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# The Washerman, the Donkey and the Lion



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ISBN 978-93-86458-80-3



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Classics for Kids

# The Washerman, the Donkey and the Lion

Story told by  
Indira Ananthakrishnan

Illustrations & Colour  
Sabu Sarasan



This book belongs to

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Editor : Reena J. Puri

ISBN 978-93-86458-80-3

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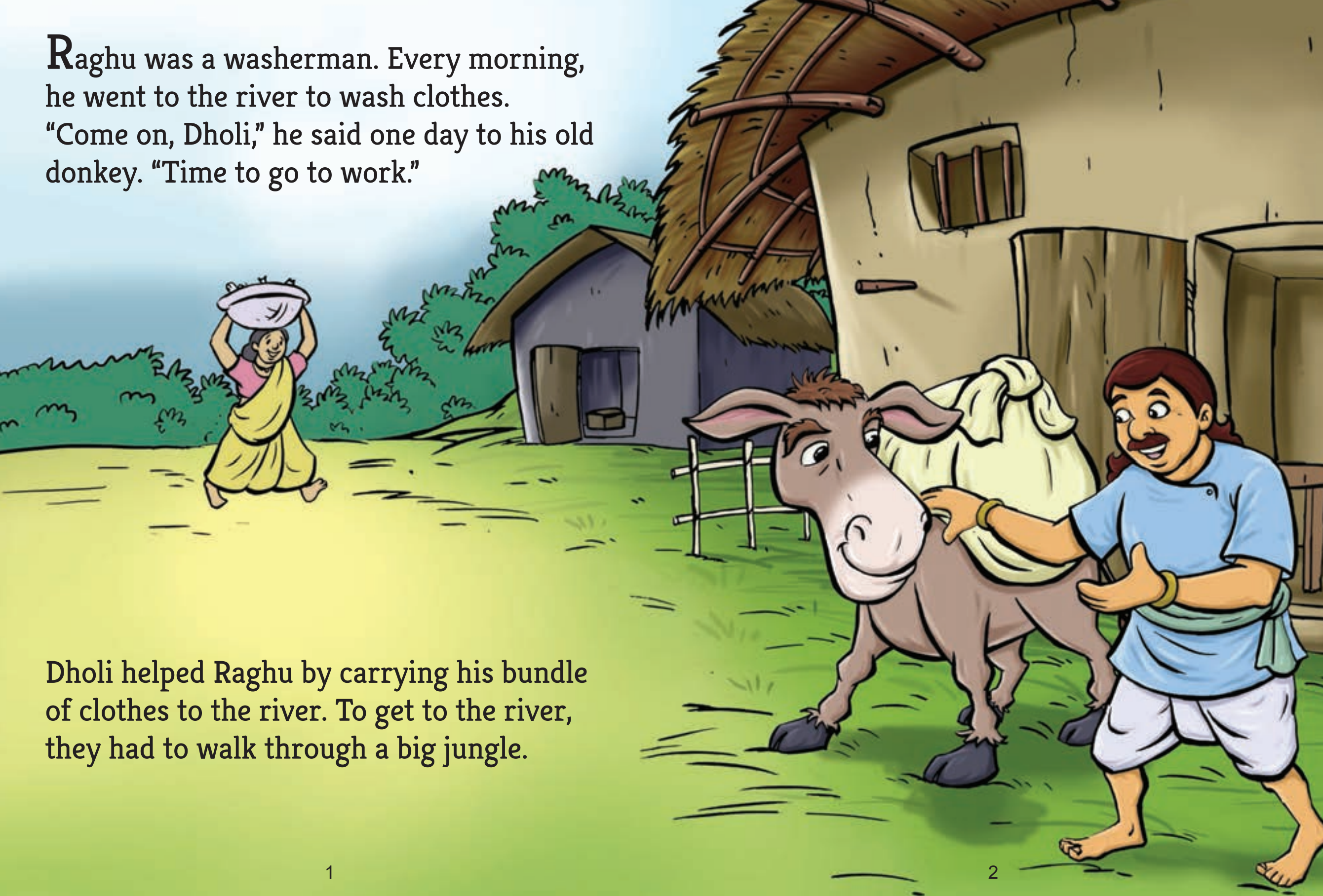
AFL House, 7th Floor, Lok Bharti Complex, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri East,  
Mumbai- 400059

Printed at Indigo Press (India) Pvt Limited,  
Plot No 1C/716, Off Dadoji Kondedeo Cross Road, Between Sussex And Retiwala  
Ind. Estate, Byculla (E), Mumbai 400027

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Raghu was a washerman. Every morning, he went to the river to wash clothes. "Come on, Dholi," he said one day to his old donkey. "Time to go to work."

