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October 2020

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AKRAM Express



Cheating

Editorial

What's wrong with cheating? If you want to win, then you have to cheat a little! But is that actually true?

Are you a true champion if you win by cheating?

What was the result when Anuja confessed to cheating?

With whom are the Gnanis pleased?

To answer all these questions, you must read this issue. And finally let us decide for ourselves whether to cheat is more of a benefit or more of a loss!

-Dimple Mehta

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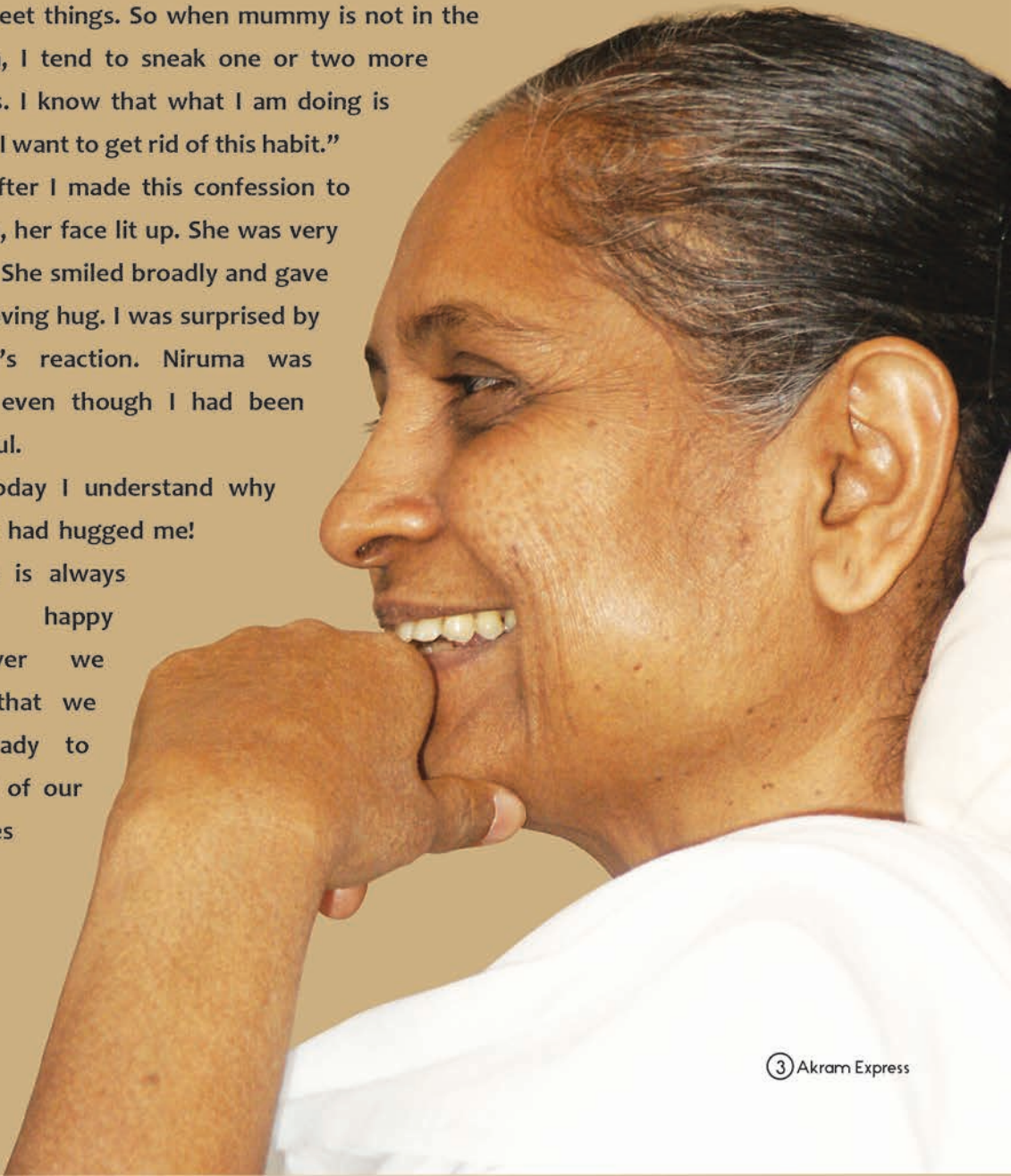
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Sweet Memories

In 1996 Gurupurnima was celebrated in Houston, Texas. After *darshan* (devotional viewing) on the day of Gurupurnima, I said to Niruma, “Niruma, mummy’s rule at home is that I can only eat two biscuits a day, and no more. But I really like sweet things. So when mummy is not in the kitchen, I tend to sneak one or two more biscuits. I know that what I am doing is deceit. I want to get rid of this habit.”

After I made this confession to Niruma, her face lit up. She was very happy! She smiled broadly and gave me a loving hug. I was surprised by Niruma’s reaction. Niruma was happy even though I had been deceitful.

Today I understand why Niruma had hugged me! Niruma is always very happy whenever we show that we are ready to get rid of our mistakes



Dadaji Says...



Why do I cheat every time I play with anyone?

- ▶ The greed to win makes you cheat.
- ▶ The greed to win makes you break the other person's trust in you.

What does it mean to break someone's trust?

