "Sir, I am a very poor villager. I don't have enough money to even buy the required weights for weighing the butter. I usually put the 1 kg sugar you give me on one side of the weighing scale and weigh butter on another side".

This beautifully illustrates that what we give to others comes back to us.

You reap what you sow.



#3

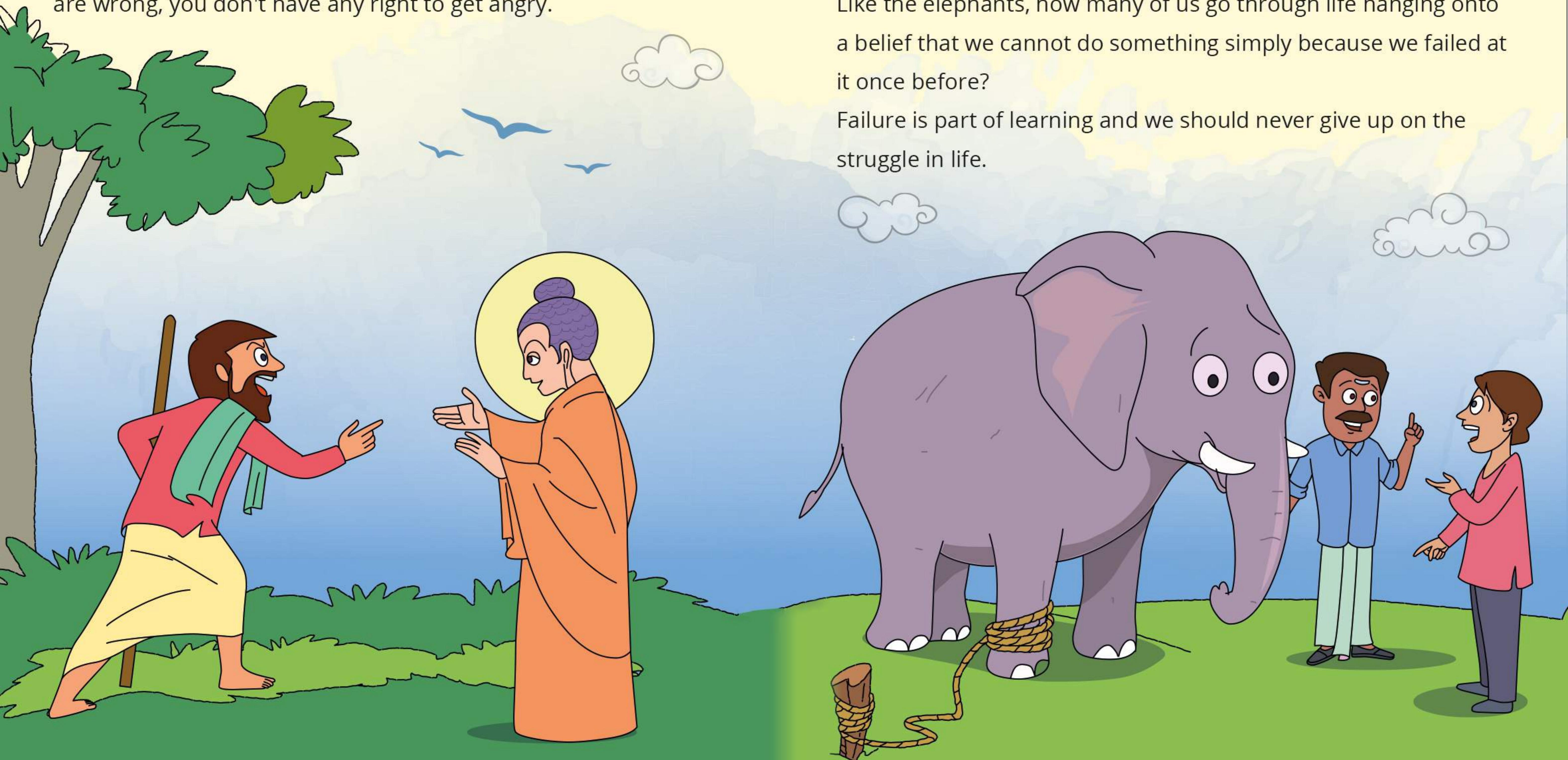
One day Gautam Buddha was walking through a village. A furious and rude young man came up and began insulting Buddha. "You have no right teaching others," he shouted. "You are as stupid as everyone else. You are nothing but a fake."

Buddha was not upset by these insults. Instead, he asked the young man, "Tell me, if you buy a gift for someone, and that person does not take it, then to whom that gift belongs?"

The man was surprised to be asked a strange question and answered, "It would belong to me because I bought the gift."

The Buddha smiled and said, "That is correct. It is the same with your anger. You become angry at me, and if I don't feel insulted, then the anger falls back on you. You are then the only one who becomes unhappy, not me. All you have done is hurt yourself."

If you are correct, then there is no need to get angry, and if you are wrong, you don't have any right to get angry.



#4

As a man passed the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused that these giant creatures were held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could break away from their bonds at any time, but for some reason, they did not.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked, "Why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away?" The trainer said, "When they are very young and much smaller, we used the same size rope to tie them. It was enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds, but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something simply because we failed at it once before?

Failure is part of learning and we should never give up on the struggle in life.

#5

A man found a beautiful pearl. It was terrific, but had a minor flaw in it. If he could remove the defect, the man thought it would be the biggest and most beautiful pearl ever in his possession.

He peeled off a layer to correct the flaw. The flaw was still there. He peeled off another layer and the flaw was still there. He kept on peeling off the layers until all the layers were gone. Now there was no flaw, but there was no pearl too.

In this life, no one is perfect. Each person you meet would have some flaw or the other. You will end up losing the person entirely while trying to correct their weaknesses. So, try to learn by accepting people with their flaws, and you will be surrounded by beautiful people all around you.

Assume, imperfection is beautiful too!

**#6**

A poor woman with a small family called into a radio station asking for help from God. A non-believer man who was also listening to this radio program decided to make fun of the woman.

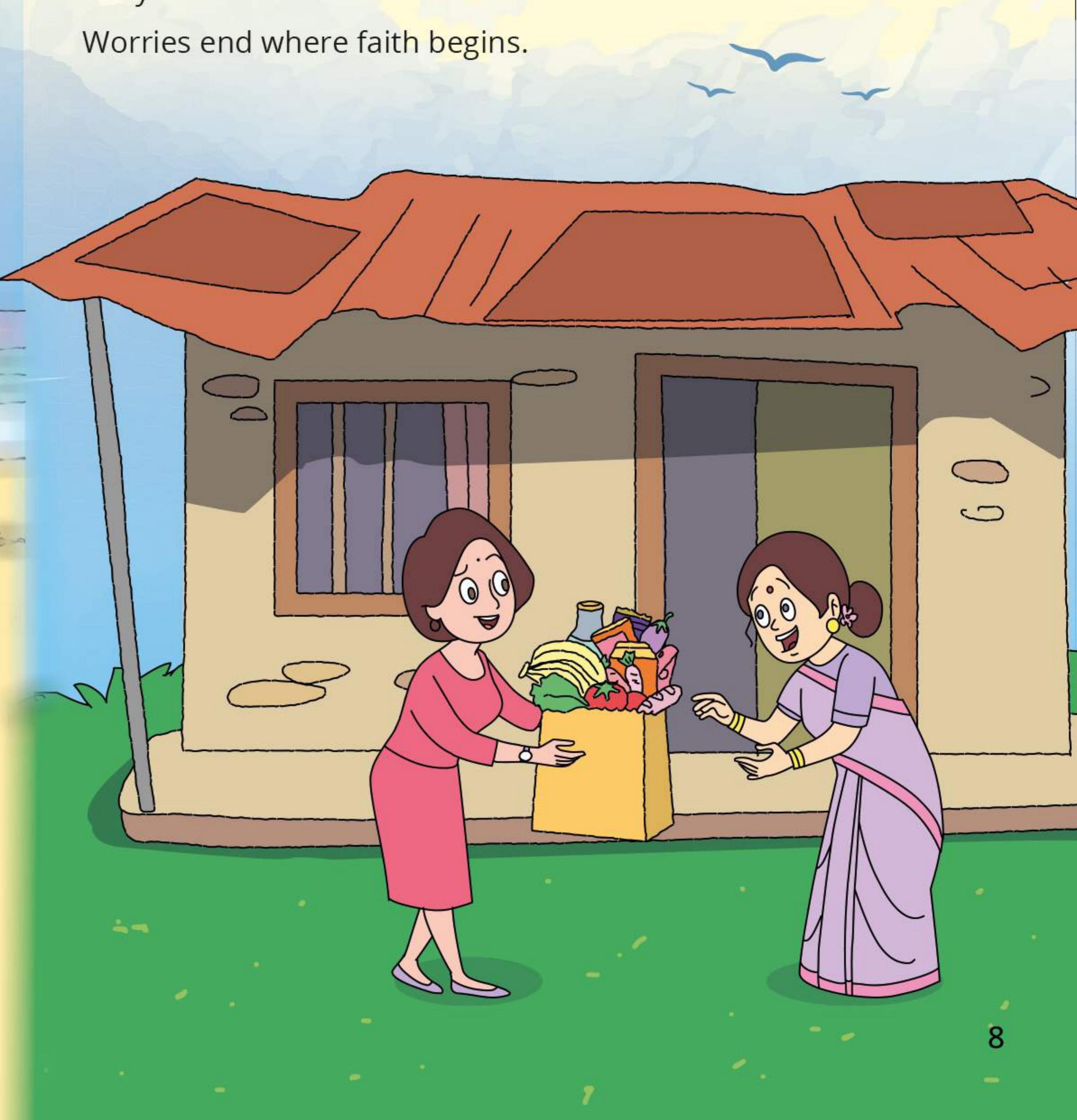
He got her address, called his secretary, and ordered her to buy many food items and give it to the woman. However, he sent it with the condition that if she asks who sent it, she has to tell her that it is from the devil.

When the secretary arrived at the woman's house, the woman was happy and grateful for the help received. She started putting the food inside her tiny house.

The secretary then asked her, "Don't you want to know who sent the food?"

The woman replied, "No. Say thanks to whoever sent this. I don't care who the person is because when God orders, even the devil obeys!"

Worries end where faith begins.



#7

A man went for an interview in a very reputed company. While entering the room, he slipped and fell on the ground. His documents were scattered all over the place. Any other person must have felt humiliated. The man picked himself up. And with a smile on his face, he spoke out loudly, "Finally, I have fallen into the right place!" He was hired the very next moment. A negative happening was turned positive simply because his attitude was positive, and he had a great sense of humor.



#8

Two young boys were skating on ice. Suddenly, one of them fell through and got trapped under ice. His friend started to punch the ice in the hope of breaking it but could not get through. In desperation, the friend climbed a tree and broke off a huge branch, came back down with the branch of the tree, and started smashing the ice, eventually breaking it, and miraculously saving his friend. As emergency services came after the boy was safe, they sat in amazement and wondered how the little boy could break off the branch, smash the ice and save his friend. As they were sharing their astonishment, an old man walked up and said, "The boy was able to do it because there was no one here that told him he couldn't."



#9

A woman who was traveling alone in the mountains

found a precious stone in a stream.

The next day she met a hungry traveler. The woman opened her bag to share her food.

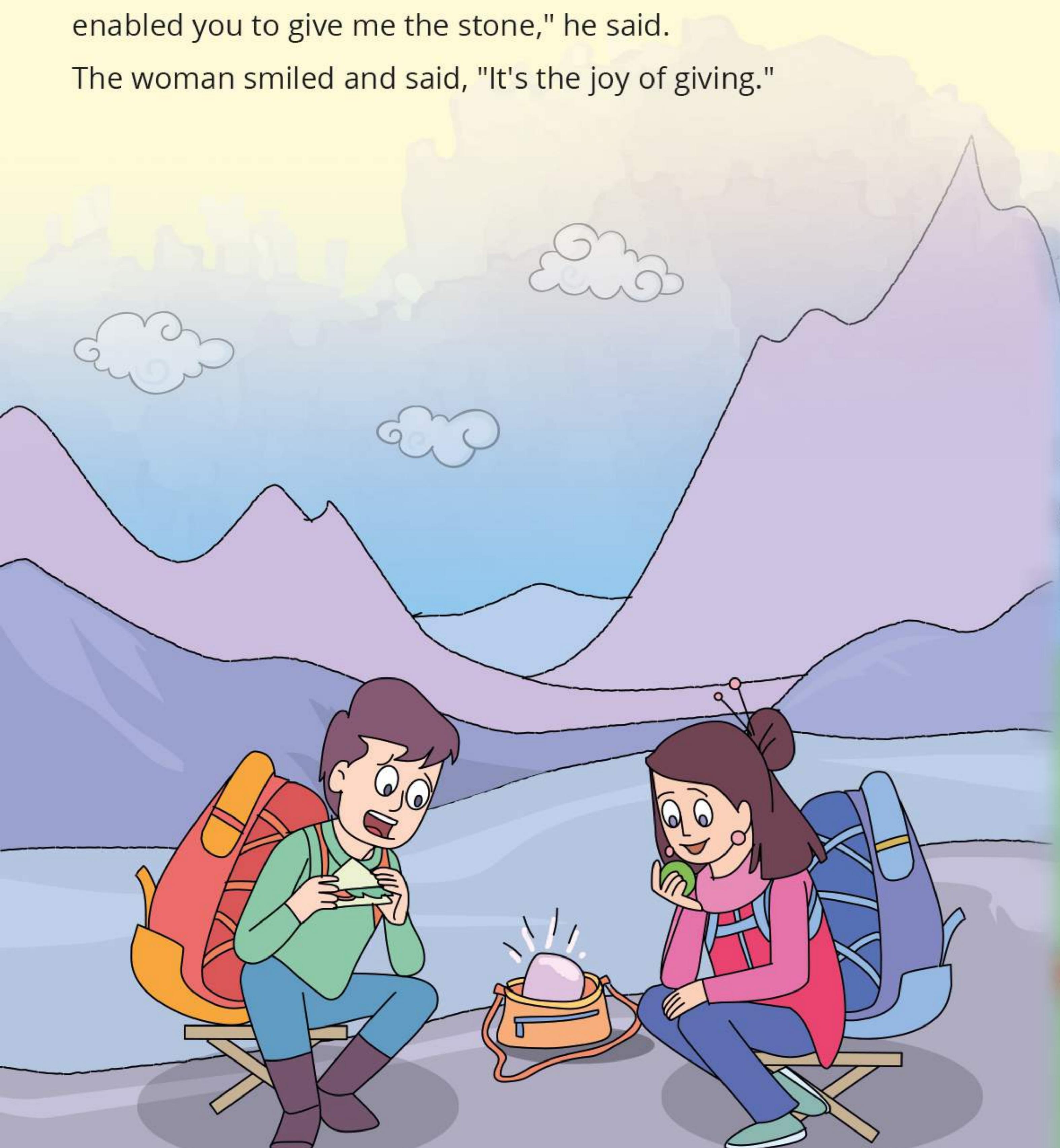
The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation.

