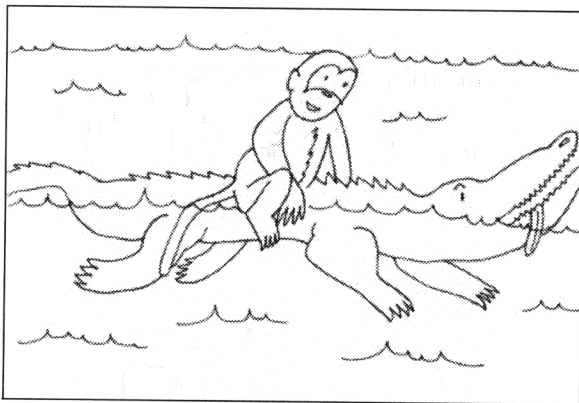


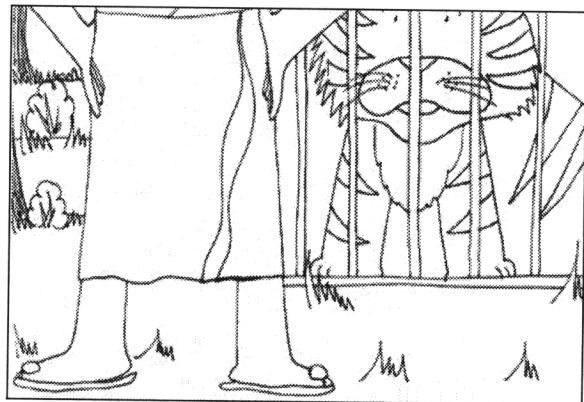
# The Moral of the Story

## *Jataka Tales from India and Nepal*

A folktale-based curriculum unit  
for beginning English Language Learners



*The Monkey and the Crocodile*



*The Tiger and the Brahmin*

### This unit includes:

- Black-and-white copy masters for creating your own picturebooks
- Sites with hyper-linked picture dictionaries and full-color illustrations
  - Geographical and cultural connections with realia
  - Pre-reading, reading and post-reading activities
    - Culminating project ideas and suggestions

by Lori Langer de Ramirez, Ed.D.

# The Moral of the Story

## *Jataka Tales from India and Nepal*

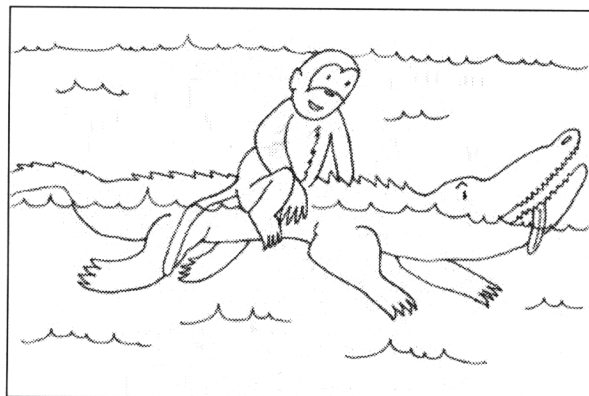
### Curriculum Suggestions



## Introduction

The stories in this unit are *jataka* tales (stories based on the past lives of the Buddha). Versions of these stories also appear in Sanskrit in the *Panchatantra*, a collection of animal stories with morals and lessons.


The main themes that might be explored in a curriculum unit linked to these tales are: right and wrong, selfishness, honesty, wisdom, trust, fairness, and India and Nepal.



In "**The Monkey and the Crocodile**" (India), the crocodile invites the monkey to dinner. When the crocodile admits that the monkey is not coming to *eat* dinner, but *be* dinner, the monkey devises a plan to escape his fate.



In "**The Tiger and the Brahmin**" (Nepal), the tiger is rescued from a cage by the Brahmin. When the tiger threatens to eat him, they decide to bring their case to a jury of their peers. The fox passes the final judgement.

*Note:* While all activities can be done with the materials provided in this book, many are linked to a corresponding webpage. The  symbol indicates the Internet address at which these alternate materials may be found.



# Curriculum

## Story #1: "The Monkey and the Crocodile" (India)



### **Vocabulary:**

1. Copy the vocabulary cards onto card stock and cut each one out. Have students (or pairs of students) illustrate each vocabulary word in the space provided (Note: there are blank vocabulary cards available for you to add vocabulary words to the list if needed).

confess (to): to admit to something

conscience (a/the): feelings about right and wrong

grumbling: making rumbling noises

invitation (an/the): an offer to join in an activity

respond (to): to answer

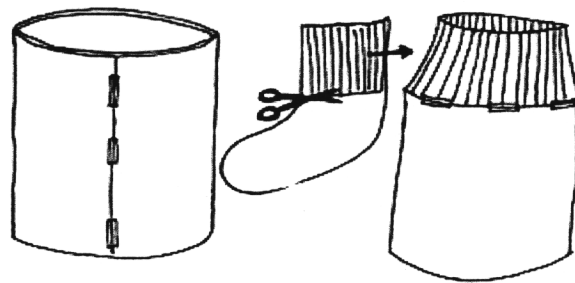
swamp (a/the): a muddy, water-filled area

terrified: very scared

2. Pre-teach the vocabulary by using a magic box\*.
  - Place the vocabulary cards into the magic box.
  - Ask for volunteers to pull the cards from the magic box.
  - As each card is pulled from the box, ask students to act out the vocabulary word.

#### **\*How to make a magic box:**

Cover an oatmeal container or other cylindrical container with colored or contact paper. Attach the top part of a large sock or leg warmer to the top portion of the container. Decorate.



### **Pre-reading activities:**

1. Have students read the introduction and discuss the origin of the story.



**Weblink:** You can have students read the introduction on the website:

[www.miscositas.com/monkey.html](http://www.miscositas.com/monkey.html)


2. Divide the students into pair groups. Provide each pair with three black-and-white illustrations and three text pages from the story. Ask the students to try to match the text with the pictures.



### **Reading:**

Copy the story text and illustrations for your students. You can create a booklet with the pages by photocopying the text and pictures so that the image is on the left and the story on the right.



**Weblink:** You can have students read the story on the website: [www.miscositas.com/monkey1.html](http://www.miscositas.com/monkey1.html)  
(click  through the story)

### **The MONKEY and the CROCODILE Story text** **(vocabulary words are underlined)**

1. There once was a monkey who lived happily by the edge of a great swamp. A crocodile lived on a small island in the middle of that same swamp. Day after day, the crocodile would watch the monkey and think about what a tasty meal he would make.
2. One day the crocodile swam over to the monkey and said: "Mr. Monkey, you look thirsty. I would like to invite you to my home for some tea." / "What a lovely invitation!" replied the monkey. "I'd love to, but I can't swim."
3. "Don't worry at all about that. You can ride safely on my back," responded the crocodile. So the monkey jumped on the crocodile's back and off they went.
4. After a few minutes, the crocodile felt guilty about his trick and decided to confess his crime before eating the monkey. "At least I'll be able to eat my monkey lunch with a clear conscience," he thought. / "Mr. Monkey, I must tell you that as soon as we reach my island, I plan to eat you. I think I'll start with the tastiest part first – your monkey heart!"
5. Terrified by these words, the monkey thought of a quick response: "My heart? Oh, Mr. Crocodile, why didn't you tell me? I never leave home with my heart! It's back home hidden in a tree. If you like, we can go back and I'll get it for you."

6. Greedy for the tasty heart, the crocodile agreed and swam back to land. As soon as they reached the shore, the monkey jumped off the crocodile's back and ran up the tree to safety. The crocodile realized he'd been tricked and swam away with his stomach grumbling.



### **Post-reading activities:**

1. Check for understanding by asking comprehension questions:
  - Why does the crocodile invite the monkey to his home?  
*[he was hungry and wanted to eat the monkey]*
  - Why does the monkey have to ride on the crocodile's back?  
*[the monkey doesn't know how to swim]*
  - How does the monkey get back to land?  
*[he tells the crocodile that he left his heart on land]*
2. Discuss the story with students by asking their opinions about the events:
  - Is the crocodile a good or bad character? Why?
  - Why do you think that the crocodile told the monkey about his plans?
  - Are there any other ways that the monkey might have escaped? Brainstorm a few ideas with a partner.

## **Story #2: "The Tiger and the Brahmin" (Nepal)**



### **Vocabulary:**

1. Copy the vocabulary cards onto card stock and cut each one out. Have students (or pairs of students) illustrate each vocabulary word in the space provided (Note: there are blank vocabulary cards available for you to add vocabulary words to the list if needed).

Brahmin: a person of the priestly caste of India and Nepal

deserve (to): to earn the right

judge (to): to express your opinion on a topic

offended: to have hurt feelings

opinion (an/the): someone's ideas about a subject

suffer (to): to have a bad time

witness (a/the): someone who saw an event happen

2. Pre-teach the vocabulary by using the cards as flash cards.



### ***Pre-reading activities:***

1. Have students read the introduction and discuss the origin of the story.



**Weblink:** *You can have students read the introduction on the website:*

[www.miscositas.com/tiger.html](http://www.miscositas.com/tiger.html)

2. Divide students into small groups. Have the students predict the story by arranging the black-and-white illustrations into the correct order. Ask one member of each group to tell their version of the story to the class. Vote on whose version of the story might be right.



### ***Reading:***

Copy the story text and illustrations for your students. You can create a booklet with the pages by photocopying the text and pictures so that the image is on the left and the story on the right.



**Weblink:** *You can have students read the story on the website: [www.miscositas.com/tiger1.html](http://www.miscositas.com/tiger1.html)*

*(click ⌨ through the story)*

### **The TIGER and the BRAHMIN Story text (vocabulary words are underlined)**

1. A Brahmin was walking through the forest when he came upon a tiger trapped in a cage. "Oh, good Brahmin," cried the tiger,

"Please help me out of this trap!" / Being a kind man, the Brahmin helped the tiger out of the cage.

