

## Bringing up Kari

KARI, the elephant, was five months old when he was given to me to take care of. I was nine years old and I could reach his **back** if I stood on **tiptoe**. He seemed to remain that high for nearly two years. We grew together; that is probably why I never found out just how tall he was. He lived in a **pavilion**, under a **thatched roof** which rested on thick tree **stumps** so that it could not fall in when Kari **bumped** against the poles as he **moved about**.

One of the first things Kari did was to save the life of a boy. Kari did not eat much but he **nevertheless** needed forty pounds of **twigs** a day to chew and play with. Every day I used to take him to the river in the morning for his bath. He would lie down on the **sand bank** while I rubbed him with the clean sand of the river for an hour. After that he would lie in the water for a long time. On coming out his skin would be shining like **ebony**, and he would **squeal** with pleasure as I



rubbed water down his back. Then I would take him by the ear, because that is the easiest way to lead an elephant, and leave him on the **edge** of the jungle while I went into the forest to get some **luscious** twigs for his dinner. One has to have a very sharp **hatchet** to cut down these twigs; it takes half an hour to sharpen the hatchet because if a twig is **mutilated** an elephant will not touch it.

It was not an easy job to get twigs and **saplings** for Kari. I had to climb all kinds of trees to get the most **delicate** and **tender** twigs. As he was very **fond** of the young branches of the banyan tree which grows like a **cathedral** of leaves and branches, I was gathering some, one spring day in March, when I suddenly heard Kari calling to me in the distance. As he was still very young, the call was more like that of a baby than an elephant. I thought somebody was hurting him, so I came down from my tree and ran very fast to the edge of the forest where I had left him, but he was not there.

I looked all over, but I could not find him.

I went near the edge of the water, and I saw a black something struggling above its surface. Then it rose higher and it was the **trunk** of my elephant. I thought he was **drowning**. I was helpless because I could not jump into the water and save the four hundred pounds of him since he was much higher than I. But I saw his back rise above the water and the moment he caught my eye, he began to **trumpet** and struggle up to the **shore**. Then, still trumpeting, he pushed me into the water and, as I fell into the stream, I saw a boy lying flat on the bottom of the river. He had not **altogether** touched bottom but was **somewhat afloat**. I came to the surface of the water to take

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my breath and there Kari was standing, his feet **planted** in the sand bank and his trunk **stretched out** like a hand waiting for mine. I **dived** down again and pulled the body of the drowning boy to the surface but, not being a good swimmer, I could not swim **ashore** and the slow **current** was already **dragging** me down.

Seeing us **drift** by in the current, Kari, who was usually slow and **ponderous**, suddenly **darted** down like a **hawk** and came halfway into the water where I saw him stretch out his trunk again. I raised up my hand to catch it and it slipped. I found myself going under the water again, but this time I found that the water was not very deep so I **sank** to the bottom of the river and doubled my feet under me and then suddenly kicked the **river bed** and so shot upwards like an **arrow**, in spite of the fact that I was holding the drowning boy with my hand. As my body rose above the water, I felt a **lasso** around my neck. This **frightened** me; I thought some water animal was going to **swallow** me. I heard Kari squealing, and I knew it was his trunk about my neck. He pulled us both ashore.

Kari was like a baby. He had to be trained to be good and if you did not tell him when he was naughty, he was up to more **mischief** than ever.



**For instance**, one day, somebody gave him some bananas to eat. Very soon he developed a great love for **ripe** bananas. We used to keep large plates of fruit on a table near a window in the dining-room. One day all the bananas on that table disappeared and my family blamed the servants for eating all the fruit in the house. A few days later the fruit disappeared again; this time the **blame was put on** me, and I knew I had not done it. It made me very angry with my parents and the servants, for I was sure they had taken all the fruit. The next time the fruit disappeared, I found a banana all **smashed** up in Kari's pavilion. This surprised me very much, for I had never seen fruit there and, as you know, he had always lived on twigs.