The traveler left, rejoicing in his great fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime.

But a few days later, he came back to return the stone to the woman.

"I've been thinking, I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone," he said.

The woman smiled and said, "It's the joy of giving."



#10

Back in the day when East and West Germany were divided, a massive wall separated them.

One day, some people in East Berlin took a truckload of garbage and dumped it on the West Berlin side. The people of West Berlin could have done the same thing, but they didn't. Instead, they took a truckload of canned goods, bread, milk, and other provisions and neatly stacked it on the East Berlin side.

On top of this stack, they placed the sign:

"EACH GIVES WHAT HE HAS"

How very true! You can only give what you have.

What do you have inside of you? Is it hate or love? Violence or peace? Death or life? Capacity to build or capacity to destroy?

What have you acquired over the years?

"EACH GIVES WHAT HE HAS"

Think about it!



#11

An old lion lay ill in his cave. All of the animals came to pay their respects to their king, except for the fox.

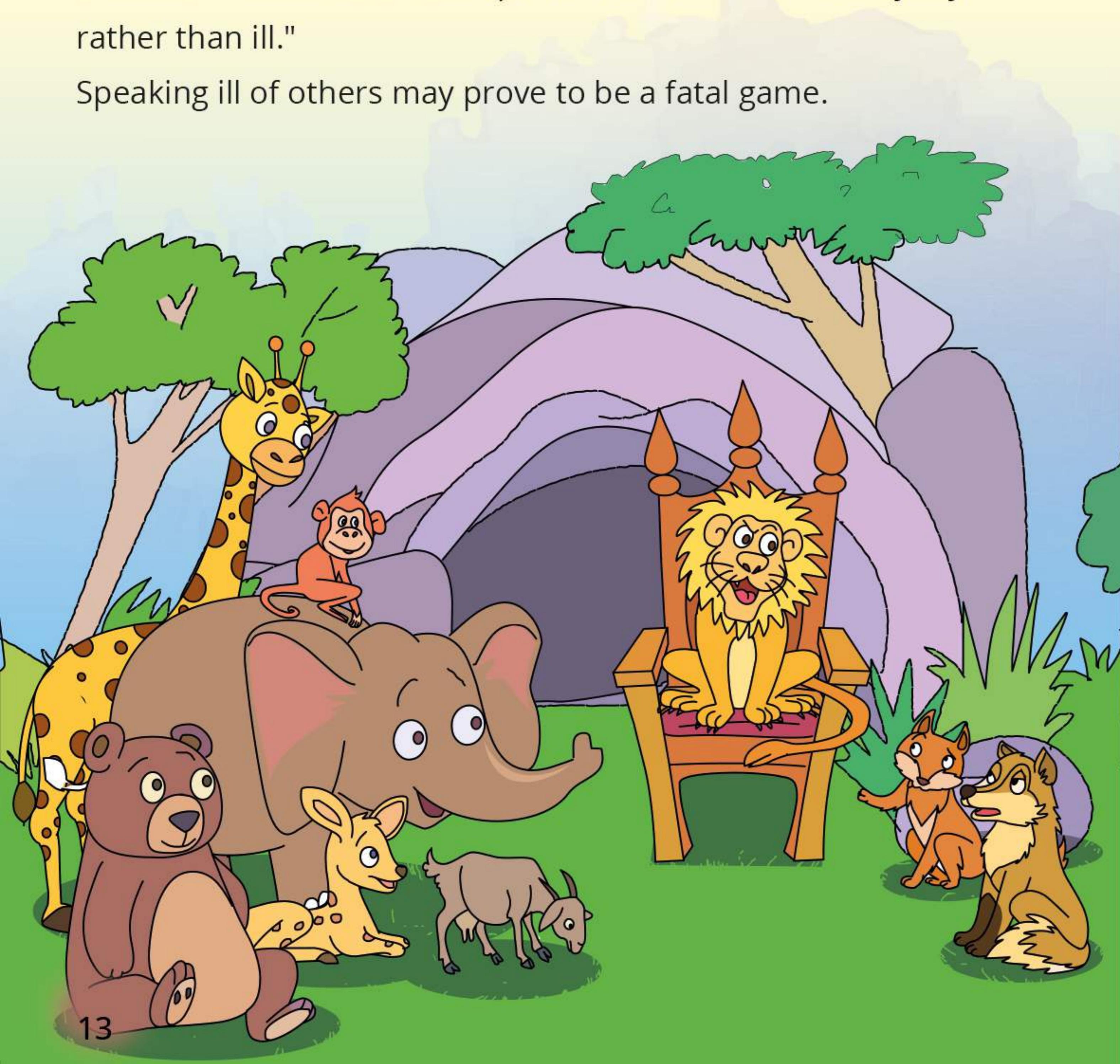
The wolf, sensing an opportunity, accused the fox in front of the lion, "The fox has no respect for you or your rule. That's why he hasn't even come to visit you."

Just as the wolf was saying this, the fox arrived, and he overheard these words. Then the lion roared in rage at him, the fox managed to say in his own defense, "Have all of those who have gathered here, rendered your Majesty as much service as I have done? For I have traveled far and wide asking physicians for a remedy for your illness, and I have found one."

The lion demanded to know at once what cure he had found, and the fox said, "You must flay a wolf alive, and then take his skin and wrap it around you while it is still warm."

The wolf was ordered to be taken away immediately and flayed alive. As he was carried off, the fox turned to him with a smile and said: "You should have spoken well of me to His Majesty, rather than ill."

Speaking ill of others may prove to be a fatal game.

**#12**

A person asked a monk, "My workers are not true to me. My children, my wife, and the entire world are very selfish. Nobody is correct."

The monk smiled and told him a story, "In a tiny village, there was a room with 1000 mirrors. One small girl used to go inside and play. Seeing thousands of children around her, she was joyful. She would clap her hands, and all the 1000 children would clap back at her. She considered this place as the world's happiest and beautiful place and would visit it often.

A sad and depressed person once visited this same place. He saw around him thousands of angry men staring at him. He got scared and raised his hands to hit them, and in return, 1000 hands lifted to hit him back. He thought, this is the worst place in the world and left that place.

This world is also a room with 1000 mirrors around you. What we let out of us is what the universe will give back to us. There is no other Heaven, and there is no other Hell. This world is a Heaven or Hell.

It's up to us to what we make out of it."



#13

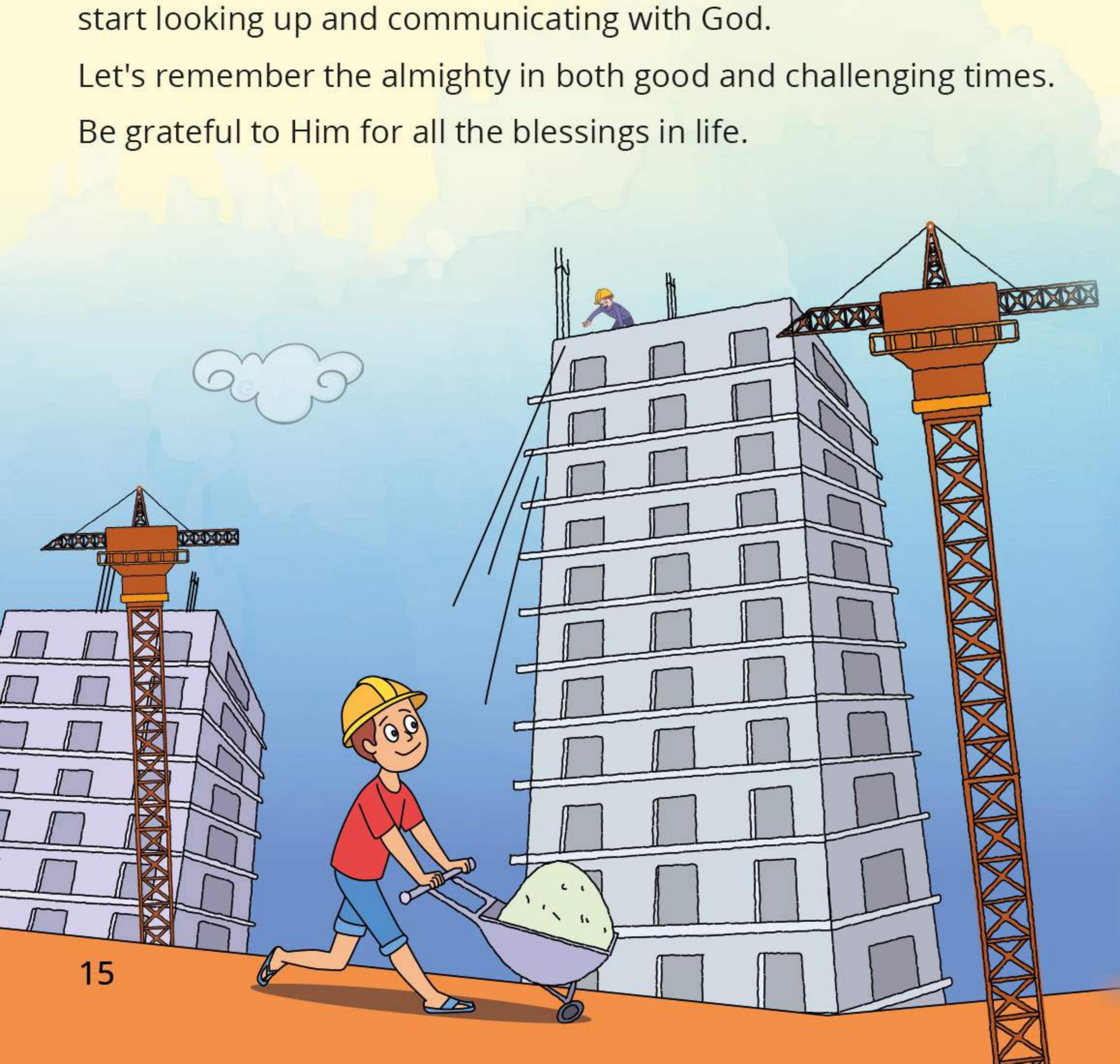
A construction site supervisor from the 16th floor of a building called a worker working on the ground floor. But due to a lot of construction equipment noise, he could not listen to the call. Then to draw the worker's attention, the supervisor threw a 10 rupee note in front of him. The worker picked it up, kept in his pocket, and continued working. Again, the supervisor threw a 500 rupee note, and with this, also the worker did the same and continued working.

Instead of a note, this time the supervisor picked a small stone and threw it at the worker. The rock hit the worker, and the worker looked up. The supervisor was successfully able to convey the message, and communication happened with the worker.

This story is the same as our life!

From up, God wants to communicate with us, but we are always busy doing our worldly jobs. Then God also starts giving small gifts, then big gifts expecting someday we will remember him. We feel lucky and keep all the blessings without thanking God. Then one day, we get hit by a small stone called a "Problem", and we start looking up and communicating with God.

Let's remember the almighty in both good and challenging times. Be grateful to Him for all the blessings in life.

**#14**

Someone asked Bill Gates, "Is there any person richer than you?"

He said, "Yes, only one. Many years ago, I had been dismissed, and I had gone to New York airport. I read titles of newspapers there. I liked one of them, and I wanted to buy it. But I didn't have change (coin). So, I abandoned the idea. Suddenly a black boy called me and told me that this newspaper was for me. But I said that I don't have a change, and he gave it for free".

"I went there after three months. Coincidentally, that story happened again, and that same boy gave me another free newspaper again. I said to him that I couldn't accept it. But he said that he has given it to from his profit," Gates added.

"After 19 years, when I was the richest person, I decided to find that boy. I found him after one and half month's search. I asked him whether he knew do you know me. He said, "Yes, you're famous, Bill Gates".

I said, "You gave me free newspaper two times many years ago. Now, I want to compensate for it. I am going to provide you with everything that you want. The black young man replied, "You can't compensate it!"

I said, "Why? He said, "Because I gave you when I was poor. You want to give me when you are rich. So, how do you compensate?"

Bill Gates said, "I think that black young man is richer than me."

You don't have to be rich or wait to be rich to give.

Keep the spirit alive.

