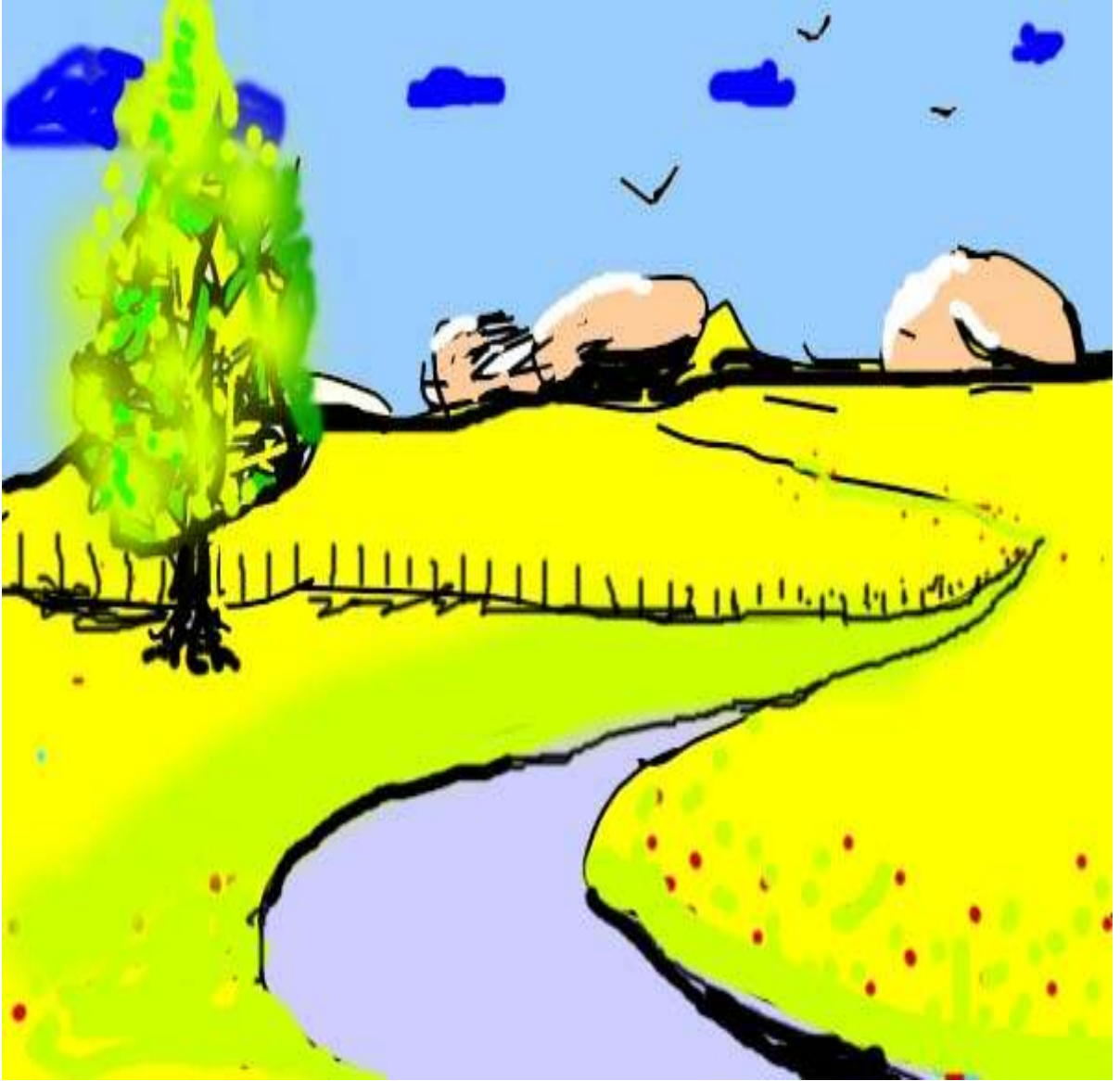


EZAAREM



Vinod Modha

*Inspired by Pujya Pramukhswami Maharaj of B.A.P.S.
Swaminarayan Sanstha.*

Also by Vinod Modha

DASHARATH'S DILEMMA

(An award winning play)

BUT...

