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IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST

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STANDARD VIII SERIES

BOOK V.

IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST

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IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST

1. THE CHIEF MINISTER

Once there was a king who was very old. Before he died he called his son to his side and said, "I am old and I may not have many days more to live. When I die[1] you will become king. Then you must rule the country well. You are young. So you must have a good Chief Minister to



It's all for the best--എല്ലാം നല്ല തു നാണ്
Chief Minister--മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി
1. die--മരിക്കുക die, died, died.

help you. My Chief Minister is a wise man. He is also honest and clever. Let him be your Chief Minister too."

"Yes," said the king's son. "I know that he is a good and wise man. He shall be my Chief Minister too."

A few days after this, the king died. Then his son became king. He asked the old Chief Minister to be his Chief Minister. The old man agreed[1]. He helped the new king to rule the country wisely and well. All was well in the land and the people were very happy.

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1. agree--സമ്മതിക്കുക agree, agreed, agreed.

The old Chief Minister was a god-fearing man. Every day he went to the temple to pray. "O God," he prayed "make me good and wise. Help me to do the right always. Bless[1] the king and the people."

When all was well the Chief Minister said, "God is great. He knows what is good for us. He gives us only the very best." When the people heard this, they said, "Our Chief Minister is a wise man. He is always right."

But if anything went wrong, then also he said, "It is all for the

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1. bless-അനുഗ്രഹിക്കുക bless, blessed, blessed.

best. God is our loving father. He knows what is good for us. All is for the best that God sends us." When they heard this some people got angry. "What foolish things does this man say? He is getting very old." But the Chief Minister was never angry with them. He would say, "God is our loving Father. We are His own children. Would our father give us anything that is not good?"

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. The Chief Minister was a—— man.
   (young, god-fearing, tall)

2. When all was well he said,.....
   (i) "It is all for the best".
   (ii) "It could have been better".
   (iii) "It is not the very best"

3. When anything went wrong then also he would say.....
   (i) "It is not for the best".
   (ii) "It is bad".
   (iii) "It is all for the best".
4. All is for the best.....
   (i) that we do.
   (ii) that God gives.
   (iii) that the king does.

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2. THE FINGER

The new king loved hunting[1] very much. He often went out hunting. One day when he was hunting he fell down from his horse. Then he hurt his finger. It gave him great pain. 'Oh' cried

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1. hunting—ന്മാന്മാട്ടു്
   hunt—ന്മാന്മാടുക hunt, hunted, hunted.

he "it pains me very much." He could not get upon his horse. So he sent for his chariot[1] and returned to the palace in it.

When the king came to his palace, he sent for his doctor. The doctor came at once and looked at his finger. He dressed it up and said, "It will be all right in a few days."

Soon after this the Chief Minister came to see the king. The king showed him his finger and said, "The doctor says it will be all right in a few days, but it gives me great pain." Then the Chief

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1. chariot—ꠛꠤꠞꠣ

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Minister said, "It is all for the best." The king grew angry when he heard this. "What do you mean?" he asked, "It gives me great pain and you say it is all for the best. Is pain good? I wish you had hurt your finger. Then you would not say, that it was all for the best."

The days went by. The doctor came every day and dressed the finger. But it did not get better. On the other hand it grew worse. At last he called the doctor and said, "My finger is getting worse day by day. It gives me great pain." Then the doctor said, "It is better to cut off that finger. If you

don't cut it off now, you will lose[1] your hand."

The Chief Minister was with the king when the doctor came. When he heard these words he said, "All is for the best that God sends. Perhaps it is good for you to lose your finger. Let the doctor cut it off." The king grew very angry when the Chief Minister said this. "You say," said he "that it is good to cut off my finger. I do not see how it is good for me. I wish that you would lose a finger. Then you would not speak like this."

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1. lose--നഷ്ടപ്പെടുക lose, lost, lost.

But the Chief Minister answered, "We do not know the ways of God. But time will show you that what God does is always for the best."

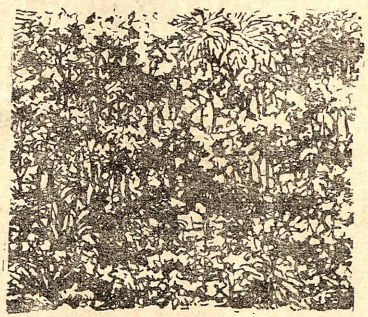
So the king allowed the doctor to cut off his finger. In a few days he grew better. Though the king lost a finger, he was all right. "It is all for the best," said the Chief Minister to the king.

TEST Complete the following sentences:—

1. One day the king went out ——
   (hunting, fishing, walking)
2. Then he hurt his———(head, finger, foot)
3. At last the doctor——it off.
   (cut, dressed, put)
4. Then the Chief Minister said, "It is all for the———(good, better, best)

3. THE HUNT

The days went by. When the king was well, he again went out hunting. Not far from the palace there was a big forest. There were parts of the forest where the king had never gone before. He wished to go deep into the forest and spend a week there.



