Grade II *Book No. 2*

STORIES OF INDRA

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By

N. A. VISALAKSHY

VIDYARTHI MITHRAM PRESS & BOOK DEPOT
KOTTAYAM

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Price Re. 0—80

VIDYARTHI MITHRAM BOOK DEPOT,
KOTTAYAM.

VIDYARTHI MITHRAM
GRADED ENGLISH BOOKS

STORIES OF INDRA

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First Edition
February 1966

Price Rs. 0—80

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Publishers:
THE VIDYARTHI MITHRAM PRESS & BOOK DEPOT
KOTTAYAM, KERALA STATE.

Printed at
THE VIDYARTHI MITHRAM PRESS,
KOTTAYAM.

O. N. 1903 ★ 1500

INDRA AND HIS SIN

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ERNAKULAM.

I

Indra was the king of the Devas. He was a strong and powerful king. He ruled the three worlds, the Bhumi, Swarga and Pathala. 'Vajrayudha' was his famous weapon. It had hundred edges and with this he killed his enemies easily.

The Asuras were the enemies of the Devas. They wanted to rule the three worlds. So they attacked the Devas many times. But Indra defeated them always and protected the Devas. So the Gods also helped Indra.

Brihaspati was the Deva Guru. He was a very learned and wise Rishi.

The Devas respected him. Even the Asuras respected Brihaspati. One day he came to Indra's court. Indra was sitting on the throne. He was very proud and he did not want to rise from his seat to receive the Deva Guru. All others stood up.

Indra said to himself, "I am the king of the three worlds. Even the Gods respect me. Why should I rise from my seat to receive a Rishi ?"

So he did not rise from his seat. Brihaspati was hurt at this. He got angry. But he did not say anything. He left the court silently.

Everyone in the court became unhappy. They thought that the Guru would curse them. Indra also felt sad. He said to himself, "I have done a wrong. Now my enemies will attack

me. My Guru is not here to help us. Surely I cannot defeat the Asuras." So he went out to find the Guru. He searched everywhere. But he could not find him.

Aids to Study

Defeat = win a victory over. protected = defended. Edge = Sharpness. Attacked = Assaulted. Respected = Honoured. Curse = Hate. Receive = Accept. Enemy = One who dislikes. Searched = Examined. Everywhere = In every place.

QUESTIONS

I 1. Who was Indra ?
2. What was his weapon ?
3. Who were the enemies of the Devas ?
4. Who was the Deva Guru ?
5. Why did the Devas respect him ?
6. Why did the Deva Guru leave the court ?

II Fill up the blanks choosing the right word from those given in the brackets.

a) Indra was a ..... king (wise, strong, weak)

b) One day Brihaspati came to Indra's..... (house, palace, court)

c) When Brihaspati left the court everyone became ..... (sad, happy, gay)

II

Indra's strength failed when Brihaspati left his court. Asuras knew this and they attacked his kingdom. Devas could not defeat them. So they went to Satyaloka to see Brahma. They asked his help. He thought for some time. He said, "You must have a new Guru. I think Viswarupa is fit to be your Guru. He is the son of Twashta."

The Devas went to Viswarupa. He was a young and very learned Rishi. The Devas said to him, "O Rishi, be our Guru and save us." He agreed. With the help and advice of Viswarupa Indra gained strength. Again he defeated the Asuras. Everyone began to respect the new Guru.

Viswarupa's mother was an Asura woman. So Indra did not like him.

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He thought, "My Guru is the son of an Asura woman and the Asuras are my enemies. So he may not be loyal to me. He will try to destroy me."

At first Indra tried to destroy the powers of the Guru. But he failed. Then he decided to kill him. He killed Viswarupa with his famous weapon Vajrayudha.

Aids to study

Gained = obtained. Strength = power.
Advice = careful opinion. Loyal = faithful.
Destroy = ruin. Decided = settled.

QUESTIONS

I 1. When did Indra's strength fail?
2. What did Brahma advise the Devas?
3. When did Indra regain his strength?
4. Why did Indra kill Viswarupa?