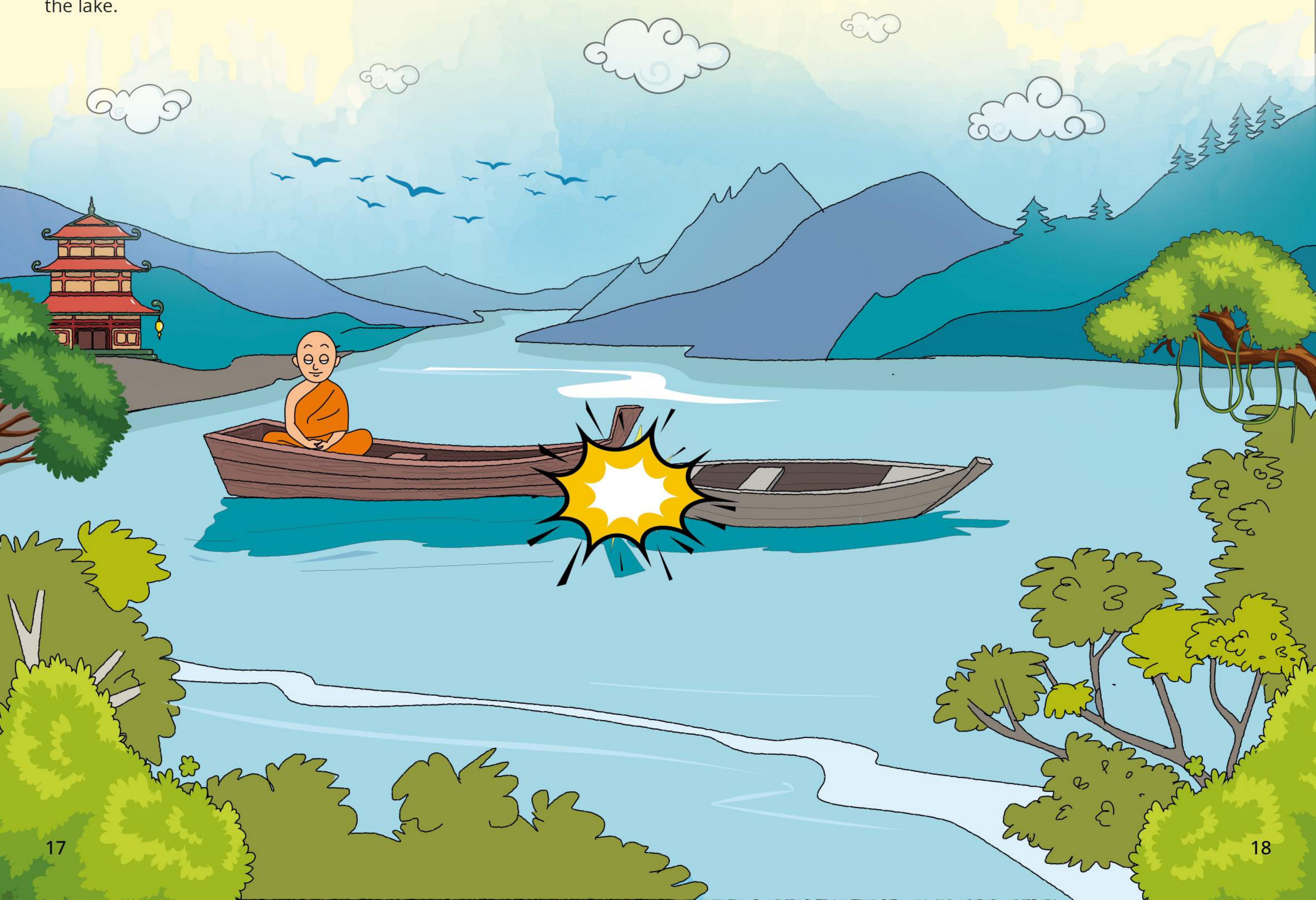


#15

A monk decides to meditate alone, away from his monastery. He takes his boat out to the middle of the lake, moors it there, closes his eyes, and begins his meditation. After a few hours of undisturbed silence, he suddenly feels the bump of another boat colliding with his own. With his eyes still closed, he senses his anger rising, and by the time he opens his eyes, he is ready to scream at the boatman who dared disturb his meditation. But when he opens his eyes, he sees an empty boat that had probably got untethered and floated to the middle of the lake.

At that moment, the monk achieves self-realization and understands that the anger is within him. It merely needs the bump of an external object to provoke it out of him. From then on, whenever he comes across someone who irritates him or provokes him to anger, he reminds himself that the other person is merely an empty boat. "The anger is within me."

Moral: Take time for introspection and search for an answer.



#16

Once, a very poor man came to Buddha and asked,

"Why am I so poor?"

Buddha answered, "You are poor because you don't practice generosity. You don't practice charity."

The poor man asked Buddha, "If I don't have anything, how can I practice charity?"

Buddha answered, "You have five treasures that you can share with others.

First, you have your face. You can share your smiles with others.

It's free and pleasing, and has an incredible impact on others.

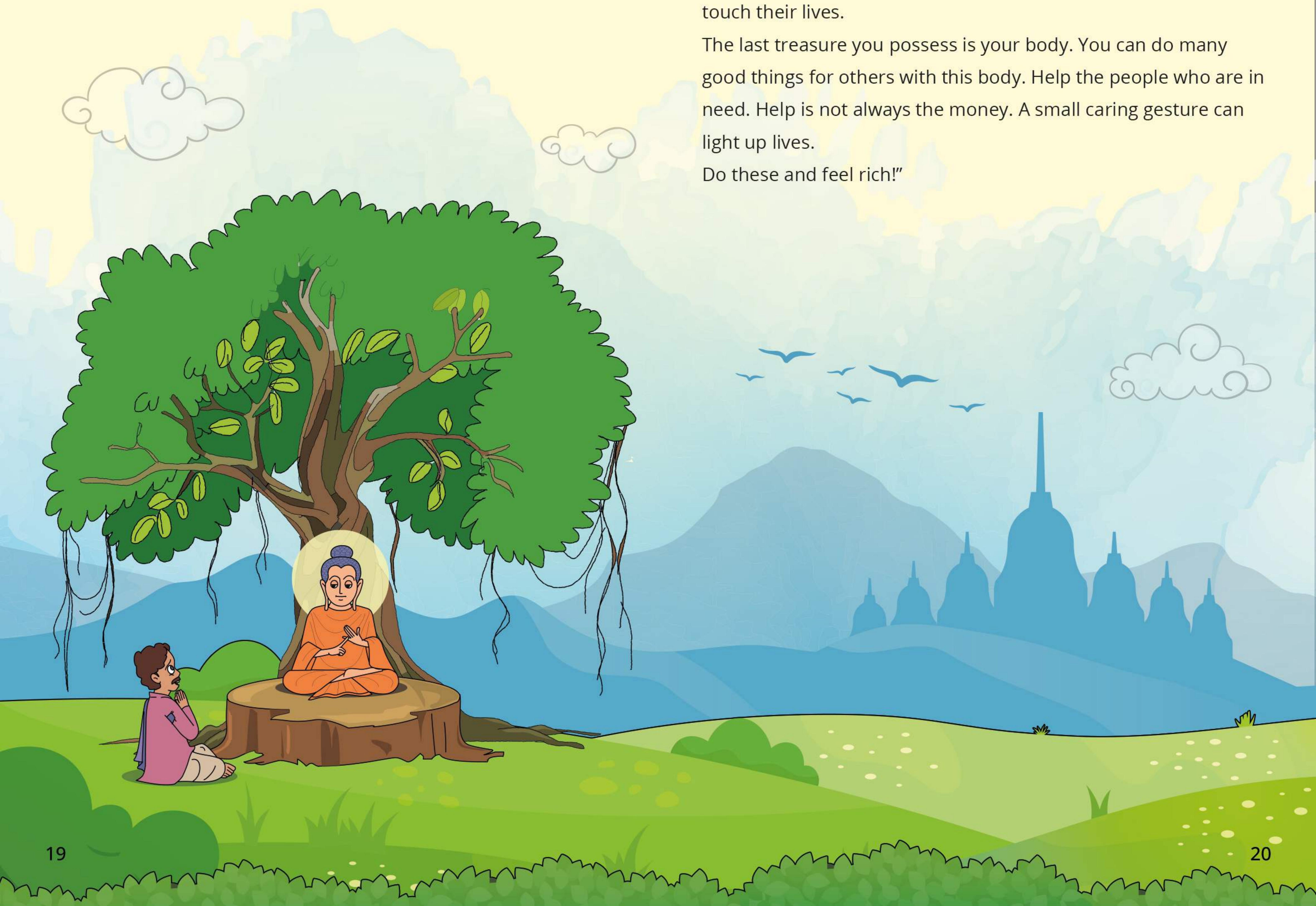
Second, you have your eyes. You can look at others with eyes full of love and care. You can impact millions and make them feel good.

Third, you have your mouth. With this, you can say nice things to others and always talk good. Make them feel valued, spread joy and positivity.

Then, you have a heart. With your loving kindness, you can wish happiness to others. Make others feel a bundle of emotions and touch their lives.

The last treasure you possess is your body. You can do many good things for others with this body. Help the people who are in need. Help is not always the money. A small caring gesture can light up lives.

Do these and feel rich!"



#17

There was only one cobbler who lived in a big village responsible for repairing the shoes of residents. He used to get a lot of work but didn't have time to repair his own boots. Initially, this wasn't the problem, but soon his boots deteriorated and fell apart. While he worked feverishly on the boots of everyone else, his feet got blisters, and he started to limp. His customers also started worrying looking at his condition. But the cobbler assured them that everything would be ok. But this ignorance cost him as his feet got injured and he couldn't work anymore. Consequently, soon the entire town started to limp in pain. It was all because the cobbler never took the time to repair his own boots.

We often disregard this simple principle. If we are in a responsible position - an important link in the survival chain of the group and we do not look after ourselves, after a while, we'll be no good to anyone else either. Our best intentions will mean nothing, and we'll be unable to do what we are meant to do. This goes for leaders, social workers, teachers, parents, breadwinners, homemakers, and "daughters-in-laws". If you don't take the time to care for yourself, no one else will. Are you taking care of yourself?



#18

One day, a man was walking in a park when he came upon a cocoon with a small opening. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through the tiny hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It looked like it had gotten as far as possible, so the man decided to help the butterfly. He used his pocketknife and snipped the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged quickly, but something was strange. The butterfly had a swollen body and shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected the wings to enlarge and expand to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened.

In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and deformed wings. It was never able to fly. In his kindness and haste, the man did not understand that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to emerge was natural. It was nature's way of forcing fluid from its body into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom.

Moral: Sometimes, struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. We will be crippled if we go through life without any obstacles. We would not be as strong as we could have been. And we could never fly. History has shown us that the most celebrated winners usually encountered heartbreak obstacles before they triumphed.



#19

In Japan, people have a great liking for fresh fish. But the challenge was that water close to the population did not hold much fish that could feed fresh fish lovers.

So to fulfill the demand of the Japanese population, fishers started resolving the issue with new solutions. Initially, fishing boats became bigger, and fishers started going farther than ever in the sea. The farther they went, the longer it took to bring back the fish. During which, fish used to go stale. People didn't like the taste of it. Now to resolve this issue, they started installing freezers in the boats to go farther and freeze the fish for a longer duration. But this solution also didn't work, and people didn't like the taste. Then, fishing companies started assembling tanks in the boats to catch the fish and bring them back alive. But since fish stopped moving in the tanks, people weren't able to get fresh fish.

Because the fish did not move for days, they lost their fresh-fish taste. After many trials and errors, the fishing industry faced an impending crisis in Japan.

But today, they have overcome the crisis and have become one of the most important trades in the country. So, how did Japanese

fishing companies solve this problem? How do they get fresh-tasting fish to Japan?

The Japanese fishing companies still put the fish in the tanks. But now, they add a small shark to each tank. The shark eats a few fish, but most of the fish arrive in a fresh state. In the tank, due to sharks, fishes are challenged. They constantly move in the tank, which keeps them fresh.

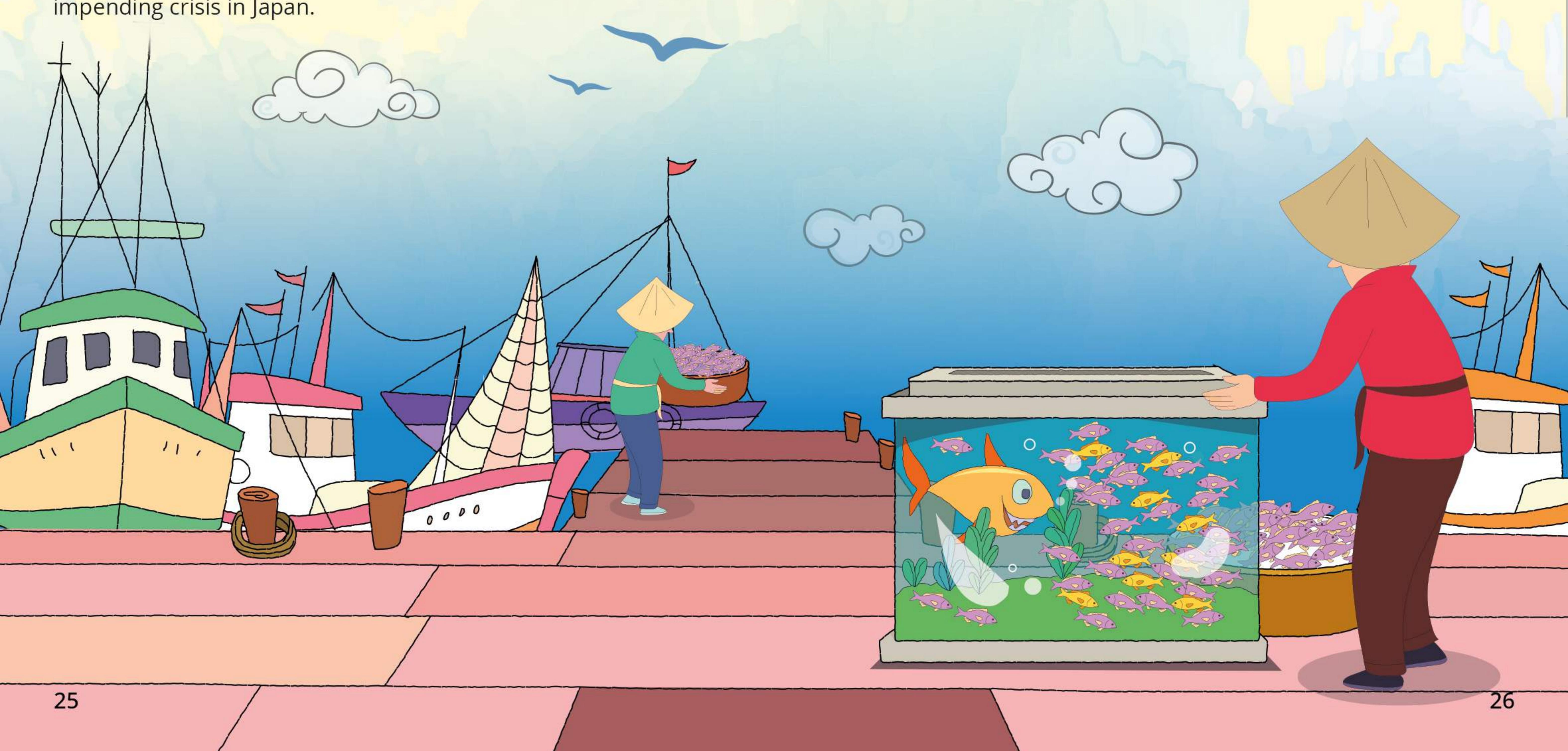
Humans are no different.