(An award winning script for a self-produced short film)

A MOST MYSTERIOUS MOO

(A story for children)

PRINCESS DEVINIA

(Out in 2017. Featuring Sanu and Totu)

CROAK AND SLITHER

(Out in 2017. A Children's fantasy)

LORD SWAMINARAYAN

(For 2018, Optioned screenplay for a full length feature film)

CLAIM YOUR FREE AUDIO BOOK!!

(Time sensitive)

EZAAREM

A Story For Children.

Vinod Modha

Inspired by Pujya Pramukhswami Maharaj of B.A.P.S. Swaminarayan Sanstha.

TO CLAIM YOUR FREE AUDIO BOOK!!

(Time sensitive)

To claim your **FREE AUDIO BOOK** of Ezaarem, please send your request to:
ezaarem@gmail.com.

(Offer ends at midnight on 31st May 2017).

VINOD MODHA BOOKS (USA)

FOR MY BA AND BAPUJI.

Word Count

Complete Book: Total words 12275

Just the Story: Total words 11719

Vinod Modha
105 Serra Way #205
Milpitas, 95035
(408) 991-5422
vinodmodha@gmail.com

Vinod Modha Books, E-Book edition, April 2017

Copyright©2017 by Vinod Modha

All rights reserved.

"Ezaarem" is a work of fiction for children.

Price where sold: US \$19.99

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Tony Pereira and my brother, Kirit Modha, for their tremendous help.

CHAPTER 1 - King Motu

Everybody liked King Motu the Magnificent except King Chhotu the Cheater.

King Motu was popular. There was so much to like about him. King Motu's subjects loved him so much because he was a ruler's ruler.

King Motu helped his subjects in as many ways as possible.

Poor were given food and clothing. The homeless houses.

King Motu taught people to learn to stand on their own two feet. He created new job opportunities.

King Motu made schools free for the children of the poor.

Everybody did well under King Motu. People felt loved, secure and safe. King Motu said: "I am duty bound to put needs of the people I rule before my own needs. My court is always open to my people."

So if people had any problems, and it was rare that they did, they could come and discuss it with King Motu anytime, night or day. King Motu would help them find a permanent solution to their problems, even if it meant that it cost him a small fortune to help them do so. King Motu took care of the people he ruled.

People worshipped King Motu the Magnificent.

Also, people came to King Motu's court and told him if their farms produced good crop, or their ships had landed bringing treasures and exotic items. And, people gave expensive presents to King Motu. King Motu

accepted these presents graciously and always said: "I am only the guardian of these valuable presents from my people. These gifts really do not belong to me, these belong to my people. And in time of need, I shall not hesitate to sell these to help them."

And King Motu did help his people, time and time again.

King Motu's neighbouring rulers knew him as the most friendly, helpful, peace loving king that ever lived. King Motu never had any need to attack his neighbours. The neighbours also knew that if anyone attacked King Motu, then King Motu would fight back tooth and nail to protect his people and his kingdom.

All in all, as great rulers go, King Motu the Magnificent was the greatest!

Everybody liked King Motu the Magnificent except King Chhotu the Cheater. Who was this King Chhotu the Cheater? Why would he not change his mind about King Motu the Magnificent. Was there a good reason for his intense dislike of King Motu?

CHAPTER 2 - King Chhotu

Everybody liked King Motu the Magnificent except King Chhotu the Cheater.

King Chhotu the Cheater ruled in the land nearby. King Chhotu was very jealous of King Motu and dreamed about taking over King Motu's kingdom. He especially liked those dreams where he took over all of King Motu's wealth and treasures. King Chhotu tirelessly schemed to make his dreams come true.

