

February 2026

AKRAM Express



We Won't Be **FOOLish.** Will We?!

Editorial

Friends,

Arjun did not know the answers to many questions on the exam. When the teacher was not looking, he copied the answers from his friend's paper and ended up scoring good marks. But is this cleverness or foolishness?

At first, being dishonest may seem clever, but there is nothing more foolish than that! What will he do when he does not know the answers in the next exam? Or when the teacher catches him? Or when he gets punished?

Which is why, when we take a shortcut by being dishonest, we will eventually suffer in the long run. Let us understand the meaning of honesty according to the *Gnani*.

What path did Ayush choose? How did Birbal catch the thief? Let us also learn about General Vimal's principles, Lily's honesty, as well as what happened next in Aaloo and Chilly's story.

-Dimple Mehta.

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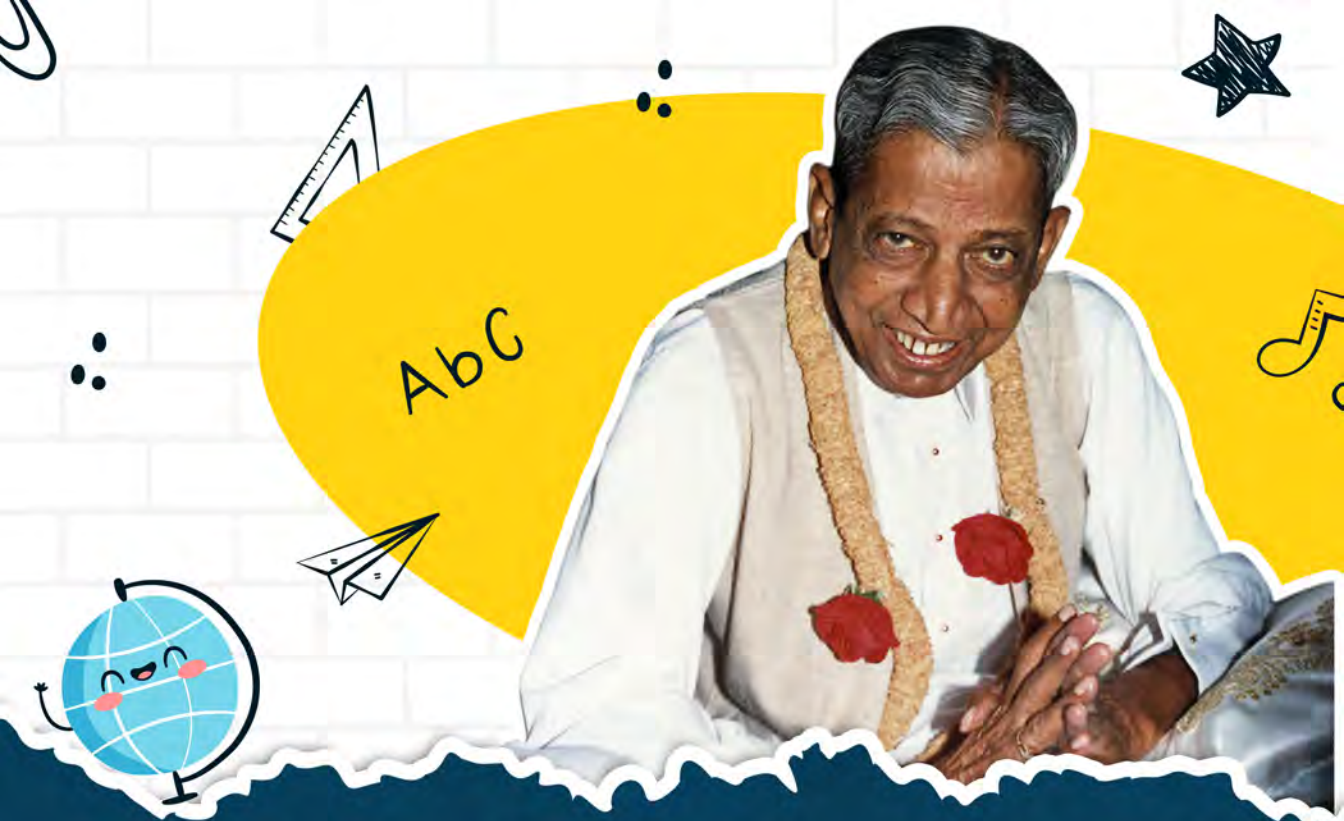
Gnanis Say...

AbC



If you take anything without asking, then it is called stealing. Many children will go and get groceries if their mum asks them to, but they do not give the leftover money back to her. They will spend that money on eating, drinking and other things. This is also called stealing. What happens if you get caught stealing? Cultured people do not do wrong things like this. If someone were to take your things, then you would not like it. Similarly, how can you take things belonging to someone else? If you adopt this much morality, then it is considered a high level of humanity.

In business, giving less quantity than what has been paid for, selling adulterated products (products made impure by mixing in inferior stuff), giving something else



instead of what was promised – all this is called dishonesty. Whoever makes money by doing wrong deeds does not know what will become of them in their next life. They will go from a two-legged being to a four-legged one (from human to animal). Dishonesty is the best foolishness.

If you stay sincere to your principles and remain honest, then gradually, you bind such merit karma that you find the link to complete your journey of attaining *moksha* (final freedom from cycle of life and death, and worldly misery). If you remain honest, then you will be content and feel at peace. If you do not tell lies, then people will gain trust [and think], 'Whatever this person is saying is always true. They never lie.' That person will be valued.

