

Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

July 2025

AKRAM Express



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to know the story
behind this photo**

Editorial

Friends,

Once, there was a cuckoo. Seeing the beauty and the graceful dance of a peacock, it thought to itself, 'I want to be a peacock too.' One day, it found some fallen peacock feathers in the jungle. It put the feathers on and danced happily. All the other animals in the jungle gathered around to watch. In a short while all the feathers fell off and all the animals started making fun of the cuckoo. The wise owl said to the sad cuckoo, "Dear, why do you need to be like the peacock? Your uniqueness is your original sweet voice. How can you forget that?"

Do we also occasionally lose sight of our originality and identity, and give in to the temptation to copy? In this issue, we will find out what happens when we copy. When is copying appropriate? What did Ananya learn from the chameleon? Who became the rightful heir to the Aryavart kingdom? What did Theo and Friends do on the riverfront? What happened next in Aaloo-Chilly's story? To find all this out, you must read on!

-Dimple Mehta



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Gnanis Say...

Is it better to live by copying others or by being yourself? These children copy each other. What is the need to copy? In life, it is not worth copying anyone.

We should have originality. There should be no copying. Everyone [these days] is copying. They copy fashion and hair styles. If he is wearing Nike [branded clothing], then [we think] let's also wear it. If he did something, then [we think] let's also do it. We look at other people and adopt their style. When people see others stealing or copying, they follow their example and go down the wrong path. Where is the understanding at all? Does anyone imitate the Gnanis, Lord Krishna, Lord Ram or Lord Mahavir? It would be good if one copied them.





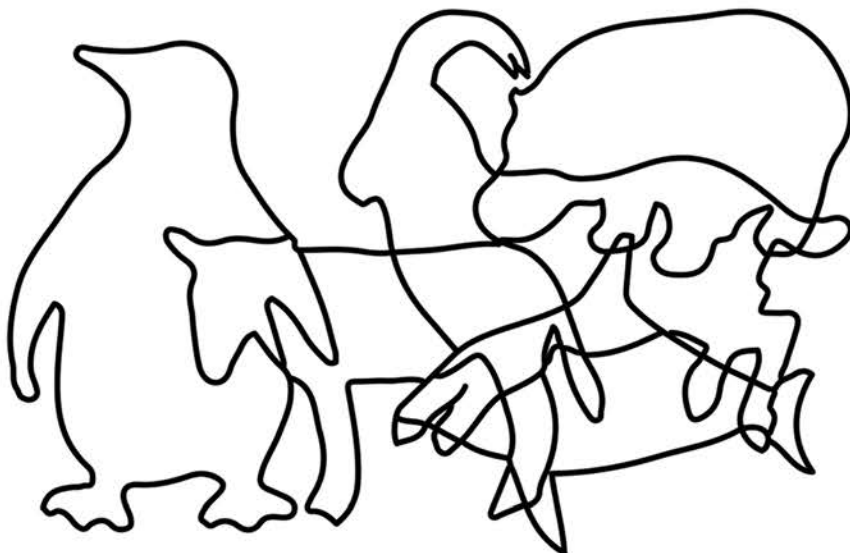
We should be original. Then, our human existence would be considered worthwhile. We should feel pride [in ourselves and our background] that, 'This is who I am. And my mother is so wonderful; she gives me such excellent guidance. I should listen to her [instead of copying others].'

Questioner: I want to take the right path, but I still end up going down the wrong path. I copy bad things. What should I do?

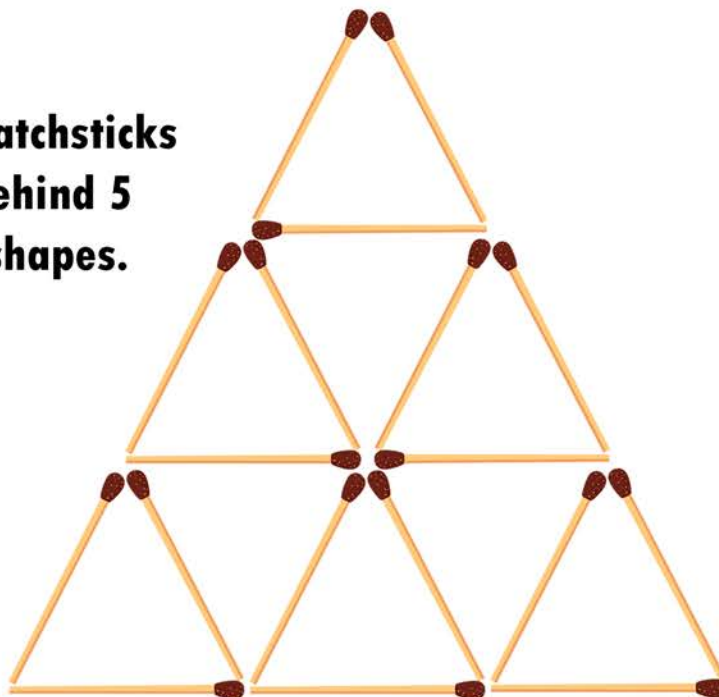
Niruma: You know what is right and wrong. However, you cannot seem to let go of the wrong, and you do not have the strength to follow the right path. You need to develop that strength. To develop that strength, you need to be in the company of good people.

Let's Play...

Find which animals are hidden in the drawing below.



Remove 5 matchsticks to leave behind 5 identical shapes.





The one who copies others is considered a fake. One is considered an original if they follow their own path using their own insight and understanding.



