

Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

February 2021

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AKRAM Express

Study...Study...
Study...
But Why?



Editorial

Dear Friends,

I bet all of you must have often heard your mom's nagging, 'study, study!' I too have heard it a lot. All of you must be thinking that it would be so much fun if we did not have to study. We could just play all day.

However, it is only for our own benefit that our parents tell us to study. We get angry because we do not understand this.

In this edition we will understand why it is necessary to study, so that we can study well and progress in life.

-Dimple Mehta

Why study ?



Akram Express

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Gnanis

Say...



Education is very important. With education our power of concentration increases, our problem-solving ability increases, our ability to respect the teacher increases, our ability to interact with our friends increases, our strength increases in so many ways!

Questioner: What should I do if I do not like to study and I only like to play?

Pujyashree: For how long do you enjoy playing? After a while you will start to get aches and pains, and then at night you will go to sleep very tired. If we study, then we will be able to pursue a career. In the future we will be able to secure a good job. We will have a good career in life. Would you like that or is it okay if you do not get a good job and have to do a labourer's job?

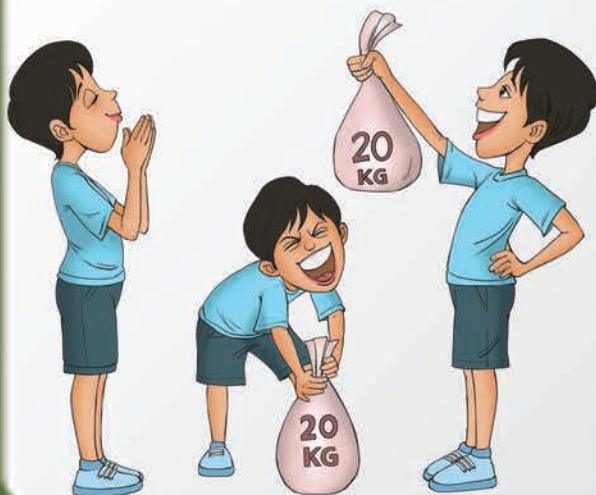
Hence you have to study with your future in mind. There is no fun that compares to that of a contented life! If you play because you like to have fun, then you should also study, so that you will be able to enjoy the future. As thereafter, you will have a life full of fun. Won't it be so much fun if you have enough money, a nice house, a nice career?!

Education is vital. Education moulds a person. If one is not moulded then he remains unrefined and he would not have any grounding. Right now it is time to study, so complete your studies!

Now, you will study willingly, won't you? In case your mind still rebels, you should not listen to the mind. Tell the mind, 'just let me study properly!' Chant 'Dada Bhagwan Na Aseem Jai Jai Kar Ho' loud enough so that the ears can hear it. Close your eyes, ask for a lot of strength and then study.

We remember things that interest us. And we don't seem to remember things that we find less interesting.

E.g. if we have an interest in playing games, computers and TV, then we will remember everything about them. If we have less interest in studying, then we will not remember it.



Absolutely



If you ask God for strength to study, then the strength to study will arise from within. E.g. suppose you did not have the strength to lift 20 kilos, and later if you get the strength to lift 50 kilos, then lifting 20 kilos will feel like a breeze. So, by asking for strength from God, your burden will become less.

To create an interest
in studying we must
understand its
importance; the fact
that it will be useful to
us and we will be
successful in life.



New

and

Different!



We can keep an
intention to study well,
so that in the future we
will be able to give
useful service in Dada's
project for World
Salvation.

All-Rounder

In Zoya's mind there was a scene that kept on replaying repeatedly. She had tried to telephone Veer almost eight times, but Veer was not answering the phone. Feeling frustrated, Zoya threw the phone on the bed, and sat down with the certificate in her hands and a big smile appeared on her face.

Just then the phone rang. "Veer, I tried to call you so many times!" Zoya said impatiently without even saying hello first.

"Oh Zo... I was at the basketball practice. What did you want to say?" asked Veer calmly.

"Bro, I made it," said Zoya with the certificate in her hands. "Made what? Come on, tell me," said Veer, confused.

"Brother, I have won the award. You are talking to the best Sci-fi (science fiction) writer in Bangalore," said Zoya brimming with pride.