You should decide that you do not want to hurt anyone, you do not want to steal from anyone, nor do you want to lie. If you do any of these, then you should do *pratikraman* (to confess, apologise and resolve not to repeat a mistake).

Chocobuzz Chocolate

Ayush saw Harsh putting something in the fridge. As soon as Harsh moved from there, Ayush opened the fridge. This is the same chocolate that he'd seen at Uncle Hari's shop a few days ago. It had a shiny bronze and purple wrapper. On the wrapper, in big gold letters was written: Chocobuzz. Ayush picked up the chocolate and smelled it. A lovely chocolatey aroma filled his nose.

When Ayush saw this chocolate at Uncle Hari's shop, he had really liked it, and today the same chocolate was in his house, in his fridge. But, come to think of it, this wasn't really his house or his fridge. Ayush, who lived at the Anandalay Orphanage, hadn't really been able to call anywhere 'his house'. An uncle and auntie had come to visit his friend, Harsh, and they had brought the Chocobuzz chocolate for him.

Just as Ayush was about to tear the wrapper, he heard a voice that made him jump. "Ayush, that is Harsh's chocolate, dear!"



He turned around and saw Ms Rosie standing there with her arms folded.

‘But Madam, I was just going to take one bite,’ Ayush said in a low voice.

“Have you asked Harsh?” Ms Rosie asked.

“No,” Ayush replied.

“Would you like it if someone took your things without asking you?” Ms Rosie asked. But Ayush gave no reply.

“If you don’t like someone taking your things without asking, then how can you take someone else’s things without asking them?” Saying this, Ms Rosie walked away. Ayush put the chocolate back in the fridge.

The chocolate was put back in the fridge, but the thought of eating it was still in his mind. That evening, Ayush saw an advert for Chocobuzz on the TV, and he felt like reaching into the TV screen, grabbing the chocolate and putting it in his mouth!

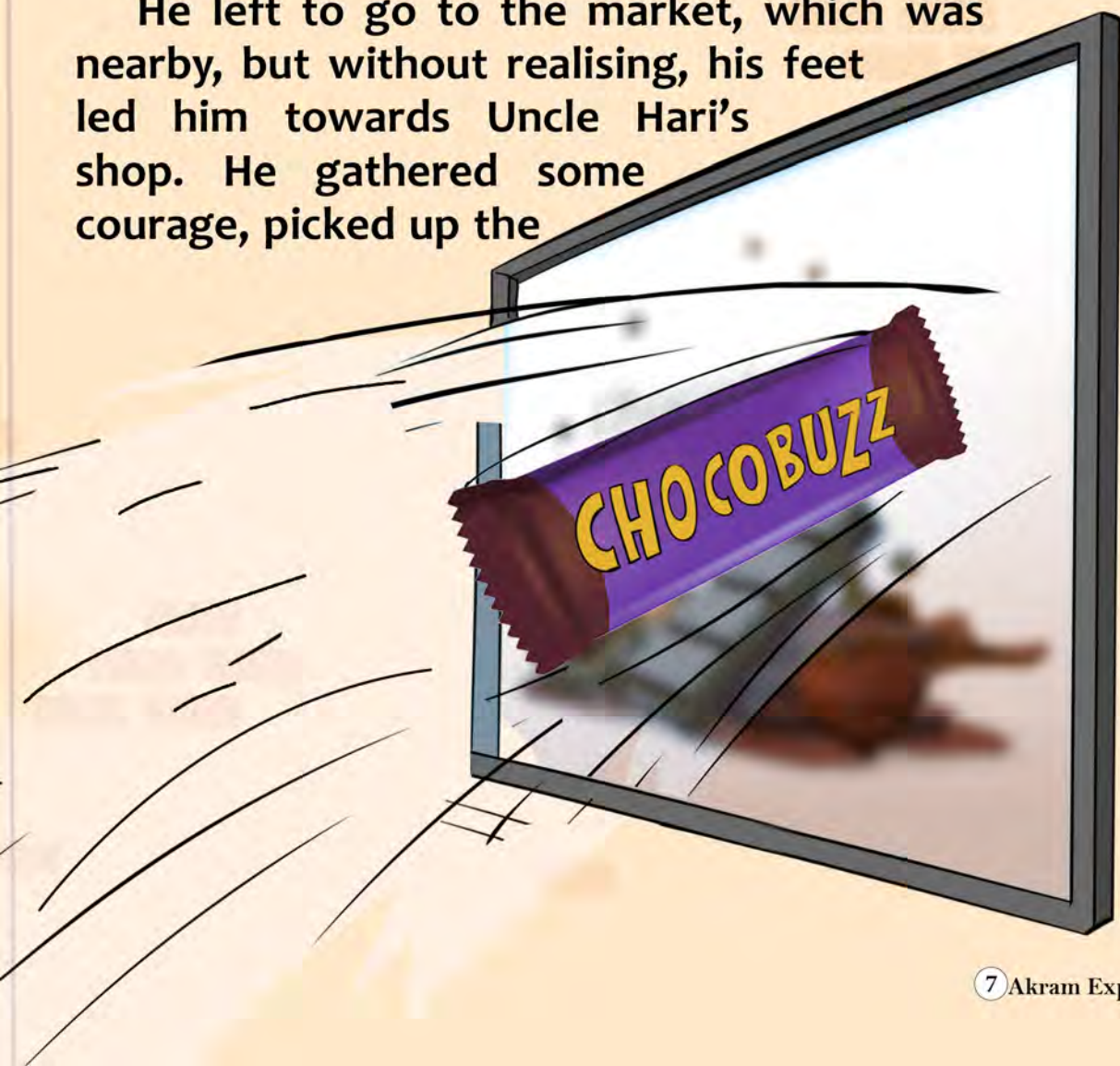
But that wasn’t possible. He sat there sadly. Just



then, Ms Rosie came into the TV room, switched off the TV and said to everyone, “TV time is over. Everyone, go and finish your homework.” And she said to Ayush, “Dear, before you sit down to do your homework, will you go to the market and bring twenty rupees worth of lemons?”

