

STORY TIME
FOR KIDS
PART 1
(SHORT PREVIEW)

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1) Donkey and The Dog

- Long ago there lived a farmer who had a donkey and a dog.
- Both were very loyal to him. Even the farmer treated them equally.
- Donkey used to carry his loads while the dog guarded his house and farm.
- Whenever the dog sensed danger he barked aloud that caused intruders to run away.
- But both the donkey and dog did not get along.
- They would argue on silly issues.
- One day both the dog and the donkey were going to town along with their master.
- Since they were travelling for long, at noon the master unloaded the donkey and settled under a tree for a nap.
- The donkey started grazing.
- The dog also felt hungry. He asked the donkey "There are some loaves among the load you were carrying, please give one to me".
- The donkey said."Sorry! I can't. Let the master wake first. He will feed you then"
- Poor dog got very upset as he was starving.
- Just then a wolf came there.
- He was heading towards the donkey.
- The donkey got scared and pleaded with the dog to help him.
- The dog replied, "I am not strong enough to deal with the wolf. Let the master wake up. He will help you then"
- Hearing these words of dog, donkey's face turned pale.
- He realized his mistake and apologized to dog."O brother please help me otherwise the wolf will tear me into pieces", said the Donkey.
- The dog's heart melted and he chased the wolf away.
- The donkey then thanked dog for his timely help and offered him with some loaves.
- Since then they became good friends and so the master was also very happy as both of his pets were getting along nicely.

2) The Rich Man's Vessel

- Once upon a time there lived a rich man in village.
- His house was full of vessels of all sizes – some as small as a bird, others big enough to seat a child.
- Whenever there was a ceremony in any household, the villagers would borrow his utensils.
- After the function, they would return the whole lot of vessels to the rich man.
- Then, one day a strange thing happened.

- A villager, who had borrowed some utensils, returned a couple more than he had borrowed.
- The rich man was perplexed.
- He scratched his head.
- “How have the number of utensils increased”, he asked the villager.
- “Well some of the vessels you gave me were pregnant”, answered the villager.
- “They gave birth to little vessels in my house. I am merely sending them with their parents, to you” he said.
- The rich man knew it was not possible, but the thought of getting some extra vessels made him keep quiet.
- So he accepted the villager’s explanation and kept the vessels.
- The same villager came to his house after some time.
- The rich man gladly gave his utensils to him.
- He tried to guess how many more vessels the villager would return to him.
- He even dreamt that the villagers had honoured him with the title of “Lord of the Vessels”
- A week passed but the villager did not return the utensils.
- The rich man kept silent, for in his mind he was counting the number of vessels he would get back.
- Two or Three weeks later he still did not open his mouth.
- When a month passed by, the greedy man could stand it no longer.
- “Why have you not returned my vessels?”, he asked the villager. There was a note of anger in his voice.
- “What can I do”, replied the villager.
- “The vessels are dead”, he said shrugging his shoulders in a helpless manner.
- “Dead? What do you mean dead”? shouted the rich man. “How can vessels die?”
- “Why not”, replied the smart villager. “If vessels can give birth, they can die too!”
- The rich man fell silent. There was nothing he could say.

3) A Sweeper’s Revenge

- Very, very long ago there lived a very efficient and prosperous merchant.
- He had tremendous problem solving ability.
- Knowing his ability, the king appointed him as an administrator of the capital.
- During his administration, he kept the common people as well the king very happy.
- In the course of time, the marriage of merchant’s daughter took place.
- The merchant invited the king and the queen along with the entire court to his house.
- A servant who used to sweep the floors of the king’s palace, came there too, but uninvited.

- He sat down on a seat meant for someone else.
- The merchant caught him by his neck and threw him out.
- The servant felt insulted and could not sleep all night for thinking.
- He thought of taking revenge and chalked out a plan.
- One morning when the king was not yet wide awake, the servant was sweeping the floor near his bed and said, "Good heavens! The merchant has become so brazen nowadays that he actually dares to flatter the queen!"
- When the king heard this, he jumped up and shouted, "Oh you! Is that true?"
- "Your majesty," replied the servant, "I was gambling all night and didn't sleep at all. This morning I feel drowsy....I really don't know what I've been saying. But if I have said anything out of place, please forgive me".
- Jealous, the king thought to himself, "Yes! The servant is allowed to go about freely in the palace and so is the merchant."
- And so he withdrew his favors from the merchant and, what is more, he banned him even to enter the palace.
- After a few days, when the merchant wanted to pass through the gateway to the palace, he was stopped by the guards.
- The servant saw this and he said with a smirk, "Guards! That fellow is the king's favorite. He threw me out. Be careful, you may suffer the same fate".
- Now the merchant understood everything.
- Next morning he invited the servant to his house, gave him a pair of garments and said kindly, "My dear friend, it was not because I was angry that I threw you out that day but because it was an impropriety for you to take the seat you took.
- When the servant saw the clothes, he was very pleased.
- Full of joy, he said to the merchant, "Once again you shall see the favor of the king and in this way I shall prove to you my cleverness".
- Next morning, he went to the palace and started sweeping the floor.
- When he had made sure that the king was lying half-awake, he said, "The king is really indiscreet, he eats cucumber in the lavatory!"
- The king was taken aback to hear this and he shouted, "You! What's that nonsense you're talking?"
- "Your majesty," replied the servant, "I was gambling all night and didn't sleep at all. This morning I feel drowsy....I really don't know what I've been saying. But if I have said anything out of place, please forgive me".
- "If this fool has said something ridiculous about me, surely what he said about the merchant was ridiculous too.
- Besides, without him, the whole administrative system, at the palace and in the city, has become slack", the king thought.
- When he had considered this carefully, the king invited the merchant to the palace, presented him with precious gems, several jewels and clothing. He then re-appointed him to his former position.