II Fill up the blanks choosing the right word from those given in the brackets:-
a) Twashta was the.....of Viswarupa (Guru, Father, Son)
b) Viswarupa's mother was.....(an Asura lady, a goddess, a Deva lady)

III

When Twashta heard this, he was filled with grief. He got angry and cried, "I will kill Indra." He began a Yoga. It was a great Yaga and from the Yaga flames came out Vritra. Twashta said to him, "O Vritra I made you to kill Indra. He killed my son. So kill him and please me. I give you strength for that."

Vritra went to Indra and called him for a fight. They began to fight. Vritra was winning the battle. When the Devas saw this they said to one another, "Vritra is stronger than Indra. Surely he will kill Indra. We will lose our king. It must not be." So all of them went to Palazhi to see Lord Vishnu and asked for his help. He said to them, "You go now. I will help you in time."

Devas returned to Vritra and requested him to stop fighting. They said, "Both of you are good. Why should you fight and kill each other? You stop fighting and live in peace."

Vritra was good at heart and he wanted to obey the Devas. He replied. "I obey you. But Indra is wicked. He will attack me and will kill me when I will not be ready." Then the Devas said, "You need not fear. We will give you this boon—You will not be killed by anyone, either at day or at night, either with stone or with metal"—

Vritra thought, "Now nobody can kill me." He obeyed the Devas and stopped fighting.

Aids to Study

Grief = sorrow. Strength = power. Fight = struggle. Win = to gain the victory. Battle = war. Request = ask politely. Peace = freedom from war. Wicked = cruel. Metal = an alloy. Boon = favour.

QUESTIONS

I
1. What did Twashta do ?
2. Who came out of the Yaga flames ?
3. What did Twashta ask Vritra to do ?
4. Where did the Devas go for help ?
5. What boon did the Devas give Vritra ?

II Fill up the blanks choosing correct word from those given in the brackets.

a) Twashta asked Vritra to.....Indra (kill, help, save)

b) Lord Vishnu promised to help the Devas.....(at once, later, in time)

c) The Devas requested Vritra.....(to stop fighting, to kill Indra, to save the Devas)

IV

Indra was wicked and he wished to kill Vritra. One day Vritra was walking on the sea-shore. Indra saw him. He thought, "Now Vritra is not ready to fight. I will kill him in the twilight. So the boon will not work."

Suddenly he attacked Vritra in twilight and cut off his left hand. Vritra fought with his right hand. Soon Indra cut off the right hand also. Still Vritra did not fall down. He opened his mouth and swallowed Indra. But Indra did not die. He opened Vritra's belly and came out. With his powers he sent sea-surf against Vritra. Now Vishnu came to help Indra. He gave his powers to the sea-surf and it killed Vritra.

But Indra was not happy. This victory brought only shame and sin

on Indra. He called all the Devas and said, "I did a sin I killed Vritra who obeyed you. He was very honest. I am no more fit to be your king." Saying this he left his kingdom to do penance.

Aids to study

Sea-shore = the land immediately adjacent to the sea. Twilight = the faint light after sunset. Swallow = to receive through the gullet into the stomach. Belly = stomach. Sea surf = sea foam. Victory = success. Sin = moral offence. Penance = meditation.

QUESTIONS

I 1. What time did Indra choose to kill Vritra?

2. How did Indra come out when Vritra swallowed him?

3. How did Lord Vishnu help Indra?

4. Why did Indra go to do penance?

II Write a sentence each of your own using the following:-

Fight, wish, attack, obey.

III Fill up the blanks choosing the correct word from those given in the brackets:-

1. Indra attacked Vritra in the..... (day-time, night, twilight)
2. Vishnu helped Indra by giving his powers to.....(the sea-surf, Indra, Vajrayudha)
3. The victory brought .....to Indra (fame, shame, happiness)

V

When Indra left his kingdom Nahusha became the king of the Devas. Once he was the king of the earth. So he could rule well. He was also wicked. When he became the king of the Devas, he began to do evils. One day he saw Indra's wife Sachidevi. She was also called Indrani. She was very beautiful and Nahusha fell in love with her. He went to Indrani and said to her, "I am the king of the three worlds and you must become my wife."

