

# MAHAGIRI

An Elephant Story retold

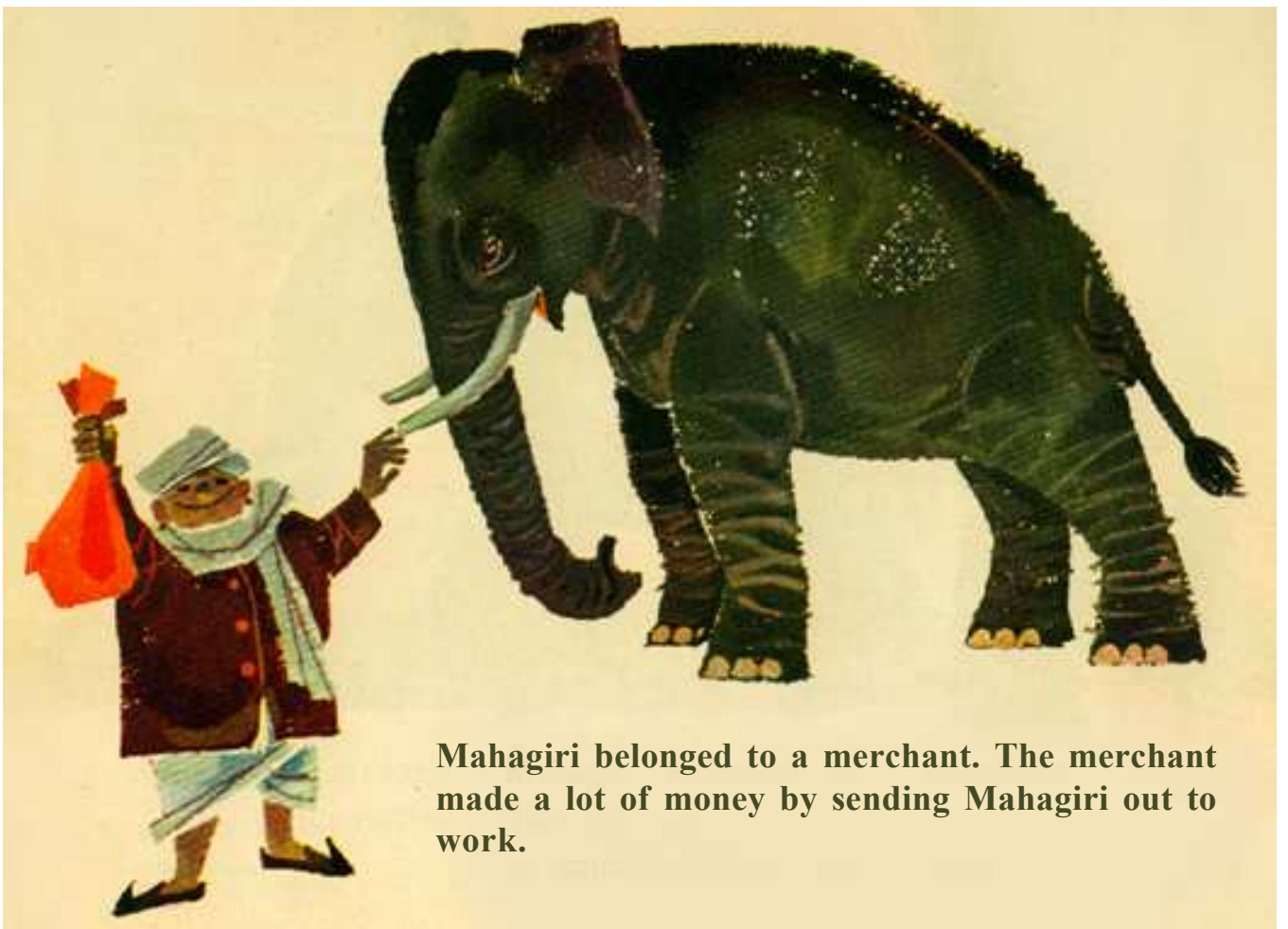
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Illustrated by Pulak Biswas

