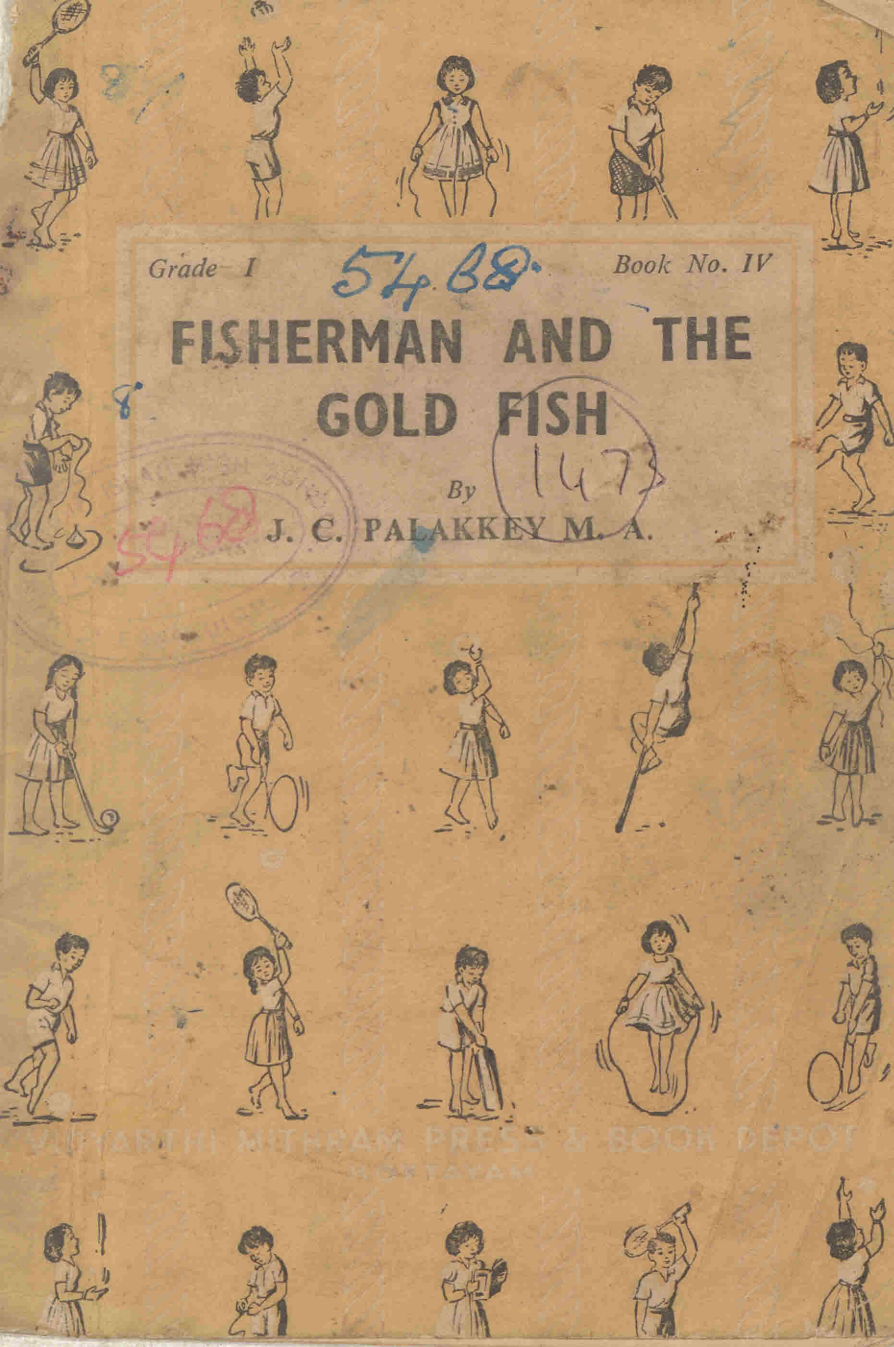


Grade I

Book No. IV

FISHERMAN AND THE GOLD FISH

By

J. C. PALAKKEV M. A.

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THE FISHERMAN AND THE GOLD FISH

PUNAVIPUVI ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
Date 5468

AUTHOR:
J. C. Palakkey M. A.