L. Ron Hubbard observed in the early 1950s: "Man thrives, oddly enough, only in the presence of a challenging environment."

George Bernard Shaw said, "Satisfaction is death!"

If you are steadily conquering challenges, you are happy. Your challenges keep you energized. They keep you alive!

Put a shark in your tank and see how far you can go!



#20

An engineer in a car manufacturing company designed a world-class car. The owner got impressed with the outcome and praised him a lot.

While trying to bring the car from the manufacturing area to the showroom, they realized that the car was a few inches taller than the entrance.

The engineer felt bad that he overlooked this one detail before creating the car. The owner wondered how to take it outside of the manufacturing area. The painter said they could bring out the car, but there will be a few scratches on top of the vehicle, which could be touched up later. The engineer said they could break the entrance, take the car out, and later re-do it. The owner was not convinced with any of the ideas and felt like it was a bad sign to break or scratch.

The watchman was observing all the drama and slowly approached the owner.

He wanted to give an idea if they had no problem. They wondered what this guy would tell them that the experts could not provide.

The watchman said, "The car is only a few inches taller than the entrance. Simply release the air in the tire. The height of the car will sink and can be easily taken out".

Everyone clapped!

Don't analyze problems only from an expert point of view. There is always a layman's outlook that gives an alternate solution at a given point in time.

Life issues are also the same. Many a time, a friend's entrance door falls short by a few inches; we feel taller! Release some air (ego) and adjust the height.

Think simple, do simple and live simple.



#21

An elephant had just taken a bath in a river and was walking on the road. He saw a pig thoroughly soaked in mud coming from the opposite direction when he neared a bridge. The elephant quietly moved to one side, allowed the dirty pig to pass, and continued its journey onward.

The unclean pig later spoke to its friends in arrogance, "See how big I am. Even the elephant was afraid of me and moved to one side to let me pass".

On hearing this, some elephants questioned their friend and the reason for its action. Was it out of fear?

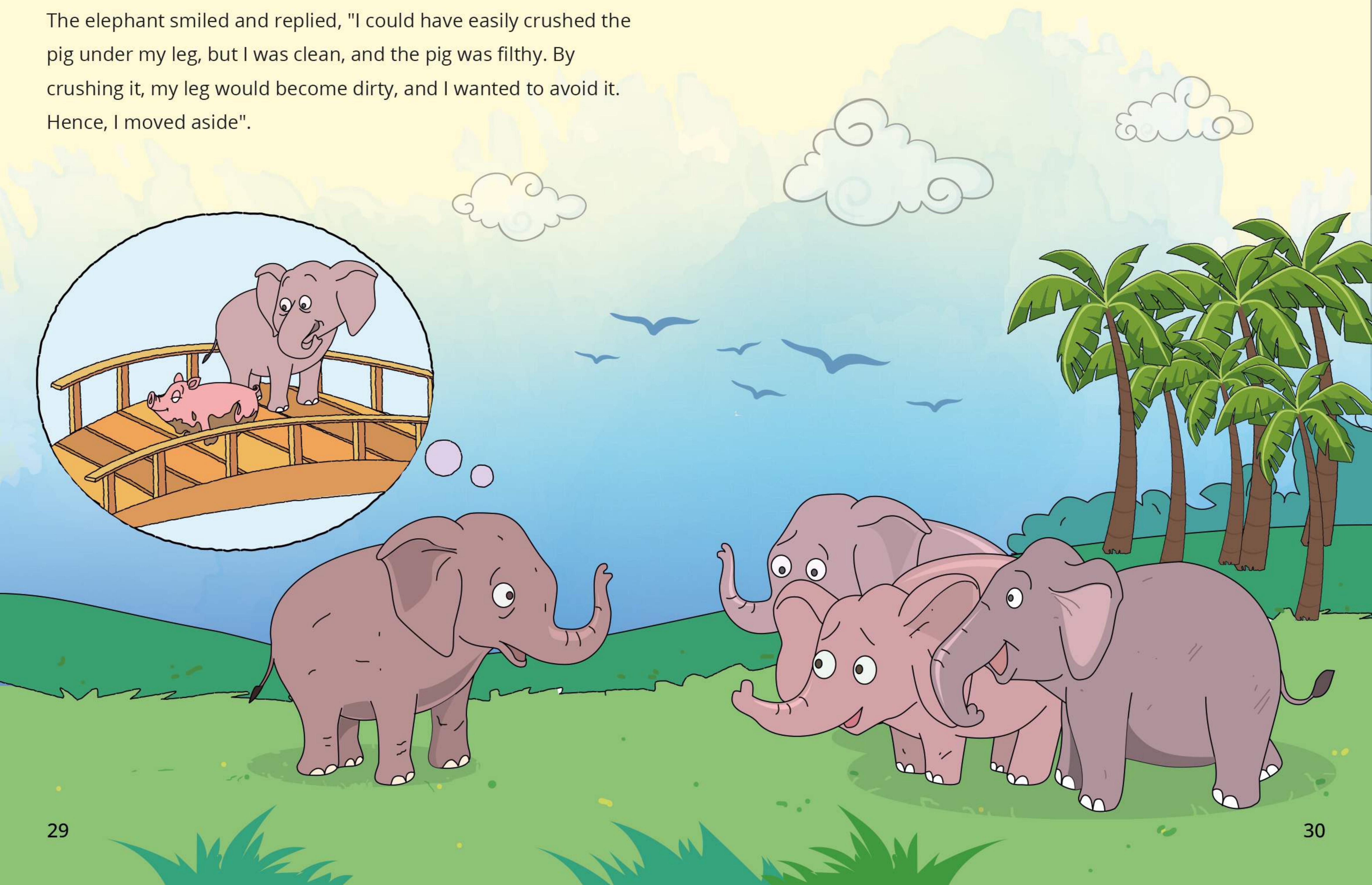
The elephant smiled and replied, "I could have easily crushed the pig under my leg, but I was clean, and the pig was filthy. By crushing it, my leg would become dirty, and I wanted to avoid it. Hence, I moved aside".

Moral: Realized souls will avoid contact with negativity not out of fear but out of the desire to keep away from impurity though they are strong enough to destroy the impurity. You need not react to every opinion, every comment, or every situation.

Kick the drama and keep going ahead

Choose your battles wisely. Not everything deserves your time and attention.

Remember George Bernard Shaw's words, "I learned long ago never to wrestle with a pig. You get dirty, and besides, the pig likes it."



#22

Four monkeys were sitting in a cage staring at a bunch of bananas accessible only by steps hanging from the roof. Whenever the monkeys were trying to climb the steps to reach the bananas, a blast of cold water blocked them. After a few days, realizing there's no point in trying to get the "forbidden fruit", they naturally gave up.

Some humans in the room then removed the water hose and, at the same time, replaced one of the original monkeys with a new one. On seeing the bananas, it started up the steps, but the other monkeys, being social creatures, pulled it down before it got blasted by water. The new monkey was startled, looked around, and repeatedly tried to scale the ladder but was pulled back often.

Finally, the new monkey accepted the group code of conduct and didn't bother to go for the bananas.

Over the next few weeks, onlookers removed the rest of the original monkeys, one at a time, and replaced them with new monkeys that have never seen the water. By the end of the experiment, with perfectly ripe bananas sitting on the platform above and monkeys that have never seen a jet of water, none of the animals tried to climb the steps.

Gary Hamel and CK created this story to demonstrate a broader truth about organizational life mindsets ingrained by past management practices that remain ingrained far beyond the practices that formed them, even when new management practices have been put in place.

One must challenge the status quo.



#23

Once Lord Indra got upset with farmers. He announced there would be no rain for 12 years and they won't be able to produce crops.

Farmers begged for clemency from Lord Indra, who then said, the rain would be possible only if Lord Shiva played his Damru. Still he secretly requested Lord Shiva not to agree to these farmers, and when the farmers reached Lord Shiva, he repeated the same thing that he would play the Damru after 12 years. Disappointed, farmers decided to wait for 12 years, but one farmer regularly dug, treated and put manure in the soil and sowed the seeds even when no crop emerged.

Other farmers made fun of that farmer. After three years, all farmers asked that farmer why he was wasting his time and energy when he knew that rains would not come for 12 years? He replied, "I know that the crop won't come out, but I'm doing it as a matter of practice".

After 12 years, I will forget the process of growing crops and working in the field, so I must keep doing so that I'm fit to produce the crop, the moment there is rain after 12 years. Hearing his argument Goddess Parvati praised his version before Lord Shiva and said he might also lose the practice of playing the Damru after 12 years. In his anxiety, the innocent Lord Shiva just tried to play the Damru to check if he could play it. Hearing the sound of Damru, immediately, there was rain, and the crop of the farmer who was regularly working in the field emerged, and the others were disappointed.

Moral: The game is won because of the practice, not during the performance. If you are waiting for a good opportunity before practicing, you have lost the race.

Practice is boring, but that's what makes your performance interesting.



#24

A father was reading a magazine, and his little daughter was distracting him every now and then. Trying to keep her busy, he tore out one page on which was printed the map of the world. He then tore the page into pieces and asked her to go to her room and put them together to make the map again. He was sure she would take the whole day to get it done. But the little one came back within minutes with the perfect map. When he asked how she could do it so quickly, she said, "Oh Dad, there is a man's face on the other side of the paper. I made the face perfect for getting the map right". She ran outside to play, leaving the father surprised.

Moral: There is always the other side to whatever you experience in this world. This story indirectly teaches a lesson. i.e., whenever we come across a challenge or a puzzling situation, we should look from a different perspective. You will be surprised to see an easy way to tackle the problem.



#25

There was a Jewish man named Yankel who owned a bakery. He survived the concentration camps and always said, "You know why it is that I'm alive today?"

"I was a kid, just a teenager at the time. We were on the train being taken to Auschwitz. Night came, and it was deathly cold in that boxcar. The Germans would leave the cars on the side of the tracks overnight, sometimes for days on end without any food and no blankets to keep us warm," he said.

"Sitting next to me was this beloved elderly Jewish man from my hometown. He was shivering from head to toe and looked terrible. So, I wrapped my arms around him to warm him up. I rubbed his arms, his legs, his face, his neck. I begged him to hang on. All night long, I kept the man warm this way."

I was tired and freezing cold myself. My fingers were numb, but I didn't stop warming up the old man's body. Hours and hours went by until finally, morning came, and the sun began to shine. When there was some light in the boxcar, I looked around to see the other people. To my horror, all I could see were frozen bodies. All I could hear was a deathly silence.

Nobody else in that cabin made it through the night. They died from the cold. Only two people survived: the older man and me. The older man survived because somebody kept him warm, and I survived because I was warming someone else.

Can I tell you the secret to survival in this world? When you warm other people's hearts, you remain warm yourself. When you seek to support, encourage and inspire others, then you discover support, encouragement and inspiration in your own life as well. That is the secret to life.



#26

After conquering the world, Sikandar looked for the water that could make him immortal after drinking it. After wandering across the world, he found the source of water that could make him immortal.

He entered the cave, where there was a waterfall of nectar, and became joyful. He was inclined to drink the nectar when a crow sitting inside the cave shouted, "Wait, stop, and do not drink it." Sikandar looked towards the crow. The crow was in a state of great misery. The feathers had fallen, the paws had fallen. Also it had become blind.

Sikandar said, "Why are you stopping me?"

The crow told Sikandar his story, "After a lot of wandering; I also drank this nectar to become immortal. But, now see my condition. I have become blind, all feathers have fallen, I cannot fly. I want to die now, but due to the nectar, I cannot die. Once you reflect on my condition, then only decide to drink Amrit. I have been screaming so that someone can kill me, but nobody can help me. Now, I am praying to God that the Lord kill me. My only desire is to die in some way."

Listening to the crows' story, Sikandar quietly returned from the cave without drinking the nectar. He understood that the happiness of life remains as long as we are in a position to celebrate it. So, enjoy each and every moment. We don't know what the future holds for us.



#27

Once upon a time, a group of frogs was traveling from the woods. Suddenly, two frogs from the group fell into a deep pit. Other frogs crowded around the pit and saw how deep it was. They told the fallen frogs that no hope was left for them.

However, the two frogs decided to ignore the crowd and proceeded with their efforts to survive. Despite viewing their efforts, the crowd continued saying that they should give up as they would not make it.

Eventually, one of the two frogs took heed of what others were saying and gave up, falling to his death.

The second frog continued his efforts even when others said to give up and eventually took the long jump that made him get out of the pit.

After some time, when he got out, the other frogs asked him, "Did you not hear us?" The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

Moral: People's words can have a big effect on others' lives. Think about what you say before it comes out of your mouth. It might just be the difference between life and death. Choose life.



#28

Air Commodore Vishal was a jet pilot. In a combat mission, his fighter plane got hit by a missile. He, however, ejected and parachuted safely. He won acclaim and appreciation from many.

After five years, he was sitting with his wife in a restaurant one day. A man from another table came to him and said, "You're Captain Vishal! You flew jet fighters and got shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Vishal.

"I packed your parachute," the man smiled and replied.

Vishal gasped in surprise and gratitude and thought, "I wouldn't be here today if the parachute hadn't worked."

Vishal couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. He wondered how many times he might have seen him and not even said, "Good morning, how are you?" because he was a fighter pilot, and that person was just a safety worker".

So friends, who is packing your parachute?

Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day.

We need many kinds of parachutes: the physical parachute, the mental parachute, the emotional parachute, and the spiritual parachute.

We call on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is important.

We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you or congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or do something nice for no reason.

As you go through this week, this month, and this year, recognize the people who pack your parachute.



#29

Charles M. Schwab had made his fortune with Bethlehem Steel Corporation, the largest shipbuilder and second-largest steel producer in America at the time.

In 1918, Bethlehem Steel Corporation's President Eugene Grace stated that the company's plants were turning out a record amount of steel. At a special stockholders meeting, he said, "Bethlehem Steel's revenues for the year have reached \$400 million (\$6.5 billion in today's dollars). We estimate gross business will run close to \$500 million in 1919 as the company works through orders amounting to \$650 million." You wouldn't expect that Charles Schwab would be looking to improve his operations even more, but like other intelligent fanatics, he was dogged in his pursuit of improvement. Thomas Edison famously called Schwab a "master hustler".