But Indrani did not agree. Nahusha compelled her to become his wife.

She was filled with grief and she ran away from her palace She went to Brihaspati and asked for help. He agreed to help her and allowed her to stay in his house. When Nahusha heard this he got angry. He ordered to bring Indrani to his palace. Devas advised Nahusha not to do so. They said, "O king, Indrani is Indra's wife. So do not wish to marry her." But Nahusha became angry. He was not ready to obey them. So the Devas went to Brihaspati and said, "The king is angry. He wants us to take Indrani to his palace. So please sent her back."

Brihaspati did not agree. He said, "I help those who come to me for help. So I cannot send her to Nahusha. Indrani trembled with fear. She requested Brihaspati not to send her.

He consoled Indrani and said, "You need not fear. Nahusha's end is nearing. But we must play a trick. Do as I tell you."

"I will obey you" Indrani replied.

"You go to Nahusha's palace and ask for time to marry him. He is not wise and will surely give you time. Then you come back to me" Brihaspati said. She agreed.

Aids to Study:

Evil = wicked Agree = to assent. Compel = to force. Allow = to permit. Advice = to recommend. tremble = vibrate. Console = to give solace. Trick = skill

QUESTIONS

I
1. Who became the king of the Devas after Indra ?
2. What kind of king was he ?
3. Who was Sachidevi ?
4. What did Nahusha ask Indrani to do ?
5. Where did Indrani go for help ?
6. What did Brihaspati advise Indrani to do?

II Fill up the blanks choosing the correct word from those given in the brackets:

a) When Indra left his kingdom..... became the king of the Devas:
(Vritra, Nahusha, Brihaspati)

b) When Nahusha troubled Indrani she went to.....for help.
(Indra, Vishnu, Brihaspati)

c) Brihaspati advised Indrani to.....
(marry Nahusha, play a trick, run away to Indra.

VI

Indrani boldly went to Nahusha's palace. When he saw her, he was very happy. His heart was filled with pride and joy. He said, "you have come to me and I am very glad. I am the king of the three worlds and I will make you my queen. Indrani replied.

"O king I am ready to marry you. I do not know where Indra is. So

before I marry you. I want to know whether Indra is dead or alive. Give me sometime and I will come to you within a month".

The foolish Nahusha did not know her plans. He gave her sometime to find out Indra.

Indrani went back. She walked about in search of Indra. She went to Lord Vishnu and said, "Lord, Vritra was killed by your powers. But the sin has come to my husband. So clean his sin and save him". Vishnu replied, Now Indra has no sin. Let him do penance for some more time. Then he will become once again strong and wise".

Again Indrani began to search for Indra. For many days she could not find him. At last she found out his hiding place. He was doing penance by hiding himself in the stem of a lotus plant. She told him all the story.

Indra said to his wife "Be bold, dear one, Nahusha's end is nearing. You pretend to agree to marry him. You ask him to come to you in a palanquin carried by great Rishis. That will destroy him".

Indrani agreed to do so and she returned to Nahusha. She told him that she was ready to marry him. Nahusha was very happy to hear it. Indrani said, "You must come to me in a palanquin carried by great Rishis. Then only gods will fear you".

'True!' cried Nahusha. 'I will do so'.

Aids to Study.

Boldly = courageously. Search = examine. Palanquin—a box borne on poles on men's shoulders. Pride = state of being proud. Pretend = to profess falsely.

QUESTIONS

I 1) What did Indrani ask Nahusha ?

2) What did she request Lord Vishnu ?

3) Where did she find Indra ?

4) What did she ask Nahusha to do ?

II Fill up the blanks choosing correct words from those given in the brackets:

a) Indra was doing penance by hiding himself in..... .....(a forest, a palace, a stem of lotus plant)

b) Indra advised Indrani.....(to pretend to marry Nahusha, not to marry Nahusha, to go to Lord Vishnu)

c) Indrani asked Nahusha to come for the marriage in a.....(chariot, palanquin)

VII

Nahusha called some great Rishis and said, "I am going to marry Indrani. I want to show the gods that I am greater than they. So you must carry my palanquin".

