



Learn English Through Stories

Panchatantra Tales

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The Elephant and the Sparrows – Version 1

In a big jungle far away, many animals live. Some animals are big. Some animals are small. Some live in water. Some live in trees. Some live on land. All the animals are happy. There are old animals and baby animals. New babies come every few months.

In this jungle, there is a pair of sparrows. They are husband and wife. They want to start a family. Starting a family is not easy. They need to do many things. First, they build a nest. They collect twigs and leaves. They work for many days. The nest is warm and cosy. Then, the wife lays eggs in the nest. Both sparrows sit on the eggs. They take turns. One sparrow goes to find food. The other sparrow sits on the eggs. They are very happy. Soon, baby birds will come.

But there is a problem. Next to their tree, a big elephant lives. He is the biggest animal in the jungle. He is very strong. He likes to show his strength. He does exercises every day. He breaks branches with his trunk. He kicks trees with his feet. All animals are afraid of him. The birds are very afraid.

The sparrows hope the elephant stays away. But one morning, the elephant wants to show his strength. He shakes the tree with his trunk. Leaves fall down. Small branches fall down. The sparrows are scared. They say, "Please stop! Our eggs will fall!" But the elephant does not listen. He shakes more. The nest falls to the ground. The eggs break. The sparrows are very sad. They cry a lot.

An owl lives in the same tree. The owl sees the sparrows. She says, "I will help you. We need to teach the elephant a lesson. Then you can build a new nest." The sparrows feel better. They have hope now.

The next day, the owl comes with three friends. The friends are a mosquito, a bee, and a frog. They are small animals. The sparrows think, "What can they do?" But the owl says, "Do not worry. I have a good plan." Everyone knows the owl is wise. The jungle animals hope the plan works.

In the afternoon, the elephant eats a lot of fruits and vegetables. He is full. He lies down to sleep. The mosquito flies near his ears. The mosquito sings a song. The song is strange. The elephant likes it. It makes him sleepy. He closes his eyes and sleeps.

When he is asleep, the bee flies to him. The bee stings his eyes. Sting! Sting! The elephant wakes up. He shouts in pain. His eyes burn. They swell up. He cannot see. He needs water to wash his eyes. He runs to the pond with eyes closed.

Near the pond, there is a beehive. The frog sits under the beehive. The frog sees the elephant. The frog croaks loud. "Croak! Croak!" The elephant hears the croak. He thinks the pond is there. He runs to the beehive. The bees come out. They are angry. They sting the elephant all over. Sting! Sting! Sting! The elephant falls down. He has no strength. He is in big pain. He cries and groans.

For many days, the elephant cannot move. His eyes are swollen. He cannot see. His legs hurt. He cannot walk. He lies on the ground. He waits to get better.

Now, the elephant learns a lesson. He thinks, "Small animals can win too. I was bad. I showed strength and hurt others." He feels sorry for the sparrows' eggs. He feels shame for his actions.

The other animals feel pity. They help him. The frog brings water from the pond. The sparrows drop fruits from the tree. The bees give honey. With food and rest, the elephant gets better. The pain goes away. He can open his eyes. He can walk again.

When he is well, he goes to the sparrows. He says, "I am sorry. I was wrong." He helps them build a new nest. He collects leaves and twigs. When the sparrows go for food, he protects the nest.

Soon, the sparrows lay new eggs. The eggs hatch. Baby sparrows come out. They are cute and small. Everyone in the jungle is happy. The elephant is happy too. Now, he is careful. He uses his strength to help, not to hurt. He cares for small animals. And they all live happily in the jungle.

The jungle is green and big. Trees are tall. Rivers flow. Animals play and eat. The sparrows fly high. Their babies learn to fly. The elephant walks slowly. He looks at birds and smiles. No more shaking trees. No more breaking nests.

One day, a baby elephant comes. The big elephant teaches him. "Be strong but kind," he says. "Help small friends." The baby elephant nods. He plays with frogs and bees. He does not scare them.

The owl watches from the tree. She is happy. Her plan worked. The mosquito, bee, and frog are friends now. They visit the sparrows often.

In the morning, the sun shines. Birds sing. The elephant eats leaves. He shares with others. At night, stars shine. Animals sleep safe.

This story shows a lesson. Big or small, we must care. Strength is good with kindness. Hurt others, and you learn hard. Help others, and all are happy.

The sparrows' family grows. More eggs, more babies. The jungle is full of life. No more sad days. Only good days now.

Comprehension Questions

Question 1: Where do the animals live?

Question 2: What do the sparrows build for their eggs?

Question 3: Who lives next to the sparrows' tree?

Question 4: Why are the other animals afraid of the elephant?

Question 5: What happens to the sparrows' nest and eggs?

Question 6: Who helps the sparrows with a plan?

Question 7: Name the three small animals that help in the plan.

Question 8: What does the mosquito do to the elephant?

Question 9: Why does the elephant run to the pond?

Question 10: What lesson does the elephant learn?

Answers

Answer 1: In a big jungle (far away).

Answer 2: A nest (with twigs and leaves).

Answer 3: A big (strong) elephant.

Answer 4: Because he is very strong and likes to show his strength (he breaks branches and shakes trees).

Answer 5: The nest falls to the ground and the eggs break.

Answer 6: The owl.

Answer 7: A mosquito, a bee, and a frog.

Answer 8: It sings a song near his ears (to make him sleepy).

Answer 9: Because the bee stings his eyes and they hurt (he cannot see and wants water).

Answer 10: Small animals can win too / He must be careful and kind to small animals / Strength is good with kindness (he should not hurt others).