In that same year, Ivy Lee contacted Charles Schwab and said, "I can increase your efficiency and sales – if you would only allow me to spend fifteen minutes with each of your executives."

Naturally, Charles Schwab was interested and asked, "What will that cost me?"

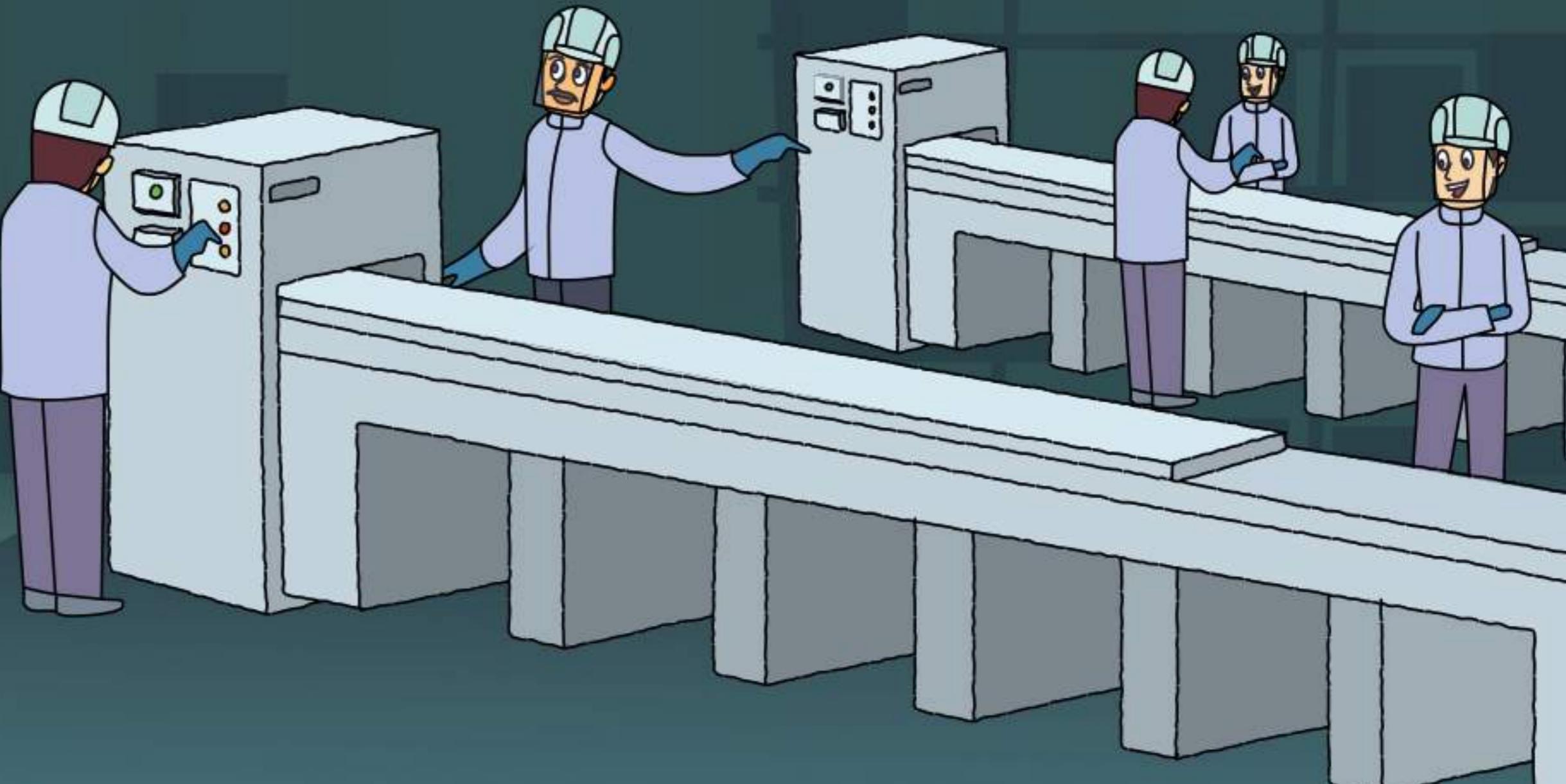
Ivy Lee might have been the father of corporate public relations, but he understood the power of having skin in the game.

"Nothing," Ivy said, "Unless it works. In three months, you can send me a check for whatever you think it is worth to you. Fair enough?"

Of course, Schwab thought that it was fair enough. Ivy Lee spent fifteen minutes with each Bethlehem Steel executive. In those short meetings, Lee exacted only a promise from each executive to accomplish over the next three months:

1. Write down the six most important things you need to accomplish tomorrow at the end of each workday. Do not write down more than six tasks.
2. Prioritize those six items in order of their true importance.
3. When you arrive each morning, concentrate only on the first task. Work until the first task is finished and scratch it off when it's finished.
4. Just work your way right down the list. Move any unfinished items to a new list of six tasks for the following day.
5. Repeat this process every working day.

At the end of the three months, efficiency had increased to such an extent that Mr. Schwab sent Ivy Lee a check for \$35,000.



#30

Many years ago, Norman Cousins was diagnosed as "terminally ill". He had six months to live. His chance for recovery was 1 in 500. He could see the worry, depression, and anger in his life contributed to and perhaps helped cause his disease. He wondered, "If the illness can be caused by negativity, can positivity create wellness?"

He decided to experiment on himself. Laughter was one of the most positive activities he knew. He rented all the funny movies he could find – Keaton, Chaplin, Fields, the Marx Brothers. (This was before VCRs, so he had to rent the actual films). He read funny stories. He asked his friends to call him whenever they said, heard, or did something funny.

His pain was so great that he could not sleep. Laughing for ten solid minutes, he found, relieved the pain for several hours so he could sleep. He credits visualization, the love of his family and friends, and laughter for his recovery. He fully recovered from his illness and lived another 20 happy, healthy, and productive years.

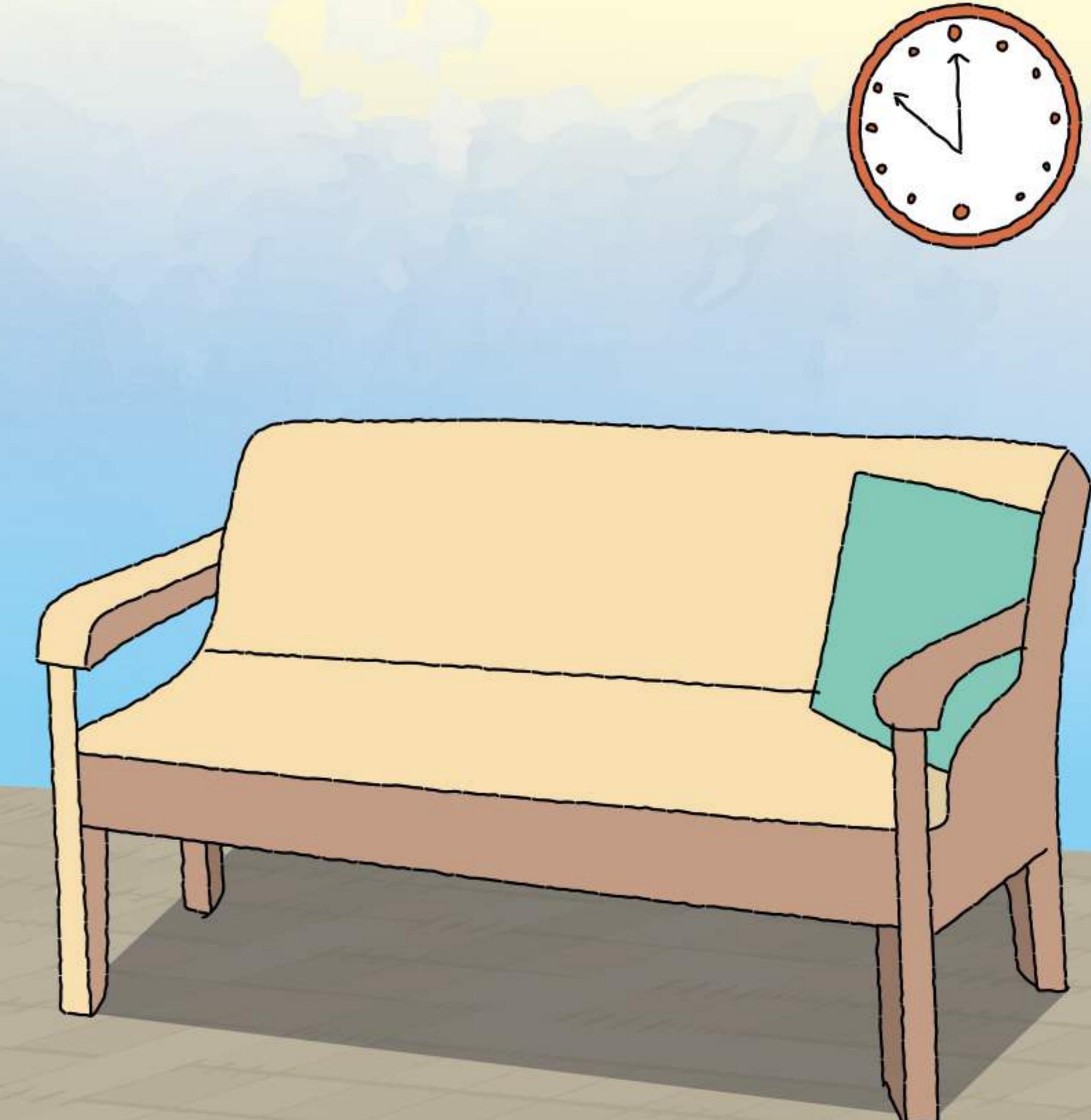
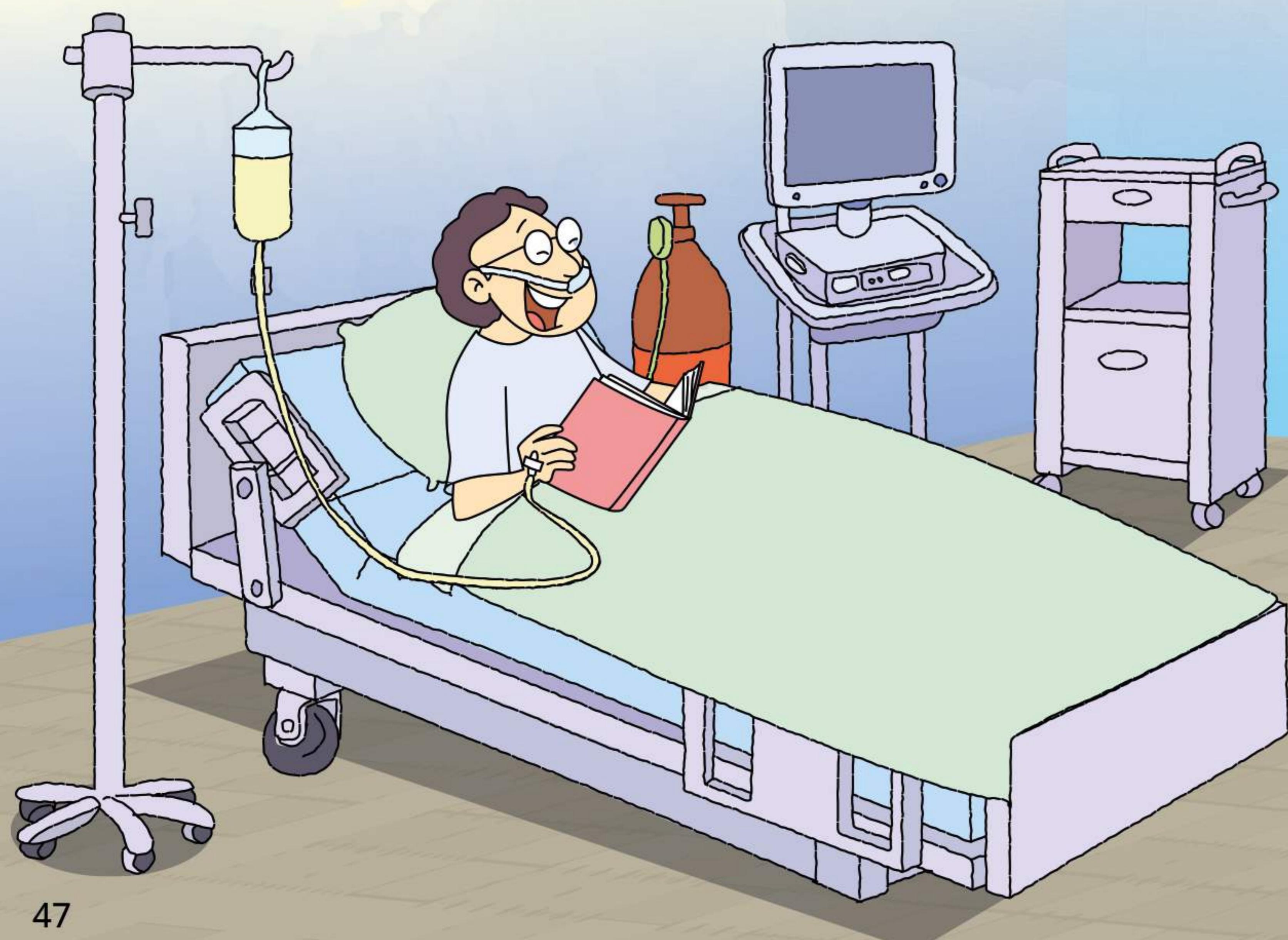
His journey is detailed in his book, 'Anatomy of an Illness.'

Some people think laughter is a waste of time. It is a luxury, they say, a frivolity, something to indulge in only ever so often. Nothing could be further from the truth. Laughter is essential to our equilibrium, to our well-being, to our aliveness. If we're not well, laughter helps us get well; if we are well, laughter helps us stay that way. Since Cousins' ground-breaking subjective work, scientific studies have shown that laughter has a curative effect on the body, the mind, and emotions.

