A Camel for Kelam

Author: Anu Chowdhury-Sorabjee
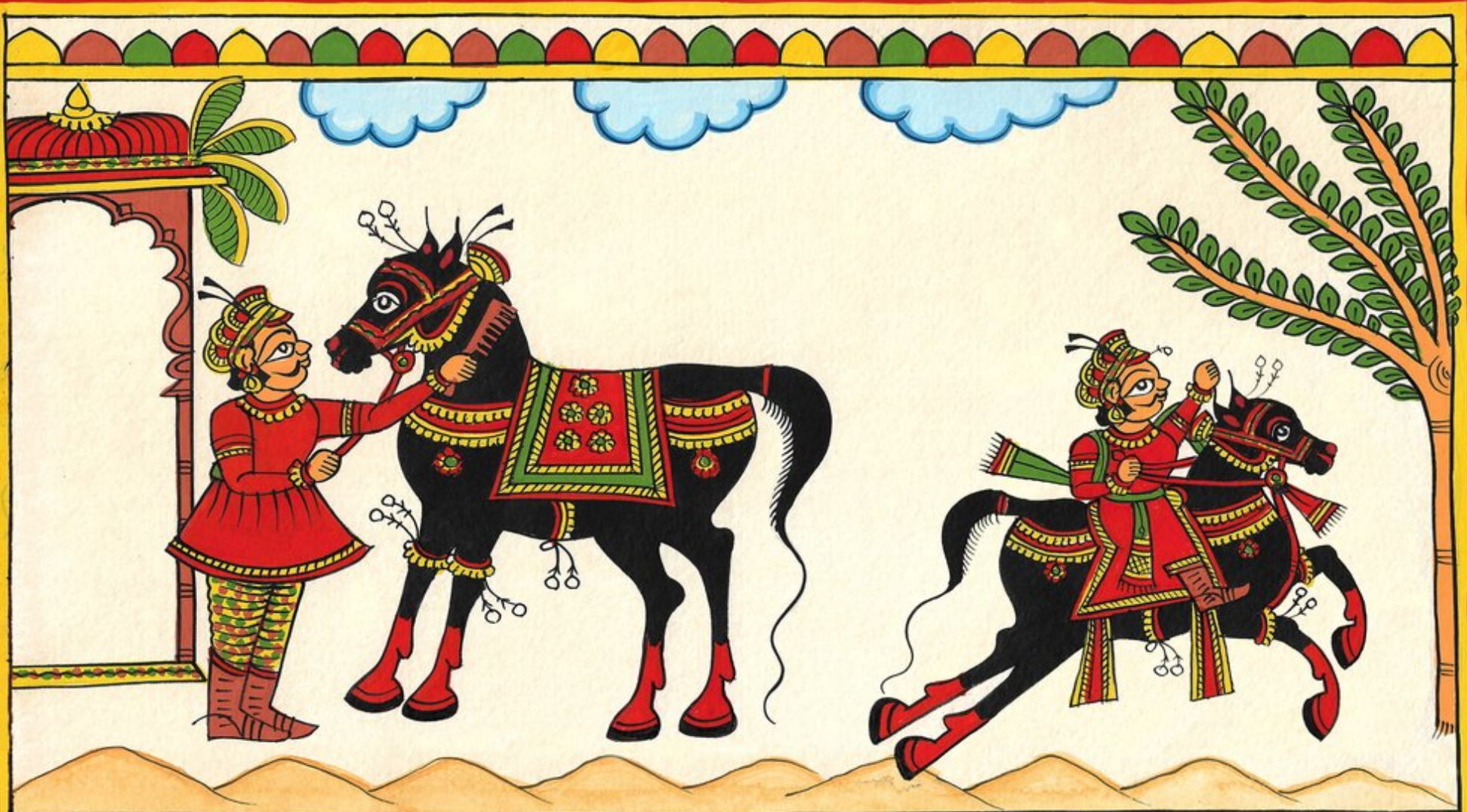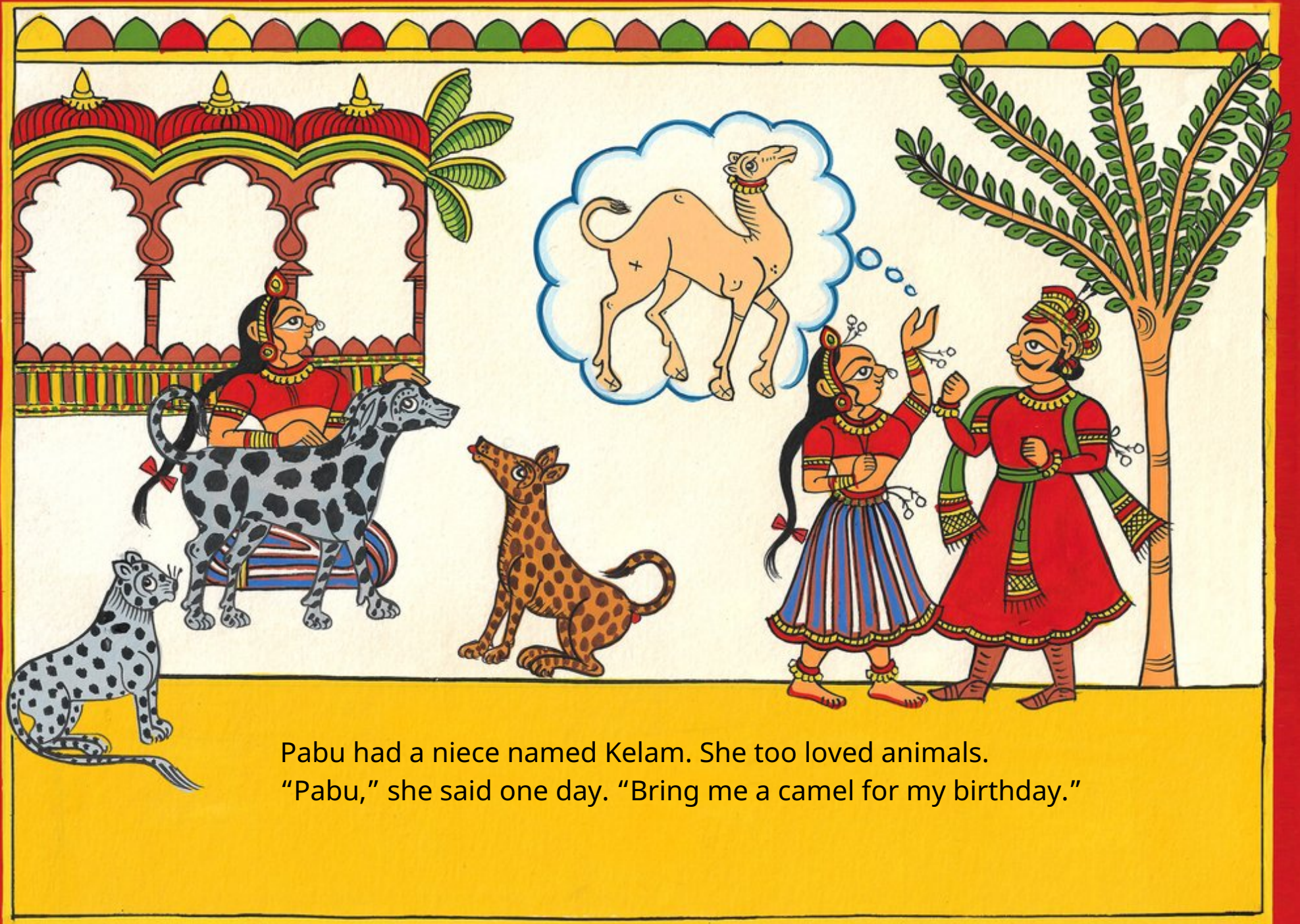**Illustrator:** Kalyan Joshi