- ▶ For example, if someone has lent us 25,000 rupees and we are meant to pay them back.
- ▶ Then intense greed arises and we think that 'well he is a millionaire, so what difference will it make if we do not return his money?'
- ▶ This is known as breaking his trust in us.

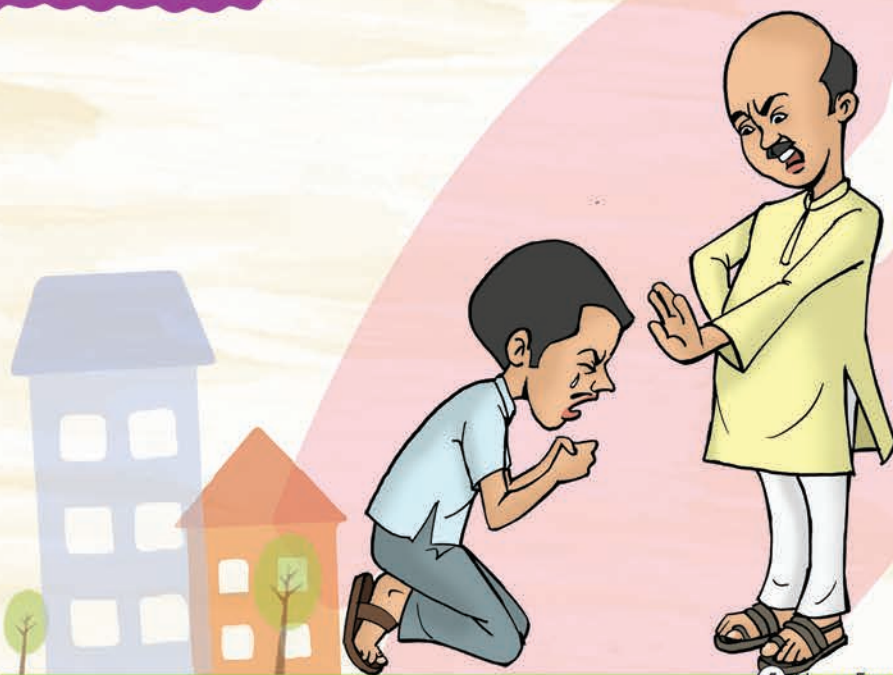


What happens if we break someone's trust?

- ▶ We break it once, we break it twice, and then if we go to him again to ask for money, he will refuse. He will say, I can't be bothered with this person, he is a liar.
- ▶ The greed for money makes us lose control of our senses.
- ▶ In the same way, when the burning desire to win arises, one starts to scheme about cheating a little, thinking that nobody will find out.
- ▶ And then we end up breaking someone's trust.
- ▶ Now, that person will lose respect for us and will not want to play with us again. They will feel that we are not trustworthy.

How do you do pratikraman (asking for forgiveness) for cheating?

- ▶ When you realise your mistake, go and ask for forgiveness. Say to them "please forgive me. I will not create this confusion again".
- ▶ If you stop cheating, the trust can be rebuilt again.
- ▶ If you play by the rules of the game, then the trust will be maintained. The other person will want to play with you again.

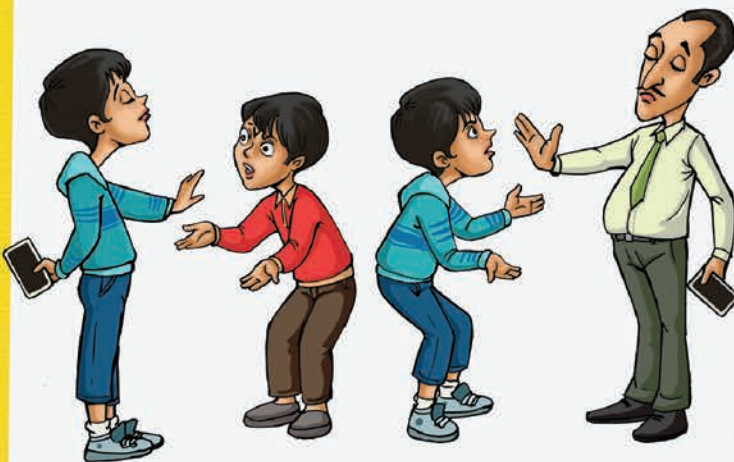


01

In order to fulfill our desires we sometimes tend to betray our friends. The friend will not punish you for this, but nature will.

02

**ABSOLUTELY
NEW
&
DIFFERENT**



When a person is being dishonest, his value becomes zero. Zero means people will stop trusting him.



The world is our echo. Our deeds will come back to us. If I backbite someone, then I will become worthy of criticism some day. If I torment someone, then I will get tormented. If I deceive someone, then I will be deceived some day. If I steal money from someone's house, then money will get stolen from my house. Even if we commit a slight misdeed then nature's reaction will be to punish us accordingly. No one needs to come and do it.

03

A+ Grade

There was silence throughout the hall. The only sound that could be heard was tic-tok... tic-tok... of the clock. All eyes were on Anuja, who was sitting on the stage. Only 40 seconds were left. Anuja's heart was pounding so fast that she felt it would pop out of her chest.

"Time's up," said the judge and tears started to roll down Anuja's cheeks.