So, if you like laughter, consider it sound medical advice to indulge in it as often as you can. If you don't like laughter, then take your medication – laugh anyway. Permit yourself to laugh – long and loud and out loud – whenever anything strikes you as funny. The people around you may think you're strange, but sooner or later, they'll join in even if they don't know what you're laughing about.

Some diseases may be contagious, but none is as contagious as the cure of laughter.

Laughter is the best medicine.



#31

In 1920, there was a graduation ceremony for a batch of new doctors in England. It was attended by the British Prime Minister of that time. During the ceremony, the head doctor in charge of that batch gave the necessary advice to these new graduates.

He told them about the following incident which happened with him a few years ago. "It was after midnight, and I heard a knock on my door. An old lady came to me and said that her child was in a very serious condition and asked me to save him. I rushed out to follow her to her house without worrying about what will happen. It was a stormy night and very cold.

The rain was pouring down very heavily. I did not fear for my life. Her house was on the outskirts of London, and after an arduous journey, we reached her home. She lived in a small room with her son. When I entered the room, I saw her son groaning and deeply in pain in the corner of this room. After I had done my duty towards the sick child, the mother gave me a small bag with money.

I refused to take this bag, and I told her gently that I can't accept that payment because I felt sorry for their situation. Then I promised her that I would take care of her child until he gets better," the doctor said.

The head doctor continued in his speech by saying, "This is the true profession of medicine, and being a doctor is the closest profession to mercy and one of the closest to God."

As soon as the head doctor finished his speech, the Prime Minister jumped out of his seat and headed to the podium.

The Prime Minister said to the Head Doctor, "Permit me, Sir, to kiss your hand. For twenty years now I have been looking for you. I am the child you mentioned in your story just now. My mother will be happy now, and she will rest in peace. Her only wish was for me to find you and to reward you, for that goodness you did for us at the time we were living in poverty."

That poor child who became the Prime Minister of England was Lloyd George.

Plant goodness wherever you go.



#32

A shop owner placed a sign above his door that read,

"Puppies for Sale."

A boy saw the sign and approached the owner, "How much are you going to sell the puppies for?" he asked. "Anywhere from \$30 to \$50", the owner replied. The little boy pulled out some change from his pocket. "I have \$2.37," he said. "Can I please look at them?" The shop owner smiled and whistled. Out of the kennel came 'Lady', who ran down the aisle of his shop, followed by five teeny, tiny furballs. One puppy was lagging considerably behind.

The little boy immediately singled out the lagging, limping puppy and said, "What's wrong with that little dog?" The shop owner explained that the veterinarian had examined him and had discovered he didn't have a hip socket. It would always limp. It would always be lame.

"That's the puppy I want," said the little boy. The shop owner said, "No, you don't want to buy that little dog. If you really want him, I'll just give him to you."



The little boy got quite upset. He looked straight into the store owner's eyes, pointing his finger, and said, "I don't want you to give him to me. That little dog is worth every bit as much as all the other dogs, and I'll pay full price. In fact, I'll give you \$2.37 now and 50 cents a month until I have him paid for." The shop owner countered, "You really don't want to buy this little dog. He is never going to be able to run and jump and play with you like the other puppies." To his surprise, the little boy reached down and rolled up his pant leg to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace.

He looked up at the shop owner and softly replied, "Well, I don't run so well myself, and the little puppy will need someone who understands!"



#33

There once was a little boy who had a very bad temper. His father decided to hand him a bag of nails and said that he had to hammer a nail into the fence every time he lost his temper.

On the first day, the boy hammered 37 nails into that fence. But gradually, he began to control his temper over the next few weeks, and the number of nails he was hammering into the fence slowly decreased.

He discovered it was easier to control his temper than hammer those nails into the fence. Finally, the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all.

He told his father the news, and the father suggested that the boy should now pull out a nail every day he keeps his temper under control.

The days passed, and the young boy finally told his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. The father said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry; the wound is still there."

Control your anger, and don't say things to people in the heat of the moment that you may later regret. Some things in life you are unable to take back.



#34

One day a school teacher wrote on the board the following:

$$9 \times 1 = 7$$

$$9 \times 2 = 18$$

$$9 \times 3 = 27$$

$$9 \times 4 = 36$$

$$9 \times 5 = 45$$

$$9 \times 6 = 54$$

$$9 \times 7 = 63$$

$$9 \times 8 = 72$$

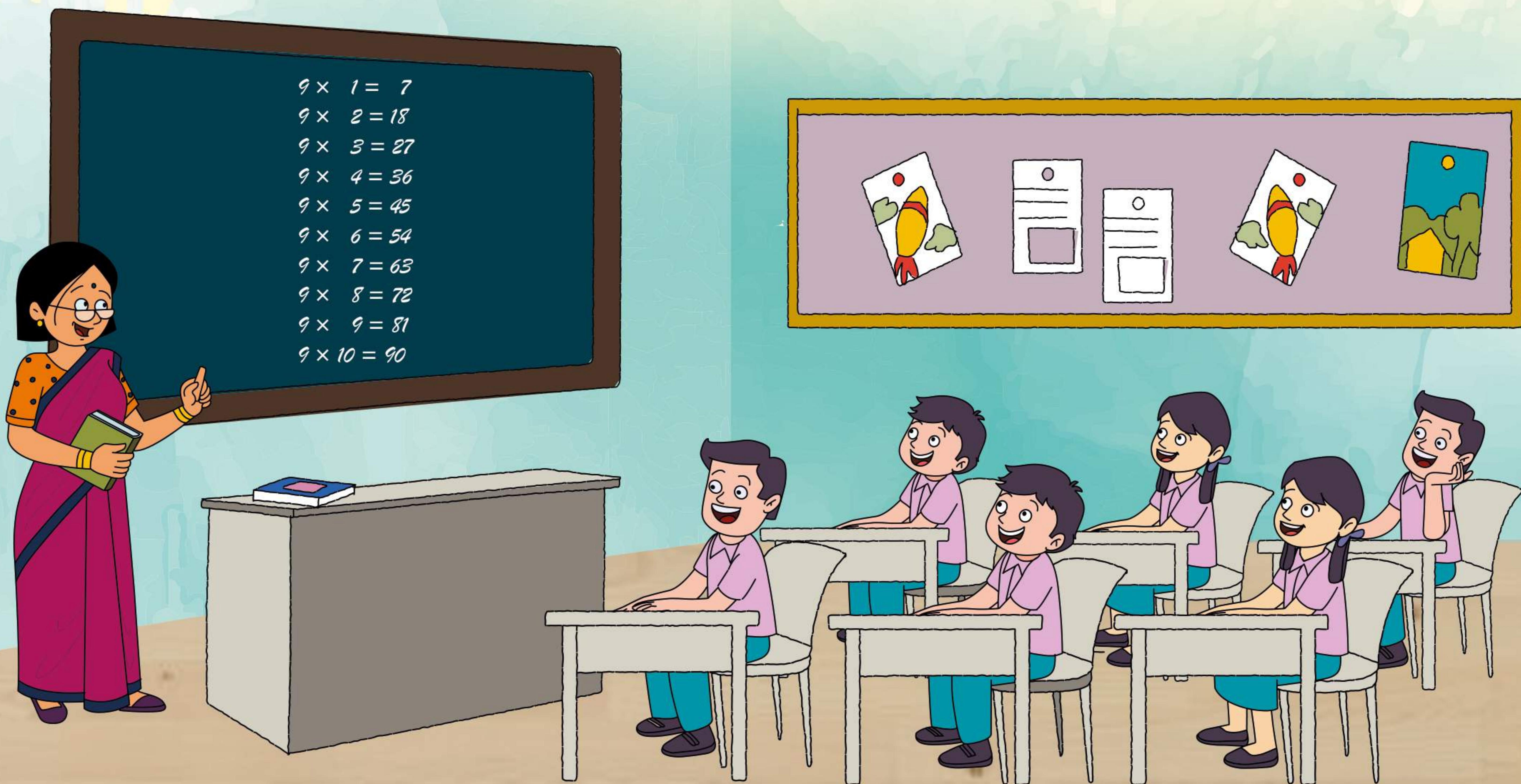
$$9 \times 9 = 81$$

$$9 \times 10 = 90$$

After writing, she looked at the students, they were all laughing at her because of the first equation, which was wrong. The teacher said,

"I wrote that first one wrong on purpose because I wanted you to learn something important. It was for you to know how the world out there will treat you. You can see that I wrote the correct answer nine times, but none of you congratulated me. You all laughed and criticized me because of one wrong thing I did."

So, this is the lesson: the world will never appreciate the good you do a million times but will criticize the one wrong thing you do. But don't get discouraged. Always rise above all the laughter and criticism. Stay strong.



#35

One day, a bus driver went to the bus garage, started his bus, and drove off along the route.

There were no problems for the first few stops. A few people got on, a few got off, and things generally went well. However, at the next stop, a big hulk of a guy got on. Six feet in height, built like a wrestler, arms hanging down to the ground. He glared at the driver and said, "Big John doesn't need to pay!" and sat down at the back.

The driver was five feet three, thin, and basically meek.

Naturally, he didn't argue with Big John, but he wasn't happy about it. The next day the same thing happened, Big John got on again, made a show of refusing to pay, and sat down. And the next day, and the one after that, and so forth!

This irritated the bus driver, who started losing sleep over the way Big John was taking advantage of him. Finally, he could stand it no longer.

He signed up for body-building courses and martial arts such as karate and judo. By the end of the summer, he had become quite strong. What's more, he felt excellent about himself.

So on the following Monday, when Big John once again got on the bus and said, "Big John doesn't pay!" The driver stood up, glared back at the passenger, and screamed, "And why not?"

Big John replied with a surprised look, "Because Big John has a bus pass."

Be sure of what is a problem in the first place before working hard to solve one.

Moral: Quite often in life, we over-evaluate the problems and start working on huge solutions spending time, money, effort, energy, and focus, whereas, in actuality, problems eventually are not that big!



#36

Four monks decided to meditate silently without speaking for two weeks. They began with enthusiasm, and no one said a word the whole day. By nightfall of the first day, the candle began to flicker and then went out.

The first monk blurted out, "Oh, no! The candle is out."

The second monk said, "We are not supposed to speak!"

The third monk said in an irritated voice, "What is this? Why did you two break the silence?"

The fourth monk smiled and said, "Wow! I'm the only one who hasn't spoken."

Reflections:

Each monk broke the silence for a different reason.

The first monk got distracted by one aspect of his experience (the candle) and forgot what was more important - the practice of witnessing without reacting.

The second monk was more worried about others following the rules than actually practicing them himself.

The third monk let his anger toward the first two monks affect him.

The fourth monk lost his way because of pride.

Why did the fourth monk speak at all? He could have maintained his silence, and he would have been successful in his endeavor. But if he had, chances are, the other three might have continued to argue and not even noticed his silence.

Some people are like this. Their attitude is, "If I'm doing something good, but no one notices, I might as well not be doing it at all."

They believe that the reward is not in the effort but in the recognition.

Moral: As we learn to truly listen, witness, and observe without impulsively reacting with distraction, judgment, anger, and pride, we understand the true meaning of life.



#37

A beggar came to an emperor and said, "If you think of giving me anything, there is a condition."

The emperor said, "What do you mean? What do you mean by your condition?"

The beggar explained, "I will accept only that will completely fill my begging bowl."

It was a small begging bowl. The king said, "What do you think I am? Am I a beggar? I cannot fill this dirty small begging bowl?"

The beggar said, "It is better to tell you before because you can get into trouble later. If you think you can fill, fill."

The king called his advisor and told him to fill it with precious stones with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. Let this beggar know with whom he is talking!

But then there was a difficulty. The bowl was filled. The king was surprised as the stones would disappear as they fell into it. It was filled many times, and each time it was again empty.

Now he was in a great rage, he told the advisor, "Even if my whole kingdom goes, if all my treasures are emptied, let them be, but I cannot allow this beggar to defeat me. This is too much."

It took months, and all the treasures disappeared. The king became a beggar. Everybody started wondering what would happen in the end.

Finally, the king fell at the feet of the beggar and said, "Forgive me, but before you leave, tell me one thing. What is the secret of this begging bowl? All have disappeared in it."

The beggar started laughing. He said, "It is made of the human ego. Everything disappears in it and nothing ever fulfills it."

That's what is happening to all of us. It is not a story; it is your life. We go on putting in your begging bowl your houses, cars, bank balances, and everything disappears.

Again we are empty. We never get any satisfaction or contentment and again we are begging.

We have been doing it for many lives. It is your story. It is literally true and it is not just symbolically true.

Moral: The ego is never fulfilled.



#38

There once lived a wealthy businessman who had a lazy and fun-loving son. The businessman wanted his son to be hard-working and responsible. He wanted him to realize the value of labor. One day he summoned his son and said, "Today, I want you to go out and earn something, failing which you won't have your meals tonight."

The boy was callous and not used to doing any work. This demand by his father scared him, and he went crying straight to his mother. Her heart melted at the sight of tears in her son's eyes. She grew restless. In a bid to help him, she gave him a gold coin. When the father asked his son what he had earned in the evening, the son promptly presented him with a gold coin. The father then asked him to throw it into a well. The son did as he was told.

The father was a man of wisdom and experience and guessed that the source of the gold coin was the boy's mother. The next day he sent his wife to her parent's town and asked his son to go and earn something with the threat of being denied the night meals if he failed. This time he went crying to his sister, who sympathized with him and gave him a rupee coin out of her own savings. When his father asked him what he had earned, the boy tossed the rupee coin at him. The father again asked him to throw it in a well. The son did it quite readily. Again the father's wisdom told him that his son did not earn the rupee coin. He then sent his daughter to her in-laws' house.

He again asked his son to go out and earn with the threat that he shall not have anything for dinner that night.

Since there was no one to help him out, the son was forced to go to the market searching for work. One of the shopkeepers there told him that he would pay him two rupees if he carried his trunk to his house. The rich man's son could not refuse and was drenched in sweat when he finished the job. His feet were trembling, and his neck and back were aching. There were rashes on his back. As he returned home and produced the two rupee note before his father and was asked to throw it into the well, the horrified son almost cried out. He could not imagine throwing his hard-earned money like this. He said amid sobbing, "Father! My entire body is aching. My back has rashes, and you are asking me to throw the money into the well".

