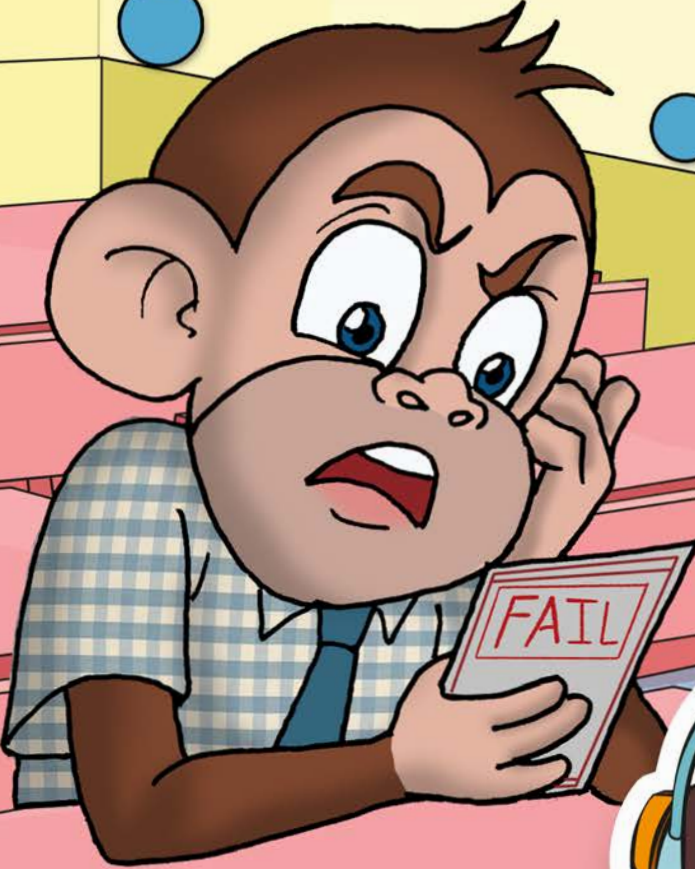


AKRAM Express

I'll just say
that I passed.



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Don't Tell

Lies

Editorial

Friends,

Let us assume that someone tells a lie. To avoid getting caught, he tells another lie. Then he tells another lie and then another. In this way he keeps on lying to cover up each lie. He feels that lying is beneficial for him, but instead of gaining anything, he is only incurring a loss. Who would run a business that only brings a loss? Would you?

No, no one wants to incur losses, but sometimes we end up doing this. In this edition, let us find out why we end up lying. What is the harm in telling lies? What discussion did Birva have with the ant about telling lies. What did Gappidas the Rabbit learn? Where are

Theo and Friends off to for their next adventure? What happened next in Aaloo and Chilly's story? Read on to find out.

- Dimple Mehta



August, 2025
Year 17, Issue : 01
Conti. Issue No.: 191
Published Monthly

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Dist. Gandhinagar-382421, Gujarat. © 2025, Dada Bhagwan Foundation
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Website: kids.dadabhagwan.org

Editor: Dimple Mehta
Published by Mahavideh Foundation
Simandhar City, Adalaj - 382421.
Taluka & Dist.- Gandhinagar.

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Price Per Copy: NIL

2 August 2025

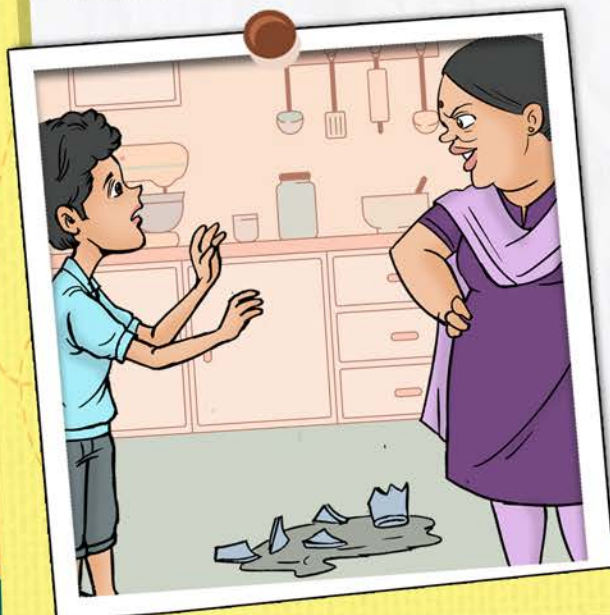
Gnanis Say....

Questioner: Why does one tell lies?

Pujyashree: When one wants something, but does not get it, then they lie to get it. One lies when they want to look good or impress others. Also people tell lies due to fear. There is an inner fear as to what people will say.

Questioner: Many times I end up telling a lie over small things, because of fear. What should I do?

Pujyashree: You should tell the truth on one occasion and then you will experience that it doesn't cause a problem. There is no need to tell lies at all. You fear that someone will insult you [and think], 'What if they scold me?' If they scold you, then let them, but there is no need to tell lies.



[For example], you accidentally break something and your mother asks, "Who broke this?" and you say, "I don't know," then you are lying. If you happen to tell a lie, then after a short

time, [come clean and] tell them, “I told a lie. I was the one who broke it. It broke while I was playing.” You should tell the truth. Everyone will be pleased if you tell the truth, and no one will scold you.

Questioner: What harm is there in lying?