Although Ayush was only ten years old, he was the eldest amongst all the children. For that reason, if ever there was any shopping to be done, then Ms Rosie would always ask Ayush to do it, and he would happily carry out that responsibility.

He left to go to the market, which was nearby, but without realising, his feet led him towards Uncle Hari’s shop. He gathered some courage, picked up the



Chocobuzz chocolate and read the price - fifty rupees. He was disappointed after seeing the price. Where would he get that much money?

He put the chocolate back and went to buy the lemons. He gave the shopkeeper a fifty rupee note. She gave him twenty rupees' worth of lemons and returned thirty rupees as change.

When he returned home, he was about to give the change to Ms Rosie when her phone rang. She told Ayush, "Dear, put the change in the money box." Ayush stretched his hand to drop the money in the box, but suddenly remembered the Chocobuzz chocolate. His hands started shaking. He looked around, put ten

rupees into the money box, and slipped

the remaining twenty rupees

into his pocket. When he

turned around, he saw

that Ms Rosie was

standing right there.

Ayush became very

scared. His heart

began pounding. 'Did

Ms Rosie see me put

the money in my

pocket?' He almost

stopped breathing.

Ms Rosie smiled and

asked, "Did you



put the money back, dear?”

Ayush breathed a sigh of relief. He nodded without saying anything and quietly walked away.

Two to three weeks passed, and Ayush was waiting for Ms Rosie to send him to the market again. So, when Ms Rosie asked him to get toothpaste and soap from the market, he became so happy that even Ms Rosie was surprised to see him like this.

He put the items away and told her, “I’ve put the change in the money box.”

Ms Rosie said in a stern voice, “Without asking? Don’t do that again. Always give me the change in my hand.”

Ayush said softly, “Okay, Madam... sorry, I made a mistake.”

But really, Ayush hadn’t realised his mistake. All he could think of was the fifty rupees in his pocket and the Chocobuzz chocolate at Uncle Hari’s shop.

It was Sunday afternoon, and Ms Rosie was resting. Ayush quietly sneaked out and went to Uncle Hari’s shop. He took the chocolate from the



glass cupboard, put it in front of Uncle Hari and gave him fifty rupees from his pocket.

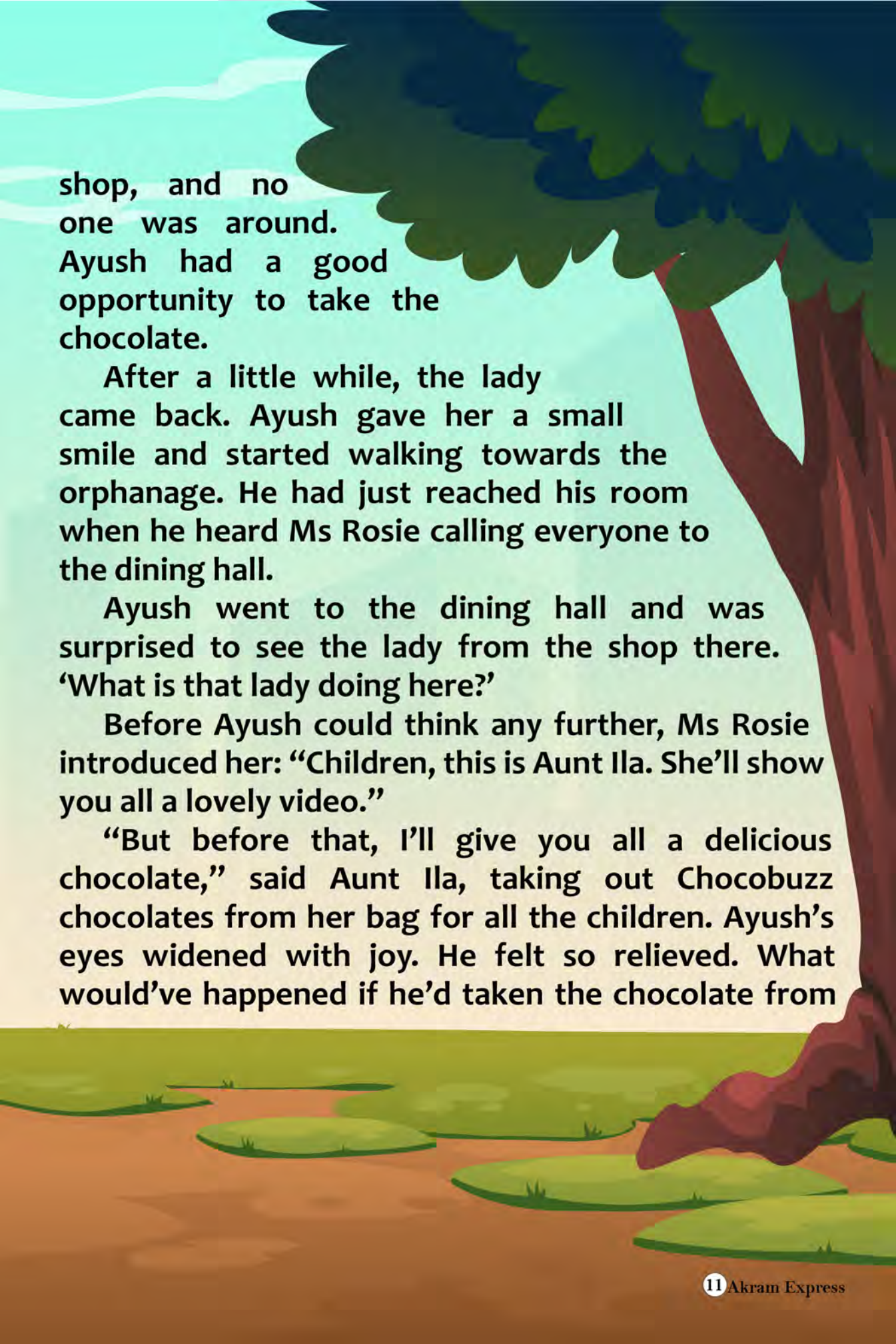
Uncle Hari read the price on the chocolate and said, “Dear, this chocolate is sixty rupees.”

