

The Farmer and The Sadhu

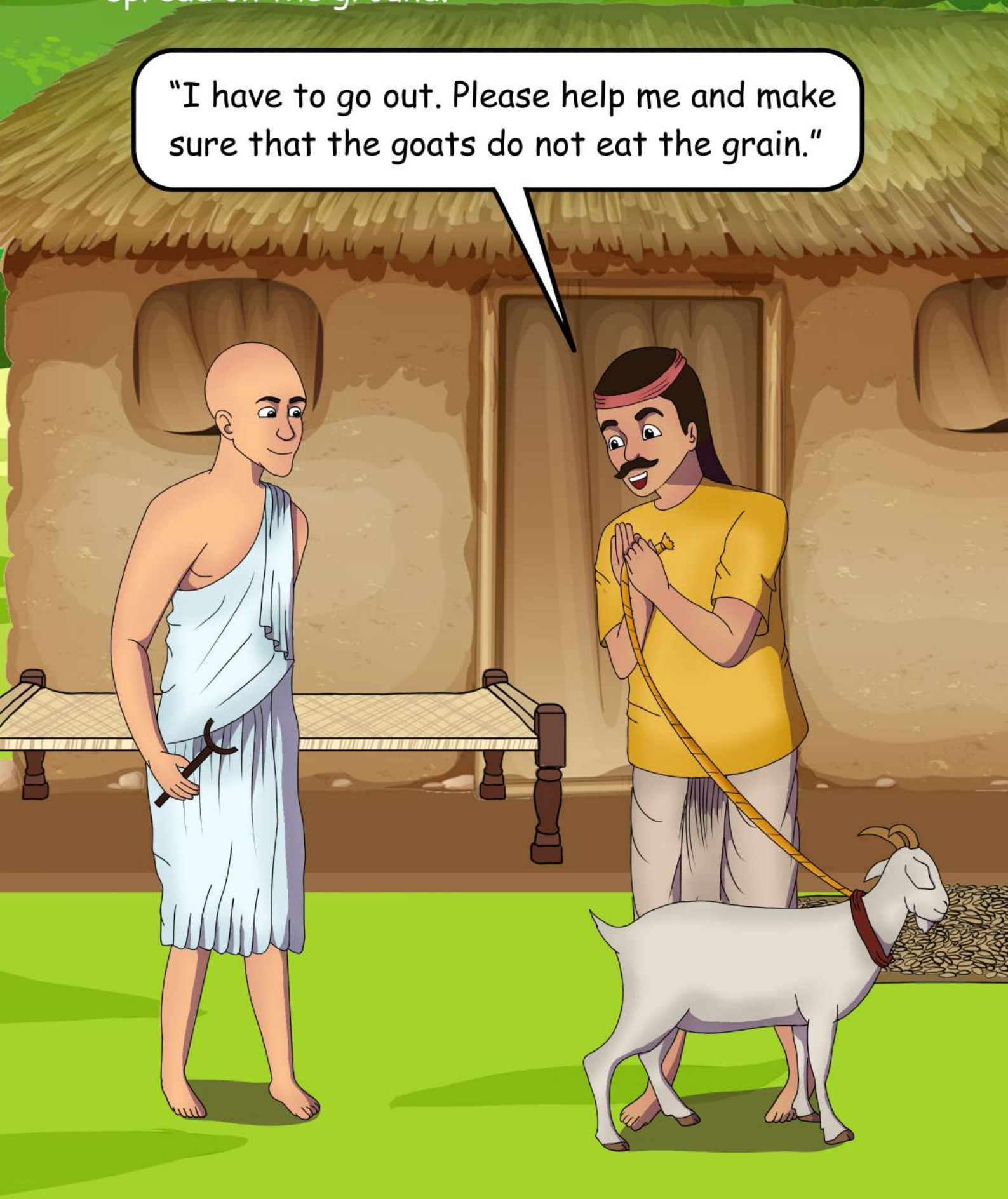


Long, long ago, there lived a Jain Sadhu who made sure never to hurt any creature. One hot day, the Sadhu stopped in front of a house of a farmer as he wanted to rest. The farmer had just finished putting some grain out to dry and was in a hurry to go to the market.



When he saw the Sadhu, he asked him to sit in his house. He wanted him to keep an eye on the grain spread on the ground.

"I have to go out. Please help me and make sure that the goats do not eat the grain."



The Sadhu did not reply as he was only looking for a place to rest. The farmer thought that the Sadhu had agreed to look after the grain, so he went to the market.



Soon, a goat came and began to eat the grain. The Sadhu saw her, but he did not stop her from eating it. The goat ate all the grain and ran away.



When the farmer came back and saw that all the grain was gone, he thought the Sadhu had taken it. He began hitting the Sadhu and asked him to give it back. The Sadhu did not defend himself and did not tell the farmer about the goat.

"If I tell him,"

he thought,

"he will hurt the goat. I cannot let it get hurt."



The farmer was very angry with the Sadhu, so he tied him with a rope. The Sadhu still kept quiet about the goat. The rope got tighter, and the Sadhu thought he would die, yet he was at peace because he knew the goat was safe.



The farmer was very angry and kept on making the rope tighter and tighter. Suddenly, he stopped and looked at the face of the Sadhu. He looked peaceful and happy. The farmer knew he had done wrong and untied the rope and begged the Sadhu to forgive him. Then he saw the goat and realized that it had eaten the grain. He knew that the holy Jain Sadhu was saving the goat from his anger.



From that day, the farmer never hurt any animal. He was kind to all the animals and shared his grain with them.





**We must be kind
to the animals.**