ONE OF INDIA'S BEST CHILDREN'S BOOK

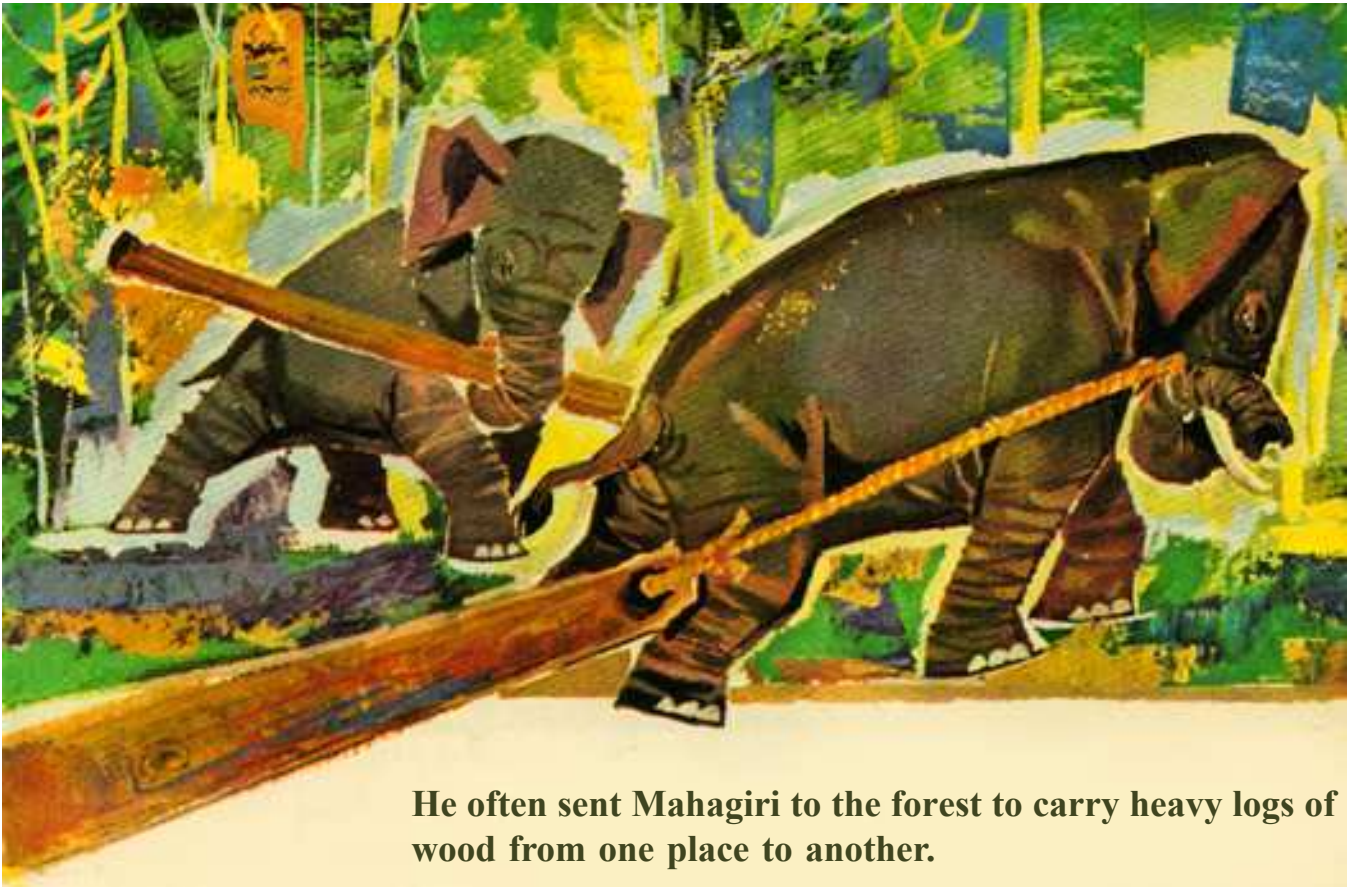


**Mahagiri was a huge elephant He was so big that children were afraid to go near him.