2. The tiger, who had been trapped for days and was very hungry, growled at the Brahmin and said: "Thank you for your help, but now I will eat you. It's nothing personal, you know!" / "Wait!" the Brahmin replied, "This is not fair at all. I saved your life and now you will take mine? Let's ask some witnesses to judge the case."
3. The tiger thought he'd win his case, so he allowed the Brahmin to ask for three opinions. First they asked the tree to judge the case. The Brahmin said: "I saved the tiger's life. Should he have the right to eat me?" / "Definitely yes!" the tree answered, "You men are always cutting us trees down. You deserve to suffer!"
4. Next they asked the donkey to judge the case. The Brahmin said: "I saved the tiger's life. Should he have the right to eat me?" / "Absolutely yes!" the donkey answered, "You men are always making us donkeys do all the hard work. You deserve to suffer!"
5. Finally they asked the fox to judge the case. The Brahmin said: "I saved the tiger's life. Should he have the right to eat me?" / "Hmmm," the fox thought for a while. "I'm not sure. This is a tough case. First of all, I just can't believe that such a big tiger fit into such a small cage!"
6. The tiger thought that the fox was calling him a liar and was very offended. So the tiger walked back into the cage to prove the fox wrong. When the tiger was inside, the fox quickly locked the door behind him. / "There," said the fox. "Everything is back to the beginning. Brahmin, think twice about opening that door again!"

## ? **Post-reading activities:**

1. Check for understanding by asking comprehension questions:

- Why did the tiger say he would eat the Brahmin?  
*[because the tiger had not eaten for days and was very hungry]*
- Why did the tree and the donkey think that the tiger should eat the Brahmin?  
*[because humans always mistreat them]*
- How did the fox solve the case?  
*[he tricked the tiger into going back into the cage]*

2. Discuss the story with students:

- Was the tiger right to want to eat the Brahmin?

- Do you think that the tree and the donkey have a right to be angry with the Brahmin? Why or why not?
- Did the fox do the right thing by tricking the tiger to get back into the cage? Why or why not?



### ***Culminating activity suggestions:***

1. Have each student choose four black-line drawings from their favorite story. Ask them to color them and arrange them onto a piece of oak tag to create their own short story. After a rough draft on scrap paper, they can write their text directly onto the oak tag below the drawings and put a title to the story above.
2. Ask students to find other moral tales from India and Nepal. Have students tell their story to younger students in the school or community.
3. Ask students to find other moral tales from around the world (or from their culture/country of origin). Have a “tell-off” in which students tell their stories to the class. Using a floor map\* of the world, have students tell their story standing on their story’s area (town, city, state, etc.) of origin.
4. Have students write and illustrate original moral tales.
5. Take a “fantasy trip” to the countries of origin of the two stories. Use the realia provided as you “visit” sites of interest.



**Weblink:** You can have students view the realia on the website: [www.miscositas.com/indiarealia.html](http://www.miscositas.com/indiarealia.html) and [www.miscositas.com/nepalrealia.html](http://www.miscositas.com/nepalrealia.html)

### **\*How to make a floor map**

*Using a shower curtain liner, trace the shape of the Indian sub-continent freehand, or project the image onto the sheet using an overhead projector and trace. Use permanent markers!*





# Vocabulary Cards

## VOCABULARY CARDS – “*The Moral of the Story*”

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b><u>confess (to):</u></b><br/>to admit to something</p> <p>“The Monkey and the Crocodile”</p> | <p><b><u>conscience:</u></b><br/>feelings about right and wrong</p> <p>“The Monkey and the Crocodile”</p>           |
| <p><b><u>grumbling:</u></b><br/>making rumbling noises</p> <p>“The Monkey and the Crocodile”</p>   | <p><b><u>invitation (an/the):</u></b><br/>an offer to join in an activity</p> <p>“The Monkey and the Crocodile”</p> |
| <p><b><u>respond (to):</u></b><br/>to answer</p> <p>“The Monkey and the Crocodile”</p>             | <p><b><u>swamp (a/the):</u></b><br/>a muddy, water-filled area</p> <p>“The Monkey and the Crocodile”</p>            |
| <p><b><u>terrified:</u></b><br/>very scared</p> <p>“The Monkey and the Crocodile”</p>              | <p>“The Monkey and the Crocodile”</p>   |

## VOCABULARY CARDS – “The Moral of the Story”

**Brahmin**: a person of the priestly caste of India and Nepal

**deserve (to)**:  
to earn the right

“The Tiger and the Brahmin”

“The Tiger and the Brahmin”

**judge (to)**: to express your opinion about a topic

**offended**:  
to have hurt feelings

“The Tiger and the Brahmin”

“The Tiger and the Brahmin”

**opinion (an/the)**:  
someone’s ideas about a subject

**suffer (to)**:  
to have a bad time

“The Tiger and the Brahmin”

“The Tiger and the Brahmin”

**witness (a/the)**:  
someone who saw an event happen

“The Tiger and the Brahmin”

“The Tiger and the Brahmin”

# Realia

## REALIA from India

For color versions of this realia,  
plus an interactive game for your students, visit:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/~ljl17/indiarealia.html>



## REALIA from India

For color versions of this realia,  
plus an interactive game for your students, visit:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/~ljl17/indiarealia.html>

| <b>PEPSI</b>                   |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Peserate Dosai .....           | 24.00 |
| MLA Peserate Dosai .....       | 24.00 |
| Uppu Puli Dosai .....          | 24.00 |
| Banana Dosai .....             | 24.00 |
| Vellari Dosai .....            | 24.00 |
| Sambar Dosai .....             | 24.00 |
| Sweet Rava Dosai .....         | 24.00 |
| Panchavarna Dosai .....        | 24.00 |
| Sangeetha's Spl. Dosai .....   | 24.00 |
| Tomato Capicum Oothappam ..... | 24.00 |
| Vegetable Oothappam .....      | 24.00 |
| Peas Oothappam .....           | 24.00 |
| Fine Taste Oothappam .....     | 24.00 |
| Dry Fruit Oothappam .....      | 24.00 |
| Plain Oothappam .....          | 24.00 |
| Podi Oothappam .....           | 24.00 |
| Onion Oothappam .....          | 24.00 |
| Panchavarna Oothappam .....    | 24.00 |
| Mini Paper Masala Dosai .....  | 24.00 |
| Tomato Omlete Dosai .....      | 24.00 |

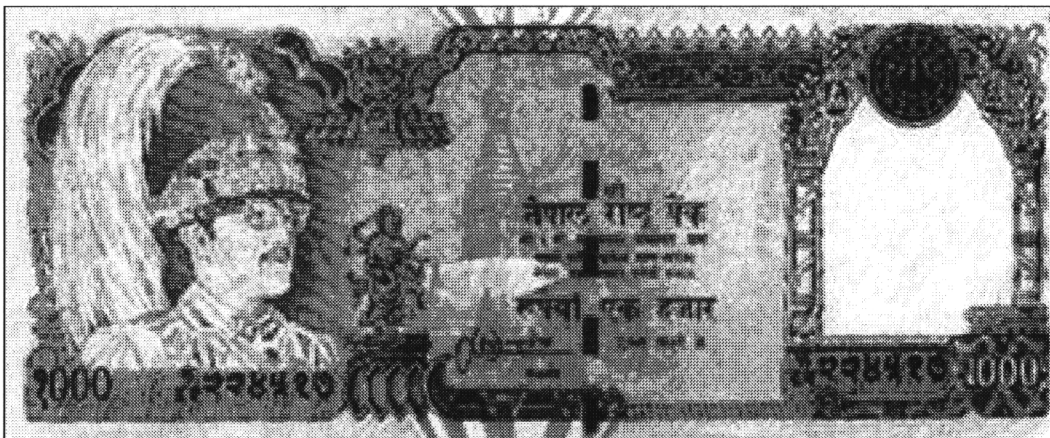
  

| <b>சங்கீதா</b>   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Sangeetha's</b>   |   |
| <b>DOSA DINER</b>  |   |
| No. 15, 3rd Cross Road,<br>R.A. Puram, Chennai - 600 028.<br>☎: 4617447/7557/7667  |   |
| <b>Rs. 89.00</b><br><b>Dosa Diner Buffet</b><br>Dosa Varieties + Goli Baji +<br>Hot Jamoon + <b>PEPSI</b><br>(Please No Sharing) (No Parcel) |  |
| <b>Rs. 24.00</b><br><b>One Plate Dosa -2 pcs</b><br>+<br><b>PEPSI</b>  |   |



## REALIA from Nepal

For color versions of this realia, plus an interactive game for your students, visit: <http://www.columbia.edu/~ljl17/nepalrealia.html>



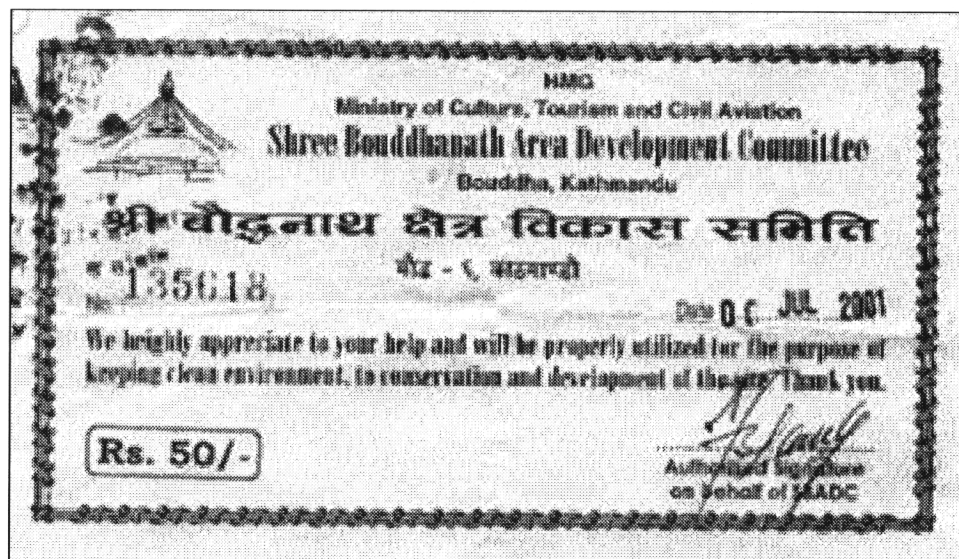
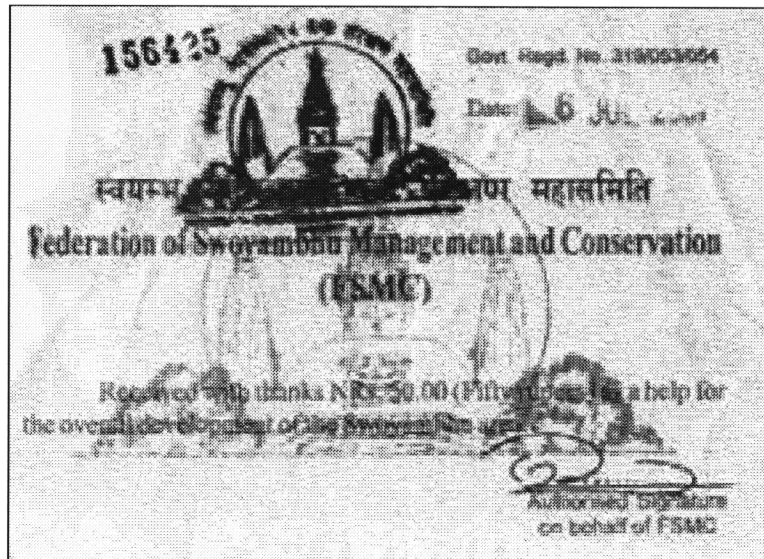
| Economy Class                    |                              | BOARDING PASS                   |                      |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| NAME<br><input type="text"/>     |                              |                                 |                      |
| FROM<br><input type="text"/>     | TO<br><input type="text"/>   | CARRIER<br><input type="text"/> |                      |
| FLIGHT<br><input type="text"/>   | DATE<br><input type="text"/> | SEAT<br><input type="text"/>    | <input type="text"/> |
| BOARDING<br><input type="text"/> |                              | <input type="text"/>            |                      |
| TIME<br><input type="text"/>     |                              | GATE<br><input type="text"/>    |                      |

