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KALA
THE LITTLE DOG

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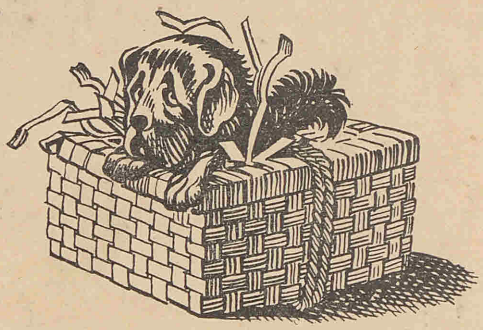
KALA, THE LITTLE DOG

I

KALA was a little black Tibetan dog. His mother belonged to a man who had many cows and goats and other animals.

When Kala was very small he was sold in the bazaar at Srinagar to the father of a boy named Durga Prasad. Kala was a very pretty little dog. He liked to go for walks near the lakes and to play with his young master. Sometimes Durga took the little dog out in a boat. Durga and Kala were sad when the hot days ended and Durga's father had to go back to the plains.

Kala was put in a basket in the car. He had never been shut up before, and when he was put in the basket he was angry. He tried to bite the top of the basket with his little teeth. At last he made a hole. Durga was looking at some monkeys at the side of the road, and so he did not see Kala jump from the car.



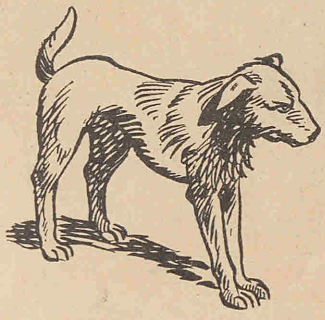
When the car started Kala hid in a hole near the road because he was afraid of the noise the car made.

"What a big animal that must be!" he said to himself. After a time he began to long for Durga to come and play with him and give him a drink of water. But Durga was far away.

When night came Kala came out of the hole and into the road, but he could not find Durga. He was cold and sad, so he sat down and cried. Then he saw a big yellow dog looking at him.

"Why are you making that noise, young one?" asked the big dog. Kala told the dog why he was crying.

"Your master is many miles away from





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you now. You must have some food and then go after the car along the road."

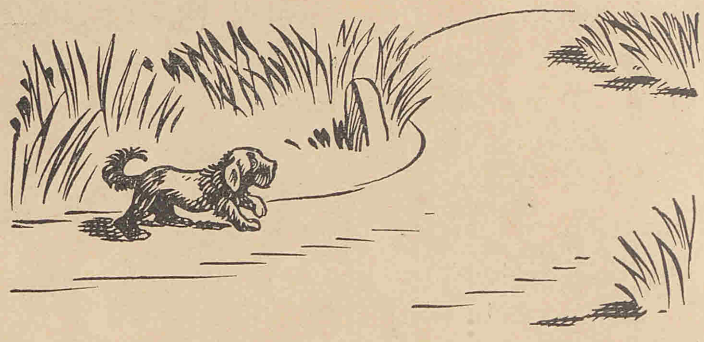
"But I cannot find the way!" said Kala.

The big dog looked angry: "You must try," he said. "I knew a dog who was found in this way. His master came back many miles to look for him."

"I know that *my* master would come, for he is good and kind," said Kala, and he began to cry again.

"Do stop that!" said the big dog. "Come with me to my house and I will let you have some of my food and some water."

Kala went to his new friend's house and there he was given a good meal of meat and rice and some cold water to drink. Kala felt much better after this, and he did not cry



any more. Then the big dog took him back to the road and said : " You must go along that road. Do not walk in it but at the side of it. If you walk in it cars and carts may run over you. If you do not find your master come back here and I will look after you."

Kala thanked his new friend many times for all his kindness and then he set out. The stars and the moon were shining in the sky, but Kala could not help feeling very small and lonely as he ran along at the side of the long white road. After he had gone some miles he heard the noise of some big animal coming through the grass near him. Kala was so afraid that he stopped under a tree and did not make any noise himself. The animal was a big black bear who had been

having a feast of fruit in a garden near-by, and was now on her way home to her young ones. When she saw Kala the bear looked very surprised.

" What are you doing here on the road at this time of night, little one? " she asked kindly. " Dogs no bigger than you should be in their beds at this hour."

Kala shook like a little leaf and did not answer, because he could not help being afraid of the big black bear.