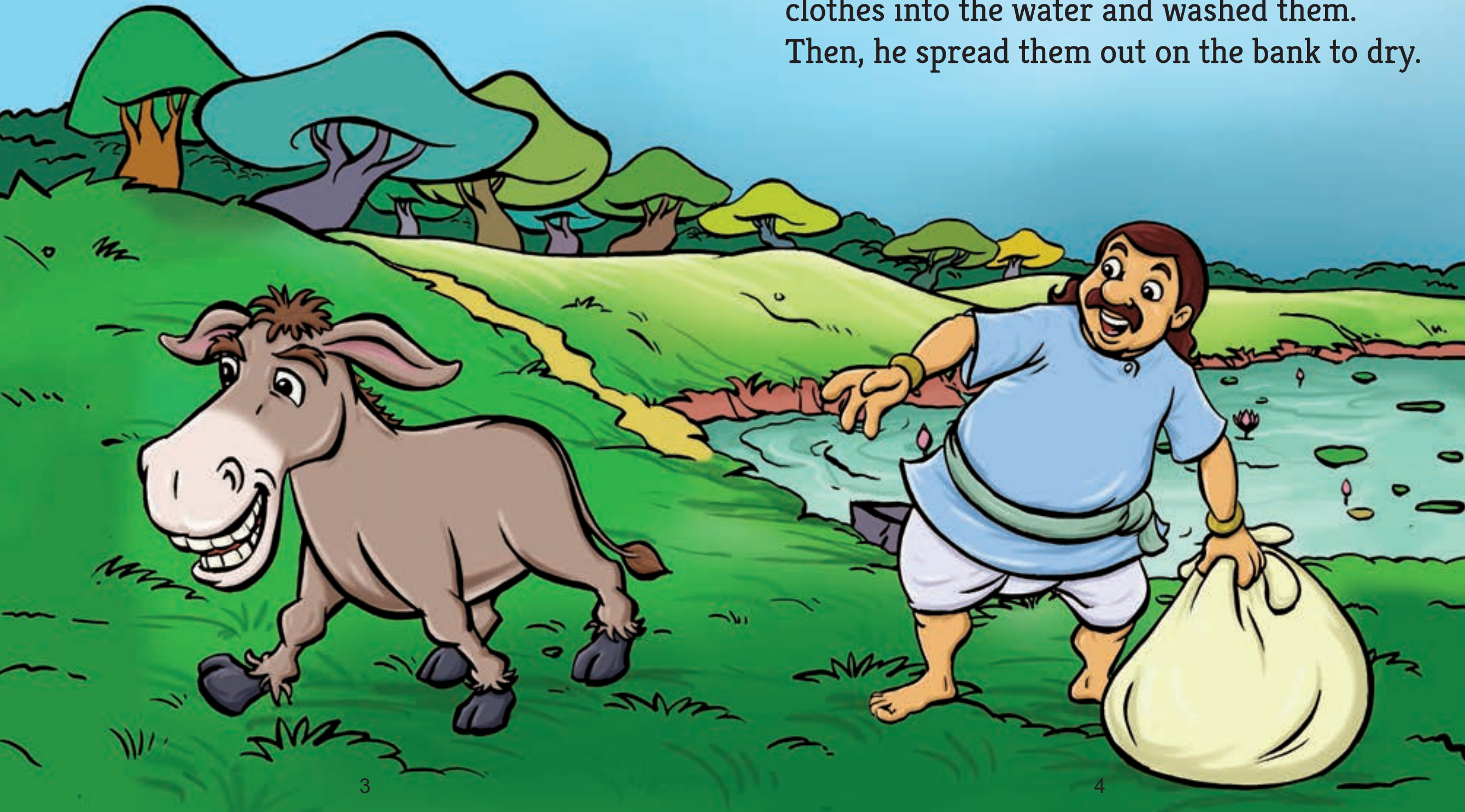


Dholi helped Raghu by carrying his bundle of clothes to the river. To get to the river, they had to walk through a big jungle.