"No way Zozo!" Veer was even more excited than Zoya, "What an achievement! I am so proud of you. We shall have a grand party when you come to Ahmedabad. Hold on a minute, I'll pass the phone to Grandfather."

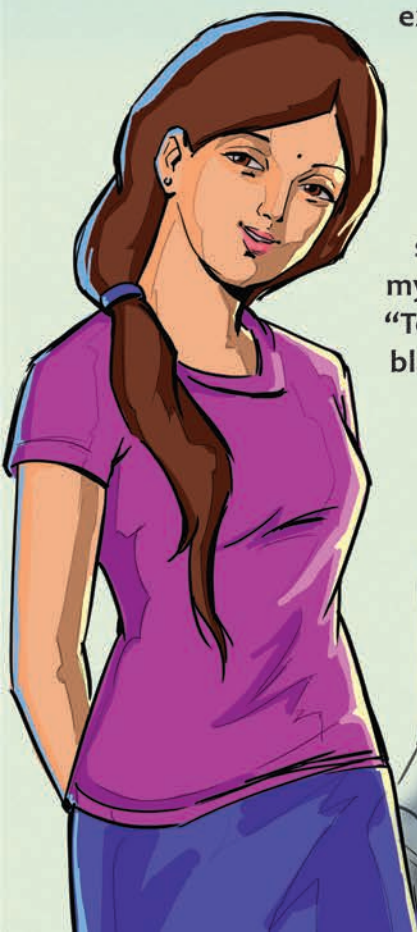
"Grandfather, I have won the title of the Best Young Writer," Zoya shouted excitedly over the phone.

"That's excellent my dear. Tell me, have you started writing your new book? Don't get content with just one award. You need to work even harder and write an even better book than the one before," said Grandfather.

This put the brakes on Zoya's joy. With great effort she said, "Ok... Grandfather... can you please give the phone to my brother?"

"Tell me Zo!" But before Veer could speak any further, Zoya blasted him, "Brother, why did you give the phone to Grandfather? He has spoilt my mood.

Instead of congratulating me on my award, he started to give me a lecture. I don't know when he will be happy. It has been the same ever since my childhood. Just because in his days he achieved a Bachelor of Law degree with English, it doesn't mean he should drive us



mad by pushing us to study, study and study!”

“Ssh....Zo...calm down.” Veer went to another room to continue the conversation. “Grandfather cares about you.”

“I can’t believe that you are taking his side. We knew from a young age that we did not want to be a doctor or an engineer, right? Even he knew it. Despite that, he used to make us work really hard so that we would get good marks in all the subjects,” said Zoya who was getting very annoyed now.

“Zo relax....so much anger!!!” Veer took a deep breath.

“Come on, read out to me what’s written on your certificate.”

Zoya calmed down a little and said, “To the Best Young Sci-fi writer.”

Oh, so what is a Sci-fi writer?” asked Veer.

Come on brother, you know,” said Zoya, “Sci-fi writer means one who creates and writes about a fictional world based on science. It includes stories of time travel, life on other planets, travelling at light-speed, etc. But why are you asking such a question?”

“Because from what I remember, you never used to like science. So how can you write about it?” Veer asked politely.

“It’s because I have a good understanding of science....Don’t you remember how much Grandfather used to push me to study science...,” said Zoya and then she suddenly stopped in the middle of the sentence.