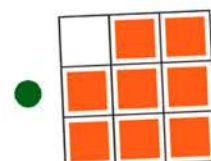
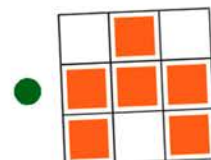
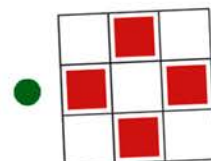
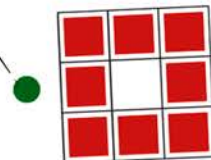
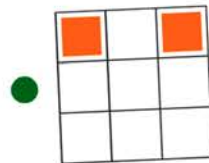
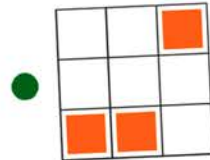
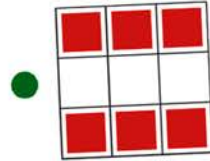
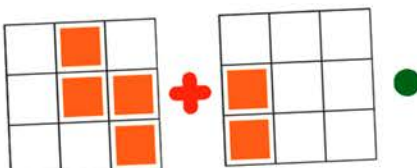
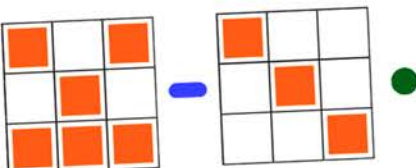
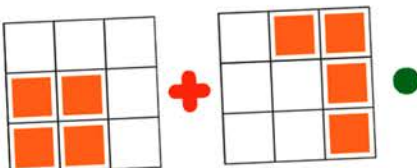
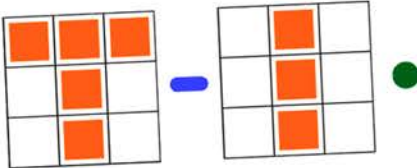
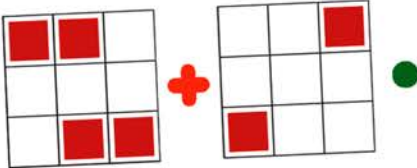
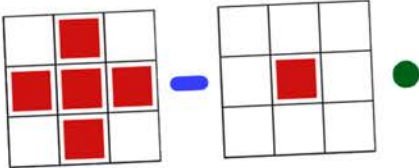
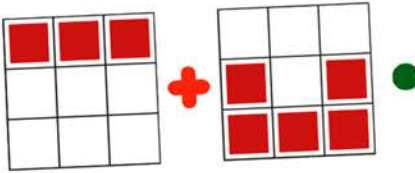
Pujyashree: If you tell lies then people will not trust you. They will say, “This person is a liar and is no good.” If you lie, you should ask for forgiveness. Say to the person you lied to, ‘I made a mistake. I will not do this again.’ We do not like it when someone lies to us, so we should make a strong resolve not to lie to anyone.

If someone lies to you and you do not like it, then you should check, ‘Have I ever lied to anyone in my life?’ If you have, then ask for forgiveness and resolve to never lie again.



Let's Play

Match the picture sums on the left with the correct answer on the right.





For the past few days, strange things had been happening in the jungle. Everyone was wondering why, but no one could figure it out.

One day, the lion, who was the king of the jungle, was sitting and thinking. Just then, the fox came and asked him, "O King, why do you look so worried?"

The lion sat up majestically and replied, "No, no, I'm not worried at all, but I'm quite surprised to see so many trees falling one by one along the riverbank in the jungle. Who is the one in this jungle strong enough to do such a thing?"



"Is that it? Such a small matter! If I have your permission, then I'll go investigate it right away," said the fox, and he ran off towards the river without waiting for the king's reply.

When would he ever get another opportunity to be praised by the king?



When he arrived at the riverbank, his eyes widened at the sight of what was happening. He saw a rabbit nibbling at something.



Then the rabbit drew up all his strength, ran forwards and knocked down a tree.

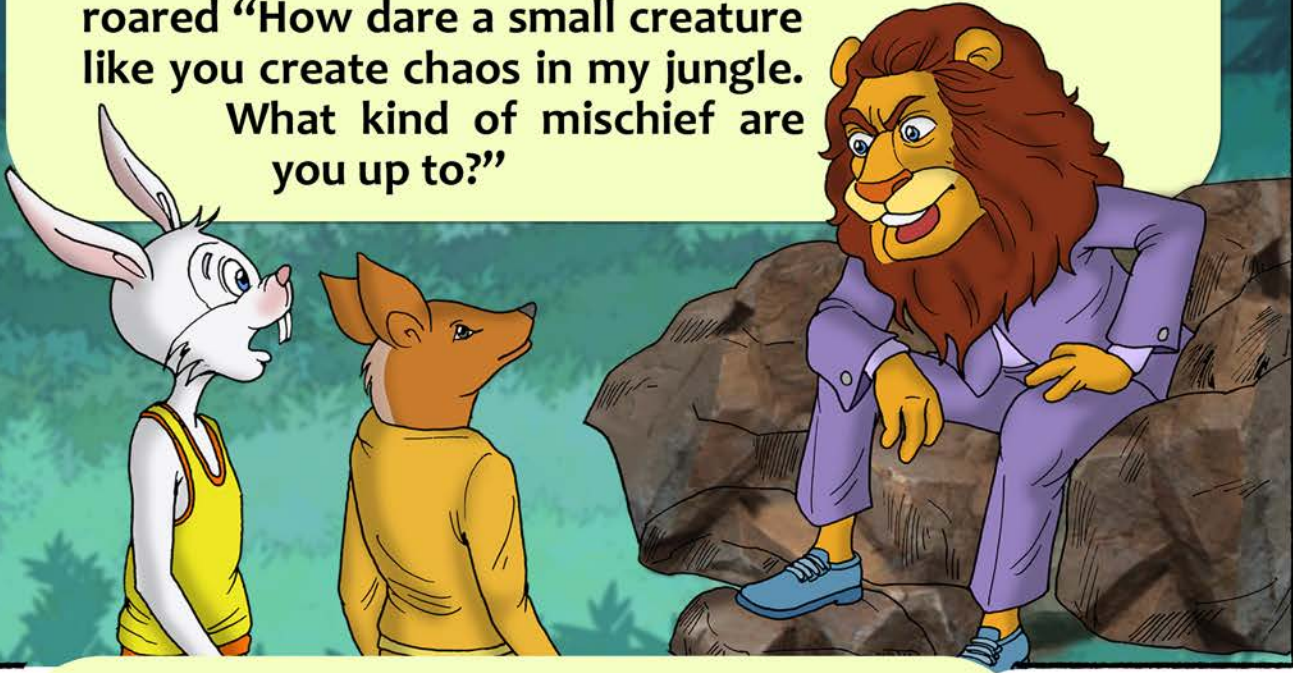


The fox went back to the king and told him everything. Upon hearing this the lion was astounded. "How did this little rabbit get so much strength that he could knock down a large tree?! Go back at once and bring that rabbit to me."