**Royal Nepal Airlines**



## REALIA from Nepal

For color versions of this realia, plus an interactive game for your students, visit: <http://www.columbia.edu/~ljl17/nepalrealia.html>



# Copymasters and Color Images



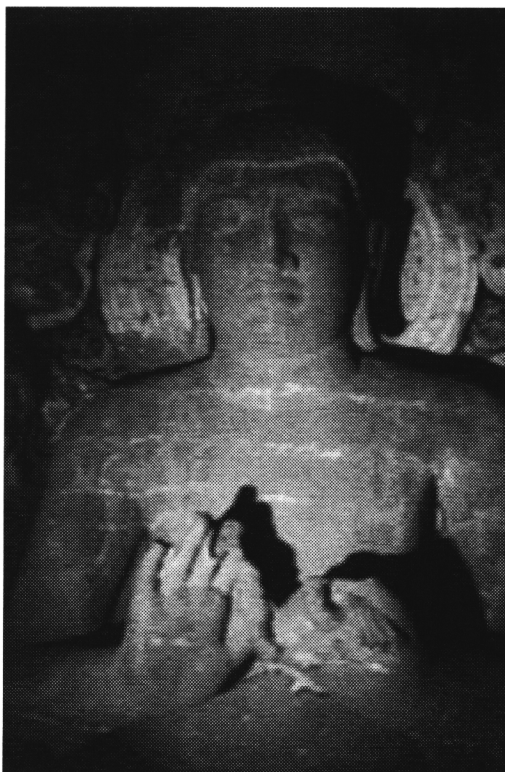
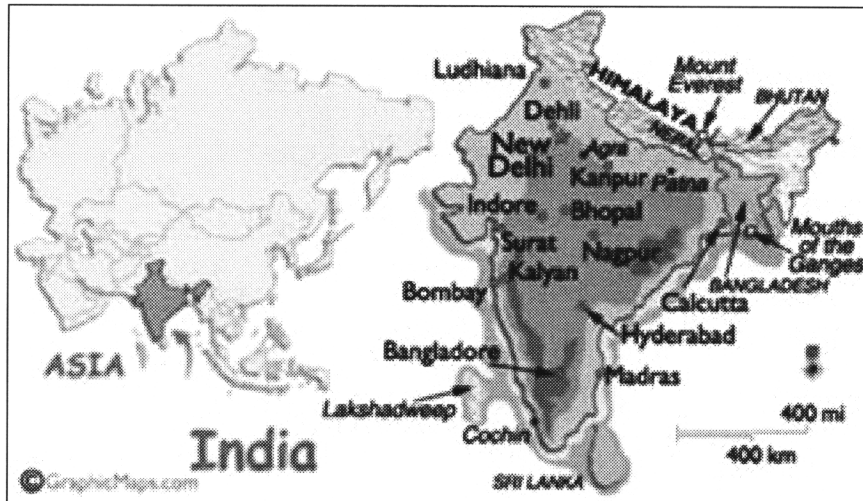
# The Monkey and the Crocodile

*A Jataka tale from India*

## Introduction:

### "The Monkey and the Crocodile"

This story is an old folktale from India.

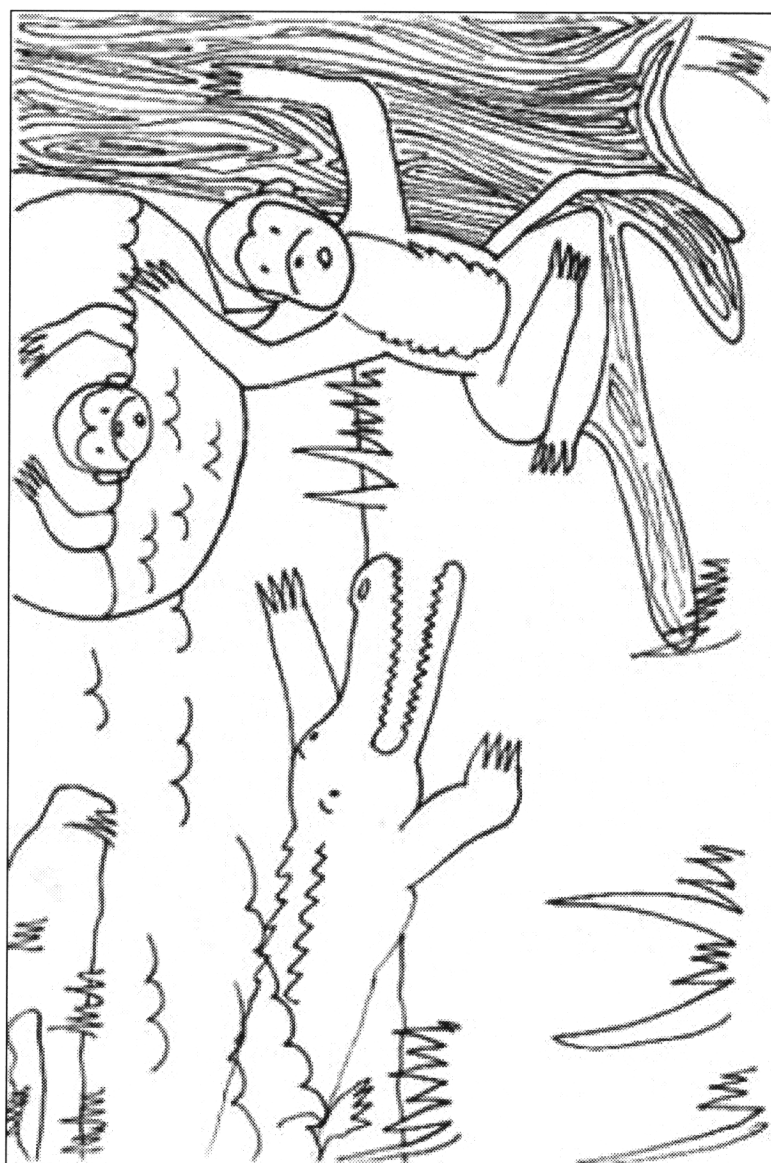


It is a *jataka* tale (a story about one of the Buddha's past lives). Can you tell which character is the Buddha in the story?



There once was a monkey who lived happily by the edge of a great swamp. A crocodile lived on a small island in the middle of that same swamp. Day after day, the crocodile would watch the monkey and think about what a tasty meal he would make.