Quite frankly, there was nothing to like about King Chhotu.

King Chhotu was very greedy and selfish. He hardly ever did anything for his people. And King Chhotu never kept his promises. Poor people got no help from King Chhotu. King Chhotu was not popular with his neighbouring kings either.

King Chhotu's people did not feel secure, nor truly safe.

King Chhotu tried to copy King Motu, and when he addressed his people he said: "I am duty bound to do all within my capacity for my people. Good of my people will always come first before anyone else's and by that 'anyone else' I mean that it includes the Royal family!"

King Chhotu would then promise a long list of items to his people, only, he would never keep his promises. At the last minute he would back out of a promise by saying: "Yes a promise is a promise, and within my capacity I'll do all that I can to fulfill what I have promised. That is a given, and, there is no going back on it. However, we have just allocated a hefty budget for a five year plan this very day. So, I am sorry to say, unfortunately this particular promise is just not within my capacity at present!"

And that would be that. Of course the five year plan (or whatever he had thought of on the spur of the moment to avoid fulfilling the promise!) would never be heard of again either.

King Chhotu's soldiers hated him the worst. The soldiers suffered a lot under him. They were badly armed. They were poorly paid and their families were almost reduced to starving as a result. The soldiers did not want to fight for him.

Even animals, especially wild ones that lived in the forest bordering King Chhotu's and King Motu's kingdoms, suffered badly because King Chhotu treated them cruelly. He laid hidden traps to capture them for fun, and then killed them with spikes that had poisoned tips.

King Chhotu's people avoided King Chhotu the Cheater. King Chhotu wondered why he was not as popular as King Motu. Duh! What did he expect with his record - but he was totally clueless. All in all, as bad rulers go, King Chhotu the Cheater was the worst.

Would King Chhotu stop at anything to make his dreams come true?

CHAPTER 3 - Attacks By King Chhotu

Everybody liked King Motu the Magnificent except King Chhotu the Cheater.

But King Chhotu had failed everytime he had tried to attack the kingdom of King Motu the Magnificent. To defend their country King Motu's people came out along side the army to fight.

On the other hand, most of King Chhotu's soldiers simply stopped fighting and stood there until King Motu's army took them prisoners. Some of King Chhotu's soldiers just ran away from the battlefield without fighting.

Each time, King Chhotu the Cheater had no choice but to stop fighting and return home empty handed. So it came about that whenever King Motu was attacked, he pushed back the attackers easily and captured some land from the enemy. King Motu's kingdom got bigger and more prosperous as a result.

After the victory, King Motu the Magnificent was kind to the prisoners. King Motu gave them proper food, medical attention and a place to rest properly. He asked them to come and live permanently in his kingdom. The prisoners agreed readily. They could see that they would be better off under kind King Motu the Magnificent.

With King Motu's permission, prisoners returned to their homeland. They sold up their properties, gathered up their belongings, and returned. They brought with them their families, friends and relatives to settle in King Motu's kingdom.

King Motu the Magnificent made them all welcome and helped them with whatever they needed to live happily in his kingdom. For their part, they all worked hard and their lives turned around, their future was bright and they prospered. They could not thank King Motu enough for helping them and became very loyal to him.

And so, the kingdom of King Chhotu the Cheater shrank with each attack he carried out on King Motu. This made King Chhotu very very frustrated and angry.

Then one day at long last, and quite unexpectedly, a great opportunity came along King Chhotu the Cheater's way. He could not fail to defeat King Motu the Magnificent now. King Chhotu would easily take possession of all the treasures King Motu had. King Chhotu was even promised a victory like never before. Only, as far as the opportunity was concerned, King Chhotu had to play his cards right and may be needed a little bit of luck on his side too!

But what was this opportunity for King Chhotu? Why had he not taken advantage of it before now and how did he make use of the opportunity?

CHAPTER 4 - Queen Lotu

Everybody liked King Motu the Magnificent except King Chhotu the Cheater.