Level 2

Pabu loved to spend time with animals. He had a family of four dogs, five cats and a horse named Saffron. He loved Saffron the most.

Every morning, Pabu brushed Saffron's mane and coat.
Then he saddled Saffron and rode into the desert, far beyond his village in Rajasthan.
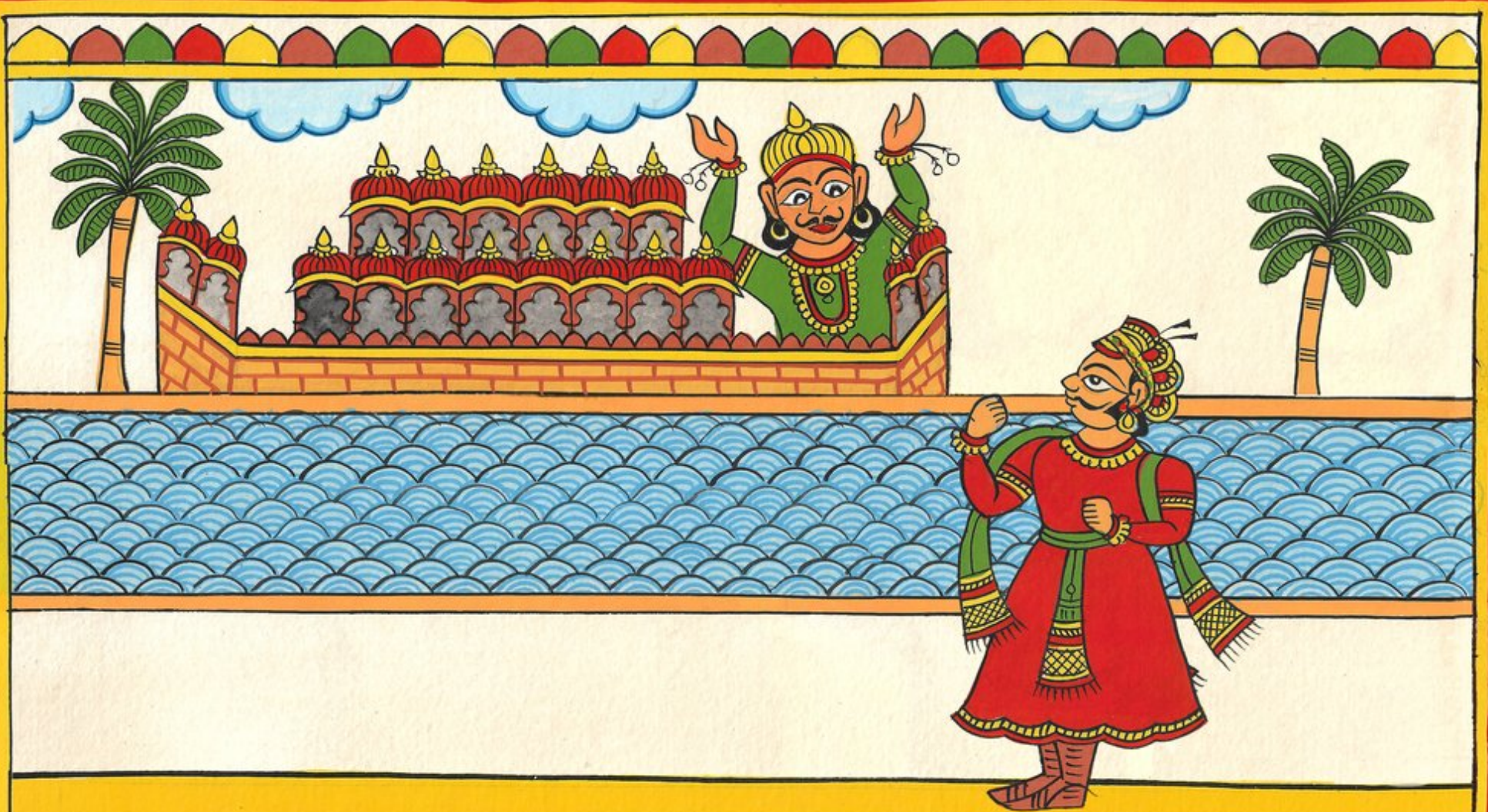
Pabu had a niece named Kelam. She too loved animals.
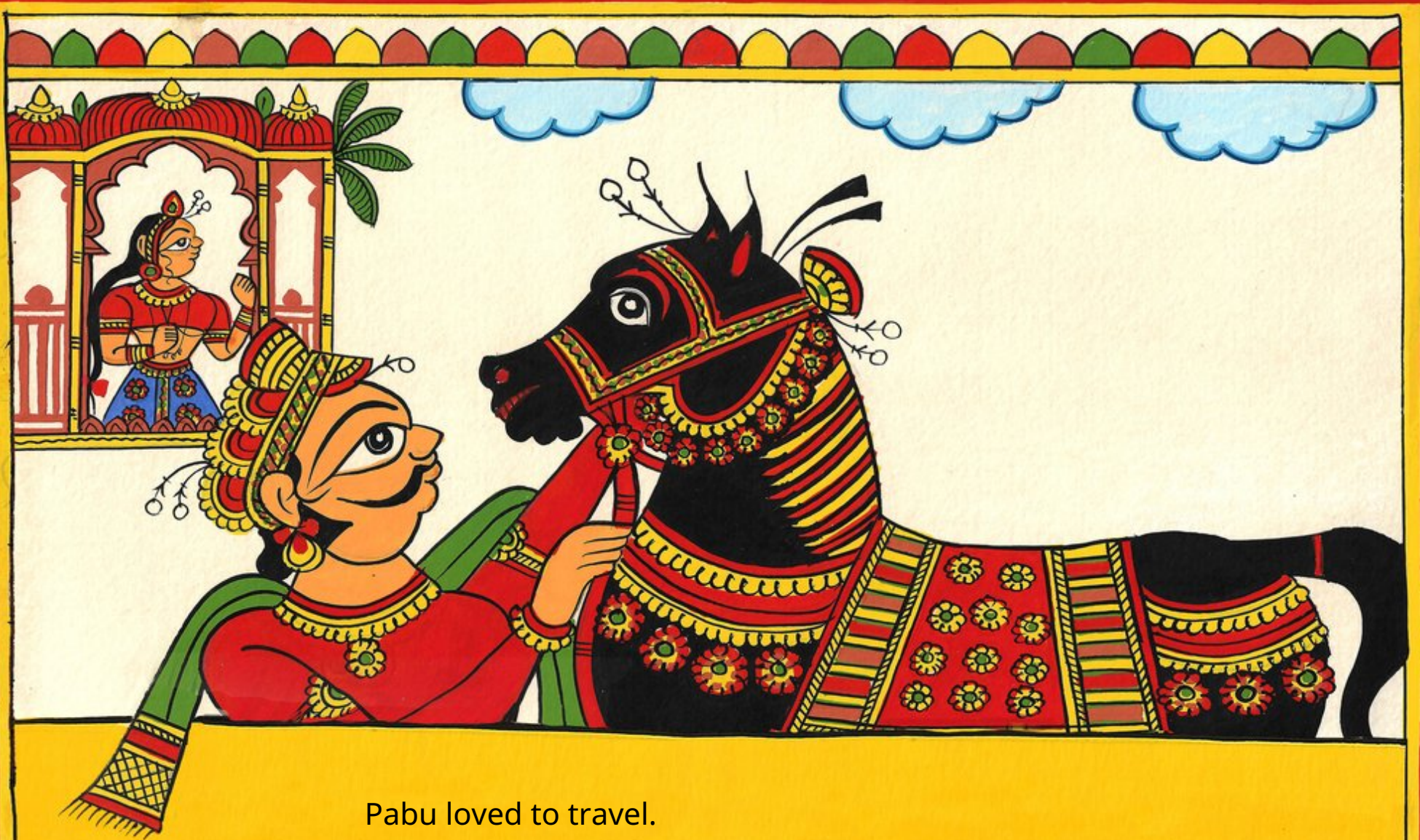"Pabu," she said one day. "Bring me a camel for my birthday."