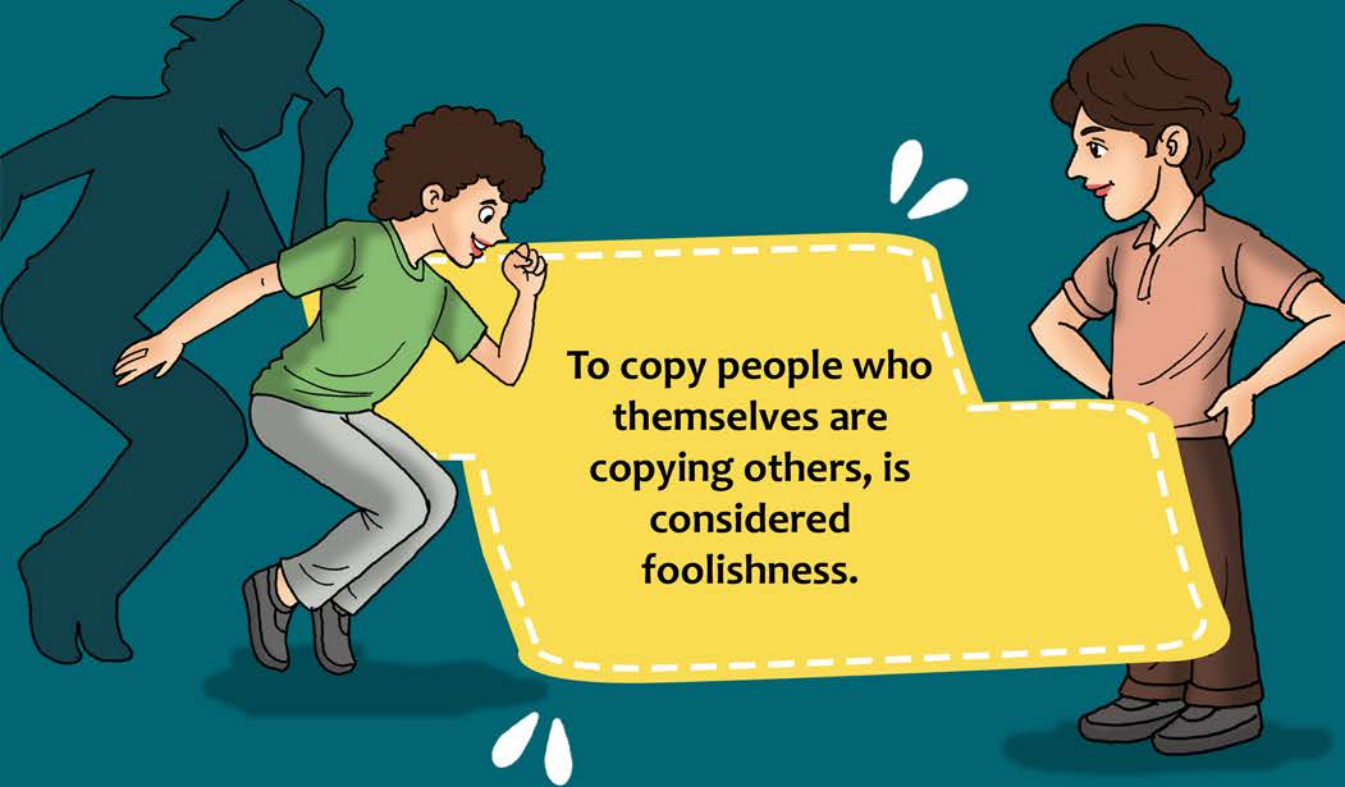
Absolutely



One should strive to emulate understanding, not behaviour.

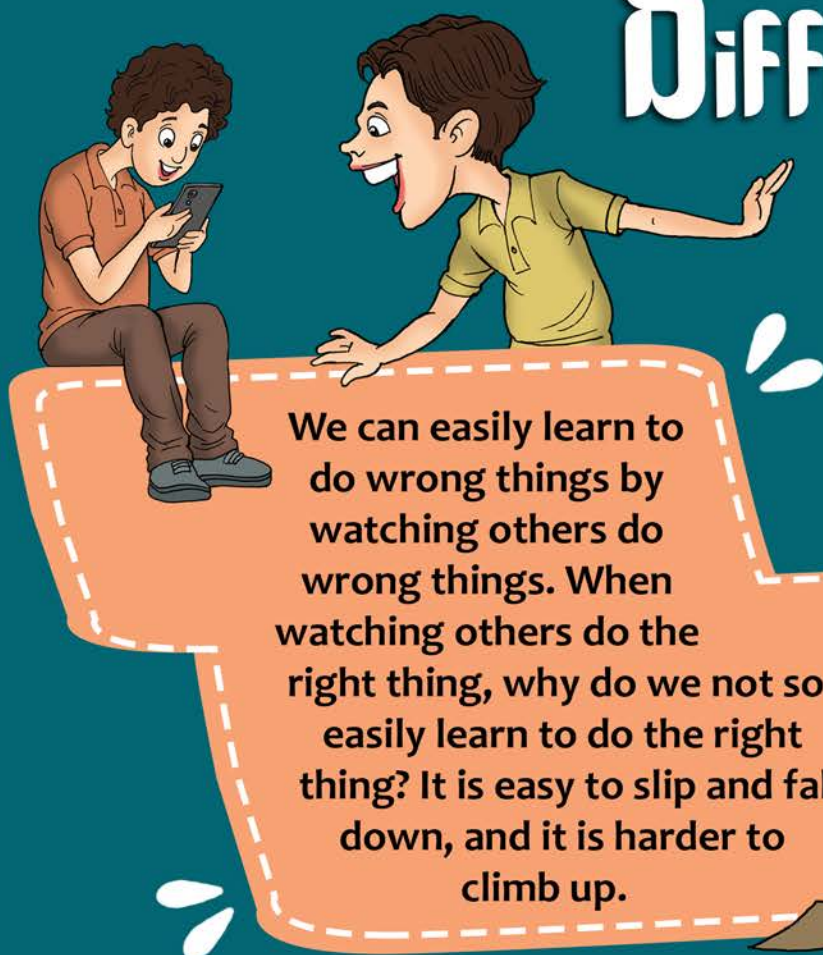
For example: In this issue's story of 'The Heir,' Rajveer emulated the king's understanding while Tejpal emulated his behaviour.