The Rishis agreed. When the Devas heard this they trembled.

The proud Nahusha started in the palanquin carried by Rishis. On the way he was thinking about Indrani and her beauty. He wanted to reach her palace as quickly as possible. So he asked the Rishis to walk more quickly.

Agastya was one of the Rishis carrying the palanquin. He was a dwarf and so could not walk quickly. Nahusha got wild and kicked Agastya saying, "Sarpa, Sarpa".

'Sarpa' means 'go quickly'. It also means a serpent. When Nahusha kicked Agastya, he got wild. He cursed Nahusha to become a serpent. At once Nahusha fell down from heaven and became a serpent.

Now Indra came out from his hiding place. He was doing penance till

that time. And so he was clean of his sin. Once again he became the king of the Devas. Indrani also became happy.

Aids to Study

Dwarf = a diminutive person. Curse = hate. Serpent = snake. Heaven = the dwelling place of the deity and the blessed.

QUESTIONS

I
1. Who carried the palanquin of Nahusha ?
2. Why could not Agastya walk quickly ?
3. Why did he kick Agastya ?
4. How did Agastya punish Nahusha ?

II Fill up the blanks choosing the correct word from those given in the brackets:

1. Nahusha's palanquin was carried by..... (Devas, Rishis, Gods.)
2. Agastya was the ..... of the Rishis. [tallest, smallest, strongest]
3. When Agastya cursed Nahusha he became ..... [an Asura, a serpent, a man]

FINAL TEST

I

1. What kind of king was Indra?
2. What weapon did he use to kill his enemies?
3. Why did the Asuras attack the Devas?
4. Why did Brihaspati leave Indra's court?
5. What did the Devas do when Brihaspati left Indra's court?
6. Who was the new Deva Guru?
7. Why did Indra kill him?
8. How did Twashta plan to kill Indra?
9. What did Lord Vishnu promise to the Devas?
10. Why did Vritra stop fighting?
11. What boon did he get from the Devas?
12. When did Indra kill Vritra?
13. How did he kill him?
14. Why did Indra leave his kingdom?
15. Who was Nahusha?
16. Why did he want to marry Indrani?
17. Where did she go for help?
18. What did Brihaspati advise her to do?
19. What did she ask Lord Vishnu?
20. What did Indra advise her to do?
21. Why did Agastya curse Nahusha?
22. What was the curse?

INDRA'S PRIDE

I

Some people are always proud. Often such people come to troubles. So we say "pride goes before a fall". Just like men, some Devas were also proud. Indra the king of Devas was such a one. In the last story you read how the proud Indra lost his kingdom. Here is another story about him.

There was a beautiful village called "Gokulam". The people of this village led simple lives. Most of them had cattles and they lived by selling milk and butter. Near the village there was a big mountain called "Govardhanam". Grass grew well there and every morning the villagers took their cattle to this mountain. The cattle could graze well till evening and so they yielded plenty of milk.

Nandagopa was the village leader. He had a large number of cows and so he was rich. Srikrishna was his son. At the time of this story Srikrishna was only a boy. He was very handsome and wise and so he was the leader of all the village boys. Even the grown up villagers respected him. Really he was Lord Vishnu himself, but the villagers did not know it

In those days people worshipped Indra to get rain because Indra was the rain-god. He controlled the clouds. When there was no rain, crops failed. So every year the villagers of Gokulam also worshipped Indra and pleased him.

As usual they were getting ready for the "Indra Pooja" They collected flowers and fruits for the festival. The whole village looked busy.

Srikrishna knew that Indra was very proud and so he wanted to teach

Indra a lesson. He thought "I must make him humble".

Aids to Study.

Cattle—bulls, cows and sheep. Graze—to eat grass. Yield—give. Plenty—a lot of. Handsome—beautiful. Worship—to honour. As usual—as is common. Festival—a joyful celebration.

QUESTIONS

I 1) What was Gokulam ?
2) How did the villagers of Gokulam live ?
3) Who was the village leader ?
4) Why did people worship Indra ?

II Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in the brackets:-
1) Indra was.....(wise, humble, proud)
2) Govardhanam was a .....(mountain, village, river)
3) Sri Krishna was really.....himself. (Indra, Vishnu, Narada.)

III Write a sentence each of your own using the following:—
lost, sell, plenty, respect, collect.

II

Srikrishna went to the villagers and asked them "Why do you collect these flowers and fruits ?".

When the villagers heard this, they were surprised. One of them said "Havn't you heard about Indra Pooja? We are getting ready for that".

"No. I do not know anything about it" replied Srikrishna. "Please tell me about it".

One of them said, "Indra is the rain-god. If we do not please him, he will not give us rain. Then the crops will fail and there will be no grass even and our cows will have to starve".

Srikrishna replied "You are all foolish. God gives us rain, and Indra is only a Deva. He is not all-powerful. Why should we please him then?"

Some of them felt that he was right. They thought "This boy speaks

wisely". But some others did not agree. They asked Srikrishna "Whom should we worship then?"

"The answer is simple". said Srikrishna. "Let us worship God first. Then let us worship Govardhanam as it feeds our cows".

Now all of them felt that the boy was correct. They agreed to worship Govardhana mountain. They took all the flowers and fruits to the mountain and arranged everything for the festival.

All the villagers came to the mountain. They took their cows also with them. All of them worshipped the great mountain. There was a feast on that day and every one of them took part in it. People sang and danced with joy. In the evening they returned home with their cattle.

Srikrishna thought "Indra is proud and now he will get angry. Surely he

will make troubles. I must be ready to meet him".

Aids to Study.

Surprise (v) — wonder.
Starve — to do without food.
Feed — to give food.
Feast — rich enjoyment.

QUESTIONS

I 1) Why did the villagers collect flowers and fruits ?
2) Why did they want to please Indra ?
3) What did Srikrishna ask the villagers ?

II Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in the brackets:-
1) At first the villagers were getting ready to worship.....(Govardhanam, Indra, Gokulam)
2) Srikrishna asked them .....Indra (not to worship, to worship, to please)
3) The villagers.....to obey Srikrishna (agreed, did not agree, refused)

III Write a sentence each of your own using the following:-
ready, fail, starve, return, angry.

III

Narada was a great sage. He always liked to do some mischief. Often he made people quarrel with each other and he enjoyed the fun.

He too came to Gokulam for the feast. When the feast was over he thought of making some mischief. "I will go to Indra and tell him all about this" thought he. "He is proud and so he will get angry with these people. He may try to do harm to these villagers; but Srikrishna will not let him go easily".

Narada went to Indra. The proud Indra was sitting on his throne. When he saw the sage he came down from his seat and welcomed him. He said "O great sage! I am happy to see you. Why have you come to me? If you want anything I am only glad to help you".

Narada said, "Oh king of the Devas! I am a sage and I do not want anything. But I feel sorry for you and so I have come here".

"Why?" asked Indra. "I cannot understand what you say".

"Hear me", said Narada, "You are the king of Devas and you rule the three worlds. How will you feel when your subjects show dishonour to you?"

"I am the king of the three worlds and I will cut such people into pieces" replied Indra.

"But I am speaking the truth" said Narada. "Men on earth are not afraid of you now. They are not going to worship you any more".

"I will teach them a lesson", cried Indra. "I can control the clouds. I will not give them rain and thus I will destroy all their crops. Or I will send floods and will kill them all".

"I know you are mighty", said Narada. "But these foolish men do not know your strength. There is a village called Gokulam on earth. The villagers of Gokulam are not ready to worship you. They are worshipping the Govardhana mountain because it feeds their cattle".

Indra was angry when he heard this. He trembled with anger. "O sage, I promise to teach them a lesson. I will send the clouds to Gokulam. They will cause heavy rains and floods to distroy the whole village. All the men and cattle must die".

Narada said calmly, "but Srikrishna is there. I think you cannot defeat him".

"Let me see" cried Indra. "I have my 'Vajrayudha' with me. I will cut him to pieces".