The king set out with many men. All the brave officers of the

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1 officers-ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ

king were with him. Among them was the Chief Minister. "The king is brave," said he to himself, "but sometimes he is very thoughtless. So I must also go with him." Though he was old, he also joined[1] in the hunt.

On the first day the king and his men rode deep into the forest. They killed many animals. In the evening they came to the bank of a river and spent the night there.

On the next day they set out again and went deeper into the forest. At last they came to a place which they had never seen before.

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1. join-ಕೂಡು

There were many wild animals[1] in that part of the forest. The king got upon his horse and rode into the forest. His men followed him. They killed many wild animals.

When it was noon they stopped hunting for the day and sat down to eat. Just then they saw a big lion running across the forest. "A lion! A lion!" cried they. "There it goes," cried the men. At once the king jumped upon his horse and rode after it. But after a time he saw that the lion was gone. "Where is it?" asked the king. He looked round but it was nowhere.

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1. wild animals–വന്യമൃഗങ്ങൾ

Then the king turned back. But there was no dog or man near him. He lost his way in the forest. He did not know the way. "How can I go back to my men?" the king said. His horse was tired and could not even walk. So he jumped down from the horse and sat down. He was hungry and thirsty. "I wish I had some water," said he. But there was no river or lake nearby.

The king sat there for a long time. Then he heard a man calling out to him. "O King, where are you?" It was his Chief Minister. "Here", cried the king. "I am here. Come to me." The minister heard him and went to him in a few

minutes. He was very glad to see the king. "My king," said he, "when I saw you riding after the lion, I followed you. But I am old. So I could not come up to you. Yet I did not turn back. Now I have found you at last. It is all for the best."

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. One day the king went to the forest to —— (play, hunt, gather wood)
2. He rode after a —— (dog, horse, lion)
3. He lost his —— (ring, sword, way)
4. But the —— came to him. (minister, dog, horse)

4. THE WELL

It was evening and the sun was about to set. As the king was very thirsty and tired he said, "I am very thirsty. I wish I had a cup of water." "It is all for the best," said the minister. "What is all for the best?" asked the king angrily. "Go and see if you can get me some water." So the Chief Minister rose up and went off to look for water.

After a time the king also joined him. They walked round the forest, but could not get any water. At last the king saw a well. "That is a well," said he, "Let us go and

get some water to drink." They walked towards the well. When they came to it, the Chief Minister looked down to see if there was any water in it. "It is dry," said he. "There is no water in the well. It is all for the best."

The king got angry when the Chief Minister said that it was all for the best. "What is all for the best?" he cried. "I am dying of thirst and you say it is all for the best. Do you want me to die of thirst?" "God knows what is best for us," answered the Chief Minister. "Perhaps it is good for us that there is no water in the well."

At this the king grew very angry. He pushed the old man into the well. "Lie there," cried the king. "Is it all for the best now?"

But the minister only said, "It is all for the best. Perhaps it is good that I am in the well." When the king heard this, he became still more angry and said, "You say it is all for the best. Well then, lie there till you are dead." With these words he turned away from the well. But as he was going away he heard the minister say, "God knows what is best for me. He has put me in the well because it is good for me. It is all for the best."

TEST. Complete the following sentences:-

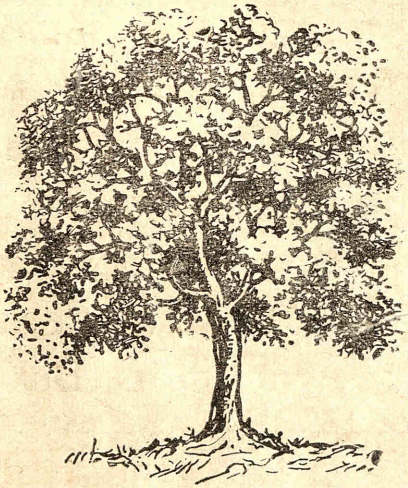
1. The king was very —— (ill, thirsty, angry)
2. They saw an old —— (tree, man, well)
3. But there was no —— in it.
   (fish, water, stone)
4. The minister said that it was all for the —
   (better, best)
5. The king became ——— and pushed him into the well. (angry, hungry, thirsty)
6. Then also the minister said, "——"
   (Save me, It is all for the best)

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5. THE ROBBERS

The king was very tired when he came away from the well. "I want to sleep," said he. But he had no safe place to lie down. There were many wild animals in the forest and they would kill him in

his sleep. He was afraid, so he looked round. The sun had set and it was growing dark. There was a big tree nearby. He climbed upon the tree and sat on a branch. "I cannot go to sleep here," said he. "For if I go to sleep, I may fall down and die." So he had to keep awake throughout the night.