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THE FISHERMAN AND THE GOLD FISH

On the shore of the deep blue sea there lived in a small hut an old man and his wife. The old man used to fish for his living. His wife used to spin yarn on her distaff.

One day, the old man cast his net in the sea. When he pulled it up, he found that it was full of mud. Again he cast his net in the sea and this time, the net was full of sea-weeds.

When he cast the net for the third time, one gold fish was caught in the net.

Distaff = the stick that holds wool etc. for spinning.

cast = to throw.

Now the gold-fish began to talk like a human being. "Put me back into the sea", said the gold fish. "If you do so, I will give you a royal ransom. I will give you whatever you wish for."

The old man was very much puzzled at this. He had been fishing for thirty-three years and he had never heard a fish talking.

He was, however, moved by the words of the gold-fish. So he let loose the gold-fish from the net and said to it, "Thank you, my dear little fish. I don't want your ransom. Go back to your home in the sea and roam about as you please. May God bless you".

So saying he put back the gold-fish into the sea. He ran to his wife to tell her all what had happened.

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ransom = sum paid for redeeming a prisoner
Roam = to wander



Your Majesty Gold Fish!
Go back to your home

When the old woman heard his story, she began to scold him. "How silly you are! You simpleton!", said she to him. "You could not make a mere fish pay a ransom! Our wash-tub is falling to pieces. So you could have asked for a new wash-tub."

Hearing this, the old man returned to the sea-shore. The sea was very calm. When he called out aloud for the gold-fish, it swam up to him and asked him what he wanted.

The old man bowed before the gold-fish and said "Forgive me, Your Majesty, Goldfish! My wife is scolding me for not having asked anything. She says that she wants a new wash-tub, for ours is all falling to pieces."

Scold = to utter harsh words
Simpleton = fool
Wash-tub = a tub used for washing

The gold fish murmured in answer, "Do not worry, old man. Go home. Very well, you shall have a new wash-tub. May God be with you." The gold fish swam down.

The old man rushed to his wife. When he reached home, he was astonished to see a new wash-tub.

But seeing him, his wife began to scold him again.

"You are indeed a simpleton", she said to him. "What good can you get from a wash-tub. Go to the gold-fish and ask for a cottage."

Again the old man went back to the sea shore. This time the sea was troubled. He called out aloud for the gold-

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Murmur = to speak in a low voice
Astonish = to wonder
Indeed = in fact; surely
Cottage = a small house

fish. "What is it, old man, you are wanting", said the gold-fish, swimming up to him.

The old man bowed respectfully before the gold-fish and said "Forgive me, Your Majesty Gold Fish! My wife is angry with me and does not give me any peace. She wants a new cottage."

The gold-fish murmured in answer, "Do not worry, go home, God be with you! You will have a new cottage".

The old man went back. What a wonder! His hut was not there. In its place stood a new cottage. There stood a fence with oak-gates around the cottage.

His wife was sitting near a window. When she saw him, she began to scold him. She told him to go back to the gold fish and tell it that she was

tired of being a peasant and that she wanted to be made a fine lady.

The old man returned to the sea-shore. The sea was more troubled this time. He called out aloud for the gold-fish.

The gold-fish as usual asked him what he wanted. The old man bowed before the gold-fish and replied, "Forgive me, Your Majesty Gold-fish! My wife is madder than ever before. She gives me no rest for a second. She says that she is tired of being a peasant and wants to be made a fine lady."

The Gold-fish murmured in answer, "Do not worry, go home, God be with you."

Peasant = farmer

lady = a woman of rank and authority

The old man went back to his house. There he saw a tall mansion in the place of the cottage. His wife sat on its white marble stairs. She wore a costly jacket and a golden hair-dress. Her neck was laden with costly gems. She wore golden rings on her fingers. Many servants stood bowing before her.

The old man approached his wife. He said to her, "Greetings, your ladyship! Now I hope that you are contented". She angrily ordered him to be silent and sent him to serve in the stables.

