

2

The Friendly Mongoose

A Story from the Panchatantra

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

Once there lived a farmer and his wife in a village. They had a small son. They wanted to have a pet to give company to their son.

One evening the farmer brought home a little mongoose. Both the baby and the mongoose grew together. The animal grew to its full size in six months. The baby was still kept in a cradle.

One day the farmer's wife decided to go for shopping. She rocked the baby to sleep in the cradle. She told her husband to keep an eye on the baby. She, in fact, did not like to leave the child alone with the mongoose.

The farmer told her not to worry. He said that the baby and the mongoose were good friends. The wife went away to the bazar. The farmer also went out to look after his fields. He met some friends there and returned home a little late.

The farmer's wife came back home with a basket. It was heavy with food items. The mongoose was sitting outside, waiting for her. He ran as usual to welcome her. But she was shocked to see blood on his face and paws. She cursed the animal for killing her baby. In anger, she dropped the heavy basket on him. The mongoose died.

She ran inside to see the child's cradle. The baby was fast asleep. But on the floor lay a snake. It had been killed by the mongoose.

At once she realised her mistake. The mongoose had, in fact, killed the snake to save the baby. She started crying. But it was too late. Her rash action had killed the innocent and friendly mongoose.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

EXERCISE

(Page 6)

1. Why did the farmer bring a baby mongoose into the house?

Ans. The farmer had a small son. He wanted to have a pet to give company to his child. So he brought home a baby mongoose to play with the child.

2. Why didn't the farmer's wife want to leave the baby alone with the mongoose?

Ans. The farmer's wife did not trust even her pet mongoose. She didn't want to leave her son alone with an animal.

3. What was the farmer's comment on his wife's fears?

Ans. The farmer understood why his wife was afraid of leaving the baby alone with the mongoose. Therefore, he tried to remove her fear. He said that the mongoose was a friendly animal, as sweet and gentle as their own baby.

4. Why did the farmer's wife strike the mongoose with her basket?

Ans. The farmer's wife returned home with a heavy basket. She noticed blood on the face and paws of the mongoose. She had no doubt that the mongoose had killed her son. So in anger she hit the animal with the basket. The poor mongoose died on the spot.

5. Did she repent her hasty action? How does she show her repentance?

Ans. The farmer's wife saw the snake torn into pieces. Her own son was safely asleep. She realised her mistake. She felt very sorry. She touched the mongoose and cried. She saw the painful result of her hasty action.