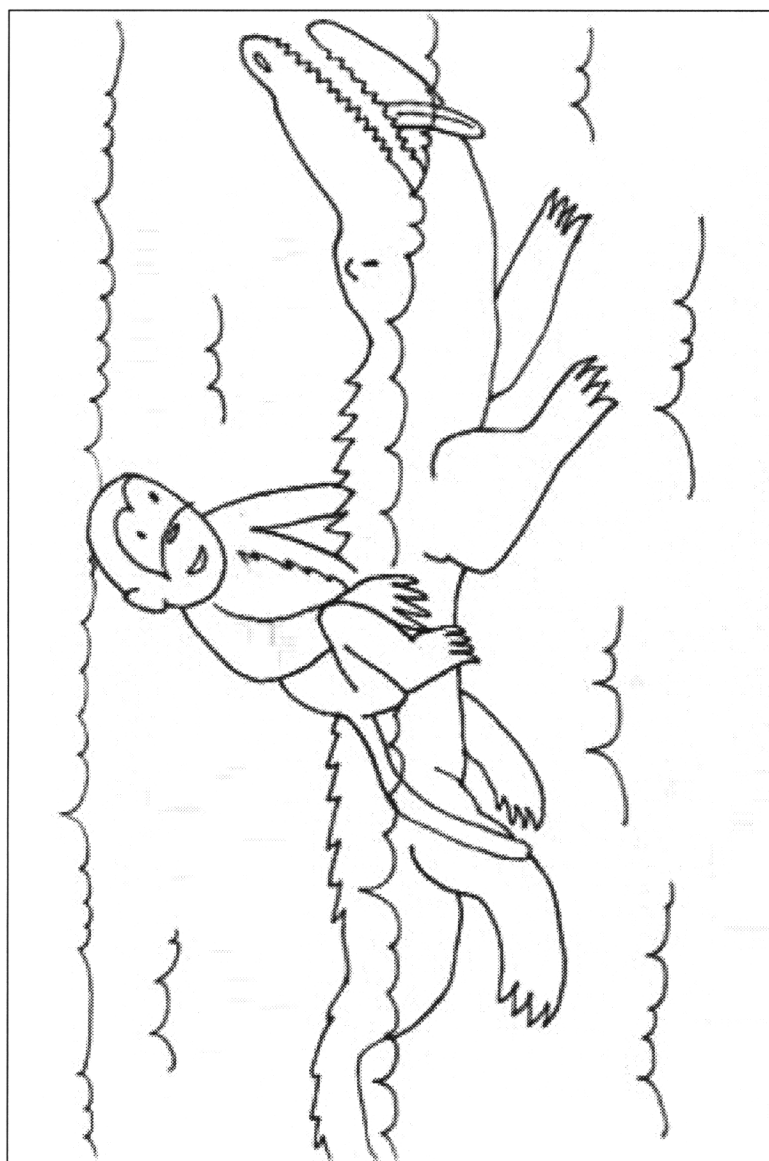




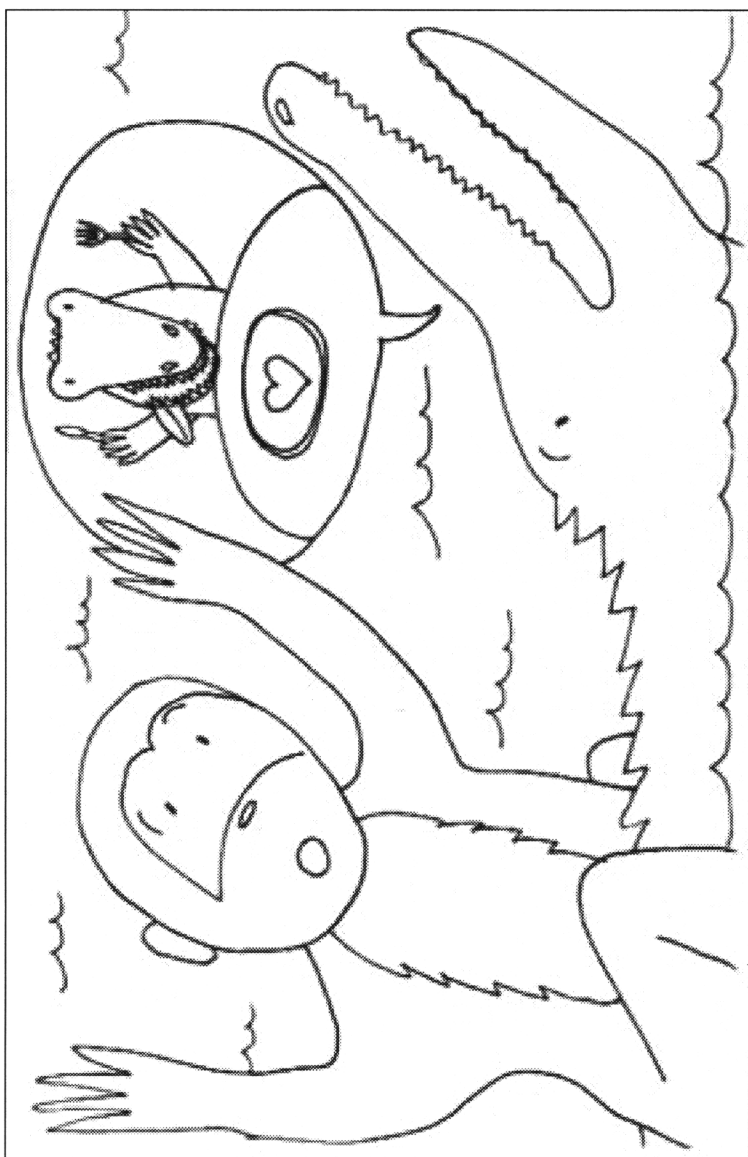


One day the crocodile swam over to the monkey and said: "Mr. Monkey, you look thirsty. I would like to invite you to my home for some tea."

"What a lovely invitation!" replied the monkey. "I'd love to, but I can't swim."

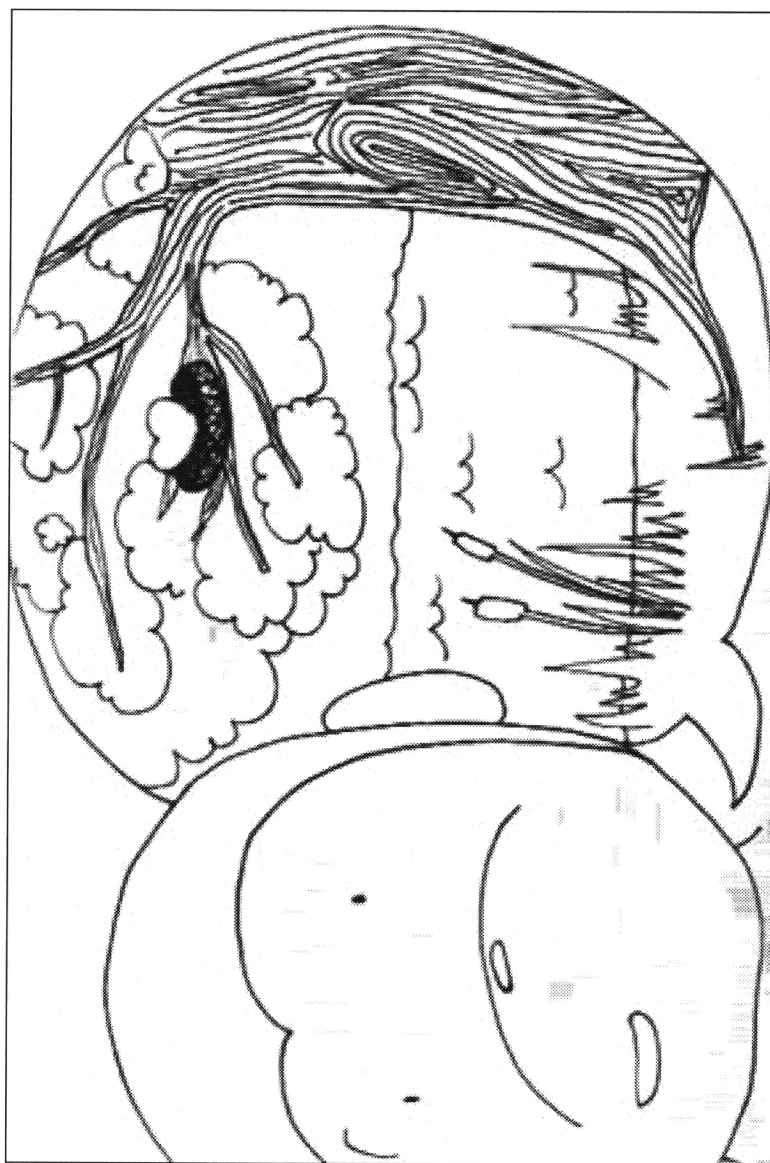


"Don't worry at all about that. You can ride safely on my back," responded the crocodile. So the monkey jumped on the crocodile's back and off they went.



After a few minutes, the crocodile felt guilty about his trick and decided to confess his crime before eating the monkey. "At least I'll be able to eat my monkey lunch with a clear conscience," he thought.

"Mr. Monkey, I must tell you that as soon as we reach my island, I plan to eat you. I think I'll start with the tastiest part first — your monkey heart!"





Terrified by these words, the monkey thought of a quick response: "My heart? Oh, Mr. Crocodile, why didn't you tell me? I never leave home with my heart! It's back home hidden in a tree. If you like, we can go back and I'll get it for you."





Greedy for the tasty heart, the crocodile agreed and swam back to land. As soon as they reached the shore, the monkey jumped off the crocodile's back and ran up the tree to safety. The crocodile realized he'd been tricked and swam away with his stomach grumbling.



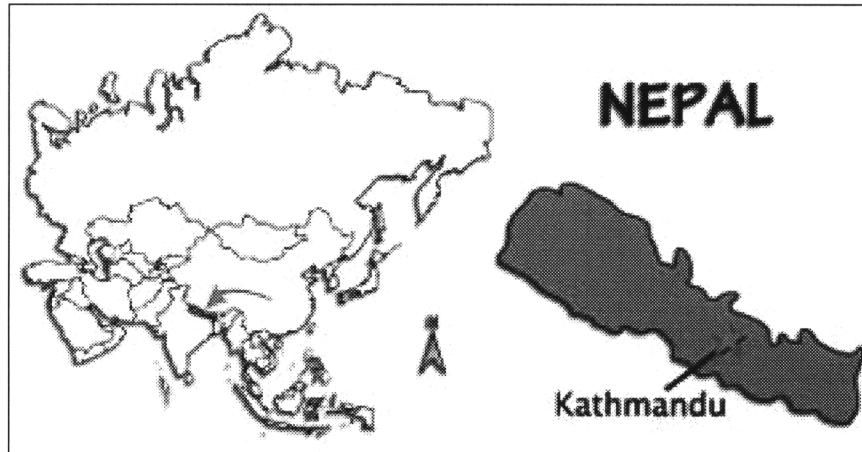
# The Tiger and the Brahmin

*A Jataka tale from Nepal*

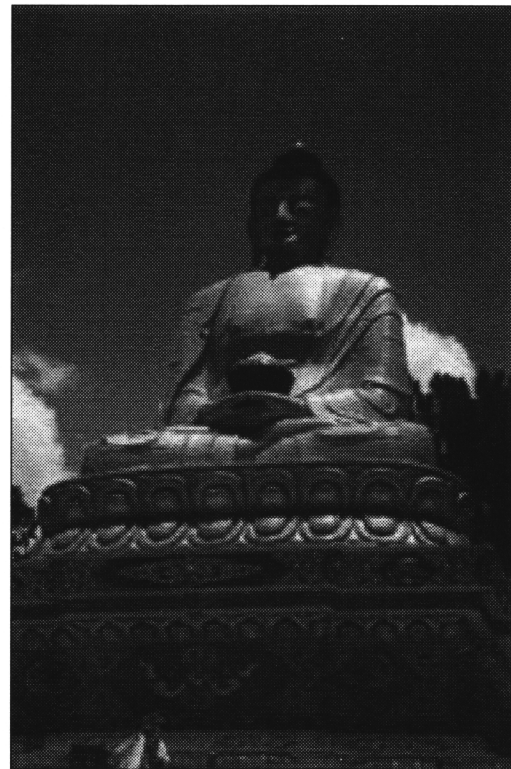
## Introduction:

