

2

Krishna and Sudama

A. Warmer

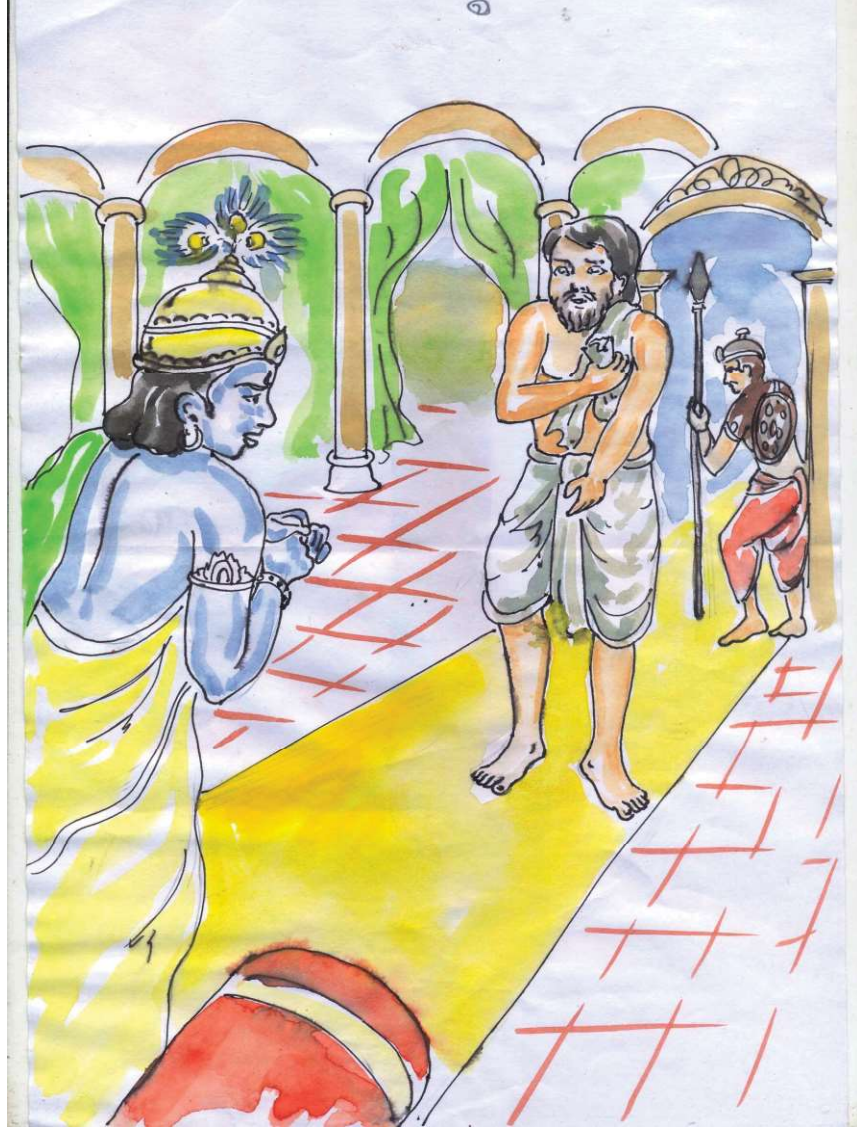
1. Do you have a friend ? What is common between you and him/her? What do you like most in him/her?

The story of friendship between Krishna and Sudama is very popular. Krishna and Sudama studied together. Krishna was rich while Sudama was poor. Still both were good friends. They were always seen together.

Time passed. Krishna became the king of Dwarika. But, Sudama's condition remained pitiable. His wife and children had to go to bed without meals very often. Unable to bear with pitiable condition, Sudama's wife said to him, "You always tell us that Krishna, the king of Dwarika, is your friend. Why don't you meet him and ask him to help you ?" His wife's repeated requests moved him eventually. Sudama decided to visit Krishna in Dwarika. He reached the palace of Krishna in Dwarika. He told the royal guards that he wanted to meet his friend Krishna. The guards paid no attention to him. They could not believe that the person in rags would be the friend of their king. They did not allow him. At last, one of the guards went to inform the king about Sudama.



Krishna rushed to the royal gate as soon as he heard Sudama's name. He hugged his childhood friend and requested him to come in the palace. All were astonished to see the king hugging a poor man in rags.



Sudama's wife had given him parched rice as a gift to Krishna. But Sudama was hesitant. 'Will it be suitable for a King?' he wondered. So he hid the *potali* of parched rice. Krishna saw him hiding it. He grabbed and untied it. He and his queen ate the parched rice with great delight.

Sudama had a warm welcome at the palace. He was given rich food and beautiful clothes. Krishna himself cared a lot for his friend's needs. Sudama was pleased. He wanted to tell Krishna about his poor condition but his self-respect prevented him from doing so. Finally, Sudama returned home as poor as he was. When he reached home, he was amazed to find a big palace in place of his old hut.

He asked a man about the new and beautiful building. The man replied that it was Sudama's palace. Sudama could not believe it.



Seeing Sudama standing outside the palace, his wife came out and took him in. Sudama became very happy to see his wife and children in good clothes.

Very soon Sudama realised that it was Krishna who had done all this while he was at Dwarka. Sudama felt thankful to his friend Krishna for the help. Only a friend can understand unspoken words.