One day King Chhotu was so upset just thinking about King Motu, that he flew into a jealous rage. All his servants saw this and went into hiding in case he took his anger out on them. That only made King Chhotu even more wild. He started kicking the walls of his palace.

Queen Lotu, the Duchess of Charming, was devoted to her husband King Chhotu. She heard all the noise King Chhotu was making. She came out to calm him down.

King Chhotu told her that the problem was King Motu. Queen Lotu listened patiently.

Using all the cunning that he had, King Chhotu painted a horrible horrible picture of King Motu as he talked. For instance, it was plain disgusting, yes really, how mean King Motu was to his people. He really did not deserve all the treasures he had taken from his people. King Chhotu said, with tears swelling in his eyes, that he would never find peace until King Motu's people were rescued from such a nasty king. And if that meant taking over King Motu's kingdom - and "er.. his treasures", well then so be it as he meekly said: "God help ME, I'd do it!" At this point, King Chhotu was so overcome with emotion, he sobbed silently in his sleeve.

Queen Lotu could not bear to see King Chhotu suffering like this, and to think, just because King Chhotu was such a softy, he was helplessly tormenting himself this way. Clearly King Motu "the Magnificent **MEANY**" had to go.

Queen Lotu wished she could help King Chhotu somehow. She thought very hard. Suddenly an idea came to her: "Of Course! Hey I can help you my noble King!"

"What? You mean to defeat King Motu?"

"Yes my King. To defeat King Motu utterly – but on one condition!!"

"WE would defeat and wipe King Motu off the face of this earth my Queen?"

"Yes absolutely without a trace being left of King Motu – but unfortunately, my dearest, there is one condition!!"

Although King Chhotu was overjoyed with the idea of defeating King Motu, he had a bad feeling in his heart about the condition of the Queen. He did not want to live to regret it. But may be, just may be, this was THE chance he had been praying for.

"In that case I would agree to anything, ANYTHING you say my darling Queen Lotu! Um, er, yes, what is your condition?"

CHAPTER 5 - An Unusual Condition

Queen Lotu hesitated as her instincts told her King Chhotu, who at times could be very controlling in nature, would not like the condition she had in mind.

So she gathered up her courage and said: "Ok. I need to go alone into Room #1 in my part of the palace - ALONE, that is the condition. NO ONE, not even you my King, would go with me or follow me."

Queen Lotu, the Duchess of Charming, was relieved she had blurted the condition out. King Chhotu had nothing to say! The condition was not that bad at all, he thought.

So Queen Lotu became more bold and pressed on: "No matter what sounds or noises you hear coming from that room or how long it takes me to get back, no one is to spy on me under any circumstances while I am in Room #1. NO sneaking up on me and NO SPYING!"

King Chhotu's curiosity was now aroused and he listened. The thought crossed his mind that may be he alone should be controlling whatever that was in Room #1 that could give him such a victory!

Queen Lotu continued: "If you DO NOT accept this condition, then I am sorry to tell you my sweet that you can forget about ever defeating King Motu. Everything bad that happens to you after that, well it will be your own fault."

"So, Queen Lotu my dear, let me see. What you are saying is that, whatever you do in that room, and you know that, of course, I.. why I will never, never ever, cross my heart... No never ever will I try to find out what it is! BUT . . . but that "whatever" h'm yeah whatever, whatever you do WILL

absolutely guarantee that King Motu "the Magnificent Meany", oh how I hate him, he will be totally totally totally wiped out. EVERYTHING he possesses will come to ME - No?"

Queen Lotu nodded her head and said:

"Yes guaranteed! Absolutely!"

King Chhotu readily agreed to the condition of Queen Lotu for now. Although he did not really like it one little bit. He told himself that he had no choice. His cunning mind started thinking about the victory over King Motu that would be his and what he would do with all the loot he will possess very soon. After all, his dreams were about to come true at long last!