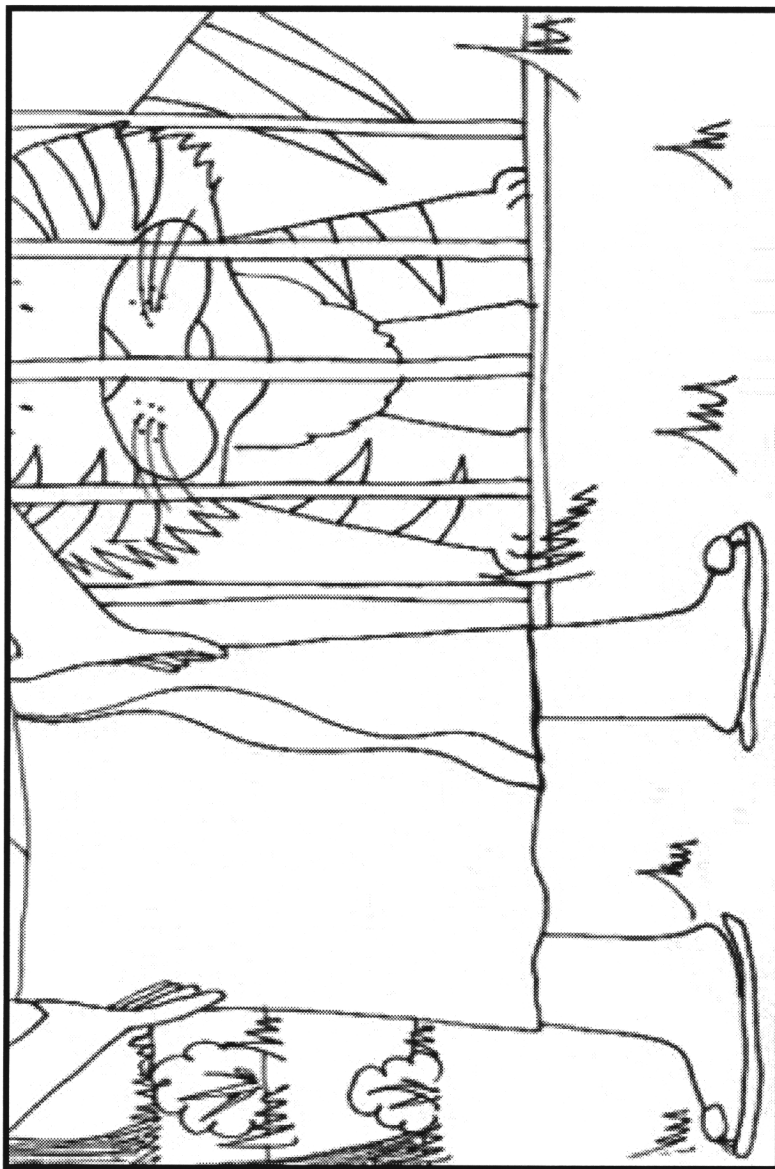
### "The Tiger and the Brahmin"

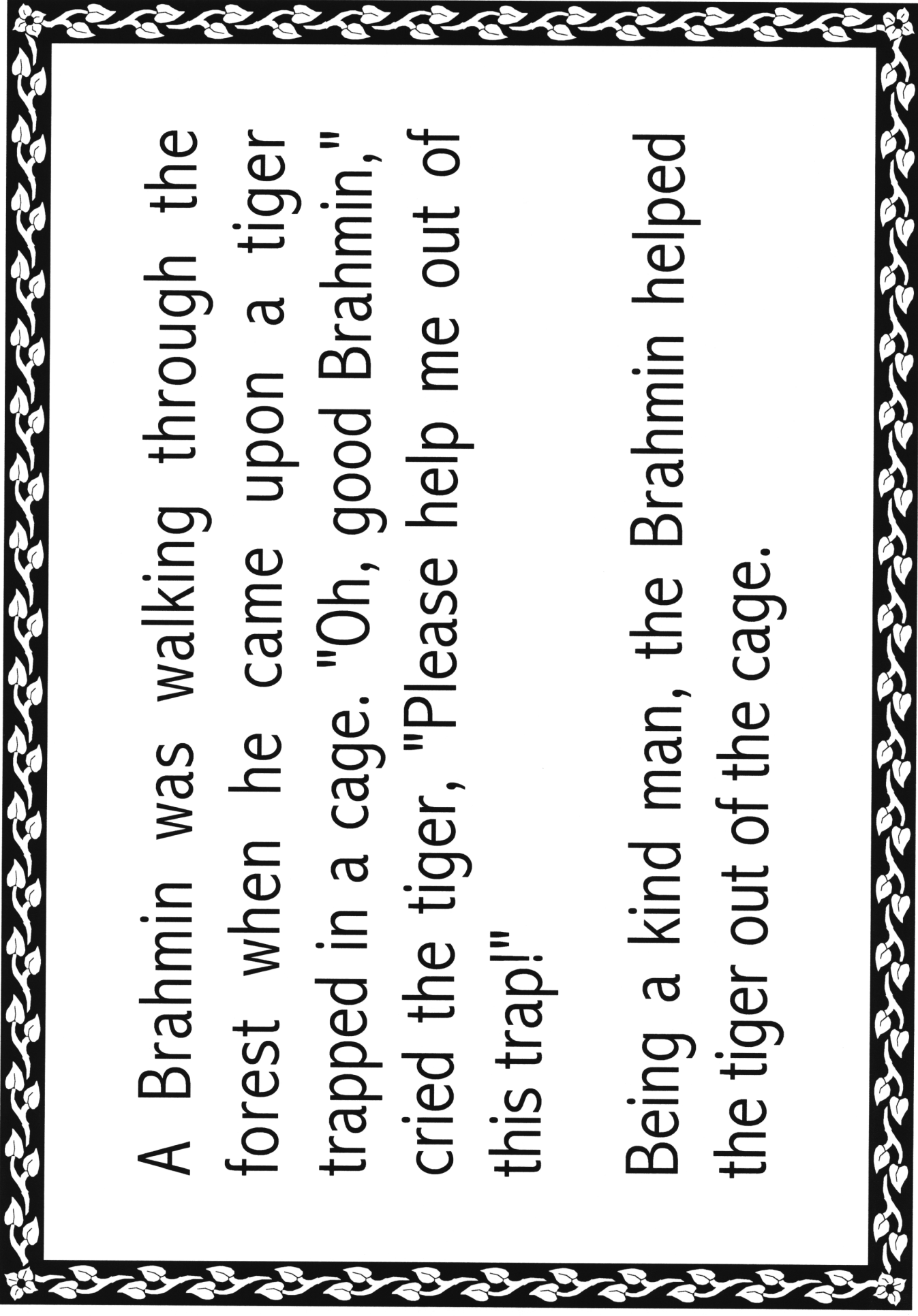
This story is an old folktale from Nepal.



This is another  
*jataka* tale.  
The Buddha  
(Siddhartha Gautama)  
was born in Nepal  
in Kapilavastu.  
Can you tell which  
character is the  
Buddha in the story?