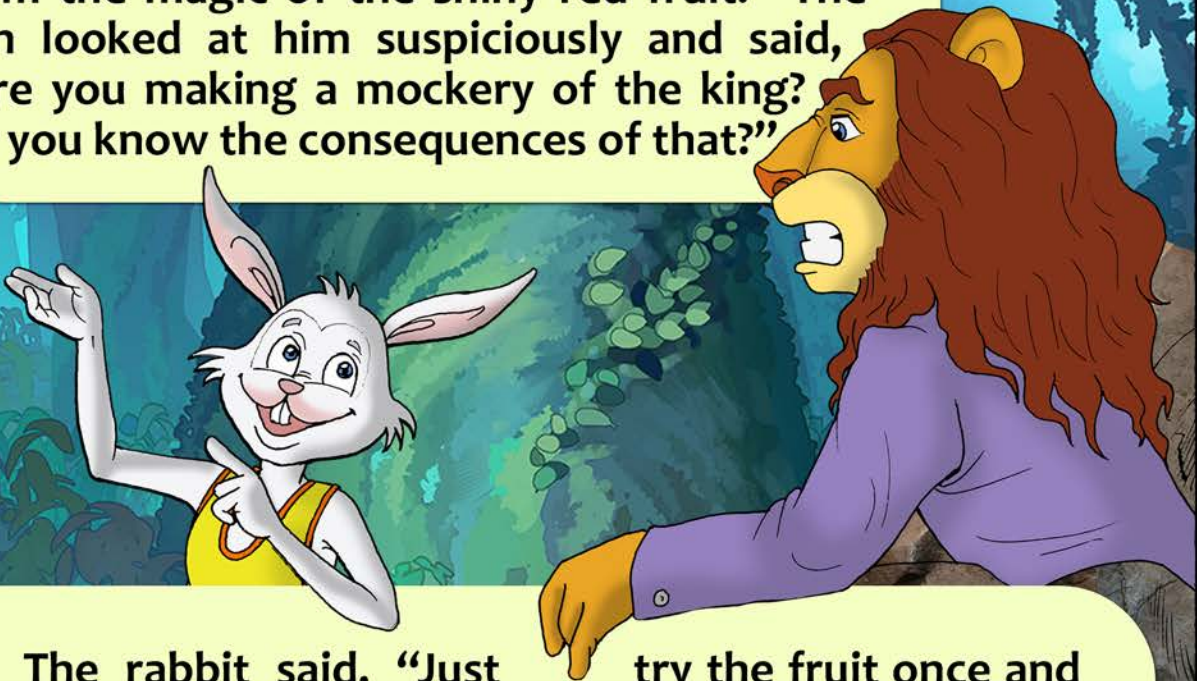


Without wasting a moment, the fox went back to the riverbank and brought the rabbit before the king. The fox too wanted to know the secret to becoming so powerful.

Seeing the rabbit, the lion roared “How dare a small creature like you create chaos in my jungle. What kind of mischief are you up to?”



The rabbit replied fearlessly, “This is all from the magic of the shiny red fruit.” The lion looked at him suspiciously and said, “Are you making a mockery of the king? Do you know the consequences of that?”



The rabbit said, “Just try the fruit once and see for yourself. If I’m lying, then you can have my head. You can do with me whatever you want.”



The lion went with the rabbit to the riverbank to confirm the facts. The rabbit gave a round, shiny red fruit to the lion to eat. The fruit tasted good.

Now he wanted to check if it actually worked. The lion pushed a large tree with his mighty paws, and it really fell over!



After this, the word spread like wildfire throughout the whole jungle.



As everyone in the jungle came to know about this, they all started praising the rabbit. As a result, the rabbit's status in the jungle went up. Someone asked the rabbit, "Where did you find this fruit?"

The rabbit replied, "It is not easy to find such a rare fruit. I found it after scouring the jungle."

After listening to the rabbit, everyone began to regard him with great respect. They started hovering around him in hopes of getting hold of the fruit. But would the rabbit give up the fruit that easily? Whoever came to him, he would first make them sit and listen to stories about his bravery.