A rising clamour of voices filled the hall. "A+ grade science student, Anuja, couldn't answer such an easy question! What a shame! This girl has disgraced our school." Anuja got down from the stage and couldn't help overhearing the whispering, "Anuja should not have been selected for such a prestigious competition."

Anuja was extremely ashamed. "Why did I do this? Why? Why? Why? Please make me invisible."

Just as Anuja uttered these words, her brother said in a loud voice, "I wish that your dream comes true."

Anuja blinked open her eyes. When she looked at the clock, she saw it was 7am. She heaved a deep sigh of relief and quietly murmured, "Thank God, it was only a dream."

She quickly got ready for school. But like always, as soon as she entered the classroom, her legs became heavy.

The issue was that there had been a science test ten days ago. The day before the test, Anuja was extremely

anxious. Instead of studying, her entire time

was spent worrying. Ultimately she decided

to take advantage of a little 'help' to ensure she got good marks in her test.

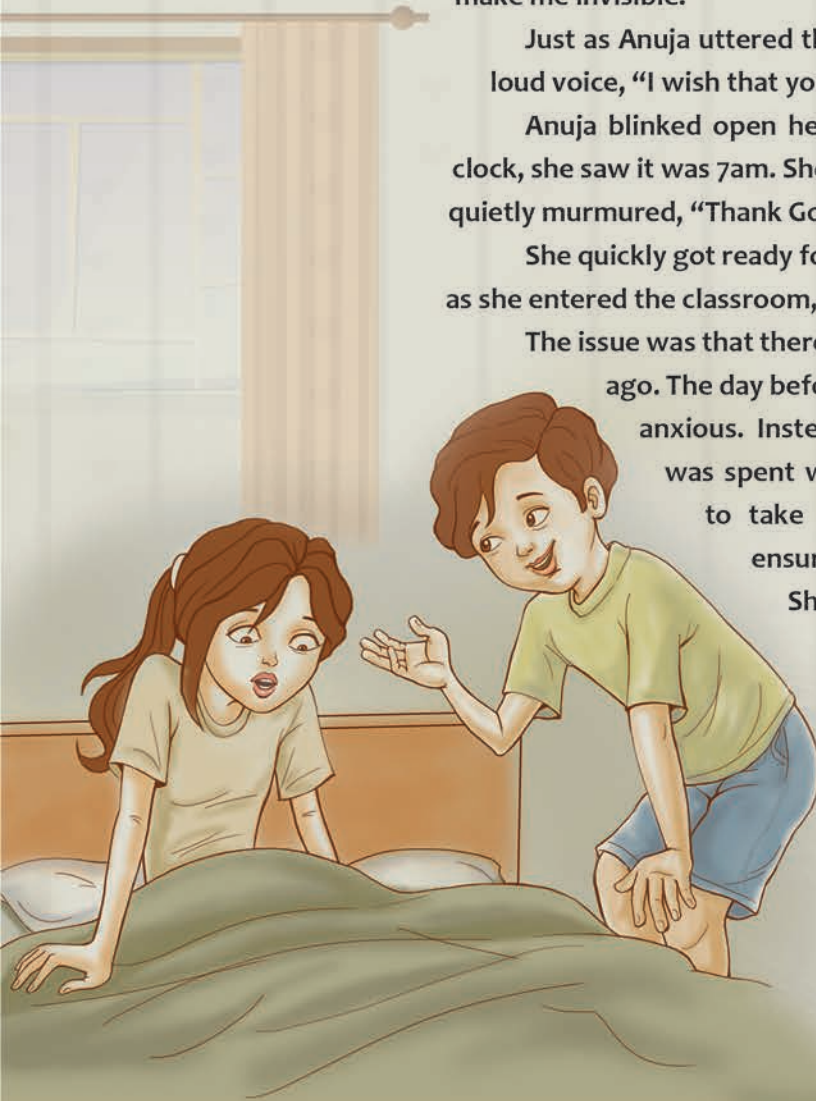
She wrote some formulas inside the case of her eyeglasses.

During the test, in the pretext of taking out or putting back

her glasses, Anuja would take a peek inside the case,

to look at the formulas.

She passed with an A+ grade. However, the guilt



of cheating in order to get a good grade became ingrained in her mind.

“What have I done out of greed for good marks!” She felt deeply remorseful of her actions.

This was the reason she was reluctant to enter the classroom. Every third day, she had some sort of a nightmare in which everyone would lose faith in her. She was not able to concentrate on her studies.

Finally, one day, Anuja mustered up some courage. After school she went to the staff room to meet her science teacher, Miss Nirmala. She confessed to Miss Nirmala that she had cheated. Anuja had expected that the teacher would be very angry, but Miss Nirmala just calmly listened to what Anuja had to say. Then she simply asked her to give the test again, this time with a ten-point penalty.

Anuja felt as if a weight had been lifted from her mind. She was not able to completely erase from her mind the feeling of being a cheater, but at least she had gained some peace from admitting her mistake.

