BRINGING UP THE KARI

Kari was a five-month-old baby elephant. He lived and grew up with his nine-year-old keeper, the author. Growing together, the author never realized how tall Kari was. Kari lived under a thatched roof with thick tree trumps which made strong pillars of a pavilion. Kari loved bathing in the river in the morning. He did not eat much, only about forty pounds of twigs a day. Kari liked the young branches of the Banyan tree apart from the tender twigs and saplings.

One day, while collecting twigs for Kari, the author suddenly heard Kari calling to him in the distance. The author, thinking that somebody was hurting him, ran very fast to the place where he had left Kari. Kari pulled the author into the water. The author saw a boy at the bottom of the river. Finally, after a little struggle they both managed to save the boy's life.

Kari was trained for being good and was scolded whenever he was naughty. Once he was given some ripe bananas by someone and he started liking them. After that he started stealing bananas from the dining table. The author was blamed for having stolen them. But one day the author saw Kari picking up the bananas. The author pulled him by the ear and told him that he would be whipped if he ever steals. Kari was a proud animal and was offended by this so much that he never repeated the

his he ate bananas only when he was given by somebody.

Though he was a quick learner and learnt the command 'Mali' (a signal to walk) in three lessons, it took him to learn another command 'Dhat' ( a signal to sit) in three weeks. The most difficult thing to teach an elephant is the 'Master Call'. It generally takes an elephant five years to learn the 'master call'. The 'master call' is a howling and hissing sound that the master makes in the elephant's ear. A trained elephant understands this and starts making a road through the jungle.

Once the elephant hear this sound, he pulls down the tree in front of him with his trunk. This frightens all the animals away. Then the elephant pulls down the next tree and the next, and the next. Soon you will find that he has made a road right through the jungle straight to your house.

THE DESERT

A place without water and vegetation is generally called a desert. It is popularly believed that it is an area of endless sand with no greenery, an area which is dry, hot and without shade. But this is not entirely correct because it can be a beautiful place which is a home to many people, animals and plants that have

learnt to live under very hot and dry conditions.

There is no green grass or trees but when it rains, the desert flowers bloom and offer a beautiful scene. Deserts also have mountains and hills. They have oasis which is a green patch with a spring or well. Desert may be hot like Thar or cold like Ladakh.  Those places which have little water and vegetation are called desert.

In deserts, strong winds carry away sand and deposit them as mounds called sand dunes. Desert plants and animals learn to survive with less water. For example, camel, also known as the ‘ship of the desert', can drink a lot of water at one time. Camels sweat very little and so they can do without water for many days. Even small desert plants can store water in their thick stems like that of cactus. They can even absorb water from light rains.

Deserts are hot during day and very cool at night because there is no moisture in the air to act as a blanket upon earth's surface. Deserts are an important part of nature’s great plan. They are also like an important place in nature like forests and deep ocean.

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THE COP AND THE ANTHEM

Soapy was a homeless and jobless man. He noticed that winter was fast approaching. He would not be able to spend nights in the park now. Soapy had to find some way to protect himself from the cold winter. He decided to get into prison on Backwell's island for three months in order to have a warm place to spend winters.

He thought of spending the next three months in the prison on Blackwell's Island where he would get food and bed. At any other place in the city he would have to pay for food and bed. So, Soapy thought of going against the law. First of all, he decided to go to a fine restaurant and enjoy a good dinner. Then he would say that he had no money to pay the bill. Then after, the police would be called and he would be sent to prison by the judge.

His face was clean and his coat was ok he went to a restaurant but the waiters blocked his entry. This plan failed. Soapy then tried a second trick. He went to shop with a glass window and threw a big stone through the glass. A cop reached but he did not think that Soapy had done it because he had not tried to run away. Instead the cop ran after another man whom he saw running. Soapy was shocked that he had failed twice.

He went to a simple restaurant. He enjoyed dinner and said he had no money to pay the bill. But the owner did not bother to call the police. He just threw him out. His dream of going to the jail was again not fulfilled.

After that, he began shouting and dancing on the street as if he had drunk too much. The cop ignored him, thinking that he was a noisy college boy. He then picked up the umbrella of a man and thought that he would be handed over to the police. But the man himself was a thief who had stolen the umbrella in the morning.

On his way back to his park, Soapy saw his childhood home. He stood there and listened to the sweet music which was being played by the new owner. He remembered his past which was full of hopes and friends. He experienced a sudden change of heart. He thought of changing himself. He would find purpose in life and work and he would prove himself. Then suddenly a cop caught him and asked him why he was hanging around for nothing. He suspected him to be planning something evil. Soapy was sent to Blackwell’s prison for three months by the judge, the next day.