As the king was sitting on the tree, some men came there. They sat down under the tree and began

to talk. They were robbers.[1] The robber chief had sent them to find a young man for sacrifice.[2] His wife was ill and she was about to die. But if he gave a good young man as sacrifice to his god, he thought she would live. So the robbers had gone out to get a man. But they did not get any. "If we go back without a man," they said, "he will kill us. But where can we find a man now?"

The robbers sat talking about it. The king heard them and did not move. "If they see me, they will take me away and kill me," he

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1. robber-കൊള്ളക്കാരൻ 2. sacrifice-ബലി

said to himself. Just then, he lost his footing. 'Oh' cried the king as he caught hold of a branch. He did not fall.

But the robbers heard him. They looked up and saw a man sitting on the tree. "Come down," cried they, "or we will pull you down." The king was alone and they were many. As he had no sword, he could not fight with the robbers. "I won't come down," said the king. Then the robbers pulled him down from the tree and tied his hands and feet. "We will take you to the robber chief," cried they.

"He will cut off your head and give it to his god."

They carried the king to the robber chief. "Here is a young man, said they. "He is young and handsome.[1] The god will surely like his head." The robber chief ordered them to take him to the river to bathe. When they were washing him, they saw that he had lost one of his fingers. "This man has only four fingers on his right hand," they said. "So he is not good for sacrifice." They went to the robber chief and said, "The god will not be pleased if you sacrifice this

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1. handsome–സുന്ദരൻ

man. He has lost a finger." The robber chief looked at the king and said, "He is a young and good-looking man. But he is not good for sacrifice. Send him away and bring me another man." So the robbers let the king go and he went back to the palace.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. The king climbed up a——(wall, tree, hill)
2. Some——saw him.
   (animals, robbers, women)
3. They took him to their chief for——
   (sacrifice, help, money).
4. But they did not kill him because he had lost a—— (hand, finger, toe)

6. IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST

As he was returning to the palace, the king began to think, "The Chief Minister is right. It is good that I have lost my finger. The robbers did not kill me because I had lost it. God knows what is best for us." Then he was sorry for pushing the old man into the well. "I'll go at once to the forest and save him from the well," said he.

When he came to the palace, he called his servants and they set out at once. They rode quickly and came to the forest. At last they

came to the well. The king ran to the spot and cried "O, Chief Minister, are you in the well?" "It is all for the best," answered the old man from the well. "I am safe."

The king and his servants were glad when they saw that the good Chief Minister was alive. Some of them jumped into the well to help him out. One of them threw down a rope to him. They pulled him slowly out of the well. He was not at all hurt and the king was very much pleased.

"I am sorry," said he "that I pushed you into the well. Now, I see that I am wrong. You are right.

You are wise. God only knows what is best for us." Then he told them how his life was saved because he had lost a finger. "It is all for the best," said the Chief Minister.

Then the king asked, "But I don't see why it was all for the best for you when I pushed you into the well." Then the Chief Minister answered, "It was for the best that you pushed me into the well. The robbers did not see me because I was in the well. They did not take me and kill me because I was in the well. The loss of a finger has saved your life. If they had caught me

they would have killed me for I had all my fingers. You have saved my life by pushing me into the well."

Then the king said, "Let us thank God for what he sends us. He sends us only what is best. It's all for the best."

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. The loss of his finger saved the king's—— (son, life, minister)

2. The minister was not killed because he was in the —— (house, well, tree)

3. The king saw that what —— sends is all for the best. (the Chief Minister, God)

FINAL TEST

Complete the following sentences: —

1. Once there was a king.....
   (i) who had no good friend.
   (ii) who had a wise Chief Minister.
   (iii) whose minister was a very foolish man.

2. The Chief Minister always said.....
   (i) that men were bad.
   (ii) that all that God gives is for the best.
   (iii) that he was a wise man.

3. He said that it was all for the best.....
   (i) when the king's mother died.
   (ii) when there was no rain.
   (iii) when the king lost his finger.

4. One day the king went out.....
   (i) to hunt.
   (ii) to go to the temple.
   (iii) to see the minister.

5. Then the king lost his ——and became——
   (way, horse, men, ill, thirsty, old)

6. When they saw that there was no water in the well, the Chief Minister said...R.

(i) that he should not drink water.

(ii) that there was a river nearby.

(iii) that it was for the best.R

7. The king grew angry and...E.

(i) cut off his head.

(ii) sent him home.

(iii) pushed him into the well.E

8. Some robbers saw the king and made up their minds...E...

(i) to make him their chief.

(ii) to take away his sword.

E (iii) to give him as a sacrifice to their god.

9. But they let him go when they saw...M.

(i) that he was a king.

(ii) that he had a wise Chief Minister.

M. (iii) that he had lost a finger.

10. The king went to the well.....

(i) to kill the Chief Minister.

(ii) to look for her ring.

(iii) to save the Chief Minister.

11. The robbers did not kill the Chief Minister.

(i) because he was an old man.

(ii) because he had lost a finger.

(iii) because the king had pushed him into the well.

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