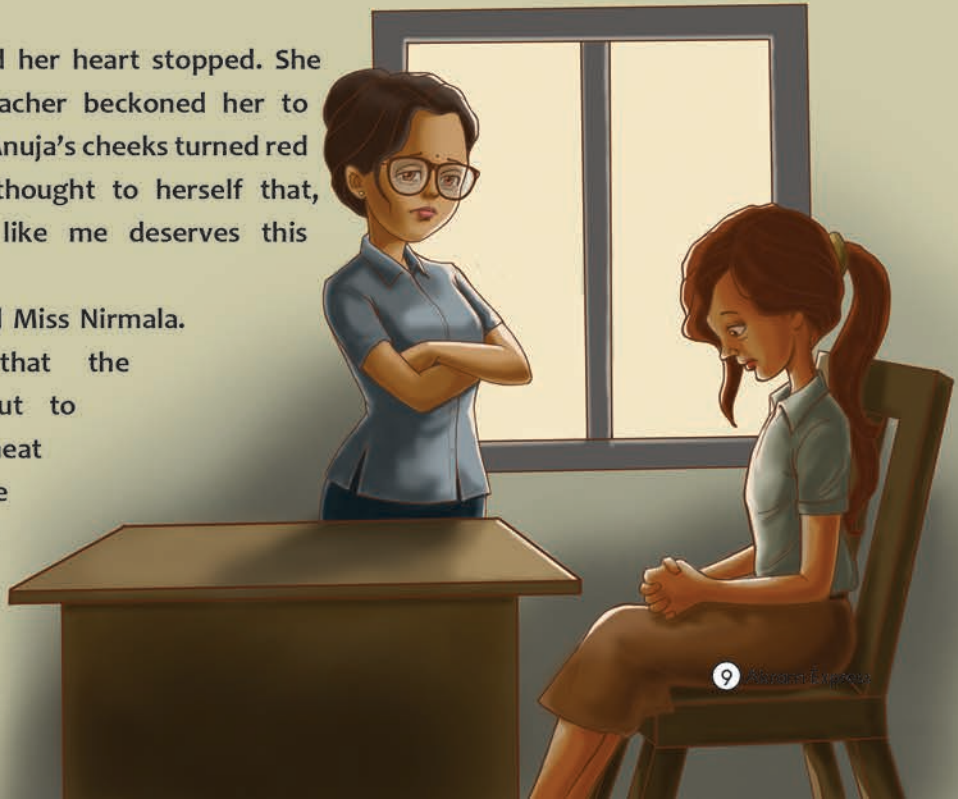
Days went by. There was another big test coming up. This time Anuja genuinely worked hard for the test. This time she wanted to truly earn an A+ grade, not by cheating, but by the effort of her hard work.

It was the day of the test. The test papers were handed out to everyone. Opening the test paper and seeing the difficult questions, Anuja felt a little nervous. She said a small prayer and then started to answer the questions.

Suddenly she heard Miss Nirmala’s voice, “Anuja”.

For a second her heart stopped. She looked up. The teacher beckoned her to come to the front. Anuja’s cheeks turned red with shame. She thought to herself that, “Well, a cheater like me deserves this treatment!”

“Anuja,” said Miss Nirmala. Anuja thought that the teacher was about to warn her not to cheat or might even make her sit in the front so that the teacher could



keep an eye on her.

But the teacher said was, “I have forgotten my science text book in the staff room. I can’t leave the classroom at the moment. Will you quickly go and get it? I will give you some extra time to complete the test.”

Anuja could not believe what she heard. In those few moments many questions arose in her mind. ‘Should I go and get the text book? Doesn’t the teacher realise that all the answers of this test will be in that book?’

“Miss, are you sure that I should go and get the book?” Anuja wanted to double-check.

“Yes dear, I would prefer you to get it. I would only entrust this task to someone I trust,” said the teacher.

“But Miss,” Anuja whispered, “don’t you remember that I...”

The teacher, as if she had read Anuja’s thoughts, gently said with a smile, “I remember everything. I especially remember how much you regret your mistake. I also remember how you courageously confessed your mistake. That’s why I have full trust in you, and that you will never cheat again.”

“Thank you, Miss! I will never break your trust in me. I will quickly run and bring the book,” saying that Anuja ran to the staffroom.

When she returned to her place, after having given the book to the teacher, she experienced a different

kind of lightness. The questions in the test paper were still difficult, but Anuja was not scared any more.

On that day, in winning the teacher’s trust, she passed a test much tougher than a science test, with A+ grade.



The scenes of the story given below are a little jumbled up. So let us place the scenes in the correct order and enjoy the story.
Hint: The correct order of the first scene is no. 4



WHAT IS THE
CORRECT ORDER?

One day the merchant thought, "Let me check the weight. Has the farmer properly weighed out a quarter kilo of butter?" When he weighed the butter, the merchant realised that it was less than a quarter kilo. He took the farmer to the village magistrate.



The magistrate asked the farmer, "So how do you weigh the butter?"



The magistrate asked the farmer, "what standard of weights do you use to weigh things?" The farmer replied, "Sir, I am quite simple. I do not have any particular weights to weigh things. However, I do have a weighing balance."



A farmer of a small village always sold a quarter kilo of butter to a merchant.



The farmer replied, "Sir, I used to sell a quarter kilo of butter to the merchant and buy a quarter kilo of wheat from him. When I bring home the quarter kilo of wheat that I have bought from the merchant, I place that wheat on the weighing scale and I weigh out the same amount of butter and I send that to him. Tell me sir, where is my mistake in that?"



The magistrate told the merchant, "Brother, the world is our echo. What we do will come back to us. If I cheat others, then I will be cheated someday. You tried to cheat the farmer, and in the end, you got cheated."