Ayush quickly took the chocolate and read the price on it. The price had gone up. He was extremely disappointed.

Ayush came out of the shop and was sitting on a bench with a sad face when a lady came and put her shopping bag next to him. “Dear, I forgot to get one item from the shop. Will you keep an eye on my bag?” she said, and went inside.

Ayush looked at the lady’s bag. In between some items, he could see the shiny Chocobuzz chocolate. Ayush rubbed his eyes and looked again. Yes - this was the same chocolate! The lady was in the





shop, and no one was around. Ayush had a good opportunity to take the chocolate.

After a little while, the lady came back. Ayush gave her a small smile and started walking towards the orphanage. He had just reached his room when he heard Ms Rosie calling everyone to the dining hall.

Ayush went to the dining hall and was surprised to see the lady from the shop there. ‘What is that lady doing here?’

Before Ayush could think any further, Ms Rosie introduced her: “Children, this is Aunt Ila. She’ll show you all a lovely video.”

“But before that, I’ll give you all a delicious chocolate,” said Aunt Ila, taking out Chocobuzz chocolates from her bag for all the children. Ayush’s eyes widened with joy. He felt so relieved. What would’ve happened if he’d taken the chocolate from

the lady's bag when he was outside the shop? He would've been caught, punished by Ms Rosie, and teased by all the children as a thief! When he didn't steal, he received the chocolate, but when he tried to keep the money by stealing...?!

After Aunt Ila left, Ayush went to Ms Rosie's office and put the fifty rupees in her hand. He gathered courage and said, "Sorry, Madam. I'd kept the change to buy chocolate."

Ms Rosie looked at him and didn't say anything for a few minutes. Then she made Ayush sit next to her and said, "So, why are you returning it? I would've never known that you'd kept the change."

"But I knew, so I was always scared of getting caught," Ayush said.

Ms Rosie laughed, put her hand on his head and said, "Dear, you should always be so scared of doing something wrong that you never do anything wrong. Then you will never fear getting caught!"



Absolutely

New and

Different!

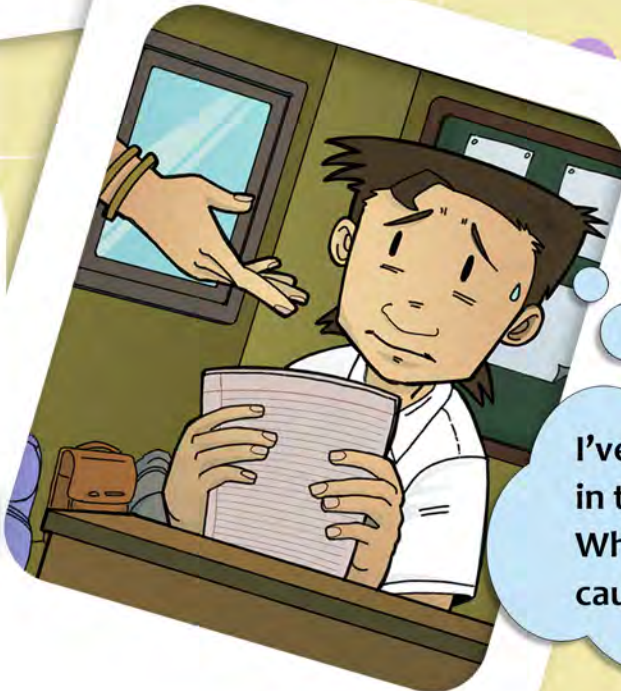
I found a cool pencil in the classroom.



Honesty means not bringing anything that belongs to someone else into our home.

Give it to me. I'll give it to the school's lost and found department. Whoever has lost it will find it there.

If one is honest, then they will not be scared!



I've cheated in the exam. What if I get caught?



**You should repent
for your dishonesty.
The person who
repents is honest for
sure.**

**I took your
crayons without
asking you, and
they broke.
Sorry!**



Mythological Story

Over a thousand years ago lived Vimal Shah, Minister and Commander-in-Chief of Gujarat. After fighting a war, he felt remorse for the destruction and loss of lives. One day, he heard a discourse from a Jain scholar. The scholar said to Vimal, “Make Abu a place of pilgrimage. By doing this, all your sins will be washed away.”