**

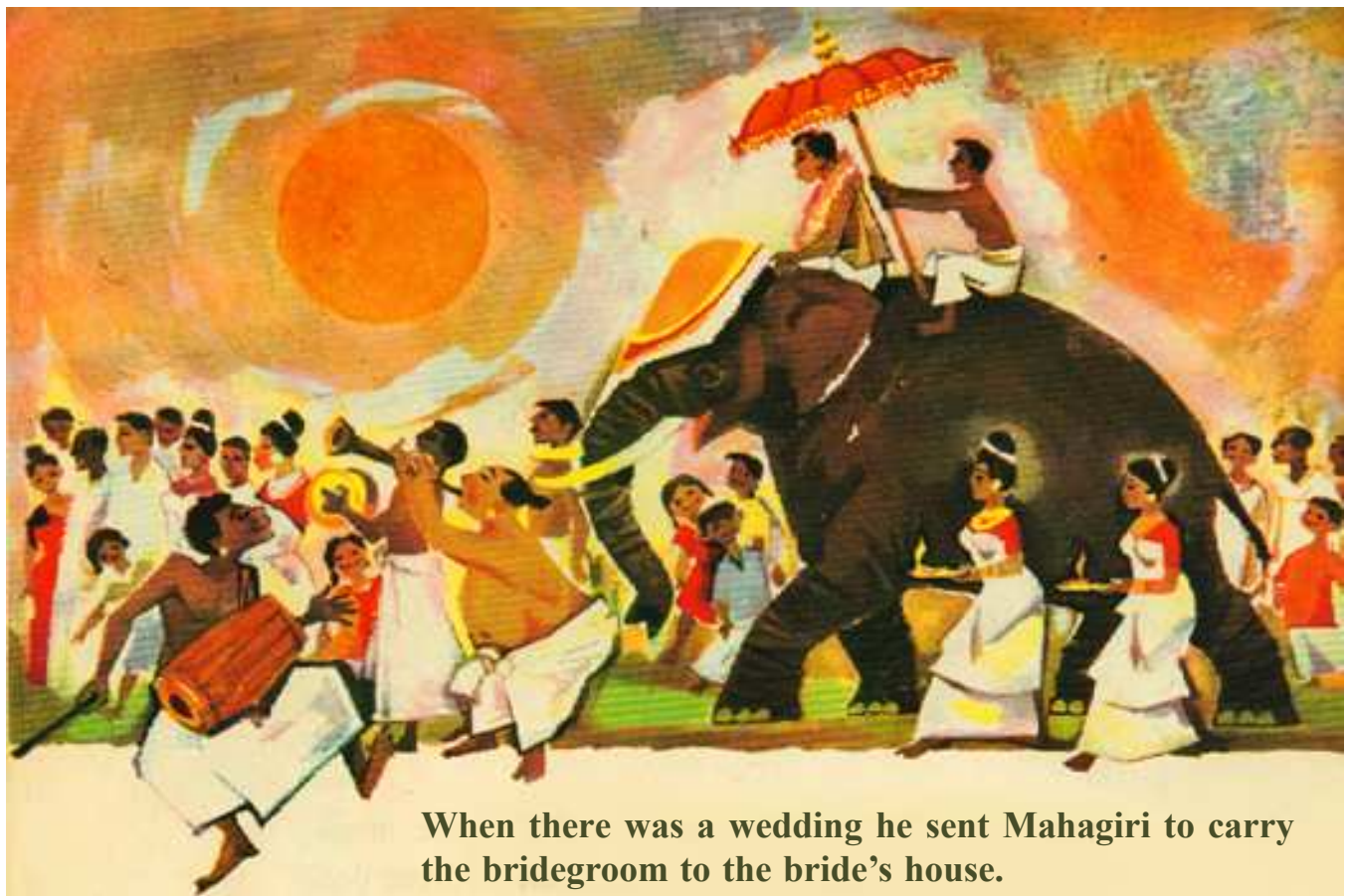


**Mahagiri belonged to a merchant. The merchant made a lot of money by sending Mahagiri out to work.**





**He often sent Mahagiri to the forest to carry