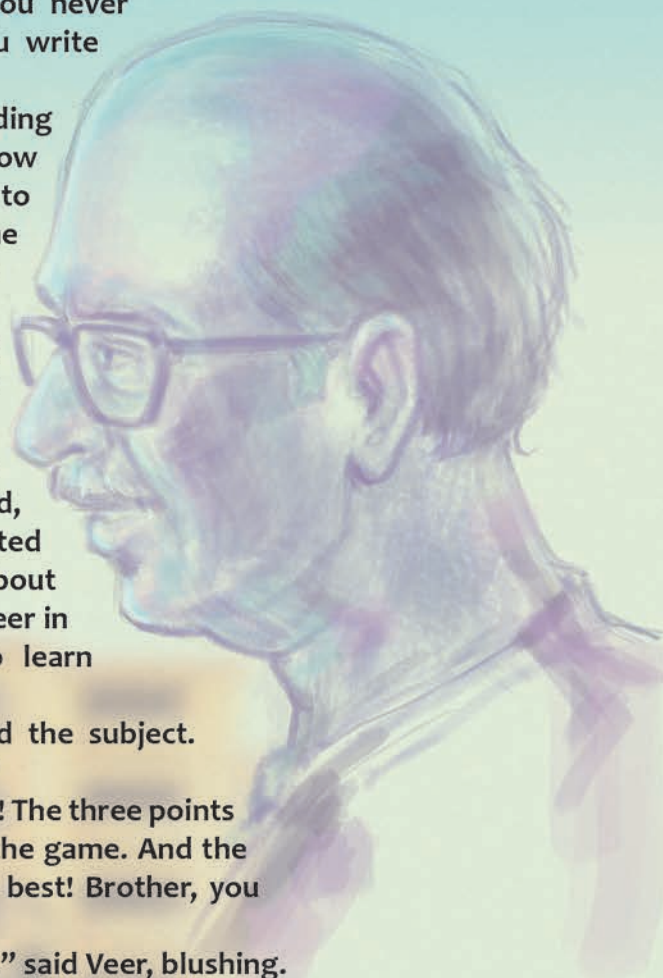
“So then, have you not benefitted something from what Grandfather used to say?” asked Veer, smiling.

Zoya felt a bit ashamed. But she was not going to accept defeat. She said, “Okay brother, let’s say that I benefitted from Grandfather’s insistence. What about you though? You wanted to make a career in sports. So why were you forced to learn languages?”

“Let’s end this topic.” Veer changed the subject. “Tell me, did you enjoy my last match?”

“Brother it was such a fabulous match! The three points that you took at the end is what won the game. And the interview that you gave after was the best! Brother, you were the star that day!”

“Now now, don’t praise me too much,” said Veer, blushing.



"But I am just being honest." Zoya managed to convince Veer.
"After that you were made the captain of the team. Not just because your game was good, but also due to your personality, your art of communication, the self-confidence that shines through in your words...."

Veer interrupted Zoya and asked, "And from where did I learn to talk in English and get this self-confidence? Don't you know?"

Zoya was speechless.

Behind this confidence is Grandfather's hard work. After I got low marks in English in Year 7, he started tutoring me. Every day he taught me a new word and made a rule for me to talk with everyone in English. At that time, I did not understand the significance, but I now realise that grandfather's efforts to give us an all-round education have contributed to us becoming so successful in life." Veer spoke with earnestness.

Zoya became lost in thought. She remembered the childhood days that she had spent with Grandfather... the science experiments that they did together in the house, the social studies lessons in the garden, and the maths time tables that they recited together at night, and so on. Zoya's heart softened while thinking of those times.

"Do you remember the 'Chinese Bamboo Tree' story that Grandfather told us," asked Veer.

"No brother. What was it?" Zoya found herself yearning to know.

"I had found that story very interesting." Veer started telling the story, "Just like any other plant even the Chinese bamboo needs water, fertile soil, sunlight, etc. After planting the seed, during the first year we do not see any growth. Even in the second year the ground looks completely barren. In the third and the fourth years, still nothing grows. And then in the fifth year the magic happens. A small plant shoots out from the ground and within just 6 weeks it grows into a 70, 80... 90 foot tall tree!"

"Really?!" Zoya was astonished.

Yes, Grandfather used to say that by remaining underground for many years, the small plant was silently strengthening its roots. So thereafter within a very short time it would be able to grow into a very tall tree. Education is also like the bamboo tree."

Veer paused for a few seconds and then



continued, "While we are studying in school, for many years we do not see the value of our efforts. We do not even understand the reason for studying. Yet if we make the roots of our education strong, then just like the bamboo tree, a time will come when we will be able to reach great heights."

"Zo, Grandfather had trust in our bamboo tree."

"Brother, you are right," Zoya agreed in a soft voice.

Veer peeped into grandfather's room and said, "Zo, in two minutes I will make a video call but make sure you don't make a sound, ok?"

Before Zoya could reply, Veer disconnected the call and made a video call.

