



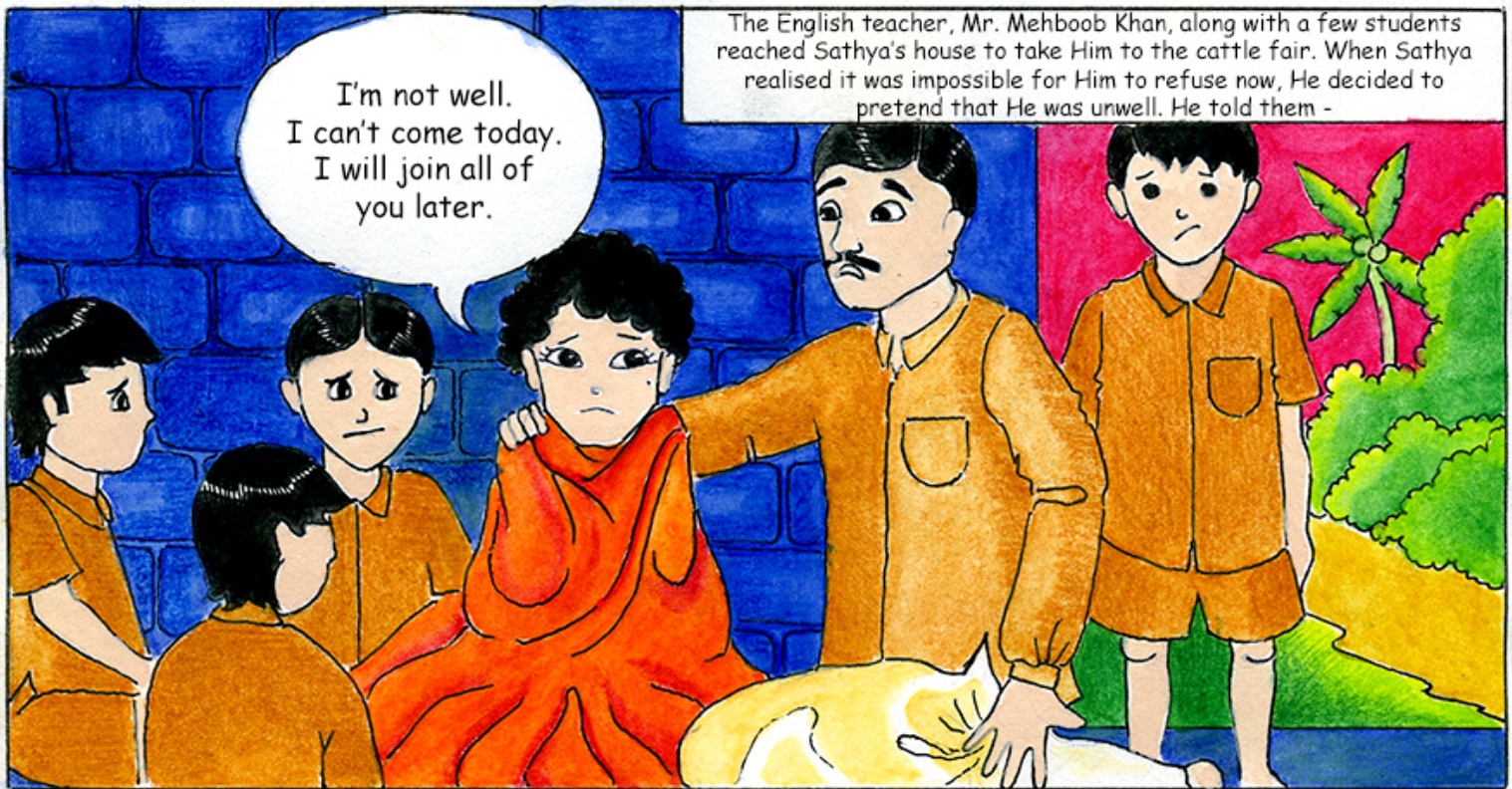
CHAPTER 15  
(PART 02)  
THE SCOUT CAMP





I'm not well.  
I can't come today.  
I will join all of  
you later.