(Adapted from the Mahabharata)

Glossary and notes

palace (n)	official residence of a king or queen, राजमहल
parched rice (noun phrase)	dried, roasted rice, भुना हुआ चावल
present (n)	gift, उपहार
amazed (v)	greatly surprised, चकित हुआ
hut (n)	a small simple cottage, कुटिया, झोपड़ी
cared (v)	looked after, ध्यान रखते थे
arrival (n)	reaching, आगमन
a lot (adv.)	very much, बहुत ज्यादा
in front of (prep. phrase)	before, सामने
realised (v)	felt, महसूस किया
bear (v)	put up with, बर्दाश्त करना
pitiable (adj)	miserable, दयनीय
moved (v)	compelled, विवश किया
royal guards (noun phrase)	guards at the palace, शाही रक्षक

as soon as (conj)	just when, ज्योंहि
hugged (v)	embraced, गले लगाया
ashamed of (prep. phrase)	felt shame, शर्मिन्दा हुआ
grabbed (v)	took forcibly, झपट लिया
untied (v)	opened, खोला
prevented (v)	stopped, रोका
astonished (v)	amazed, चकित हुआ

B. Let's Comprehend

B.1. Think and Tell

B.1.1 Answer each of the following questions:

1. What did Sudama give to Krishna as a gift ?
2. How did Krishna feel when he took the gift from Sudama?
3. Why was Sudama amazed to see a palace in place of his hut ?

B.2. Think and Write

B.2.1. Tick out (✓) the correct option in each of the following:

1. The story of Krishna and Sudama has been taken from

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| (a) The Ramayana | (b) The Mahabharata |
| (c) The vedas | (d) The Quran |

2. Krishna and Sudama were

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| (a) enemies | (b) friends |
| (c) relatives | (d) none of these |



3. What did Sudama's wife send to Krishna as a gift ?

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| (a) fried rice | (b) parched rice |
| (c) beaten rice | (d) none of these |

4. Sudama did not want to present the parched rice to Krishna because of

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| (a) shyness | (b) hesitation |
| (c) both (a) and (b) | (d) none of these |

B.2.2. Answer each of the following questions in two or three sentences:

1. Why did Sudama's wife send him to Krishna ?
2. How did the guards at Krishna's palace treat Sudama?
3. What did Krishna do when he heard Sudama's name ?

B.2.3. Answer each of the following questions in not more than 50 words:

1. Why did Sudama not tell Krishna the purpose of his visit?
2. In what way did Krishna help his friend ?
3. How did Krishna understand Sudama's need ?

C. Word Study

C.1. Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the box.



requested	cared	brought	present
no	friend	welcome	

1. Sudama ----- a little parched rice with him.
2. Sometimes Sudama's family had ----- food to eat.
3. You always tell us that Krishna is your -----?
4. He ran to the gate to ----- Sudama.
5. Krishna himself ----- a lot for his friend's needs.
6. Krishna ----- Sudama to come in.
7. He wanted to give it as a ----- to Krishna.

C. 2. Match the following words in Column 'A' with their meanings in Column 'B'.

A	B
1. realised	a. official residence of a sovereign/king.
2. often	b. frequently, many times
3. present	c. intention
4. in front of	d. gift, something given
5. parched	e. before
6. joy	f. dried, roasted
7. purpose	g. extreme pleasure, gladness
8. palace	h. became aware of, knew the fact of

C. 3. Look at the word 'friendship.' Can you make more words ending with 'ship.' Write at least five words ending with 'ship'. Here is one example:

Scholar + Ship = Scholarship

D. Grammar

Use of 'had to'

Look at the sentence given below :

His wife and children had to go to bed without meal very often.

In the sentence given above 'had to' shows compulsion caused by external forces. Note that 'had to' is always followed by verb in the first form. Now look at another sentence :

She had to cook her own food.

In this sentence, she is left with no option but to cook for herself.

D.1. Rewrite the following sentences, substituting 'compelled to' with 'had to'. The first one has been done for you:

(a) I was compelled to go. = I had to go.

(b) She was compelled to study medicine.

.....

(c) They were compelled to beg sorry.

.....

(d) I was compelled to eat.

.....

(e) He was compelled to walk on foot.

.....

E. Let's Talk

Discuss the following proposition in groups:

‘A friend in need is a friend indeed.’

One set of students can speak in favour of it and the other set against it.

F. Composition

F.1. Write in about 100 words a paragraph on the topic you discussed in (E).

F.2. Arrange the following sentences in a proper order to make a meaningful passage:

1. Listening to his wife's words Sudama left for Dwarika.
2. Sudama was treated well at Krishna's palace.
3. Krishna liked the gift of Sudama.
4. He had some parched rice as a gift.
5. Sudama also became rich by the grace of Lord Krishna.
6. Sudama was a very poor Brahmin.
7. But Sudama remained poor.
8. Krishna was his friend.
9. One day his wife requested him to go to Krishna and ask him for some help.
10. Later Krishna became the king of Dwarika.

G. Translation

Translate the following sentences into your mother tongue:

1. The story of friendship between Krishna and Sudama is very popular.
2. Krishna was a rich man while Sudama was a poor Brahmin.
3. Both were good friends.
4. They were always seen together.
5. After some years Krishna became the king of Dwarika.
6. But, Sudama remained as poor as ever.
7. His wife and children had often to go without food.

H. Activity

Group Work

1. Read some more stories about friendship and narrate some of them to the members of your group.