" Do not be afraid. I do not eat little dogs," said the bear with a smile. " Tell me why you are walking on the road by yourself? "

Kala then told the bear how he had lost his master.

" I see," said the bear. " But I do not think your master will come to look for you in the night-time, and I am afraid some animal may eat you up. Come with me and I will take you to my home, and you can stay there till it is morning. Then you can go on along the road."

Kala was afraid to say No to the bear, but he did not want to go to her home. She led

him down a hill to some stones where there was a big hole in the earth.

" Come inside. No-one will hurt you," said the bear. Inside the hole Kala found himself in a small room where there were two little black bears playing about. When they saw their mother the little bears looked very pleased, and came running to speak to her.

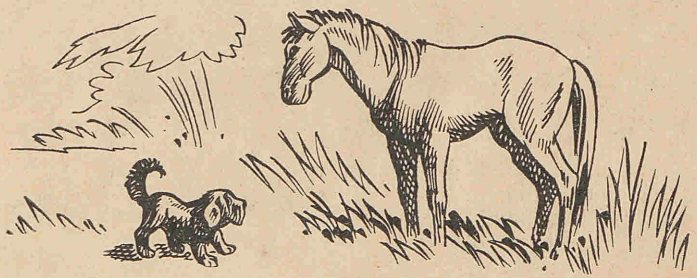
" This is Kala, who has lost his master," said Mother Bear. " You must be very kind to him and give him some of your dinner. Do not bite him ! " The little bears looked at Kala in surprise, for they had never seen a little dog before. They patted him and pulled his tail and played with him while Mother Bear lay down and went to sleep. After a time the little bears fell asleep too, and Kala



lay down with his head near the little bears and fell asleep himself.

In the morning Mother Bear took him back to the road and Kala set out on his walk once more. Because day had come there were now many carts and cars on the road, but nobody seemed to see the little dog. The sun came out and the road grew very hot. After a time Kala saw a horse eating grass by the road. He stopped to speak to him, for he liked horses and had known many in Srinagar. The horse was very friendly, but he could not help Kala very much because he had hurt his leg and could not walk.

"I think you should go back to your friend the yellow dog," said the horse. "Your master will be hundreds of miles away by now, and you may never find him. It is not

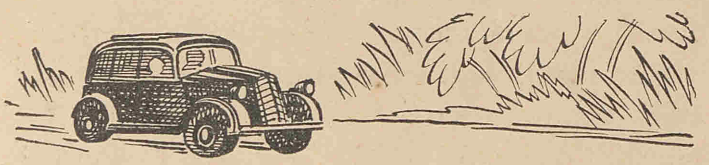


far to Srinagar, for I have walked there many times myself with a big grain bag on my back, and I know the road well. If I had not hurt my leg I would go with you, but I must stay here in this field."

Kala thanked the horse for his words and then he sat down by the road and cried a little, for he could not help being sad at the thought of going back all the long way he had come, and he felt more sad at the thought that he might never see his master again.

QUESTIONS

1 What country did Kala belong to ?
2 Where is Srinagar ?
3 What made Kala jump from the car ?
4 Was the bear kind to Kala ?
5 What had the bear been eating in the garden ?
6 What did the horse advise Kala to do ?



2

DURGA and his father were very surprised when they opened the dog basket and found that Kala was not inside it. Durga cried very much. He cried so much that he was quite ill. So in the morning, as soon as they had had breakfast, Durga's father said :

" We had better go back to look for your dog, for I can see you will never be happy as long as he is lost."

" Oh father, how kind you are ! " cried Durga. " I could not sleep for thinking of all the bad things which might have hurt poor little Kala."

" Then get into the car and we will go," said his father, smiling. They drove quickly back along the road to Srinagar, and then when they were only some miles from the place they slowed down so as not to miss seeing Kala.



" Look, father ! There he is ! " cried Durga. His father stopped the car, and there was Kala looking very small and hot sitting near the old horse by the road-side. Durga jumped from the car and ran to his little dog and picked him up in his arms.

" Oh Kala, you bad little dog to run away from me ! " he cried as he patted his little black head. When Kala saw that it was his own master he gave a happy cry and began to kiss his hands. The old horse looked on and wagged his head. After a time Durga and his father drove away in the car with Kala sitting beside his master, wagging his tail and looking very pleased.