"Where do I find a camel for Kelam?" Pabu wondered.
"There are no camels in Rajasthan."

People said camels came from Lanka.
It was far, far away, across the big blue sea.
Lanka was ruled by a grumpy king who did not share his camels.

Pabu loved to travel.
He also wanted to see a smile on Kelam's face.
So he came up with a plan.

Pabu saddled Saffron. Then he rode into the desert.
He rode all night and all day and all night again,
till he saw the vast blue sea for the first time.

The sea looked endless and Lanka seemed so far that Pabu
wasn't sure if he wanted to go there any more.
But he and Saffron boarded the next boat.

That night there was a storm, a storm so terrible that the winds crashed and the waves lashed. The boat was wrecked.
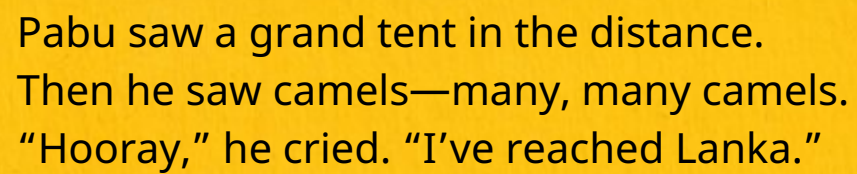
Pabu and Saffron came ashore in a strange place.
There were no trees, no bees, no flowers and no rain, just sand.

Pabu and Saffron galloped away from the sea.
Where were the green trees of Lanka?
Where was the grumpy king? Where were the camels?

Pabu saw a grand tent in the distance.
Then he saw camels—many, many camels.
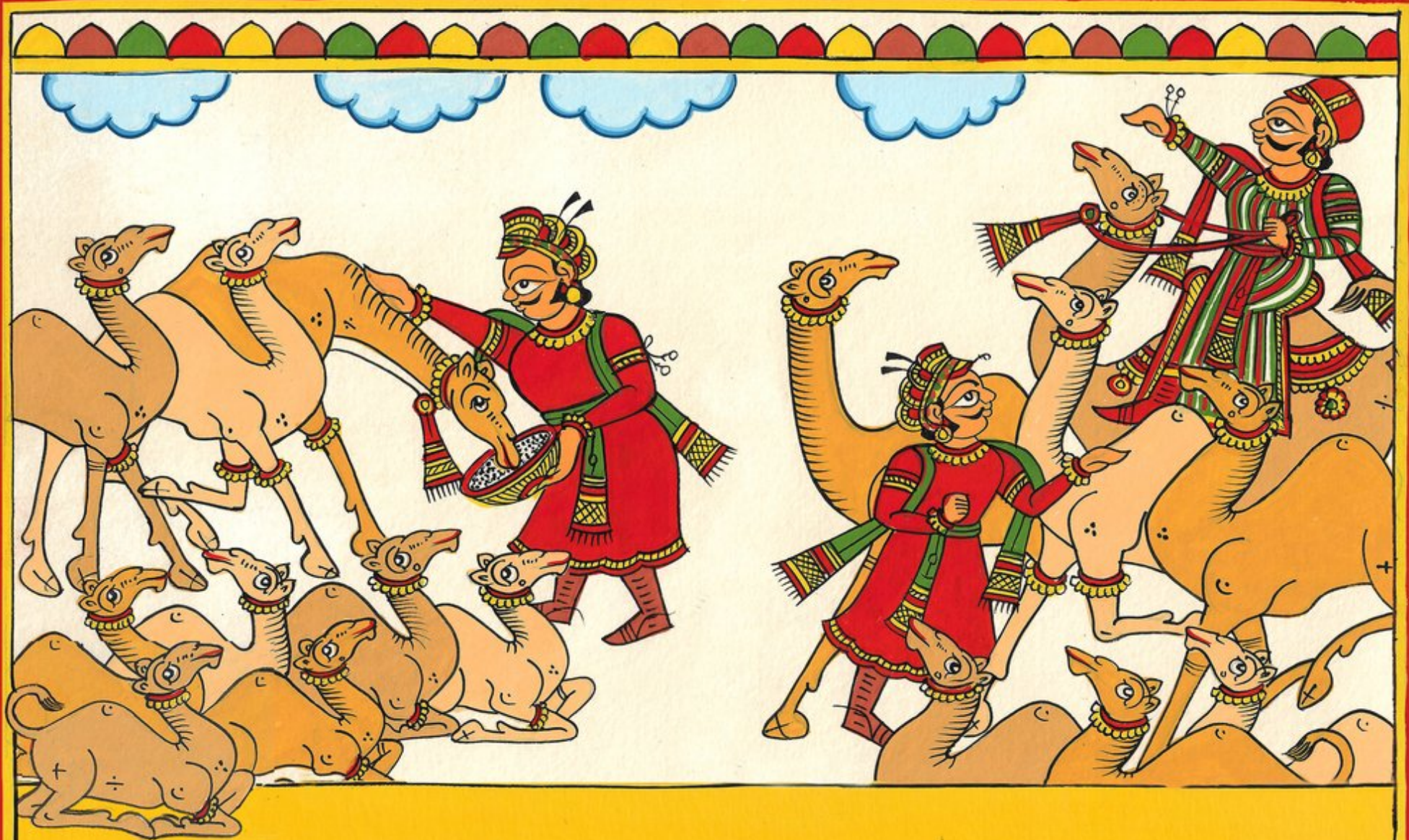"Hooray," he cried. "I've reached Lanka."

