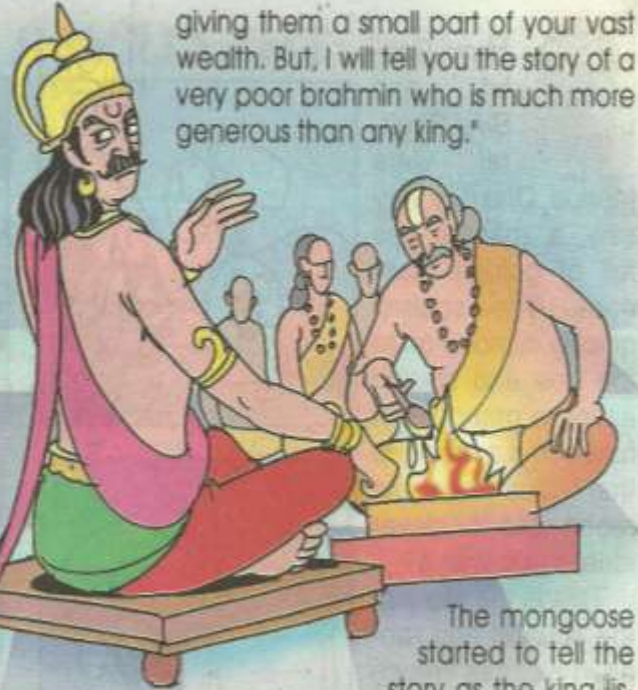


MYTHOLOGY
 Dear Parents and Teachers, Children should be made familiar with tales from the Puranas and legends. This is a famous story from our mythology. The story has been edited keeping in mind the age of the readers.



giving them a small part of your vast wealth. But, I will tell you the story of a very poor brahmin who is much more generous than any king."

The mongoose started to tell the story as the king listened in wonder.

Once, King Yudhishtira, the eldest of Pandavas, performed a great yagna to please the gods. As was the custom, he gave all the priests attending the function vast lands and valuable gifts. All the priests were very pleased and praised the king very much.

A small mongoose who was watching all this, laughed. The puzzled king looked at the mongoose and was greatly surprised because half of its body was covered with gold. The king was curious to know how the mongoose had acquired a golden body and also why it was laughing.

The mongoose then said, "Oh! great king, all the priests are praising you for

The poor brahmin lived in a small hut with his wife and two small children. He was so poor that he could not even find enough food to eat. Every day he went to the neighbouring villages, asking for alms and in the evening the family sat together to eat whatever he got. But even in such conditions, he was always happy to share with others whatever he had.

THE MOST GENEROUS MAN

On a rainy day, after going around many villages, all he could get was a single bowl of rice. By the time he came home in the evening, he was tired and hungry. His



LEARN A WORD

Alms: Money or food given to poor people.

children were also famished. As they were about to eat, a beggar came to their house asking for food. The brahmin, in spite of being hungry, gave away all his food to the beggar.

The beggar was actually God Himself, who had come to test the brahmin. He was so pleased with the brahmin's generosity that he turned everything in the brahmin's house into pure gold.

The mongoose went on with his story, "I was lying in one corner of his house when this happened and the part of my body touching the ground became golden. And while I was still watching with surprise, a golden chariot arrived and took the brahmin and his family away to heaven! Oh! king, the brahmin is the most generous be-

cause he gave away what was most precious and necessary to him."

Saying this, the mongoose disappeared. King Yudhishtira felt humbled.

• DR. ROHINI CHINTHA

THIS WAY BACK HOME!

Here is the half golden mongoose who wanted to go back. Show him the way.

