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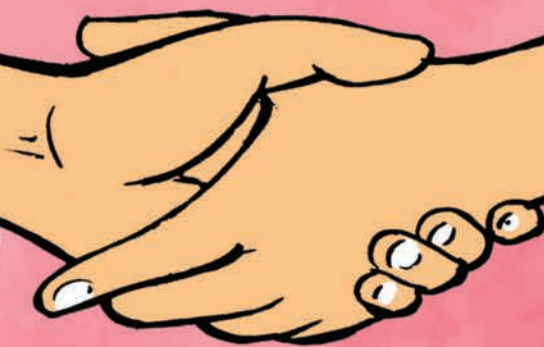
Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

# AKRAM

## Express



COMMON SENSE BLOSSOMS WITH ADJUSTMENT



**Editor :**

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## Editorial

Friends,

It is quite pleasing when we see common sense in others. This means that we like the idea of developing common sense in ourselves.

If you were to observe people who have quite a bit of common sense, you would be able to see some typical traits that they tend to exhibit. One of them is the ability to adjust.

In this month's issue we explore the correlation between adjustment and common sense and how common sense blossoms by adjusting with others.

So get ready to learn how to adjust and thus reap the benefits of common sense.

- Dimple Mehta







# Dadaji says...



**Dadashri:** Have you come across a person who has common sense? To date I have not seen anyone who has common sense. They may be holding high ranking posts but where can they get common sense from? Do people with common sense have arguments at home? Do they quarrel with the ones they have to live with, eat with, drink with and sit at the same table to have meals? If not then that is called common sense. What sort of a common sense is this? Everyone in this whole world is going around with the wrong belief of 'I know something'. What do you know? You still don't know what common sense is, so then how can you claim to know other things?

**Questioner:** If two people were to disagree about something, how is it possible to tell which one of them has the least common sense?

**Dadashri:** Of course you can tell; it is the one who is first to have a difference of opinion. He is the one with less common sense. A person with common sense has the ability to adjust everywhere. If someone were to scold him he will adjust accordingly and say, 'please come, sit down, its fine'.

Common sense is therefore necessary. What happens is - when someone tells you that 'you are stupid', you will feel bad. Hey, don't you have any common sense? Why has your face dropped at such a slight comment? Why don't you try and adjust. Your common sense will increase straightaway.

## Common sense increases by being approachable.

**Dadashri:** This is why I say that if you make time for people and mix with everyone then their love for you will flourish. Moreover, they will start to talk about themselves and if we comprehend and grasp what they are saying our common sense increases. By mixing in with everyone, our own common sense increases.

**Questioner:** You said that we should get on with everyone and have a mixing nature. So if we don't disrespect or insult any one and deal with people with kindness then common sense increases.

**Dadashri:** You shouldn't even be disrespectful to cows or buffaloes so how can you be like that with humans?





## Magical Genie

"For the Annual Day event, Sheel, Gargi and Tanvi will be putting on a play - 'Beauty and the Beast'," announced the teacher. "Girls, the entire play will be your responsibility. You will need to write the script, decide who plays which role and every thing else yourselves."

Sheel, Gargi and Tanvi were super excited. As soon as the school bell rang, all three of them got busy discussing the play.

"I will play the role of Beauty," said Gargi.

"Oh Miss Arrogant, you've decided that all by yourself have you?" I want that part," Sheel remarked.

"Why do you call me arrogant? We all know how arrogant you are!" It didn't take long for a heated debate to start between Gargi and Sheel.

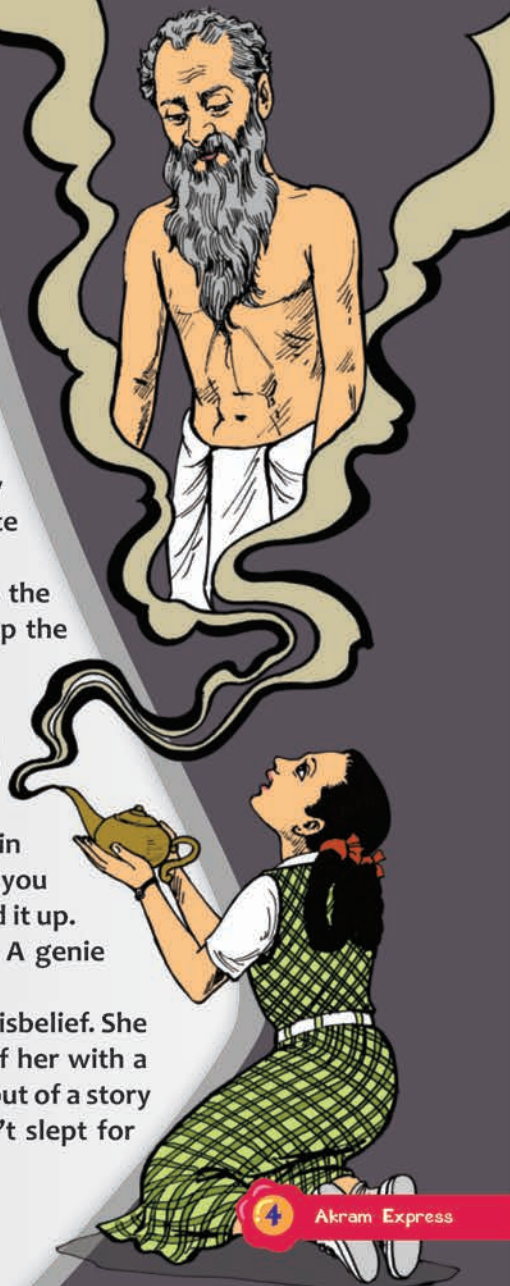
"Oh please, stop it. I am hungry. Can we decide the roles tomorrow?" intervened Tanvi as she tried to stop the debate.

