PRATHAM BOOKS
A Book in Every Child's Hand

वाचन पातळी २

केळीच केळी

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शृंगेरी श्रीनिवासला तो दिवस खूपच वाईट गेला.
त्याच्या केळीच्या बागेतल्या गोडगोड, पिकलेल्या केळ्यांना हातही लावायला कुणी तयार नव्हतं. केळी अगदी कुणालाच नको होती.

ना घरातल्यांना,
ना शेजाऱ्यांना,
ना मित्रांना.

दूर दूरच्या बाजारात जाऊन केळी विकणाऱ्या व्यापाऱ्यांनी तर ती घेतली नाहीतच.
पण अगदी त्याच्या गाईंनीही तोंड लावलं नाही केळ्यांना!

सगळे म्हणत होते, “बाबा रे, तुझी केळी खूप गोड आणि छान आहेत. पण इतकी काही खाल्ली आहेत की आता अजून नको.”

बिचारा शृंगेरी श्रीनिवास!

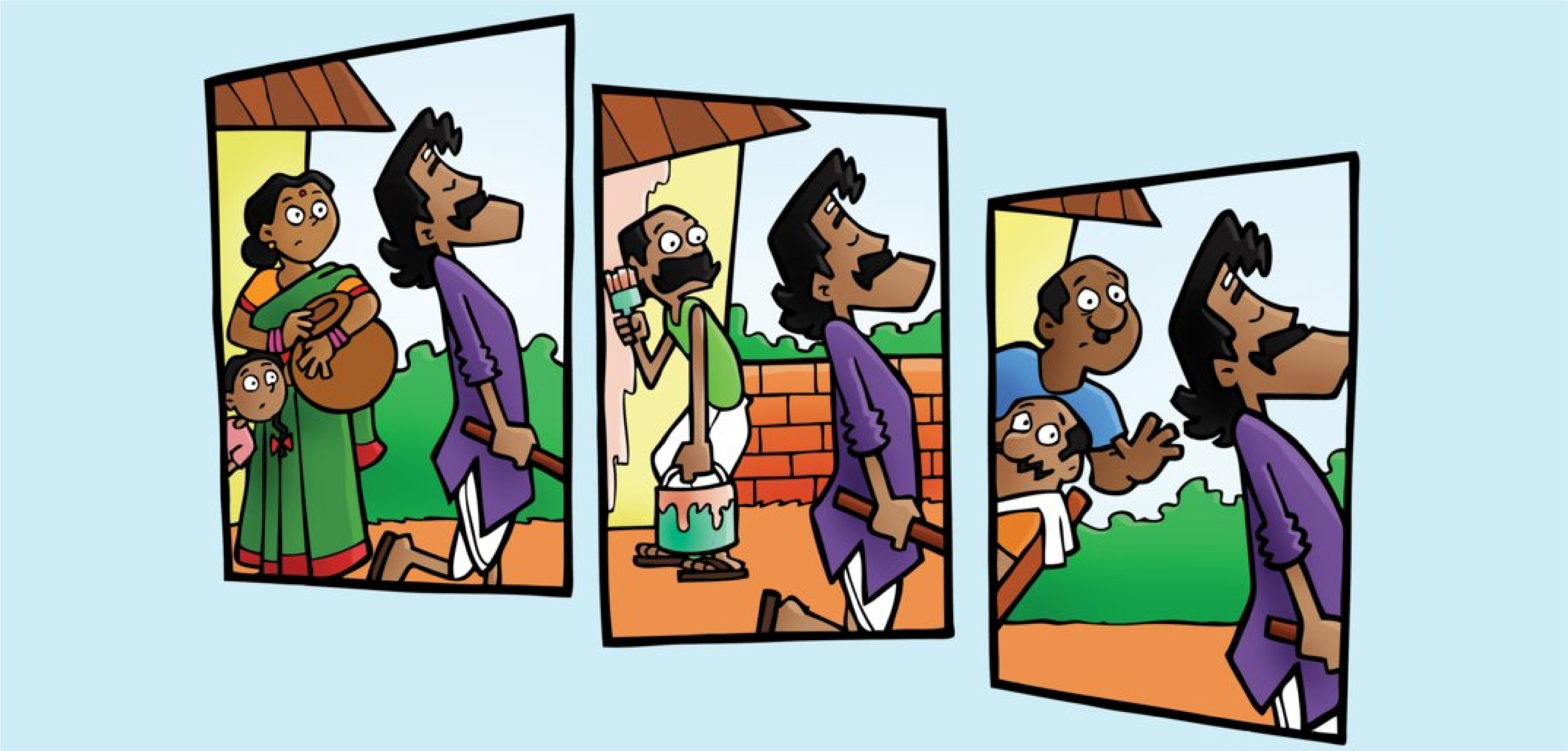
केळ्याचं इतकं छान पिक आलंय! करणार तरी काय आता तो एवढ्या केळ्यांचं?