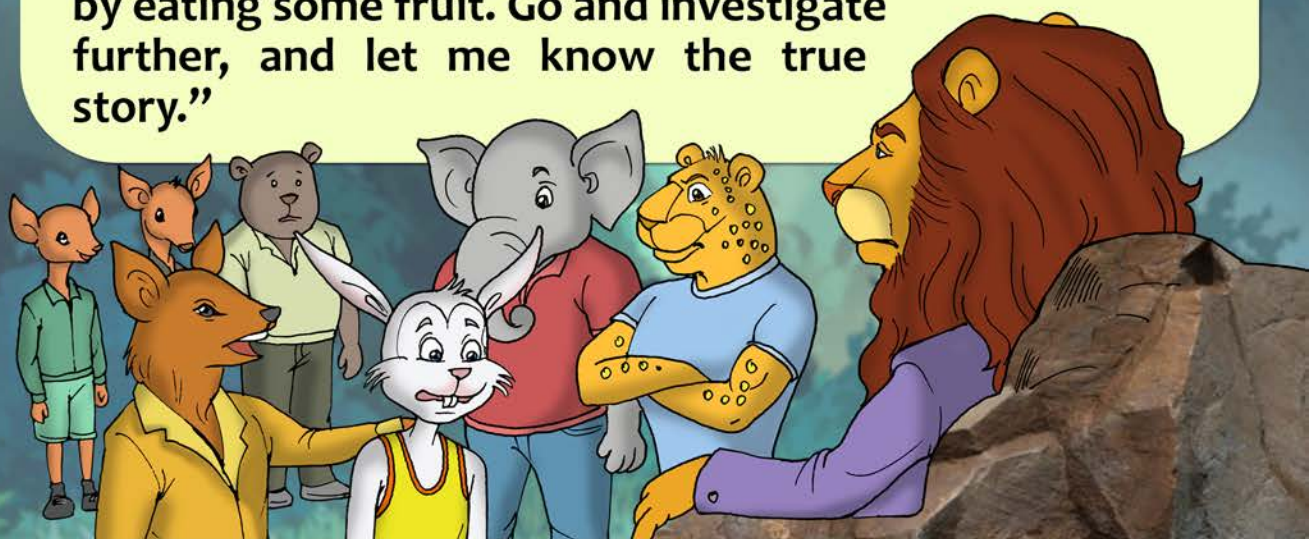


“After eating this fruit, I gained so much strength that forget about trees - one night, when I was walking back alone from the other jungle, two tigers came after me, and I fought them off by myself and chased them away.” The rabbit told many stories like this to everyone.





The rabbit started gaining a lot of status in the jungle. The animals started going to him for advice before making any decisions. Seeing this, the lion got worried. He again called the fox and told him, "I still don't understand how anyone can gain so much strength just by eating some fruit. Go and investigate further, and let me know the true story."



For a few days the fox kept the rabbit under surveillance. Then the fox grabbed the rabbit and brought him before the king. He also called all the other animals to gather there as well. Once everyone arrived, the fox announced, "This rabbit is just making a fool of all of us. The red fruit is nothing but a tomato that he gets from the city."

“But what about the fact that the rabbit got the strength to knock down a tree?” asked the cheetah.



The fox looked at the rabbit and said, “Let us ask the rabbit himself.”

The rabbit answered in a scared voice, “There are a lot of trees which have become very old and weak near the riverbank, and I had seen some people pouring medicine around those trees to dry them up.



I knew that the trees had become so fragile that just touching them would cause them to fall down easily. So, to look impressive, I made up the whole story.”

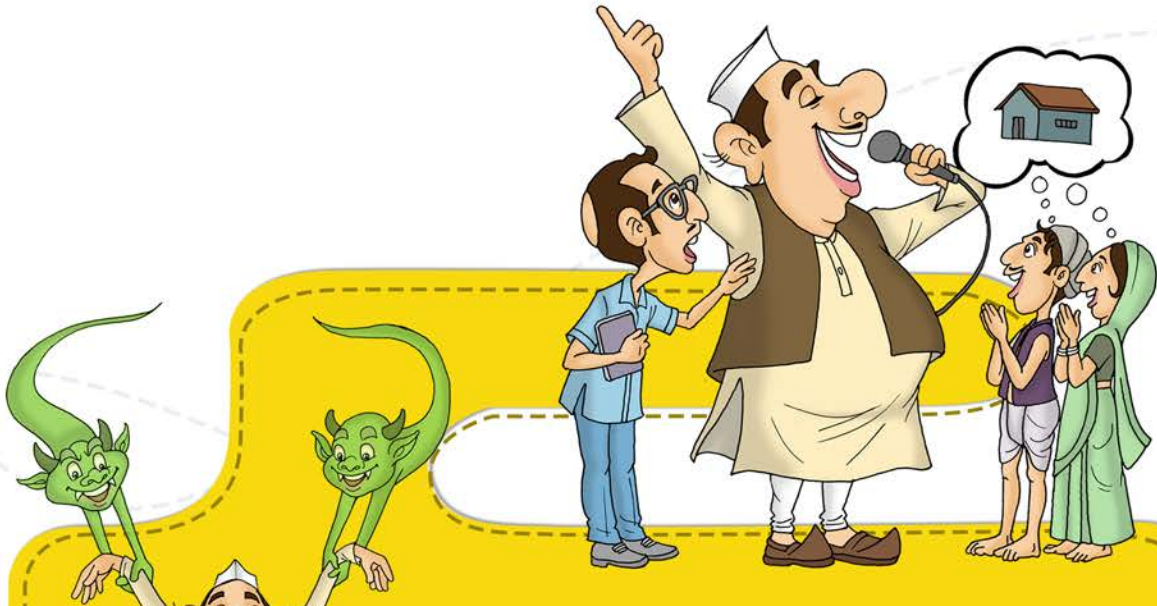
After hearing this, all the animals became angry and were ready to beat up the little rabbit. The rabbit was terrified and fell at the lion's feet. He apologised to the king, "My habit of lying and showing off has cost me a lot, please forgive me. I will never do this again."



The lion calmed the animals and said, "The rabbit has understood his mistake, so we should give him at least one last chance to change." He then looked at the rabbit, "If you ever come up with such nonsense again, then we won't need any red fruit to sort you out!"

All the animals started laughing, and the rabbit looked down in shame.