Mansion = a stately house
Laden = Loaded
Approach = to come near
Content = to satisfy
Stable = building where cattles are kept

A few weeks passed. The old woman grew prouder and prouder. One morning she sent for her husband.

She said to him, "Bow to the gold-fish and tell it that I am tired of being a lady. I want to be made a Tsaritsa". The old man was terrified at this. He said, "Woman, you have gone crazy. You can't even talk like a lady. If you become a Tsaritsa, you'd be mocked at all over the kingdom!"

His wife got madder than ever before. She slapped his face and shouted angrily, "How dare you, petty man,

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Tsaritsa	=	(Czarina) Title of former empresses of Russia
Terrify	=	to frighten
Mock	=	to make fun of
Slap	=	a blow with the open hand
Shout	=	to utter a sudden loud cry

stand and argue with me, a fine lady? Go at once. If you don't, then I warn you, you will be dragged to the shore willynilly".

The old man went down to the sea-shore. The sea was more troubled than ever before. He called out aloud for the gold-fish.

The gold-fish swam up and asked "What is it old man that you want?"

The old man bowed before the gold fish and said, "Forgive me, your Majesty Goldfish! My wife has gone mad. She wants to be made a Tsaritsa!" The gold-fish murmured in answer, "Do not worry, go home. She shall be made a Tsaritsa!"

The old man rushed back. What did he see? A grand palace in the place

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Drag = to draw by force
Willy-nilly = whether one wished or not

of the mansion. In the palace his wife sat at a table as Tsaritsa. She was attended by nobles and body guards; they were pouring choice wines in her goblet. She was eating sweets. Guards stood around her in silence.

The old man bowed before her and said humbly, "Greetings, Oh mighty Tsartisa! Now I hope that your soul is contented!"

The old woman did not even look at him. She ordered him to be removed from her presence. The body guards and nobles drove him with blows from the chamber. The guards at the gate waved their swords and threaten-

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Noble	=	a person of rank
Choice	=	the best
Goblet	=	a large drinking cup without handle
Chamber	=	a room; apartment
Wave	–	to move to and fro

ed to cut him to pieces. All the people laughed at him, saying, "You ill-bred fellow, this will teach you a lesson to keep your situation in future!"

A few weeks passed. The old woman grew prouder and prouder. One morning she sent for her husband. When he was led to her chamber, she said, "Go, bow to the goldfish and tell it that I am tired of being Tsarista. I want to be the mistress of the seas with my home in the blue ocean waters. I want the gold-fish to be my servant to do my commands and my errands."

The oldman did not say anything. He sadly set out for the sea-shore. A

Situation = position
Command = to order
Errand = a short trip taken to do something for another
Set out = to start

tempest raged over the sea. The sea was more troubled than ever before.

The old man called out aloud for the gold-fish. The gold-fish swam up and asked him what he wanted. With a bow, the old man answered, "Forgive me, Your Majesty Gold-fish! What shall I do with my cursed old woman? She is tired of being Tsaritsa. She wants to be the mistress of the seas, with her home in the blue ocean waters. She even wants you for her servant to do her commands and her errands".

The gold-fish did not utter even a single word in answer to the oldman's request. It just swished its tail and in silence disappeared into the depths of the sea.

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tempest = a violent wind
rage = anger

The old man waited in vain for an answer. At last he turned his steps to the palace. But, what a wonder? In the place of the palace stood his old hut. On the door step sat his old woman, with the old broken wash tub before her.

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swish = to move with a hissing noise

Appear = Disappear

Questions:-

1) Where did the old man and his wife live?
2) What did the old man catch in his net one day?
3) What did the goldfish tell him?
4) What did the old man reply?
5) How did the old man get a new wash-tub?
6) How did the old woman get a cottage?
7) How did the old woman become a lady?
8) How did the old woman become a Tsartisa?
9) Was the old woman very greedy?
10) How did the old woman lose everything she got from the goldfish?
11) Was the old man greedy?
12) What lesson do you learn from this story?
13) Describe how the old woman became a Tsarista and how she lost that position.
14) How did the old woman treat her husband when she became a lady and then a Tsartisa?