Suddenly, Pabu was surrounded by men on camels.
"Welcome," said the leader of the camel riders.
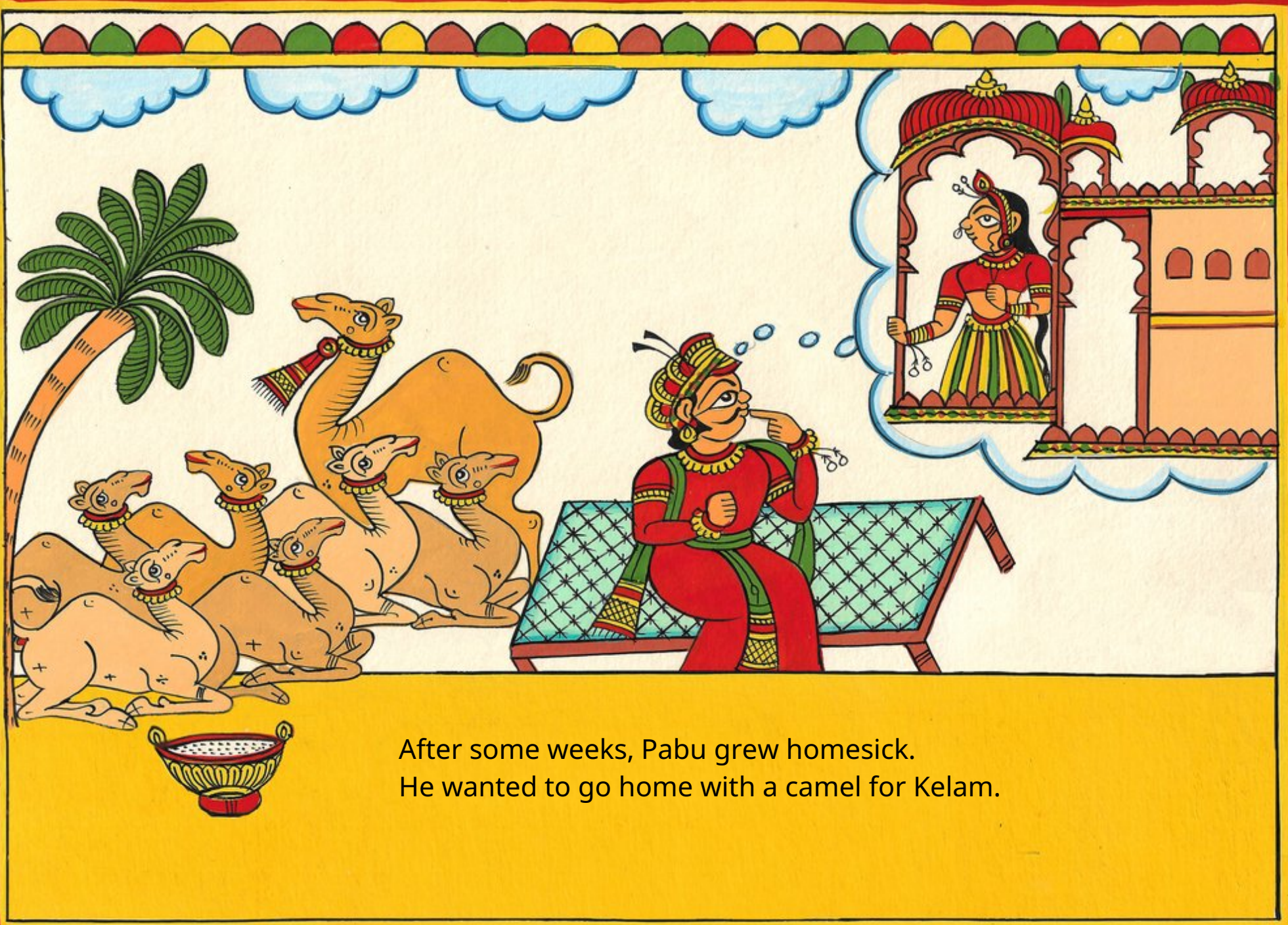He looked like a king and he looked happy.

