

THE DONKEY

WHO TRIED TO BE A DOG



A story about being yourself

Advik Rataan

Grade 5

Ivy International School, Shimla

A Hard Day's Work



A washerman lived in a village with his donkey and his dog. Every morning, the donkey carried bundles of clothes to the river. By evening, his legs felt tired.

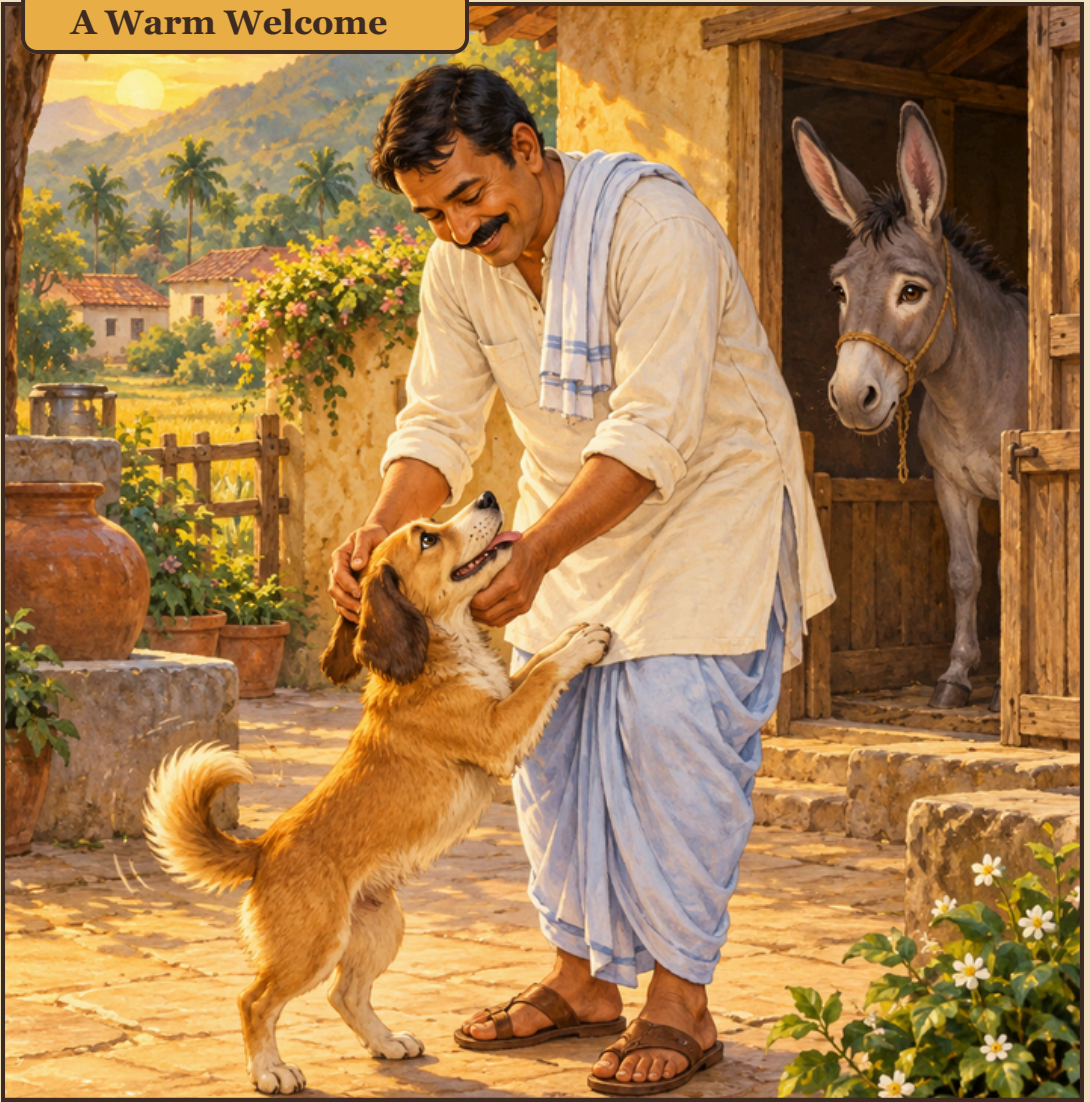
An Easy Life



One afternoon, he spotted the dog sleeping beneath a shady tree.

