

## The Bear Story – Part (i)

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THERE was once a lady who lived in an old **manor-house** on the border of a big forest. This lady had a pet bear she was very **fond of**. It had been found in the forest, half dead of hunger, so small and helpless that it had to be **brought up** on the bottle by the lady and the old cook. This was several years ago and now it had grown up to a big bear, so big and strong that he could have **slain** a cow and carried it away between his two **paws** if he had wanted to. But he did not want to; he was a most **amiable** bear who did not dream of harming anybody, man or **beast**.



He used to sit outside his **kennel** and look with his small intelligent eyes most **amicably** at the cattle **grazing** in the field nearby. The three **shaggy** mountain **ponies** in the **stable** knew him well and did not **mind in the least** when he **shuffled** into the stable with his **mistress**. The children used to ride on his back and had more than once been found **asleep** in his kennel between his two paws. The three dogs loved to play all sorts of games with him, pull his ears and his **stump** of a tail and **tease** him in every way, but he did not mind it in the least. He had never tasted meat; he ate the same food as the dogs and **often** out of the same plate—bread, porridge, potato, cabbage, turnip. He had a fine **appetite**, and his friend, the cook, saw to it that he got his fill. Bears are vegetarians if they have a chance, and fruit is what they like best. In the **autumn** he used to sit and look with **wistful** eyes at the **ripening** apples in the **orchard**, and in his young days he had been sometimes unable to **resist** the **temptation** to climb the tree and **help himself to a handful** of them. Bears look **clumsy** and slow in their movements, but **try** a bear with an apple tree and you will soon find out that he can easily beat any school boy at that game. Now he had learnt that it was against the law, but he kept his small eyes wide open for any apples that fell to the ground. There had also been some difficulties about the **beehives**; he had been punished for this by being put on the chain for two days with a bleeding nose and he had never done it again. Otherwise he was never put on the chain except for the night and quite rightly so, for a bear, like a dog, is **apt** to get **somewhat ill-tempered** if kept on the chain, and **no wonder**. **(To be continued.....)**