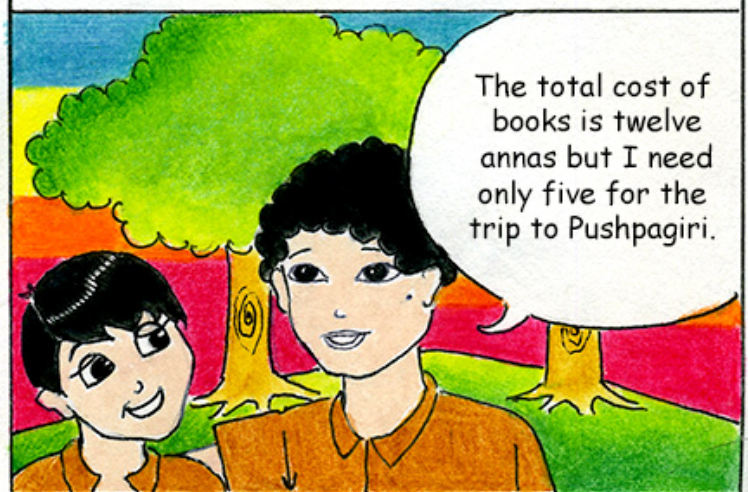
The English teacher, Mr. Mehboob Khan, along with a few students reached Sathya's house to take Him to the cattle fair. When Sathya realised it was impossible for Him to refuse now, He decided to pretend that He was unwell. He told them -



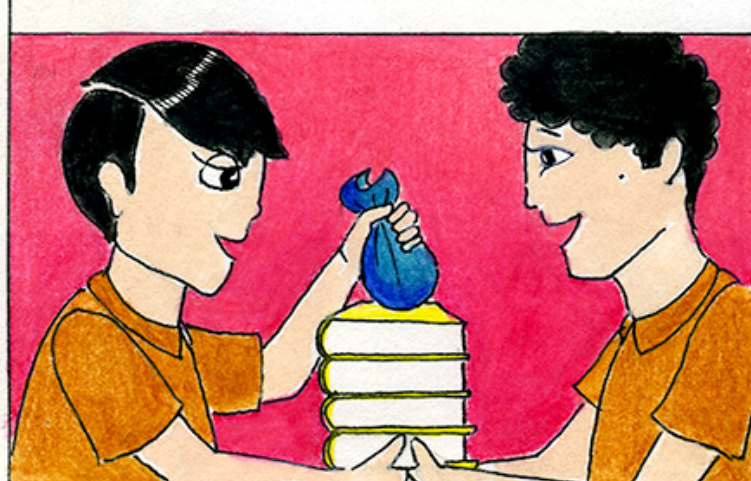
When they left, He felt disappointed. Suddenly, He remembered the face of a young lad who was too poor to purchase books.



He met the boy and offered him His books which were always in excellent condition. He said to him -



The boy couldn't believe Sathya's generosity. At that time currency notes were rare. The boy paid the amount in coins and handed over the coins in a worn out cloth.



The pouch fell out of Sathya's hand and the coins spread over the floor making a lot of noise.





Seshama Raju's mother-in-law heard the noise and came rushing in. When she saw the coins she accused Sathya of stealing. She asked very sternly -