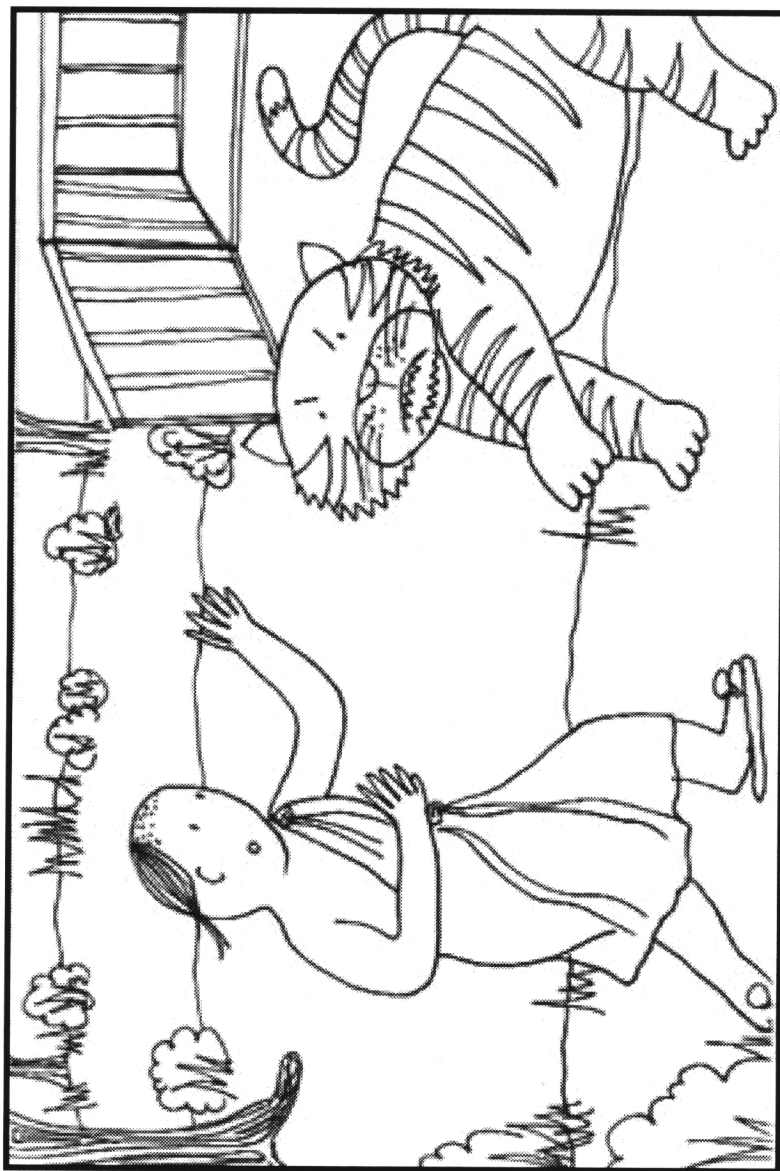




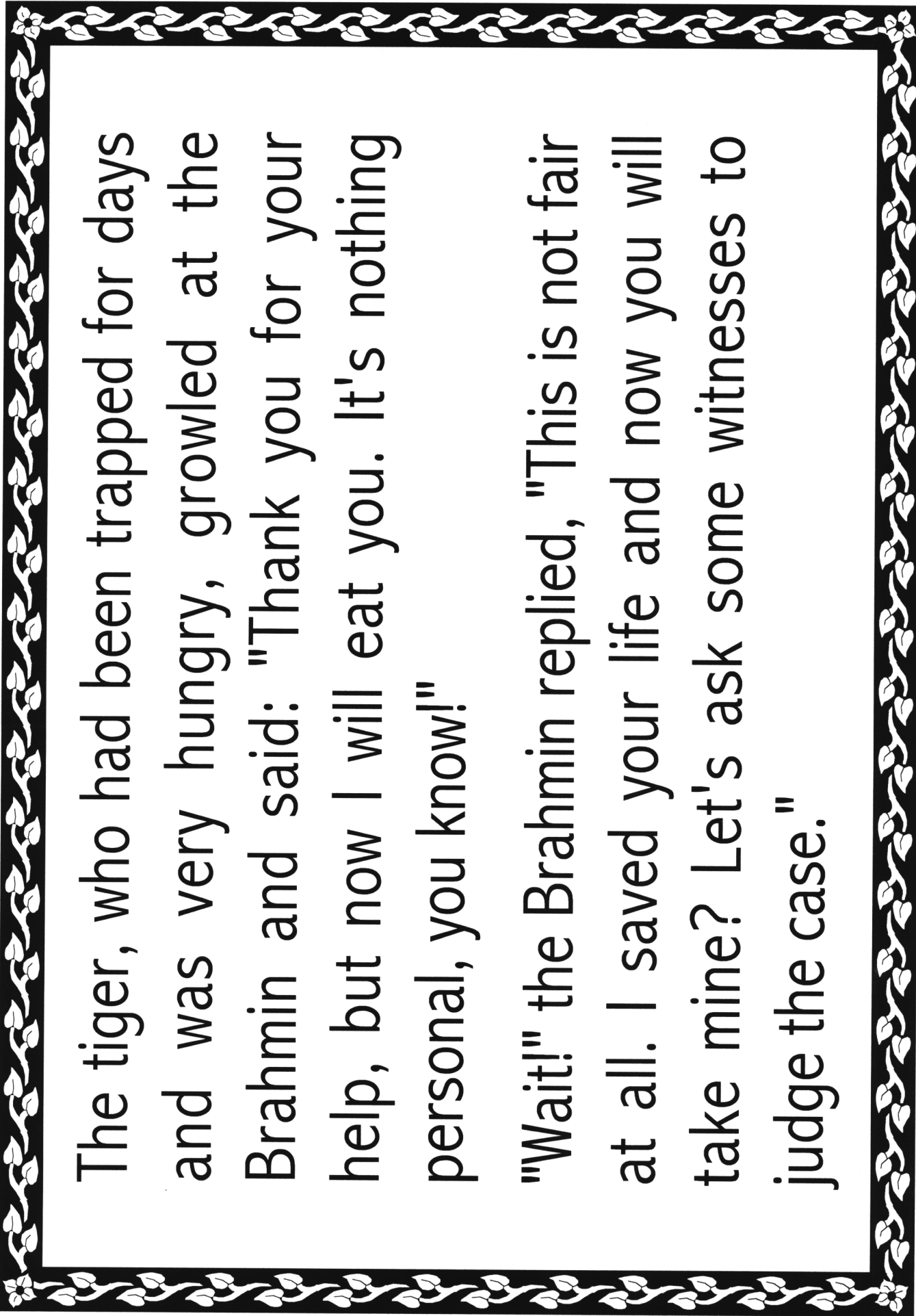
A Brahmin was walking through the forest when he came upon a tiger trapped in a cage. "Oh, good Brahmin," cried the tiger, "Please help me out of this trap!"

Being a kind man, the Brahmin helped the tiger out of the cage.



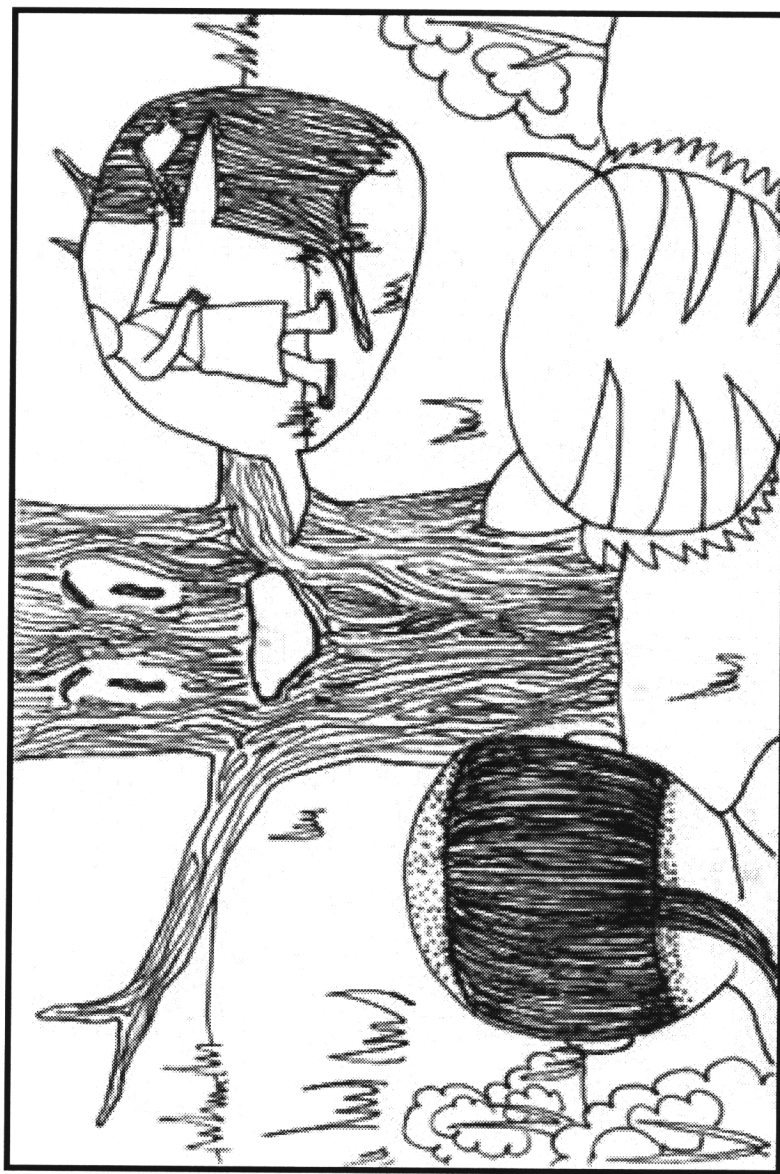


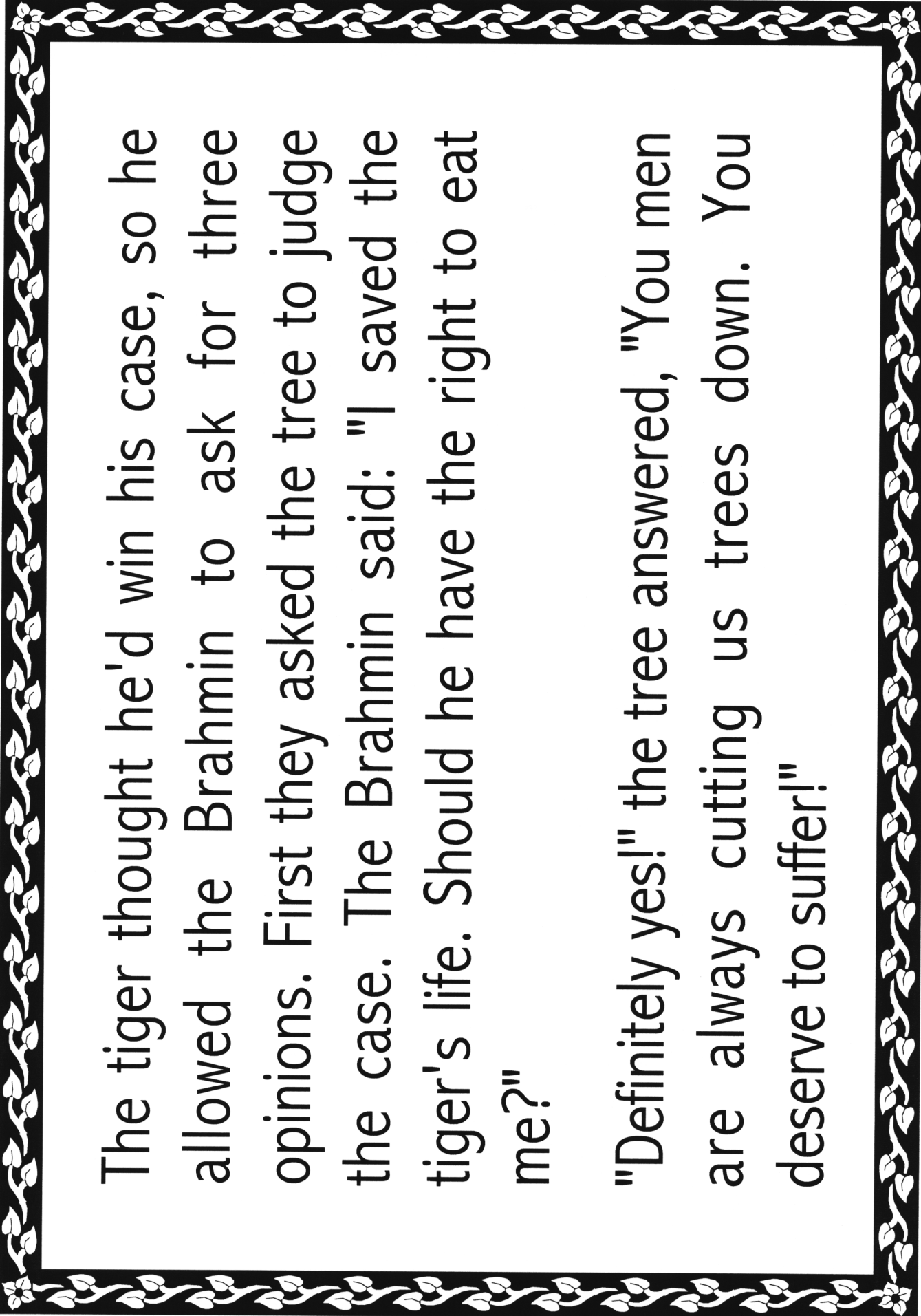




The tiger, who had been trapped for days and was very hungry, growled at the Brahmin and said: "Thank you for your help, but now I will eat you. It's nothing personal, you know!"

