

Biography of Venerable Master Hsing Yun



Venerable Master Hsing Yun was born in Chiangsu Province, China in 1927 and entered a monastery near Nanjing at age twelve. He was fully ordained in 1941, and is the 48th patriarch of the Lin-chi (Rinzai) Ch'an school. In 1949, amid the turbulence of civil war, he went to Taiwan.

In Taiwan, he began fulfilling his long-held vow of promoting Humanistic Buddhism, which takes to heart spiritual practice in

daily life. With an emphasis on not needing to "go some place else" to find enlightenment, we can realize our true nature in the here and now, within this precious human birth and this world. When we actualize altruism, joyfulness, and universality, we are practicing the fundamental concepts of Humanistic Buddhism. When we give faith, hope, joy, and service, we are helping all beings, as well as ourselves. For nearly a half century, Venerable Master Hsing Yun has devoted his efforts to transforming this world through the practice of Humanistic Buddhism.

He is the founder of the Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Order, which is headquartered in Taiwan and supports temples worldwide. The Order emphasizes education and service and maintains public universities, Buddhist colleges, libraries, publishing houses, Buddhist art galleries and tearooms, free mobile medical clinics, children's home, retirement home, high school, and television station. The Order's lay service organization, Buddha's Light International Association, also has active chapters worldwide.

Venerable Master Hsing Yun is an outspoken proponent of equality among all people and religious traditions. The Order has the largest number of female monastics of any Buddhist order today. By providing and supporting educational and leadership opportunities, he has worked to improve the status of women in Taiwan. He has held full ordination ceremonies for women of the Mahayana, Theravada, and Vajrayana traditions. In addition, Master Hsing Yun annually organizes conferences to bring together the various Buddhist schools and to promote dialogue between Buddhists and other major religious groups.

Master Hsing Yun is a prolific writer and has authored over one hundred books in Chinese. His writings have been translated into English and many other languages. His works of the *Life of Sakayamuni Buddha* and the sixteen-volume *Fo Guang Buddhist Dictionary* have both won Taiwan's highest humanitarian awards. His biography *Handing Down the Light: Hsing Yun's Ch'an Talks, The Lion's Roar, The Hundred Sayings Series*, and *The Humanistic Buddhism Series* are published in Taiwan and are in English. *Being Good: A Guide to Buddhist Ethics*, *Only a Great Rain, Lotus in a Stream*, *Where is Your Buddha Nature? Stories to Instruct and Inspire* are published by American publishers and are in English. His numerous lectures also continue to be translated into English.

...e of heavenly cloth flew down from the
...d covered the prince. Lumbini Garden
...mersed in pure radiance and there were
...auspicious signs!



... was changed into peace.....



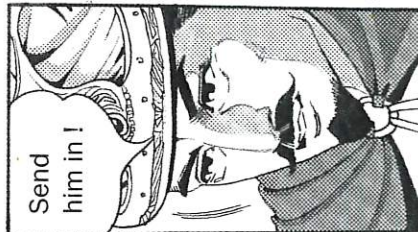
...s blossomed and
...d fragrance.

...the exceptional
...of this particular day.....

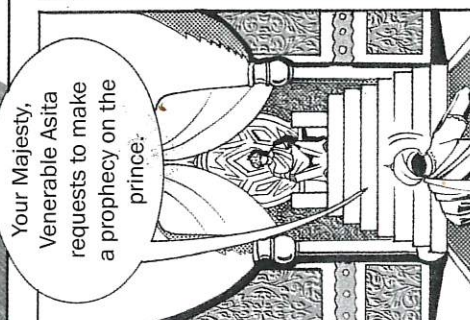
The birth of a Buddha was extraordinary
and the world was shaken.



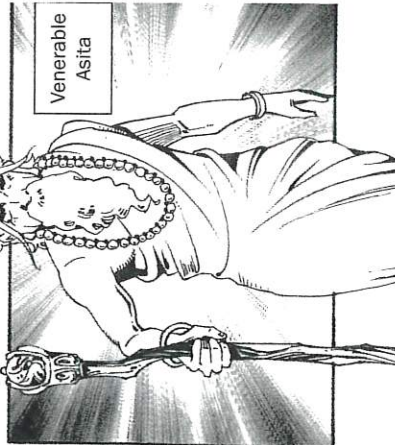
The prince was ushered
back to the palace.



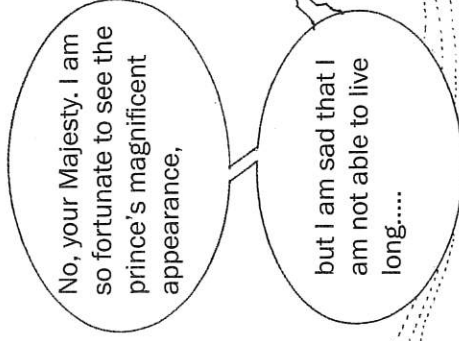
Send
him in !

