



Learn English Through Stories

Panchatantra Tales

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# The Clever Snake and the Lazy Frogs – Version 1

There was an old snake. He was very old and weak. He could not hunt for food anymore. He could not climb trees to eat bird eggs. He could not run fast to catch lizards or frogs. He was hungry for a long time. He felt very sick and tired. He thought, "I need food soon, or I will die. But I am too old to hunt."

Then, the snake had a good idea. He thought, "This idea is clever. If it works, food will come to me. I do not need to hunt."

The next day, he went slowly to a pond. There were many frogs in the pond.

The frogs had a king. The king had many helpers. The frogs did not work much. They played all day. They ate insects in the water. Many frogs were fat and lazy. The king was very lazy too. They did not like to swim. Swimming made them tired.

The snake knew the frogs were lazy. He wanted to use this. He lay down quietly next to the pond. He did not move. He did not speak. He just waited.

The frogs saw the snake. At first, they were afraid. They stopped playing. They swam far away. They watched him carefully.

For a long time, the snake did nothing. He did not try to catch them. Finally, the king frog shouted from far away, "What do you want? We never saw you here before. Do you want to eat us?"

"The snake spoke slowly. "No, King Frog. I do not want to hunt or eat anyone. I am too weak now. Two days ago, I went to the village for food. A boy's father saw me. The boy tried to step on me. I bit him. Now, the father is angry. He cursed me. I cannot hunt or eat animals anymore. I must serve frogs all my life."

The king asked, "How can you serve us? You are a big snake. We are small frogs."

The snake said, "I see you do not like to swim. It makes you tired. I can help. You can jump on my back. I will carry you anywhere in the pond."

"The lazy frogs were happy. The king and his helpers were very happy. Now, they did not need to swim. They could have rides!"

That day, many frogs jumped on the snake's back. He carried them many times. He was tired and hungry, but he smiled. He did not eat anyone. This was part of his plan.

The next day, the snake came back. He looked very weak. The king said, "You look sick today. Can you carry us?"

The snake said, "Yes, King. But I am hungry. The curse says I cannot hunt. I have no food. That is why I am weak."

The king talked to his helpers. They did not want to lose their rides. If the snake died, no more rides! So, they made a plan. "Every day, you can eat one frog. Then, you will be strong. And you can carry us all day."

The snake was happy inside. This was his clever plan! Now, food came to him every day. He did not need to hunt.

For a long time, this happened. The snake carried the frogs. He ate one frog every day. Soon, he was strong and fat. But he was greedy. Sometimes, when no one looked, he ate extra frogs.

Months passed. There were fewer and fewer frogs. Many frogs were gone. Only the king and his helpers were left. But they were busy with rides. They did not see their friends were missing.

One day, the snake went home. He met an old snake friend. The friend said, "You look fat and healthy! How do you get food?"

The snake told the story. "I tricked the lazy frogs. They give me food now."

But a stork was flying above. She heard everything.

The stork flew to the pond. She told the king frog, "The snake tricked you! He is not cursed. He eats your friends!"

The king felt bad. He was ashamed. His laziness helped the snake.

The next day, the snake came to the pond. But no frogs were there. No rides. No food.

The frogs learned a lesson.

**Moral: If you are lazy, bad things can happen. Work hard and be careful.**

## **Comprehension Questions**

Question 1: Who is the main animal in the story?

Question 2: Why was the old snake weak and sick?

Question 3: What good idea did the snake have?

Question 4: Where did the snake go the next day?

Question 5: Why were the frogs lazy?

Question 6: What did the snake say about the curse?

Question 7: How did the snake help the frogs?

Question 8: What plan did the frogs make on the second day?

Question 9: Why did the snake become fat later?

Question 10: How did the king frog learn the truth?

## **Answers**

Answer 1: The old snake (or the snake).

Answer 2: He was weak and sick because he was old, could not hunt, and was hungry for a long time.

Answer 3: He had the idea that food would come to him (he would trick the frogs).

Answer 4: He went to a pond (where the frogs lived).

Answer 5: The frogs were lazy because they did not like to swim and only wanted to play.

Answer 6: He said a man cursed him, so he could not hunt or eat animals anymore and must serve frogs.

Answer 7: He carried the frogs on his back (gave them rides) across the pond.

Answer 8: They said the snake could eat one frog every day so he would stay strong and carry them.

Answer 9: He became fat because he ate one frog every day and sometimes extra frogs.

Answer 10: A stork heard the snake tell his friend the truth and flew to tell the king frog.

