

Beside a bitva tree, whose branches were heavy with ripe, round fruits

One hot, hazy afternoon the hare lay beneath the tree dreaming of his and thinking of that. Suddenly a really dreadful thought struck him cold. The shivering thought was: "Suppose the sky falls down, and suppose the earth opens up, then what would happen to me?"

It happened that just at that moment a particularly large juicy fruit fell 'spat' near his head with a resounding thud.

The hare did not waste a moment to see what had happened nor did he wait a moment to see what might happen because he was so sure that the sky had indeed fallen down, and that the earth was opening up and was now waiting to

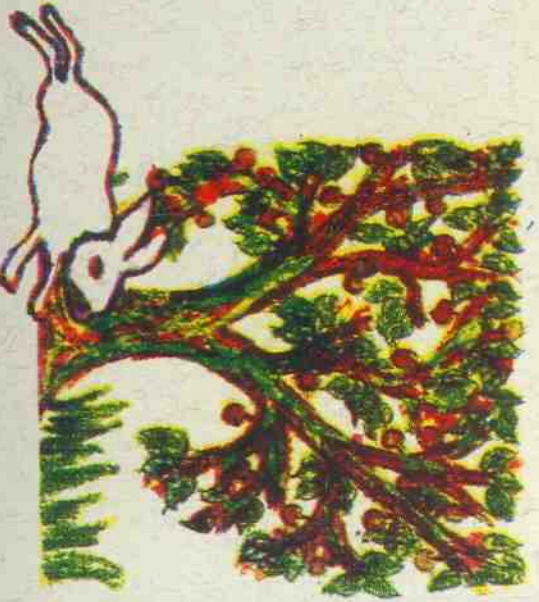
began to run.

He was still running in alarm. The hare shouted he sped past, "The sky earth is opening up and I drowned."

One by one the animals were soon there was such stamping, a stamping as the animals rushed each other in their fi

Now in that part there was a wise and saw the world with and heard music within of every day when he s

A STORY AND A CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 2000



ಮುಟ್ಟಿ ಮನಸ್ಸನ್ನು ಸುಲಲಿಸಿದ ಹಾರು ಕಾಣದ ಉತ್ತರದಿಂದಲೂ ಉತ್ತರದ ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗಲ್ಲು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಯಿತು. ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಭಾರತದ ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗಲ್ಲು ಈ ರೀತಿ ಸಂಭವಿಸಿತು



and heard the clamour of the flight
 was determined to find out the reason
 why. He stood firmly in the way of the
 animals' stampede and roared. He roared
 until the animals skidded or braked or
 jumped to a stop. The lion then asked in
 deep, but not unfriendly, growl, "Where
 are you going?"

All at once, in hoars and grunts, in
 gasps and howls, and moans and whines they
 said that they were running away because the
 earth was falling down and the earth was
 turning up and they would surely all be
 drowned.

The lion asked who had seen this
 dreadful calamity. The elephants turned to
 the deer, the deer turned to the wild pigs,
 the wild pigs turned to the buffaloes, the
 buffaloes turned to the squirrels, and the



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squirrels turned to the tigers, and the
 tigers pointed to the jackals and so
 went on until the very hare that had
 dozed beneath the bilva tree had no one
 to turn to, and no one to point to.

All eyes turned on the hare and so
 he said in a quavering voice, "Well, I thought
 the sky was falling down because... because
 I heard a great thud beside my head
 while I was dreaming under the bilva tree."

Gently the lion gathered the hare up,
 and together they bounded back to the
 very same bilva tree. The hare was surprised
 to see the sun still shining brightly overhead
 to feel the earth still firm beneath his feet and
 and to hear the leaves of the bilva tree still
 rustling in the wind. The hare and the lion
 returned to the herd of waiting animals
 and the lion murmured in a low roar,



"Do not be afraid. All is well and
 be well."

The animals looked at the lion,
 looked at the hare and they
 looked at the hare and they
 the sky overhead and the ear
 their paws and hooves and feet
 they looked at each other; and
 without another squawk, each
 he go his own way.

Maybe the hare never sleep
 a bilva tree again, but one thi
 he never even whispered that
 was falling down

As for the lion, he retired
 into the forest and there wait
 listened and waited wondering
 would happen next.

"A Jataka Story"



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