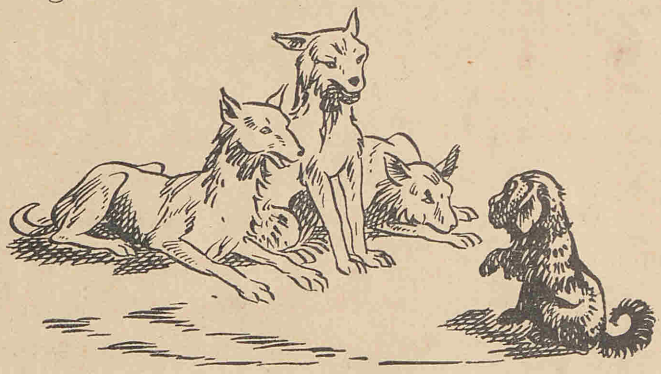
Durga was very happy to have his little dog again, and Kala tried to tell him all the things that he had done since they had last seen him in Srinagar.

"You must never run away again," said Durga as he patted the little dog, and Kala wagged his tail.

Kala never jumped from his basket again. He liked to go everywhere with Durga, and he was not afraid of the car or of trains. One year Durga and Kala went with Durga's father to a big village at the foot of the hills. Durga's father was a *Vakil* (lawyer), and he had some work to do in the village, so they were to stop there for some time.

There were many wild animals in the hills near the village, and the villagers told Durga to keep his dog away from the forests because of the tigers which lived there. Durga told Kala that he must stay beside him all the time, but Kala liked to be free to run here and there. One day he went for a walk in the village by himself to see some of the dogs which lived there. Some of the dogs made Kala stay with them for a long time because they wanted to

hear him talk of all the places he had been to. It was a hot day, and because Kala had been talking for a long time he wanted a drink of cold water. The dogs told him to go to the village well, where the water was cold on the warmest day. The well was outside the village.



Now in the hills above the village lived Lalu, a very bad old tiger who had lost many of his teeth and could not catch animals in the forests any more. He used to stay near the village and catch the goats and dogs which lived there. When Kala went to drink at the well Lalu was lying asleep in the grass near-by, but he soon woke up when he heard Kala drinking.



" Oh ho ! " he said to himself. " Here is a very good dinner for me, a fat little black dog," and he jumped out of the grass. Kala and the tiger fell over and over biting and making a great noise. Kala fought well, but the old tiger drew him away from the well into the forest. Kala was badly bitten in many places but he did not stop fighting, and he bit the tiger as much as he could. Some monkeys were watching the fight from the trees, and were very pleased to see Lalu being bitten by the little black dog, for they did not like the old tiger.



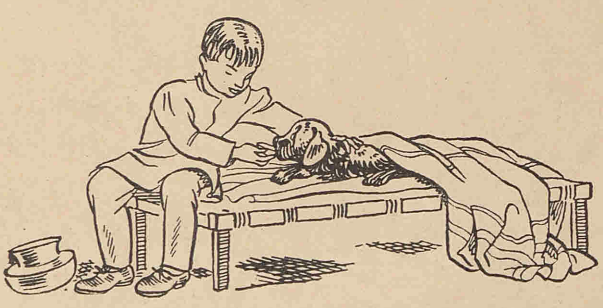


Poor Kala would have been killed had not some villagers, who had been cutting grass in the forest, come along at this time. When Lalu saw the villagers he dropped Kala and ran away, for he was afraid of men. The villagers stopped to look at Kala, who was lying on the grass.

" The tiger has killed the little dog ! " cried one.

" No, it is not dead, only hurt," said a younger man. " It is the dog of the *Vakil* Sahib who is staying at the dak bungalow. I have seen it with his little son."

" Then let us take the dog back, and the *Vakil* Sahib will give us money," said the first man.

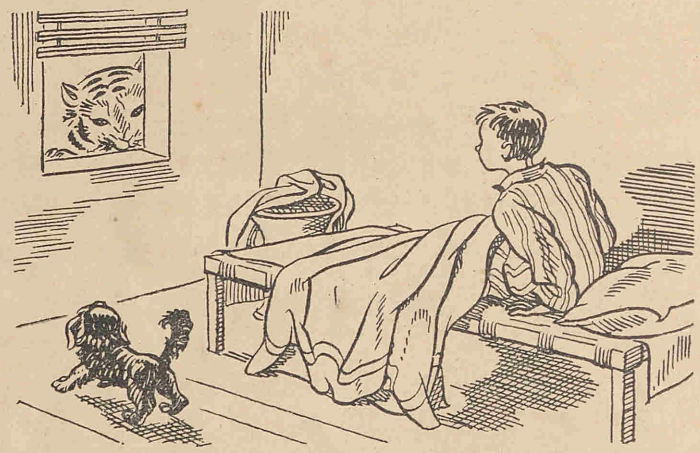


The villagers took Kala back to the village in a cloth. When Durga saw him he gave a cry.