"What an easy life!" the donkey muttered. "I carry clothes, and he just snores!"

A Warm Welcome



That evening, the dog ran to welcome the washerman. He wagged his tail and jumped around his feet.

The washerman laughed and scratched his ears.

The donkey watched from the shed.

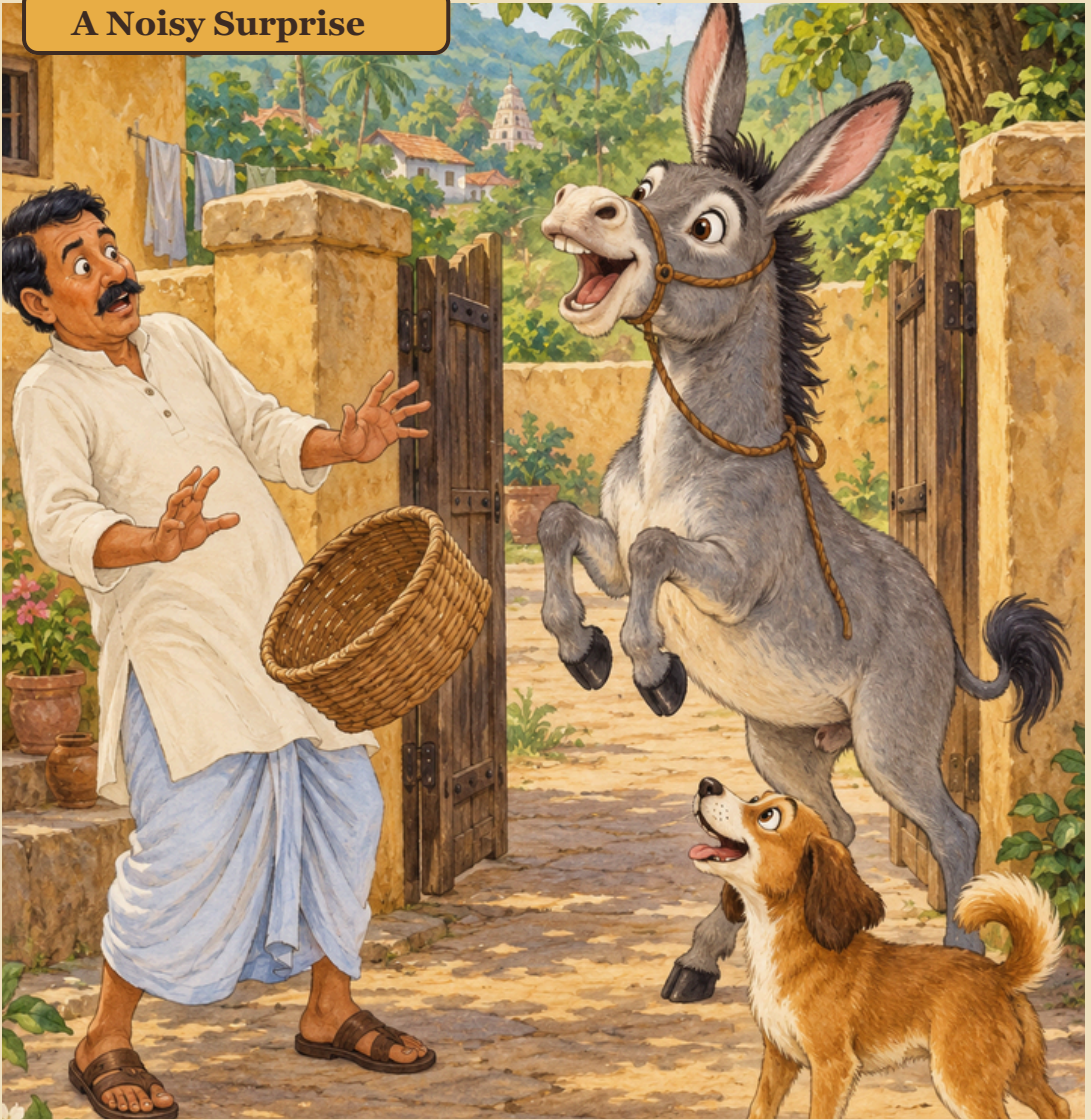
The Donkey's Plan



"Nobody scratches my ears like that," he thought. "Perhaps if I behave like the dog, he will fuss over me too!"