मग त्यानं ठरवलं की जवळच्या दोड्डेरु या जरा मोठ्या गावात जायचं आणि तिथल्या शेतकरी केंद्राची मदत घ्यायची.

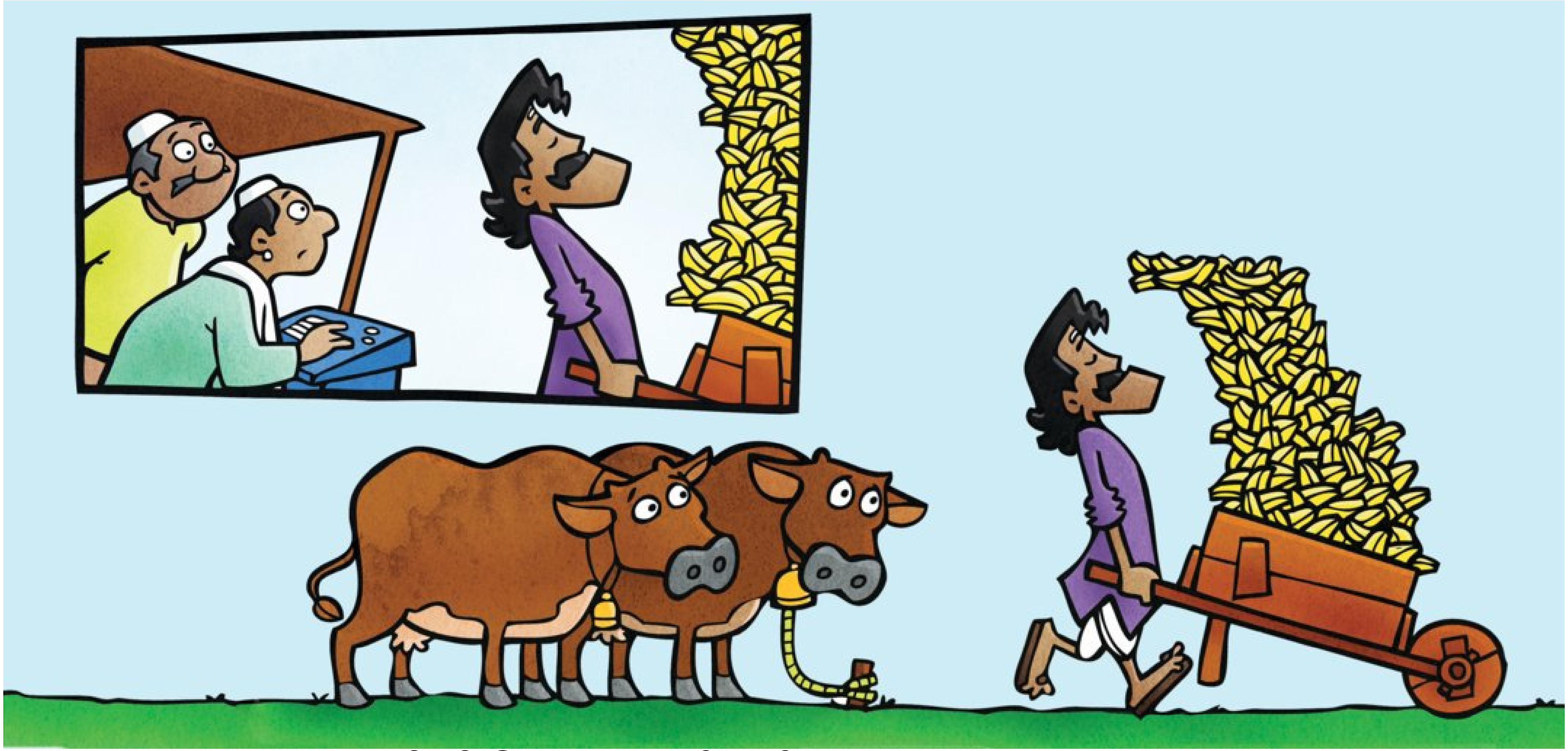
तिथल्या कुणाकडे तरी नक्कीच चांगला उपाय असेल यावर, असा मनाशी विचार करत, आपली चांगली केळी घेऊन तो निघाला.