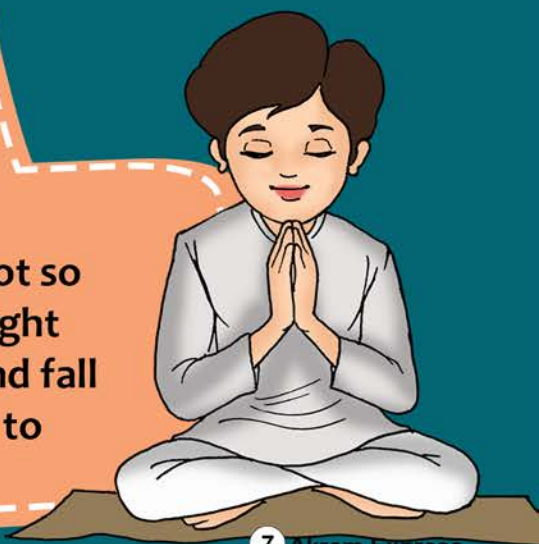


To copy people who themselves are copying others, is considered foolishness.

New and Different !



We can easily learn to do wrong things by watching others do wrong things. When watching others do the right thing, why do we not so easily learn to do the right thing? It is easy to slip and fall down, and it is harder to climb up.



Who Is the One That Changes Colour?



Today, I tried a new hairstyle. I folded my hair around the front and pinned it at the back. Usually I would wear a simple plait every day, but I tried something new today. As I rolled up the sleeves of my uniform shirt, I looked in the mirror and thought to myself, 'I look great. I look just like her!' As I entered the classroom, a hand went up from the last seat and gestured for me to come over. I headed in that direction.

"Oh wow, Ananya! You look great today!" Gina gave me a high five.

"Style and hairstyle... I must say, you learned quickly!" said Tia. She did a new hairstyle every day.

Today, I had done a hairstyle just like her's.

“Now you look just like us.” Finally, Reyal, in her signature manner, placed her hand on my shoulder and gave her approval. Reyal had rolled up the sleeves of her uniform shirt just like I had done. To be honest, I had copied this style from her.

There was a flurry of thoughts going through my mind. I had transferred to a new school four weeks ago. In my new seventh grade class, no one had talked to me for many days. As always, I was practically invisible to everyone. Then, suddenly one day, Reyal - the most popular girl in the class - invited me to eat with her during break time. I was overwhelmed. But later I found out that Reyal's mother and my mother were friends at work. It was my mother who had requested Reyal's mother to encourage Reyal to be friends



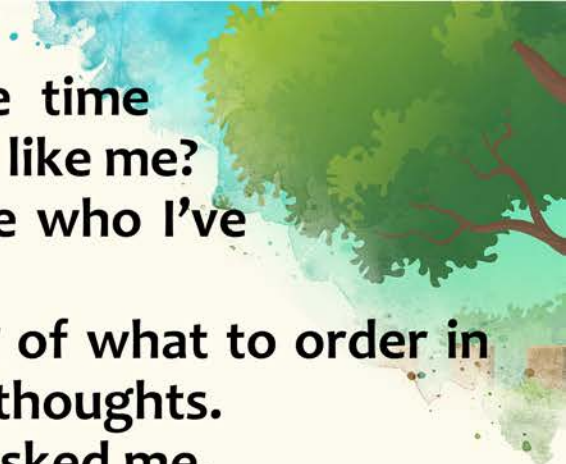
with me. That's all there was to it! From that day onwards, I became part of the 'Reyal and Group' and everyone began to recognize me.

"Hey, are you there?" Gina brought me back from my thoughts and dramatically exclaimed, "Ugh, this is going to be such a boring class!"

The teacher entered the classroom and everyone fell silent. We talked to each other by writing notes on the last page of our notebook, and that is how we passed time in the class. I didn't like doing this. It was bothering me on the inside. But to stay in the group, I continued to go along with what they did.

The bell rang for break time and everyone immediately stood up. As I was exiting the class, I noticed a girl. I'm not sure why, but she looked





much like me. At the same time I thought, 'In what way is she like me? Right now, I'm not even sure who I've become like!'

My friends were thinking of what to order in the canteen. I was lost in my thoughts.

"What will you eat?" Tia asked me.

"What are you all ordering?"

"The usual."

"Same for me then." This was what always happened. For several days I had stopped thinking for myself. I used to think that if I behaved like them then I wouldn't be left alone. So, I not only behaved like them, but I also used to speak like them as well. My words and my style of speaking had all become like theirs. I had learnt such words that I had never said before.

Everyone gathered in the canteen. Some girls were talking about Nature Park. We found out that there was going to be a school field trip to Nature Park next week.

"Nature Park! So boring!" said Reyal. Gina and Tia, as always, agreed with whatever Reyal said. I didn't say anything, and no one asked for my opinion.

On the day of the field trip, the teacher divided the students into two buses based on their roll number. I was separated from Reyal, Gina and Tia. In

the bus, I was seated next to the same girl who I thought looked like me. Her name was Priya. Priya and I shared the same hobbies. She liked to travel and read just like me. We were so engrossed in talking that we didn't realise we'd reached Nature Park. I felt better after speaking to Priya. Perhaps because I could be myself. I didn't pretend to be someone else for her to accept me. For the first time I felt true kinship with my classmates. Usually, every day I just felt like a minion to my three 'friends'.

After arriving at the park, the students were divided into two groups. Again I was in a different group to Reyal, Gina and Tia. My group went to the zoo first. A guide was telling us about the different animals.

"Children, this is a chameleon. Does anyone know what is special about this animal?" asked the guide.





Priya raised her hand, “Sir, it changes its colour based on the surrounding environment.”

“Absolutely correct answer. The chameleon’s colour changes depending on the environment.”

A girl behind me commented, “Like some girls in our class!”

I was struck by the girl’s comment. I didn’t know her and she may not have made this comment about me, but she was correct. I was behaving like a chameleon. My habits, my clothes, my hairstyle, even my words and style of speaking had become like that of ‘Reyal and Group.’

We went for a meal after visiting the zoo. While eating, Priya said, “The noodles are really tasty.”

“Yes, they’re really yummy,” I remarked.

I really did like the noodles. I didn't lie just to please Priya. I don't remember the last time that I had freely said my true opinion like this. For so many days I had only been saying 'yes' to whatever my friends liked.

I didn't realise how quickly the entire day went by. I barely met Reyah, Gina and Tia. The next day was a school holiday. The whole day I kept on remembering the things said about the chameleon. How many times can I do what a chameleon does?