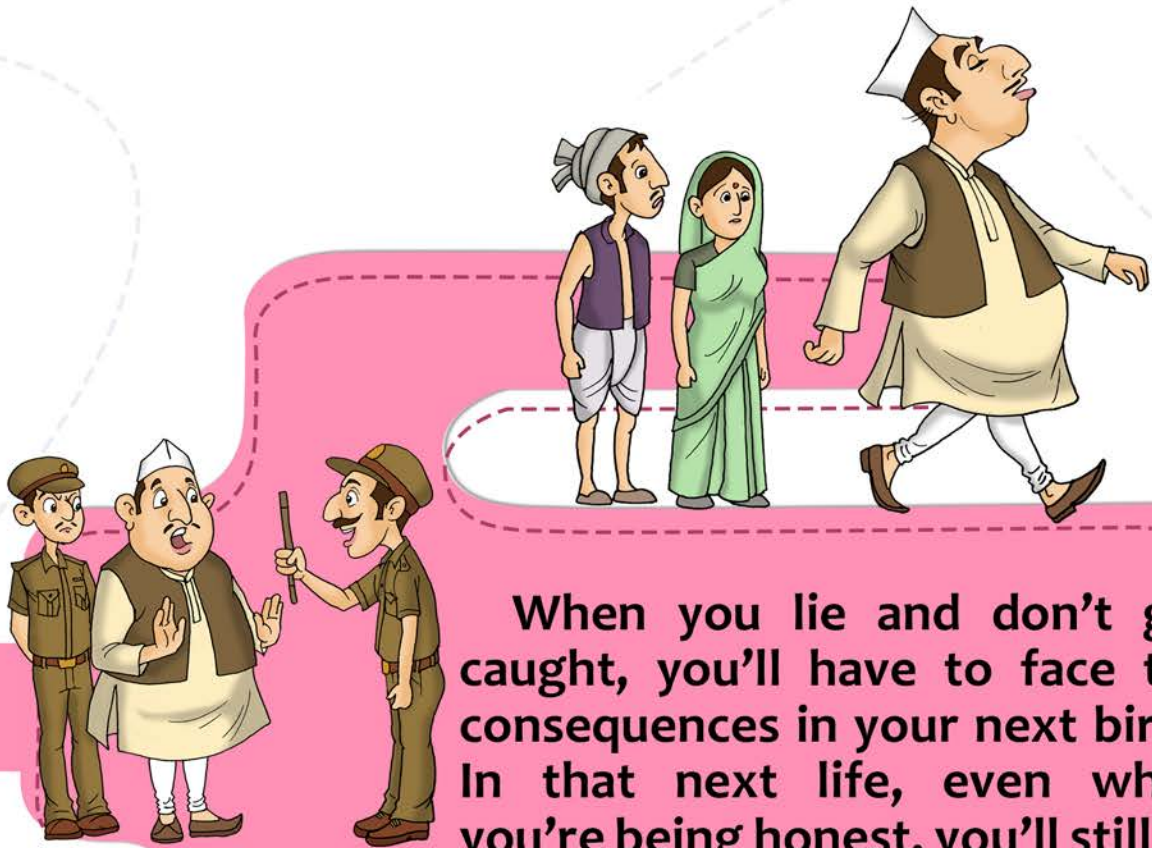
You lose your humanity when you lie or deceive someone for personal gain. It is like heading towards beastliness. Even if someone lies to you ten times, you should still tell the truth and remain helpful.

Absolutely

New



If you have a habit of telling lies, then you should also develop the habit alongside of asking for forgiveness for every lie.



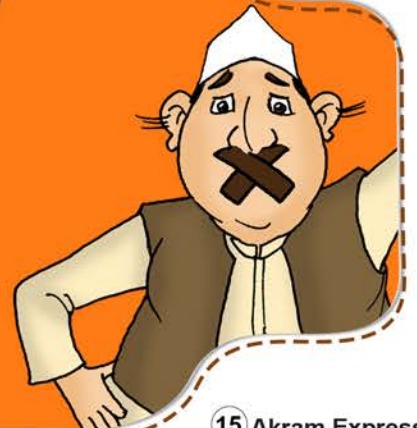
When you lie and don't get caught, you'll have to face the consequences in your next birth. In that next life, even when you're being honest, you'll still be accused of being a liar.

and

Different



By speaking lies, you could lose your ability to talk. That is a possible punishment.



Let's

Play

Help the rabbit
get to the carrots.