थोड्याच दिवसांत आपला श्रीनिवास अगदी खुशीतच घरी परतला.
आणि पुन्हा केळ्याच्या बागेत काम करायला लागला.

पण यावेळी मात्र, “केळी हवी का?” असं त्यानं कुणालाही विचारलं नाही.
कुण्णा कुण्णालाही नाही.



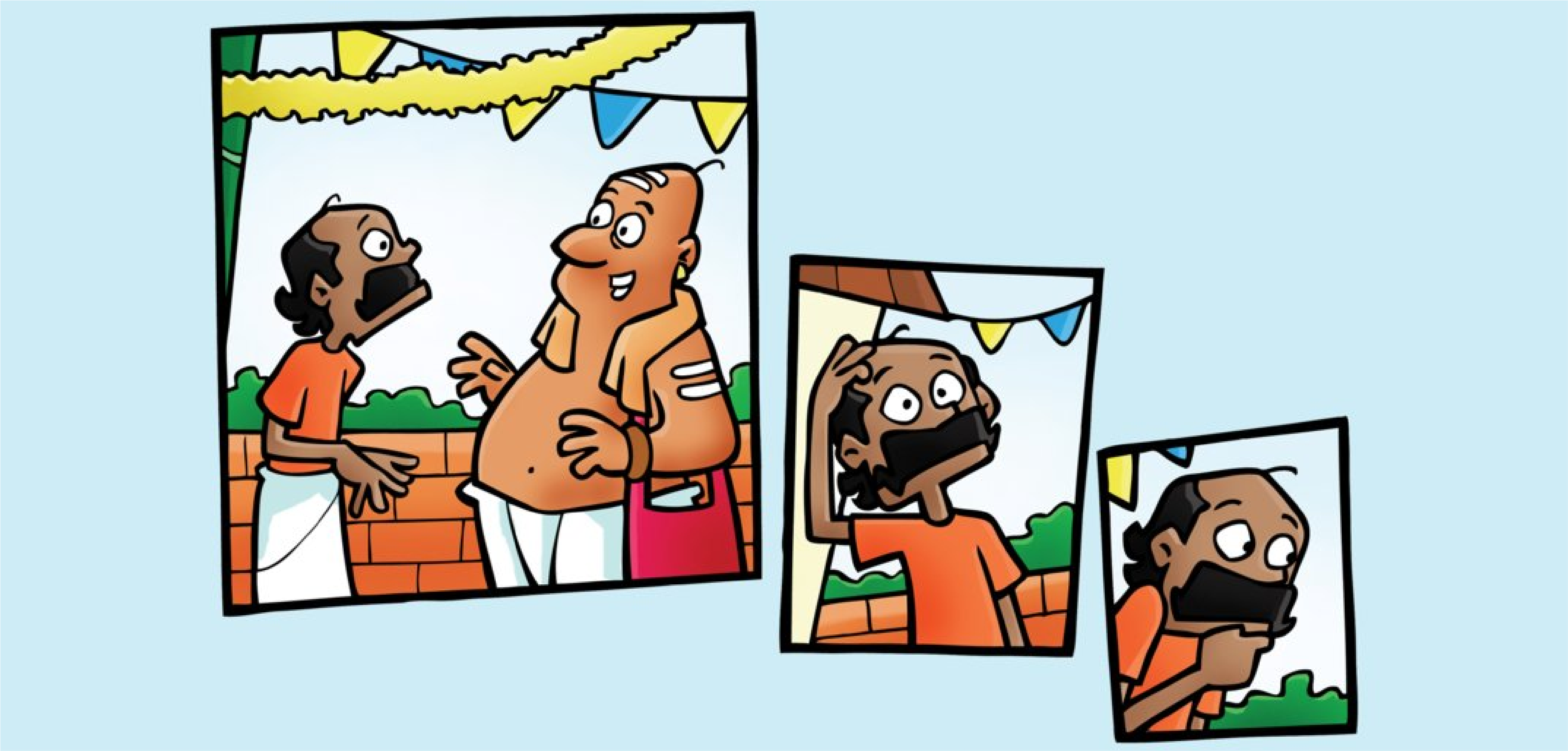
ना घरातल्यांना,
ना शेजाऱ्यांना,
ना मित्रांना.