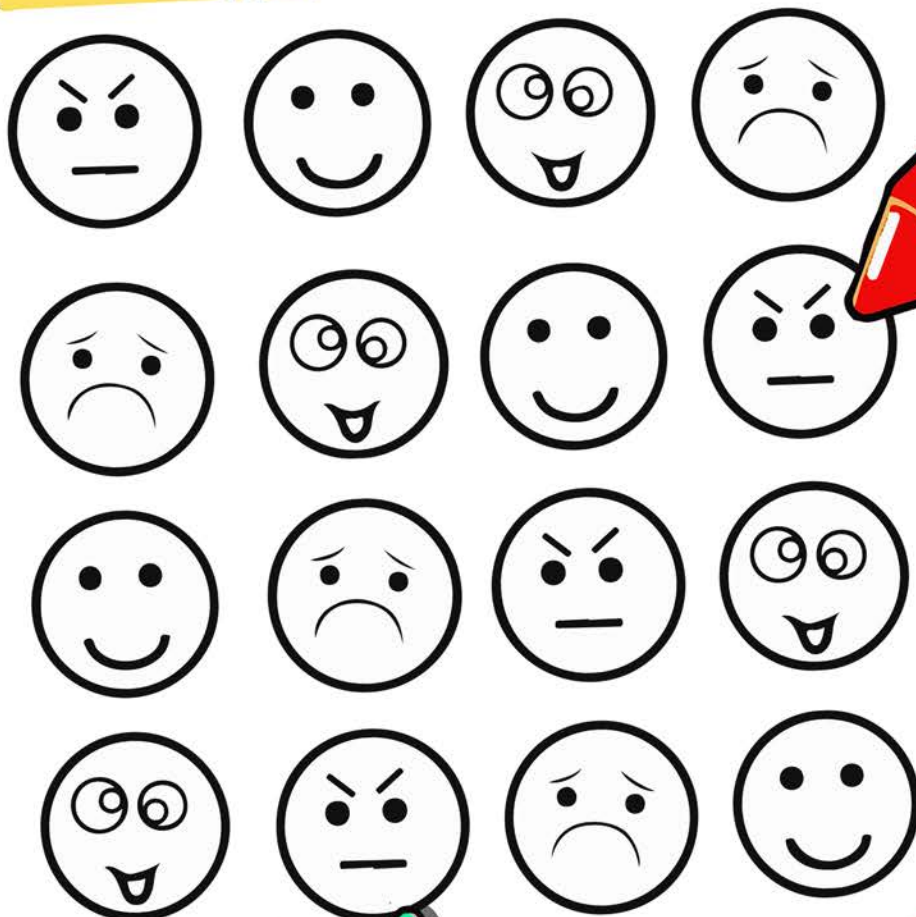
The next day, when I entered the classroom, a hand once again summoned me from the last seat. I glanced at them and then turned away towards Priya's desk. No one cared. They laughed at me for a moment and, as always, soon moved on to teasing someone else.

I'm very happy. I feel like I've found my true colour. Now, there is no need for any fake colour. I'll be who I am. I won't change my colours to please anyone. Taking a book out of my bag, I waited for class to start.



Let's Play

Colour the emojis below according to their expression.





Chilly had felt so happy on seeing a surprise party for him at Theo's Café. But when he saw Koko at the party, he began to get all heated up again. Let us see what happens next...

To be honest, seeing Koko at the party brought back memories of the competition - how Aaloo had forsaken me, and how I had become a laughing stock! I felt the same burning sensation once again. I blamed it on Koko being here! If she left from here, then I would be able to cool down.

While I was lost in these thoughts, Theo and Zoey came outside. "Oh, what's this? Koko, you've come to our café! The winner herself!"

Just then Giffy appeared and said, "Koko, you must accompany us on our next adventure! It'll be so much fun!"



My friends never asked me to join them on any adventure and now Koko has won the competition, everyone has become her fans. What is going on?

Just then, Aaloo arrived and stood next to me. “Hi, Chilly!” he said. “I knew you’d fly to Theo’s Café!” He gave me a big smile - just like how my best friend Aaloo used to give me.

I told him, “Aaloo, I feel like I’m burning inside.”

And then Rizo appeared, with a camera in his hand, and asked a question while snapping pictures, “Koko, how do you feel after

winning the competition?”

Koko replied, “The secret to my success was my melodious voice and Aaloo’s encouragement. I thought that no one could beat Chilly, but it was because of Aaloo...” I couldn’t take it anymore! That was supposed to be my speech! My winning speech!



Koko had taken everything away from me - my trophy, my speech, my best friend Aaloo, and all my other friends. My whole body felt like it was on fire. I looked at Aaloo and he was smiling at Koko instead of me. My eyes filled with tears.

I thought to myself, 'I don't want to be here anymore.'

While everyone was busy talking with Koko, I left the party.



Koko and Parsley's fear turned out to be true. What will happen now? Why can't Aaloo understand the pain that Chilly is going through?

The Heir



The king of Aryavart, Dharmaketu, had two sons. Tejpal, the elder son, was brave and intelligent. Rajveer, the younger son, was quiet and shy. When Rajveer returned to his kingdom after studying abroad for a few years, he was stunned when he saw his elder brother, Tejpal.

Rajveer: Brother, you look just like father. Tejpal laughed. He stroked his moustache and summoned his servant with two claps.

