Azad Hind English Readings No. 2.

DAVID and GOLIATH and OTHER STORIES.

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DAVID
AND
OTHER STORIES

GRADE I—BOOK II.

it is a bad story

BY

Prof. T. J. GEORGE M.A.

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DAVID AND GOLIATH.

Once upon a time in a far country there was a war between two countribes. The people who lived there were known as the Israelites and the Philistines.

The Isralites were beaten back many a time during these fights. Always the Philistines won the day. This was because they had a giant named Goliath. He was a very tall and big person. People were afraid even to look at him. He had the strength of an elephant.

He had a huge helmet made of brass. His spear was as big as a tree.

The two armies were drawn up on two hills. They stood facing each other.

Everyday this giant used to come down into the valley. He used to challenge any soldier in the army of the Israelites to come and fight with him. No one had the boldness to fight with him.

One day a young man named David came forward. He was only a lad of 14. He had come into the camp to find out how his elder brothers were getting on. He heard the loud challenge given out by Goliath. He was sad that no one came forward to face him.

David had never in his life fought with anyone. He had never seen a battle. All the time he was

looking after his father's flock of sheep.

When David heard the giant shouting he stood there and listened. He was surprised to find some of his own people running away in fear. But he stood where he was.

Some of the soldiers who saw the brave face of David went and told their king about this strange youth. 'O King, there is a young man come to the camp. He seems to be a very bold and strong lad. He alone does not seem to be afraid of the giant. Besides, he is asking 'What reward shall be given to the man who defeats and kills the giant?'

The king then sent for David. When he came before the King,

he was pleased with David's bright and brave face. The King asked him if he would fight with the giant. Then David said to the king in a very humble tone: 'Let no one be afraid of the giant; for your servant will go and fight with him.'

But the King liked the brave and noble face of the fair youth. He did not want that he should be killed by the giant. So the King told him that it was a very dangerous thing to do

You are only a youth; but Goliath has been a fierce soldier from his youth.

Then David said: 'When your servant kept his father's sheep, there came once a lion and a bear.

The lion carried off a lamb out of the flock. But your servant ran after the lion, struck him down, and took the lamb out of his mouth. And when the lion turned against me, I caught him by the beard and dashed him to pieces on the rock near-by.

Now, with God's help, your servant will kill him, throw his body for the fowls of the air to eat.

After receiving the King's blessings, David went forward. He had only a shepherd's staff in his right hand. In the other he had a sling. He picked out five smooth round stones from out of the brook. He stood there waiting for the giant.

There was no trace of fear on his face.

Goliath came on with big strides shaking the ground as he walked. He was also saying something with a loud voice. For he was angry that such a small boy had come forward to fight him. He thought the Israelites wanted to make fun of him.

'Am I a dog that you come to me with a staff?' roared Goliath. And he cursed David. But David slowly replied: 'This day my God will save me, and He will destroy you. I will cut off your head with God's help. Then all men may know the power of God.'

Goliath grew more angry when he heard these words. He rushed

at David. David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone. He placed it in his sling and aimed it at Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead, and made a deep wound there. Goliath gave such a loud shout with pain, that all who heard him shook with fear. It was like the noise of thunder. He fell with his face to the earth.

So David defeated the giant with a sling and stone, and then killed him. He had however no sword with him. So he ran forward, drew out Goliath's sword, and then cut off his head.

When the Philistines saw that Goliath was dead, they also fled. The people of David ran after them and killed as many as possible.

All the men of Israel praised David for his mighty deeds. The King gave him very rich presents. He also gave him his daughter in marriage.

Later on David became king over Israel.

THE CLEVER BANKER.

In the village of Hosepur, there lived a very clever money-lender. He used to lend money to other people in the village and charge high rates of interest. In this way he earned a big fortune. He bought up vast acres of land in his own village.

Once he wanted to go to a distant town to trade in silk and silver wares. He did not know what to do with his money, and where to keep it safe from robbers. So he went to a friend and told him :- 'I have a thousand iron rods with me. Will you kindly take care of them for a short time while I am away?'

'Yes, if it is only for a short time,' replied his friend Moraji. But Moraji hoped that the money-lender, Jivan Lal, would never return. In that case the rods would be his. Moraji was a very bad and crooked man.

Jivan Lal finished his work in the town and came back within a month. The day after his return he went to see Moraji and asked him for his iron rods.

Moraji was very sad and rather angry at Jivan Lal's return. He answered: 'I took care of your iron rods for a long time. But now it looks as if the rats have eaten them. I am unable to return them to you. I am very sorry for it.'

Jivan Lal knew that the whole

thing was a lie. He knew how cunning and dishonest Moraji was. But he kept quiet and went away.