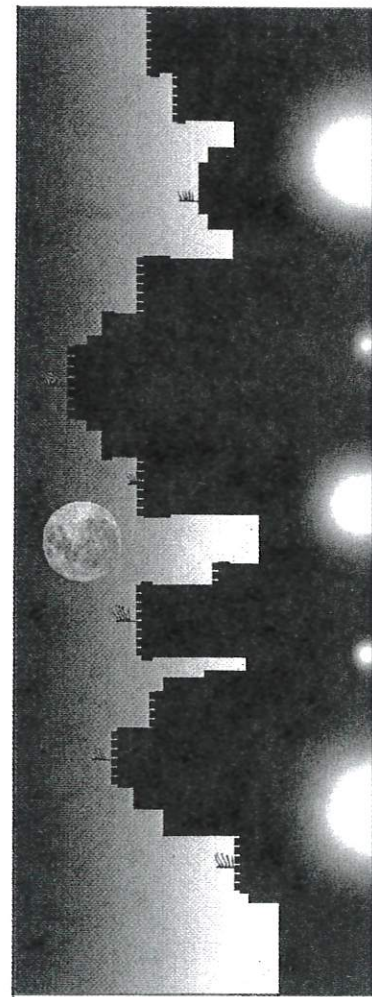
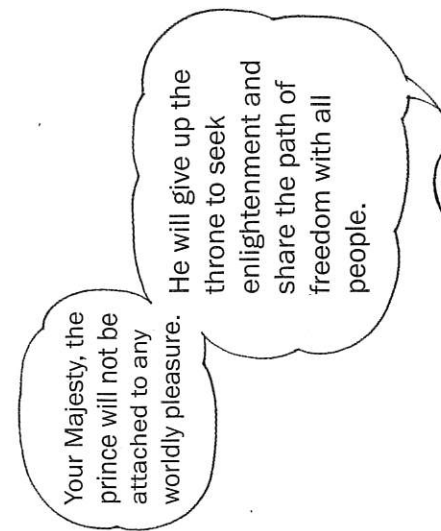


Your Majesty,
Venerable Asita
requests to make
a prophecy on the
prince.



Venerable
Asita



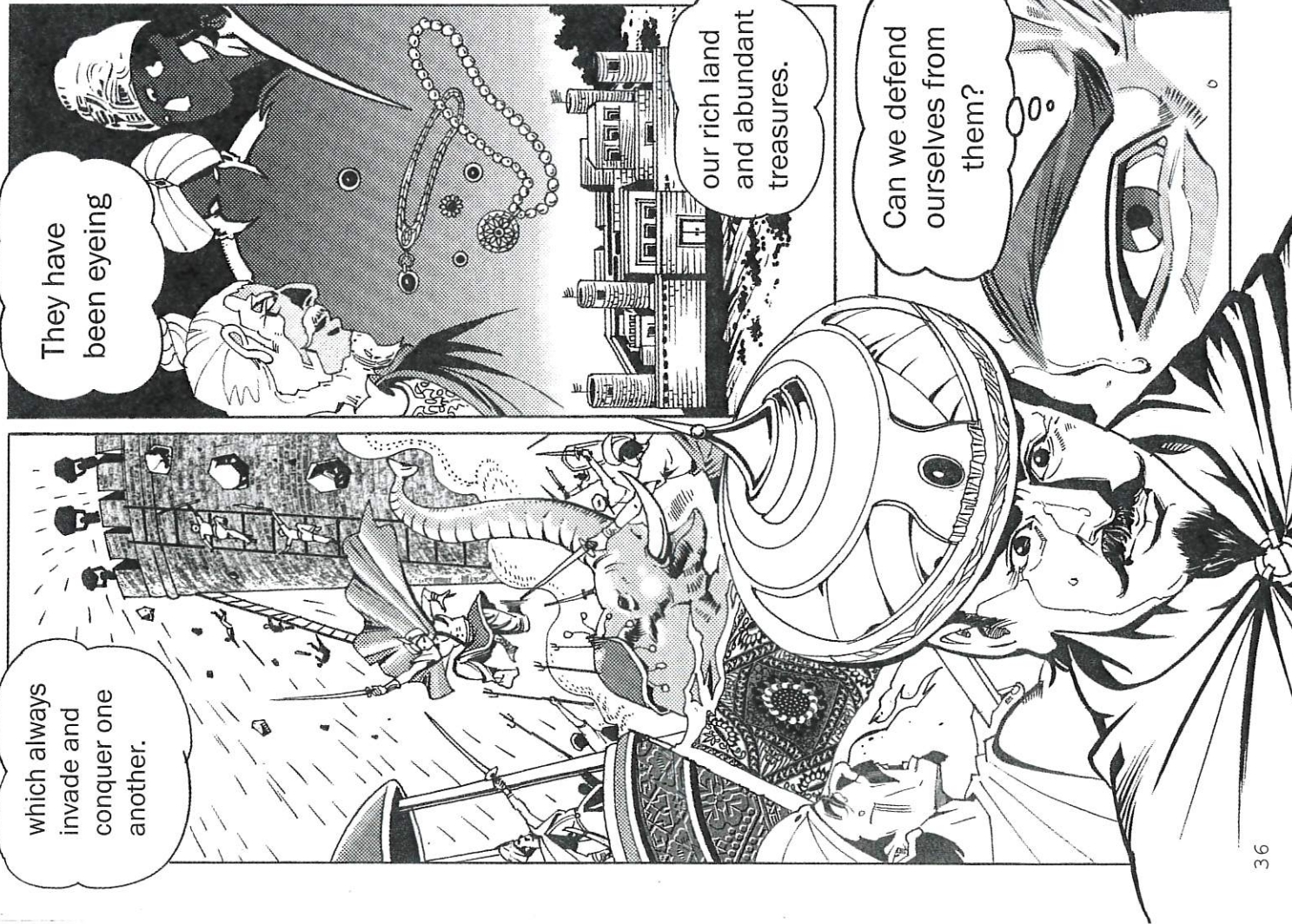


which always
invade and
conquer one
another.