"Ssh...", Veer put his finger to his lips and gestured to Zoya to keep quiet, and then switched the camera view. Zoya saw Grandfather was on the phone talking to someone.

"Joshi Sir, my Zoya has won the award of the youngest writer."

"Yes, yes thank you. Ever since childhood my little daughter has been very clever," Grandfather's voice was full of pride.

Zoya felt contented hearing her grandfather praising her.

Veer switched the phone's camera towards him and told Zoya laughingly, "Who knows how many calls grandfather has already made and how many more he has on his list! What do you have to say now?"

"Brother, this weekend I am coming to Ahmedabad," Zoya decided immediately.

"Great!" In excitement Veer opened the ticket website. "Zo, There's a flight on Friday night at 10 o'clock. Its 2,800 rupees and there's a 25% discount, so...."

"It will cost 2,100," Zoya said at once.

"Not bad Zoya. You are still very good at maths," congratulated Veer.

"Brother that's why I say that while in school we need to work hard in all the subjects. That is the way to become an all-rounder," said Zoya humorously. And they both laughed heartily.



An Investment

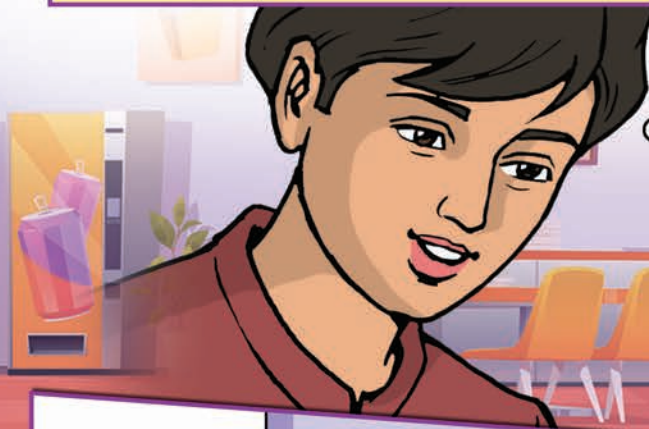


It was afternoon time. The restaurant was completely empty. As there was no work to do, Nakul put on his earphones and started listening to music on his phone.

But he could not concentrate. He glanced at Hiren, who was sitting in a corner as usual and reading.



He is so studious! This high-minded person has no fun in his life! Today I will make him talk a bit.



My friend, you study the whole day long! First of all you work as a waiter, then as soon as you get some time, you open a book and start reading. Don't you get bored?



No, who has the time to get bored? If I get bored at this age then the rest of my life will become boring.



What do you mean?

It means that... well, to understand the meaning we shall have to do a flashback.



Hiren opened the pages of the past...



I was raised in a small village named Roshanpur. The school was about 4 km from my house. I used to walk to school every day.

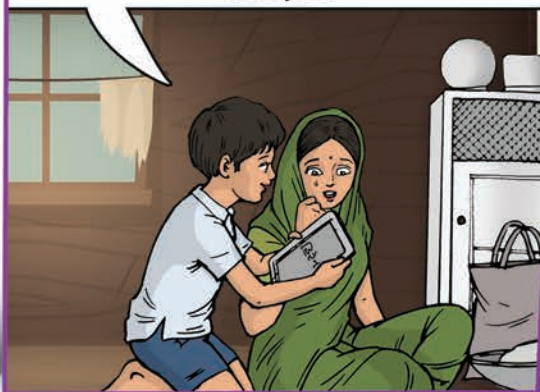
I clearly remember this one day. I had never experienced such impatience to reach home. That day I had learnt how to write my name!!



When I had learnt how to read and write, I became the child in the village who knew everyone's secrets. I was able to read out the letters to the elders and also do odd jobs for them.



Mother, look here... today the teacher taught me how to write my name. My mother had tears of joy in her eyes.



When I got admission into college, the whole village had celebrated.



On the night of the celebration, I overheard a conversation between my mother and father.

You sold your gold for Hiren's education?

Gold can be bought with money. But money and gold can also be stolen. However, if money is put towards knowledge, then that can never go down in value or be stolen.


Just then mother saw me standing behind the door and she called me in.