When they reached the river, Raghu took the bundle of clothes from Dholi's back and gave her a small push.

"Go on," he said. "There is lots of green grass for you to eat."  
Dholi went off by herself. Raghu took the clothes into the water and washed them. Then, he spread them out on the bank to dry.





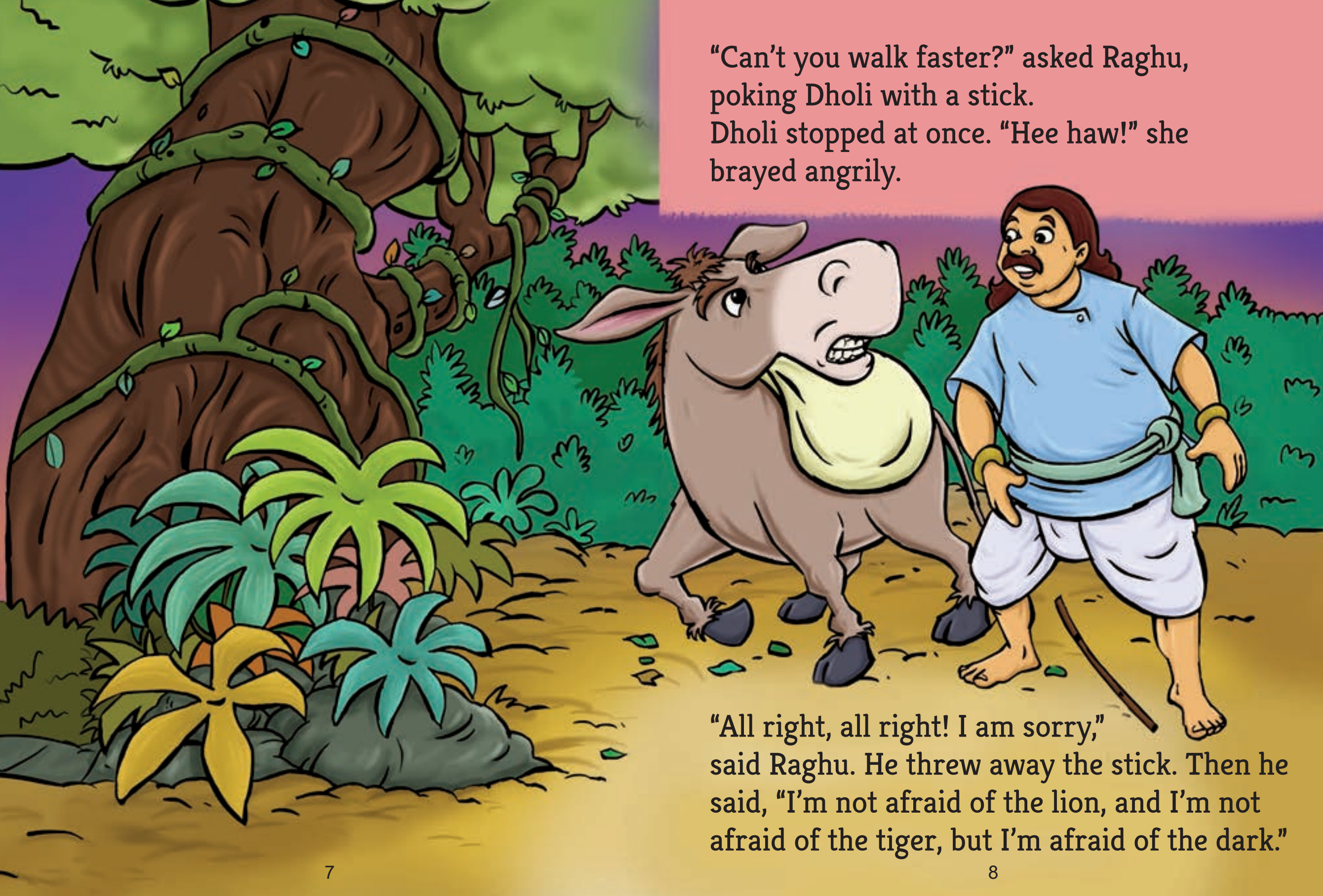


It was a cloudy day. The clothes did not dry quickly. By the time they were dry, the sun was setting.