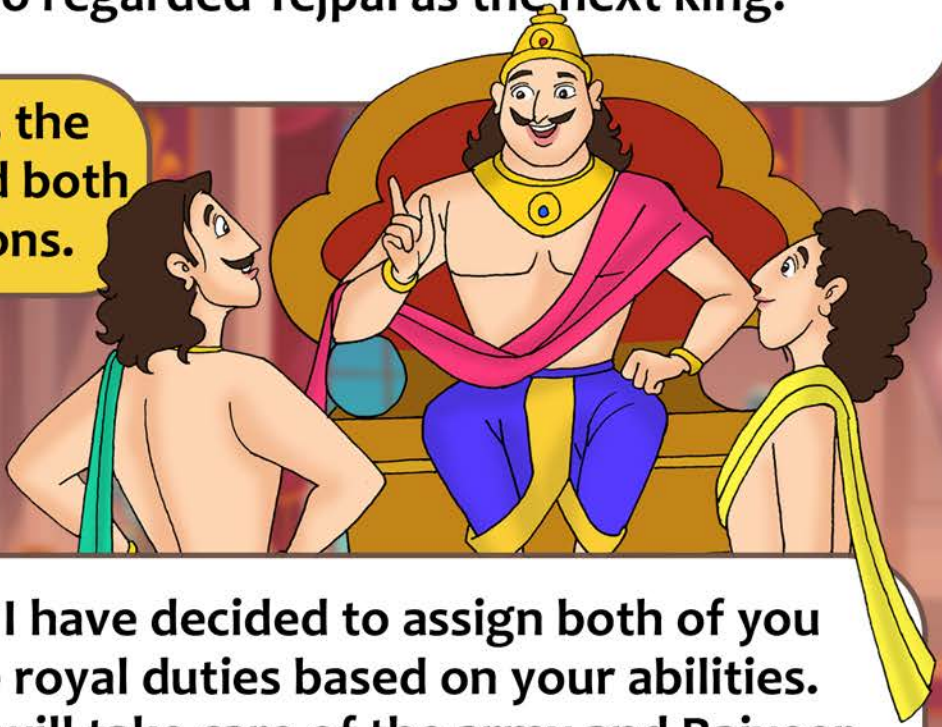


Tejpal: Make arrangements to bring our meals to our rooms.

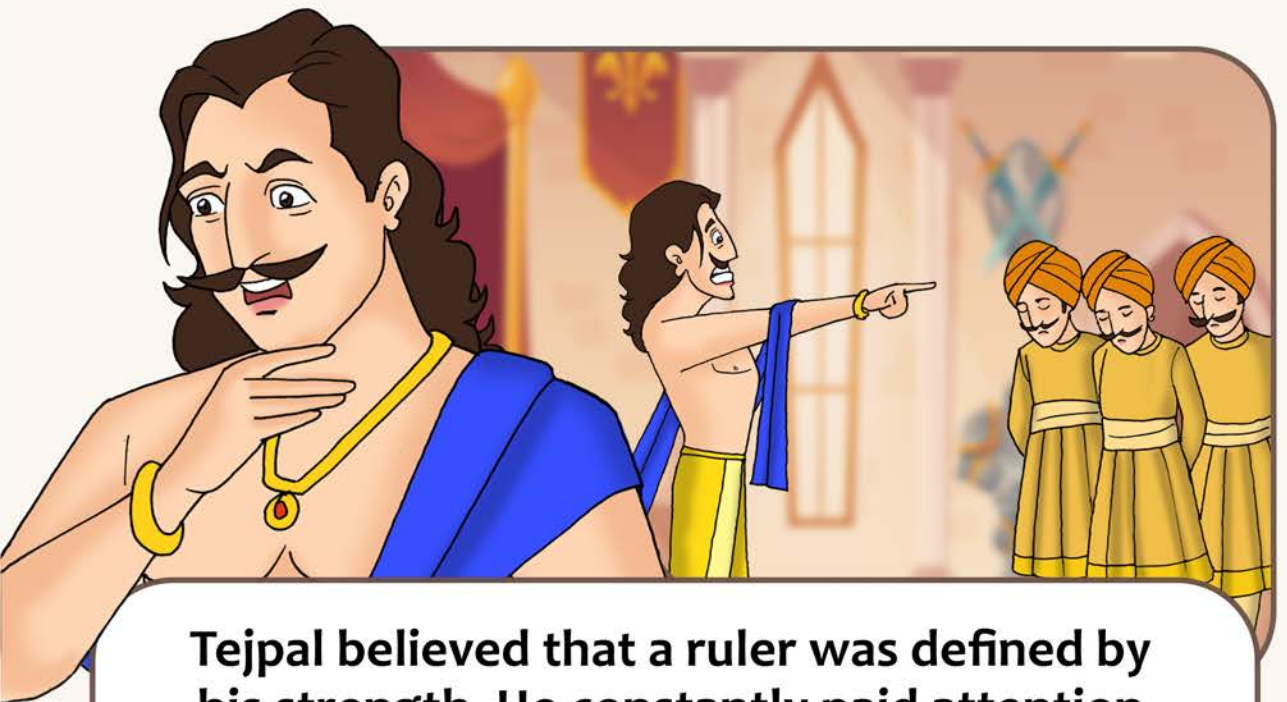


Tejpal's voice and speaking style was identical to the king's. This wasn't a coincidence. Tejpal aspired to become the future king. He deliberately transformed himself into a perfect replica of the king. Everyone in the kingdom also regarded Tejpal as the next king.

One day, the king called both of his sons.



King: I have decided to assign both of you some royal duties based on your abilities. Tejpal will take care of the army and Rajveer will serve as the minister's advisor. They gladly accepted their duties.



Tejpal believed that a ruler was defined by his strength. He constantly paid attention to his father's external authority, which was why strict rules were imposed on the army. Those who didn't follow the rules faced severe punishment.



On the other hand, whenever Rajveer had the opportunity, he would sit close to his father and simply observe him. He was very interested in observing the king's logical approach to resolving both big and small issues facing the kingdom.



The ministers and advisors thought, 'Tejpal is strict, but he gets the work done! Rajveer is lazy like a sloth. He does no work and happily sits around next to his father.'



This continued for some time. The king's health began to worsen. The king thought that it was time to announce the future king. While conversing with his ministers and advisors, the king realised that everyone was certain that Tejpal would be the better king.

At the same time, the kingdom was devastated by a famine. Two major crises struck simultaneously: the king's deteriorating health and the widespread famine. The king became extremely worried. Tejpal reassured his father saying, "Father, you don't need to worry at all. Rajveer and I will take care of everything."