Vocabulary

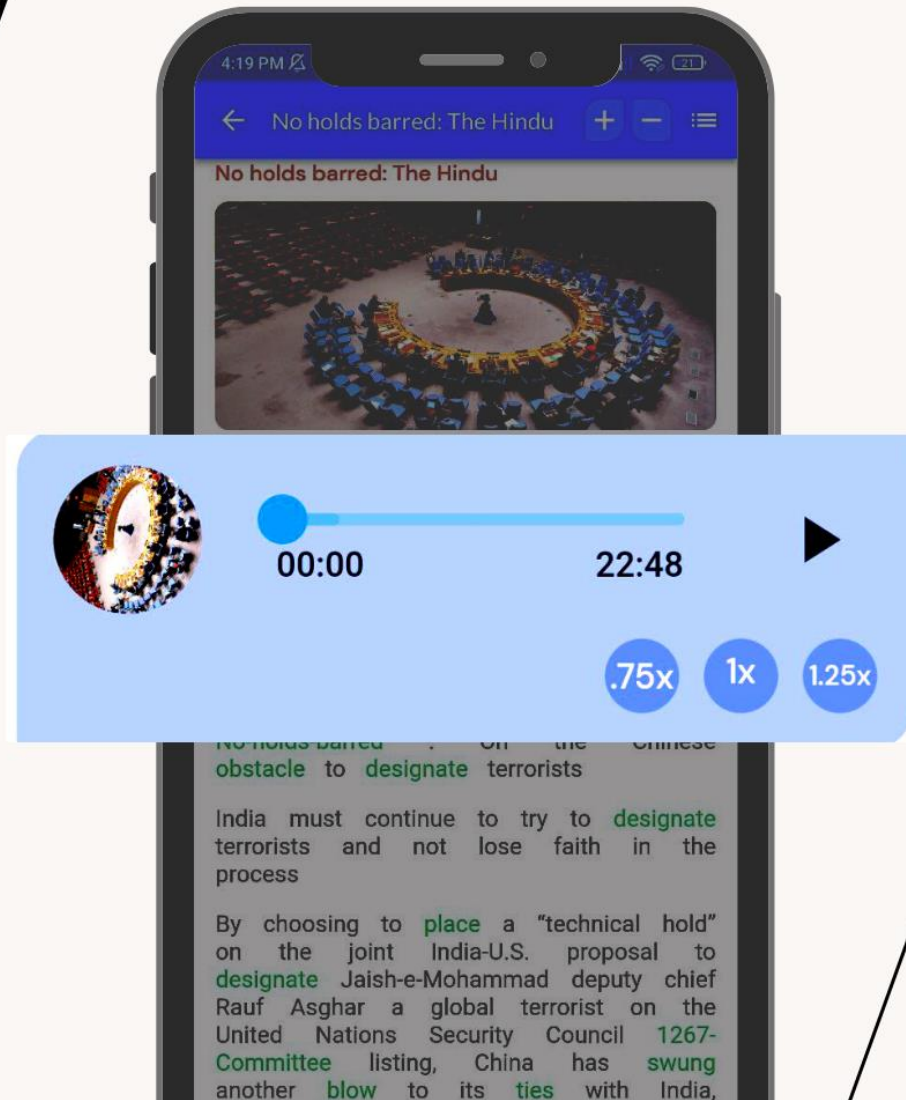
1. **Manor-house** (noun) – the house of the lord of a manor.
2. **Fond** (of) (adjective) – liking a person or thing, or liking doing something बहुत पसंद करना
3. **Bring up** (phrasal verb) – look after a child until it is an adult. पालन-पोषण करना
4. **Slay** (verb) – kill, murder, slaughter, assassinate, butcher मारना
5. **Paw** (noun) – foot, pad पंजा
6. **Amiable** (adjective) – friendly, agreeable, genial, affable, pleasant मिलनसार/सुशील
7. **Beast** (noun) – An animal, especially a large or dangerous four-footed one जानवर
8. **Kennel** (noun) – a small shelter for a dog. कुत्ताघर
9. **Amicably** (adverb) – agreeably, genially, friendly, affably, kindly सौहार्दपूर्ण ढंग से
10. **Graze** (verb) – let feed in a field or pasture or meadow चरना
11. **Shaggy** (adjective) – hairy, bushy, hirsute, bristly बालदार, झबरा
12. **Pony** (noun) – a horse of a small breed, especially one below 15 hands (or 14 hands 2 inches).
13. **Stable** (noun) – a building set apart and adapted for keeping horses. अस्तबल
14. **Mind** (verb) – to feel annoyed, upset or uncomfortable about something/somebody किसी बात का बुरा मानना
15. (Not) **in the least** (phrase) – Not at all
16. **Shuffle** (verb) – to walk by sliding your feet, rather than lifting them as you step पैरों को खिसकाकर चलना
17. **Mistress** (noun) – a woman who has control over or responsibility for someone or something मालकिन
18. **Asleep** (adjective) – sleeping, slumbering, snoozing, napping सोया हुआ
19. **Stump** (noun) – the part of something such as a tree, tooth, arm, or leg that is left after most of it has been removed: टुकड़ा
20. **Tease** (verb) – Annoy persistently चिढ़ाना, छेड़ना
21. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, much, many times, repeatedly अक्सर

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22. **Appetite** (noun) – hunger, desire, craving, thirst, longing भूख
23. **Autumn** (noun) – the season of the year between summer and winter, lasting from September to November north of the equator and from March to May south of the equator, when fruits and crops become ready to eat and are picked, and leaves fall: शरद ऋतु
24. **Wistful** (adjective) – pensive, nostalgic, melancholy, longing, yearning उदास, चिन्तित
25. **Ripening** (adjective) – become fully grown परिपक्व
26. **Orchard** (noun) – A garden.
27. **Resist** (verb) – withstand, oppose, defy, fight, confront विरोध करना, रोकना
28. **Temptation** (noun) – lure, enticement, attraction, allurement, fascination प्रलोभन
29. **Help oneself to** (phrase) – to take some of what you want, without asking permission
30. **Handful** (noun) – an amount of something that can be held in one hand: मुट्ठीभर
31. **Clumsy** (adjective) – awkward, inept, bungling, stumbling, ungainly बेढंगा
32. **Try** (verb) – Test, experiment with, check out
33. **Beehive** (noun) – a container shaped like a box in which bees are kept so that their honey can be collected मधुमुखी का छत्ता
34. **Apt** (adjective) – appropriate, fitting, suitable, proper, relevant उपयुक्त, उचित
35. **Somewhat** (adverb) – To a small degree or extent कुछ हद तक
36. **No Wonder** (phrase) – it is not surprising आश्चर्य की बात नहीं

# Audio Explanation



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