“Oh dear!” exclaimed Raghu. “We are late today.”

He put the bundle of washed clothes on Dholi’s back. Then, they started walking home through the jungle.





“Can’t you walk faster?” asked Raghu, poking Dholi with a stick. Dholi stopped at once. “Hee haw!” she brayed angrily.

“All right, all right! I am sorry,” said Raghu. He threw away the stick. Then he said, “I’m not afraid of the lion, and I’m not afraid of the tiger, but I’m afraid of the dark.”



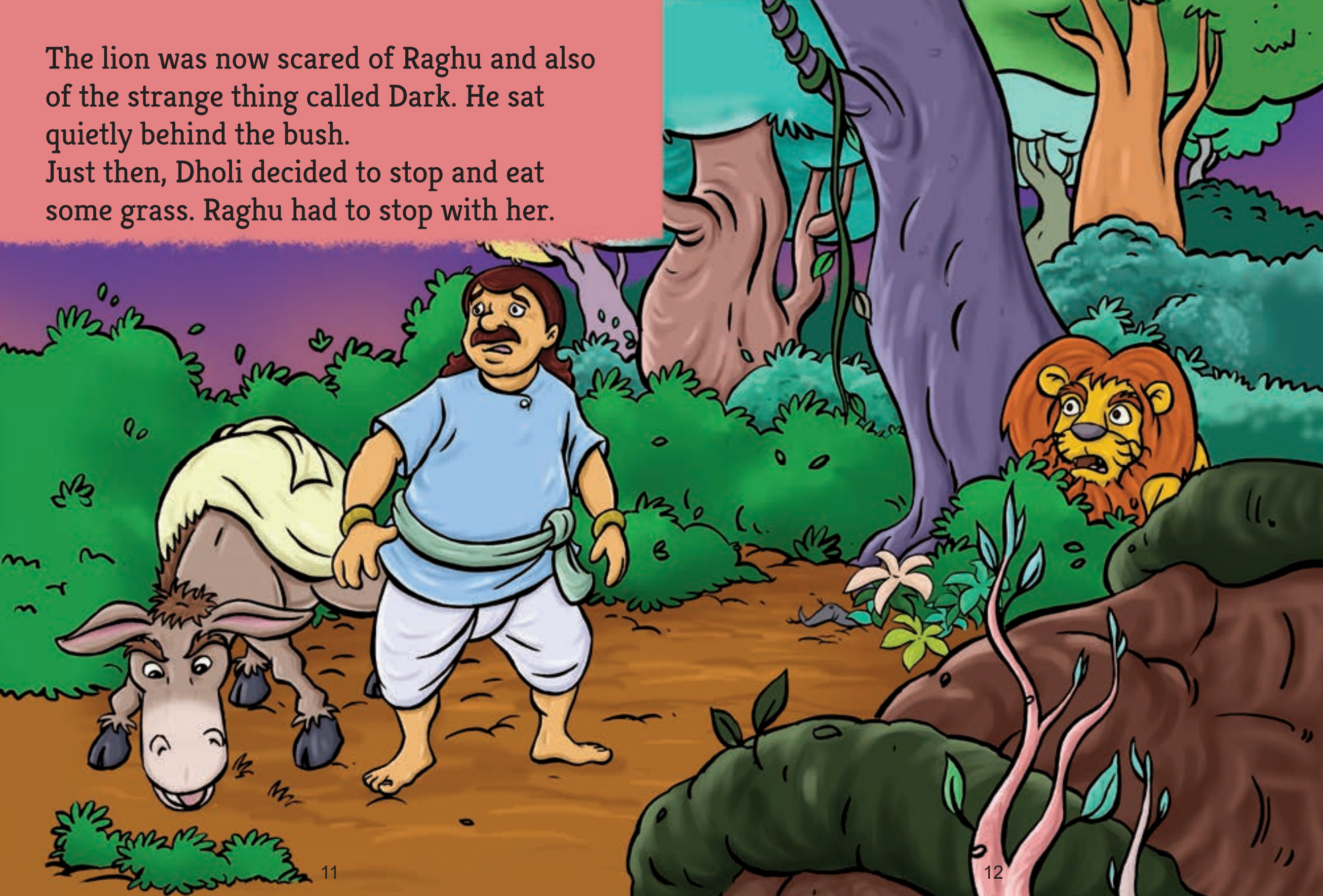
A hungry lion, crouching behind a bush, heard Raghu. He had been about to pounce on Raghu and Dholi but when he heard what Raghu said, he stopped.