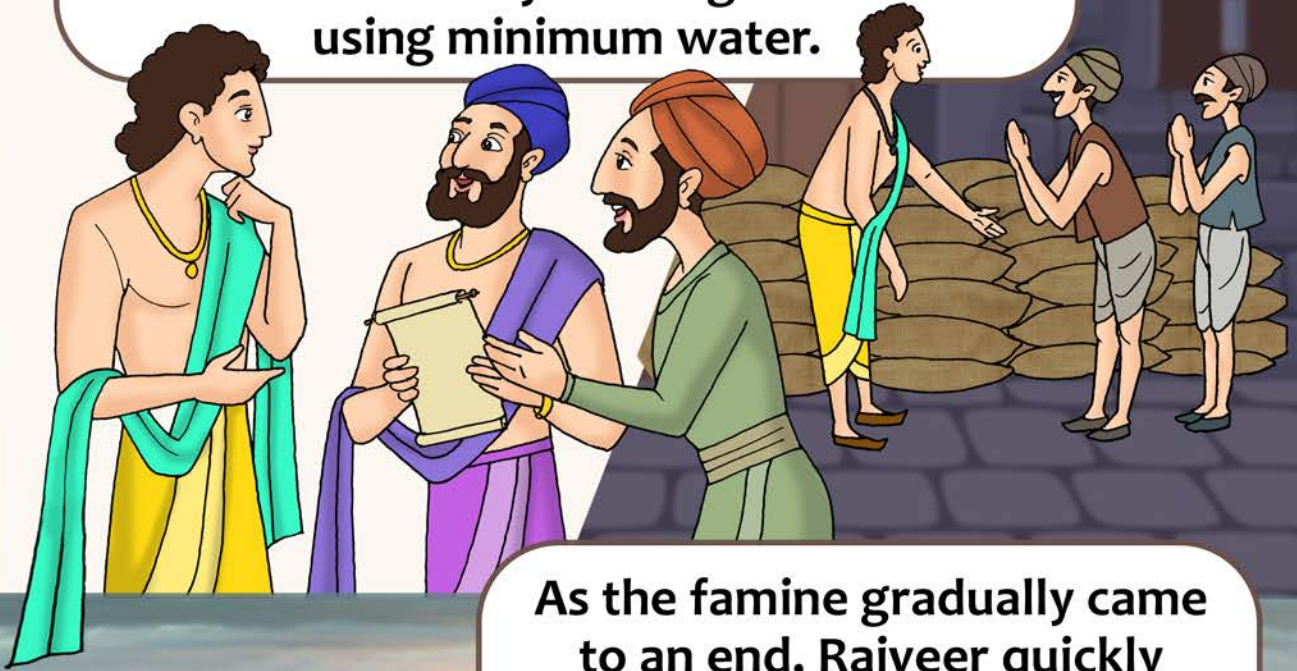


From that point onward, both brothers began taking steps to lead the kingdom out of this crisis. To make things easier, both of them divided the kingdom into sections.

Tejpal imposed strict laws on his part of the kingdom. He reduced the distribution of food grain and punished those who asked for more.

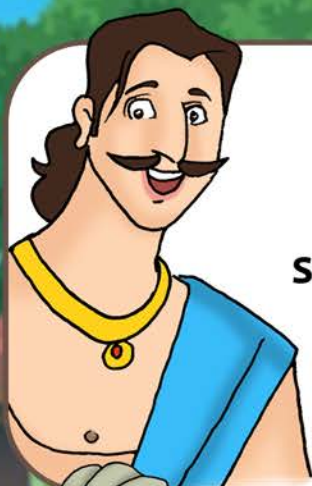


On the other side, Rajveer consulted the farmers, ministers and advisors and looked for a solution. He requested food grains from neighbouring states and distributed it to the people at a low cost. He looked for ways to irrigate the land using minimum water.

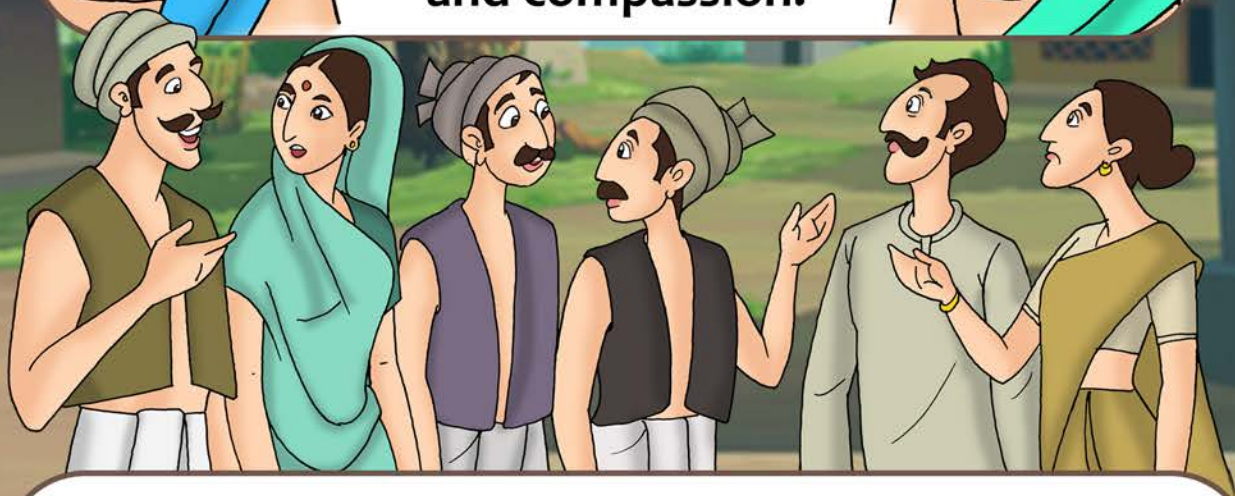


As the famine gradually came to an end, Rajveer quickly captured the hearts of the people. In contrast, Tejpal's lack of compassion left him with no place in their hearts.