Mother: My son, do not feel sad at all. Your education is an investment that will be profitable to us later on in our lives. Remember that education is an armour which will protect you during any difficulty in life.


My friend, I have got this opportunity to make profitable the investment that my parents have made for me.

Not only for my parents, I also want to spread the light of my knowledge to the whole of Roshanpur. So now you tell me, do I have time to get bored?


But my friend, by looking at you it seems like you are from a well-educated family. Your clothes, shoes, everything is in tip-top condition and yet you are working in this restaurant...

A classroom setting with two boys in maroon shirts. The boy on the left is speaking, and the boy on the right is listening. There are bookshelves, a clock, and framed pictures in the background.

You are right. I do not need the money. I am doing this job because my parents wanted me to. They wanted to teach me how my life could turn out without education!

A boy in a yellow shirt is lying in bed, looking thoughtful. He has his arms raised behind his head. The background shows a night scene with stars and a moon.

Hiren has really understood the value of education. What about me? I was annoyed with mum and dad for forcing me to go to work. How completely wrong I was!

A boy in a yellow shirt is sitting on the edge of his bed, looking down thoughtfully. The room is dimly lit, with a night scene visible through the window. There is a basketball hoop and a desk with a lamp in the background.

I will value the facilities that mum and dad have given me for my education. From today I will study not just because mum and dad want me to, but also for a bright future for myself and for them.



Real Life Story

A ten year old boy used to deliver newspapers from door to door so that he could help his family. His father was a boatman. He used to ferry the worshippers who that arrived in Rameshwaram, a small town in Tamil Nadu.

Even though the family was very poor, the boy's curiosity to learn new things and his zeal to study was very strong. Due to his unique quality, over many years, this curious child became a very important person. This extraordinary

person was presented with awards like Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan and Bharat Ratna. Not only that, he also became India's most liked and respected president. Yes, this story is of the famous 'Missile Man of India', none other than Shri A. P. J. Abdul Kalam!

Abdul Kalam completed his primary school education at Rameshwaram's Elementary School. When he was in the 5th grade, his science teacher explained to them the scientific principles of how birds fly. At the end of the class many students had not understood the lesson. So the teacher asked the students to meet up in the evening at the seaside. In the evening the whole class gathered on the beach. The teacher pointed out the seagulls flying in the sky and explained in detail how the birds fly, how they arc in the air and how they land. This incident sowed the seed of Abdul Kalam's dream to fly in the sky, and eventually he did become the 'Missile-Man'.

One of his teachers Iyyadurai Solomon, became the ideal mentor for Abdul Kalam. Solomon had told Kalam, "In life, if you want to achieve success and meet high expectations, then you will definitely succeed if you strongly believe that you will fully and truly achieve it." Abdul Kalam's life proved to be a real life example of this. When Abdul Kalam was young he was fascinated by the flight of birds and the mysteries of the skies. When he saw seagulls in flight, he would also feel a strong desire to fly. While expressing his dream to fly, Kalam wrote,

“Even though I was a simple village boy, I had faith that one day I will fly in the sky.” And truly he made his dream come true.

With unwavering self-confidence, with constant eagerness to learn new things and with extreme hard work, after completing secondary school, Kalam went on to graduate in physics, and thereafter studied aerospace engineering. He made many advances in space research. After working at the Defence Research and Development Organisation, he was appointed the Chief Scientist Advisor to the Government of India.

In July 2002 he became India's 11th president. He became engaged in encouraging students to attend international schools and universities.

On 27th July 2015 India's most loved president, a passionate scientist, a saint and a dreamer, the country's motivator, Shri Abdul Kalam, bid goodbye to this world.

Shri Abdul Kalam was a teacher who lived his whole life as a student. One of his life's main objectives was to address students and spark inspiration within them.

So, come on friends let us also understand the importance of education and make the best use of our valuable student life!

A few quotes from Shri Abdul Kalam to the youth:



Before the dreams can come true, you will have to start to dream. Dreams are not those that you see in your sleep, dreams are those that do not let you sleep.



Life's difficulties do not come to ruin us, but in fact help us to bring out our hidden talents and strengths.



Self-confidence and hard work, is the best medicine to cure the 'illness' of failure. It makes you a successful person.