Luckily they agreed and went their separate ways.

Feeling dejected, Sheel was walking home when she stumbled upon something. She looked down and saw an old glass lamp.

"Oh, this is the type of lamp that you read about in stories. When it's rubbed, a genie appears who grants you three wishes," she thought as she bent down and picked it up. She rubbed off the dust and lo and behold... poof!... A genie appeared right in front of her eyes!

Sheel couldn't believe it! She rubbed her eyes in disbelief. She kept looking at the genie who was standing in front of her with a sullen face. He didn't look anything like a typical genie out of a story book. He appeared frail, old and looked as if he hadn't slept for years.





Nonetheless, Sheel was highly ecstatic, “Wow! So that means I get three wishes!”

“Oh, please, let me at least take a few breaths and stretch my legs. I don’t even remember how long I have been trapped inside that lamp and I haven’t eaten for years. I’m exhausted from bobbing about in the sea for so long and you’re only bothered about your three wishes,” groaned the genie.

Sheel once again looked closely at the genie and thought, ‘What bad luck that I meet a genie who doesn’t even look like a genie and on top of that he’s irritated!’

Sheel gently asked him, “Fine, if not three, can I ask for one wish?”

The genie sighed and said, “You rubbed the lamp, so you’re my boss. But look, just one ok...”

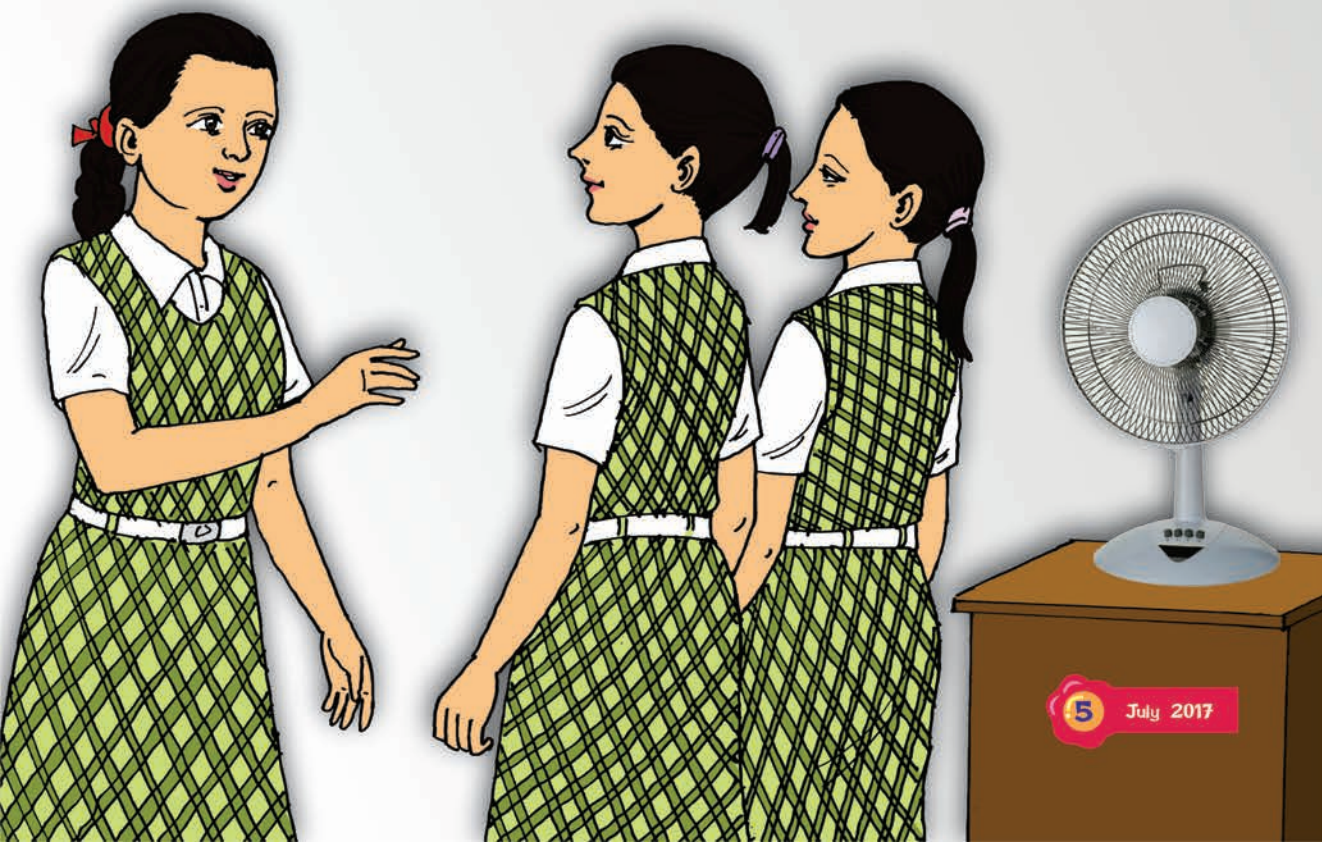
A triumphant smile spread across Sheel’s face.

She said, “I wish that my friends don’t fight with me because whenever they fight with me, I feel very upset.”

“

I do have two golden keys  
given to me by my master, which,  
if accepted by you,  
will make all your unhappiness disappear.

”





"Well, you've wasted your one wish," said the genie shaking his head.

"I don't get it. How is it wasted?" Sheel failed to understand.

"Look, you're my boss so I can only bring about a change in you. I cannot bring about any kind of change in others and so cannot make your wish come true. However, I do have two golden keys given to me by my master, which, if accepted by you, will make all your unhappiness disappear."