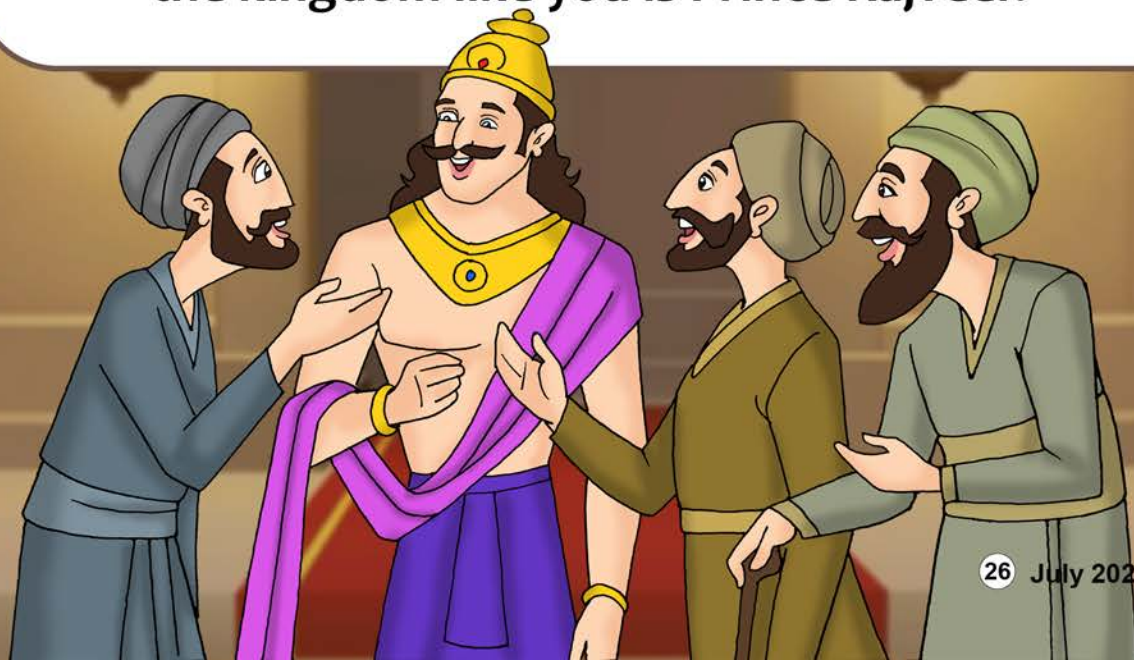


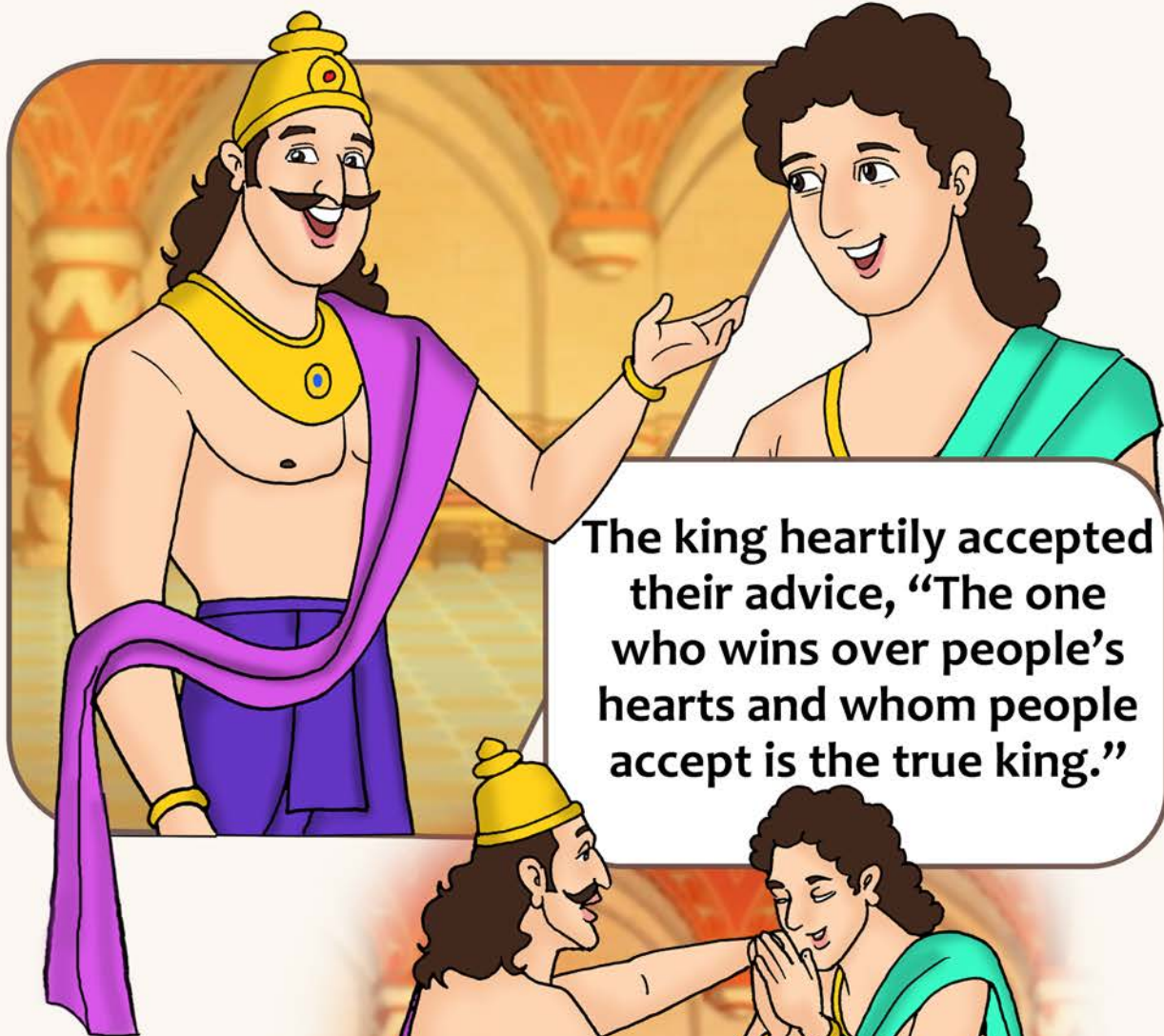


People realised that, despite Tejpal's speech and appearance being similar to that of the king, Rajveer possessed the king's empathy, insight and compassion.

