LONGMANS' EASY INDIAN STORIES

A PRINCE, A RAT AND A RING

BY

R. W. ROSS, I.E.S.

ANWARUL ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
ERNAKULAM.

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Fine Book.

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This a simple language book.



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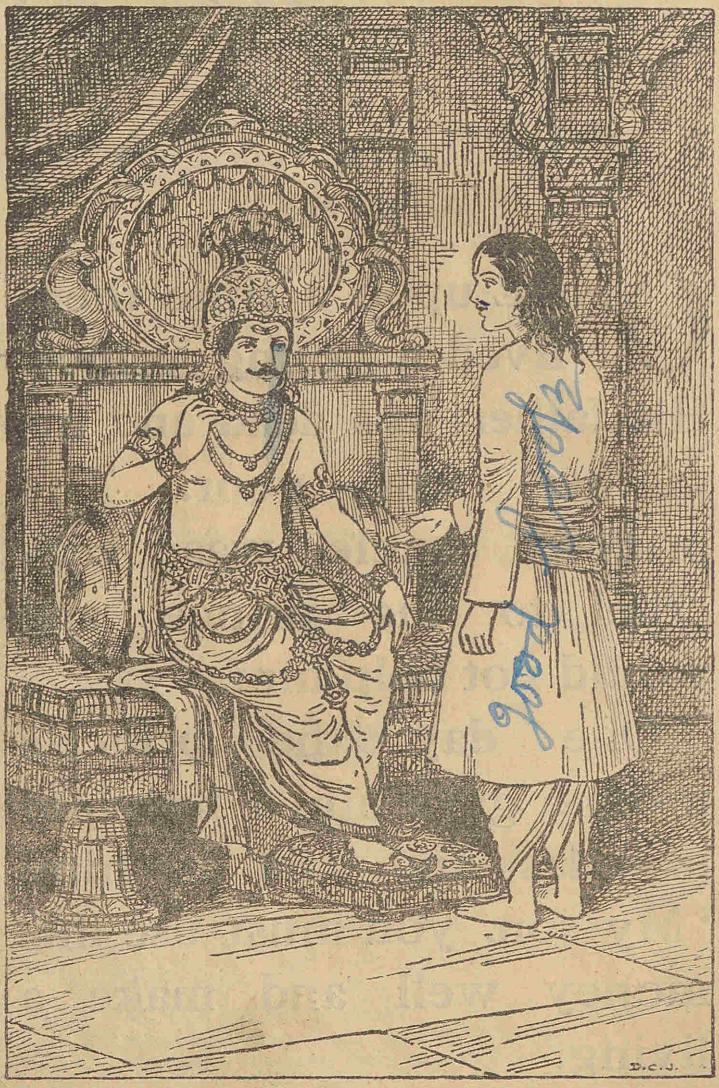
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A PRINCE, A RAT AND A RING

ONCE upon a time there lived a young prince. His father was dead and his mother was poor. The prince's uncle was very cruel to the prince and would not help him.

One day the prince's mother gave him a hundred pagodas and said to him, 'My son, you must use this money well and make a living.'


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The young prince took the money. One day he met a man with a bag on his head. In the bag there were some kittens.

The prince was very fond of kittens, and said to the man, 'Sell me one of these kittens.' The man said, 'They are very costly.'

'What is the price of one of them?' said the prince. 'How much money have you?' asked the man. The prince showed him the hundred pagodas.

Then the man said, 'I shall

sell you a kitten for a hundred pagodas.' The prince paid the money and the man went away very glad.

Soon afterwards the prince's mother met him and was very angry. 'You are a foolish lad,' said she, 'you have wasted my money. That is a worthless kitten.' So saying, she went away to her parents' home.

For some days the prince walked about begging from house to house. People

were very sorry for him, and always gave him and his kitten something to eat.

After a few weeks his mother returned and gave her son another hundred pagodas. She said to him, 'Do not be foolish this time, but spend this money carefully.'

One day the prince was walking about and met a snake-charmer. He had two baskets of snakes. In one of them was the son of Adisesha, the King of the snakes. The prince asked the man,

'What have you in your basket?'

The man replied, 'I have some very fine snakes.' The prince then said, 'Sell me one of them for a hundred pagodas.'

The snake-charmer was very pleased to get such a large sum of money, and gladly handed over to the prince the son of Adisesha.

Later the prince met his mother and told her about his bargain. She was very angry with him, because he spent so much money on a

snake. Again she left him and went off to her parents' home.

So the prince went about begging from house to house, and showed every one his cat and his snake. For twelve years he did this.

Then one day his mother found him and said to him, 'Drive away that snake. It will do you no good.' The prince was ready to obey his mother, and took the snake to a wood.

Then he said to it, 'My dear snake, for twelve years

we have been friends, but my mother says I must leave you. So, goodbye, we must part.'

The prince then walked some distance away, whilst the snake watched him. At last it cried out with a human voice, and said, 'O prince, you have been very kind to me. Do not leave me, but stay here a little longer. Soon I shall return to my father, Adisesha, and I shall tell him about your kindness to me. He will be glad to hear of it and will ask you

to come and see him. Then he will send messengers for you and give you a grand feast. He will also tell you to ask him for a present. This is the present you must ask for. He has a beautiful ring, and that ring will do wonders for you. Ask for the ring, wear it, and the ring will bring you all you want.'