दूर दूरच्या बाजारात जाऊन केळी विकणाऱ्यांनाही नाही.

आणि त्याच्या गाईंनासुद्धा नाही.
सगळ्यांना अगदी कुतूहल वाटायला लागलं की, एवढी सगळी केळी जातात तरी कुठे?

एके दिवशी शेजारच्या शिवण्णाकडे खूप मोठी पूजा होती.



नैवेद्याला १०८ पिकलेली केळी लागतील असं भटजींनी सांगितलं.

शिवण्णा शृंगेरी श्रीनिवासकडे धावला. त्याची विनवणी करत म्हणाला, “तुझी केळी नकोत, असं मी मागे म्हणालो खरा, पण आता मला चांगली पिकलेली १०८ केळी अगदी हवीच आहेत रे! बघ ना जरा. काही करू शकशील का?”

शृंगेरी श्रीनिवास विचारात पडला आणि म्हणाला,
“अं... खरं तर बागेतली सारी केळी काढून झाली आहेत, पण बघुया काय करता येतंय का! तुम्ही पूजा तर सुरू करा. मी आलोच.”

इकडे पूजा सुरू झाली.

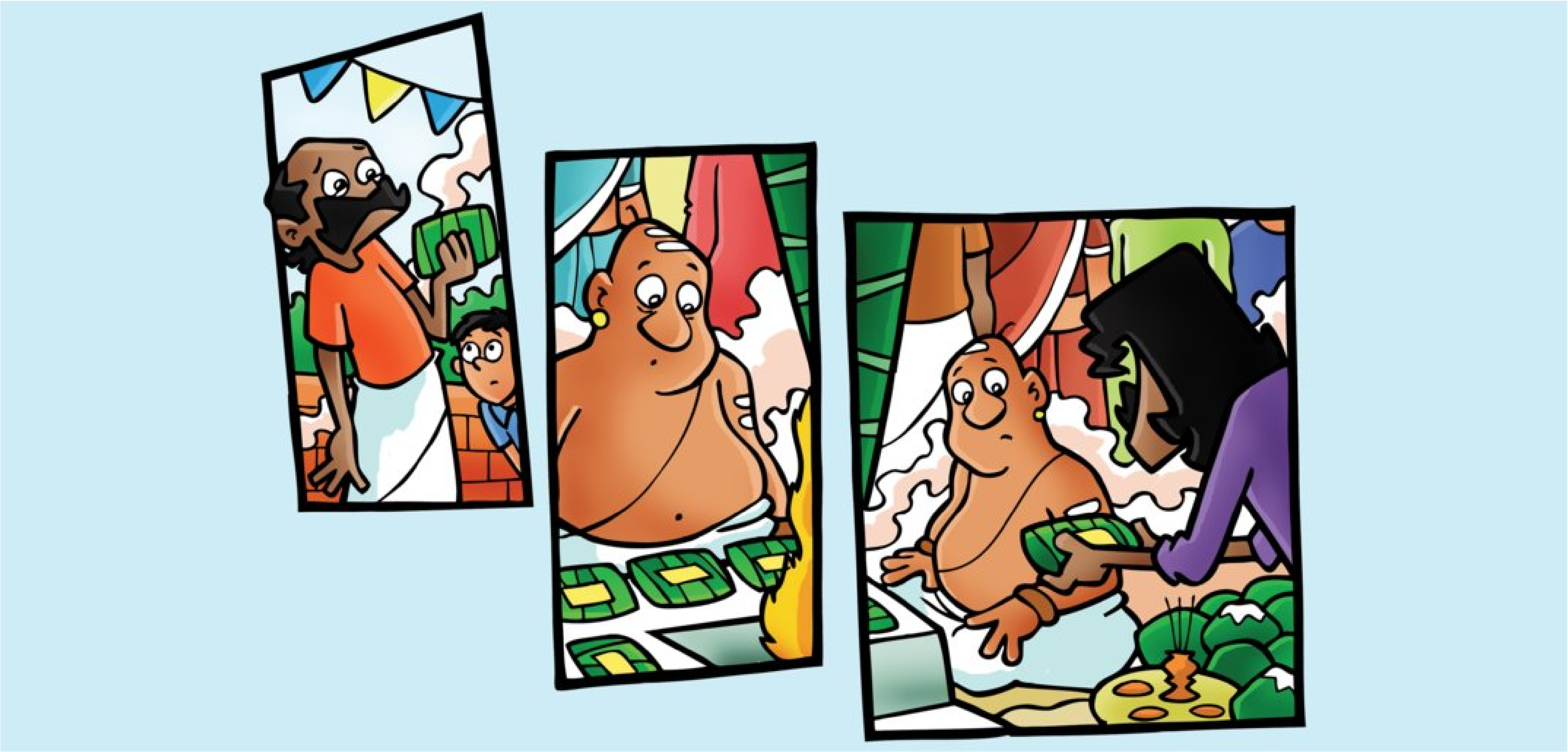
ती बघायला सगळा गाव लोटला.