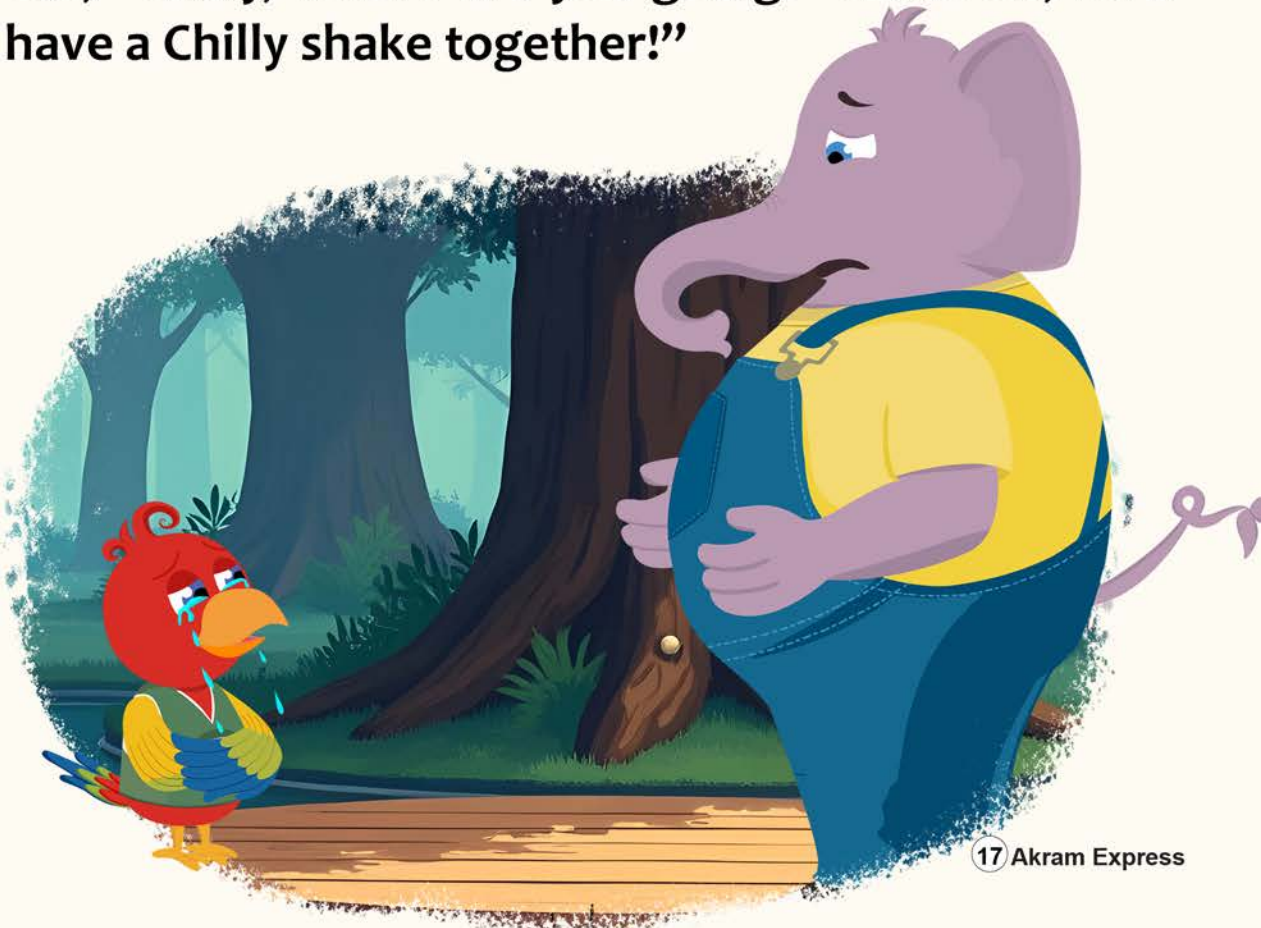


Chilly's mood had finally improved after seeing the party that had been prepared for him at Theo's café. But when he noticed

everyone praising Koko, he felt heated up again, and left the party. Aaloo went after him when he saw him leaving. Now Aaloo will tell us what happened next...

I felt really bad seeing tears in Chilly's eyes. This party was all for him so why was he leaving? I thought, 'Let me try talking to him once and then everything should be fine.'

I followed him. I caught up to him and called out, "Chilly, where are you going? Come on, let's have a Chilly shake together!"



Chilly turned around, started crying and in between sobs he said, “Bwaah! Do whatever you want...sob....It is my party...Wots Toto doing here..? All you my friend or Toto's? Bwaah...” Chilly wasn't able to speak clearly.

Just then, Parsley came and said in my ear, “Aaloo, what is he saying? How will we understand him if he talks while crying?” I thought he was talking clearly. So I told Parsley, “He is saying, ‘Do whatever you want. It is my party, so what is Koko doing here? Are you my friend or Koko's?’”



And before I could say anything to Chilly, Parsley burst out, “Aren’t you ashamed, Chilly? Aaloo did so much for you. Even though you lost, he has arranged a grand party for you! And after all that, you’re saying these things to him!”

Chilly stopped crying, became red with anger and started shouting, “Then he shouldn’t have! I didn’t ask him to throw a party for me. But I threw a party for him. Every time he went for skating practice, I used to go and cheer him on and I didn’t say to him, ‘Maybe Kulfi will win.’ I always said, ‘Aaloo, you’ll definitely win, you can do it.’ I never made Kulfi my friend!”

I never meant to hurt Chilly, but I did. So I simply said, “Sorry, Chilly. But please listen to me... Let me explain...”



To read the Aaloo-Chilly stories all together...

Click Here

<https://shorturl.at/CvoAC>

Aaloo wants to say something to Chilly, but will Chilly listen to him?

Conversations With the Ant

Birva went into the kitchen and noticed a covered bowl on the kitchen top. She took off the cover and saw a

delicious pastry. Her mouth started watering. She couldn't resist and ate half the pastry in two mouthfuls. Just then, she heard her friends and quickly left the kitchen.

Birva's friends were calling her to come and play with them, so she went to join them. When she came back, her mother was waiting for her in the kitchen with a stern expression. As soon as she saw Birva, she asked, "Who ate this pastry?"

Birva started thinking, 'What should I say? If I tell the truth, Mother might get angry. Let me just lie instead. Mother won't find out and I've gotten away with it before.'



