

17. GONU AND BHONU

(Based on a folk tale from Maithili)

A. Warmer

Your parents bring edibles, when they come home. How do they distribute them among all the members of your family? If not, why? Are you always satisfied with this distribution ?

[Scene one]

Five persons are sitting on a cot and many people are standing around them. Bhonu enters. He is seen whispering into the ears of the





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Sarpanch. All stand up. The Sarpanch sits down.

Gonu : Wise people, my brother Bhonu and I want the distribution of our property. We have already divided the land and the other things. We have a dispute over the buffalo and the blanket.

(There is a discussion in the Panchayat)

Sarpanch : Listen, the Panchayat has decided Gonu will use the blanket in the day and Bhonu will use it at night.

Bhonu : Sarpanch Sahib ! How will you distribute the buffalo?

Sarpanch : Look Bhonu, Gonu will get half of the buffalo from the mouth side. You will get the other half from the tail side. Gonu, do you agree?

Gonu : Yes, I do. The decision of the Panchayat is final for me.

[Scene two]

A Villager : Gonu! Why do you look so sad?

Gonu : The decision of the Panchayat is unfair. I feed the buffalo but Bhonu milks it. Bhonu uses the blanket at night but I shiver.

The Villager: Gonu, come near me.

(The Villager whispers in Gonu's ear)

Gonu : Thanks for your advice. I'll try to follow it.

[Scene three]

(The scene of Panchayat. Bhonu is standing.)

Bhonu : Wise people, I have a complaint. Gonu wets the blanket



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during the day, so I cannot use it at night.

Gonu : During the day, I am free to use the blanket the way I like.

Bhonu : And that is not all. Gonu keeps beating the buffalo when I milk it.

Gonu : Since the mouth side belongs to me, I am free to do whatever I like to do with it.

Sarpanch : I think the distribution was not fair. Now we have decided that Gonu shall get half of the milk.

The villager: May I know who will feed the buffalo, Sarpanch Sahib?

Sarpanch : Both of them. Divide the blanket into two halves. Each brother shall get half of the blanket. Gonu and Bhonu, do you both agree?

Gonu and Bhonu : Yes, we do.

GLOSSARY

distribution	(डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन)	बँटवारा
enter	(ए' न्-टें)	प्रवेश करना
property	(प्रॉपर्टि)	सम्पत्ति/जायदाद
dispute	(डिसप्यूट)	झगड़ा
decision	(डिसिज़न)	निर्णय, फैसला
complaint	(कमप्लेइन्ट)	परिवाद/शिकायत
belong	(बिलॉन्ग)	से सम्बन्धित
around	(अराउन्ड)	चारों ओर
whispering	(विस्परिंग)	फुसफुसाहट



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wise	(वाइज़)	बुद्धिमान
already	(ऑलरेडी)	पहले से
discussion	(डिसकशन)	विचार विमर्श, चर्चा
agree	(अग्री)	सहमति होना
unfair	(अनफेअर)	अनुचित

B.1. Think and Tell

Answer the following questions orally:

1. Why was the panchayat called?
2. What did Gonu do when Bhonu milked the buffalo?

C.1. Think and Write

Answer the following questions:

- a) What was the decision on dividing the buffalo ?

- b) What did Gonu do with the blanket?

- (c) "We have divided the land and other things."

Can you guess what these "other things" could be?

D.1. Find out from the lesson the opposites of the following words:

1. night



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2. happy
3. far
4. dry
5. full
6. disagree

E.1. Answer the following questions beginning with 'it'. One has been done.

1. What is happening?It is raining .
2. What's the time, please?
3. What's the day today?
4. How is the weather ?

E.2. Rearrange the words to make acceptable sentences:

1. has a cow My father
2. has sister My a red frock
3. a beautiful sari has mother My
4. Munia a bicycle has
5. Ramu books many has

F.1. Work in groups of four and role play the play in the Bal Sansad and Meena Manch.