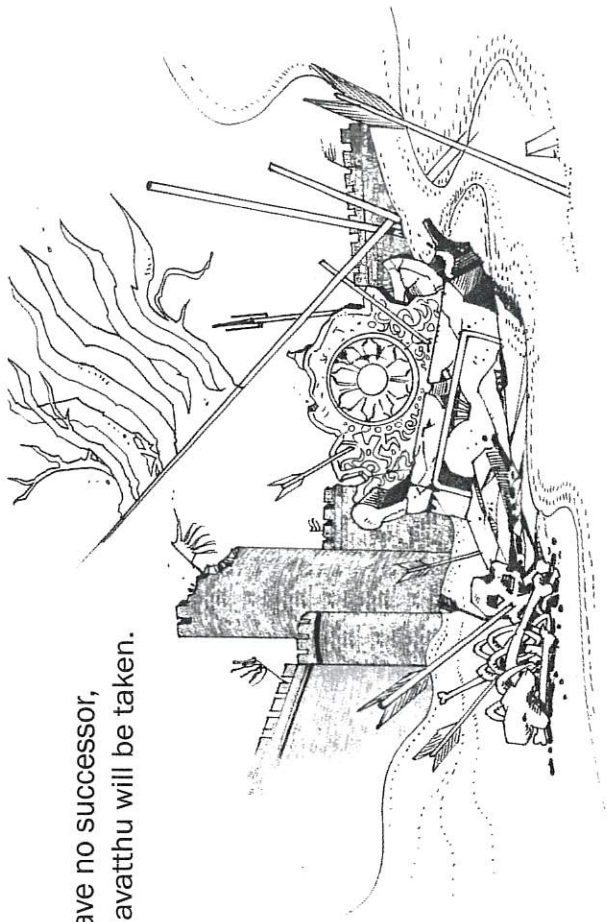
They have
been eyeing

our rich land
and abundant
treasures.

Can we defend
ourselves from
them?



If I have no successor,
Kapilavatthu will be taken.

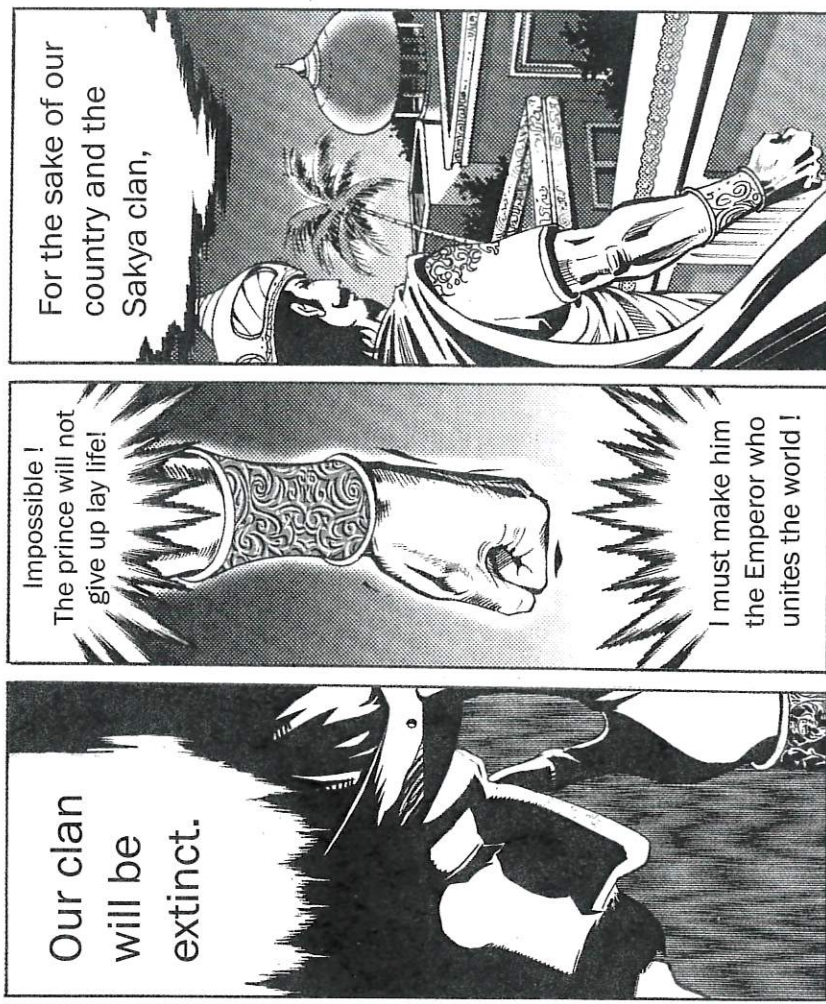


Our clan
will be
extinct.

Impossible!
The prince will not
give up lay life!

I must make him
the Emperor who
unites the world!

For the sake of our
country and the
Sakya clan,



I must do my best to prevent the prince from renunciation !



King Suddhodana named the prince

“Siddhartha”

Siddhartha means “All wishes fulfilled”.