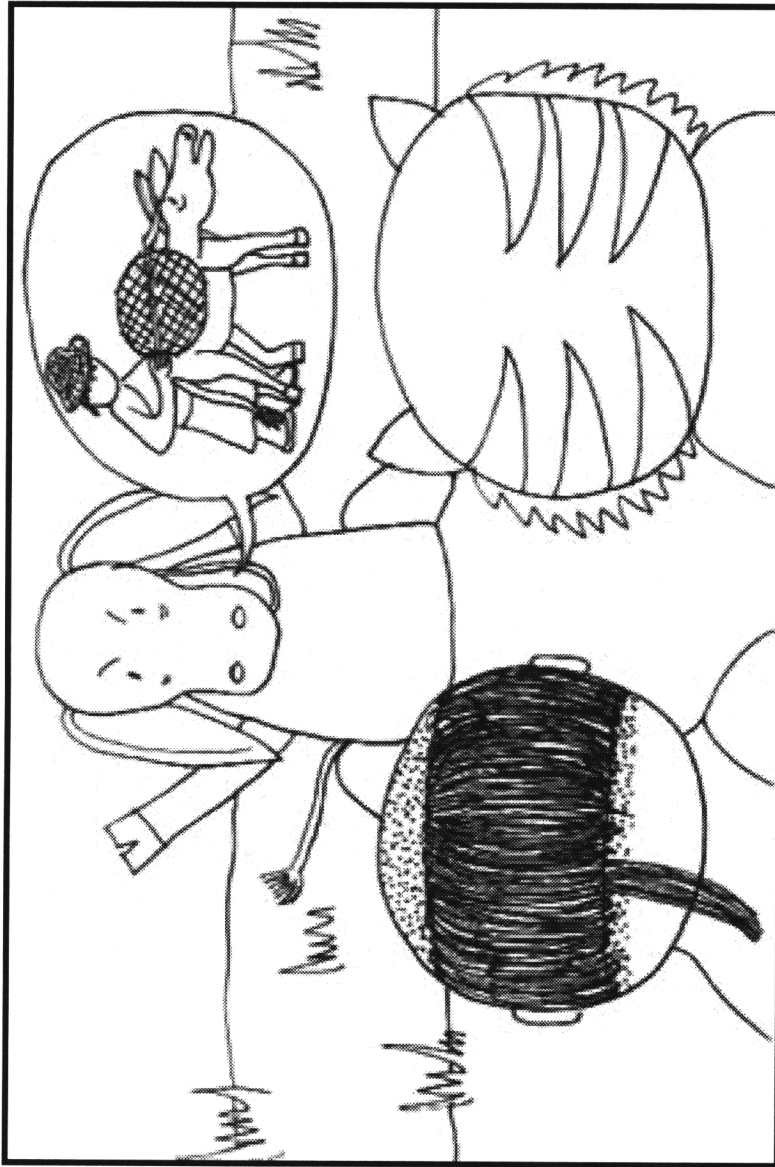
"Wait!" the Brahmin replied, "This is not fair at all. I saved your life and now you will take mine? Let's ask some witnesses to judge the case."

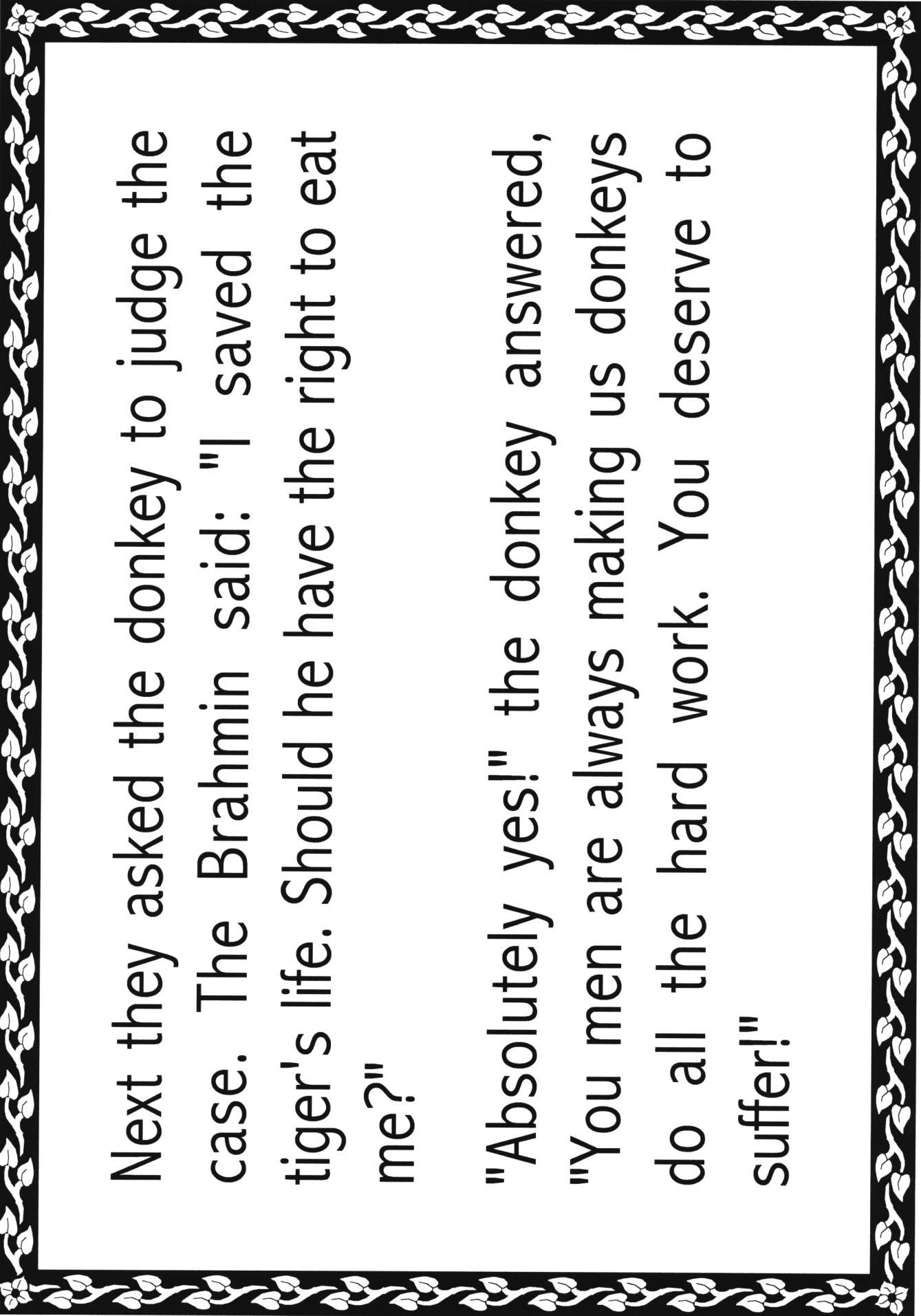




The tiger thought he'd win his case, so he allowed the Brahmin to ask for three opinions. First they asked the tree to judge the case. The Brahmin said: "I saved the tiger's life. Should he have the right to eat me?"

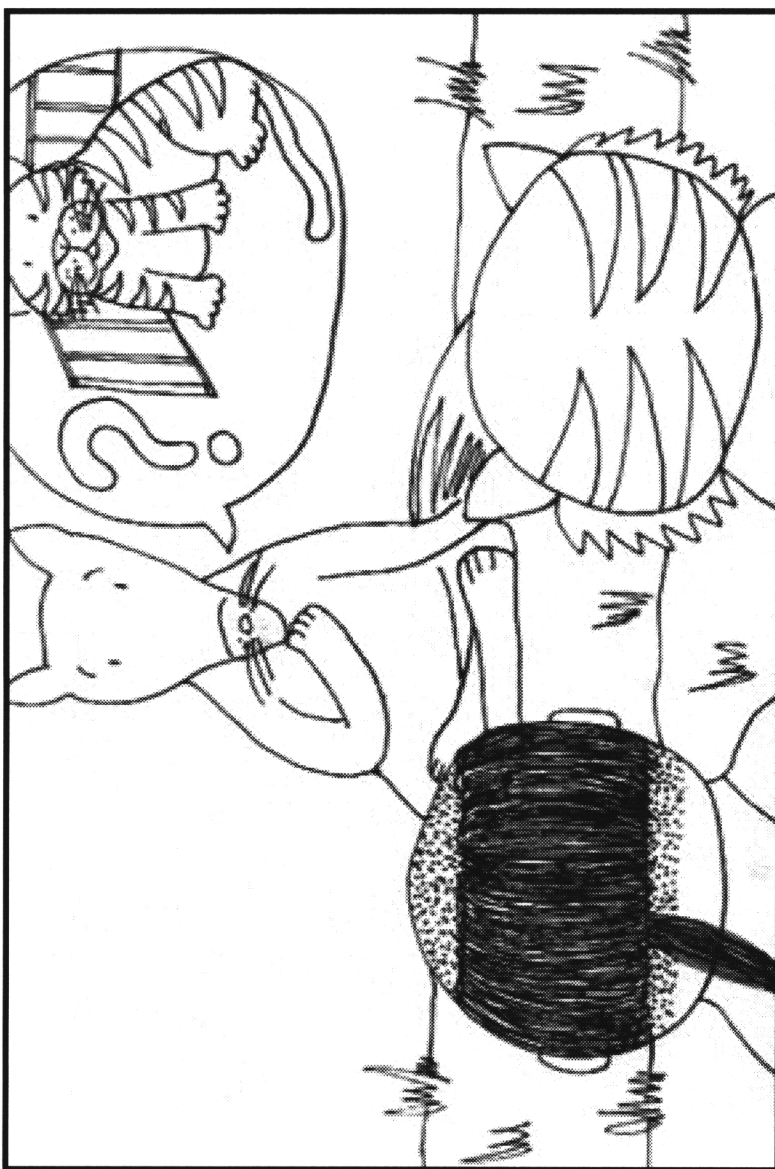
"Definitely yes!" the tree answered, "You men are always cutting us trees down. You deserve to suffer!"