Next day, while I was sitting in the dining-room **wondering** whether I should take some fruit from the table without my parents' permission, a long, black thing, very much like a snake, suddenly came through the window and disappeared with all the bananas. I was very much frightened because I had never seen snakes eat bananas and I thought it must be a terrible snake that would **sneak**



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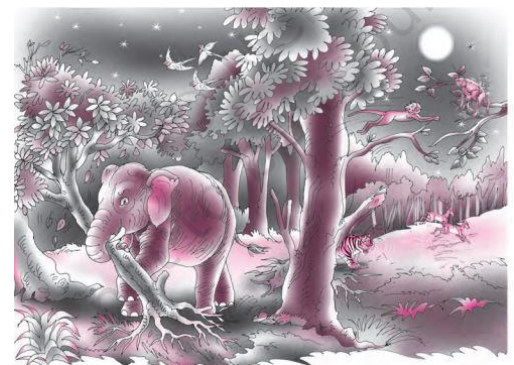
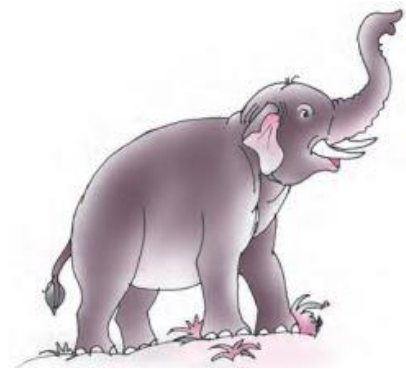
in and take fruit. I **crept** out of the room and with great fear in my heart ran out of the house, feeling sure that the snake would come back into the house, eat all the fruit and kill all of us.

As I went out, I saw Kari's back disappearing in the direction of the pavilion and I was so frightened that I wanted his **company** to **cheer me up**. I ran after him into the pavilion and I found him there eating bananas. I stood still in **astonishment**; the bananas were lying **strewn** all around him. He stretched out his trunk and reached for one far away from where he was standing. That instant the trunk looked like a black snake, and I realised that Kari was the thief. I went to him, pulled him out by the ear and **joyously** showed my parents that it was Kari and not I that had eaten all the fruit these many weeks. Then I **scolded** him, for elephants understand words as well as children, and I said to him, "Next time I see you stealing fruit, you will be **whipped**." He knew that we were all angry with him, even the servants. His pride was so injured that he never stole another thing from the dining-room. And from then on, if anybody gave him any fruit, he always squealed as if to thank them.

An elephant is willing to be punished for having done wrong, but if you punish him without any reason, he will remember it and **pay you back in your own coin**.

An elephant must be taught when to sit down, when to walk, when to go fast, and when to go slow. You teach him these things as you teach a child. If you say 'Dhat' and pull him by the ear, he will gradually learn to sit down. Similarly, if you say 'Mali' and pull his trunk forward, he will gradually learn that it is the signal to walk.

Kari learned 'Mali' after three lessons, but it took him three weeks to learn 'Dhat'. He was no good at sitting down. And do you know why an elephant should be taught to sit down? Because he grows taller and taller than you who take care of him, so that when he is two or three years old, you can only reach his back with a **ladder**. It is, therefore, better to teach him to sit down by saying 'Dhat' so that you can climb upon his back, for who would want to carry a ladder around all the time?



The most difficult thing to teach an elephant is the master call. He generally takes five years to learn it properly. The master call is a **strange hissing, howling** sound, as if a snake and a tiger were fighting each other, and you have to make that kind of noise in his ear. And do you know what you expect an elephant to do when you give him the master call? If you are lost in the jungle and there

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is no **way out**, and everything is black except the stars above, you dare not stay very long anywhere. The only thing to do then is to give the master call and at once the elephant pulls down the tree in front of him with his trunk. This frightens all the animals away. As the tree comes crashing down, monkeys wake from their sleep and run from branch to branch— you can see them in the moonlight—and you can almost see the **stags** running in all directions below. You can hear the **growl** of the tiger in the distance. Even he is frightened. Then the elephant pulls down the next tree and the next, and the next. Soon you will find that he has made a road right through the jungle straight to your house.