Immediately Queen Lotu hurried to her part of the palace. She carefully closed all doors behind her until she came to a long open corridor. Room #1 was at the far end.



King Chhotu also made up his mind there and then to secretly follow Queen Lotu to Room #1 and get to the bottom of this mysterious room. Then,

later on he can decide how he would use whatever it was that was inside Room #1 to his own advantage.

King Chhotu was no longer angry. All the servants sighed with relief! Slowly one by one they came out from hiding.

After making sure that she had not been followed, Queen Lotu knocked three times on the door of Room #1.

There was a long silence. Then an angry, squeaky little voice said: "Who is disturbing my sleep at this ungodly hour?"

"Daddy, it's your daughter, Queen Lotu".

A few grumbles were heard from the room. Everything went quiet for a long while. Some loud snoring could be heard.

Queen Lotu waited patiently for a while and then knocked again. At last, as if waking up from the snooze, the squeaky voice spoke again: "Oh I can't be bothered to get down to let you in myself. For God's sake Left-Behind-Lotu, the door is not locked. Enter".

Queen Lotu was angry that her father had called her 'Left-Behind-Lotu' and kicked the door open to let herself in. She tried to control herself as she went inside and the heavy wooden door began to close slowly behind her.

King Chhotu ran down the corridor as fast as he could and was out of breath as he reached the only door to Room #1. The door was about to close. King Chhotu hurriedly drew his dagger and stuck its blade in the opening so that the door would not close completely. King Chhotu sighed with relief as the dagger held and stayed in place.

Surprisingly, King Chhotu had never met Queen Lotu's father or mother. King Chhotu had seen young Lotu for the first time when he had gone for a picnic in the forest that bordered his and King Motu's kingdoms. Afterwards he wanted to observe lions and other wild animals in the forest from a specially built tree-platform for the purpose. Lotu too had turned up on the tree-platform to see wild animals. King Chhotu had immediately fallen in love with her and she with him.

Lotu had said at the time that she was "an orphan" who had nobody in the world. Apparently, one day, a long time ago, her parents had just simply left her and went far far away "on business". They never returned. People cruelly called Lotu by the name "Left-Behind-Lotu". However, before leaving, the parents had made sure Lotu would be well looked after. Nobody knew except Lotu that they had left her a large sum of money to live on.

Lotu agreed to marry King Chhotu as they were so much in love. King Chhotu was delighted to hear from Lotu about the money she had. King Chhotu never gave a thought to her parents again after that especially as he would now have all of Lotu's fortune in his possession after the wedding.

So. The wedding had duly taken place as arranged and Left-Behind-Lotu became Queen Lotu, the Duchess of Charming.

King Chhotu the Cheater did not care much about Queen Lotu's father as long as he helped King Chhotu to get hold of all of King Motu's treasures! King Chhotu could not wait to look through the crack in the door.

CHAPTER 6 - Room #1

Inside Room #1, there was a large throne on which sat an old man with a long white beard. He looked tired and sleepy. The old man was only three feet tall. He wore a loose black cape with pockets in the front, just like a wizard.

King Chhotu saw that Queen Lotu was facing the throne.

"Daddy Dotu, I have come to ask you to do a bit of magic for me, like you used to do when I was a little girl, remember?"

The old man, Queen Lotu's father, was none other than the powerful Wizard Dotu. He did not answer Queen Lotu.

"My husband, King Chhotu, is constantly under threat by horrid King Motu the Magnificent 'Meany' who is our neighbour."

Wizard Dotu was irritated.

"King Motu? The Magnificent 'Meany'? Meany? What on earth.. Never heard of King Motu and don't care if I never do!!"

"But everybody likes King Motu except King Chhotu. Oh Daddy, folks do not know how dangerous, mean and evil King Motu really is. He uses his powers to do unforgivable things to his people. He is the lowest of the low! I am sure he plans to take over and rule the world!! He even puts spells on people!"

"Spells you say Lotu? Darn it, actual magic spells!"

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