It is very easy to defeat someone but it is very difficult to win over someone.

Sweet Memories

A boy got admission into a medical college in Jamnagar. At that time in Jamnagar there was only one *mahatma* (those who have received Self-realization through Gnan Vidhi). Niruma had specially called this mahatma for a *shibir* (spiritual retreat) and informed him that, "This boy is going to attend college in Jamnagar. Invite him to your place once every week or every fortnight. Feed him and fulfil his needs." Since then, whenever there was any *satsang* (spiritual gathering) held in Saurashtra (region of Gujarat) Niruma would without fail, call the boy from Jamnagar and arrange for him to stay with her.

In this way during that important study period, with Niruma's special care, the boy managed to finish his education and passed with good grades.

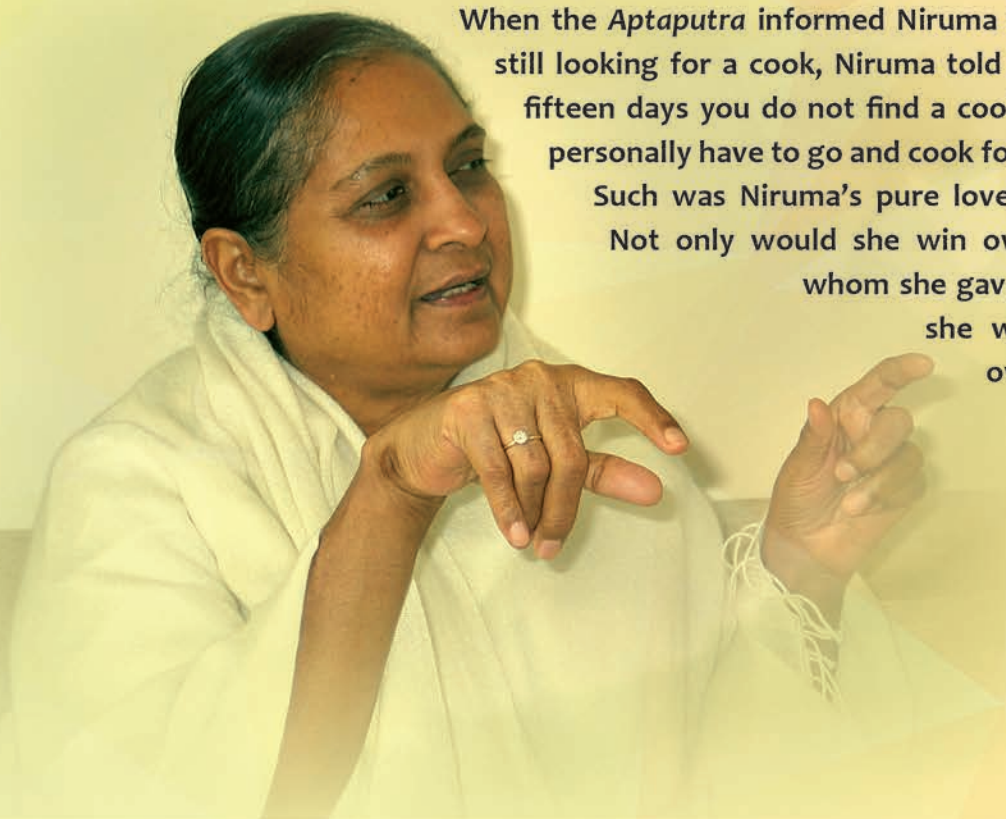
Some years later, the boy was serving in a hospital near Godhra (city in North-eastern Gujarat). At that time also Niruma had made arrangements for his packed lunches. However, the arrangements fell through, so the boy had to prepare his own meals. At that time Niruma was in America on a *satsang* tour. From America Niruma asked an *Aptaputra* (celibate mahatma who has dedicated his

life to Dada's work) about the boy's meal arrangements.

When the *Aptaputra* informed Niruma that they were still looking for a cook, Niruma told him, "If within fifteen days you do not find a cook then you will personally have to go and cook for the boy!"

Such was Niruma's pure love and affection.

Not only would she win over the one to whom she gave affection, but she would also win over the one whom she scolded!