The next evening, the donkey waited near the gate.

A Noisy Surprise

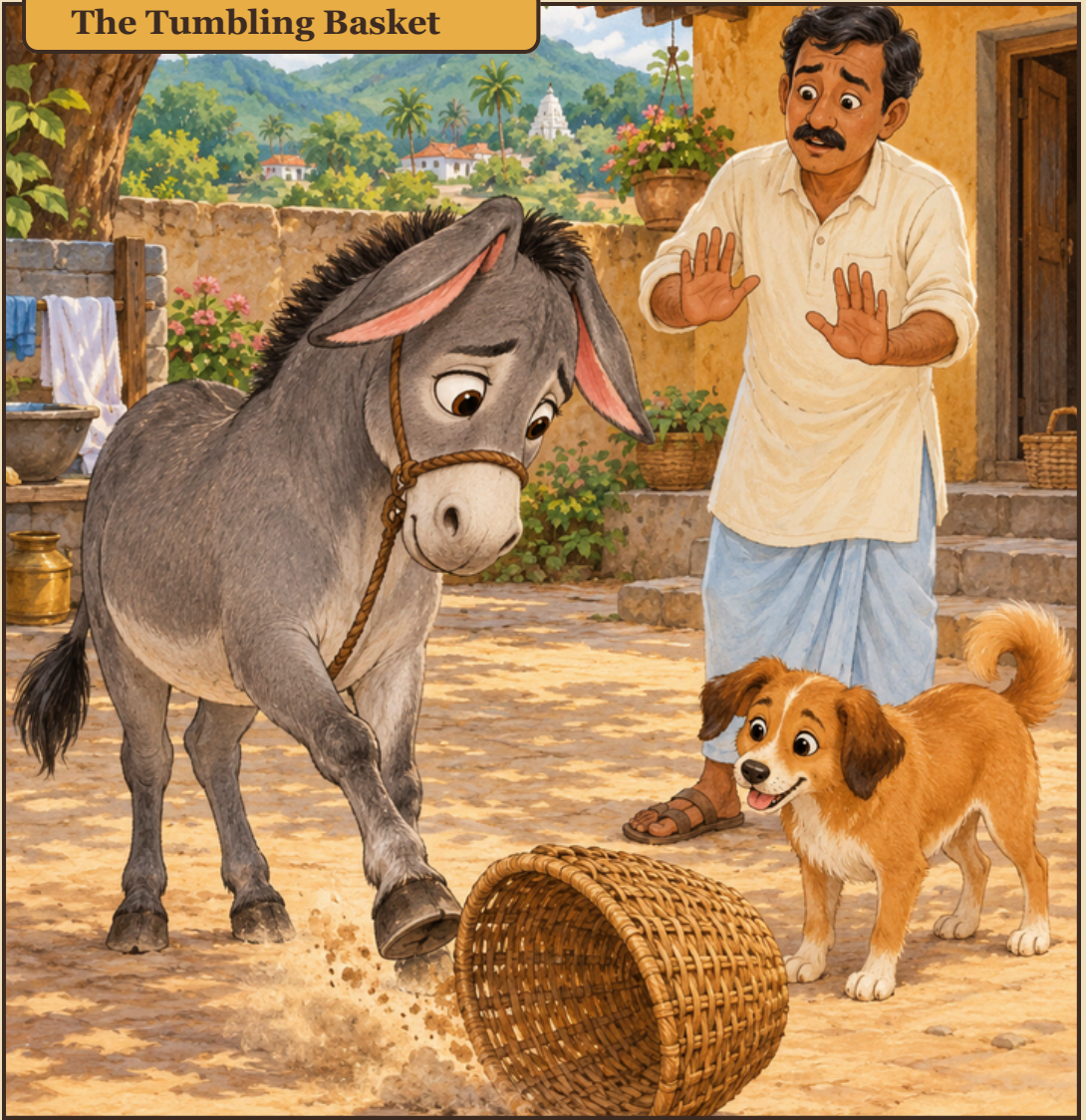


As soon as the washerman arrived, he rushed forward, bounced on his hooves, and let out his loudest bray.

"HEE-HAW!"