After that, he started praying to Goddess Ambika (Indian deity). The goddess was pleased with him and requested him to ask for a boon. General Vimal said, “I would like a son, and I would like the strength to make Abu a pilgrimage site.”

The deity said, “Only one of your wishes can come true, so please ask for one boon.” General Vimal asked for strength to build a temple complex



in Abu and make it a pilgrimage site.

Goddess Ambika said, "So be it."

General Vimal decided to build a temple in Abu dedicated to Tirthankar Lord Rishabh Nath. During that time, Brahmins used to reside in Abu. They were opposed to having a Jain temple on that land; therefore, it was difficult to acquire the land.

Some people believed that, many years ago, there had been a Jain Tirth (sacred Jain pilgrimage site connected to the Tirthankar Lords) on that land, but there was no proof. One day, General Vimal had a dream, that by digging the ground under the Champa tree, they would find the proof. He acted according to the dream and found an idol of Lord Rishabh Nath there.

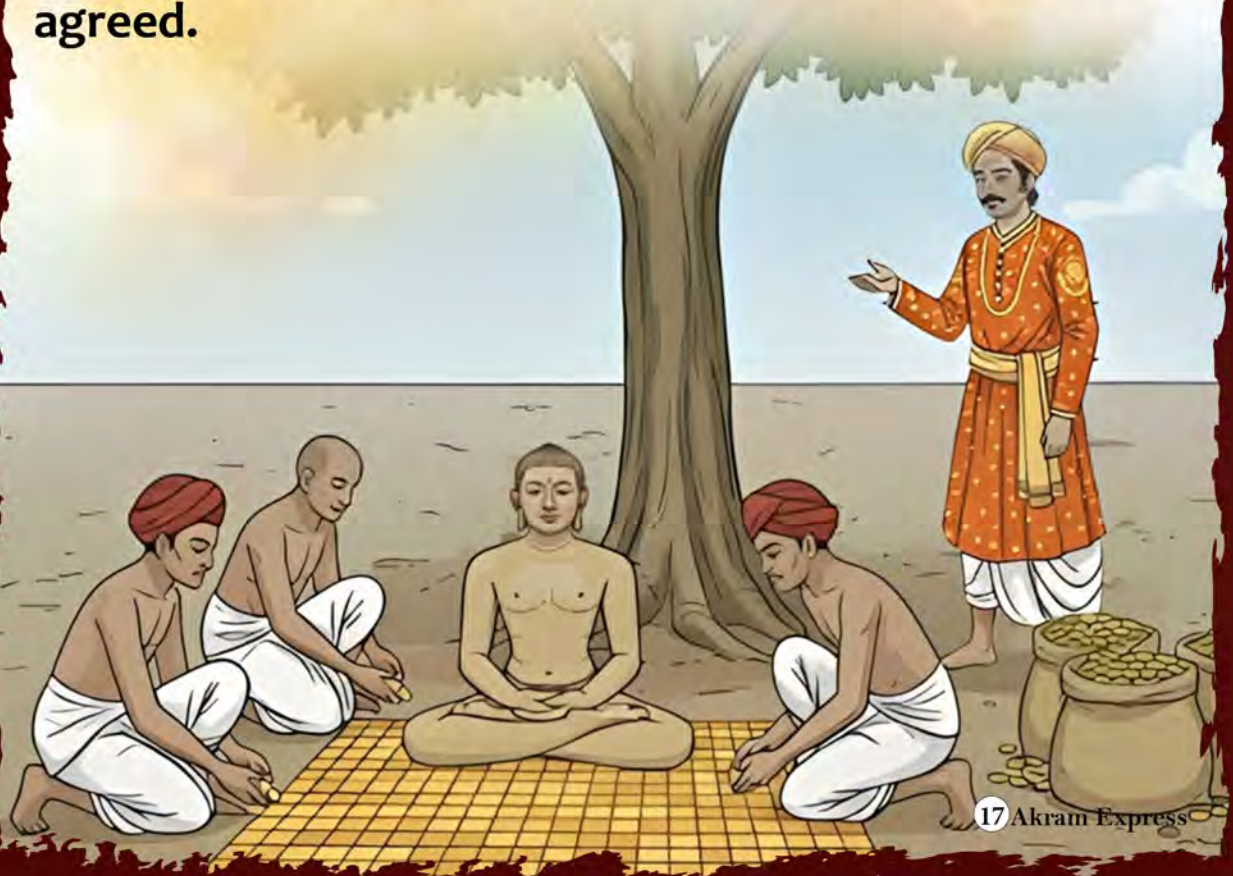
When the brahmins saw this, they were humbled. They agreed to give the land, but wanted a high price for it. Their request was that the amount of land General Vimal wanted should be paid for with the



equivalent amount of gold that could be spread across that land.

General Vimal was willing to do that. Goldsmiths brought bags full of gold coins and started spreading them on the land. Just then, General Vimal had a thought, 'This is an act of dishonesty. The gold coins are round, so if I spread them on the ground, then there will be empty spaces remaining in between that will not be covered in gold. Therefore, how can I take the land immorally without paying the proper value?' He immediately sent the gold coins back to the royal treasury and ordered new square blocks of gold to be made. He spread as much gold on the allocated area for the temple and bought the land.