Commando vs Armando



All of us have a player and an achiever within us! What will you be in the situations below – Armando or an Commando? ☒



I would stop studying and start to play games on my mobile.



I would take a 15 minutes break, freshen up and then sit back down to study.



I would not listen to mummy and go and play.



I would sit with mummy and set up a timetable for study and play time.



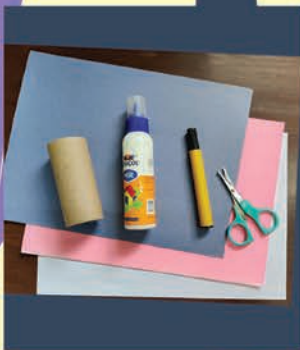
I would drop it and go look for something that I like to do.



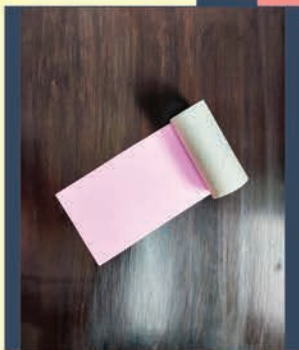
I would find ways of making the subject interesting and enjoyable.

My Creation

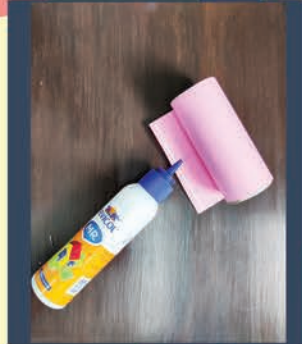
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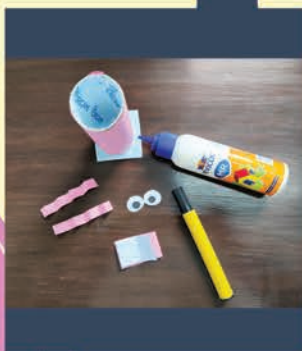
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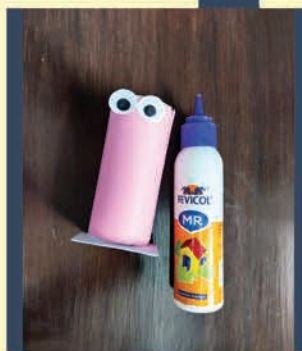
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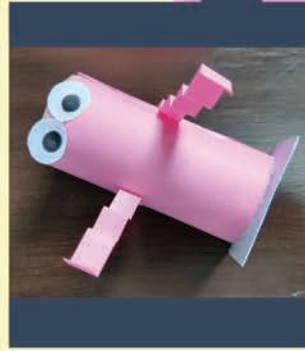
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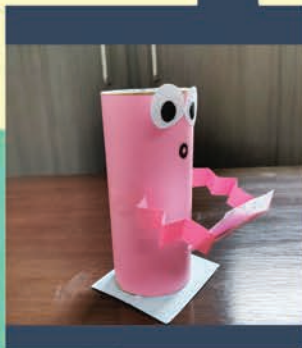
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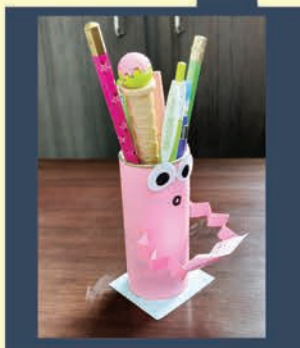
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Mythologica Story

Many years ago, a king by the name of Satyavrat ruled the kingdom of Magadh. He was righteous, warm-hearted, truthful and heroic. The people under his rule had no suffering. Scholars and artists were honoured in his court. They came from far and wide to grace his court.

King Satyavrat had three sons. All three princes were handsome and brave. However, the king's and the queen's pampering and excess love had spoilt them. Worries about the princes' future troubled the king a lot. He would worry, 'Who will rule this kingdom after I am gone?' To educate the princes the king engaged many scholars, and sent the princes to many ashrams. But the princes did not achieve anything. They used to chase away the educators by bullying them. The princes also used to harass the people in the kingdom. The people tolerated the princes' ill-treatment because of the king's good-heartedness. However, the king's spies kept him informed about the three princes' every bad deed, and each instance saddened him.