"Oh my poor dog!" he said. Then he washed Kala's bites and tied them up. All night long he sat beside Kala giving him water to drink, and in the morning Kala was better and could put his nose in Durga's hand to show him that he loved him.

After some time Kala was able to walk again, but he did not go to the village or to the well, for he was afraid of Lalu.

The old tiger had been very angry at losing a good dinner and so he came every night and watched for Kala from some high grass near the well. He had never seen such a fat well-fed dog as Kala. The village dogs were very thin, and the goats were not much better.



Durga and his father were living in the dak bungalow in the village, and there were many trees round it and some high grass, so one night Lalu made his way through the sleeping village to the dak bungalow and walked round and round the verandas looking for Kala. Then he came to an open window. It was not a very big window, but Lalu was able to put his head through it and to look into the room inside. Kala was asleep under his master's bed in the room, but when he heard and saw Lalu he jumped up and made a great noise. This woke Durga, who sat up in his bed.

" What is it ? Why is the dog waking us all up ? " asked his father from his bed.

" Father, there is some big animal trying to get in at the window ! " cried Durga. " I cannot see what it is, but it has a very big head. Kala is trying to drive it away."

Durga's father got up and found a thick stick. With this he hit the animal's head, and Lalu at once jumped away from the window and ran home to the forest. He did not like to be hurt, and he was afraid of Durga and his father.

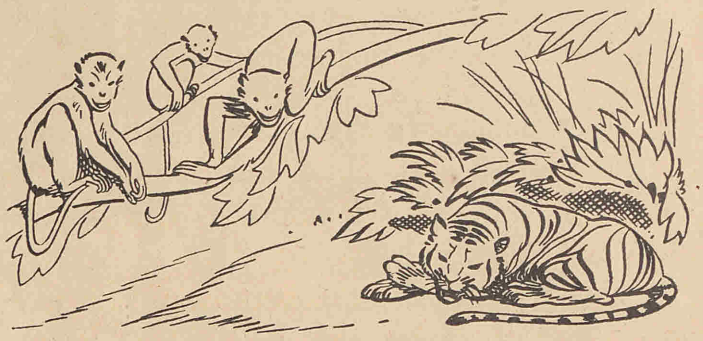
Kala made a great noise and wagged his tail to show how pleased he was that Lalu had run away.

In the morning Durga's father found great paw marks in the earth near the veranda.

" These are the marks of a tiger ! " he told Durga, and he patted Kala. " You were a clever little dog to wake us so soon," he told him.

Lalu was very angry. " I will catch that bad little dog one day ! " he said to himself, and he lay down in his house to try to think of a way to catch and eat Kala.

The monkeys, who know everything, were very pleased to think that Lalu had been driven away from the dak bungalow without catching Kala. They made a great noise talking about it in the branches over Lalu's house, and this made the tiger angrier than ever.



QUESTIONS

1 What was the name of the tiger ?
2 What was Durga's father ?
3 What did the tiger eat ?
4 Would Kala have died if the villagers had not come along when he was being attacked by the tiger ?
5 Was Durga kind to Kala when he was hurt ? What did he do ?
6 How did Kala warn his master that some animal was trying to get into the room ?



3

THE villagers were very angry when they heard that Lalu had come through the village to the dak bungalow to carry away the Vakil's dog.

"This tiger must be driven away from our houses, or soon he will begin to kill our children as well as our goats and dogs," said one of the villagers.

"But how shall we drive him away?" asked many. Then an old man came to the front and said :

"Brothers, when I was a boy we had a tiger near our village which used to kill our cows and goats, so we set fire to the forest round the village, and the tiger was afraid of the fire and ran far away and never came back."