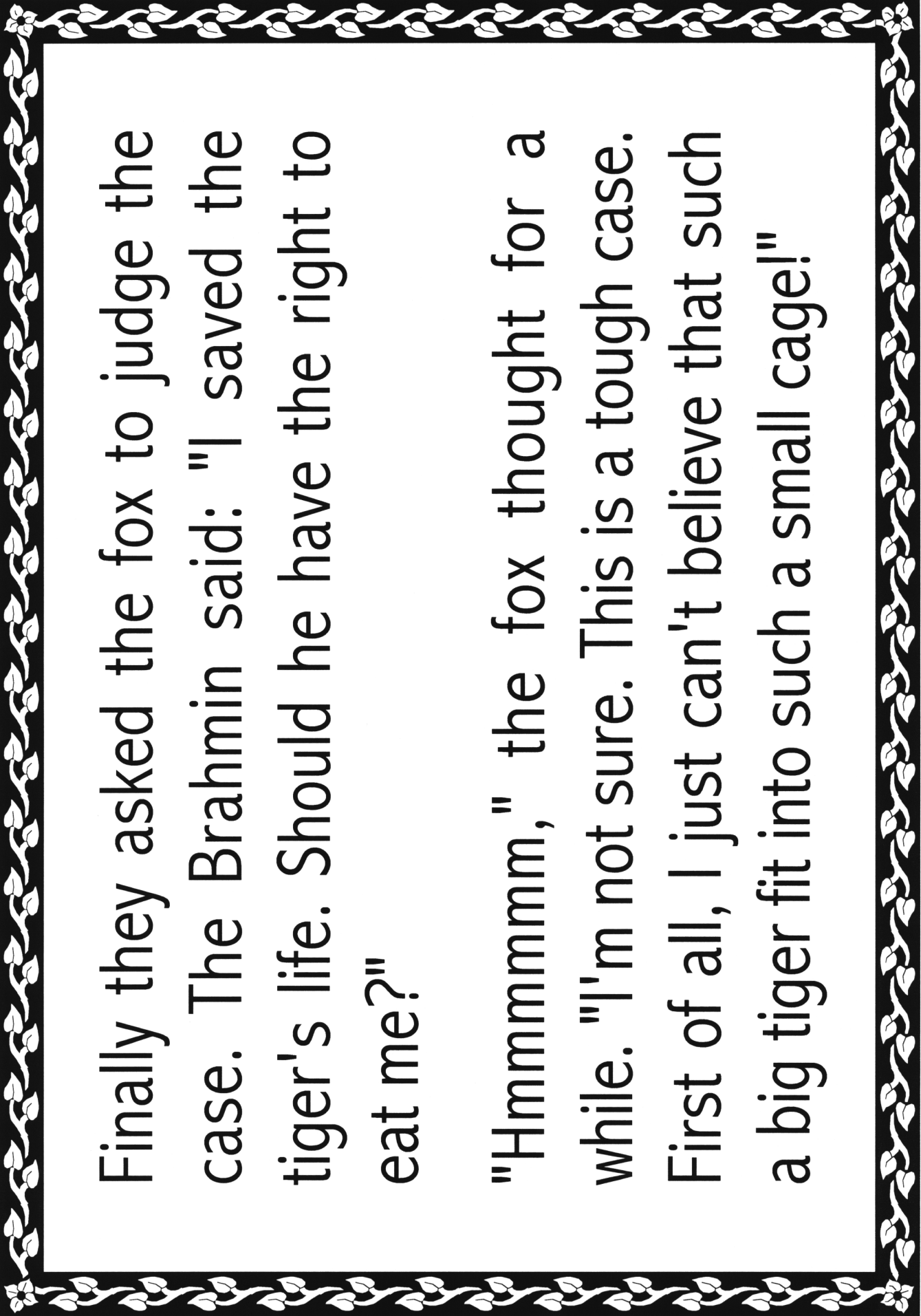




Next they asked the donkey to judge the case. The Brahmin said: "I saved the tiger's life. Should he have the right to eat me?"

"Absolutely yes!" the donkey answered,  
"You men are always making us donkeys do all the hard work. You deserve to suffer!"

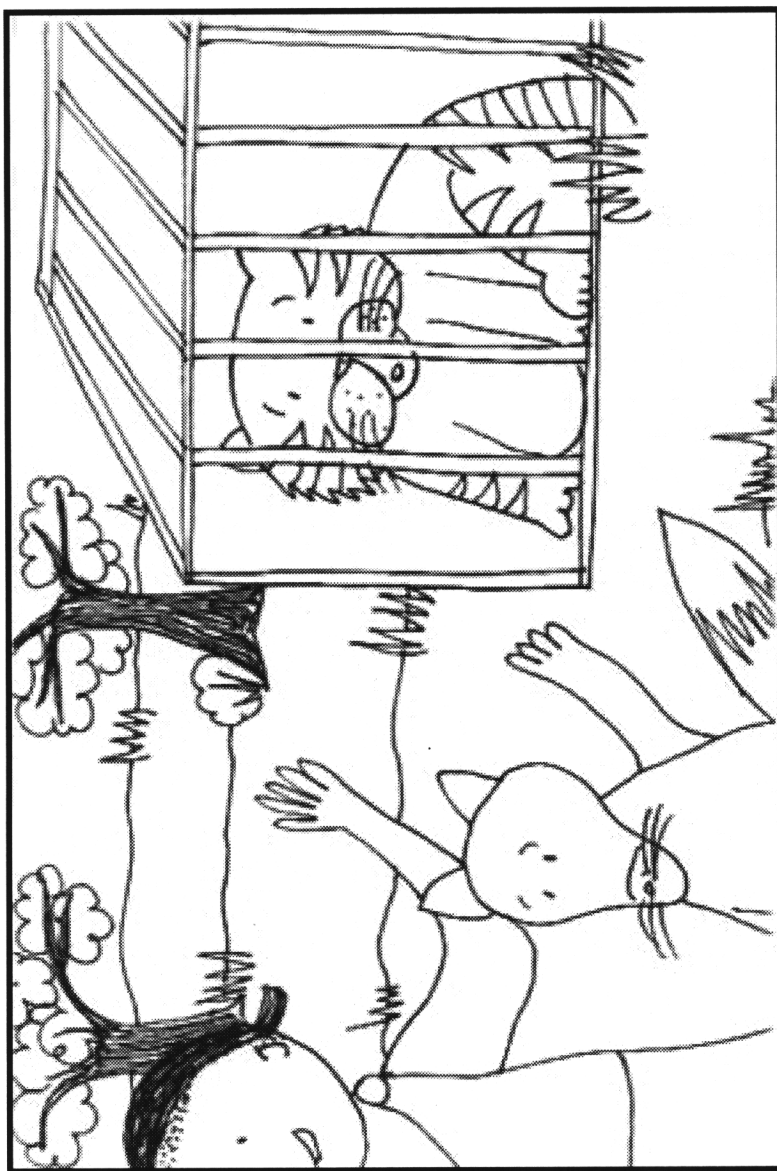


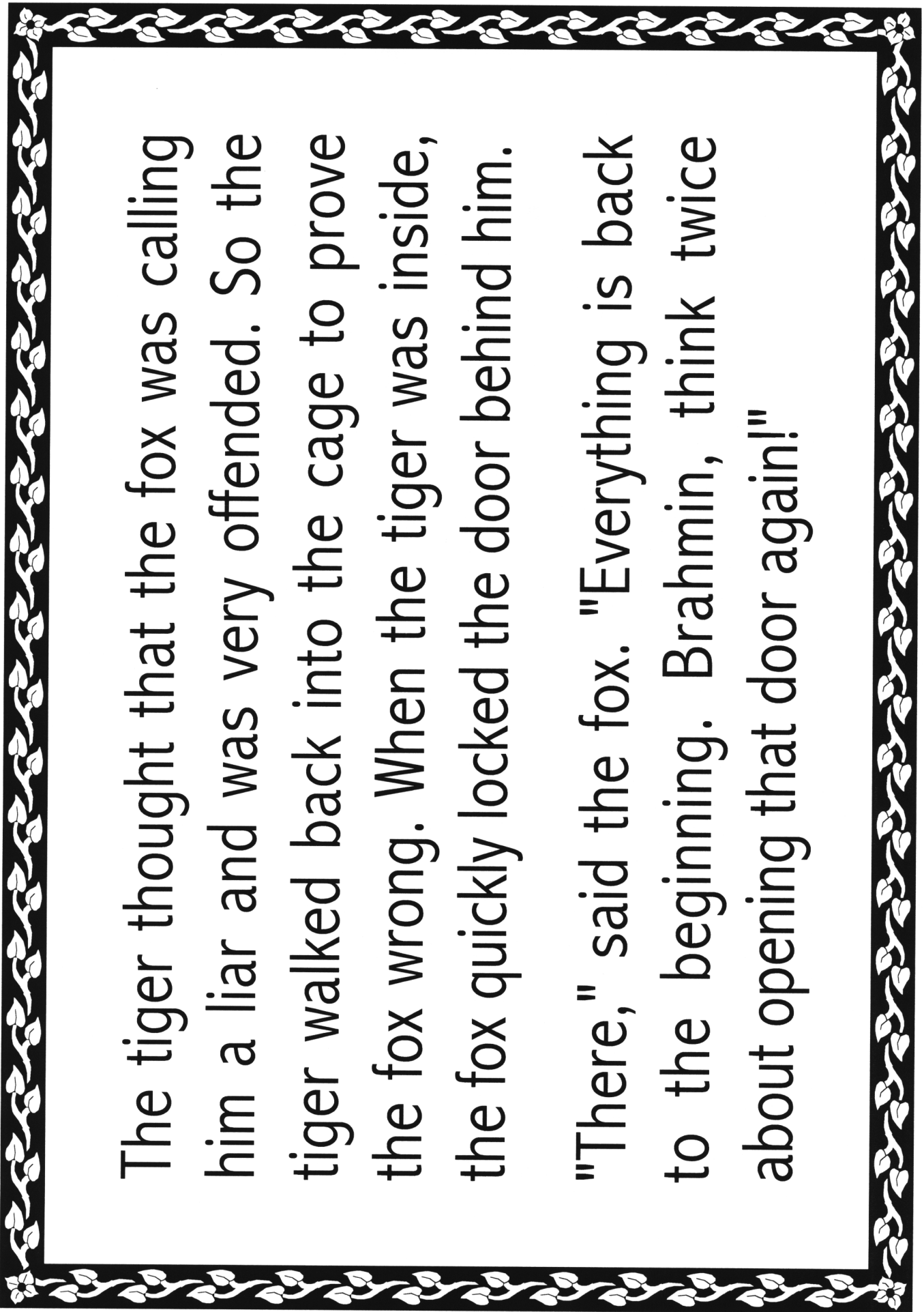


Finally they asked the fox to judge the case. The Brahmin said: "I saved the tiger's life. Should he have the right to eat me?"

"Hmmmmm," the fox thought for a while. "I'm not sure. This is a tough case. First of all, I just can't believe that such a big tiger fit into such a small cage!"







The tiger thought that the fox was calling him a liar and was very offended. So the tiger walked back into the cage to prove the fox wrong. When the tiger was inside, the fox quickly locked the door behind him.

"There," said the fox. "Everything is back to the beginning. Brahmin, think twice about opening that door again!"