How Big is a Foot?
Written and illustrated by Rolf Myller

Three feet make a yard.
Five and a half yard make a rod.
Forty rods make a furlong.
Eight furlongs make a mile.
Three miles make a league.

But, how big is a foot?
The question is a good one. And Rolf Myller undertakes to answer it in this book.
The answer is really, “Well it all depends.”
What it depends upon rests upon the answers to such questions as “How big is a bed?”
“How big is the foot of the King?” and “How big is the foot of a small apprentice carpenter?”
Furthermore, it might even have something to do with how good a sculptor a king might call in, in an emergency.

Here is a story full of nonsense, and an almost equal amount of sense. What it means
will depend upon the reader; but basically it means a good story that even young
children will enjoy reading to themselves.

Dedicated to
To the wonderful metric system
Without whose absence in this county
This book would not have been possible.

कितना बड़ा होता है फुट?
लेखक और चित्रकार: रॉल्फ मॉयलर
अनुवाद: अरविन्द गुप्ता

मेट्रिक प्रणाली को समर्पित
जिसका अगर इस देश में अभाव न होता
tो इस पुस्तक को लिख पाना भी संभव न होता।
Once upon a time
there lived a king
and his wife, the Queen.

They were a happy couple
for they had everything in the World.

एक जमाने में
एक राजा रहता था
और साथ में उसकी पत्नी, यानी रानी भी।

राजा-रानी काफी कुश्च थे।
क्योंकि उनके पास दुनिया की सभी चीजें थीं।

However…
when the Queen’s birthday came near
the King had a problem:

What could he give to Someone who had
Everything?

परंतु…. 
जब रानी का जन्मदिन आया
तो राजा के सामने भारी समस्या खड़ी हो गईं:

रानी - जिसके पास सब कुछ था, उसे वो क्या भेंट करे?

The King thought
and he thought and he thought
until suddenly, he had a idea!

HE WOULD GIVE THE QUEEN A BED

राजा ने सोचा,
और सोचा और सोचा
और अंत में उसके दिमाग में एक विचार आया!

वो रानी को एक पलंग भेंट करेगा।
The Queen did not have a bed because at the time beds had not been invented.

So even Someone who had Everything did not have a bed.

The King called his Prime Minister and asked him to please have a bed made.

The Prime Minister called the Chief Carpenter and asked him to please have a bed made.

The Chief Carpenter called the apprentice and told him to make a bed.
“How big is a bed?” asked the apprentice, who didn’t know because at the time nobody had ever seen a bed.

“How big is a bed?” the Carpenter asked the Prime Minister.

“A good question,” said the Prime Minister.

And he asked the King,

“HOW BIG IS THE BED?”

The King thought and he thought and he thought until suddenly he had an idea!

THE BED MUST BE BIG ENOUGH TO FIT THE QUEEN.

राजा ने सोचा और सोचा, और सोचा। अंत में उनके दिमाग में एक अच्छा विचार आया!

पलंग इतना बड़ा हो जिससे रानी उस पर आराम से लेत सके।
The King called the Queen.
He told her to put on her new pajamas
and told her to lie on the floor.

राजा ने रानी को बुलाया।
उसने रानी से नए कपड़े पहन कर
फर्श पर लेटने को कहा।

The King took off his shoes
and with his back feet walked carefully around
the Queen.
He counted that.

The bed must be
THREE FEET WIDE AND SIX FEET LONG
to be big enough to fit the Queen.

(INCLUDING THE CROWN, WHICH THE QUEEN
SOMETIMES LIKED TO WEAR TO SLEEP.)

फिर राजा ने अपने जुते उतारे
और अपने बड़े पैरों से उसने रानी के
चारों और एक चककर काटा।

राजा ने गिना।
पलंग का नाप 6 फीट लंबा और 3 फीट चौड़ा
होना चाहिए।
तभी रानी उस पर आराम से लेत पाएगी।
(इसमें रानी के युक्त का माप भी शामिल था,
जिसे वो कभी-कभी सोते समय पहनती थीं।)
The King said, “Thank you,” to the Queen, and told the Prime Minister, who told the Chief Carpenter, who told the apprentice:

“The bed must be three feet wide and six feet long to be big enough to fit the Queen.”

