The Jackal’s Loss
सियार की हार

Written by: Saura Writers’ Group
Illustrated by: Pradip Kumar Sahoo
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In the green and cool forest of Maranda, there were many streams. Some of them flowed into ponds where small animals came to drink water.

Others were big rushing rivers where you could even find crocodiles.

मरंडा के हरे भरे जंगल में बहुत सी धाराएं थीं। कुछ धूप छाँव वाले तालाबों में मिल जाती थीं जहां छोटे-जानवर आकर प्यास बुझाते थे।

कुछ बड़ी-बड़ी नदियाँ थीं जिनमें मगरमच्छ भी पाये जाते थे।
A hare and a tortoise lived near a small pond in Maranda forest. They were the best of friends.

One fine day they set out to the market.
Suddenly, there was a jackal with an evil grin blocking the road! Where did he come from?

Looking at his scary face, the hare said, "Run, run!" and ran away as fast as he could.

अचानक ही एक सियार ने उनका रास्ता रोक लिया। यह कहाँ से आ टपका?
उसका भयानक चेहरा देख कर खरगोश चिल्लाया, "भागो भागो!" और झटके वहाँ से भाग निकला।
Things were happening too fast for the tortoise. Before he could peer at the jackal he had been carried away in his mouth!

The tortoise had just enough time to put his head inside his shell.

कछुआ बेचारा कुछ समझ नहीं पाया। जब तक उसने होश सँभाला तब तक सियार उसे मूँह में उठा के चल पड़ा।

कछुए को बस अपना सर अपने खोल में दुबका लेने का समय मिला।
The hare saw what had happened as he hid behind a tree. He knew he had to help his friend.

He walked up to the jackal, and asked, “Hello Jackal uncle, what have you got there?”

हरगोश ने पेड़ के पीछे से छिपकर सब देखा। उसे अपने दोस्त की मदद करनी थी।

वह टहलते हुए सियार के पास पहुँचा और पूछा, “नमस्ते सियार मामा, क्या मिला आपको?”
“I’ve got my food here,” the jackal replied.

“Oh, I see!” the hare said. “I had seen it long ago, but it was too hard for me to eat. I think you should leave it in the water for some time. When it grows soft, you will be able to eat it.”

“मेरा खाना,” सियार ने जवाब दिया।

“अच्छा! तो यह बात है!” खरगोश बोला। “मैंने तो इसे बहुत पहले देख लिया था पर यह मेरे लिए बहुत कठिना था। मुझे लगता है आपको इसे कुछ देर पानी में छोड़ देना चाहिये। जब यह नरम हो जायेगा तब आप इसे खा पाएंगे।”
The jackal liked the hare’s idea as the shell of the tortoise was very hard.

He dropped the tortoise into the river.

The tortoise swam away to safety. The hare also ran away.

सियार को खरगोश का सुझाव ठीक लगा क्योंकि कछुए का खोल तो सच में बहुत कड़ा था।

उसने कछुए को नदी में टपका दिया।

कछुआ झटॉट तैर कर सुरक्षित जगह पहुँच गया। खरगोश भी भाग गया।
The clever hare had saved his friend from the jackal!

चतुर खरगोश ने अपने दोस्त को सियार से बचा लिया।
The Concept

India's diverse linguistic landscape has a rich seam of stories for children. Unfortunately, many tribal languages do not have literature for children in book form or books for reading pleasure. As increasing numbers of tribal children go to school, it is now more necessary than ever to create a body of children's literature in their languages. Literature that reflects their own world and opens up the world beyond because books are magical, powerful things that inform, amuse, educate and entertain in the most interactive way. Books make every child an independent and life-long seeker of knowledge in her own unique way. For education to be truly meaningful to every child, she must get good books to read in her own language.

The Project

Pratham Books and IgnusERG, with the support of Bernard van Leer Foundation have created the first ten books for children’s reading pleasure in Mundia, Kui, Saura and Juangia languages from Odisha. The stories were written and illustrated by authors and illustrators belonging to these tribes in a series of workshops. This series of books is called Adikathani. It is a significant first step towards giving a voice to cultures that do not find adequate representation in mainstream discourses.

The Partners

IgnusERG is a guild of resource persons working to support teachers and enhancing the quality of education, particularly in government schools. They focus their efforts on bringing equity in education and addressing the needs of marginalized children.

Bernard van Leer Foundation is an international grant-making foundation based in The Hague. Its mission is to improve opportunities for young children growing up in socially and economically difficult circumstances. It has a particular interest in supporting mother-tongue based education.

This story was written by the Saura Writers' Group, consisting of Aben Sabar, Ajari Gamango, bak Karji, Pradhan Gamango and Srinivas Gamango. With a background in ECCE, they all interact with children regularly. It has been illustrated by Pradip Kumar Sahoo, using the Saura mural style as a base. The ancient Saura language has over 3 lakh speakers in Ganjam, Rayagada and Gajapati districts of Odisha. Saura wall murals have attracted the attention of art lovers across the country. The spellings of the language in Odia script are not definitive as many new sounds are being rendered in print for the first time.
A clever hare helps his friend, the tortoise. Read on to see how they tricked the jackal.

TITLES IN THE SERIES
- Juanga
  - Doong Doong, Dum Dum
  - The Clever Chicken
- Kui
  - Asila, Basila, Uthila, Jaucha
  - The Fox and the Lump of Clay
  - The Rabbit’s Long Ears
- Munda
  - The Elephants Who Liked to Dance
  - The Water Seed
  - What Should Soma Grow?
- Saura
  - The Cafty Ratty Tale
  - The Jackal’s Loss

PRATHAM BOOKS
Pratham Books is a not-for-profit organization that publishes books in multiple Indian languages to promote reading among children.

www.prathambooks.org

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