Material: Newspaper, Fevicol, Laces, colourful paper

My Creation



Cut the newspaper from the middle.



Roll one part into a tight tube and secure with fevicol. Do the same with the other part.



Now, as shown in the image, using fevicol stick different coloured paper around the newspaper tube.

Once the coloured paper is firmly stuck to the tube you can decorate the tubes with lace.

Your DIY sticks are now ready for the stick dance during Navratri festival. Have Fun!



Answers of Let's Play :

1



2. ARE

What is the correct order?

4, 1, 3, 2, 5, 6

True Champion

Whenever playing any jungle game with anyone, Rang-Tang was always the winner.



Rang-Tang, what do you like the most in the entire world?

Simple... to win! I love to win at everything.



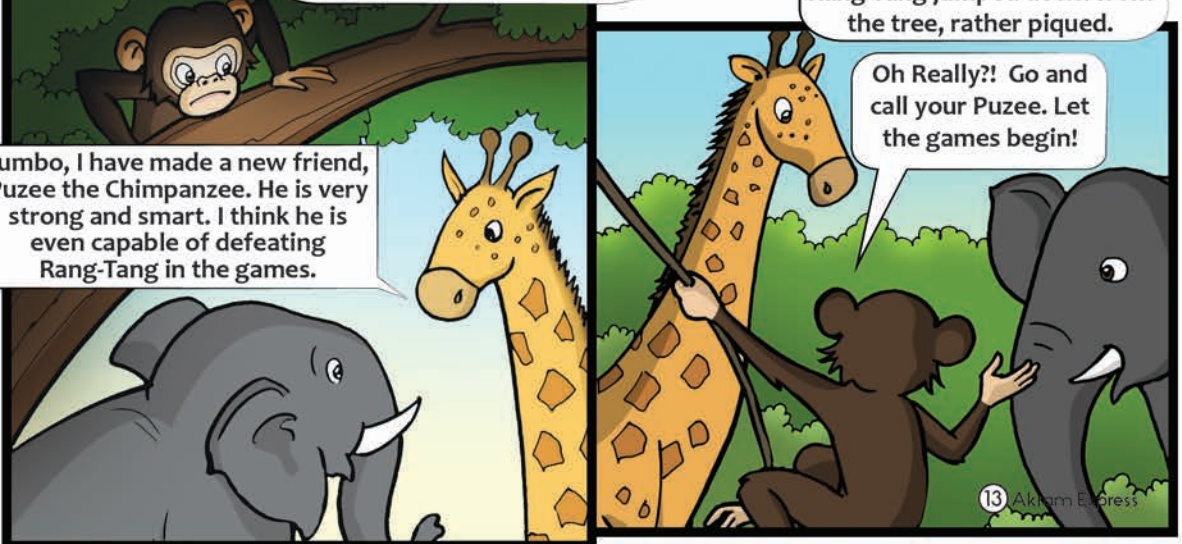
Rang-Tang hated to lose so much so that he would cheat to win. He used tricks that no one knew about and won all the games.

One day Rang-Tang overheard Elephant and Giraffe talking.

Jumbo, I have made a new friend, Puzee the Chimpanzee. He is very strong and smart. I think he is even capable of defeating Rang-Tang in the games.

Rang-Tang jumped down from the tree, rather piqued.

Oh Really?! Go and call your Puzee. Let the games begin!



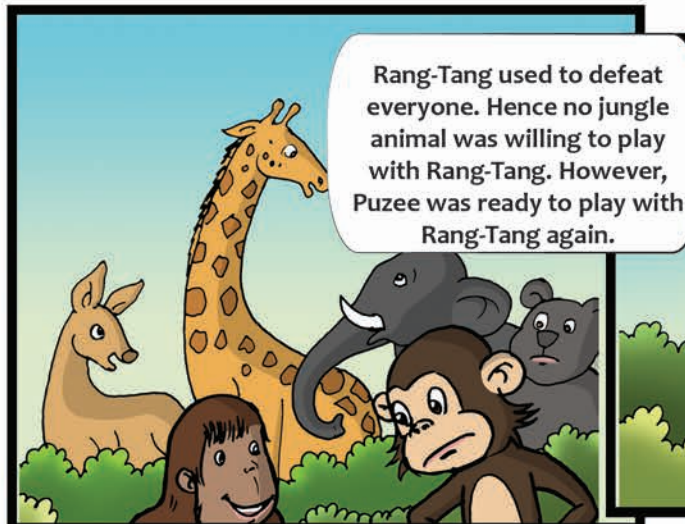
A competition of Mangofest, the monkeys' favourite game, was arranged between Rang-Tang and Puzee. The one who picks the most mangoes in five minutes will be the winner.

On the day of the competition, Puzee was completely at ease. He was having fun with everyone. On the other hand, Rang-Tang was extremely serious.