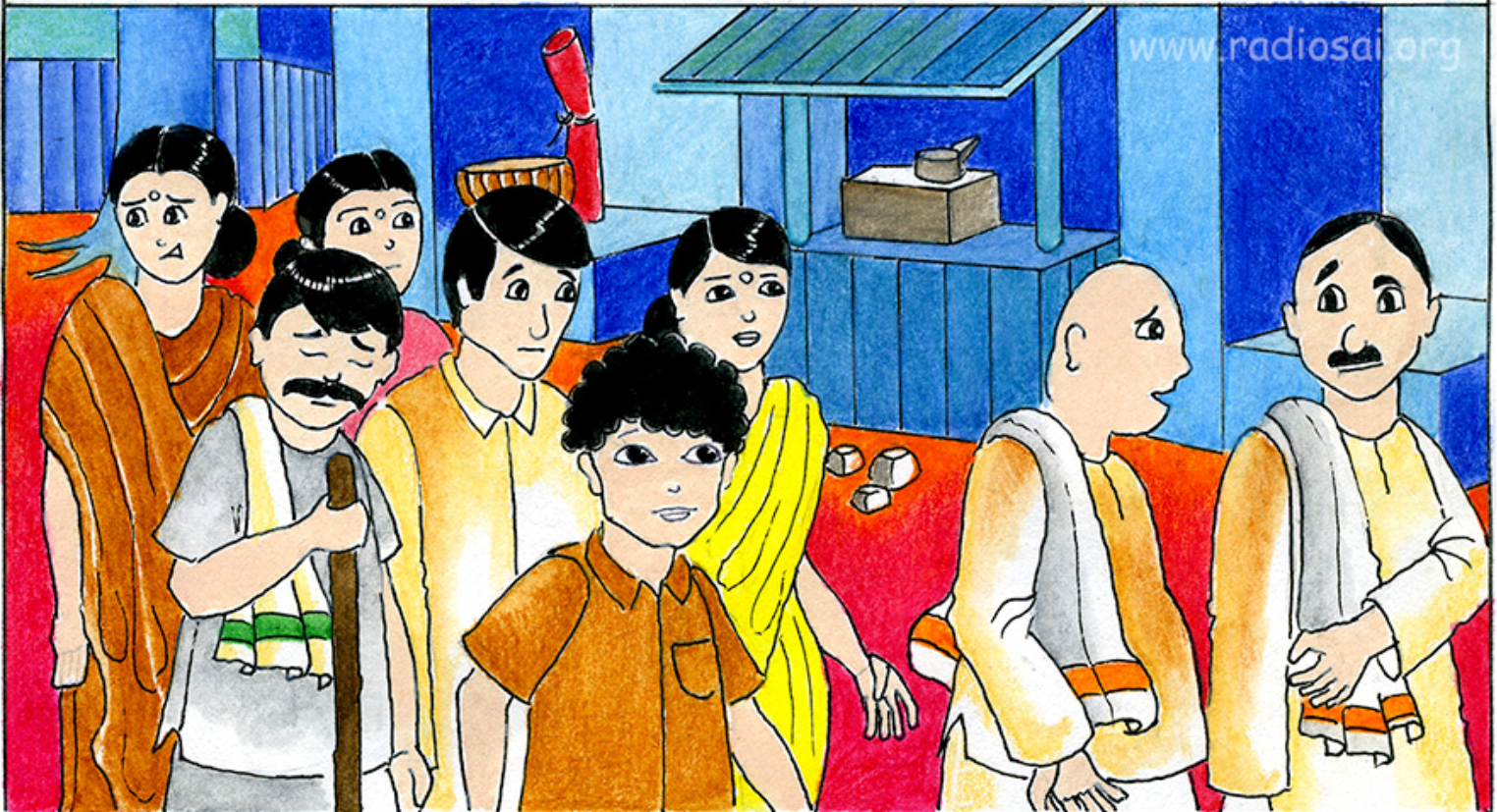
Where did you  
get all these coins  
from?  
Did you steal  
it from my trunk?



The other boy tried to explain the exchange that had taken place between two of them but she had made up her mind. She hit Sathya hard and asked him to go away.