भटजीबुवांनी मंत्र म्हणायला सुरुवात केली.

आता केळयांचा नैवेद्य दाखवायची वेळ आली.

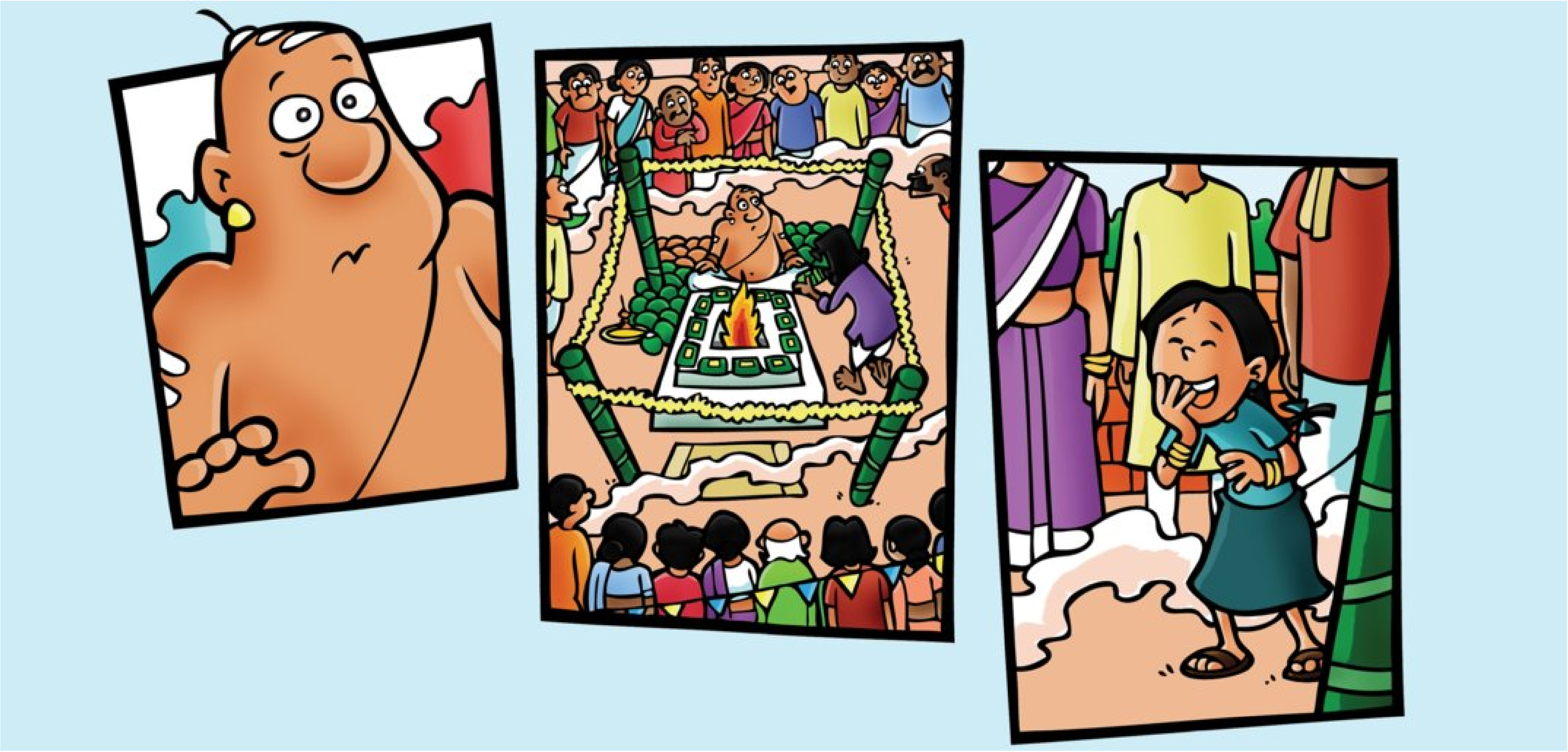
तेवढ्यात हातात एक मोठी पिशवी घेऊन शृंगेरी श्रीनिवास आला.