The washerman dropped his empty basket in surprise.

The Tumbling Basket

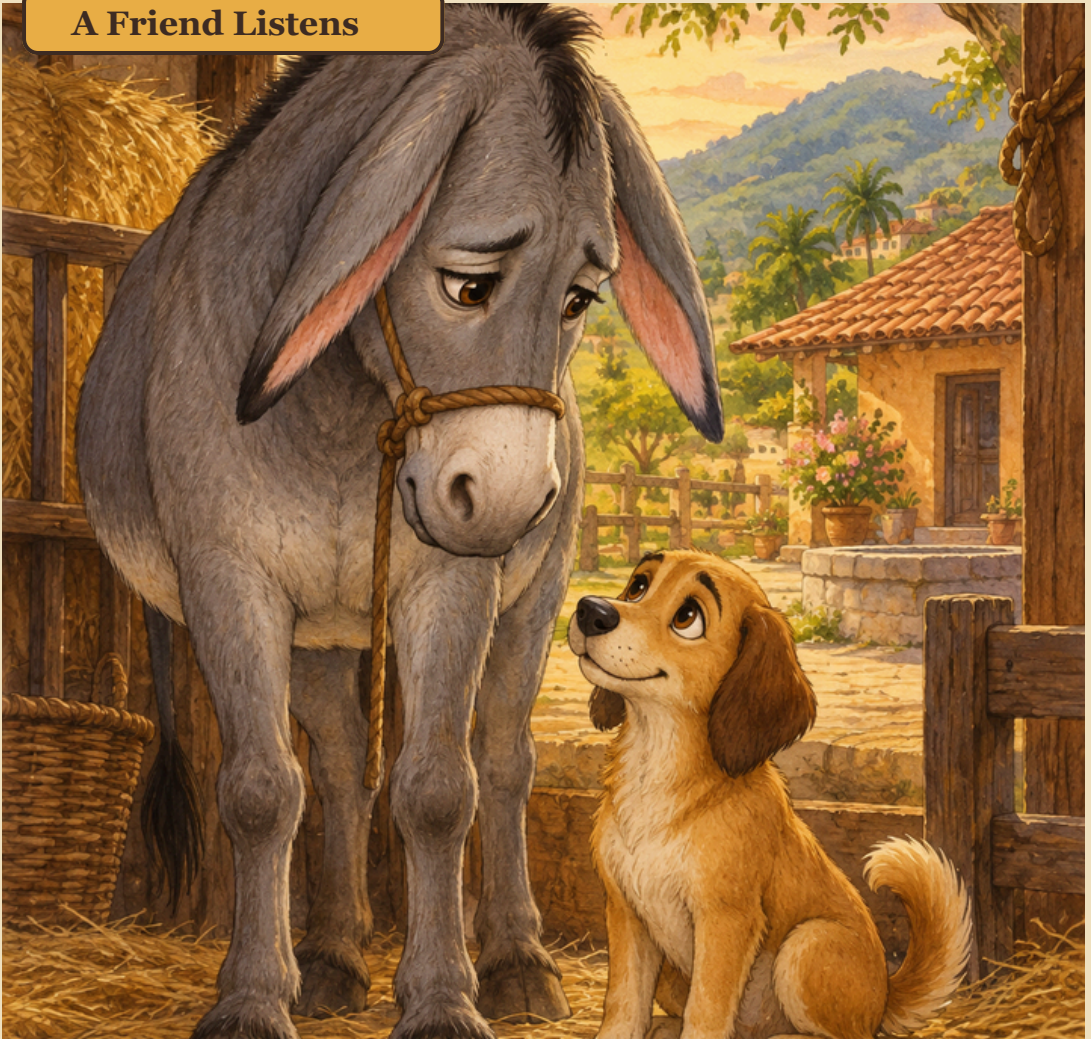


Encouraged, the donkey tried another jump. His hoof caught the basket, sending it tumbling across the courtyard.

"Stop! You'll knock us both over!" cried the washerman.

The donkey stood still. His ears drooped.