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### Vocabulary

1. **Bring up** (phrasal verb) – nurture, parent, raise, rear पालन-पोषण करना
2. **Back** (noun) – the posterior part of a human (or animal) body from the neck to the end of the spine पीठ, पिछला भाग
3. **Tiptoe** (noun) – the tip of a toe पांव की अंगुली का सिरा
4. **Pavilion** (noun) – a large and often sumptuous tent तंबू, खेमा
5. **Thatched roof** (noun) – a house roof made with a plant material (as straw) फूस की छत
6. **Stump** (noun) – the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled टूठ
7. **Bump** (verb) – Knock, Collide, Collide with, Slam into, Crash into, Smash into टक्कर मारना
8. **Move about** (phrasal verb) – To move in a continuous, aimless manner
9. **Nevertheless** (adverb) – Yet, But, However, Nonetheless, Still, Though फिर भी
10. **Twig** (noun) – a small, thin branch of a tree or bush, esp. one removed from the tree or bush and without any leaves टहनी, डाली
11. **Sand bank** (noun) – a deposit of sand forming a shallow area in the sea or a river. बलुआ किनारा, रेती
12. **Ebony** (noun) – a very hard dark wood of a tropical tree, used especially for making furniture आबनूस
13. **Squeal** (verb) – Yell, Cry, Shriek, Yelp, Howl, Wail, Scream, Screech चीखना
14. **Edge** (noun) – Brink, Verge, Threshold, Point किनारा
15. **Luscious** (adjective) – Juicy, Moist, Delicious, Succulent, Sweet, Tasty, Scrumptious सुस्वाद
16. **Hatchet** (noun) – Axe कुल्हाड़ी
17. **Mutilated** (adjective) – not in good physical condition; out of condition बिगड़े हुए, कटे-फटे
18. **Sapling** (noun) – young tree पौधा
19. **Delicate** (adjective) – Fragile, Frail, Weak, Slight, Insubstantial नाज़ुक
20. **Tender** (adjective) – easy to cut or chew कोमल, नरम, मुलायम
21. **Fond** (of) (adjective) – having a strong preference or liking for के शौकीन
22. **Cathedral** (noun) – any large and important church

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23. **Trunk** (noun) – a person's or animal's body apart from the limbs and head.  
सूँढ
24. **Drown** (verb) – Sink; be covered with or submerged in a liquid डूबना
25. **Trumpet** (verb) – utter in trumpet-like sounds तुरही बजाना, चिंघाड़ना
26. **Shore** (noun) – Coast, Beach, Seashore, Coastline, Oceanfront, Shoreline किनारा
27. **Altogether** (adverb) – Totally, Completely, Wholly, Thoroughly, Entirely, Fully पूर्ण रूप से
28. **Somewhat** (adjective) – Rather, Slightly, Fairly, To some extent, To a certain degree, To a certain extent कुछ हद तक
29. **Afloat** (adjective) – Floating, Buoyant बहता हुआ
30. **Plant** (verb) – Place, Stand, Fix, Set जमाना, रखना
31. **Stretch out** (phrasal verb) – extend or stretch out to a greater or the full length बढ़ाना, फैलाना
32. **Dive** (verb) – Jump, Leap, Drop, Lunge, Submerge, Go underwater गोता लगाना
33. **Ashore** (adverb) – towards the shore from the water तट पर, किनारे पर
34. **Current** (noun) – Flow, Stream, Undercurrent, Tide, Flux प्रवाह
35. **Drag** (verb) – Pull, Haul, Draw, Heave, Lug, Tug, Tow, Trail, Draggles खींचना
36. **Drift** (verb) – Float, Flow, Glide, Coast, Waft, Wander, Go with the flow स्रोत से बहाकर ले जाया जाना
37. **Ponderous** (adjective) – Heavy, Laborious, Lumbering, Weighty, Unwieldy, Cumbersome, Bulky भारी-भरकम
38. **Dart** (verb) – move with sudden speed बहुत जल्दी जाना
39. **Hawk** (noun) – diurnal bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail बाज़
40. **Sink** (verb) – Descend, Drop, Go under, Go down, Go under the surface, Be submerged, Go downwards डूबना
41. **River bed** (noun) – the bed or channel in which a river flows. नदी तल
42. **Arrow** (noun) – a weapon that is like a long, thin stick with a sharp point at one end and often feathers at the other, shot from a bow तीर, बाण
43. **Lasso** (noun) – Noose, Lariat, Rope, Riata, Loop, Tether रस्सी