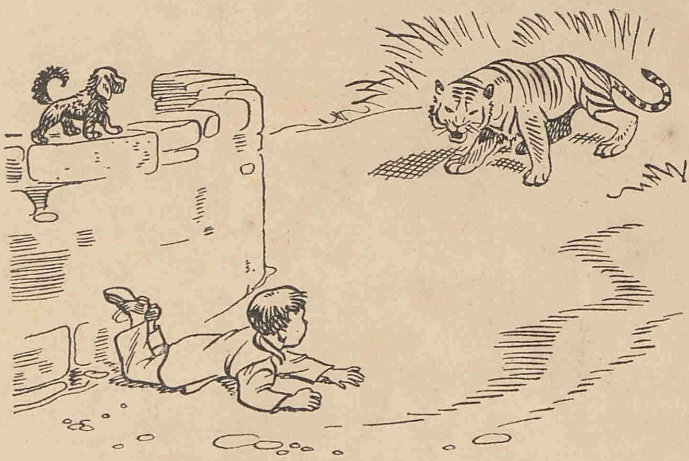
"Let us set fire to our forest in this way," cried the villagers.

"But first we must bring in all our animals, for we do not want them to be afraid or hurt."

Durga and Kala watched the villagers setting light to the forest. Soon there was much smoke as the high grass and the trees caught fire.

Lalu was lying asleep in his house, but he soon awoke. "What is all this smoke and noise of men?" he cried.

"Find out for yourself!" cried the monkeys and birds as they jumped and flew away to safety.



Lalu shook his head angrily and then he did a thing which no-one in the village had thought he would do—he ran from the forest into the village among the people who were standing watching the fire. He first saw Durga and Kala standing on a wall looking at the fire.

"I will kill that little fat dog now," said Lalu to himself as he ran at Kala. Durga was so surprised and afraid at seeing the big tiger coming that he fell off the wall in front of him.

"Oh!" cried the villagers. "The tiger will kill the boy!"



When Kala saw that his master had fallen down he jumped from the wall and stood beside him and waited for the tiger. When Lalu came near Kala jumped at him and bit his legs.

Some of the women and children ran into their houses and shut the doors, but the men picked up lighted branches and ran to strike the tiger and to drive him away from the boy and the dog. At this Lalu turned and ran away into the forest. He made a great noise as he ran, for it was very hot and the smoke was in his eyes, but he was more afraid of the men with their lighted sticks than he was of the fire in the forest. He jumped over the hot grass and swam a big river to get away from the fire. At last, when he was many miles from the village, he sat down to rest.

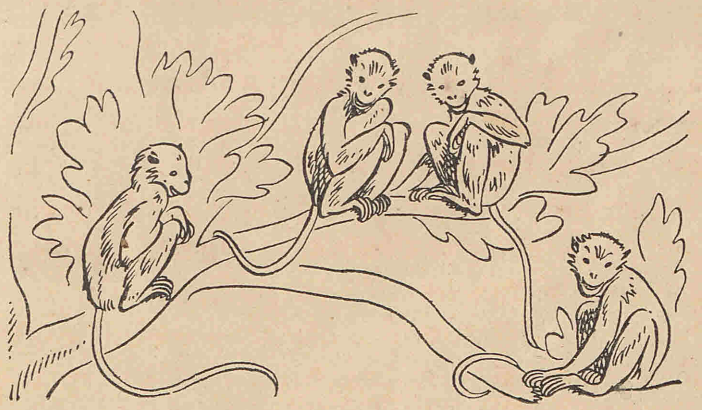
" I do not like that village and those bad men with their fire," he said to himself. " I shall not live beside that village any more."

The monkeys who were watching him from the trees smiled to themselves. They meant to go back to the village when the fire had gone out, but they knew that Lalu would never go back there again.

Durga was picked up by some of the villagers while one ran to call his father.

" How is my son? Has the tiger hurt him? " asked the Vakil as he came running up. Durga smiled and answered his father :

" I am not hurt, but had it not been for Kala the tiger would have killed me," he said.





"Kala is a very good little dog. This is the second time he has tried to save you from the tiger. I am surprised that he was not afraid of it after he had been so badly bitten a short time ago."

"There are not many dogs as clever and as good as Kala," said Durga, smiling at his little friend. Kala wagged his tail at this, for he knew that they were talking of him, and he was very pleased.