A Friend Listens

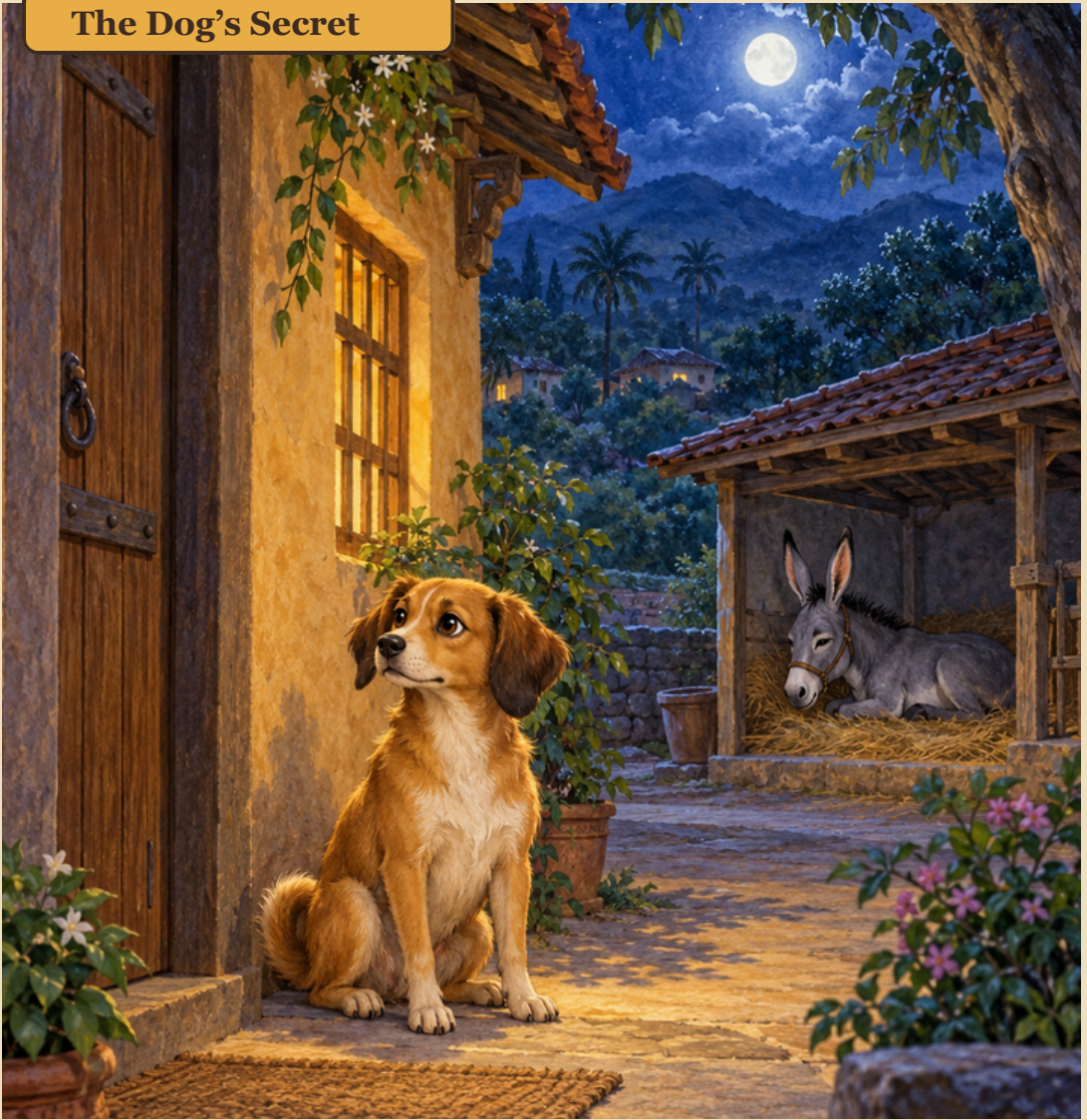


He shuffled back to the shed. Soon, the dog came to sit beside him.

"I only wanted him to welcome me the way he welcomes you," the donkey said.

"You could start with a gentle nudge," said the dog. "Those hooves are much bigger than my paws!"