Then the snake went to the other world and met his father. He told him about the prince, and his father asked the prince to come and see him.

The prince went and met Adisesha. Adisesha was very pleased with the prince and said, 'I want to give you a present. What would you like?'

Then the prince asked for the ring, and Adisesha gave it to him. He said, 'My dear prince, this ring is worth a lot of money. Take great care of it. Do not allow anyone to take it away. If you lose it, you will lose everything.'

Then the prince went back to the other world and

came at last to a thick jungle. There he prayed to the god Parameshwara and made these requests:

'May this jungle vanish and everything in it also; may the people who helped me when I was a beggar become my subjects; may beautiful houses rise up in this place, and may all my subjects live here very happily; may broad rivers with plenty of water flow here all the year; may my mother and my cat come here and be with me; may

I have a palace and rule here as king; and may this kingdom receive the name of Nishadadesha.'

His prayer was over, and at once a wonderful thing happened. The jungle disappeared; his friends, his mother and his cat all came to him; a palace and beautiful houses and temples and tanks and rivers all sprang up; and the prince ruled there as king.

So he lived here happily for many years.

At last the prince wanted

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to marry a beautiful princess. He was told that a lovely princess lived at Swarnapuri several miles away. He sent messengers, and after some time made plans for the marriage to take place. It was a very fine wedding.

The princess used to bathe in the sea every day. One day when she went to bathe some of her hair came out and rolled itself into a ball.

At that time the King of Cochin was riding by and he saw the ball of hair. He took it up and looked at it.

'This is very beautiful hair,' he said, 'and belongs to a very beautiful woman. I want that woman to be my wife. Whoever brings her to me will have rich rewards.'

As he spoke these words an old woman heard him and planned to help him. So she sat by that spot and made a fire. She sat by the fire and cried bitterly, as if some friend of hers had died.

The princess as usual went to bathe, heard that woman crying and felt very sorry



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for her. The woman told her a sad story and said, 'My daughter died very suddenly, and I am all alone; no one cares for me and I am very unhappy.'

The princess was sorry for the woman and promised to help her. With the consent of the prince, she brought her into the palace. There the old woman seemed to be very fond of the princess, and worked very hard.

One day the old woman wanted some mangoes, but

there were no mangoes on the trees at that time. The prince, however, said, 'I will get you some mangoes.'

Then speaking to the ring he said, 'O Magic Ring, bring some mangoes.' At once the mangoes appeared. The old woman was surprised at this and said, 'This is a wonderful ring. If I can get it, I can get anything with it. I can help the King of Cochin and get him his queen.'

So for many days the old woman tried to get the ring,

but all in vain. At last she thought of a trick. It was this. She pretended to have a headache, and no one was able to cure her.

So she said to the princess, 'Get your husband's ring. That ring can do anything, and it can drive my headache away. Let me wear it just for a minute. My headache will go.'

The princess did not know how to get the ring, because the prince kept it in a box which was locked, and never gave it to anyone.

However, one day the princess asked the prince for the ring, and he gave it to her. Then the old woman put it on her finger. At once she flew away into the sky and was not seen again.

The princess was very sad and cried out, 'The old woman has gone off, and taken away the ring! I do not know how to get it back again.'

The wicked old woman soon came to Cochin and showed the ring to the king. 'Put this ring on your

finger,' she said, 'and think about the beautiful lady. Then she will soon come.'

The king did so, and at once the lady appeared. Then he said, 'O, beautiful lady, be my wife and stay here for ever.' She agreed to do so.

The poor King in Nishada was very sorry about his loss. He had no ring and no wife. There was only his cat. Soon he lost his kingdom and had to walk about just as he did before.

His cat followed him, and

one day they reached Cochin. At that time his former wife was feeding the poor people, and the King of Nishada picked up some of the food and ate it. Then he lay down and fell asleep.

His faithful cat sat by his side. At that time a number of rats and mice were jumping about and eating what was left of the food.

Amongst them there was a very big rat which looked like the king of the rats, the Rat Rajah. The cat looked at that big rat and sprang at

him. She caught him by the throat and spoke thus :

'Ah, ah, I have caught you. Soon I shall eat you up.'

The rat was very sorry and said, 'O, lovely cat, please do not eat me up. Let me live and I shall help you.'

Then the cat said, 'O, King of Rats, do one thing for me and you shall live.'

'What shall I do for you?' said the rat. 'Tell me, and I shall try to do it.'

Then the cat said, 'Listen, listen ; my master is sleep-

ing. He is a good master and he is in great trouble. He has lost his ring and everything else. Bring back the ring, O, King of the Rats, and you shall live. If not, I shall eat you up.'

The rat did not know what to do, but spoke thus: 'O, beautiful cat, I shall do my best to bring you the ring. See here is an army of rats. I shall tell them to search everywhere and look for the ring.'

So the rats began to run about, and jumped into all

the boxes of the King of Cochin. At last they went into a room and they found the king asleep.

There was a box by his side, and in that box they found the ring. Then they ran off with great joy to the cat, and showed her the ring. She was very glad, and taking it she awoke her master and showed him the ring.

Then the cat let the King of the Rats go, and he ran away very happily. The king put the ring on his finger and at once his king-

dom returned to him. His beautiful palace and houses they all appeared. But, best of all, his queen was once more by his side.

In this way the king through the friendship of his cat got again everything that he had lost.

Good Boo

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Date 24.8.84
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