CATCHING A THIEF

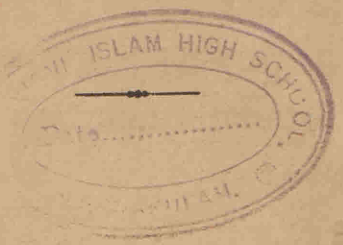
A servant once stole a silver cup from his master's house. The master did not know who the thief was. He suspected his servants. He wanted to test whether any one of them was the thief.

He called all his servants and gave them each a piece of wood and said, "Although all these sticks are now of equal length, the one which the thief has got will grow an inch longer by this time tomorrow. You must all come to me then and I shall at once see whether any one of you is guilty".

When the thief heard all this, he thought, if cut an inch off the end of

my stick now, tomorrow it will be of the same length as the others." He did so.

Next day, the master called his servants and asked them to bring their sticks. When the master saw that one man had cut an inch off the end of the stick he said, "This man is the thief."



Questions:-

1) What did the servant steal ?
2) What did the master tell his servants?
3) What did the thief think, when he heard his master's words ?
4) How did the master catch the thief?
5) What lesson do you learn from this story ?

THE TWO TRAVELLERS

Two men were once walking along a forest path. They talked of loyalty and courage as they walked. The stouter of the two said, "I do not fear anything. I will do anything to help my friends. I am happy even to risk my life in order to help my friends in trouble".

Just then a large bear came from behind a rock and stood in front of them.

The man who boasted of his courage and loyalty had a gun. When he saw the bear, he dropped his gun and

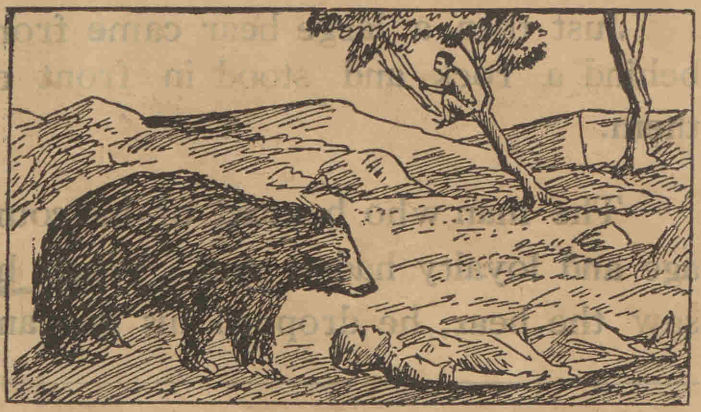
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Loyalty — faithfulness.
Risk — to expose to danger.

climbed up a tree which stood near-by, without thinking of his poor friend.

The lean man found that he was in danger. But he did not lose hope. He knew that bears would not eat dead bodies.

So he lay down on the ground as if dead. The bear approached him. It smelt his body and licked it. Supposing him to be dead, it went on its way leaving him unhurt.



Lick = to pass the tongue over.

When the bear was gone, the stout man came down from the tree. Going to his friend, he said, "Well, what secret did the bear whisper in your ear".

The lean man replied, "The bear told me, not to put my trust in boastesrs. I shall take his advice".

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Whisper = to speak with a low voice.
Boast = to talk vain gloriously.

Questions :

1. What did the travellers talk about as they walked ?
2. What did the stouter of the two say to the other ?
3. What did they see before them ?
4. What did the stout man do when he saw the bear ?
5. What did the lean man do ?
6. How did the lean man escape from the bear ?
7. Was the stout man a true friend ?
8. What lesson do you learn from the story ?