The Dog's Secret

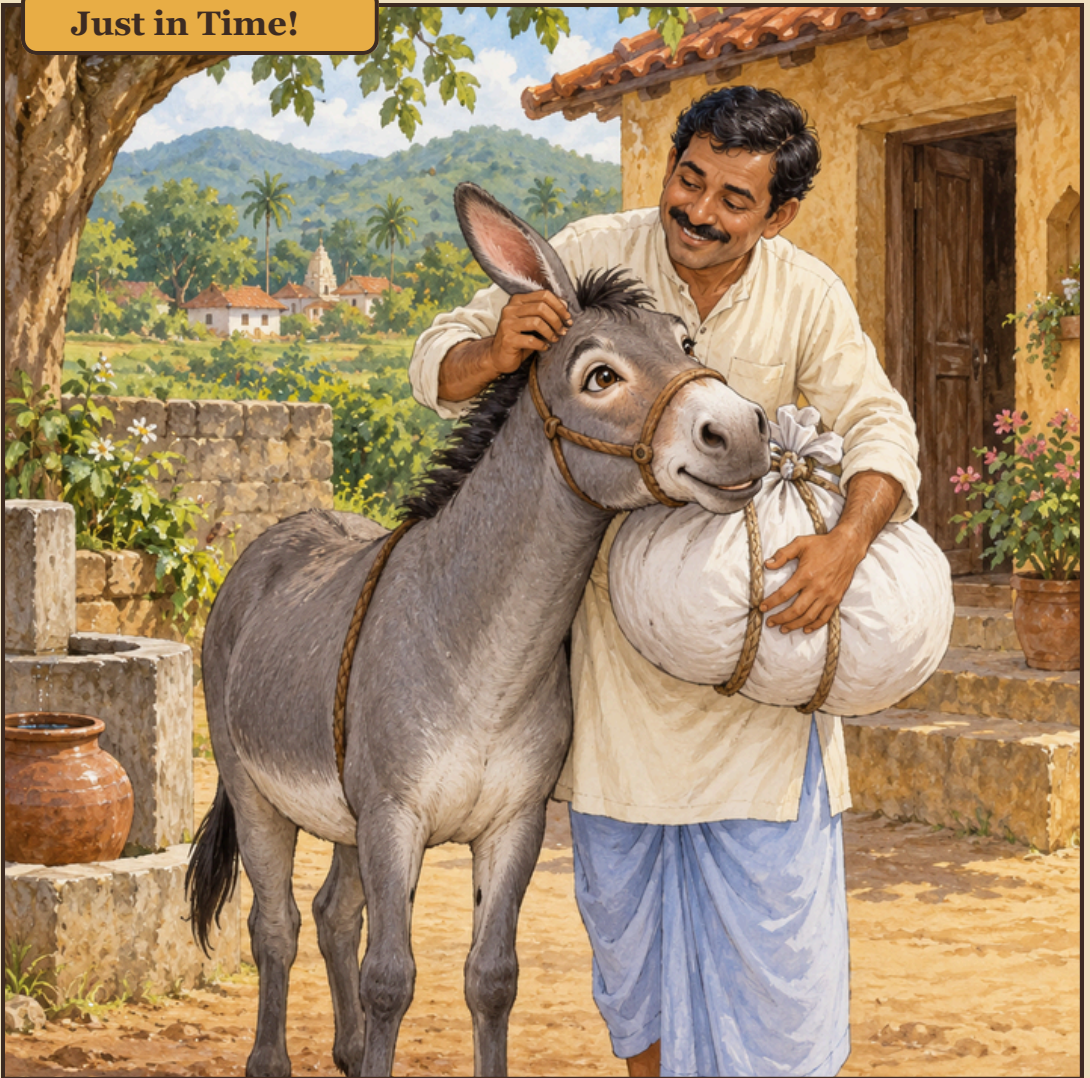


The donkey sighed. *"And you get to sleep all day."*

"Sometimes," said the dog. *"But who do you think guards the house while everyone sleeps?"*

The donkey had never thought of that.

Just in Time!

