FOOL'S PARADISE

SHANKAR
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>The Woman and the Crow</td>
<td>Rs. 6.00</td>
</tr>
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Roasted corn

A farmer’s wife once got a basket of roasted corn from her mother. She gave some to her husband. He liked them very much.

“Look,” he said to his wife, “keep the rest safe. We shall sow them and raise a crop with ease.”
He ploughed a field and sowed the roasted corn, hoping that they would grow and yield a good harvest. He waited for days for the corn to grow. But nothing grew.
And the neighbours could not stop laughing!
Villager's cow

A villager had a cow. She yielded five kilos of milk every day. He sold the milk and lived well. A wedding was being held near the village and some people came to the villager to find out how much milk he could supply. “How much do you want? I shall supply it,” said the villager. “Can you supply us fifty kilos?” asked the visitors. “Yes, that is easy.” “Fine! So we shall depend on you.” “When do you want it?” “We want the milk after fifteen days.”
“The milk will be ready. Send somebody to take it,” the villager said.
From that day the villager started feeding the cow well and stopped milking her as he wanted to store the milk in the cow herself.
On the appointed day, when the people came, the villager started milking the cow. But he got no milk! And people who heard of it could not stop laughing!
Foolish poojari

Children were bathing in a temple tank. They played in the water, making a lot of noise. The poojari did not like that. He shouted at the children and drove them out of the tank.
The owner of the temple got upset by the poojari’s action and sacked him.
The poojari was angry. He wanted to take revenge. After packing up his belongings he made a huge torch and waited for the night.
It was almost midnight when he left. On the way, he lit the torch. Putting the lighted torch at a corner of the tank, he ran for his life.
A few years passed. The poojari came back disguised as a sanyasi. He met one of the servants at the temple and asked him, “What about the old poojari?”
“He was sacked a few years ago,” said the servant.
“Did he not destroy the temple tank by setting fire to it?” “Setting fire to a tank full of water!” exclaimed the servant laughing!
Date-palms

There was a date farm in a village. One day, one of the palm trees fell down. Some of the villagers collected the dates, packed them neatly and sent the packet to the king as a gift. The king liked the dates and sent a word of thanks to the villagers.
Encouraged by the king’s kind words, the villagers wanted to send him more dates. But how? They thought and thought. They could send the dates only if they felled the palms.
So they cut the trees down. After collecting the dates they tried to raise the trees to replant them.
People around had a good laugh!
Visit to mother-in-law's house

A young man visited his in-laws for the first time after his marriage.
He was feeling hungry. When he entered a room he saw some uncooked rice in a large bowl. He took a handful of it and put it into his mouth.
Just then his mother-in-law came in. The man felt ashamed of himself. He could not swallow the rice, nor could he spit it out. He could not even speak.
His mother-in-law noticed his swollen cheeks and called her husband. Seeing the state of his son-in-law, he quickly sent for the physician. The physician suspected an internal tumour. He held the young man’s head and forced his mouth open. Grains of rice came out! People around had a hearty laugh!
Ornaments worn wrong

A newly married young villager dug the ground near his house and found a costly set of ornaments. He was happy and gave the whole lot to his young wife. But neither of them had ever seen such beautiful ornaments. They did not know how they were worn.
The village fair was on and they decided to go there. The girl put on all the jewels with the help of her husband. She wore the bracelets on her ears, the necklace round her waist, the girdle on her head and the anklets on her wrists.

When they reached the fair, people gathered round them and started laughing!
Sweet amalakas

A landlord had a new servant. He called him and said, "I love sweet amalakas very much. So go out into the garden and collect as many sweet amalakas as possible and bring them to me in a basket."

The servant went to the garden and saw a large number of amalakas. But he did not know whether they were sweet or not.

He had an idea. 'Why not taste one and see.' He picked up one and bit into it.
‘This is sweet all right. What about the rest?’ he asked himself. ‘Why not repeat the test? That is the only way.’ Soon he collected a large number of amalakas. He put them in a basket and took them to the landlord.

“Look, master,” he said, “all these amalakas are very sweet.”

“How do you know?”

“I have tasted them all.”

The landlord found all the amalakas half eaten and sent the servant away in disgust!
The villager and his son

A villager told his son, “I want you to go to the town early tomorrow morning.”
“Certainly, father. When do you want me to return?”
“By evening.”
Before the villager woke up in the morning, the son rushed to the town. He came back running, reaching the village by evening.

“What did you do in the town?”

“You had only asked me to go to the town and come back,” replied the boy. “And I did.”
Two pupils

A teacher once asked two of his pupils to help him massage his legs and wash them with hot water every evening. Each pupil was in charge of one leg. The two did the job regularly. One day, one of the pupils had to go to his village. So the teacher asked the other to massage the other leg also. "I cannot massage the other leg. That is the job of the other boy," he said.
But the teacher insisted. So he massaged the other leg as well. But he applied so much pressure that parts of the leg were swollen. The teacher got the leg bandaged and he was in great pain. When the other pupil returned the next day and saw what had happened, he was very angry. While massaging the leg, he picked up a stone and smashed the other leg. The teacher cried out in pain.
Sandalwood

A rich merchant’s son wanted to take up his father’s profession. So he went to a distant fair and bought many things with the idea of selling them at a profit. They included a large quantity of fragrant sandalwood planks.
After some time he went to another fair and sold all his wares, except the expensive sandalwood. In a shop there he found that charcoal was selling briskly. An idea struck him. He set fire to the sandalwood planks and converted them into charcoal and sold them. Returning home, he boasted of his clever salesmanship. But people laughed at him.
Valuable bags

A merchant and his servants were travelling with a camel, loaded with leather bags containing valuable clothes. The merchant felt the load was too heavy for the camel and thought of getting one more camel. He said to his servants, "You all wait here. I shall go and get one more camel. If it rains, take care of the valuable leather bags."
So saying the merchant left.
Suddenly clouds appeared in the sky and it started raining.

“Our master asked us to take care of the leather bags if it rained,” cried the servants. They pulled the clothes out of the bags and wrapped them round the bags. The bags were saved, but the valuable clothes were spoiled!
Leaking vessel

A man engaged a new servant. He called him one day and said, “Go to the market and get me some oil in a vessel.”

The servant bought the oil and was returning when he met a few friends. They wanted to tease him and said, “Take care of the oil. The vessel is leaking.”

The servant quickly turned the vessel upside down to see where it was leaking.

All the oil splashed to the ground and his friends could not contain their laughter!
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