

HUMOROUS TALES FROM THE EAST

# GOPAL

The Witty Barber of Bengal

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**EMESCO**

## A Barber's Philosophy

One day, Gopal, the smart barber of Bengal, made an announcement: "Whoever asks me a question, I will answer it, even if it is very difficult!"

Word of Gopal's challenge reached the Nawab of Mushirabad. Annoyed, he ordered his people to invite all the scholars in the land to test the barber's claim. When everyone was gathered, he sent for Gopal. Soon, the barber arrived.

"Well, sir," asked an old teacher, "can you tell me how much water the sea holds?"

"If you stop the tides," said the witty barber, "I'll be happy to measure it for you!"

Another person stepped forward. "How many days ago did God create the earth?"

"Seven," said Gopal, without hesitating. "For when seven days pass, another seven days begin..."

"All right," said another. "You seem to know all the answers. Tell me where the centre of the earth is!"

"Why," said Gopal, "right here, of course. Take a long rope and measure the earth. You'll see I'm right!"

"Well, then," said someone. "How far is it from here to heaven?"

"Very close," replied the barber. "Try praying as softly as you can. Your prayers will be heard in heaven!"

And so everyone had to agree that Gopal was indeed as smart as he claimed.

