

## Bringing Up Kari

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Karl was an elephant. He was five months old when he came to the author. Karl lived in a pavilion. It was under a thatched roof which rested on thick tree stumps. Karl bumped against the poles as he moved about the enclosure. Yet the poles didn't give way. It was so because these poles were made of thick tree stumps. Kari enjoyed his morning bath in the river much. He would lie in the water for a long time. On coming out he would squeal with pleasure. After the bath, the author would leave him on the edge of the jungle. He would himself go into the forest to get some twigs for the elephant's dinner. It took a long time. First, the author would sharpen his hatchet which took half an hour. Then the author had to climb trees to get the most delicate and tender twigs. Doing all this naturally took a long time.

Karl and the author were good friends. But Kari once pushed him into the stream. It was to save the life of a boy. He saw a boy lying on the bottom of the river. He dived and pulled the body of the drowning boy to the surface. However, the author was not a swimmer. So he could not come ashore. The current began to drag him down. Karl saw it. He came fast into the water. The author caught his trunk. He pulled both the author and the boy ashore.

Karl was like a baby. Like a baby he had to be told when he was naughty. He developed a taste for bananas. He began to steal them. Large plates of fruit were kept on a table in the dining room, Kari would put his trunk through the window to the bananas. In one attempt he would take them all. He would, then, quietly go to his pavilion. There he ate the bananas at peace without being seen. At last, the author caught him stealing. When he was scolded, he understood like a baby and did not steal again. Again, like babies he was a quick learner. Kari learnt 'Mali' after three lessons but it took him three weeks to learn 'Dhat'. 'Dhat' was the command to sit while 'Mali' was the command to walk. These commands were taught to him just as one teaches a child.

The teaching of master call to an elephant is a difficult thing. An elephant generally takes five years to learn it. Yet it is the most important signal for an elephant to learn. It is so because it helps an elephant to save his master's life. Sometimes they are lost in the jungle and there is no way out. Then the master makes a strange, hissing, howling sound in the elephant's ear. A trained elephant understands it and at once pulls out the tree in front of him. This frightens all the

animals away. Even the tiger is frightened. The elephant goes on pulling down the trees one after the other. Thus a path is made out of the forest.