"Oops!" he thought, drawing his claws right back in. "This is a very brave man! He is not afraid of me or the tiger but he is afraid of someone called Dark. Dark must be stronger than all of us!"



The lion was now scared of Raghu and also of the strange thing called Dark. He sat quietly behind the bush. Just then, Dholi decided to stop and eat some grass. Raghu had to stop with her.





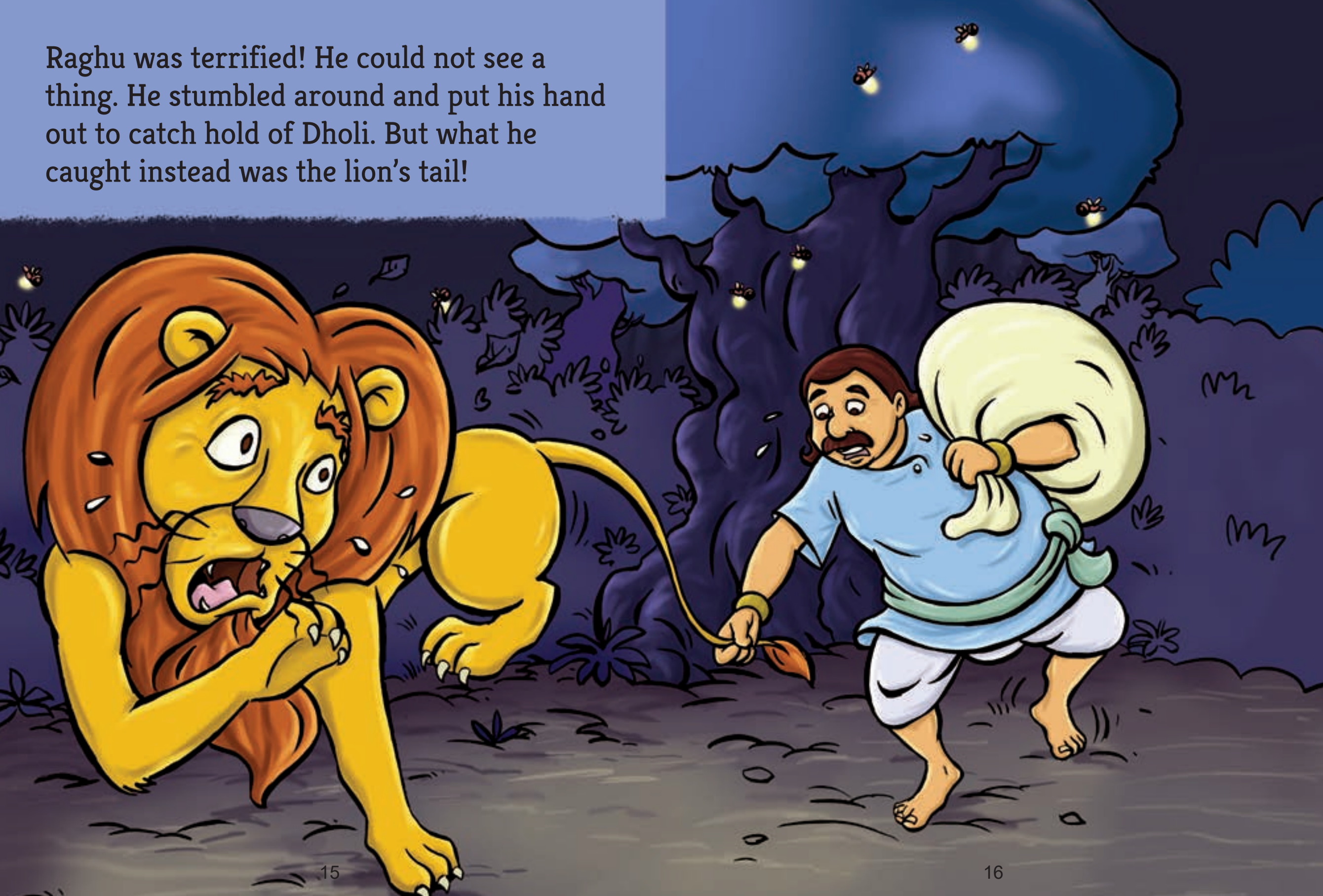
The sun set and it became dark. The only light came from the fireflies shining in the night. "Please hurry up," said Raghu. "We must get home quickly." He caught Dholi's tail and gave it a tug. Dholi did not like this at all.