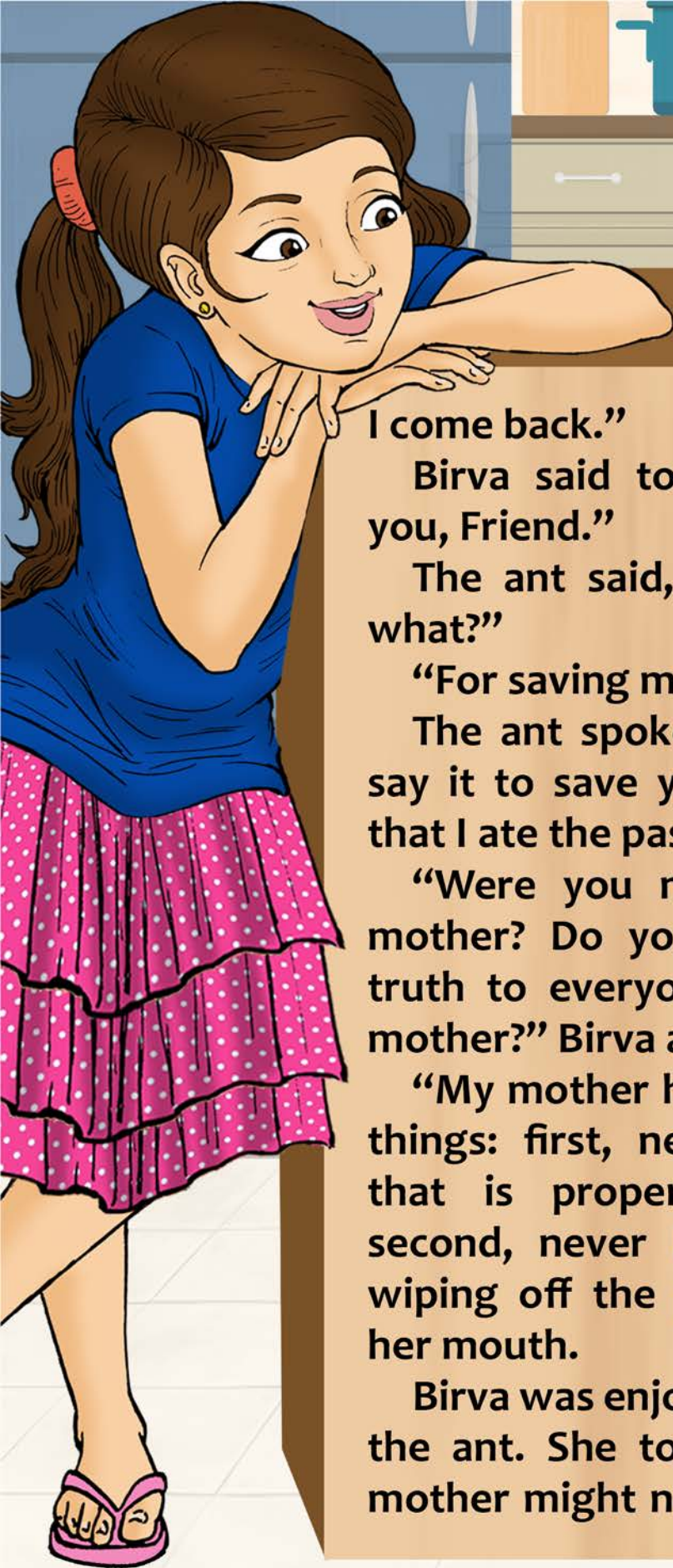
Before Birva could say anything, she heard a voice, saying, “I ate it.”

Birva and her mother turned towards the voice and saw a shiny red ant standing tall and staring at them. It looked at Mother and said, “If you leave food uncovered, then of course I’ll assume it is for me. So I didn’t ask, especially for such a delicious pastry!”

Birva thought, ‘Phew... this ant has saved me today. But this ant is very brave! She isn’t even scared of Mother. She just told the complete truth. I hope Mother doesn’t ask any more questions.’

But just before Mother could ask anything, her phone rang. So, she told both of them, “You both stay right here. I’ll deal with you when





I come back.”

Birva said to the ant, “Thank you, Friend.”

The ant said, “Thank you? For what?”

“For saving me”

The ant spoke louder, “I didn’t say it to save you. All I said was that I ate the pastry.”

“Were you not scared of my mother? Do you always tell the truth to everyone? Even to your mother?” Birva asked, surprised.

“My mother has taught me two things: first, never eat anything that is properly covered, and second, never lie,” said the ant wiping off the pastry crumbs on her mouth.

Birva was enjoying her chat with the ant. She told the ant, “Your mother might not say anything to



you, but just wait until my mother comes. Today, you've told the truth so watch out! She is going to scold you. Aren't you scared after hearing this?"

"Listen, girl, a mother is a mother, whether she is yours or mine. They always tell us what is best for us. Why should I lie just because your mother might scold me? Do you lie to your mother?" asked the ant.

"Yes... yes... when I sense that Mother is going to scold me, I immediately lie and she doesn't even realise it! And what is wrong in lying?" Birva asked arrogantly.

"I don't know what harm it will do. If you want to find out, then come with me and ask my mother," said the ant, pacing back and forth.

Birva, for the first time, became curious about why lying was harmful, so she started following the ant.

The ant stopped at a small opening. The mother ant came out, having recognised her scent. She was happy to see the little ant and said, "My sweetie, you're back! Looks like you found

some delicious food today!” But before she could ask anything else, she noticed Birva.

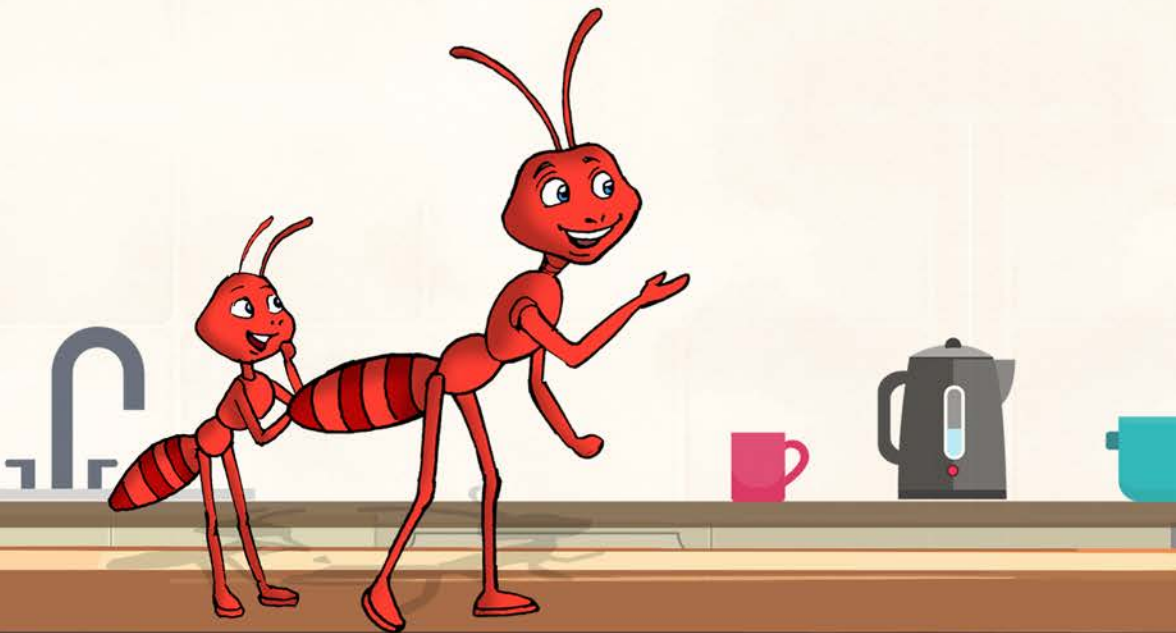
The little ant said, “Mother, I ate some delicious food at this girl’s house, but this girl talks complete nonsense.”