At this, the businessman smiled. He told him that one feels the pain only when the fruits of hard labor are wasted. On two earlier occasions, he was helped by his mother and sister and therefore had no pain in throwing the coins into the well. The son had now realized the value of hard work. He vowed never to be lazy and keep the father's wealth safe. The father handed over the keys of his shop to the son and promised to guide him through the rest of his life.

Moral: Some of life's best lessons come from the hardest situations.



#39

Ever since Robert was a child, he feared that someone was under his bed at night. So, he went to a psychiatrist and told him, "I've got problems. Every time I go to bed, I think there is somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy." "Just put yourself in my hands for one year. Come, talk to me three times a week, and we should be able to get rid of those fears," said the psychiatrist.

Robert asked, "How much do you charge?"

"\$200 per visit," replied the psychiatrist.

"I'll think of it, and if needed, I will come back to you," Robert said.

Six months later, he met the psychiatrist on the street.

"Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?" the psychiatrist asked Robert.

"Well, \$200 a visit three times a week for a year is an awful lot of money!"

An Indian friend of mine cured me for the price of one plate of biryani and a coke bottle.

I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought myself a new SUV."

"Is that so!" with a bit of an attitude, he said, "and how, may I ask, did the friend cure you?"

"He told me to sell the bed and sleep on a mattress on the floor," said Robert.

Moral: Many times, there are very simple solutions to our problems.



#40

There was a millionaire who was bothered by severe eye pain. He consulted so many physicians and was getting his treatment done. But the ache persisted with greater vigor than before.

At last, the millionaire consulted a monk who was an expert in treating such patients. The monk said that he should concentrate only on green colors for some time and not let his eyes fall on any other colors.

As per the monks' instructions, the millionaire purchased barrels of green color and directed painters to color green every object that was likely to come in front of his eyes.

When the monk came to visit him after a few days, the millionaire's servants ran with buckets of green paint and poured it on him since he was in a red dress, lest their master not see any other color and his eye ache come back.

Hearing this, the monk laughed and said, "If only you had purchased a pair of green spectacles worth just a few rupees, you could have saved these walls, trees, pots, and all other articles. Also, this could have saved a large share of your fortune."

You cannot paint the world green. Let us change our vision, and the world will appear accordingly. It is foolish to shape the world; let us shape ourselves first.

Let's change our vision!



#41

A son took his old father to a restaurant for an evening dinner.

As the father was very old and weak, he dropped food on his shirt and trousers. Other diners watched him in disgust while his son was calm.

After he finished eating, his son, who was not at all embarrassed, quietly took him to the washroom, wiped the food particles, removed the stains, combed his hair, and fitted his spectacles firmly. When they came out, the entire restaurant was watching them in dead silence, unable to grasp how someone could embarrass themselves publicly like that.

The son settled the bill and started walking out with his father. At that time, an old man amongst the diners called out to the son and asked him, "Don't you think you have left something behind?" The son replied, "No sir, I haven't". The old man retorted, "Yes, you have! You left a lesson for every son and hope for every father". The restaurant went silent.



#42

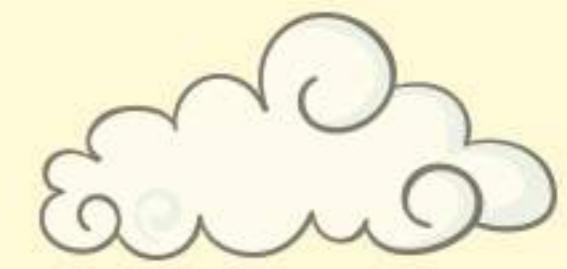
I watched a local football match on a school playing ground. As I sat down, I asked the score to one of the boys. With a smile, he replied, "They are leading us 3-0." And I said, "Really? You don't look discouraged." "Discouraged," the boy asked with a puzzled look, "Why should I be discouraged when the referee has not blown the final whistle? I have confidence in the team and the managers and we shall definitely overcome."

Indeed, the match ended 5-4 in favor of the boy's team. He waved at me gently, with a beautiful smile as he left. I was amazed, mouth wide open at such confidence and such beautiful faith.

As I returned home that night, his question, "Why should I be discouraged when the referee had not blown the final whistle?" kept coming back to me.

Life is like a game. Why should we be discouraged when there is still life? Why be discouraged when your final whistle was not blown. The truth is that many people blow the final whistle themselves. But as long as there is life, nothing is impossible, and it is never too late for you.

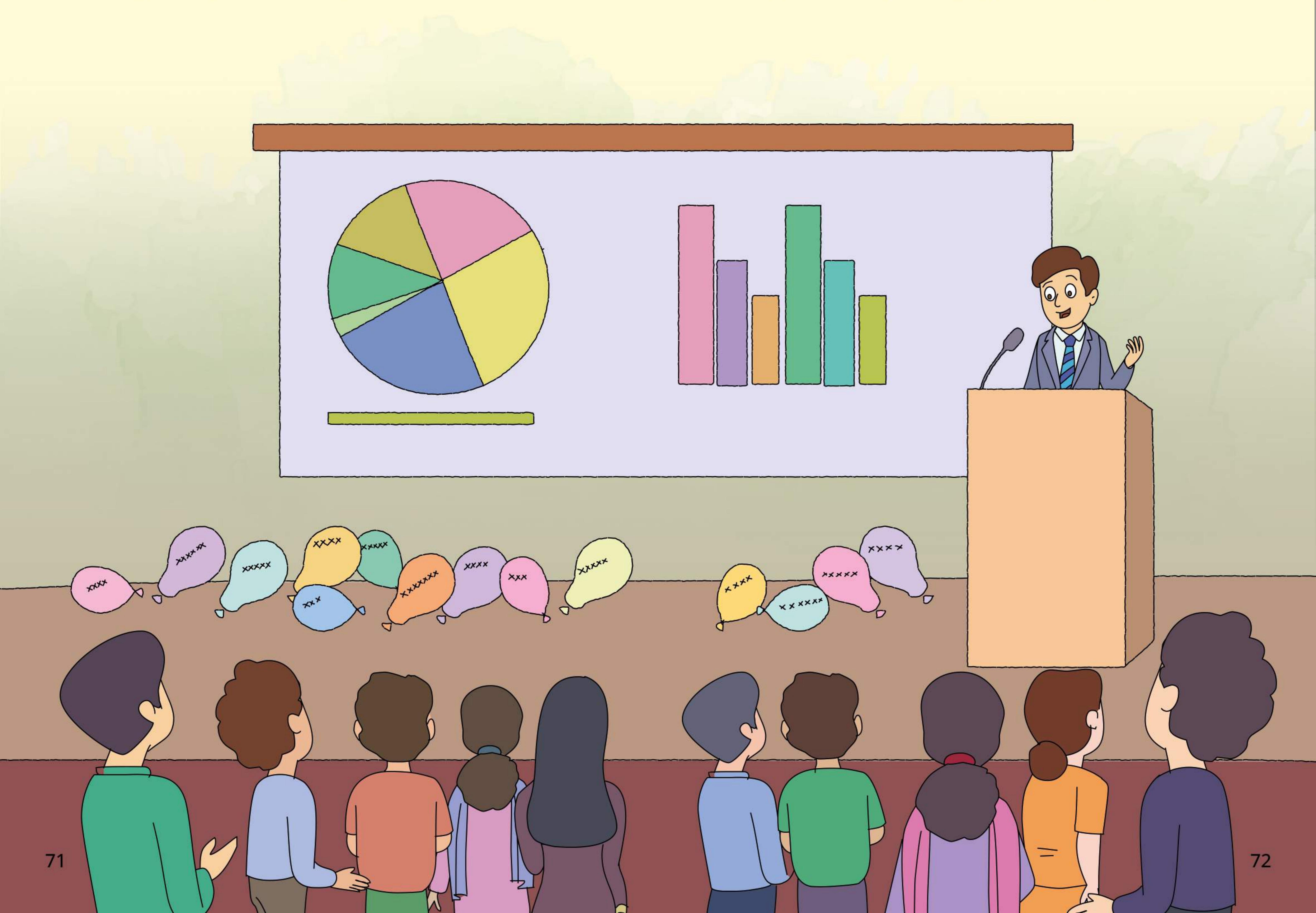
Half-time is not full-time.
Don't blow the whistle yourself.



#43

Once a group of 500 people was attending a seminar. Suddenly the speaker stopped and decided to do a group activity. He started giving each person a balloon. Each person was then asked to write their name on it using a marker pen. Then all the balloons were collected and put in another room. The people were then let into that room and asked to find the balloon which had their name written on it within 5 minutes. Everyone was frantically searching for their name, colliding with each other, pushing around others, and there was utter chaos.

At the end of 5 minutes, no one could find their own balloon. Then, the speaker asked each person to randomly collect a balloon and give it to the person whose name was written on it. Within minutes everyone had their own balloon. The speaker then began, "This is happening in our lives. Everyone is frantically looking for happiness all around, not knowing where it is. Our happiness lies in the happiness of other people. Give them their happiness, and you will get your own happiness."



#44

A boy was watching his grandmother write a letter. At one point, he asked, "Are you writing a story about what we've done? Is it a story about me?"

His grandmother stopped writing her letter and said to her grandson, "I am writing about you. Actually, but more important than the words is the pencil I'm using. I hope you will be like this pencil when you grow up."

Intrigued, the boy looked at the pencil. It didn't seem very special. "But it's just like any other pencil I've ever seen!" he said. "That depends on how you look at things," she replied. "It has five qualities that will make you a person who is always at peace with the world."

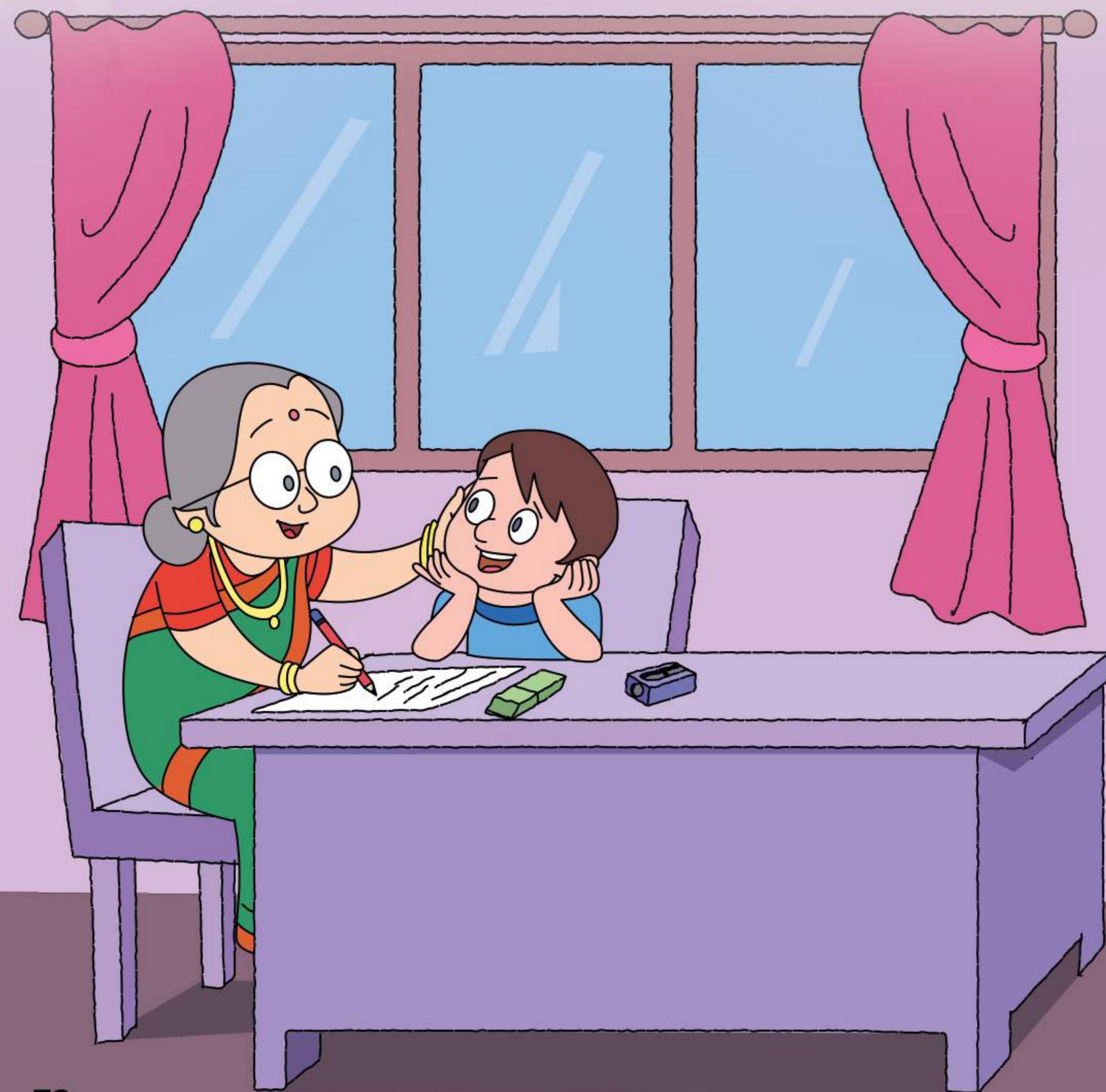
"First quality: you are capable of great things, but you must never forget that there is a hand guiding your steps. We call that hand God, and He always teaches us according to His will.

Second quality: now and then, I have to stop writing and use a sharpener. That makes the pencil suffer a little, but afterward, the pencil is much sharper. So you, too, must learn to bear certain pains and sorrows because they will make you a better person.

Third quality: the pencil always allows us to use an eraser to rub out any mistakes. This means that correcting something we did is not necessarily a bad thing; it helps to keep us on the road to justice.

Fourth quality: what really matters in pencil is not its wooden exterior but the graphite inside. So always pay attention to what is happening inside you.

Finally, the pencil's fifth quality: it always leaves a mark. In just the same way, you should know that everything you do in life will leave a mark, so try to be conscious of that in your every action."



#45

Once, a crow, holding on to a piece of meat, was flying to find a place to sit and eat. However, an eagle started chasing it. The crow was anxious and was flying higher and higher, yet the eagle was after the poor crow.