One day, the king disclosed his worries in front of the scholars and the priests in the court. But no one was willing to educate the princes. All of them sat with their faces bowed down. None of them had the courage to educate the princes.

On seeing this, the king was disheartened. He said, "Alas! Is there is no teacher in my court who can educate my princes?"

A pandit (learned man), by the name of Vishnu Sharma, sitting in a corner of the court, felt pity for the king. He was aware of the bad behaviour of the princes. Yet, for the sake of the king and for the sake of the future of the kingdom, he took up the task to turn the three princes into qualified and educated people.

Pandit Vishnu Sharma chose a quiet place and took the princes with him. But the princes frankly told him that, "We do not like to study. Let us off so that we can roam around."

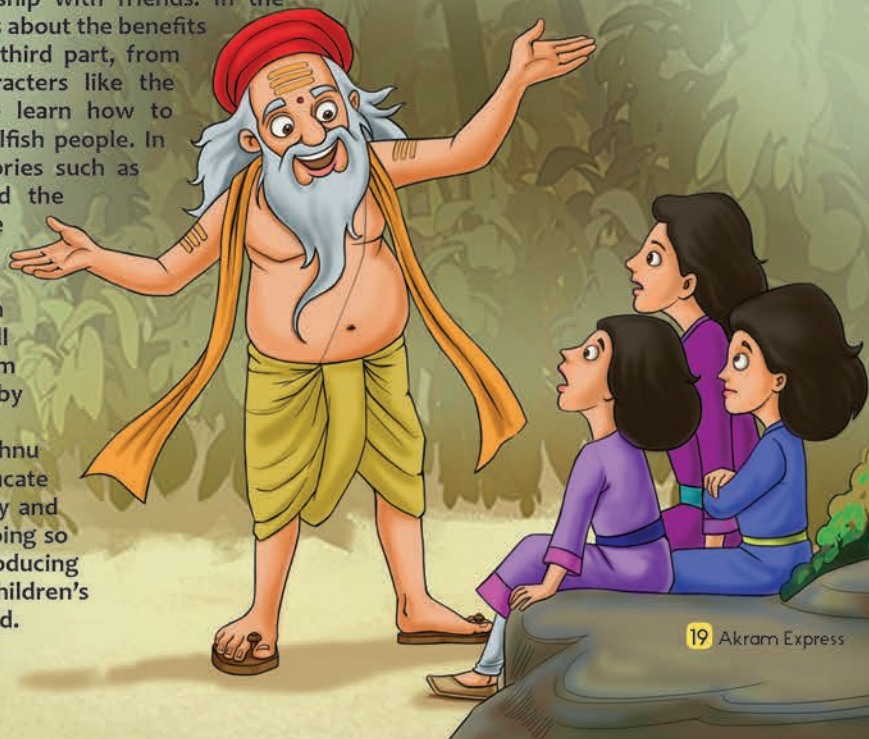
"Princes! I am not going to make you study. I am going to tell you various stories about animals and birds!"

"Stories! Well, who doesn't like listening to stories?!" The princes were surprised.

The princes were immediately ready and willing to sit and listen to the stories. These informative stories told by Pandit Vishnu Sharma are known as the 'Panchatantra' tales.

Today the 'Panchatantra' stories are read in more than fifty different languages around the world. Panchatantra means that the stories are divided in five parts. One part shares a lesson to keep patience during a hurtful relationship with friends. In the second part the message is about the benefits of having friends. In the third part, from stories that include characters like the crow and the eagle, we learn how to protect ourselves from selfish people. In the fourth part, from stories such as that of the monkey and the crocodile, we learn the message of how material things we possess can be easily lost at any time. In the fifth part the stories tell us about how much harm we can cause ourselves by blindly imitating someone.

In this way, Pandit Vishnu Sharma was able to educate the princes in a joyful way and without any burden. In doing so he also made history in producing such a resource for children's education around the world.





Coming soon...

*I am Akash's personal diary,
Full of heartfelt feelings and inquiry,
With some superhero stories,
And sweet memories and glories.
Next month is coming up a special day,
So Akash is going to share me away,
This golden day will be special for everyone,
And we cannot wait, it will be so much fun!*

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