Bablu went to buy a boat. While walking Bablu came to a store where they sold all kinds of interesting trinkets. “There is something I think Grandma would like to have.”

“What is it?” Bablu asked the man at the counter.

“Well it is box to keep salt and pepper,” replied the shopkeeper. Bablu bought it.

He hadn’t gone very far before he came to another store where there were some more interesting trinkets. Bablu found a well-crafted fruit basket in this shop. He went to the shopkeeper and said.

“Will you give me this fruit basket for the salt-cellar?”

The shopkeeper was a kind man. He gave Bablu the fruit basket in exchange for the salt-cellar. But pretty soon Bablu started having doubts about the fruit basket.

“What would grandma do with this silly thing?” Soon he came across a shop selling clothes. “I’ll see if I can exchange this basket for something for grandma to wear,” he said to himself.

He asked the man in the store:

“Why yes, I’ll give one of those jackets and some money too, because the fruit basket is worth more than this.” And then he held up the jacket.

And now that Bablu had something for his grandma he felt he ought to get something for his grandpa. Because he had bought a jacket for his grandma, he thought of buying a pair of trousers for grandpa.

By now Bablu had almost forgotten the purpose of his visit. He suddenly saw the sign: ‘BOATS FOR SALE’.

“That’s the place I’m looking for,” he said and went in. When Bablu told the man what he wanted the man said, “Yes, we have boats for sale, come out in the yard and see them.” But then Bablu found that they were motorboats, each with two funnels, and he had to say, “I don’t want a motor-boat, I want boat which I can row.” “All right, said the man, down the street a little way you’ll find another place, which might have a row boat.”

So along the street Bablu went.

He began to think maybe his grandma and grandpa would like to buy their own clothes, and just then he found himself in front of a furniture store. He spotted a pretty table in the store. He liked it instantly. So he went in and said to the man, “Would you give me that table for this trousers and jacket?” “Why, yes;” the kind man said, “I’d be glad to.”

So Bablu carried the table and started to walk.
By this time he had walked a good deal and felt very thirsty. He began to wonder where to get water to drink. Suddenly, he spied a windmill. He knew there would be water where there was a windmill and so he went over and got a drink of water.

And now at last he saw that sign BOATS FOR SALE, so he went into the store. “I am looking for a rowboat,” Bablu said. “Well,” the man said, “I have some rowboats, but they are all twin boats.”

“What in the world could I do with boats like that,” Bablu said and walked out. “Well,” the man said, “go down to the next corner, and turn to the right: you’ll see a place where they sell boats. Maybe that man has rowboats.”

So along Bablu went, carrying the table. He came to the store and asked the man if he had boats for sale, the man said, “Why yes, we’ve got boats for sale. Take a look at them.” But when Bablu saw them he said, “Why they are all sailboats, whereas I want a rowboat.” So he could buy none there.

All this while Bablu had been lugging the table on his shoulder. Suddenly, it began to feel very heavy and he began to wonder, why he bought it in the first place. “Grandma has plenty of furniture,” he said. Just then he came out and saw a chicken scurrying in an open field. “There,” he said, “we haven’t a single chicken in our place. Couldn’t I trade this table for one.” He spoke to the farmer and the farmer said, “Why yes, how would you like to give me your table for this rooster.” That is what Bablu wanted. So he gave the farmer the table and put the rooster under his arm and started on.

He’d gone a good way by this time. He realized that he still hadn’t bought the boat. The thought made him uncomfortable. By now he did not have enough money to buy a rowboat. While he was wondering what he should do a sudden gale of wind blew his hat off, and when he raised his hand to catch it, the rooster got away! There, he had spent a fortune and the rooster flew away and so did his hat! And so he walked along thinking very hard, looking down at the ground. All of a sudden he spied something and stooped over and grabbed it. It was a pocket book with some money in this side and some in this.

By this time he was pretty well out of the village. There was not a soul in sight. So he said to himself. “Well, now I’ll use this money to buy a boat.”

“But first, I must get a hat. I can’t go home this way,” he said to himself. So he found a store and bought this cap.

Then he thought, “I really ought to take something home for grandma.” The only thing that didn’t cost too much was this picture frame.

He thought it would be nice for grandma to put his mother’s picture in the frame.

By this time the day was nearly gone and he said, “I’ll buy any kind of boat now, I don’t care what it’s like. The next place I find where they sell boats, I’ll buy one of them.” So he kept looking for a sign, until after a little while he saw one, BOATS FOR SALE. In he went and asked the man, “Can you sell me a boat?” “Yes,” the man said, “but I’ve got the queerest looking boats you ever saw.” Never mind,” Bablu said, “I’ve been looking for a boat for such a long time, I’ll take any kind of boat.” “Here they are,” the man said and when Bablu asked him what they were he said, “We call them Chinese junks.”

So after all the trouble, Bablu got a boat at last and went home happy.