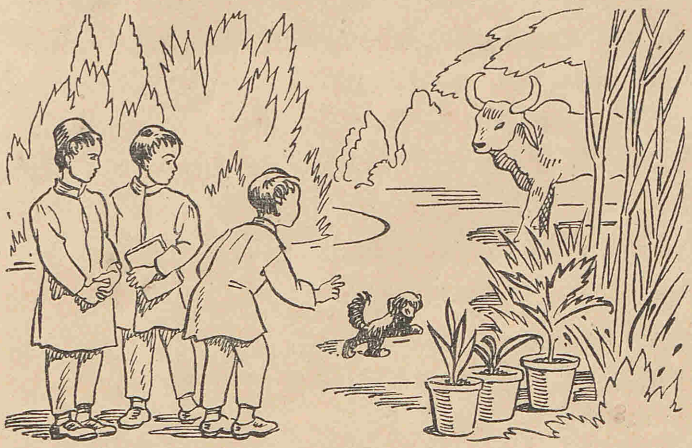
Soon after this Durga and his father and Kala went back to their own home. Durga told his mother and sisters and all his friends how clever Kala had been in driving away the tiger. Durga's mother made Kala a big dinner, for she said: "If it had not been for this little dog my son might be dead!"

Durga's school friends came to see the dog who had fought a tiger. They were very surprised when they saw that Kala was such a small dog.

"How could a dog like this fight a big tiger?" they asked, smiling. Durga was angry at this.

"My dog is not like any dog," he answered angrily. He was going to say more when at that minute a big bull came into the garden and began to eat the things which grew there, and to break down the trees.

Kala at once ran at the bull and drove it from the garden. Then he came back to his



master wagging his tail and looking very pleased with himself.

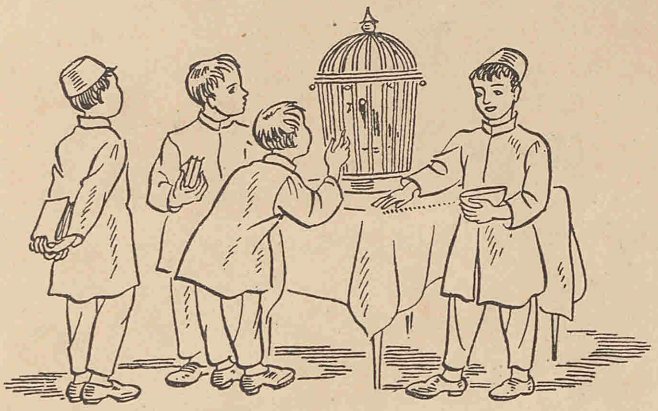
"He is more like a lion than a dog," said one of Durga's friends.

After this they did not smile when Durga talked about his clever dog.



QUESTIONS

1 What did the villagers do to drive the tiger away?
2 Was Lalu afraid of the fire?
3 Do animals fear fire?
4 What did Durga do when he saw the tiger coming?
5 How did Kala try to save Durga's life?
6 What did Durga's mother do when she heard about Kala and the tiger?



4

THE boys in Durga's school were trying to get money for the Sports Fund. One boy had a clever talking *minah* (starling) from Nepal which he taught to say many words. Then he asked all his friends to come and hear the bird talking, and to pay one *pice* for doing so. In this way he made some rupees to give to the Fund.

" I should like to make some money in this way for the Fund," said Durga. " But how shall I do it ? "

" Why do you not teach your clever dog to do something ? " asked a friend of his.



"Yes, I will do this!" cried Durga. "I will show Kala how to do some tricks and then ask the boys to come and see him do them. Then they can pay me one or two *pice*, and in this way I shall make much money for our Sports Fund."

He set to work at once to show Kala a trick. This was to sit up and ask for food. Then he made him lie down as if he were dead, and only jump up when he said the word *Jai* (victory). Kala was so clever that he very soon could do these tricks for his master. Durga called his father and mother to watch Kala doing the tricks and they smiled and gave him eight annas for his fund. Then he called his school friends to come to the house to see his clever little dog. The boys thought that Kala's tricks were very good. They told their brothers and friends to come and see them too, and soon Durga



had made ten rupees for the Sports Fund to give to his master at school.

"You have a very good dog there," said the master. "Would you not like to sell him to me?"

Durga shook his head. "I would not sell my dog for all the money in the world, sir," he answered.

"But why? He is a very pretty dog, but he is only a little dog like many I have seen," said the master, smiling.

Then Durga told him how Kala had fought with the tiger and had tried to save his life. He told him, too, how Kala had been lost on the road to Srinagar, and had tried to find his master.

"No, you must never sell your dog," said the master; "he would never be happy with anyone else."

QUESTIONS

1 How did one boy in Durga's school make money for the Sports Fund ?
2 Did Durga find it easy to teach Kala tricks ?
3 Can you think of any good way of making money to help some of your school funds ?
4 Did Durga sell his dog to the master ?



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