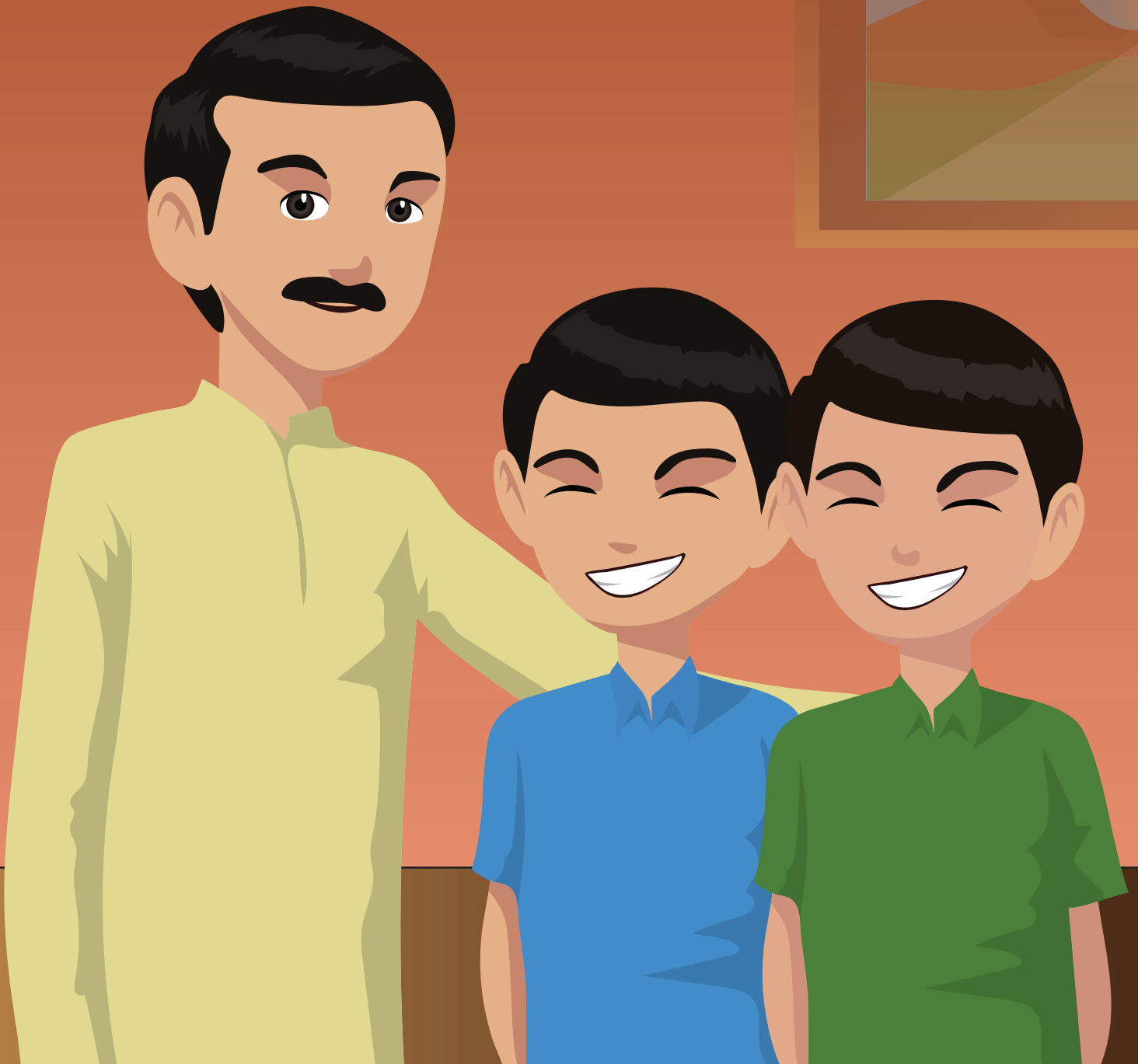


# The Merchant & His Family



Once upon a time, there was a Jain merchant. Every day, he used to pray and live his life as a good Jain.

He used to help his family and friends and was patient and kind. He never said a bad word to anyone.



One day a group of singers called Gandharvis came to town and stayed there to entertain the town people. The merchant's whole family went there every day, too.

They were so fond of them that they forgot their duties. The house was kept neat and clean, and his sons stopped working.



The merchant felt very sad when he saw this and tried very hard to tell his family that they must not forget their duties, but they did not listen to him.

They were more interested in the entertainment of the Gandharvis.



The merchant then had an idea. He built a beautiful Jain temple, where he started the prayers at the same time that the Gandharvis would sing and dance.

He went to the king and told him all of his plans. The king was very happy and ordered that everyone must go to the temple at the time of prayers.



Every day, the prayers would start, and all the people would come to the temple.

At first, they were not happy, but then they began liking the peace that the temple gave them.

Slowly, everybody started going to the temple. The merchant's children realized their faults, and they continued with their duties again.



Often we forget our duties because we want to play or have fun.

We must remember that our duties are important.