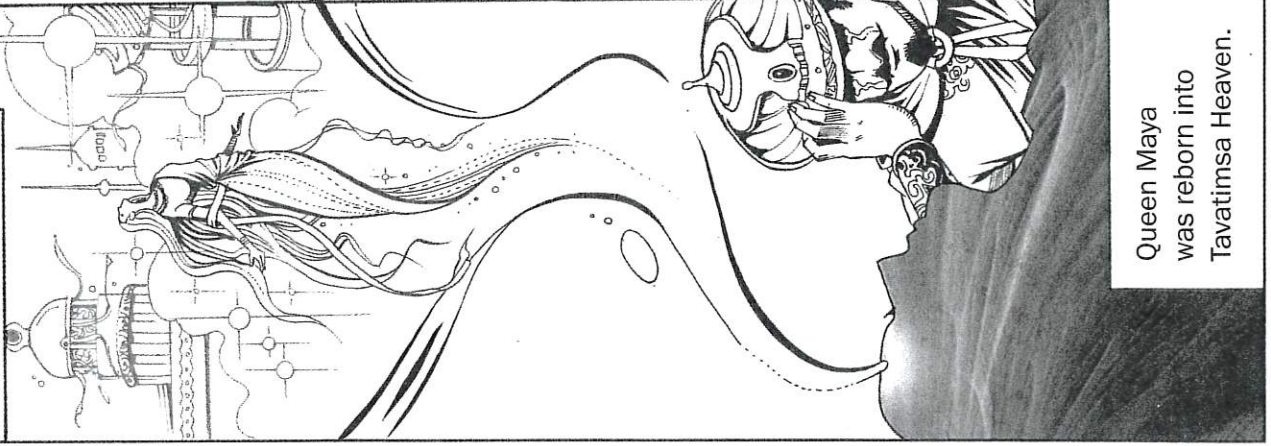
The whole nation rejoiced over the birth of the little prince.



However, worldly pleasure was short lived.



On the seventh day after the birth of the prince, Queen Maya passed away.



Queen Maya was reborn into Tavatimsa Heaven.

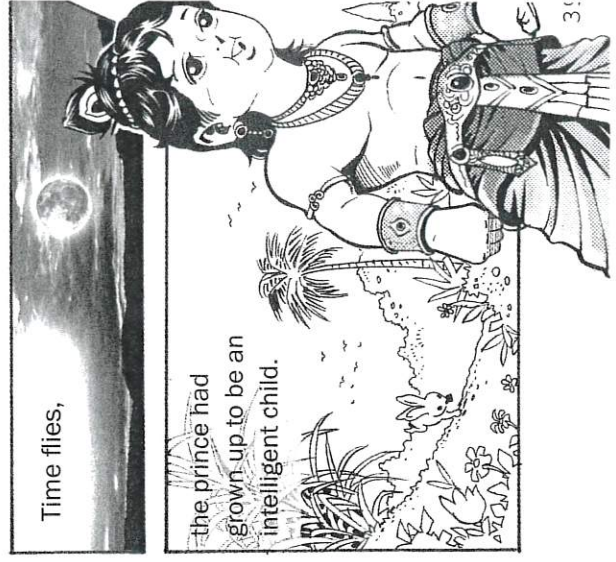
The duty of bringing up the prince was entrusted to Queen Maya's younger sister.

Mahapajapati Gotami



Time flies,

the prince had grown up to be an intelligent child.

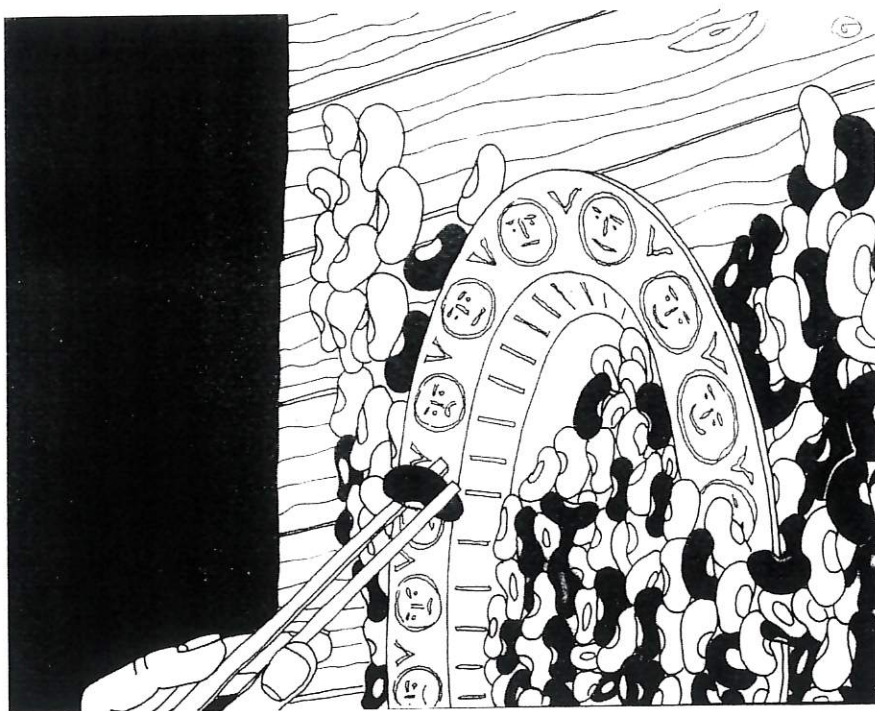


White and Black Beans

A serious man wanted to do good things during his life. In order to do them, he had to change the way he thought. He made up a game to see which of his thoughts were good and which were bad. Each time he had a good or positive thought, he placed a black bean on his dining room table to the left of his plate. When he had a bad or negative thought, he placed a white bean to the right of his plate.

