पांच चीनी भाई : क्लैर हुचेट बिशाप
Five Chinese Brothers : Claire Huchet Bishop

अनुवाद: अरविन्द गुप्ता

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इस किताब का प्रकाशन भारत ज्ञान विज्ञान समिति ने देश भर में चल रहे साक्षात्कार अभियानों में उपयोग के लिए किया गया है। जनवाचन आंदोलन के तहत प्रकाशित इन किताबों का उद्देश्य गाँव के लोगों और बच्चों में पढ़ने-लिखने की रुचि पैदा करना है।

जनवाचन आंदोलन: Pushtakmala के तहत भारत ज्ञान विज्ञान समिति द्वारा प्रकाशित

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पांच चीनी भाई
क्लैर हुचेट बिशाप एवं कुर्ट वाईज

THE FIVE CHINESE BROTHERS
Claire Huchet Bishop & Kurt Wiese
Once upon a time there were
Five Chinese Brothers and
they looked exactly alike.

बहुत पुराने ज़माने की बात है।
चीन में पांच भाई रहते थे।
उनकी एक खास बात थी।
पांचों भाई देखने में बिल्कुल एक जैसे लगते थे।
They lived with their mother in a small house not far from the sea.

The First Chinese Brother could swallow the sea. The Second Chinese Brother had an iron neck. The Third Chinese Brother could stretch and stretch and stretch his legs. The Fourth Chinese Brother could not be burned. And, The Fifth Chinese Brother could hold his breath indefinitely.
Every morning the First Chinese Brother would go fishing, and whatever the weather, he would come back to the village with beautiful and rare fish which he had caught and could sell at the market for a very good price.

One day, as he was leaving the market place, a little boy stopped him and asked him if he could go fishing with him.

"No, it could not be done," said the First Chinese Brother. But the little boy begged and begged and finally the First Chinese Brother consented. "Under one condition," said he, "and that is that you shall obey me promptly."
"Yes, yes," the little boy promised.

Early next morning, the First Chinese Brother and the little boy went down to the beach.
"Remember," said the First Chinese Brother, "you must obey me promptly. When I make a sign for you to come back, you must come at once."
"Yes, yes," the little boy promised.
Then the First Chinese Brother swallowed the sea.

And all the fish were left high and dry at the bottom of the sea.
And all the treasures of the sea lay uncovered.
The little boy was delighted.
He ran here and there stuffing his pockets with strange pebbles, extraordinary shells and fantastic algae.
इतनी देर में समुद्र के किनारे पर पहले चीनी भाई ने कुछ मछलियां इकट्ठी करीं। अभी तक उसने समुद्र को कसकर अपने मुंह में बंद करके रखा था। परंतु अब वो समुद्र को फकड़-फकड़ एकदम थक गया था। समुद्र को इस तरह मुंह में पकड़ रखना कोई आसान काम नहीं था। इसलिए उसने अपने हाथ से छोटे लड़के को तुरंत बापिस आने का इशारा किया। छोटे लड़के ने इशारा देखने के बाद भी उसका पालन नहीं किया।

Near the shore the First Chinese Brother gathered some fish while he kept holding the sea in his mouth. Presently he grew tired. It is very hard to hold the sea. So he made a sign with his hand for the little boy to come back. The little boy saw him but paid no attention.
The First Chinese Brother made great movements with his arms and that meant "Come back!" But did the little boy care?
Not a bit and he ran further away.
Then the First Chinese Brother felt the sea swelling inside him and he made desperate gestures to call the little boy back. But the little boy made faces at him and fled as fast as he could.

The First Chinese Brother held the sea until he thought he was going to burst.
All of a sudden the sea forced its way out of his mouth, went back it its bed... and the little boy disappeared.
जब पहला चीनी भाई अकेला ही गांव लौटा तो उसे पिरप्स्तार करके जेल में डाल दिया गया।
कचहरी के जज ने उसका गला काट देने का आदेश दिया।
फांसी बाले दिन पहले चीनी भाई ने जज साहिब से बिनती की,
"नमस्ते, कृपा करके मुझे अपनी मां से आखिरी बार मिलना का मौका दें, जिससे कि में उनसे अलविदा कह सकूँ।"
"यह तो हर मुजाफिर का हक है," जज साहिब ने कहा और उसे अपनी मां से मिलने का हजारजत दे दी।
अनुमति मिलने के बाद पहला चीनी भाई घर गया
और उसकी जगह पर दूसरा चीनी भाई वापस आ गया।

When the First Chinese Brother returned to the village, alone, he was arrested, put in prison and condemned to have his head cut off.
On the morning of the execution he said to the judge:
"Your Honour, will you allow me to go and bid my mother good-bye?"
"It is only fair," said the judge.
So the First Chinese Brother went home ....
and the Second Chinese Brother came back in his place.
All the people were assembled on the village square to witness the execution.

The executioner took his sword and struck a mighty blow.
फर्तु दूसरा चीनी भाई हंसते हुए उठ खड़ा हुआ
जैसे उसे कुछ हुआ ही न न्हों।

dूसरे चीनी भाई की गर्दन लोहे की बनी थी
और उसे कोई भी काट नहीं सकता था।
उसे जिंदा देखकर गांववालों को बहुत गुस्सा आया
और उन्होंने उसे समुद्र में डुबोने का निर्णय लिया।

But the Second Chinese Brother got up and smiled.
He was the one with the iron neck
and they simply could not cut his head off.
Everybody was angry and they decided
that he should be drowned.
On the morning of the execution, the Second Chinese Brother said to the judge:
"Your honour, will you allow me to go and bid my mother good-bye?"
"It is only fair," said the judge.
So the Second Chinese Brother went home.... and the Third Chinese Brother came back in his place. He was pushed on a boat which made for the open sea.
When they were far out on the ocean,

the Third Chinese Brother was thrown overboard.
But he began to stretch and stretch and stretch his legs,
way down to the bottom of the sea.

And all the time his smiling face was
bobbing up and down on the crest of the waves.
He simply could not be drowned.
Everybody was very angry, and they all decided
that he should be burned.
On the morning of the execution,
the Third Chinese Brother said to the judge:
"Your Honour, will you allow me to go and bid
my mother good-bye?"
"It is only fair," said the judge.
So the Third Chinese Brother went home ....
and the Fourth Chinese Brother came back in his place.
Fire was set to it and all the people stood around watching it.
In the midst of all the flames they heard him say: "This is quite pleasant."
"Bring some more wood!" the people cried.
The fire roared higher.
"Now it is quite comfortable," said the Fourth Chinese Brother,
for he was the one who could not be burned.
Everybody was getting more and more angry every minute
and they all decided to smother him.
They were not going to be tricked again!
So they stayed there all night and even a little after dawn, just to make sure.
Then they opened the door and pulled him out.
And he shook himself and said, "My! That was a good sleep!"
Everybody stared open-mouthed and round eyed.
But the judge stepped forward and said,
"We have tried to get rid of you in every possible way
and somehow it cannot be done.
It must be that you are innocent."
"Yes, yes," shouted all the people.
So they let him go and he went home.
And the Five Chinese Brothers and their mother all lived together happily for many years.
There were Five Chinese Brothers.
They looked exactly the same.
One brother was wrongly sentenced to death.
On every execution, one brother substituted for the other.
No one suspected them. Every brother had a special quality.
In the end the brothers are saved.
They spend the rest of their life happily with their mother.
An evergreen story.