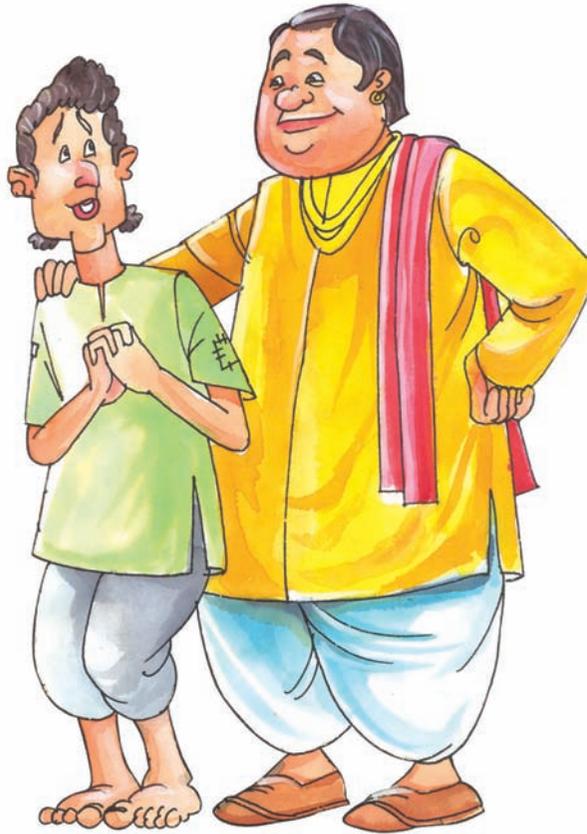


Jataka Tales



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EMESCO

The Secret Grove

There was once a mango grove that no one knew about in the middle of a forest. The grove was home to a troop of monkeys. The monkeys loved the delicious mangoes and guarded them carefully.

The king of these monkeys was wise. He truly cared for the welfare of his subjects.

“My friends,” he would often warn his followers, “make sure that this grove remains secret. If humans ever come across this place, we will all be killed. They will want these mangoes all for themselves!”

One day, by chance, a ripe fruit fell into a stream that ran past the grove. The fruit floated several miles downstream and landed in a fishing net.

“What a delicious-looking mango!” thought the fisherman who owned the net. “I’ll take it to the king as a present.”

When the king tasted the fruit, he was enchanted by its superb flavour.

“I’ve never eaten such a wonderful fruit!” he cried. “Tell me, where can I find more such mangoes?”

The fisherman told the king how he had found the fruit. At once, the king and his men climbed into a boat and travelled upstream. Several miles later, one of the king’s men saw a monkey sitting on a tree full of ripe mangoes. They had found the secret grove!

The king and his men got off the boat and set up camp. Meanwhile, the terrified monkey ran to his leader. “Sire, some people have found our mango grove! What are we going to do?”

The wise monkey king thought hard. He suddenly realized what they needed to do. “Don’t worry!” he reassured the other monkeys. “If we get to the other side of the stream, we’ll be quite safe.”