In the beginning, the white beans outnumbered the black ones, 3 to 1. He had a big pile of them on the table. The man felt so disappointed with himself that he practiced having happy thoughts even harder. He observed his thoughts more carefully. Gradually, he found the black beans increasing in number. Still, he was not satisfied with himself because there were some white beans to the right of his plate. He worked more to increase his positive thinking and decrease his negative thoughts. His friends noticed the difference and wanted to spend more time with him. Before, he spent most of his days alone or in arguments with other people.

Day by day he watched and enjoyed the increasing number of black beans. They became his favorite food.



Questions for Discussion and Writing:

1. Why did the serious man invent a game?
2. What were the rules of the game?
3. What kinds of your thoughts would receive a white bean and which ones would receive a black bean? Give some examples.
4. How did the serious man increase the number of black beans?
5. What did winning this game mean for him?
6. At the end of the story what were the results of his game?

The Poor Man and the Mirror

In ancient China, a poor man lived by himself. He could not even afford a mirror framed in bronze which most other people had. He never knew how he looked. He could see every body else except himself, so he felt bad.

One day his friend Pin lent him a mirror. The poor man was very happy with the opportunity to see himself for the first time. He was so joyous that he danced by himself all around his home. Every day he held the mirror up, and with excitement and wonder, he examined his face.

A few days later Pin took the mirror back. The poor man became nervous and sad. Everywhere he went, he shouted, "My head is gone. My head is gone."

When Pin heard about his friend's suffering, he went to visit him. The only thing the poor man could say was, "Where's my head? Where's my head?"

Pin turned around and hit his friend in the head. "My head is killing me," complained the poor man.

Finally, the poor man found his head!



Questions for Discussion and Writing:

1. *Why didn't the poor man know how he looked?*
2. *Why did his friend Pin lend him a mirror?*
3. *How did the poor man feel when he received the mirror?*
4. *Why did Pin take back his mirror?*
5. *What lesson did Pin teach his friend when he hit him in the head?*
6. *Why did the poor man suffer when Pin took the mirror back?*

THINK OVER THE DAY'S WORK

Before the day is over
You have one more thing to do;
Think over the day's work you did
And the things that you failed to do.

Did you consciously harm anyone,
Either your friend or foe ?
Or take anything that's not yours
Knowing very well that it is so?

Did you in anyway abuse your speech
Through ignorance, hatred and greed?
Tell lies and indulge in idle talk
And use unpleasant, harsh speech?

Did you obey your parents
Your elders and teachers, too
And attend to all your home work
And do the best you could do?

You are known by your own deeds
You perform through bodily acts, thought and speech.
Daily before you fall asleep
Reflect on them; this advice you should heed.

KEEP AWAY FROM FOOLS

Once upon a time there was a handsome young prince. He was kind and friendly to all. He loved animals and treated them as his friends. He reared a monkey whom he liked very much. Wherever the prince went he did not fail to take his friend. The prince gave the monkey a nice dress and a beautiful little pair of gold shoes. The two of them were very close to each other; wherever they went they went together; played together, ate together and slept together.

The monkey, too, loved the prince dearly. He always followed the prince guarding and protecting him. If ever anyone became rude to the prince the monkey would snarl at him. If ever anyone touched the prince the monkey would at once pounce on him. When the prince slept the monkey would sit by his side and fan him.

They were so dear to each other the people called them the needle and the thread; one always behind the other.

One day the two of them set out on a long journey. After walking a long distance they came near a river.



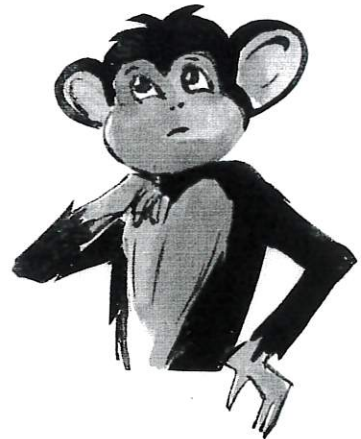
They looked for the ferry, but it was not there. As the prince felt tired he wanted to rest for a while. He called the monkey and said, "My dear friend, I am very tired. I wish to rest for sometime. I will lie down here under the shade of this tree. Don't allow anybody to disturb me; now remember, don't allow even a fly to disturb me. Take this sword; if anyone tries to disturb me, attack him and chase him away."

The prince was so tired that within a few minutes he fell fast asleep. The monkey carrying the sword in his right hand slowly walked round the prince guarding him. After sometime the monkey noticed that the prince was being disturbed. At one moment the prince was scratching his chest, at the next moment his head and again his nose. The monkey quietly bent down and looked. He saw the trouble - maker. It was tiny little fly. The monkey waved his hand and tried to chase it away, but the fly came back again. The monkey broke a twig from a tree close by and tried to wave the fly off.

The moment the monkey waved the twig the fly flew away; but the next moment the fly was back again sitting on the prince's nose.

"What a nuisance this fly is? This tiny wicked creature is disturbing my master." The monkey began to lose his patience. The fly flew a number of times close to the monkey's face as if to fool him. The monkey tried to catch the fly. In doing so he cut his own nose with the sword. The monkey got very annoyed." Wait, you scoundrel, I'll teach you a good lesson." Muttering so the monkey came near the prince and waited motionless till the fly settled on the prince's body. The fly came, buzzed around a few times; and then happily settled down on the prince's chest.