आपल्या पिशवीतून अगदी संभाळून त्यानं २७ पुडकी काढली आणि होम चालला होता, तिथे समोर ती ठेवली. प्रत्येक पुडा केळीच्या पानात नीट गुंडाळलेला होता.



प्रत्येक पुड्यावर लिहिलेलं होतं -
'उत्तम दर्जाचा केळ्याचा हलवा - एस. एस. फार्मस्.'
शृंगेरी श्रीनिवासनं एक पुडा भटजींना आदरानं दिला.

“प्रत्येक पुड्यात चार केळ्यांचा गर आहे. अशी ही २७ पुडकी. म्हणजे झाली १०८ केळी.”



भटजी एवढे आश्‍चर्यचकित झाले की ते पुढचा मंत्रच म्हणायला विसरले. एकदम शांतता पसरली. तेवढ्यात एक लहान मुलगी खुदूखुदू हसायला लागली.

मग काय, हळूहळू सगळं गावच टाळ्या पिटून हसू लागलं.

आता आलं का लक्षात तुमच्या, केळीच्या बागेतल्या सगळ्या गोड गोड केळयांचं शृंगेरी श्रीनिवास काय करतो ते?

तुम्हाला हे ठाऊक आहे का?

अरबी भाषेतील हाताचे बोटयावरून "बनाना" हा इंग्रजी शब्द तयार झालेला आहे.

केळ्यांची माहिती:
जगात सर्वात जास्त केळी
भारतात होतात. केळ्यांच्या 120 जाती येथे होतात. त्रिची येथील "राष्ट्रीय केळी संशोधन केंद्रा" ने केळ्याच्या 1120 जाती विकसीत केल्या आहेत.
केळ्यातील खनिजे मेंदूची क्षमता वाढवण्यास मदत करतात. त्यामुळे मुले चपळ आणि उत्साही होतात.
भारतात केळ्यांपासून अनेक पदार्थ बनवतात. केरळात पायसम, कर्नाटकात केळ्याचा रस्सा बनवतात.
शिवाय केळ्याचा हलवा आणि गूळ घालून केळ्याची मिठाई बनवतात.
तुम्हाला आणखी काही पदार्थ माहीत आहेत का?

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केळीच केळी

(Marathi)

शृंगेरी श्रीनिवासच्या बागेतील गोड केळी कोणीही विकत घेत नव्हते. अशा वेळी त्याने त्या केळ्यांचे काय केले हे जाणून घेण्यासाठी ही छान गोष्ट वाचा.

या पुस्तकाची वाचन पातळी २ आहे. ओळखीचे शब्द जाणून वाचणाऱ्या आणि मदत घेऊन नवे शब्द वाचू शकणाऱ्या मुलांसाठी.

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