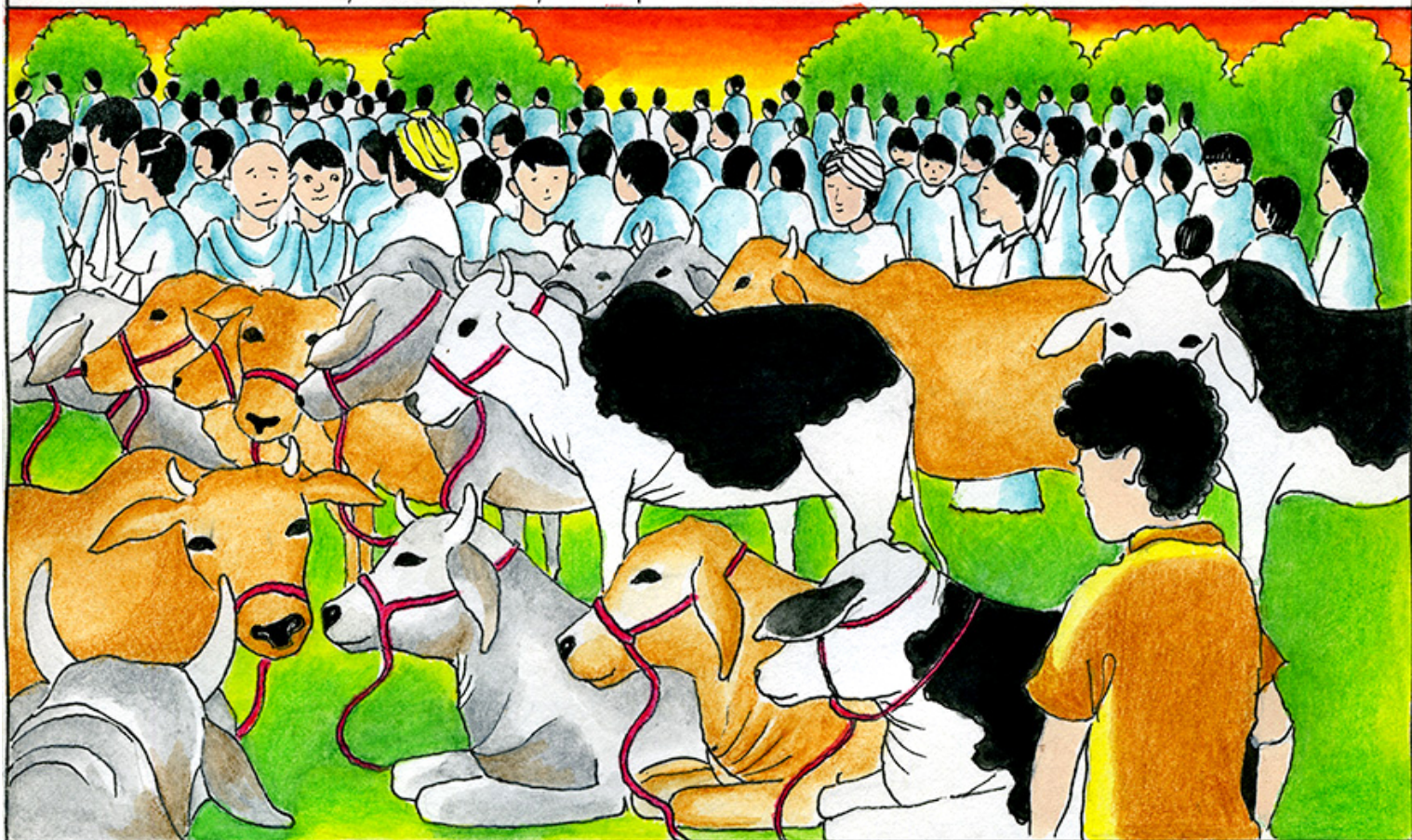


Sathya was not the one who quits so easily. A lot of people were leaving their homes before the dawn broke to walk all the way to the fair. Sathya decided to walk with them. Needless to say, the journey was very long.





When they finally reached the fair, they had almost walked for eleven kilometres. There were cattle everywhere along with people from many places. Thirst and hunger had taken over now. Sathya had no money in His pocket. He looked around for a solution.



All He could see was a masonry tank where cattle were given bath. The water was indeed dirty. But when thirsty, everything appears as water from Ganges.



He found there a packet of beedis and a one anna coin. He crushed the beedis and exchanged the annas for four bottus (smaller coins).





While returning Sathya noticed a man sitting with cards spread in front of him. He was inviting passers-by to bet on a particular card.



The man was quick to notice Sathya's curiosity and thinking Him naïve invited Him to try His luck. He said-