The monkey was tense and shivering. He took hold of the sword with both his hands, raised it above his head and with all his strength gave a mighty blow. The sword cut deep into the prince's chest. Blood gushed out. The prince groaned just once and he was dead.



The monkey was shocked. Tears
ran down his cheeks. He bent down
and looked at his master's face. Then
he saw the fly settled down happily
again on the prince's nose.

'Keep away from the fools
And mix with the wise'

Asevanā ca bālānaṃ
Paṇḍitānaṃ ca sevanā.





ANGER

Anger is like a wildfire,
It starts in a small way.
When fanned by the winds of hatred
It burns everything on its way.

It makes your face wicked and wild
Making you at once a different child.
Have you seen your face in the mirror
When you are angry and wild?

Are you not ashamed of yourself?
When you appear so rough and rude,
With no smile on your face
Not different from an animal crude.

When fired by anger you lose common - sense;
You abuse your speech and talk nonsense;
To parents, brothers, sisters and friends
And to all others you are a nuisance.

Blind by anger you fail to see what's right
And foolishly think that only you are right.
You gain nothing but lose everything
And finally fall into a miserable plight.

So why get angry which brings no gain
But causes only much harm and pain?
Develop friendliness towards friend and foe
Without burning with anger in vain.



Away went the balloon. said

the tip toe cat, or I'll tell

"Come back, come back," "Oh,

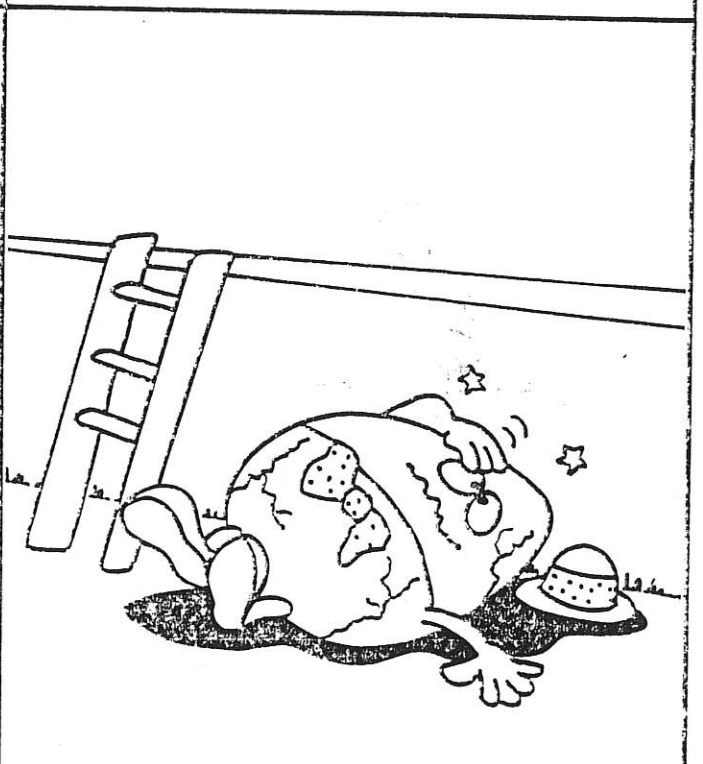
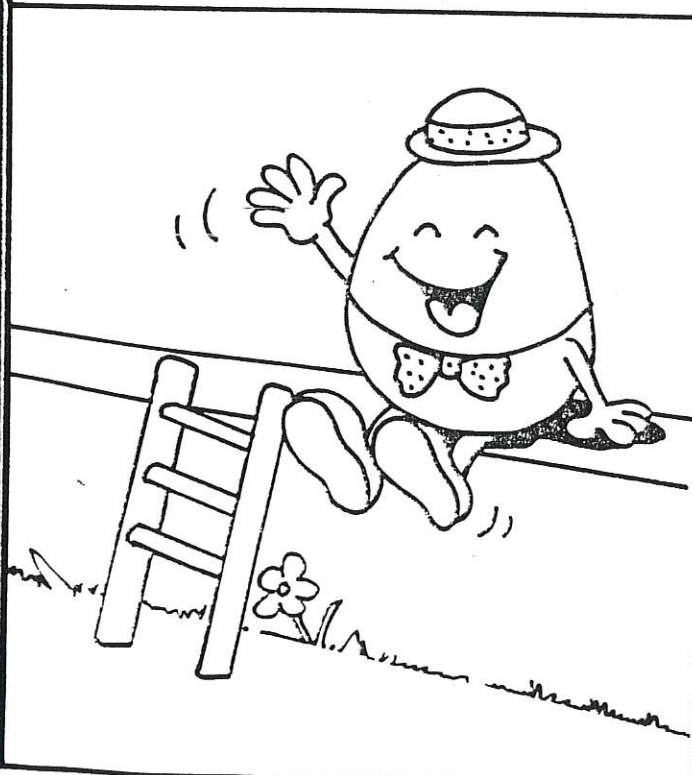
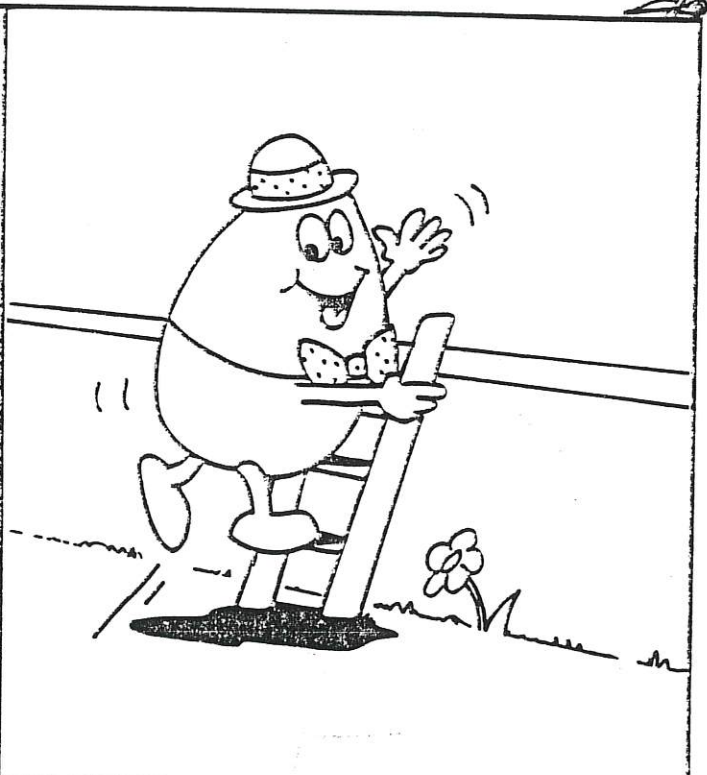
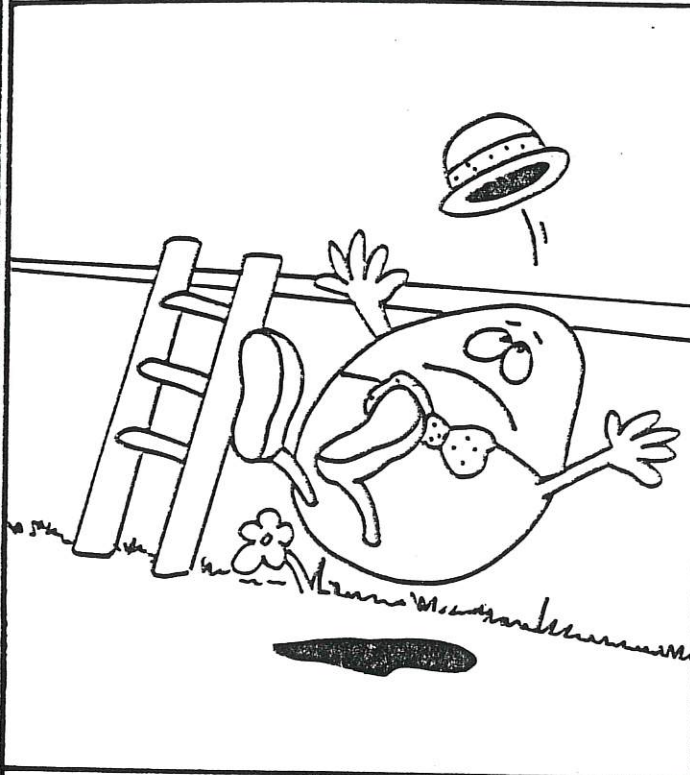
the tip - toe woman. jump