Now Moraji had a fair little boy. He had curly hairs and bright blue eyes. Everyone loved Sohan Lal, as he was called. Moraji was very fond and also very proud of him.

One morning Jivan Lal went to Moraji's place. He asked Moraji to let Sohan spend the day with him. It was Jivan Lal's birth-day and he was having a small feast.

So Sohan Lal went in a nice little cart which Jivan Lal had brought with him. Jivan Lal also gave him plenty of toys and made him quite happy. But when it was

evening, Jivan Lal did not send him back to his father.

Moraji soon came to Jivan Lal's house to find out why Sohan had not come. When he came to Jivan Lal's place, he could not find his son. Jivan had sent him to a friend's house near-by

'Where is my little boy ?' asked Moraji.

'Oh, you mean Sohan Lal. A short time ago a bird flew away with him.'

Moraji was very angry at this reply. His face became red. He shouted out: 'What ! are you making fun of me? I will call in the police at once if you do not give my son back to me.'

'Don't be angry, my friend,' said

Jivan Lal. 'You told me that rats had eaten up my iron rods. Well, if rats could eat up my iron rods, surely a bird can fly away with your boy. Don't you think so ?'

Moraji knew that what his friend said was true. He could not find any proper reply. He knew that he had met his match in Jivan Lal.

'While you get my rods, I will go and bring your boy,' said Jivan Lal.

MOHINI
THE INDIAN PRINCESS.

A fair young Indian Prince went out into the forest with his friends and courtiers. They went to hunt the deer and the tiger. As the day grew hot, they felt tired. So the Prince lay down to rest in the shade of a tree.

When he woke up it was late in the evening. His friends who had gone out hunting had not yet come back.

The Prince, Jayakumar, had some sweet cakes with him. When he slept, these were covered with ants. These little ants were afraid when the Prince touched the cake. But

the Prince only smiled and said to them: 'Don't be afraid. You may eat all the cakes if you want.'

When he slept again, the king of the ants crept into his ear and asked: 'Is there anything we can do for you?' 'No, there is nothing,' said the Prince.

'Do you not wish for a Princess as your wife?' asked the King of the Ants, Hirambu. 'If you once set your eyes on Mohini, you will never wish to leave her,' said the King of the Ants.

The Prince now made up his mind to go on till he came to the place where the fair Princess lived. His friends and servants did not come back even when it was dark. They had lost their way in the

forest. So the Prince was left behind. He had to spend the night in the forest. But the King of the Ants gave him all help.

The next morning, Jayakumar started for the place where the Princess lived. He came to a nice little pool. Near it stood a huge tiger. This animal cried out, as if it was in great pain.

The Prince got down from his horse. Seeing what was wrong with the tiger, he pulled out a thorn from its paw. Then he got on his horse again, and wanted to go.

Before he jumped on his horse, Jayakumar asked the tiger if he knew the way to the land of Princess Mohini.

'It is far, far away,' said the tiger. 'The way is hard and long. It goes across many jungles, deserts and broad rivers. But in the next jungle there is a holy man. He has with him a magic bed which will carry you wherever you wish to go. He can also give you a basket that gives you whatever you may ask for. He has a stone bowl which will fill with water as often as you wish. You need only ask the holy man, and he will gladly give all these to you.

II

Jaykumar was very happy. He rode on without caring for the rough road. He sang as he went on at high speed.

After some time he found the holy man sitting at the foot of a tree. The bed, the basket, and the bowl, were all there.

'Where can I see Princess Mohini'? asked the Prince.

'Why do you seek the Princess'? asked the old man. 'I hear she is very lovely, and I wish to marry her,' replied the prince.

Then the good old man gave him the bed, the basket, and the bowl. He also told him that he would look after his horse till he came back.

Jaykumar took up the basket, and the bowl. Then he lay down on the bed and said: 'Bed, take me to the Princess Mohini's palace.'

In a second, Jaykumar found

himself there. He found an old woman standing at the gate.

It was night, and so he begged an old woman to let him stay in her house for the night. 'You may stay here for the night, but you must go away in the morning, or I will get into trouble,' said the old woman.

Then the Prince put his hand on the basket and said: 'Basket I want a nice dinner for two. At once a grand dinner was served for them on golden plates. There were all kinds of fine fruits. He then asked the old woman for a light.

'There is no need for any light here; for the Princess Mohini sits on the roof of her palace, and her

beauty lights up all the country,' said the old woman.

The Prince was filled with joy when he heard this. He waited till the Princess went to her own room in the night. Then he said: 'Bed, I wish to be taken to the Princess Mohini's room.' Then he told the basket to get him a ring for the finger of the Princess.

But as he was putting the ring on the finger of the Princess, she awoke. At first she was afraid when she saw a stranger with her. But at last she agreed to marry Jaykumar if her father, the king would let her.