Narada was happy. He knew that Indra could not defeat Srikrishna. But

he too wanted to teach the proud Indra a lesson. So he left Indra's court soon.

Aids to Study

Sage	— a wise rishi
Mischief	— Petty evil
Understand	— know the meaning
Subjects	— citizens
Flood	— great flow of water.

QUESTIONS

I 1) What did Narada like to do?
2) How did Indra welcome Narada?
3) What did Narada tell Indra?
4) What did Indra promise Narada?
5) How did Indra plan to destroy Gokulam?

II Fill up the blanks choosing the right word from those given in the brackets:-
1) Narada made people.....each other (love, quarrel with, help)
2) When Indra saw Narada, he..... (came down from his throne, did not come down, did not rise from his seat)
3) When Indra heard the news, he..... (did not get angry, was calm, got angry)

III Write a sentence each of your own using the following:-
quarrel, harm, help, control, afraid.

IV

Indra thought for a while. At last he ordered the clouds to move towards Gokulam and shower heavy rain over the village.

The dark clouds moved on towards the village and began to pour down water. There was thunder and lightning. It rained day and night for seven days. Lakes and rivers overflowed. People could not go out of their houses. Men and cattle had to starve.

The poor villagers were afraid. They knew about Indra's anger. So they went to Srikrishna and said "oh' Krishna, you asked us not to worship Indra and we obeyed. Now Indra is angry and is troubling us. All of us will die in a few days. Now you must help us".

Srikrishna took pity on the villagers. He asked the villagers to follow

him. They came to the great mountain Govardhanam. Srikrishna lifted up the mountain and held it up in his hands, just like an umbrella. People were surprised when they saw this. Srikrishna asked the villagers to stand under the mountain. Now the rain could not trouble them. Above them was the great mountain.

In a short time all the villagers and their cattle were safe under the mountain. All of them began to praise Srikrishna.

When Indra saw this he wondered at the strength of Srikrishna. He thought "I cannot defeat Srikrishna. He lifts a mountain just as a boy lifts a ball". So Indra came before Srikrishna and fell at his feet. He said "Oh lord! I was foolish and so I cannot understand your strength. I will not trouble the villagers any more".

Srikrishna replied "Indra! never be proud. If you are proud you can never win. Now you can go back. I will ask the villagers to worship you as before.

Indra ordered the clouds to go back. He was no more proud. He thanked Srikrishna and returned to his palace in Swarga.

Aids to Study

Shower	— to pour down
Overflow	— to flow over the bank
Obey	— to do as told by
Safe	— unharmed
Lift	— to hold up
Praise	— to speak high of

QUESTIONS

I 1) What did Indra ask the clouds to do ?

2) How long did it rain ?

3) What did the villagers ask Srikrishna ?

4) What did Srikrishna do to help the villagers ?

II Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in the brackets:-

1) When it rained the villagers were..... (happy, afraid, angry)

2) Srikrishna lifted up the mountain..... (with some difficulty, easily, with much difficulty)

3) When Srikrishna lifted the mountain the villagers.....him. (praised, scolded, pitied)

III Write a sentence each of your own using the following:-
Pity, lift, order, thank.

FINAL TEST

1) Why did people worship Indra?
2) Where was Govardhanam?
3) How did the people of Gokulam live?
4) Who was Srikrishna?
5) Whom did Srikrishna ask the villagers to worship?
6) Who told Indra about the villagers?
7) What did Indra do to trouble the villagers?
8) How did Srikrishna help the villagers?
9) What did Indra do at last?

INDRA AND KARNA

I

Have you heard about Pandavas? They were five brothers. They were Dharmaputra, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva. The Kauravas were their step brothers. They were hundred in number. Duryodhana was the eldest of the Kauravas.

Drona was the Guru of the Pandavas and the Kauravas. He taught them to use the sword, bow and the arrows.

Arjuna was the cleverest of all. So the Kauravas disliked him. Duryodhana envied Arjuna.