(Including the crown, which she sometimes liked to wear to sleep.)

The apprentice said, “Thank you,” and took off his shoes, and with his little feet he measured

Three feet wide
Six feet long

And made a bed to fit the Queen.
When the King saw the bed, he thought it was beautiful. He could not wait for the Queen’s Birthday.

Instead, he called the Queen at once and told her to put on her new pajamas. Then he brought out the bed and told the Queen to try it. But the bed was much too small for the Queen.

राजा ने तुरंत रानी को बुलाया और रानी से नए कपड़े पहनने को कहा।
फिर राजा नया पर्लंग लाया और उसने रानी से पर्लंग पर ले लेने को कहा।
परंतु, पर्लंग रानी के नाप से बहुत छोटा निकला।
The King was so angry that he immediately called the Prime Minister who called the Chief Carpenter who called the jailer who threw the apprentice into jail.

The apprentice was unhappy. WHY WAS THE BED TOO SMALL FOR THE QUEEN?

He thought and he thought and he thought. Until suddenly he had an idea!

A bed that was three King’s feet wide and six King’s feet long was naturally bigger than a bed that was three apprentice feet wide and six apprentice feet long.

“I CAN MAKE A BED TO FIT THE QUEEN IF I KNOW THE SIZE OF THE KING’S FOOT,”
He explained this to the jailer,  
who explained it to the Chief Carpenter,  
who explained it to the Prime Minister,  
who explained it to the King,  
who was much too busy to go to jail.

Instead, the King took off one shoe  
and called a famous sculptor,  
The sculptor made an exact marble copy of the King’s foot;  
This was then sent to the jail.

राजा ने अपना एक जूता निकाला।  
फिर उसने एक मशहूर शिल्पकार को बुलाया।  
शिल्पकार ने राजा के जूते जैसा ही बनाया।  
एक संगमरमर का जूता बनाया।  
इस जूते को जेल भेजा गया।
The apprentice took the marble copy of the King’s foot, and with it he measured
three feet wide
and six feet long
and built a bed to fit the Queen!

The bed was ready just in time for the Queen’s Birthday. The King called the Queen and told her to put on her new pajamas.

Then he brought out the New Bed and told the Queen to try it.

The Queen got into bed and …

शार्निंद ने राजा के संगमरमर के जूते से नापना शुरू किया।
तीन फीट चौड़ा
और छह फीट लंबा
और इस प्रकार रानी के लिए सही नाप का पलंग बनाया!

इधर पलंग तैयार हुआ और उधर रानी का जन्मदिन आ गया।
राजा ने रानी को बुलाया
और रानी से नए कपड़े पहनने को कहा।

फिर राजा ने नया पलंग निकाला और रानी से उस पर लेटने को कहा।

रानी पलंग पर लेटी और...
THE BED FIT THE QUEEN PERFECTLY.

(Including the crown which she sometimes liked to wear to sleep.)

It was, without a doubt, the nicest gift that the Queen had ever received.
The King was very happy. He immediately called the apprentice from jail and made him a royal prince.

He ordered a big parade, and all the people came out to cheer the little apprentice prince.

And forever after, anyone who wanted to measure anything used a copy of the King’s foot.

And when someone said, “My bed is six feet long and three feet wide,” everyone knew exactly how big it was.

राजा बहुत खुश हुआ।
उसने झट से बड़ई के शारीरिक को जेल से बुलाया और उसे राजकुमार बना दिया।

राजा ने बड़े जलसे का आदेश दिया।
जलसे में बहुत लोगों ने भाग लिया और छोटे शारीरिक की प्रशंसा की।

उसके बाद से
जब किसी को कोई चीज नापनी होती
तो वो हमेशा राजा के
जूते का ही इस्तेमाल करता।

और जब कभी कोई कहता,
‘मेरा पलंग छह फीट लंबा
और तीन फीट चौड़ा है
तो सभी लोग पलंग के सही नाप को
झट से समझ जाते।