"Hee haw!" she brayed loudly and shook the bundle of clothes off her back. "Dholi!" exclaimed Raghu, bending down to pick it up. But Dholi was not listening. She had trotted off by herself.



Raghu was terrified! He could not see a thing. He stumbled around and put his hand out to catch hold of Dholi. But what he caught instead was the lion's tail!





"There you are!" he cried, thinking the tail to be Dholi's. "No more fooling around. We are going home at once!"



He held the lion's tail tightly. Then, he put the bundle of clothes on the lion's back with a thump. The big lion trembled with fear and stood still.



Raghu was happy that Dholi was being good and standing still.

“I have been too kind to you,” he said sternly.

“What you need is a good dose of discipline.

Now walk!”


The lion shook and shivered.

Who was this Discipline?

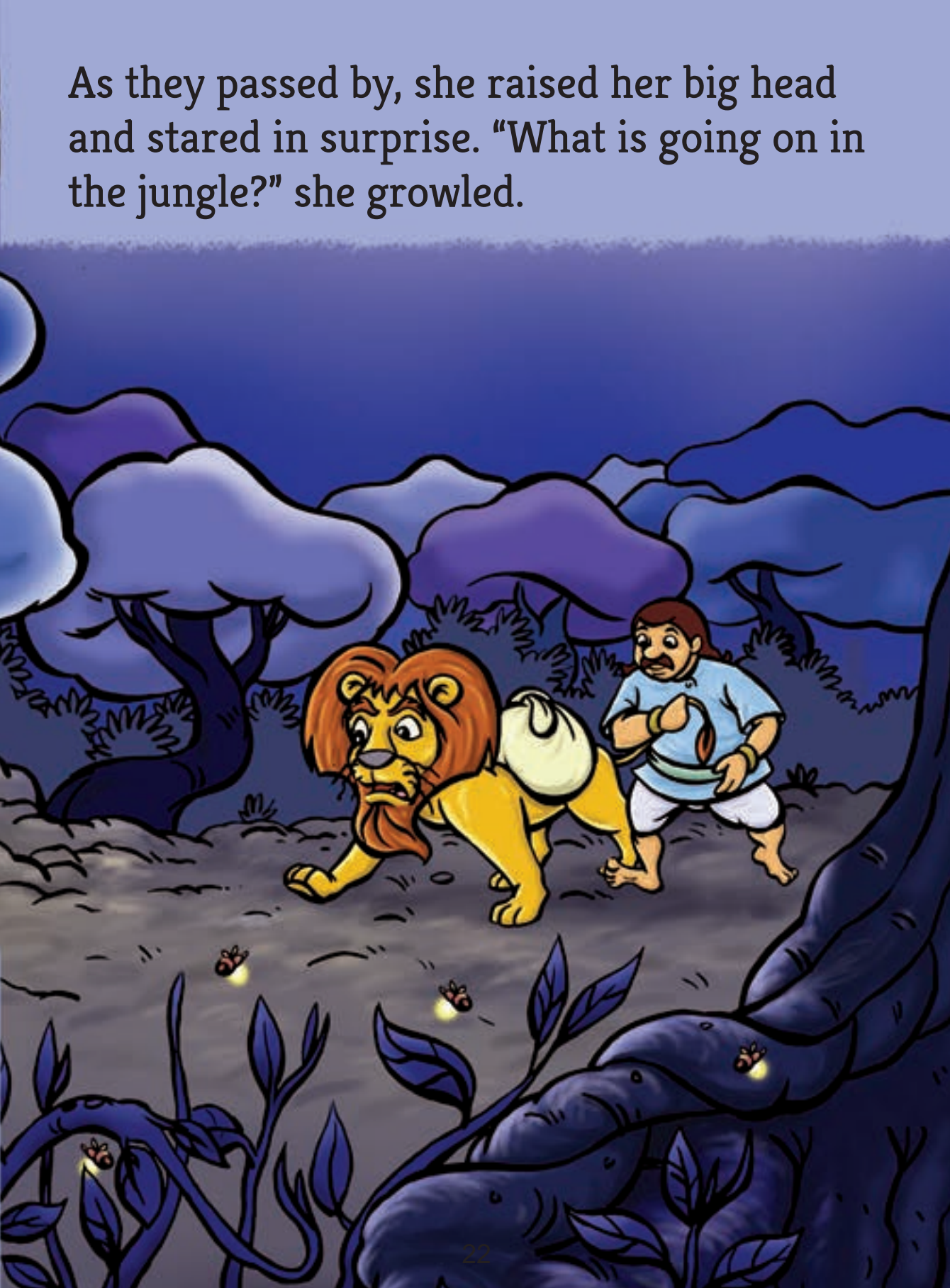


“I’d better do what he says. What if he calls Dark and Discipline?” he thought and walked as quietly as a lamb.





As they passed by, she raised her big head and stared in surprise. "What is going on in the jungle?" she growled.



The jungle was full of strange sounds at night. Raghu shivered with fear as he walked holding the lion's tail. From the top of a rock, someone watched them curiously. It was a lioness.



She jumped off the rock and padded softly next to the lion.

“Why are you letting this man pull your tail?” she asked.



“Shhhh!” said the lion. “Don’t talk so loudly. This man is dangerous.”



“Dangerous?” exclaimed the lioness with a loud snort.

Raghu heard the snort.

“Wha . . . what was that?” he cried, looking around.

“What do you mean dangerous?” whispered

the lioness. “He is just a man!”

“No! He knows Dark and he knows Discipline!” the lion croaked back.

“Hurry, hurry!” cried Raghu, pulling hard at the lion’s tail.







“Rubbish!” said the lioness. “I am going to roar and scare him.”

“N-n-no!” squeaked the lion. “He will pull off my tail!”

But it was too late. The lioness closed her eyes and let out the most magnificent

# ROAR!





Raghu jumped with fright.  
He dropped the lion's tail at once, forgot his  
bundle, forgot about Dholi and ran away as  
fast as he could.