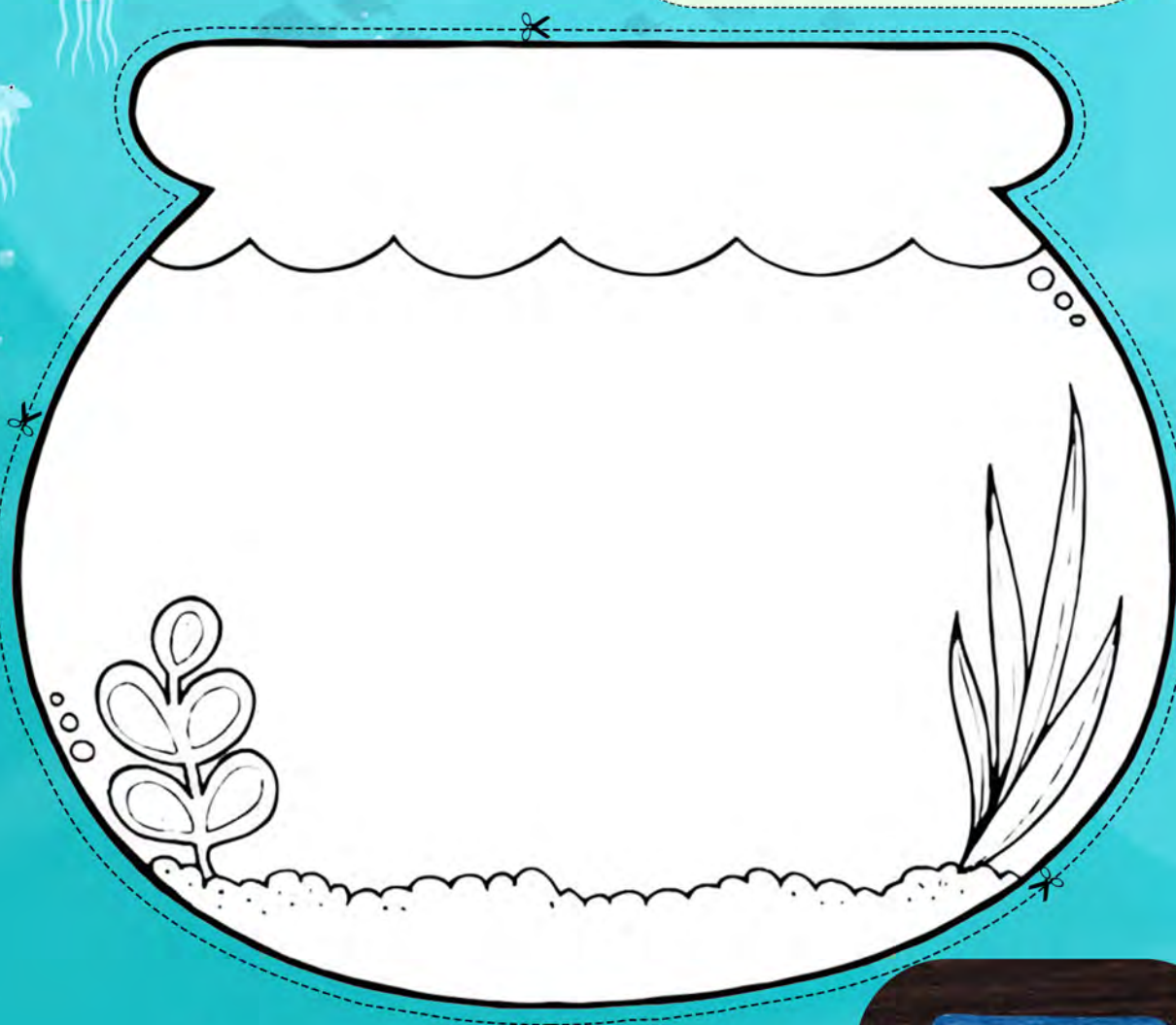
Look at how principled General Vimal was! The brahmins hadn't even thought of requesting square gold blocks to fully cover the land. But General Vimal was so careful not to pay less than what had been agreed.



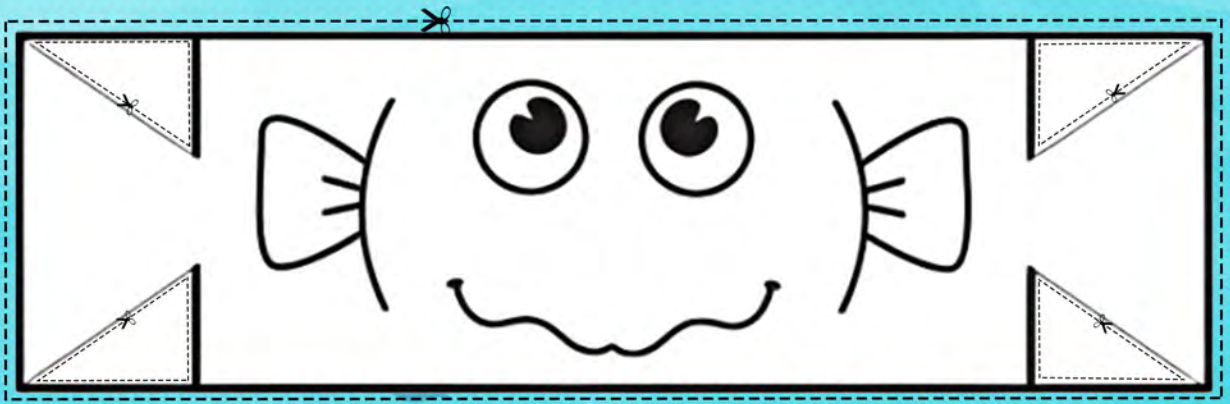


Print out the picture below
to make a fish bowl.

