

Goha, the funny man

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① Goha heard a young man playing the violin very beautifully, and although Goha was rather old, he thought, “I am going to learn to play the violin too.” So he went to a violin teacher and said to him, “I want to learn to play the violin. How much do you want for lessons?” The teacher looked at him and answered, “Three pounds for the first month’s lessons, and one pound for each month’s lessons after that.” Goha thought for a few seconds, and then he said, “That is good. I will start with the second month’s lessons then.”





② One of Goha's neighbours was ill, so Goha went to visit him. While he was there, the doctor came. He looked at the man's tongue and said, "You are ill because you have eaten too many green bananas. Do not eat any more, and you will be well again very soon." Goha was very surprised, and said, "That doctor is very clever." He ran out after the doctor, and said, "How did you discover my neighbour's illness in less than a minute?" "It was easy," answered the doctor, "The man has a stomach-ache, and when I came in, I saw a pile of green bananas under his bed." The next day, another of Goha's friends was ill. Goha went to his house quickly.

The man's son opened the door and said, "We do not need you, Goha. We need a doctor. My father has got a stomachache-ache." "I am as good as a doctor," said Goha. He went into his friend's bedroom and looked under his bed. Then he said, "It is all right. Stop eating shoes, and you will be well again very soon."



③ One day an old friend of Goha's came in to see him. Goha said to him, "I am very glad to see you, Saleh, but I am going to visit some important people now. Come with me. We will talk on the way to them." "But I am not wearing a good coat," Saleh answered.

Goha said, "I will lend you a beautiful coat." He went to his cupboard, and he took the coat out and brought it to Saleh.

Saleh put it on, and they went to the first house. Goha said, "This is my best friend Saleh, but the coat is mine."

When they left the house, Saleh said to Goha, Please do not say to people, "Saleh is wearing my coat."

"I am sorry, Saleh," Goha answered. "I will not say it again."

When they came to the next house, Goha said,

"This is my old friend Saleh, and he is wearing his coat."



5 Goha was in the town one day, and he was walking along a street when he saw something on the ground at the other side of the street. It was shining brightly in the light of the sun, so he went across the street quickly, picked the thing up and looked at it carefully. It was a mirror. When he saw his face in it, Goha thought for a minute and then said, "This is really a very ugly thing! Its owner was quite right when he threw it away, I think," and he threw the mirror away too and walked on.



6 One day a man came to Goha's house and said, "You are a clever man. Please help me. My house is very small. I live in it with my wife, six children, my old father and my wife's old mother. The house is too small for us, so we are not happy."

"Have you got a cow?" Goha asked.

"No", the man answered.

"Buy one", Goha said, "and keep it in the house with you".

"But", the man answered, "that will make things worse in the house."

'Do you want me to help you, or not?', Goha asked.

"Yes".

"Then go and buy a cow".

A week later, the man came to Goha again, and Goha said, "Did you buy a cow?"

"Yes", the man answered.

"And are things better now?"

"No, the house is more crowded than it was before. And we feel worse".

"Then buy a donkey and keep it in the house too", Goha answered.



A week later, he met the man for the third time. The man said, "Things are much worse in our house now." Goha said, "Buy a sheep and a goat and keep them in the house with you."

The next week, the man said, "Things are really terrible in our house now. There are animals everywhere."

"Good", Goha answered. "Now go and sell the sheep and the goat."

The next week, the man came to see Goha and said, "Things are better in our house now, because the sheep and the goat have gone."

"All right," Goha answered.

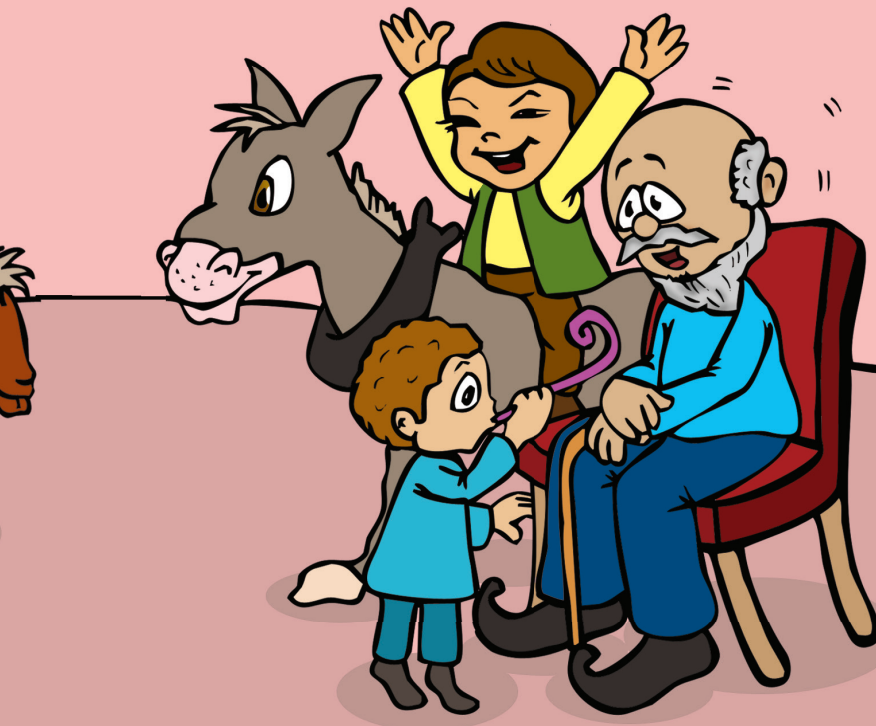
"Now sell the donkey."

A week later, he met the man again. The man was very happy this time and said, "The donkey has gone, and our house is much better now."

"Sell the cow now," Goha said.

The next week, the man said, "Our house is like a palace now, and we are all very happy in it. You have helped us very much! Thank you!

You are really very clever."



Questions:

① Answer the following questions.

1. Why does Goha want to start with the second month's lessons of violin when he wants to learn to play the violin?
2. How much does the teacher want for the lessons of violin?
3. Why did Goha go to visit his neighbour?
4. How did the doctor discover Goha's neighbour's illness?
5. Why did Goha think his friend had a stomachache?
6. What was funny about Goha's introducing of his friend Saleh to other people?
7. Why did the rich man say that Goha was slow?
8. How did Goha want to show to the rich man that he wasn't slow when the man was ill?
9. What did Goha do with the mirror he found?
10. Why did Goha decide to throw away the mirror he found?
11. How did Goha help the man whose house was very small?
12. Why did the man feel happy at the end?
13. Why did Goha throw away pieces of bread around his house?
14. What did Goha say to the owner of the garden about his being in the garden?