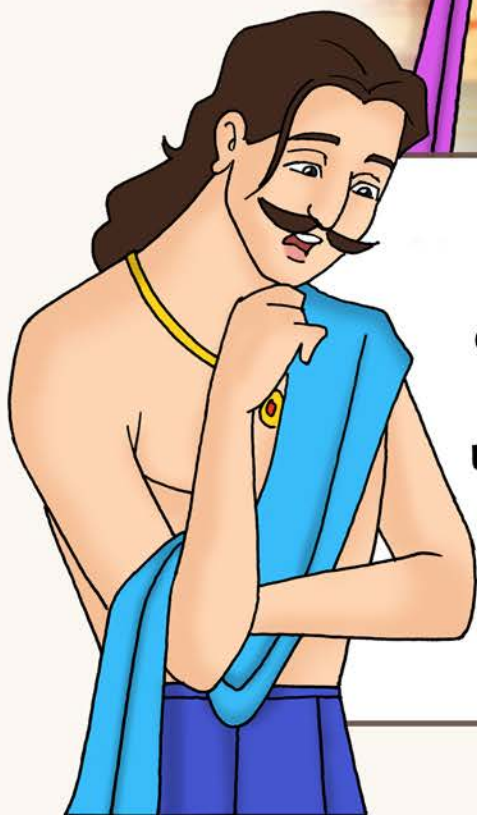


When the time came to announce the future king, the counsellors pleaded to the king, "O King, we made a mistake in not recognising Prince Rajveer's worth. During a crisis, he saved the kingdom with his wisdom and insight. The only one who can lead the kingdom like you is Prince Rajveer."





The king heartily accepted their advice, "The one who wins over people's hearts and whom people accept is the true king."



Tejpal realised his mistake - he didn't need to emulate the king's behaviour, but rather his understanding. The true strength of a king lies not in imposing harsh rules, but in genuinely caring for his people and helping them.



Theo and Friends were planning to go on the 'Akshar River Cruise' at the Sabarmati riverfront. Everyone had arrived, but Theo was nowhere to be seen.

Just then, something caught Zoey's attention and she burst out laughing, "Hey, Theo! What's happened to you? What are you wearing? Why are you being so showy?"

Theo raised his big sunglasses onto his forehead and said, "Why? I look cool. I asked my father to do some shopping for me for the cruise." Everyone set off for the riverfront. Once they got tired of cycling, they went for a stroll at a book festival being held at a nearby location. At one of the stalls, there was a man telling a story. Theo and Friends also sat there to listen. The story began...



“This is a story from a long time ago. At the time, the state of Maharashtra was ruled by Madhavrao Peshwa, and the chief judge was Ramshastri Prabhune.

A grand festival was going to be celebrated and there was a lively and musical atmosphere throughout the kingdom. The name of the festival was Haldi-Kumkum. The palace and kingdom were decorated with colourful garlands and rangolis (a vibrant and traditional Indian floor decoration using brightly coloured powders).

The festival was organised specifically for women. The king used to spend money from the treasury so that women from the kingdom’s poorest families could also participate in this festival.

It was the day of the festival. Madhavrao Peshwa arrived wearing luxurious garments. The queen was the most festive of all. She was adorned with diamond, ruby and pearl ornaments and wore silk garments. Every few minutes, the queen admired her reflection in the mirror.

Everyone was gathered to celebrate this festival. The only person not there was the chief justice’s wife. Everyone was eagerly waiting for her. The queen thought, ‘Maybe she is taking time to get ready.’

Just then, the chief justice’s wife arrived. She was welcomed by everyone. However, the queen’s face sank upon seeing her. The plain attire and jewellery that the chief justice’s wife wore was not something that the queen thought was appropriate for this celebration. The queen requested her,



“Your attire is not appropriate for this occasion. My maids will give you some elegant clothes, please wear them.” The chief justice’s wife felt a little embarrassed, but she could not deny the queen’s request, and so she changed her clothes. When she looked at herself in the mirror, she really liked the queen’s clothes on herself.

After the festival was over, she was about to change into her own clothes when the queen told her, “These clothes are yours from today. Keep them on and return home in the royal palanquin.

She immediately accepted the queen’s request.

When Judge Ramshastri saw his wife in such extravagant clothes stepping out of the royal palanquin, he said to her, “You have come to the wrong address,” and closed the door on her.

His wife understood. She went back to the palace and changed into her own plain clothes and returned home. She knocked on the door and Ramshastri immediately welcomed her inside.



When the judge's wife asked about the reason for closing the door the first time, Ramshastri replied, "For us our virtues, simplicity, naturalness and cleanliness are our ornaments. We have no need to show off to others with external ornaments." The wife wholeheartedly accepted what Ramshastri said.

"So, did you like the story?" the storyteller asked everyone.

The children didn't say anything. After a brief moment, Theo stood up and said, "Uncle, we thoroughly enjoyed the story." Removing the sunglasses from his head, he said, "I'd seen Samay Kapoor wear such sunglasses in his movies, so I insisted on getting a similar pair. I shouldn't have worn them."

The uncle kindly said to Theo, "Dear, there is nothing wrong with wearing those sunglasses, but why should we insist on copying someone else?"

Theo fully understood the uncle's point.



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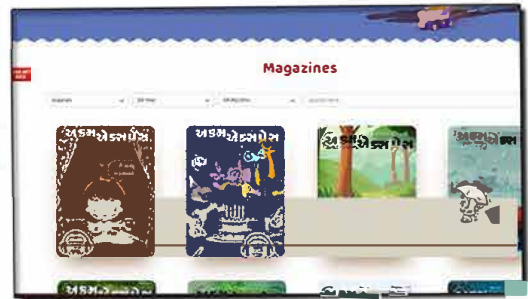
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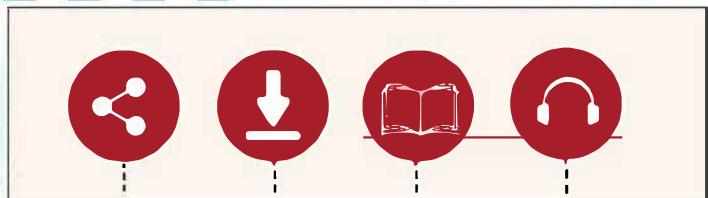


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