Sheel found the genie's statement quite interesting.

'Adjust Everywhere' and 'Avoid Clashes' are the two keys. Unhappiness can never touch a person who tries to adjust in all circumstances and who doesn't clash with anyone." There was a unique glow on the otherwise weary genie's face and in the puff of a cloud of smoke he vanished back inside the lamp.

From the very next day Sheel decided that from now on she will adjust with her friends in every way possible.

As a solution to solve the puzzle of who will play which role, Sheel said, "Girls, I know that we all want to play the role of Beauty, but it's obviously not possible. So let's do this - let's write name of each role on separate pieces of paper and we put them all into a hat. Then whatever piece of paper we pick out of the hat will be the part that we each will play.

Gargi and Tanvi nodded in agreement.

Sheel didn't want the role of Beast but that was exactly what she got. But even then she was happy. She was glad because her problem was solved without getting into any arguments with her friends. The three of them sat down and wrote the script. They all went home after agreeing that they would start rehearsing the following day.

Sheel kept thinking about the genie the whole way home. As soon as she got home she gave the genie some delicious food.

The genie burped loudly and asked Sheel, "So, have you thought about your second wish?"

Sheel was ready with her answer, "Yes - that I never get stuck in any muddle or difficult situation again."

The genie stroked his beard in thought and said, "Hmm, it's a good wish! So what will you do to achieve it?"

Sheel leapt forward and sat next to the genie, "One minute, aren't you a genie? So won't you fulfil my wish?"

"Oh! Should one wait for the magic to happen? If you stop practising what you have already learnt you'll forget it. Similarly, if I don't practise magic, then I forget how to do magic. So you see, I haven't practised magic for a long time," said the genie.

Sheel felt sad.

The genie continued, "However, if you were to use your common sense in every situation you will never find yourself caught in any problems."

"Common sense?" questioned Sheel.

"Yes, the use of common sense can make even the most complicated problems appear simple. Any problem can be solved through common sense. But do you know how common sense arises? By adjusting everywhere and avoiding clashes. Even if someone clashes with us and we don't clash with them then common sense arises. If we learn how to adjust in any kind of circumstance, then common sense will blossom."





And in another puff of smoke the genie once again disappeared back into the lamp.

The next day when Sheel went for rehearsals, she found that it was very hot in the room. Gargi tried all the switches in the room but the fan wasn't working.

"Why have we been asked to practise in this room, which is like a sauna whereas the seniors get to practise in an air conditioned room?"

It was a very hot day indeed. However, fretting about it was not going to solve the problem. Sheel remembered what the genie had said - 'Adjust Everywhere'. She started thinking of ways to adjust in the current situation, "Shall we ask the seniors if we can use their table fan?"

The seniors agreed to it and after a little while they even let them use their room. Thus their practise went well.

Finally, Annual Day had arrived. The performance went well. The audience praised the actors with a huge round of applause. Sheel was very happy. She was desperate to go home and tell the genie everything.

As soon as she got to her room, the genie was ready with his question and asked, "Ok, do you have a third wish?"

"Yes genie, I'm very happy today. Your keys have helped me a lot. My third and final wish is that you stay with me forever."

The genie gently patted Sheel's head and said, "Good try! But what's the point of wishing for things that aren't really possible? If you adjust and avoid clashes, then your common sense will blossom day by day. And common sense isn't any less than a magical genie. Your common sense will show you ways to overcome all the hurdles."

Sheel hugged the genie. Both their eyes were filled with emotions. For the first time, Sheel saw the genie smile.

And once again... poof... the genie disappeared back into his lamp.





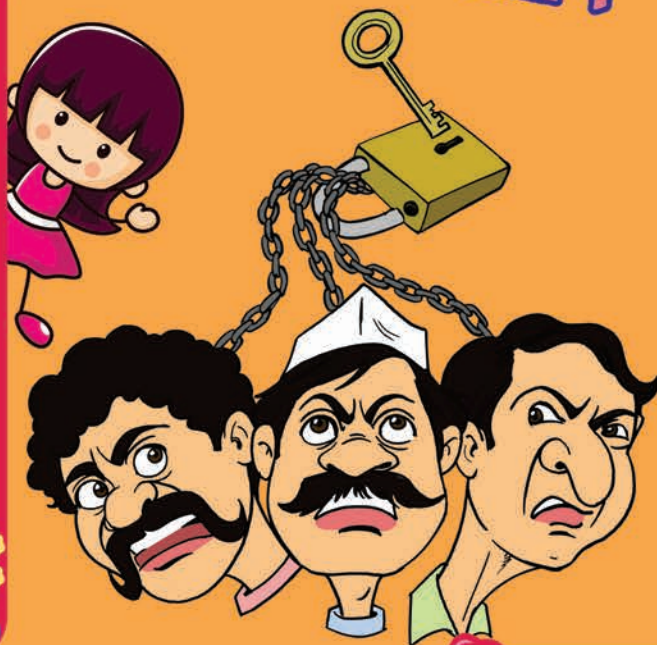
**WE** should not clash with anyone. If someone tries to clash with us and we decide not to clash with them, then

**COMMON SENSE** arises. The strength of the soul is such that it shows us how to deal with a conflict. **Once** we understand this, then that knowledge will never leave us.

This is how **COMMON SENSE** develops.

**Absolutely new and Different !**

**COMMON SENSE** is a 'key' that is applicable everywhere; it can unlock all locks no matter how rusty they are. If you are able to get along with the most crooked person, then know that you have common sense. Otherwise people talk about many things which don't have **COMMON SENSE**; there is no understanding in those types of conversations.