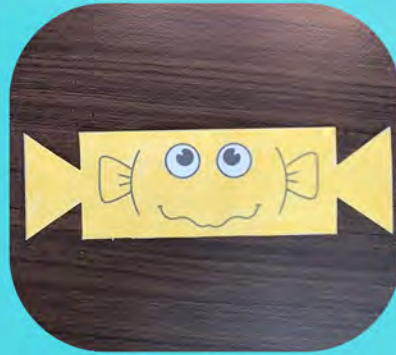
→ Cut out the fish
bowl by cutting along
the dotted line and
then colour in the
bowl.



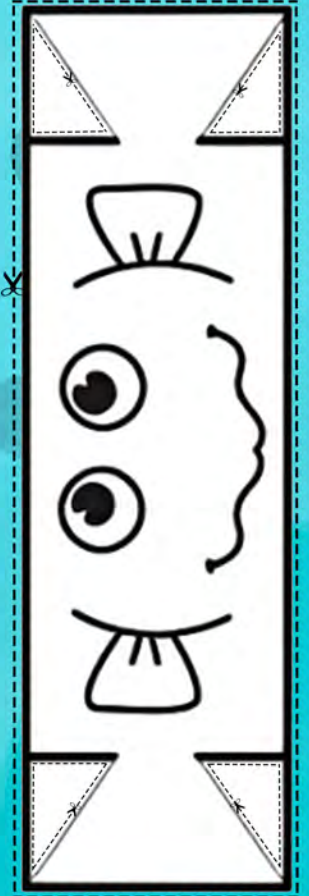
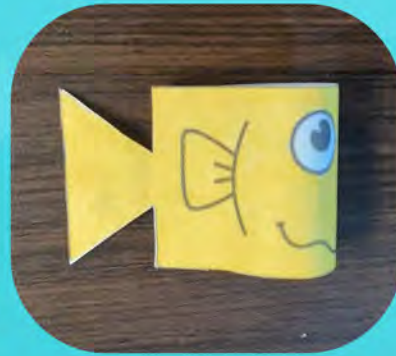
18 February 2020



→ After colouring in the fish, cut them out by cutting along the dotted line.



→ Fold the fish as shown in the picture on the side, and then glue the two sides together.



→ Glue the fish to your fish bowl.



AALOO CHILLY



To read the Aaloo-Chilly stories all together...
Click Here : <https://dbf.adalaj.org/cnyyYHKc>

Aaloo had looked for Chilly through the entire jungle. He finally came home feeling defeated only to find Chilly in his own house! Chilly was sleeping peacefully in Aaloo's bed after eating all his ladoos. Let's see what happened next...

What is mother saying? Chilly is here!

I ran inside and much to my surprise, there he was, on my bed.



My appetite and sleep had disappeared, yet here he was sleeping on my bed peacefully! But at least we found Chilly. I was so happy to see him that I jumped on him.

“Ouch! My stomach had been squashed,” said Chilly sleepily. Once he woke up fully, he saw me and said, “I’m not talking to you! Go away from here!”

I said to him, “You’re in my house. If you don’t want to talk to me, then what are you doing here?”

He replied, “I didn’t want to see Parsley’s face, so I didn’t go home. But I was also hungry, so I came here to eat. I have no idea when I fell asleep.”



I don't know what happened, but he suddenly became quiet, and there were tears in his eyes. I sat next to him and asked, "Chilly, what are you thinking about?"

With big tears in his eyes, he said, "Aaloo, I lost again. And that too against Koko. I wanted to become the world's best singer, but I couldn't even become the best singer of the jungle!"

He then said in an annoyed tone, "All this happened because of Koko. She broke our friendship, and because of that, I changed my song, and that is why I lost."



Now he was becoming red with anger, “That Koko... I don’t know what she thinks of herself! She has no skill. I think that she must’ve buttered up the judge! And why were you cheering, ‘Koko, Koko’? I’m your best friend! How could you tell Koko that she’d win? Saying this, he poked me hard with his beak. “Ahhhh.....!” Before I could say anything, he started pacing back and forth around the room and said, “Aaloo, again I feel hot. What is happening to me? My feathers are burning up. Aaloo, please do something to stop this!”

Do you know what this burning sensation is called that Chilly is feeling? And also tell us what can be done to stop from him from feeling this heat. Send your photo, name and city, along with your answer, to this number: **+91 9313665562.**  The first 5 people to give the correct answer will be announced in the next issue.

Hint: Read the previous chapters to find the answer.

Click Here : <https://dbf.adalaj.org/cnyyYHKc>

**Let's
Play...**



**Find ten
differences
between these
two pictures.**

The Magical Stick

Emperor Akbar was sitting in his court with his ministers, discussing the problems the people of his kingdom were facing. Suddenly, a merchant came into the court.



“Emperor, please help me! My whole life’s earnings have been stolen!” The merchant, with his hands folded, pleaded, “I’d gone abroad for a few days and left five servants in charge. When I returned, all the money that was in the safe had disappeared.”