When Drona taught them everything he wanted to test them. He called the Pandava and Kaurava princes together. He took them to a big maidan. There was a tall tree at one end of

the maidan. It had a lot of branches and leaves. Drona said, "Now I want to find out the cleverest of you all. Who can make holes on every leaf of that tree? But one can send only one arrow."

It was not very easy. The Kauravas tried first. But all of them failed. Then the Pandavas began. Arjuna shot an arrow. It made holes on every leaf of the tree.

There was a big crowd to see the shooting. They shouted with joy. Drona was happy and he blessed Arjuna. He said "Arjuna! you are the cleverest of all. I am proud of you."

Duryodhana did not like it. He began to envy Arjuna more.

Now a young man from the crowd came to Drona. He bowed at Drona's feet and said "learned Guru! I too can

make holes on every leaf of that tree by shooting an arrow. May I do it ?"

"All right you can try" said Drona, but he thought "Only Arjuna can do it. This boy cannot succeed.'.

The young man took his bow and shot an arrow. People watched him with wonder. The arrow went at great speed. In a short time the arrow returned to him after making holes on every leaf of the tree.

Drona was surprised to see this. People shouted with joy. Duryodhana felt happy. But Arjuna was angry at him. Drona called the young man to him and said,

"Brave boy! you are really clever. What is your name?"

"My name is Karna" replied the man. He said, "Arjuna is proud. He is not cleverer than I."

Now Arjuna got angry. He said "Let us fight. I will defeat you."

"Alright, let us fight" replied Karna.

Aids to Study

Step-brother	— not direct brother.
envy	— ill-will.
shoot	— to send with force.
bow (v)	— a stringed material to send arrows.
succeed	— to gain what is aimed.

QUESTIONS

I
1) What were the names of the Pandavas ?
2) Who was the eldest of the Kauravas ?
3) Why did Duryodhana envy Arjuna ?
4) Why did Drona took the princes to the maidan ?
5) How did he test them ?
6) Who was the new comer ?
7) Why did Arjuna get angry ?

II Examine the following statements. Put (√) against the correct statements and (×) against the wrong ones.

1) Duryodhana was the cleverest of all.
2) Arjuna envied Duryodhana.
3) Drona wanted to test the princes.
4) Arjuna won the test.

5) Duryodhana was happy when Karna won in the test.

III Write a sentence each of your own using the following:-

eldest, dislike, envy, succeed.

II

Arjuna looked at Karna with wonder. He was tall and handsome. He was wearing two ear rings. The earrings made his face brighter. He had a fine armour too.

Arjuna asked, "Are you a prince? Which is your country ?"

"No, I am not a prince" replied Karna. "Then", said Arjuna "I cannot fight with you. I am a prince and I will fight only with kings and princes."

Karna looked down with shame. Duryodhana was watching Karna with love. He thought "If I help him now he will be greatful to me and will

surely help me. He looks brave and he can easily defeat Arjuna."

Duryodhana said aloud. "If he is not a prince, I will make him a king now. Here I give him the country of Anga. From this moment he is the king of Anga." Everyone was surprised when Duryodhana said so.

Now Karna was ready for the fight. Arjuna too was getting ready. People were anxious to see the fight. "Two brave princes are going to fight each other. It will be a fine sight" they said.

It was getting dark. So Drona said "Now it is dark. You can fight tomorrow."

The Pandavas returned to their palace. Where was Karna to go? But Duryodhana liked him very much and so he took Karna to his palace.

After supper Karna and Duryodhana were talking about next day's fight. "Karna, Do you hope to win the fight?" asked Duryodhana.

"Surely, I will defeat Arjuna" Karna replied. "Do you see my armour and ear rings. When I have them no one can defeat me."

"How did you get them ? " asked Duryodhana. 'They are really beautiful'

Karna said, "My father, God Surya gave me this ear rings and armour. They will keep me safe."

"That is good," cried Duryodhana, "now I am sure about your victory."

They talked for a long time and went to sleep.

Aids to Study.

ear-rings — an ornament hung from the ear.
armour — a defensive dress.
grateful — thankful

anxious — uneasy with fear.
supper — food at night
victory — success.