# Who's the Winner?

There was one ticket available for the city's most famous magic show but there were three people who wanted to go.

Daddy, I'm the youngest. I've never seen a magic show before.

Please... daddy... please, please...

So do you think that we have a seasonal pass for magic shows? Neither have we seen a show like this before. Daddy, I will go with Uncle Shah to watch the show.

But Daddy, I want

Ok, ok, I will decide who will go to the magic show tomorrow. You will know by lunch time.

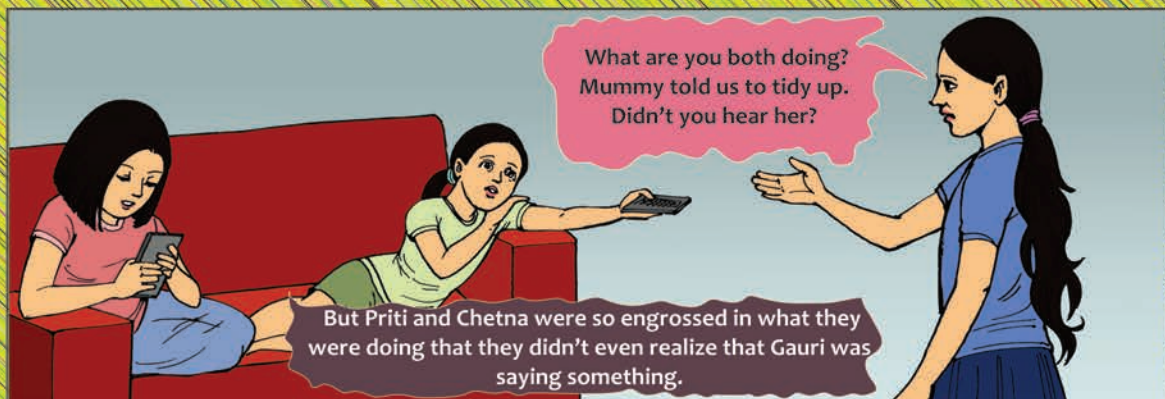
Children, Daddy and I need to go out for a while. Please tidy up the house. Unlike last Sunday, today at least try...

Mummy didn't finish the sentence...

As soon as their parents left, Chetna took the phone and sat at one end of the sofa.

Priti took the T.V. remote control and sat at the other end of the sofa. She turned on the T.V. and started flicking through the channels.





What are you both doing?  
Mummy told us to tidy up.  
Didn't you hear her?

But Priti and Chetna were so engrossed in what they were doing that they didn't even realize that Gauri was saying something.

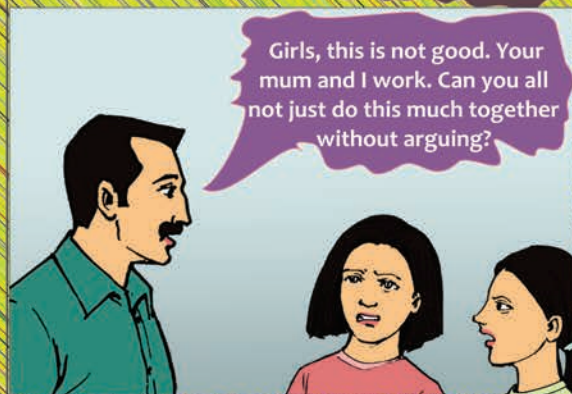


No one is listening!

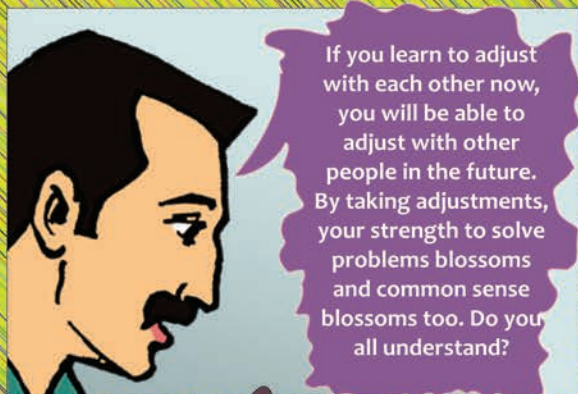
Gauri got annoyed and sat down at the desk. She noticed the broken photo frame on the desk and remembered what had happened last Sunday.



Last Sunday, all three sisters had a fight over household chores and in a fit of rage, Gauri had thrown the photo frame.



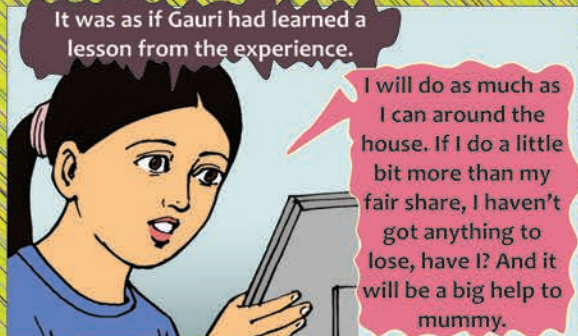
Girls, this is not good. Your mum and I work. Can you all not just do this much together without arguing?



If you learn to adjust with each other now, you will be able to adjust with other people in the future. By taking adjustments, your strength to solve problems blossoms and common sense blossoms too. Do you all understand?