Pabu was not in Lanka. He had reached Persia.
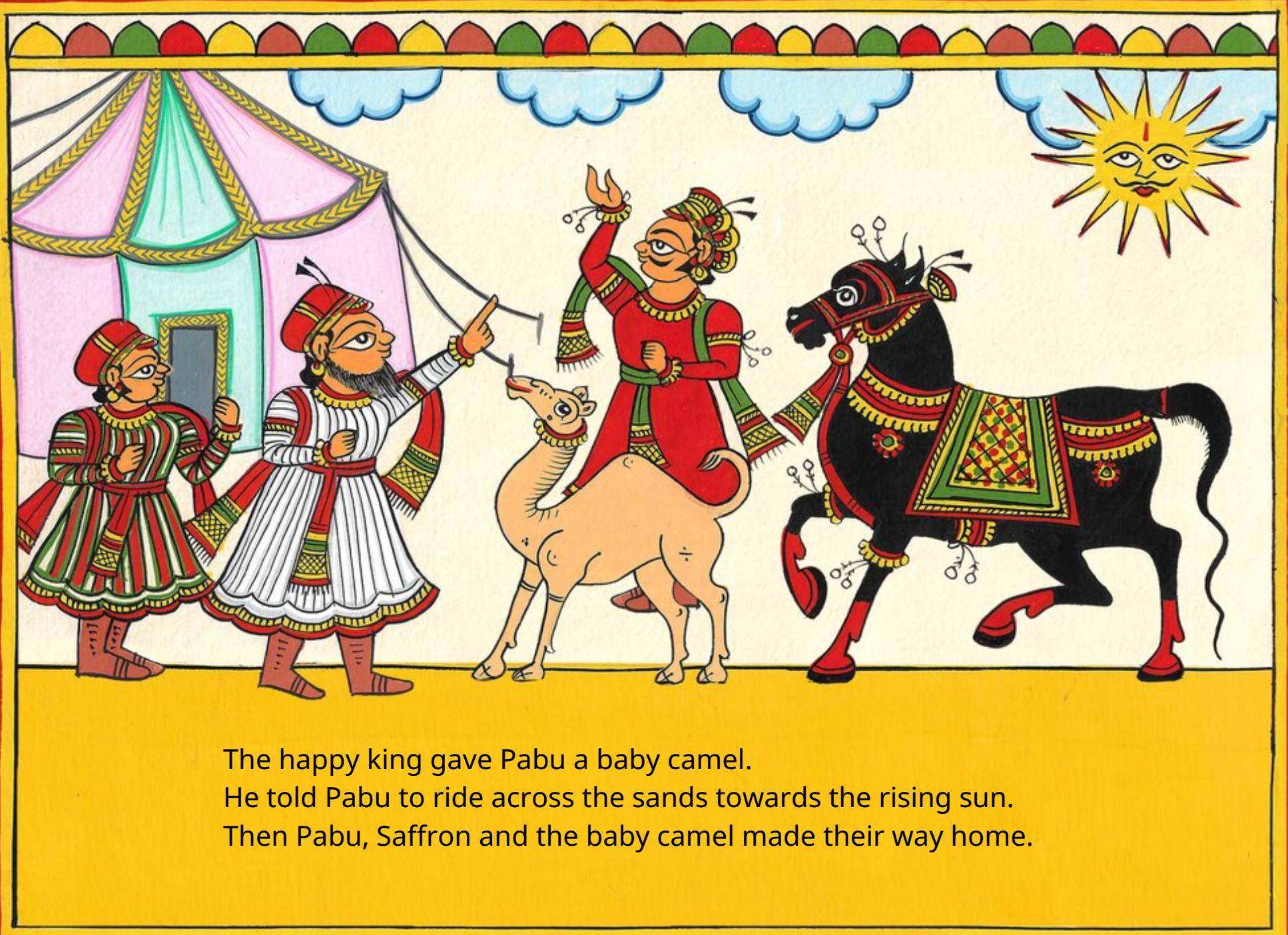He spent many days with the happy king in his grand tent.