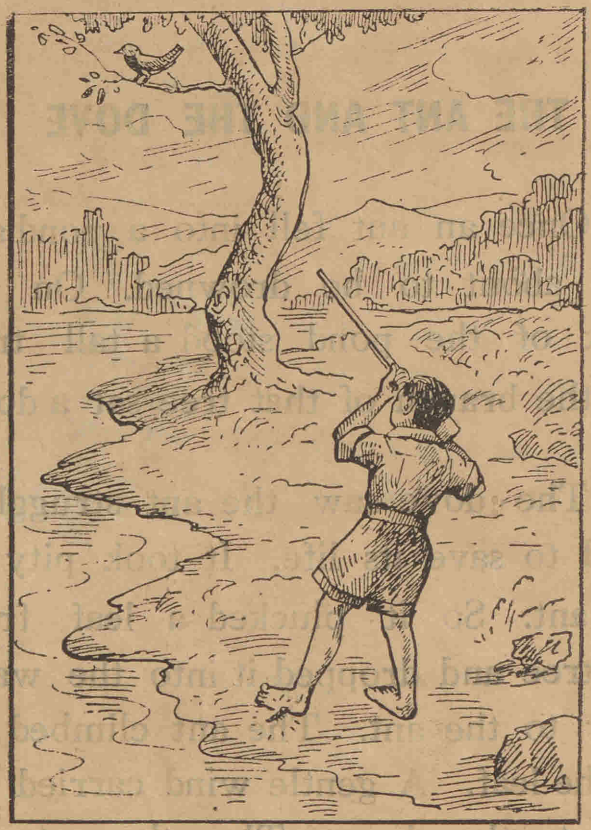


THE ANT AND THE DOVE

Once an ant fell into a pond and was about to be drowned. On the bank of the pond stood a tall tree. On the branch of that tree sat a dove.

The dove saw the ant struggling hard to save its life. It took pity on the ant. So it plucked a leaf from the tree and dropped it into the water near to the ant. The ant climbed on to the leaf. A gentle wind carried the leaf to the shore. Thus the ant was saved by the dove. It felt grateful to the dove.

Pluck = pull off.



Hunter aiming the dove with his gun

After a few days, the ant saw the dove sitting on a tree. A hunter stood underneath the tree aiming at the dove with a gun. The ant wanted to save

the dove. Instantly it bit the hunter on his heel. The hunter jumped up due to pain and missed his aim. Meanwhile the dove flew away safely after casting a thankful glance at the ant.

Questions :

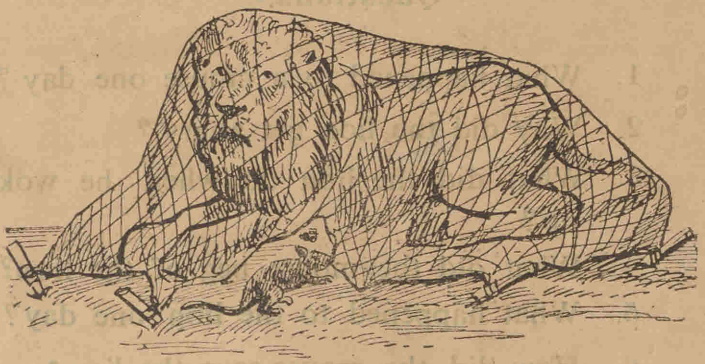
1. What happened to the ant ?
2. Where did the dove sit ?
3. What did the dove do ?
4. How was the ant saved ?
5. How did the ant save the dove ?
6. What lesson do you learn from the story?

Instantly = immediately.
Glance = look.

THE LION AND THE MOUSE

One day while a fierce lion was sleeping, a poor mouse happened to fall on his body. Finding that it was the silly mouse which had awakened him, the lion got angry. He seized the mouse and was about to kill it. The mouse began to shiver with fear. It begged the lion to excuse it and spare its life. The lion was moved by its request and let the mouse go.

Some days later, the lion while hunting in the forest was caught himself in a net set by some villagers to catch him. He struggled hard to get free from the net. But his struggles only bound the net more tightly around him.



As he was lying there without any hope of escape, the mouse whose life he had once spared came that way. Seeing the lion in danger, the mouse wanted to save him. "Sleep again", said the mouse, "and this time when I awaken you, it will be to tell that I have saved your life". The mouse set to work and in a few hours had eaten through several of the ropes. When the net was loose, the lion broke the net and got out of it.

Questions:-

1. What happened to a mouse one day ?
2. Why did the lion get angry ?
3. What did the lion do when he woke up ?
4. What did the mouse beg of the lion?
5. What happened to the lion one day?
6. How did the mouse save the lion ?
7. What lesson do you learn from this story ?

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