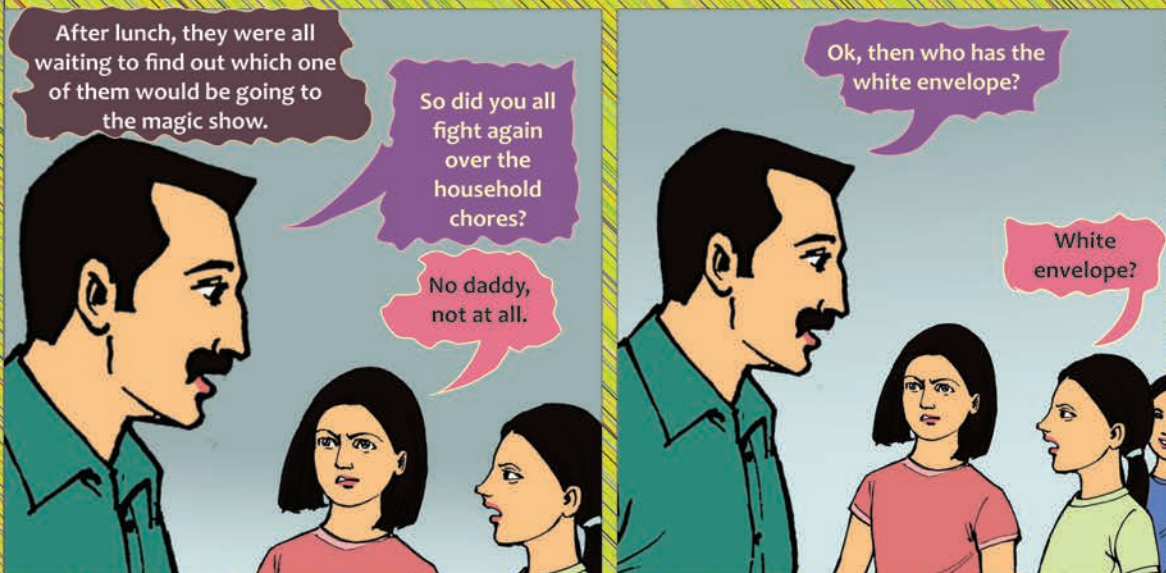
What a lovely photo. We all used to get on so well before. What did we get from all the fighting? It was all a waste of time. The photo frame was damaged and everyone was miserable.



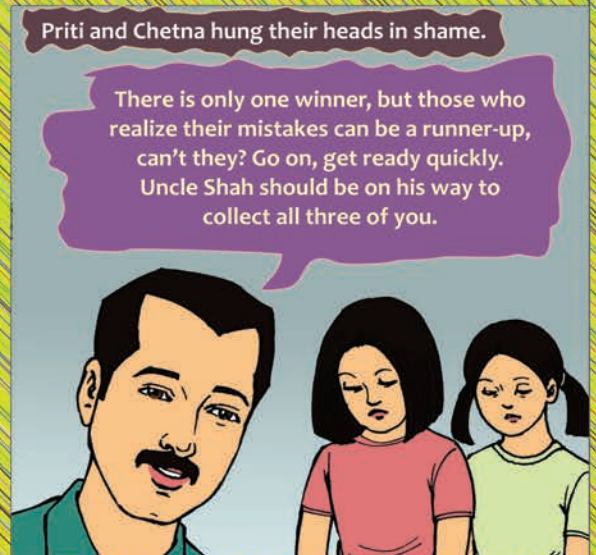
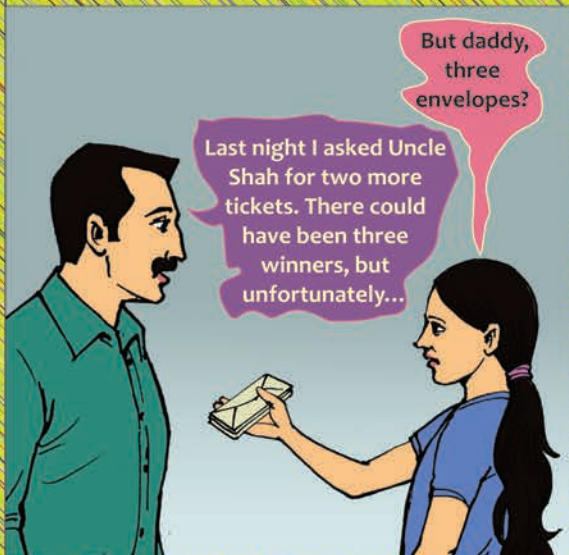
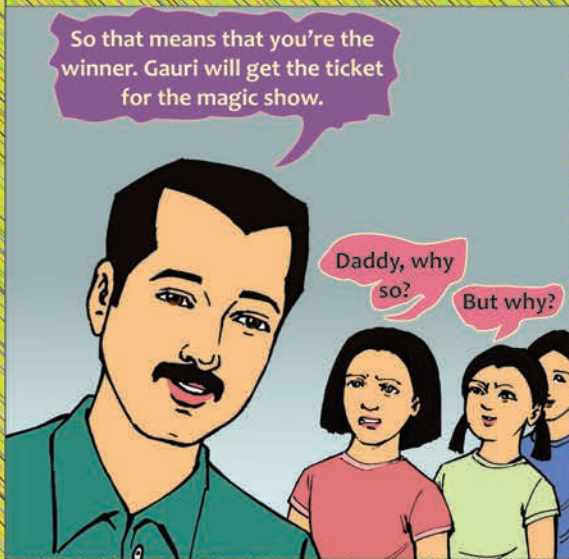
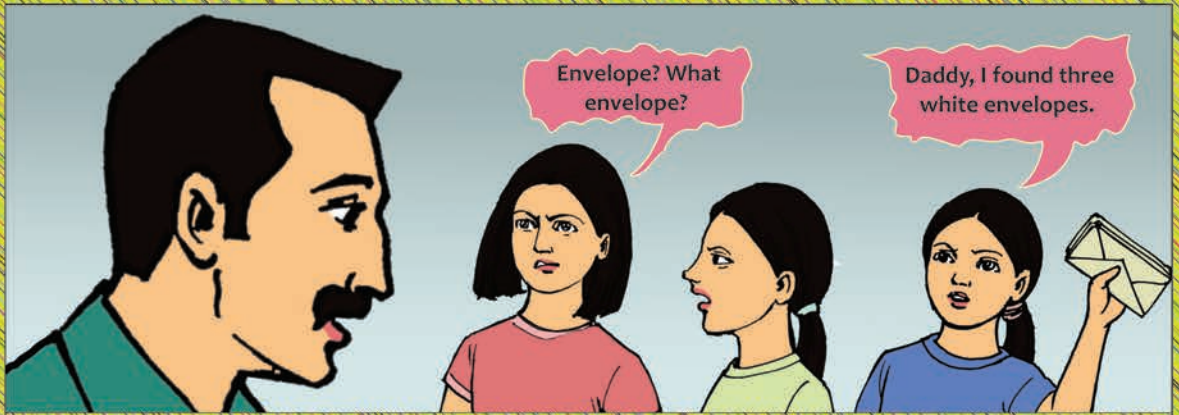
It was as if Gauri had learned a lesson from the experience.