QUESTIONS

I 1) What did Karna wear on his ears ?
2) Why did Arjuna refuse to fight with Karna ?
3) How did Duryodhana help Karna ?
4) Who gave Karna the ear rings and armour ?

II Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in the brackets:-
1) Karna was tall and..... (ugly, fat, handsome)
2) .....made Karna the king of Anga. (Arjuna, Drona, Duryodhana)
3) .....gave Karna the ear rings. (Surya, Drona, Duryodhana)
4) Duryodhana was.....about Karna's victory. (hopeful, sure, not sure)

III Write a sentence each of your own using the following:-

watch, win, hope, sure.

III

Arjuna was the son of Indra, the king of Devas. Indra heard about the next day's fight between Arjuna and Karna. He thought, "Arjuna is my son and so he must win. But Karna is brave. The ear rings and armour make him stronger. I must take it away from him".

Next morning Indra put on the dress of an old brahmin and came to Karna. Karna greeted him and asked, "Oh brahmin! What do you want from me?"

The brahmin said in a humble voice "My son! I want only a small favour. But promise me to give it. Then only I will ask you for it".

Karna was ready to help the brahmin. He said, "Ask me anything and I will give you".

"Then give me your ear rings and armour" said the brahmin.

Karna thought for a moment "If I give away my earrings and armour Arjuna will defeat me. But I made a promise to this brahmin and must keep up my word". He thought.

He took his earrings and armour and gave it to the brahmin. Indra was surprised at this. He felt ashamed. "Really I did a wicked thing" he thought.

Indra took his real form and stood before Karna. He said, "Karna ! Arjuna is my son and I wanted to help him. When you have your earrings and armour you will win. So I asked for your earrings and armour. But I am pleased with you. Now I will give you a weapon".

Indra gave Karna a powerful weapon and said, "You can kill your enemies easily with this weapon. But never use it against Arjuna".

Karna took the weapon from Indra and bowed at his feet.

Aids to Study

Put on — wear
Favour — an act of kindness
Wicked — sinful.

QUESTIONS

I 1) What made Karna stronger ?
2) Who was the brahmin ?
3) What did the brahmin ask Karna ?
4) What did Indra give Karna ?

II Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in the brackets:-

1) Arjuna was the son of .....
(Surya, Indra, Drona.)

2) The brahmin was really.....
(Duryodhana, Surya, Indra.)

3) Karna gave his ear rings and armour to the brahmin because.....
(he liked the brahmin, he wanted to keep his word, he wanted to get a boon)

III Write a sentence each of your own using the following:-

Put on, promise, easily, against.

FINAL TEST

1) What was the test given to the princes ?
2) Why did Arjuna call Karna for a fight?
3) Why did Duryodhana make Karna the king of Anga ?
4) Why did Duryodhana take Karna to his palace ?
5) Who was the brahmin really ?
6) Why did Indra want to take away the ear-rings and armour from Karna ?
7) Why did Indra give a weapon to Karna?

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VOCABULARY

Advise
agree
allow
always
attack
arrange
arrow
ashamed
armour
anxious

Back
battle
beauty
become
belly
boon
bow

Carry
clean
compel
console
court
curse
cattle
clouds
control

Decide
defeat
destroy
dwarf

Earth
easy
edge
either
end
enemy
everywhere

Famous
feel
fight
fit
flames
foolish
feast
festival
flood

Gain
glad
great
grief
grateful
graze

Happy
heart
heaven
help
honest
hurt
husband
handsome

Joy

Kick
kill
kingdom

Learned
lotus
loyal
lightning

Metal
mouth
mountain
mischief

Near

Obey

Palace
palanquin
place
penance
plant
pity
plenty
praise
powerful
protect
proud

Queen
quickly

Ready
receive
request
respect
return
rise

Save
search
shame
shore
show
silently
sin
start
stem
stone
story
strong
suddenly
surf
swallow
sage
shower
starve
supper
surprised

Throne
tremble
trick
true
thunder
trouble
twilight

Understand

Victory

Weapon
whether
wicked
wife
wild
win
wise
work
world
wrong
worship

Yield

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