III

The King was a cruel man. He did not like that his daughter should

marry a stranger. So he gave Jaykumar a very very hard work to do. 'Here are a hundred pounds of mustard seed. You must get all the oil out of it, and bring it to me by to-morrow morning. If you fail to do it, you will be put to death,' he said.

The Prince was very sad when he heard this. 'How can I do this alone? It would need an army of ants to do that!' How he wished his friend the Ant King and his party were there.

He had only thought so in his mind, when the Ant King stood before him. 'Don't be worried. We will crush the seed for you during the day. In the morning

you can take it to the palace. Then all would be well.'

The next morning Jaykumar took the oil to the palace. But the king did not like this. He did not want to give his daughter in marriage to the strange Prince. So he wanted to give him another hard task. He thought that the Prince could not do that.

'Before you can marry my daughter, you must kill the two giants I have caught,' said the King now. The tiger and the tiger's wife killed off the giants. But the king still said: 'There is one thing more; you must beat my kettle drum. It is up in the sky.'

This time the King thought the Prince would fail. How could he climb to the heavens? Then the

Prince thought of his little bed. 'Up in the sky, little bed,' said the Prince, 'there is the Rajah's kettle-drum. Take me to it.'

The bed did so. Then the Prince beat the drum so loudly that all his people heard the loud sound.

When Jaykumar came down, the king said: 'Now you can marry my daughter. You have done all that I wanted you to do.'

So the Prince and Princess Mohini were married. After a few days they went back to the Prince's own country. There they lived happily for many years.

But the Prince did not forget any of his friends, the ant, the tiger and the old man who had helped him out of his difficulties.

HOW JACK KILLED THE GIANT.

In a place far away from our land, there lived a farmer. He had a son called Jack. He was very fond of wrestling, but he did not like very much the other games which little children played. There was none to beat him in this.

There was a giant who dwelt in a cave near a mountain called St. Michael's Mount. This giant had laid waste the country around for many years. He used to carry off half a dozen oxen at a time on his back and the country people were greatly afraid of him.

Jack wanted to try and rid the

country of this giant. So one night he set out from his house. He took with him a horn, a pick-axe and a lantern. He then swam to the foot of the mount.

When Jack got there he dug a pit, a very big pit, thirty feet deep and thirty feet broad. This Jack covered with sticks and moss, to those who saw it, the place looked like good earth. Jack took up his stand on the side of it away from the giant's castle.

Jack then blew loud on the horn. The giant got out of his sleep in great anger. 'Who is this bold fellow who made such a noise to disturb my sleep,' asked the Giant.

So saying he rushed out of his cave. But he fell head-long into

the deep pit. The giant now tried to rise up. But Jack broke his skull with his pick-axe.

The news of Jack's brave deed soon reached the people of Cornwall. The wise and old men of his place were very happy at this. So to honour Jack they began to call him 'Jack the Giant Killer.' They presented him with a sword and golden belt. There was written on it the following lines:-

"There is the brave Cornish boy
Who killed the giant Oxikoi."

A few years passed by. Jack had grown up into a strong young man. Now another giant who lived in a near by wood. He heard of the death of Oxikoi and wanted

to teach Jack a lesson. He vowed that he would kill Jack if ever he could get him in his hands.

However, it so happened that long after Oxikoi's death, Jack went to Wales. He had to pass through the wood where the giant Buffin lived. It grew dark and Jack lay down to sleep by the side of a fountain.

Buffin came to draw water from this spring to cook his evening meal. He saw Jack sleeping and also the belt Jack wore. At once he knew the Jack who had killed his friend Oxikoi. So he lifted him and carried him off to his castle. But Jack woke up in the middle of the forest, and was very much afraid to see himself carried by the giant.

Buffin locked Jack up in a room. Then he went to invite one of his friends to dine with him. He was also as big as Buffin.

No sooner was he gone that Jack heard loud shrieks from several parts of the castle He was very much afraid to hear it. At the same time a sad low voice asked him to run away from the place before the two giants came back.

Poor Jack did not know what to do. He was ready to jump down from the tower. He ran to the window to see if he could go out that way. But he saw then the two giants coming arm in arm.

Jack saw two stout cords in the room. He lost no time in making a noose at the end of each rope. Just as the giants came near the gate, he threw the ropes over their heads. He tied the ends of the ropes to a beam in the ceiling. Then he pulled very hard. The two giants tried their best to break the cords. Then he took out his sword and rushed out through the window and killed them.

Next he took out a bunch of keys from Buffi's pocket. He opened the gates and doors and saw three poor ladies inside one of the rooms. They had been tied up by their hair. They had been almost starved to death.

Jack took them down and gave them all that he found inside the castle. Then he went on his journey.

It is a bad book.

This book is very good

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