I will do as much as I can around the house. If I do a little bit more than my fair share, I haven't got anything to lose, have I? And it will be a big help to mummy.











# Let's play



**P**

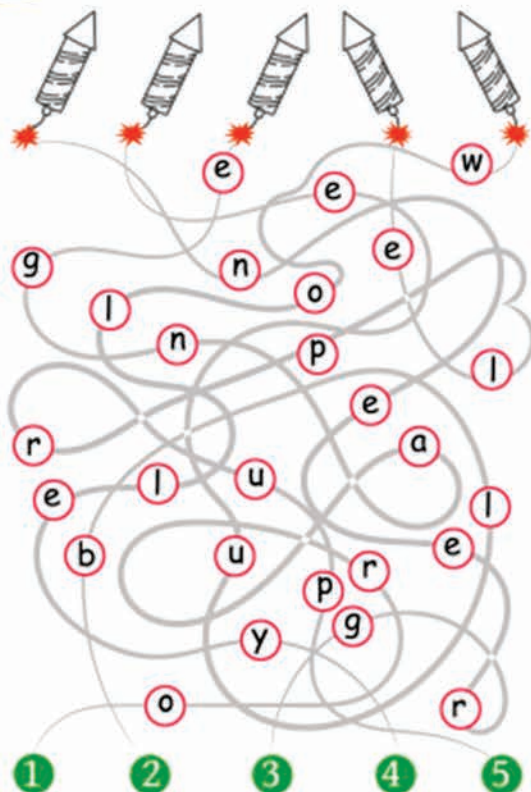
u  
z  
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$$\text{Frog} \times \text{Frog} \times \text{Frog} = 27$$

$$\text{Owl} \times \text{Owl} \times \text{Frog} \times \text{Owl} = 24$$

$$\text{Frog} \times \text{Sheep} \times \text{Owl} \times \text{Sheep} = 96$$

$$\text{Sheep} + \text{Frog} \times \text{Owl} = ?$$



**F**ind out  
which string  
is attached  
to which  
rocket and  
also find  
the colour  
hidden  
behind  
every string





## Real Life Story

After twenty-seven years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela was set free on February 11, 1990. Four years later, he became the first black President of South Africa.

At the time when Mandela became President, the tension between black people and white people was at its peak. Both races felt extreme hatred for one another. As a result, the likelihood of violence or civil war was very high. One of the biggest challenges faced by President Mandela at the time was to establish peace and order within the country and to unite all its citizens. Without harbouring any kind of vengeance or grudges against anyone, Mandela heartily forgave the whites - the very people who had imprisoned him for twenty-seven long years. He worked with them to help bring the people of the country together again.

President Mandela had once gone to watch a rugby match between South Africa and England. During the match, he noticed that the blacks were supporting the rival team, England, instead of supporting their own team. The only reason for this was that they didn't want to support the players of the South African team, who were all white.

When he saw what was happening, Mandela had an idea of how he could unite the people of the country. A year later the Rugby World Cup was to be played in South Africa. Mandela met the captain of the South African team, Springbok, and told him that the victory of the South African team can become a great instrument in helping to bring about orderliness and oneness within the country. The captain was highly influenced by Mandela's words and conceded to his proposal.

Most of the people couldn't believe that a single rugby match could unite the country. However, Mandela and the team captain both had complete faith that it was possible to re-unite the country in this way.

The South African team started organizing matches in smaller towns. This got the team players mingling with the black locals within each town. This then helped them to build a rapport with the blacks. Eventually, the blacks of the country started supporting their home team.

The South African team set a unique example by winning the rugby World Cup in the year 1995. The long-standing hatred of so many years melted away. Both the whites and the blacks of South Africa sat together in the same stadium to watch the match and whole-heartedly cheered for their team and their country.

And in this way, through Nelson Mandela's extraordinary common sense a simple rugby match became instrumental in uniting the people of the country.



# Mythological Story

In the city of Champapur there lived a wealthy merchant named Balbhadra. He had five sons, all of whom were virtuous and wise.

Rajpurohit Shreedhar lived in the house opposite. He had a son called Narayan who had grown up surrounded by luxuries and comforts but was barely educated. As time passed by, his parents passed away. Since he was not learned, he could not inherit his father's status of being a Rajpurohit (a priest). Instead, he thought that he would travel and enjoy life with the money he had inherited.