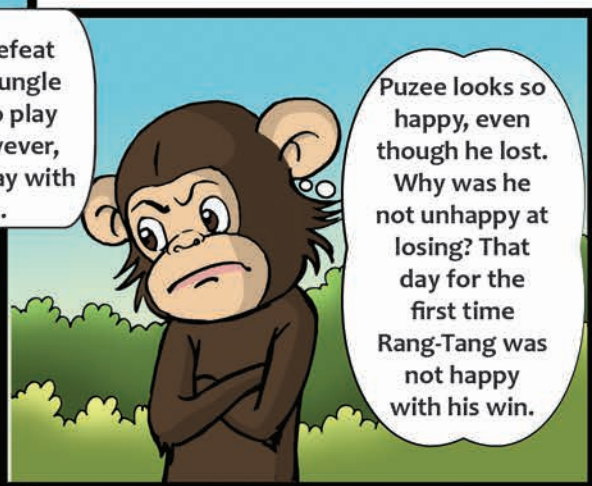
Tiggie, the Tiger blew the whistle and the competition commenced. The competition was tense with rivalry. Rang-Tang and Puzee were neck to neck in terms of the number of mangoes they had each picked.

At full-time Rang-Tang cheated as usual and won the competition.

Good game Rang-Tang! We will play again.

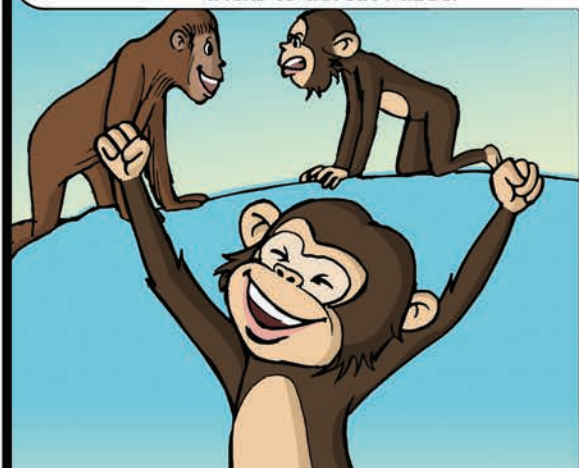


Rang-Tang used to defeat everyone. Hence no jungle animal was willing to play with Rang-Tang. However, Puzee was ready to play with Rang-Tang again.



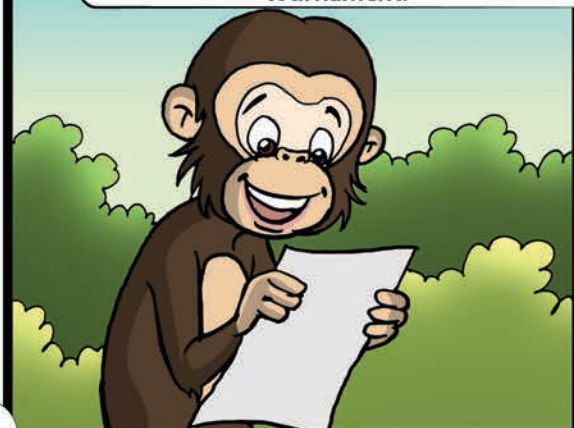
Puzee looks so happy, even though he lost. Why was he not unhappy at losing? That day for the first time Rang-Tang was not happy with his win.

From that day on, Puzee would play with Rang-Tang every day, and every time Rang-Tang would use new tricks to defeat Puzee.



Rang-Tang tried really hard to use his cheating tricks to win games. However, the judges did not allow Rang-Tang to get away with any of his tricks. He got knocked out of all the games.

Eventually Rang-Tang got bored of playing with Puzee. So he decided to take part in the National Jungle Tournament. The best animals from across the whole country came to take part in this tournament.




Rang-Tang was a good player, but without his cheating tricks, he was not able to win a single game. The taste of defeat was extremely bitter for Rang-Tang.



While Rang-Tang was sat alone consumed by his great disappointment, the tournament champion was announced.


Taking the trophy in his hands, Puzee smiled at Rang-tang. Winning or losing did not matter much to Puzee. But in each defeat against Rang-Tang, he had learnt something new every time.



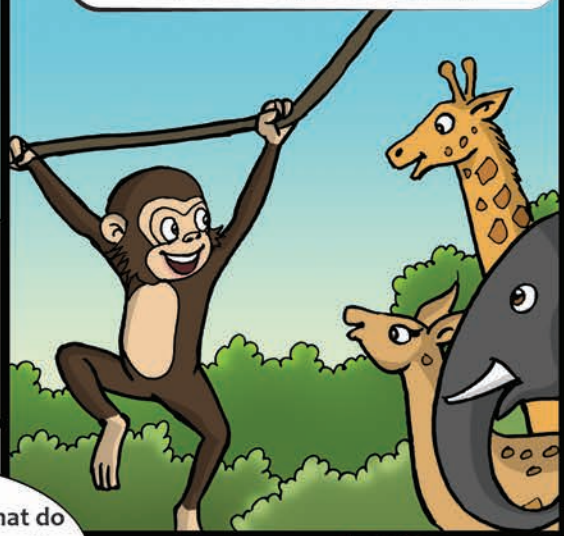
And the winner of the tournament is... Puzee the Chimpanzee!

And because of all that knowledge, he was able to become a true champion today.