On hearing this, Birva rolled her eyes.

The mother ant gestured to the little ant to keep quiet and asked Birva, “You’ve come to complain about my sweetie? She usually never eats anything that is covered and kept properly, but...”

“I haven’t done that today either, Mother. I only ate the crumbs that fell on the floor from the pastry that was left open by this girl. She has come to ask you something,” said the little ant.

“Aunty, your daughter said that lying is harmful, so I wanted to know why is it



harmful?” Birva asked the mother ant straightaway.

“Look dear, this habit of lying is like chewing gum. At first, it starts off very sweet, but then your mouth starts to hurt from chewing and it only harms us!”

“How?” Birva questioned the mother ant again.

“If you don’t get caught lying the first time, then you feel pleased with yourself. So, you lie for a second time, then a third time... and so, it becomes a habit. But the other person eventually realises that you’re lying and loses all trust in you. They’ll never again believe what you say,” the mother ant explained.



“You’re right. Sometimes my friend even tells me, ‘I don’t trust what you’re saying.’ I don’t always want to lie, but I can’t help it. What should I do?” asked Briva.

“Mother told me that whenever we lie, we should ask for forgiveness from the other person. Isn’t that right, Mother?” the little ant asked, looking at her mother.

“Yes, yes, you’re absolutely right. You should not only ask for forgiveness, but also make a resolve to never lie again,” the mother ant said while affectionately stroking the little ant’s head.

“But Aunt, I still don’t understand. If there is no true happiness in lying,



then why do we still do it?” Birva asked curiously.

“Look, dear, people tend to lie for two main reasons: either they want something, or they’re afraid. But if you make a firm decision not to lie, then your habit of lying will vanish,” the mother ant said kindly.

“Today, I learnt something new. So, I’ll also try to be brave like you. Come with me,” Birva said to the little ant.

“To where?” asked the ant curiously.

“I have to tell Mother that it was I who ate the pastry, and not this sweet little ant,” Birva said, laughing.

“See, you’re lying again!” the ant replied, also laughing. “We’ll have to tell your mother that you ate some of the pastry and I did too!”





Theo and his friends were on a tour of Maharashtra. This time Rizo had planned to go and see places that no one had heard of before. Everyone had a great time visiting them. Zoey captured so many amazing photos of the lush green scenery of Konkan that she ran out of memory on her camera. Theo loved konkan food so much that every other day he remembered the solkadhi (coconut and kokum fruit drink) and usal (sprouted beans curry). Giffy was so impressed with the place that he couldn't stop praising



Rizo, “Rizo, you’ve done a great job finding all these places.”

That evening, everyone planned to go to the city of Chiplun. They visited some museums there and then went to a bookstore, where they found a book on Gopal Krishna Gokhale. Everyone had learned about him in school and knew what an important role he had played in the fight for India’s independence. His place of residence was 25 kilometres away from Chiplun. Giffy immediately bought the book and then announced to everyone, “Tonight, I’ll tell you a story from this book.”

Night fell and Giffy started reading the story....

Once, Gopal Krishna Gokhale's teacher asked the school children to do some maths problems at home. When Gokhale returned home that day, he found that a friend had come to visit him. This friend was very clever. With his friend's help, Gokhale completed all the maths problems.

The next day, at school, when the teacher checked everyone's homework, all of Gokhale's answers were correct. The teacher was very impressed.

The teacher wanted to give him an award, and

Gokhale stood up to receive it. He took a few steps forward towards the teacher, but then suddenly remembered something and froze in place.


The students and the teacher just stared at him.

Gokhale became very upset and started crying. The teacher was surprised and asked him, “You’re getting an award. You should be happy. Why are you crying?”

Gokhale quietly said, “This award is not really meant for me.”

“All your maths answers were correct you deserve to get this award,” the teacher said.





Gokhale said, “Sir, the answers are correct, but one of my friends helped me solve them. I didn’t do them on my own.”

The teacher and the students were all in awe when they heard this. Seeing Gokhale’s honesty, the teacher thought to himself, “As long as we have such students in this country, no one can stop India’s progress.”

After reading this story, for the first time, Giffy had a smile on his face instead of tears. It was as if he felt very proud of Gopal Krishna Gokhale! But Rizo was almost in tears.

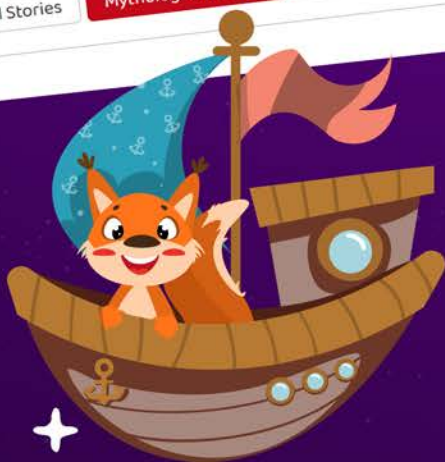
“What happened?” Zoey asked him.

“You were all praising me, so that’s why I didn’t tell you the truth. I didn’t actually plan the trip. Last year, Tigu came here on vacation, and he planned the entire holiday for us,” Rizo said sadly.

“You’ve told us the truth and we’re all enjoying ourselves. Why are you feeling sad? We’ll go and say thank you to Tigu when we return to Didima Jungle,” said Theo while munching on his favourite snack.

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