One day while pottering around in the house, he found a small box lying in a corner. He opened it and was bewildered with what lay inside. There were five sparkling precious gems. He immediately went to a jeweller to get them valued. The jeweller examined the gems closely and estimated the value of each gem to be around 10 million rupees. Narayan thought, 'Why do I need to earn money now? If the need for more money arises, I can sell these gems and continue to enjoy myself'.

As he was getting ready to go abroad, a thought occurred to him, 'Where should I keep this box of valuable gems? What if there's a break-in while I'm away and the gems get taken?'

Merchant Balbhadra was known to be respectable and trustworthy. Narayan therefore left the box at the merchant's house and told him, "I will take back the box as soon as I return from my travels." Narayan felt a sense of relief knowing that the box was safe in Balbhadra's custody and so he set off on his journey.

Days passed by and the festival of Diwali approached. As the merchant was cleaning his house, his eyes fell upon the box and he felt tempted to take a peek inside it. He gave into his temptation and was taken aback when he saw what was inside the box. He could not believe his eyes, 'Such expensive gems!' he thought.

The moment he held the gems in his hands, his intentions became crooked. His conscience spoke to him, 'To eye another's wealth is a great sin'. However, the merchant did not pay any heed to it. He was consumed with greed, 'Even if I sell only two of these gems, I will become a millionaire. And anyway what harm can Narayan do to me? More to the point, no-one else knows that he gave me this box to look after in the first place'.

The merchant sold two gems and obtained twenty million coins in return. With this wealth he had a five storey mansion built for himself. Five years later Narayan returned from abroad. All his wealth had been used up. When he went to collect his box, Merchant Balbhadra claimed that he did not recognize him.

"Hey merchant, I'm Narayan. I had left a box of gems at your house and now I've come to collect it," said Narayan as he attempted to jog the Merchant's memory.

The merchant angrily replied, "What gems? What box?" He called his servants and had Narayan thrown out.

Narayan was not able to withstand the immense grief and hunger any longer and so he jumped off the roof of a house and died.

“My dear, how did you know? No one except myself and God know about this matter”



After a short time Balbhadra's eldest son, Shreekant, got married. Shreekant came to the mansion with his new bride. Upon reaching the fifth floor of the mansion he called out, "Oh god! Help! I'm going to die. I've been bitten by a cobra!" The venom quickly spread through his body and indeed he died. Merchant Balbhadra was heartbroken.

Quite a bit of time passed by and as soon as Balbhadra's pain had lessened a little, he got his second son, Shashikant, married. The same thing happened to him as well. The cobra bit him and he too died from it. There was no end to Balbhadra's sorrow.

Many years later, he got back his courage and arranged the marriages of his third and fourth sons too. However, exactly the same thing happened to them too!

Many years later, a merchant from the same city as Balbhadra visited him in his mansion to talk about the marriage of his daughter to Balbhadra's fifth and final son.

Merchant Balbhadra said, "You know don't you, that four of my sons died right after they got married? Then why do you want to get your daughter married to my son and risk her being widowed at such a young age?"

The girl's father gave Balbhadra a firm guarantee, "My daughter, Shubhmati, has learnt religion from a great soul. Therefore, with the power of her understanding, she will be able to protect the members your household."

The girl's father was very convincing. So in the end Balbhadra gave in to his request and accepted the merchant's point. After the wedding, Harikant came home with his bride, Shubhmati. Everyone was dreading the worst.

As soon as Shubhmati entered through the doors of the mansion she said to her mother-in-law, "Mother! Call father. I need to talk to him."

Merchant Balbhadra arrived. His daughter-in-law took him to one side and said, "Go and get the five gems that belong to the Brahmin."

The merchant replied, "What gems are you talking about, dear?"

Shubhmati said, "Father, this isn't the time to deny anything."

The merchant said, "My dear, how did you know? No one except myself and God know about this matter."

The daughter-in-law replied, "Father, don't waste





time. Quickly go and get the box of gems."

The merchant ran and got the box of gems and admitted, "Out of the five gems, I sold two and now only three remain. Here they are."

The daughter-in-law took the box and quickly left. She ran to the fifth floor of the mansion, opened the box of gems and said out aloud, "Oh lord cobra, my father-in-law broke your trust. We beg you to forgive his wrongdoing. Please be content with the remaining three gems."

Miraculously the cobra came out. However, it took only one gem with its mouth from the box and left.

Everyone was in awe of the new bride. Everyone hailed her a chaste and virtuous woman.

Balbhadrha asked his daughter-in-law, "Please explain all this mystery."