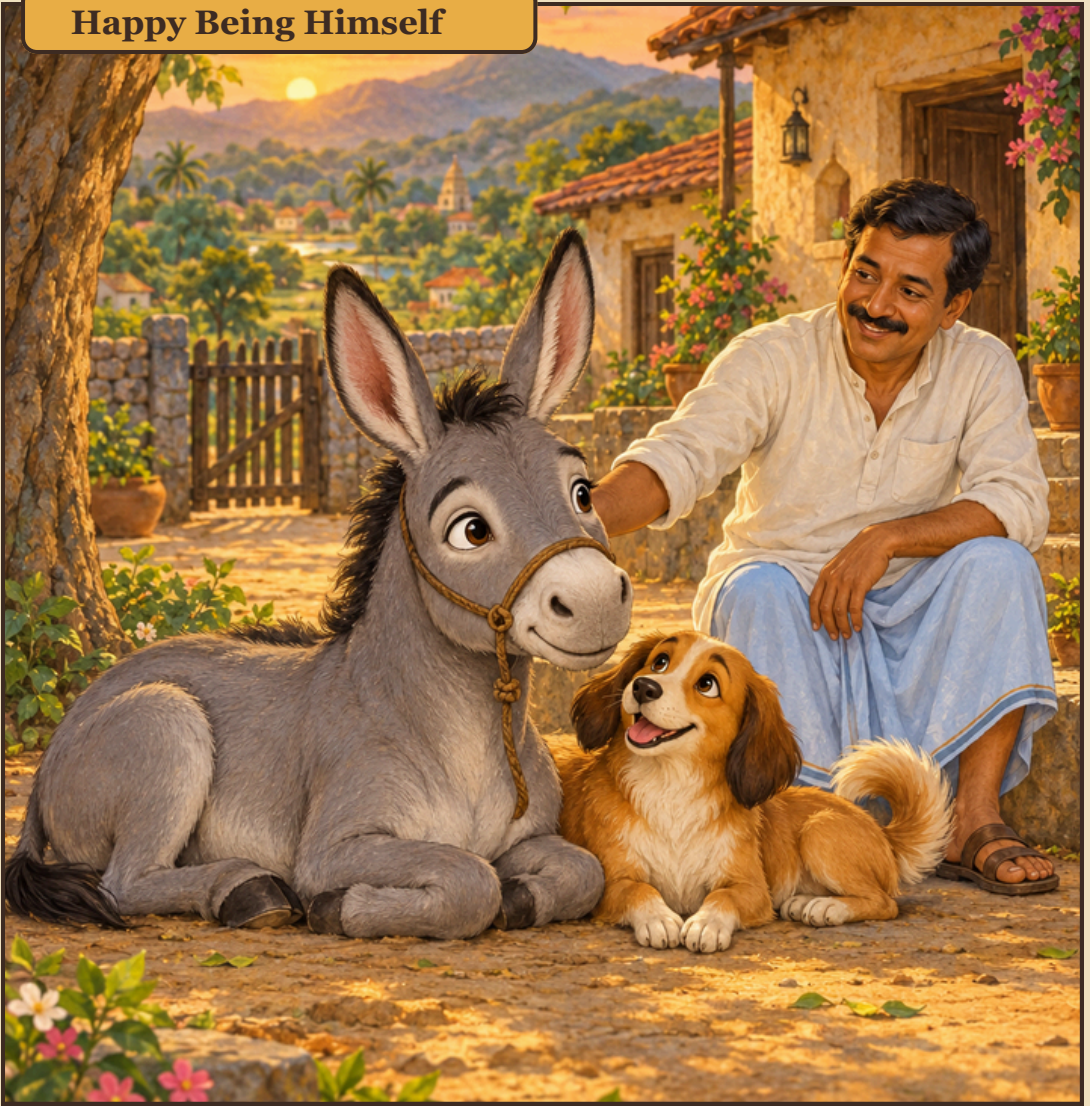


The following morning, a bundle slipped from the washerman's arms near a muddy puddle. The donkey stepped closer, and the washerman caught it against his broad back.

"Just in time!" the washerman said. He rubbed the donkey's ears.
"What would I do without you?"

The donkey leaned into his hand.

Happy Being Himself



That evening, he welcomed the washerman with a gentle nudge. Then he rested beside the dog beneath the shady tree.

He still enjoyed watching his friend's tricks, but he no longer felt he had to copy them. Being a donkey had its own good points, especially when someone remembered to scratch his ears.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Advik Rataan

Grade 5 | Ivy International School, Shimla

Advik Rataan is a Grade 5 student at Ivy International School, Shimla. He describes himself as kindhearted. The Donkey Who Tried to Be a Dog shares a simple message: be yourself and value your own strengths.

Everyone has strengths worth valuing.