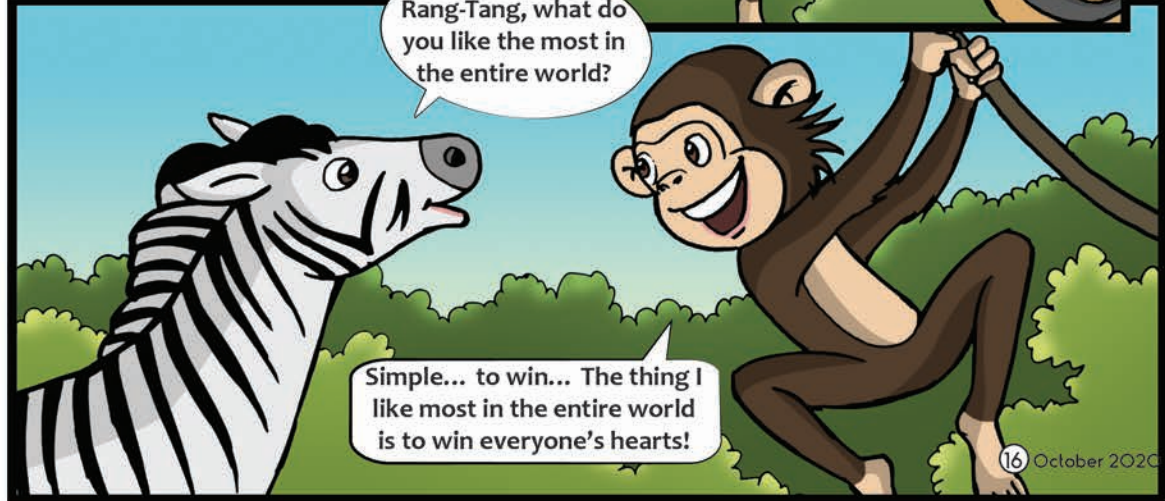
That day, Rang-Tang realised that learning from defeat was more valuable than winning by cheating. Rang-Tang stopped defeating everyone by cheating, and ever since then all the jungle animals started to enjoy his company.



Thanks Rang-Tang. I learnt a lot from you.



Rang-Tang, what do you like the most in the entire world?



Simple... to win... The thing I like most in the entire world is to win everyone's hearts!

LET'S PLAY

1. Draw 2 squares in the schoolyard in order to separate all students from each other.



2. What single word can be used to complete all the words below:

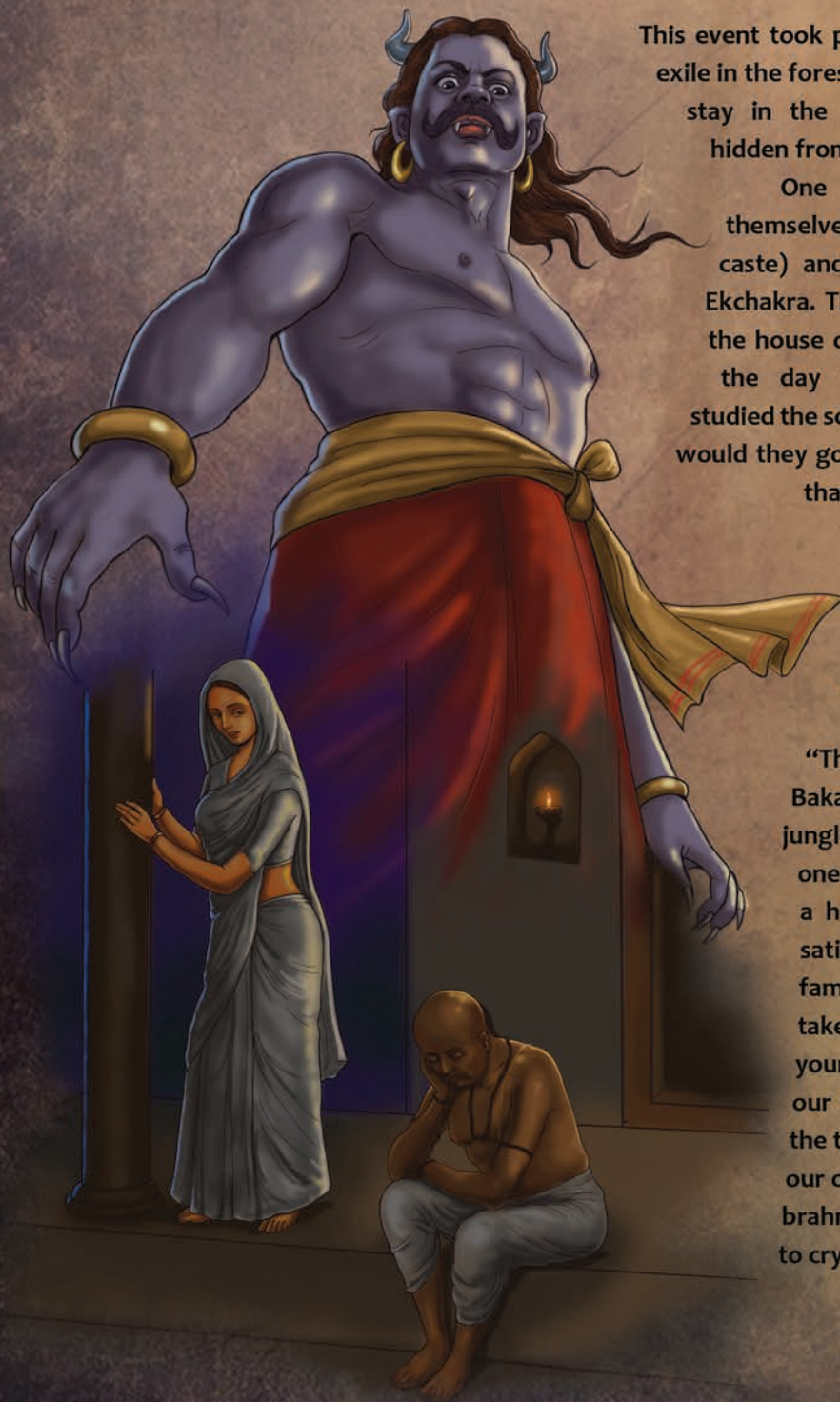
DE ___ ST

C ___ ER

ST ___

P ___ NT

Mythological Story



This event took place during the Pandavas' exile in the forest. They had been forced to stay in the jungle for twelve years, hidden from the Kauravas.