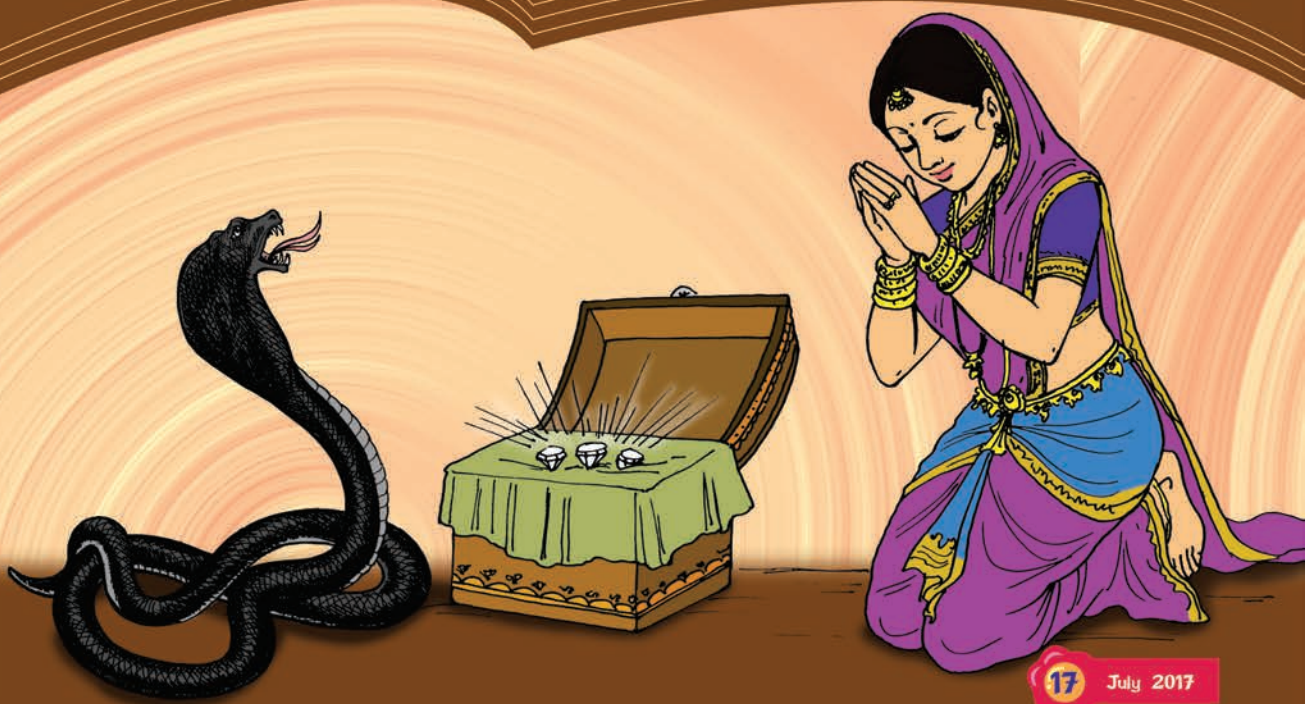
Shubhmati replied, "Father, you took that Brahmin's gems and broke his trust. He died and was reborn as a cobra and hid in your mansion to take revenge for your act of betrayal. One by one he took the lives of four of your sons. However, I asked the cobra for forgiveness today and presented the box with the gems to it. It had already taken revenge for four of the gems by taking the lives of four of your sons. However, revenge for the fifth and final gem was pending. That's why the cobra took only one gem from the box and went away. Now it's vengeance is complete. Now the cobra will not cause this household any further harm."

The merchant wondered, "Nevertheless, dear, how did you find out about this?"

The daughter-in-law told them that the great soul from whom she had learnt religion had told her about this. Shubhmati was then able to use her knowledge to find a solution to help bring the sin to an end.

Balbhadrha realized his mistake and heartily repented for it.

He had to suffer the terrible consequences for depriving another person of his personal possessions and for behaving as if they rightfully belonged to him. However, by heartily repenting for his wrongdoing he became free from his mistake.





This is a beautiful event from Dada's life when he was staying in Bhadran. Dada's elder brother who lived in Baroda (a city in Gujarat) once sent him a message which read, 'Come to Baroda as soon as possible with a certain amount of money. I need it by tomorrow morning'.

By the time Dada received this message, it was already night time. Since he had to reach Baroda that very night, he set out with the money. It was a very big amount and so Dada decided to take his domestic helper along with him. Unfortunately, they were late in reaching the station and thus missed their train. Dada decided that they would walk along the tracks and catch the train at the next station.

Using his wit and presence of mind, Dada cleverly kept some money in his own pocket and put the rest of it in his helper's pocket. Dada was aware about the bandits in the area who looted people all the time. Nonetheless it was important to deliver the money to his brother, so Dada bravely continued walking.

It was pitch dark. While walking along the tracks, Dada saw some cigarette lights at the distance. Both Dada and his helper immediately sensed that the men were likely to be thieves, who were sitting and waiting for their next opportunity. The helper started quivering with fear. Dada thought, 'It doesn't matter if they take the money, but if they beat us up they'll break our legs.'

Dada had a highly developed common sense. He gestured to his helper to follow him. Dada went straight to the thieves and asked them, "Sir, do you have matches? I have cigarettes but didn't have enough money to buy matches."

The thief lost his temper, "Why have you come to annoy us at this time?" He threw some matches at them and told Dada and his helper to go away.

The thieves thought, 'If he doesn't have money to buy matches, what would he have in his pockets that would be worth looting?'

In this way, Dada solved the potential problem by using his common sense and also not landing into any sort of tussle with the thieves.

## Sweet Memories

This incident took place in 1982. Dada's satsang (discourse) was arranged at a mahatma's (self-realized being) house. An elderly man who was a follower of a certain religion was also present at the satsang. As soon as Dada entered the room, all the mahatmas started to sing, 'Dada Bhagwan na Asim Jay Jaykar Ho'.

However, that elderly man did not seem happy with this. He turned red with rage and after the kirtan bhakti (devotional singing) finished, he angrily said to Dada, "Why are you referring to yourself as God?"

Dada instantly started to sing 'Asim Jay Jaykar Ho' of the God whom that man worshipped and all the other mahatmas started to sing along too.

The gentleman was deeply touched by Dada's gesture and he immediately fell at Dada's feet, crying.

Did you see friends, a Gnani (Enlightened One) will never conflict with anyone. Instead they resolve any conflict by using their common sense and intuition.





**B MHT & L MHT  
camp held  
during the  
hindi shibir  
in  
Simandhar  
city**



1

10

2

1 ORANGE

2 BLUE

3 GREEN

4 YELLOW

5 PURPLE

Answer to the puzzle



## A Cultural evening held during the hindi shibir in Simandhar city.



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