He learnt how to groom camels. He learnt that the grumpy king of Lanka had stolen many of the happy king's camels.
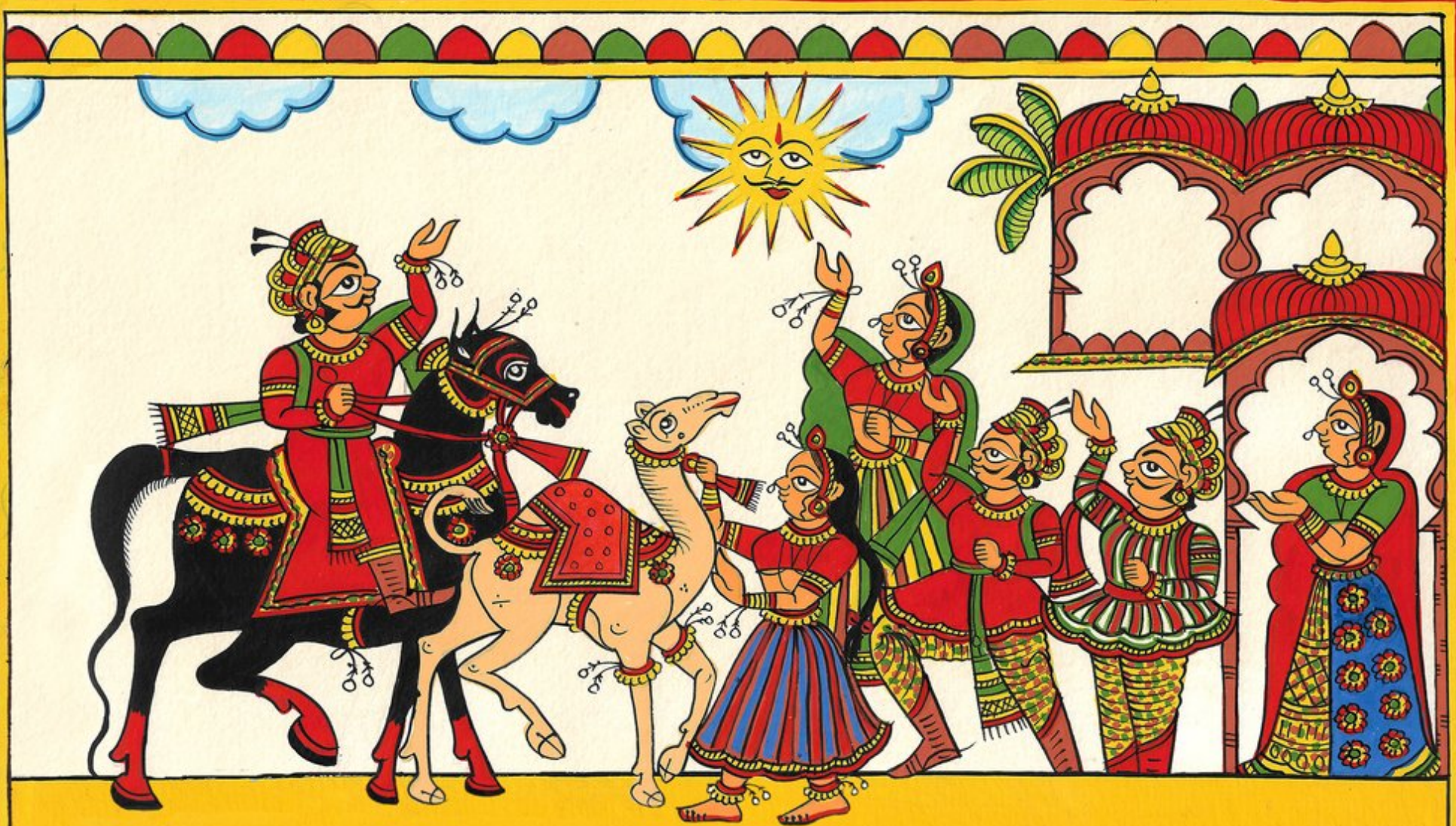
After some weeks, Pabu grew homesick.
He wanted to go home with a camel for Kelam.