**"Ya-a-a-a-a!"** he yelled, running as  
fast as the wind all the way home.

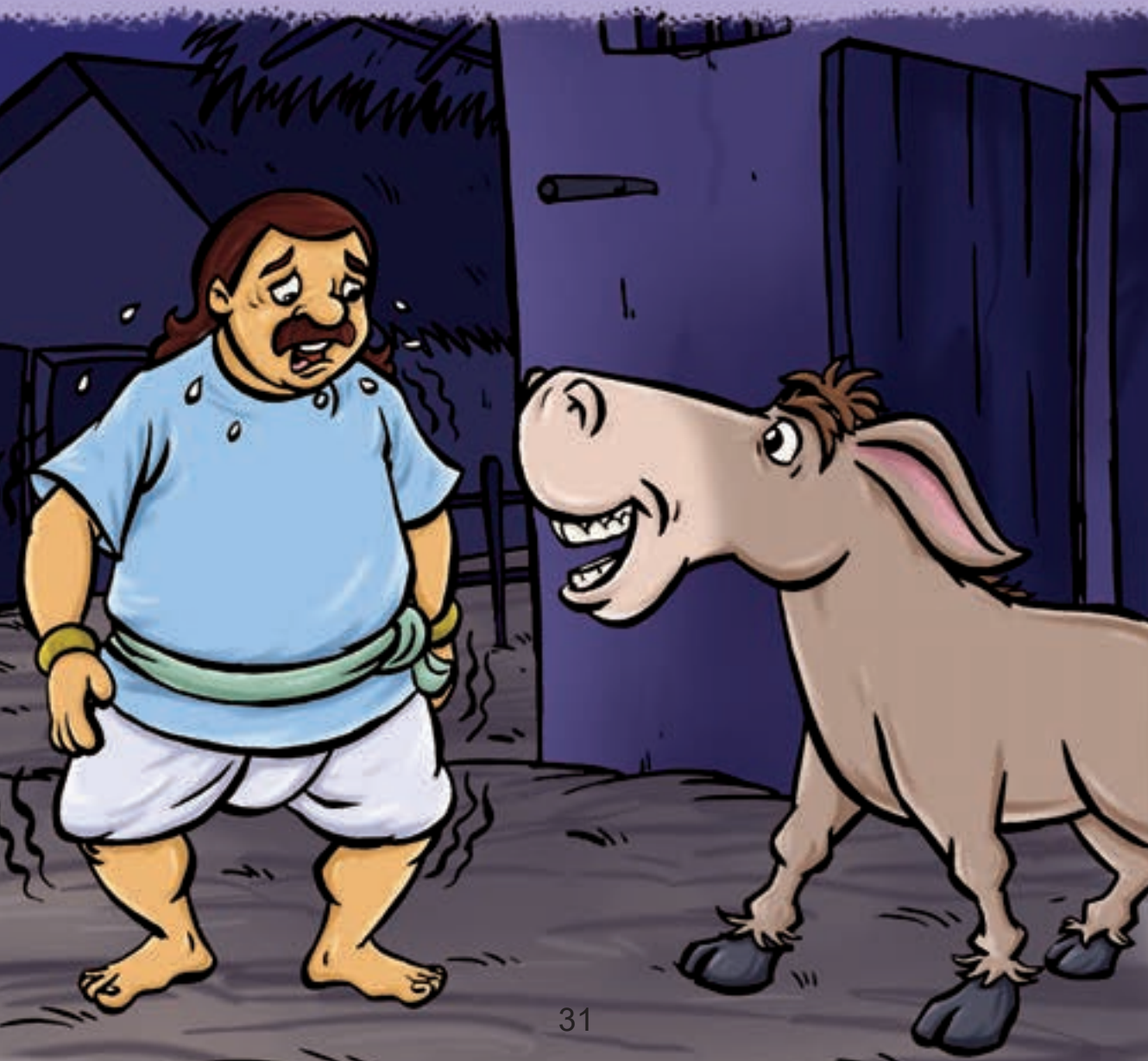


Dholi was already home when Raghu reached there.

"It's good that you ran so fast!" cried Raghu.

"There were ten lions chasing us."

Dholi raised one ear, shook her head and went off to eat some hay.



Back in the jungle, the lion looked at the lioness.

"You are very brave, my dear!" he said.

"Not just brave," she smiled. "I am also sensible".



# Learning

<b>Bundle</b>	Things tied up in a cloth
<b>Cloudy</b>	When the sky is covered with clouds
<b>Guarding</b>	Looking after
<b>Crouching</b>	To sit with the body close to the ground
<b>Claws</b>	Sharp, curved nails of a bird or animal
<b>Tug</b>	To pull sharply

# Ladder

<b>Discipline</b>	Training someone to follow rules
<b>Padded</b>	To walk softly without making a sound
<b>Magnificent</b>	Grand
<b>Sensible</b>	To be able to think and see clearly







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# AFTER THE STORY...

Donkeys are used in some places for guarding goats and sheep.

Fireflies are flying insects that produce light.

Donkeys like eating so much that they don't know when to stop!

The lioness hunts and brings food for her family.

The thick hair that a lion has around his head and neck is called a mane.

Lions need big jungles to live in.