“Do you suspect anyone?” the Emperor asked. “The servants are saying that no one has entered the house. Then where did the wealth go?”

I am sure that one of the five servants has stolen the money,” the merchant explained.



The Emperor gave Birbal the responsibility to find the thief. Birbal called the five servants to the court and asked them, “Tell me truthfully, who has stolen the money? If you tell the truth now and return the money, then I’ll ask the Emperor to forgive you.” But no one admitted anything.



Birbal asked again, “Be sensible and tell me, otherwise you’ll pay heavily for this foolishness.” But still, they all remained silent. In the end, Birbal took five similar-looking sticks in his hand. He blew on each one and handed them to the five servants.



After that, Birbal said, “These are magical sticks. Tomorrow morning, the thief’s stick will increase in size by one hand span, and the thief will get caught. The stick will remain the same size for those who have not stolen anything. We’ll meet tomorrow morning in the courtroom.”



The servants were all very surprised. They’d never heard about such magical sticks. Those who hadn’t stolen anything went to sleep peacefully.

Only one person could not sleep. He thought of a plan.



He cut his stick by one hand span. He thought to himself, 'This Birbal thinks he is very clever! But I am cleverer than him. My stick will grow by a few inches tomorrow, but today I've cut it. So my stick will remain the same length as everyone else's!'



The next day, all the servants gathered in the courtroom. Birbal took the stick from each servant. The stick of one servant was shorter than everyone else's. Thus, Birbal caught the thief.



Birbal said to the thief, "Fool, there is no magic in this stick. You don't realise how heavy a punishment the emperor will now give you!"

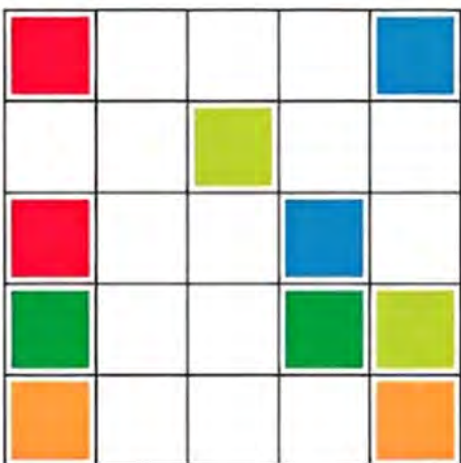
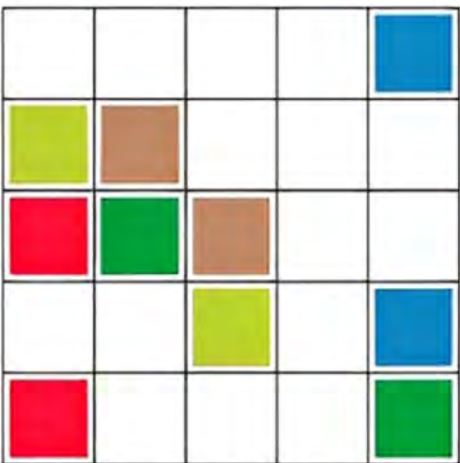
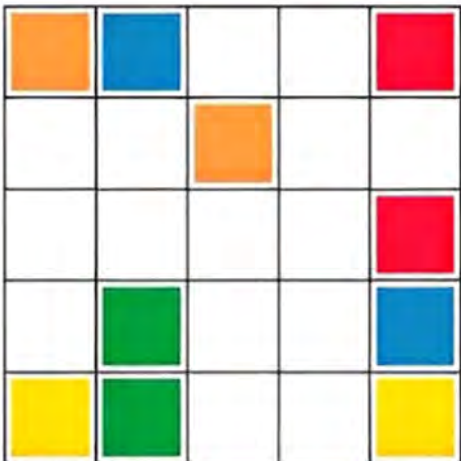
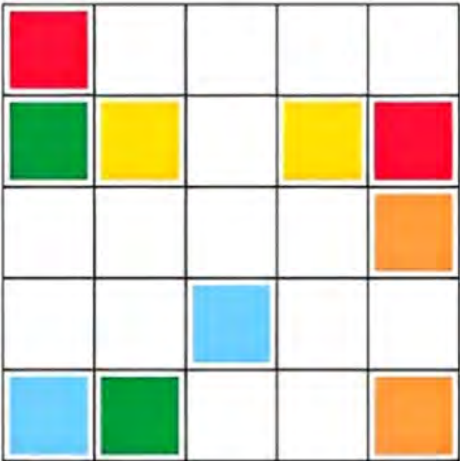
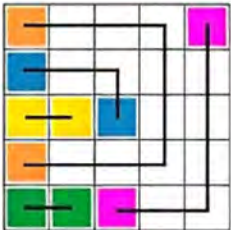
The thief started sweating and accepted that there was no one as smart as Birbal, and nothing more foolish than being dishonest.





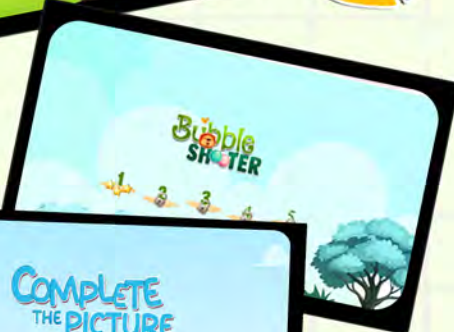
Let's Play...

Connect the colours in such a way that the lines do not cross each other, as shown in the picture on the side.





GAMES



To play more fun games, Visit...
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