The happy king gave Pabu a baby camel.
He told Pabu to ride across the sands towards the rising sun.
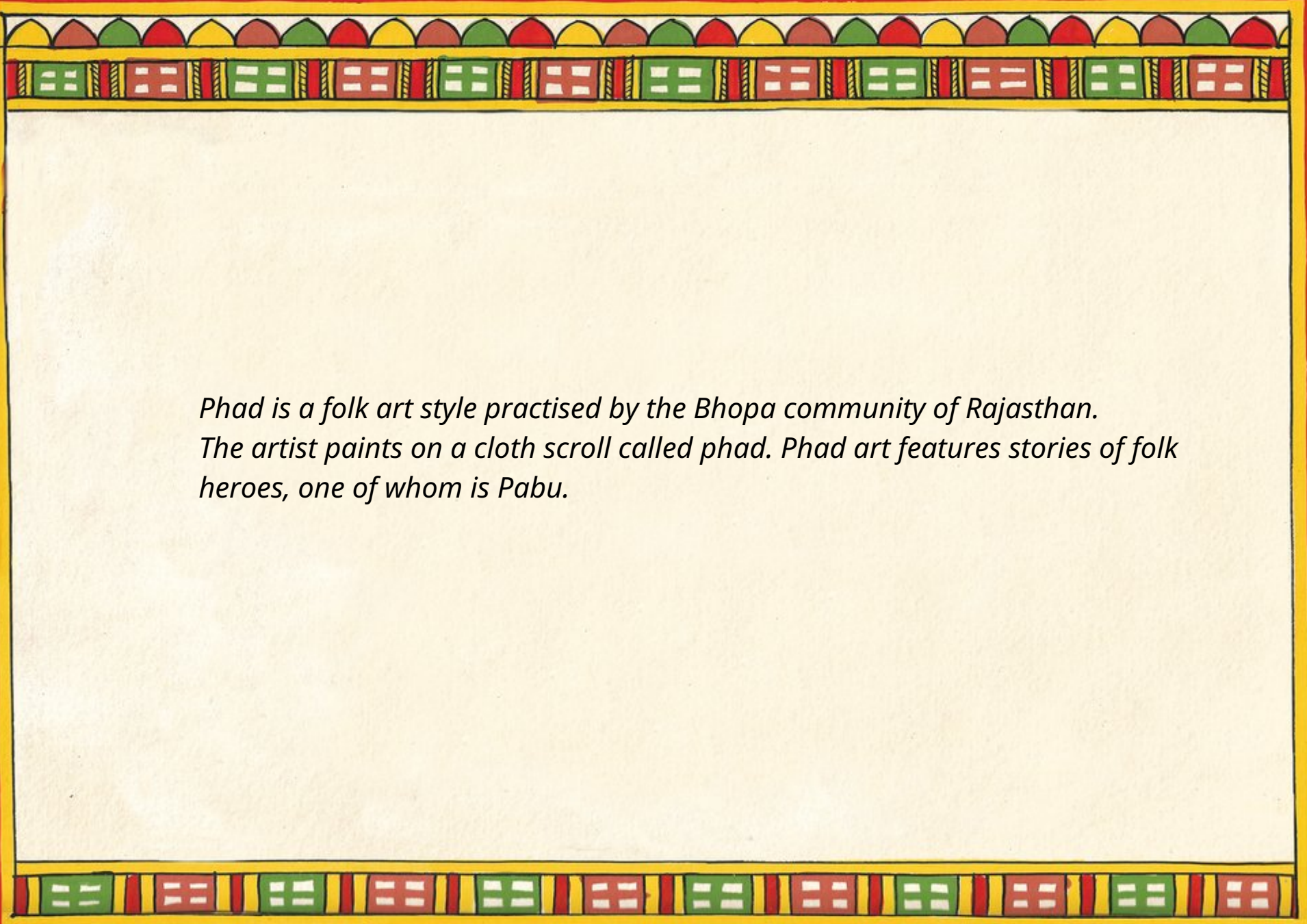Then Pabu, Saffron and the baby camel made their way home.

Pabu reached his village just in time for Kelam's birthday.
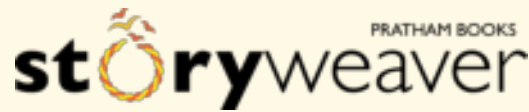The village welcomed Pabu. Kelam welcomed the baby camel.

And that is how the first camel came to Rajasthan.

Phad is a folk art style practised by the Bhopa community of Rajasthan. The artist paints on a cloth scroll called phad. Phad art features stories of folk heroes, one of whom is Pabu.

Story Attribution:

This story: A Camel for Kelam is written by Anu Chowdhury-Sorabjee . © Pratham Books , 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:

'A Camel for Kelam' has been originally published by Pratham Books. The development of this book has been supported by Parag, an initiative of Tata Trusts and EdelGive Foundation. www.prathambooks.org | Guest Editor: Shabnam Minwalla

Images Attributions:

Cover page: A man riding a horse and a woman with a camel by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: A man holding a horse's rein by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: A man and horse standing and galloping off, by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: A woman dreaming of a camel, by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: A woman talking to a man, by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: A man in a palace and one outside by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: A man with a horse and a woman at a window by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: A man galloping on a horse by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: A man on a horse and at sea by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: A man and a horse sailing by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: A man leading a horse by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Images Attributions:

Page 12: A man and horse thinking about a king by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: A man looking at camels, by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: A man on a horse surrounded by men on camels, by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: Men talking and eating, by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: Men and camels, by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 17: A man thinking about a woman by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 18: Three men, a horse and a camel by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 19: People greeting a man on a horse by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 20: A woman on a camel and a man by a horse by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 21: folk art motif backdrop, by Kalyan Joshi © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

A Camel for Kelam
(English)

Pabu's niece Kelam wants a camel for her birthday. So he sets out from Rajasthan for Lanka to look for one. Find out where this journey takes him.

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.

PRATHAM BOOKS
storyweaver