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44. **Frighten** (verb) – Scare, Terrify, Alarm, Startle, Upset, Worry, Panic डराना
45. **Swallow** (verb) – Ingest, Consume, Down, Eat, Sip, Imbibe निगलना
46. **Mischief** (noun) – reckless or malicious behavior that causes discomfort or annoyance in others शरारत
47. **For instance** (phrase) – for example उदाहरण के लिए
48. **Ripe** (adjective) – fully developed or matured and ready to be eaten or used परिपक्व, पका हुआ
49. **Put a blame on** (phrase) – To blame someone or something (for something) पर इल्ज़ाम लगाना
50. **Smash** (verb) – violently break (something) into pieces. टुकड़े टुकड़े करना
51. **Wonder** (verb) – Ponder, think about, conjecture सोचना
52. **Sneak** (verb) – to go or do something secretly छिपकर जाना
53. **Creep** (verb) – Crawl, Slither, Scramble, Clamber, Inch, रेंगना
54. **Company** (noun) – Companionship, Camaraderie, Friendship, साथ
55. **Cheer up** (phrasal verb) – cause (somebody) to feel happier or more cheerful खुश करना
56. **Astonishment** (noun) – Surprise, Amazement, Wonder, Bewilderment, Shock आश्चर्य
57. **Strewn** (adjective) – Scattered, Sprinkled, Speckled, Spread बिखरे
58. **Joyously** (adverb) – Happily, Blissfully, Jubilantly, Cheerfully, Elatedly, Exuberantly खुशी से
59. **Scold** (verb) – Reprimand, Reproach, Rebuke, Admonish, Caution डाँटना
60. **Whip** (verb) – beat (a person or animal) with a whip पीटना
61. **Pay back in one's own coin** (phrase) – To seek revenge on someone by treating them in the same negative manner as they treated one किसी के साथ ठीक वैसा ही व्यवहार करना जैसा उन्होंने आपके साथ किया है
62. **Ladder** (noun) – a piece of equipment used for climbing up and down सीढ़ी
63. **Strange** (adjective) – Odd, Bizarre, Outlandish, Eccentric, Weird, Extraordinary अजीब
64. **Hissing** (adjective) – Whispering, Murmuring, Rustling, Whistling

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65. **Howling** (adjective) – Loud, Violent,  
Whistling, Wailing चीखने-चिल्लाने वाला

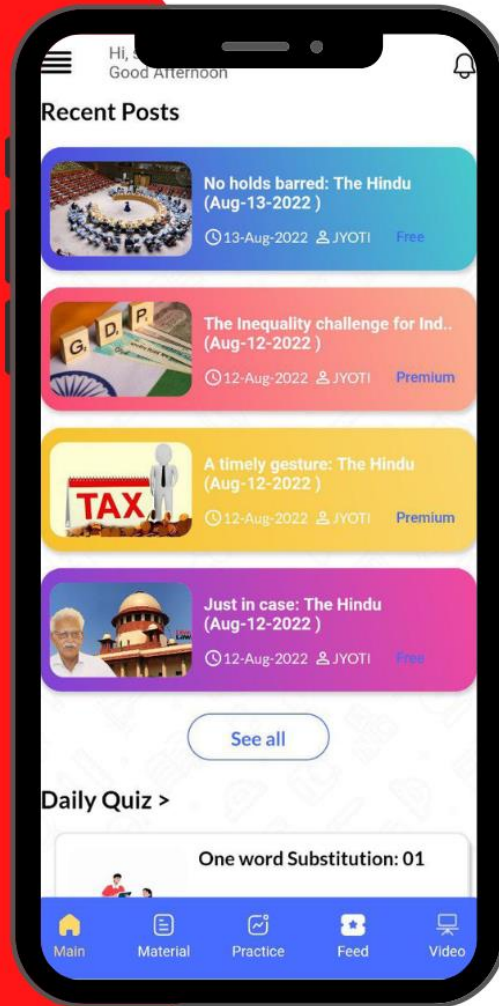
66. **Way out** (phrase) – an exit from a place  
बाहर जाने का मार्ग

67. **Stag** (noun) – a male deer, especially a  
male red deer after its fifth year.

बारहसिंगा

68. **Growl** (noun) – Roar, Bark, Rumble,  
Snarl, Howl गुरीना





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