Just then, Garuda, the bird of wisdom saw the plight and pain in the eyes of the crow. Coming closer to the crow, he asked, "What's wrong? You seem to be very disturbed and in stress?" The crow cried, "Look at this eagle! It is after me to kill me".

Garuda spoke, "Oh my friend!! That eagle is not after you to kill you. It is after that piece of meat that you are holding in your beak. Just drop it and see what will happen."

The crow followed the advice of Garuda and dropped the piece of meat, and there you go, the eagle flew towards the falling meat. Garuda smiled and said, "The pain is only till you hold on to it. Just drop it."

The crow bowed and said, "I dropped this piece of meat and now, I can fly even higher."

We carry the huge burden called "Ego", which creates a false identity about us, saying, "I need love, I need to be invited, I am so and so." Just drop.

Do you get irritated fast by others' actions? It may be a friend, parents, children, a colleague, life partner and get the fumes of "anger". Just Drop.

Do you compare yourself with others? In beauty, wealth, lifestyle, marks, talent, and appraisals and feel disturbed by such comparisons and negative emotions. Just drop.

Just drop the burden.



#46

One day, a person met the great Chanakya and said, "Do you know what I just heard about your friend?" "Hold on a minute," Chanakya replied. "Before telling me anything, I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test." "Triple filter?" "That's right," Chanakya continued. "Before you talk to me about my friend, it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you're going to say. That's why I call it the triple filter test." The first filter is truth. Have you made sure that what you are about to tell me is true?

"No," the man said, "Actually, I just heard about it and..."

"All right," said Chanakya. "So you don't know if it's true or not." Now let's try the second filter, the filter of goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good?"

"No, on the contrary..."

Chanakya continued, "So you want to tell me something bad about him, but you're not certain it's true. You may still pass the test, though, because there's one filter left, the filter of usefulness."

Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really."

Chanakya concluded, "Well, if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why to tell it to me at all?"

We must use this triple filter each time we hear loose talk about any of our near and dear ones.



#47

A man caught a bird. The bird said to him, "Release me, and I will give you three valuable pieces of advice. I will give you the first when you let me go, the second when I fly up to that branch, and the third when I fly up to the top of the tree."

The man agreed and let the bird go. The now free bird said, "Do not torture, torment, and burden yourself with excessive regret for past mistakes." The bird then flew up to a branch and said, "Do not believe anything that goes against common sense unless you have firsthand proof." Then the bird flew up to the top of the big tree and said, "You fool. I have two huge jewels inside of me. If you had killed me instead of letting me go, you would have been rich."

"Darn it!" the man exclaimed. "How could I have been so stupid?"

I am never going to get over this.

Bird, can you at least give me the third piece of advice as a consolation?"

The bird replied, "I was merely testing you. You are asking for further advice, yet you already disregarded the first two pieces of advice I gave you. First, I told you not to torment yourself with excessive regret for past mistakes, and second I told you not to believe things that go against common sense unless there is firsthand proof.

And yet, you just tormented yourself with regret for letting me go, and you also believed that somehow there are two huge jewels inside a tiny bird like me!

So here now is your third piece of advice. "If you are not applying what you already know, why are you so intent on gaining what you do not know?"



#48

It all started one lazy Sunday afternoon in a small town near Toronto in Canada. Two school-going friends had a crazy idea. They rounded up three goats from the neighborhood and painted the numbers 1, 2, and 4 on their sides. One night they let the goats loose inside their school building.

The following day, when the authorities entered the school, they could smell something was wrong. They soon saw goat droppings on the stairs and near the entrance and realized that some goats had entered the building.

Looking at this, the school staff started searching all the goats, and soon they found three goats. But the authorities were worried. Where was goat No. 3? They spent the rest of the day looking for goat No.3.

The school declared classes off for the students for the rest of the day. The teachers, helpers, guards, canteen staff, and boys were all busy looking for goat no. 3, which, of course, was never found simply because it did not exist.

Despite having a good life, those among us who are constantly feeling a "lack of fulfillment" are looking for the elusive, missing, non-existent goat No.3.

Whatever the area of complaint or dissatisfaction, relationship, job satisfaction, finance, or achievements - an absence of something is always larger than the presence of many other things.

Let's stop worrying about goat No.3 and enjoy life. Life would be so much happier without the worries.

And don't let the non-existent imaginary goat number 3 waste your time and happiness. Enjoy life with what you have.



#49

Once upon a time, there lived a King who, despite his luxurious lifestyle, was not happy at all.

One day, the king came upon a servant who was happily singing while he worked. This fascinated the king. Why was he, the Supreme Ruler of the Land, unhappy and gloomy, while a lowly servant had so much joy?

The king asked the servant, "Why are you so happy?"

The man replied, "Your Majesty, I am nothing but a servant, but my family and I don't need too much - just a roof over our heads and warm food to fill our tummies."

The king sought the advice of his most trusted advisor. After hearing the story, the advisor said, "Your Majesty, the servant has not yet joined The 99 Club."

"The 99 Club? And what is that?" the king inquired.

The advisor replied, "To truly know what The 99 Club is, just place 99 gold coins in a bag and leave it at this servant's doorstep."

When the servant saw the bag, he let out a great shout of joy, "So many gold coins!" He began to count them. After several counts, he was at last convinced that there were only 99 coins.

He wondered, "What could've happened to that last gold coin?

Surely, no one would leave 99 coins!"

He looked everywhere, but that final coin was elusive. Finally, he decided that he would work harder than ever to earn that 100th gold coin.

From that day, the servant was a changed man. He overworked, became grumpy, and blamed his family for not helping him make that 100th gold coin.

And he had stopped singing while he worked.

The king was puzzled after witnessing this drastic transformation.

The advisor said, "Your Majesty, the servant has now officially joined The 99 Club."

He continued, "The 99 Club is a name given to those who have enough to be happy but are never content, because they always want that extra 1, saying to themselves, "Let me get that one final thing, and then I will be happy for life."

Moral: We can be happy with very little in our lives, but the minute we're given something bigger and better, we want more and even more! We lose our sleep and happiness as the price for our growing needs and desires. That's 'The 99 Club' - zero membership fee to enter, but you pay for it with your entire life!



#50

A man is sleeping at night when suddenly his room brightens, and God appears. God assigns him a task to push the rock placed in front of his room with all his energy.

The man accepted the task and started doing it day after day for many years. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that he had spent his whole day in vain.

Looking at the man discouraged, the adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into his weary mind, "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved." The Satan gave the impression to a man that the task was impossible. "Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving the minimum effort, and that will be good enough."

The weary man decided to make it a matter of prayer to God, "After your instructions, I have labored hard in your service, yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve me, and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. I never once mentioned to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push.

True, you haven't moved the rock. Now you come to me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But is that really so? Look at yourself. You are physically much stronger than before."

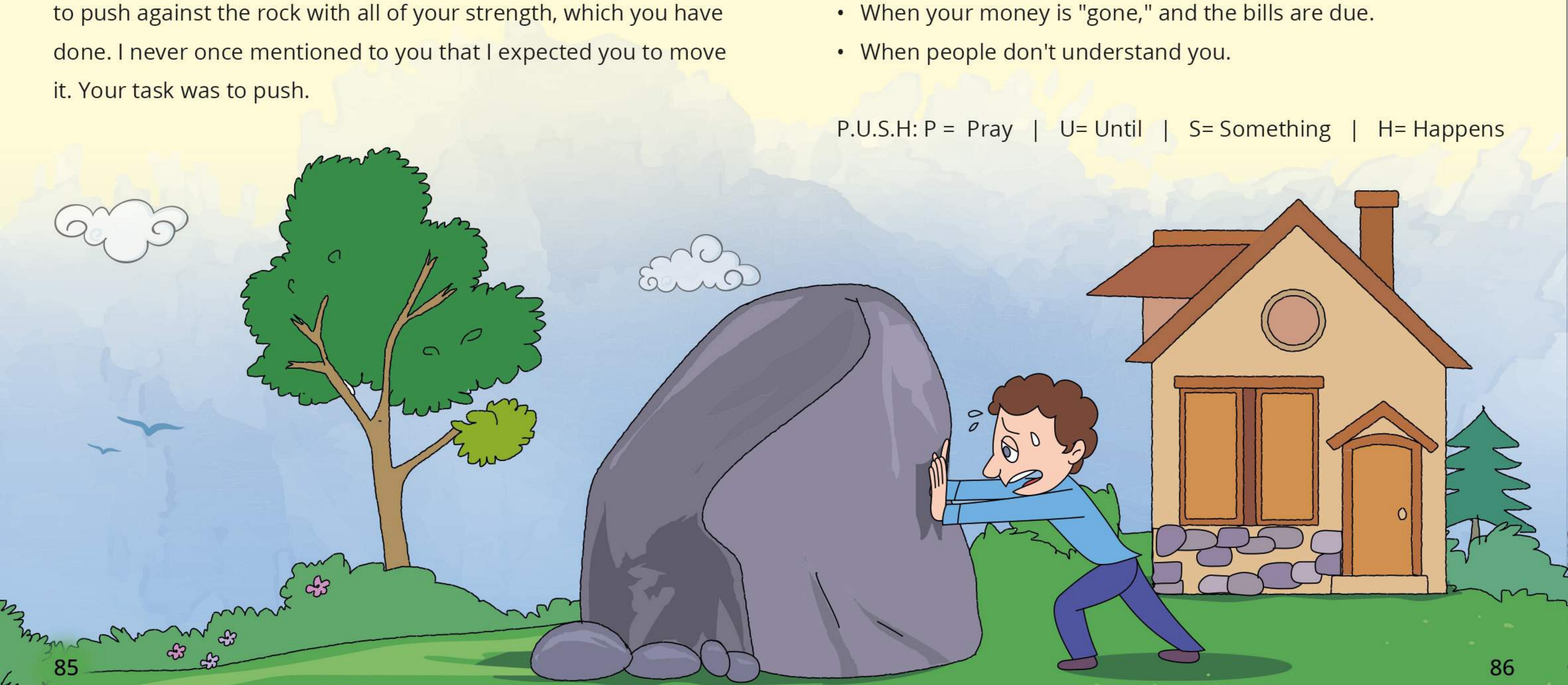
God then replied, "Your calling was to be obedient, push and exercise your faith, and trust in my wisdom. That you have done, now I will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves mountains.

Just P.U.S.H:

- When everything seems to go wrong.
- When the job gets you down.
- When people don't react the way, you think they should.
- When your money is "gone," and the bills are due.
- When people don't understand you.

P.U.S.H: P = Pray | U= Until | S= Something | H= Happens



#51

A beautiful woman entered an aircraft and started looking for her seat. She noticed that her seat was next to a person with both hands missing. She hesitated to sit next to him. That pretty woman told the air hostess that she couldn't sit in her assigned seat and travel comfortably next to that no-arms person and asked her to change her seat. The air hostess inquired, "Madam may I know the reason?"

The pretty lady replied, "I don't like such people. I don't like sitting next to such people and travel." The air hostess was shocked to hear this from this lady, who looked like a well-mannered and polite person. Again, the pretty lady told the air hostess that she did not want that seat and demanded that she find her a different seat.

The air hostess asked the lady to be patient for a little bit and said she would try her best to accommodate her request and looked around for an empty seat. She couldn't find any.

The air hostess returned to the lady and said, "Madam! All the seats in this economy class are full. But then, for the comfort of our travelers, it is our policy to satisfy them to our utmost. So, I will talk to the captain. Kindly be patient a bit longer." Saying so, she went to see the captain.

After some time, she returned and told the lady, "Madam! We are very sorry for the discomfort to you. In this entire aircraft, there is only one seat vacant, and that is in First Class. I talked to our team, and we made an extraordinary decision to send a traveler from economy class to First Class. This is the first time in our company history."

The pretty lady was becoming so ecstatic, and even before uttering a word, the air hostess turned to the person with no arms and said, "Sir, may we please move you to First Class? We want to eliminate the tragedy of you traveling next to a manner-less person. "Hearing this everyone clapped immensely and welcomed the decision. The pretty lady was tremendously ashamed. Then the person stood up and said, "I am an ex-serviceman, and I lost both my arms in a bomb blast. At first, when I heard the lady talk, I thought if I put my life at risk for these kind of people? But after looking at their actions and your response, I feel proud that I lost both my arms for my country." And saying so, he walked into the First Class.

The pretty lady drowned into the seat, ashamed. Beauty is not in what is seen in the face and body. Beauty in a good person is in their thoughts.



#52

A little boy went to his old grandpa and asked, "What is the value of life?" The grandpa gave him one stone and said, "Find out the value of this stone, but don't sell it."

The boy took the stone to an orange seller and asked him its cost. The orange seller saw the shiny stone and said, "You can take 12 oranges and give me the stone." The boy apologized and said that the grandpa had asked him not to sell it.

He went ahead and found a vegetable seller. "What could be the value of this stone?" he asked the vegetable seller. The seller saw the shiny stone and said, "Take one sack of potatoes and give me the stone." The boy again apologized and said he couldn't sell it. Further ahead, he went into a jewelry shop and asked about the value of the stone. The jeweler saw the stone under a lens and said, "I'll give you 1 million for this stone." When the boy shook his head, the jeweler said, "Alright, alright, take two 24 karat gold necklaces, but give me the stone." The boy explained that he couldn't sell the stone.

Further ahead, the boy saw a precious stone shop and asked the seller the value of this stone. When the precious stone's seller saw the big ruby, he laid down a red cloth and put the ruby on it. The precious stone seller walked in circles around the ruby, bent down, and touched his head in front of the ruby.

"From where did you bring this priceless ruby?" he asked. "Even if I sell the whole world and my life, I won't be able to purchase this priceless stone."

Stunned and confused, the boy returned to his grandpa and told him what had happened. "Now tell me, what is the value of life, grandpa?"

Grandpa said, "The answers you got from the orange seller, the vegetable seller, the jeweler and the precious stone seller explain the value of our life.

You may be a precious stone, even priceless. Still, people will value you based on their intellectual status, their level of information, their belief in you, their motive behind entertaining you, their ambition, their risk-taking ability and ultimately, their caliber. So don't fear. You will indeed find someone who will discern your actual value."

Moral: Respect yourself. Don't sell yourself cheap. You are rare, unique, original, and the only one of your kind. You are a masterpiece.