One day they disguised themselves as brahmins (priest caste) and went to a town called Ekchakra. There they found refuge in the house of a poor brahmin. During the day they stayed inside and studied the scriptures. Only after sunset would they go out and beg for alms, so that no one would recognise them. One day the Pandavas' mother, Kunti, saw their hosts crying. Kunti asked, "Why are you so upset?"

Their host replied, "There is a demon called Bakasur who lives in the jungle. Every day he consumes one human, two buffalos, and a huge amount of food. To satisfy Bakasur's diet, each family in Ekchakra has to take turns to send him a young man. Tomorrow it is our turn. We are horrified at the thought of having to send our only son." Saying this, the brahmin and his wife started to cry profusely.

Kunti said to them, "Do not worry. My son will go instead of your son."

The host said, "It would be a great sin to send our guest to Bakasur. How can we commit such a sin?"

But Kunti convinced them that her son was extremely strong, and that Bakasur would not be able to harm a single hair on his head. When Bheem found out, he jumped with joy. It had been a long time since he had fought with a demon. Furthermore, he was extremely happy that he would get to eat a lot of food.

The next day Bheem went to the jungle along with a cart full of food. He was very hungry so he started to eat the food. There were so many different varieties of food. Bheem ate heartily using both his hands.

The sleeping Bakasur was woken up by the smell of the food. He saw that there was a man who was happily eating all his food. He was enraged by this.

He bellowed, "Hey you! Who are you? How dare you eat my food before I can eat you?"

Bheem did not even look up and just carried on eating. This made Bakasur even more furious and he charged towards Bheem.

Bheem had eaten to his satisfaction and so with all his strength he punched Bakasur. Bakasur was thrown far away and he fell onto a tree. He uprooted that tree and ran towards Bheem. But Bheem stopped him with only one hand and kicked him hard. Then Bheem uprooted a tree and thumped him. Thus a fierce battle ensued between the two. Having never fought such a strong man before, Bakasur soon became weary. But Bheem did not tire. Finally, Bheem decided to end this fight. Bheem threw Bakasur up in the air, as if he were just a rag-doll. Bakasur fell hard on the ground and all the bones in his body were shattered. He succumbed to his injuries and breathed his last. Bheem roared loudly. At the sound of this, all the other demons fled from the jungle.

The town of Ekchakra was freed from the atrocity of Bakasur. People celebrated their freedom. Bheem became everyone's favourite. People started to invite the Pandavas to their homes for a meal.

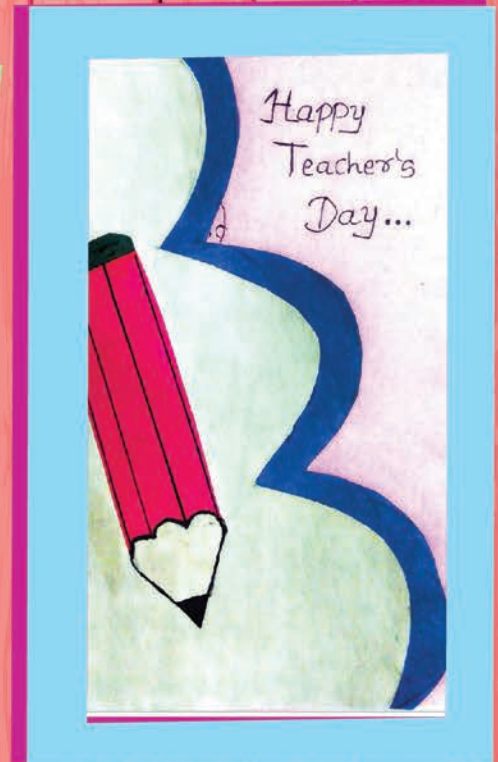
However, the Pandavas were in hiding from the Kauravas. The Kauravas may start to suspect that such brave brahmins could only be the Pandavas in disguise. So it was no longer safe for the Pandavas to stay in that town. Thus, with permission of the town's people they once again took to wandering.

This humorous story about Bheem and Bakasur, signify the importance of carrying our responsibilities. The brahmin family knew that it was the Pandavas in disguise who had come to seek shelter. Despite being in difficulties themselves, they decided it was their duty to give shelter to the Pandavas. The Pandavas were Kshatriyas (warrior caste). Despite the risk of being discovered, they protected their host and the people of Ekchakra, and complied with their duty. So friends, shall we also decide to firmly comply with our responsibilities?

Photos of gifts made by you for teachers



Jeval Solanki, Jevika Solanki



Purnata Katkiya



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