Moral: One should treat one and all, even the lowest with respect.

4) How Monkey Lost its Tail

- Long ago in an Indian village, construction of temple was going on.
- The temple site was near the forest where a large number of monkeys used to live.
- Now at the temple site, there were many different workmen busy with their work.
- The masons were building the walls.
- The sculptor was finishing the idols.
- And the carpenters were making wooden frames from logs of wood.
- In the afternoon, all the workmen used to sit together for lunch.
- One day while the workmen were eating, a group of monkeys came to the temple site.
- They started playing with the things the workmen had left behind – their equipment.
- One monkey came upon a log of wood, on which a carpenter had been working.
- Before going for lunch, the carpenter had cut through half of it.
- He had inserted a wedge, a small piece of wood, inside the half cut log.
- That way two sides of the cut log would not come together again.
- The monkey found this very interesting and started to play with it.
- He wondered what would happen if he took the wedge out.
- So he started pulling at the wedge.
- It was stuck.
- He tried harder.
- Suddenly the wedge came out and the two sides of the log came together with a loud 'thuk'.
- 'Ow' screamed the monkey.
- His long tail was stuck in between.
- The monkey started shouting and screaming loudly.
- His tail really hurt and he couldn't get free.
- His friends rushed to help him.
- But they couldn't free the monkey's tail from between the log.
- Finally, some of the workmen heard the shouting and came to see what the noise was all about.
- As soon as they saw the monkey's tail stuck between the log, they rushed to help him.
- After much pulling and tugging, they finally got him free.

- But now he was a monkey without a tail.
- His long tail was still stuck fast between the log.
- Poor monkey screamed in pain.
- As the carpenter scolded him, the monkey looked sadly at his tailless bottom.
- “ This is what happens, when I stick my nose where it doesn’t belong. I Have lost my Tail”

Moral: Never stick your nose in someone’s business.

5) A Butterfly and Cocoon

- Many of us knew that a beautiful and colourful butterfly comes from unappealing worm!
- Here is the story of a butterfly that was never able to live a life like a butterfly!
- One day, a man saw a cocoon.
- He loved butterflies and has a craze for its wonderful combination of colours.
- In fact, he used to spend a lot of time around butterflies.
- He knew how a butterfly would struggle to transform from an ugly caterpillar into a beautiful one.
- He saw a cocoon with tiny opening.
- It means that the butterfly is trying to make its way to enjoy its world.
- He decided to sit over and watch how the butterfly would come out of the cocoon.
- He was watching the butterfly struggling to break the shell for several hours.
- He spent almost more than 10 hours with the cocoon and the butterfly.
- The butterfly has been struggling very hard for hours to come out of the tiny opening.
- Unfortunately, even after continuous attempts for several hours, there was no progress.
- It seemed that the butterfly tried its best and could not give any more try.
- The man, who has passion and love for butterflies decided to help the butterfly.
- He got a scissor and tweaked the cocoon to make larger opening for the butterfly and removed the remaining cocoon.
- The butterfly emerged without any struggle!
- Unfortunately, the butterfly looked no longer beautiful and had a swollen body with small and withered wings.
- The man was happy that he made butterfly come out of the cocoon without any more struggles.
- He continued to watch the butterfly and he was quite eager to watch the butterfly fly with its beautiful wings.

- He thought that anytime, the butterfly may expand the wings, shrink the body and the wings can support the body.
- Unfortunately, neither the wings expanded or enlarged nor the swollen body reduced.
- Unfortunately, the butterfly just crawled around with withered wings and huge body.
- It was never able to fly until its life.
- Although the man did it with good intention, only going through the struggles the butterfly would have emerged like any other beautiful butterflies!
- The continuous effort from butterfly to come out of cocoon would let the fluid stored in the body converted into wings.
- So, the body would be lighter and small and then wings would be beautiful and large.
- If we don't want to undergo any struggle, we won't be able to fly!

Moral: Struggles Make Us Shine!