in a sack." I won't come back."

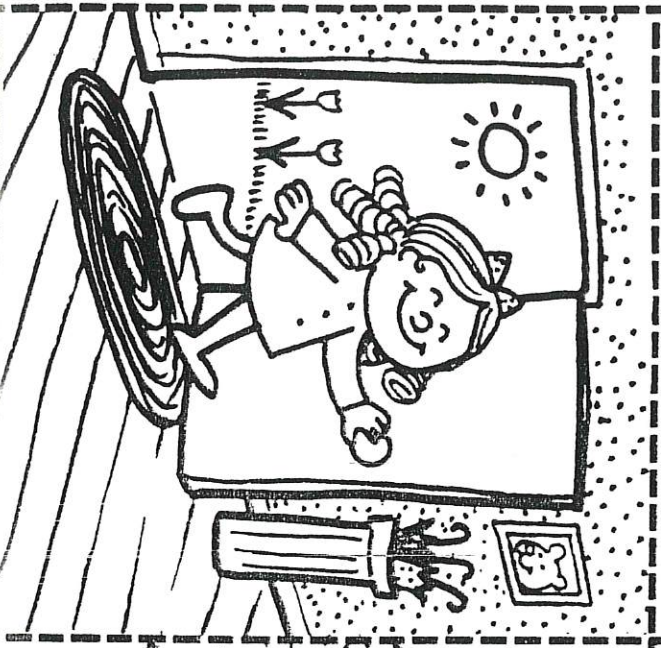
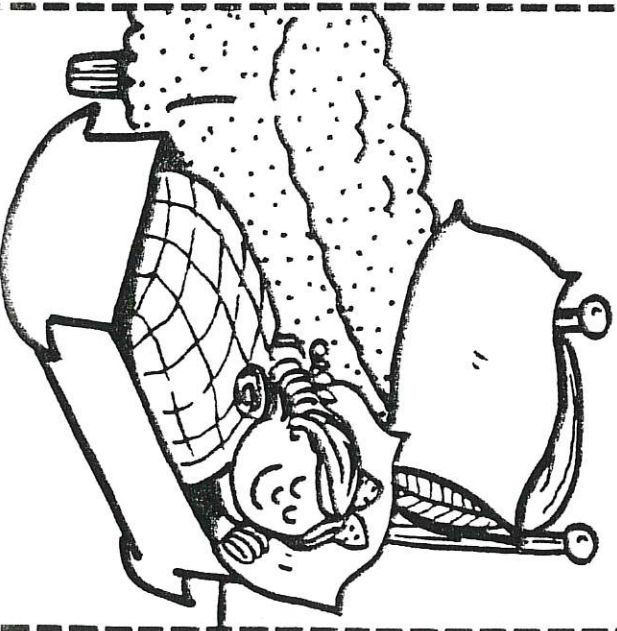
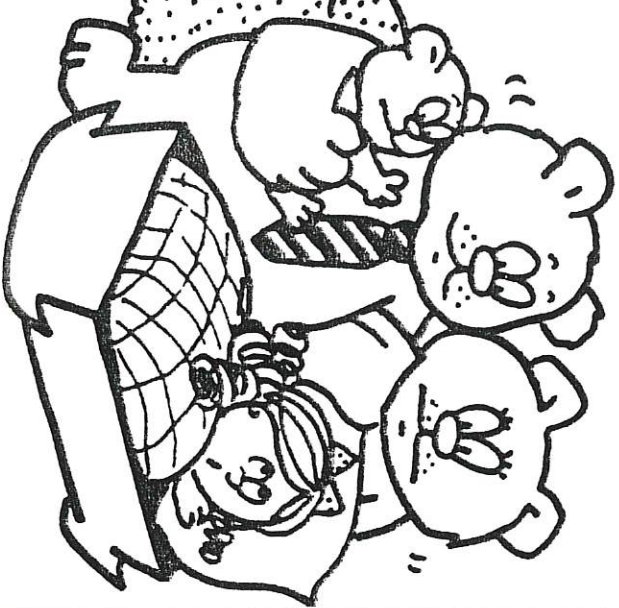
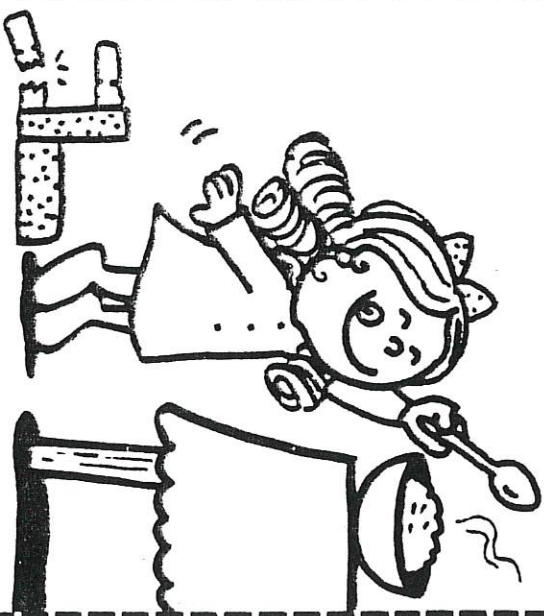
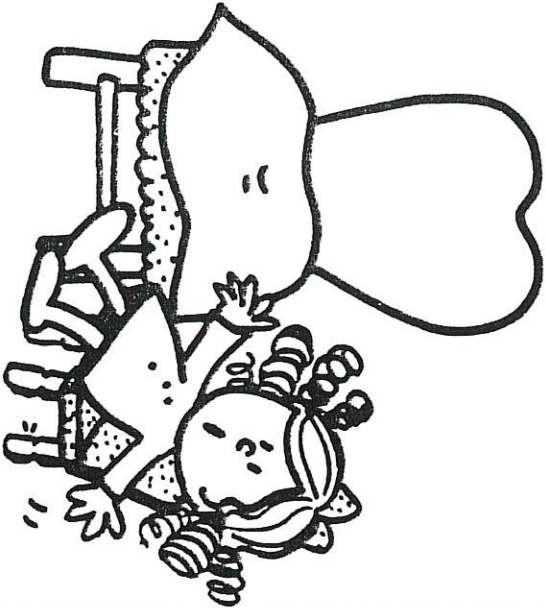
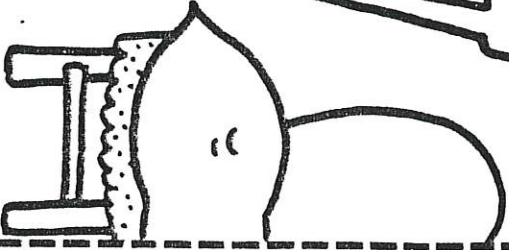
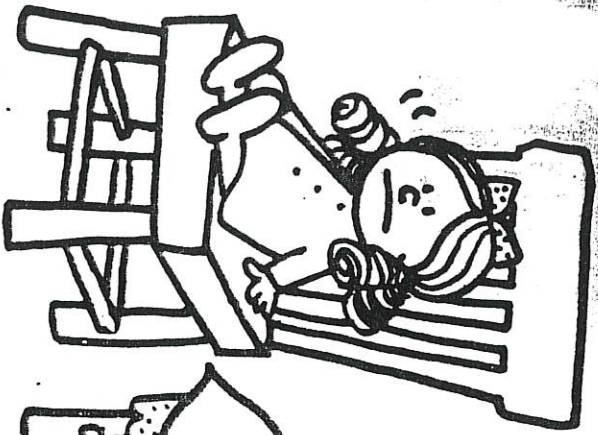
Name _____

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty



3. The Three Bears



Name _____

Paste in order.

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4	5	6