heavy logs of wood from one place to another.**



**When there was a wedding he sent Mahagiri to carry the bridegroom to the bride's house.**

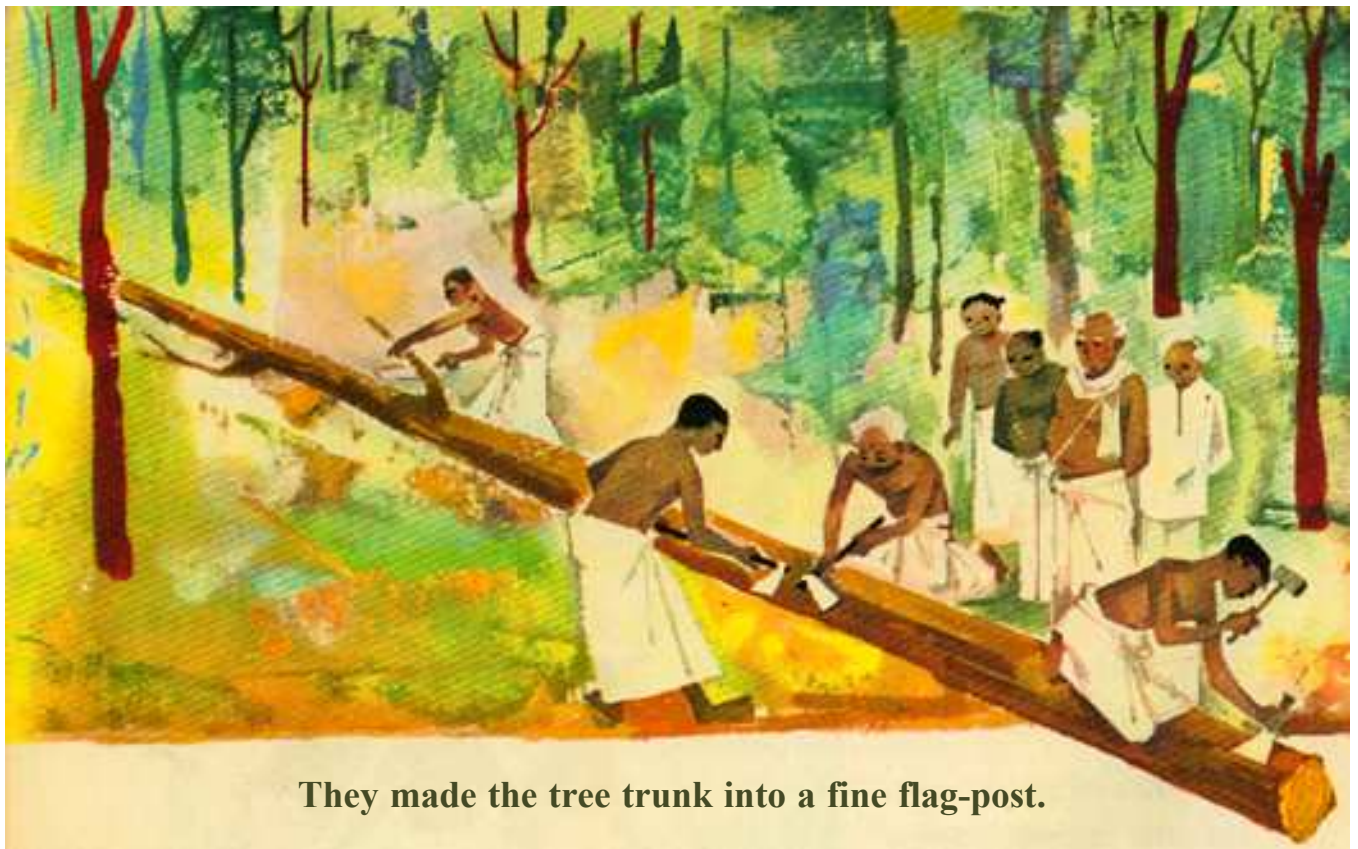
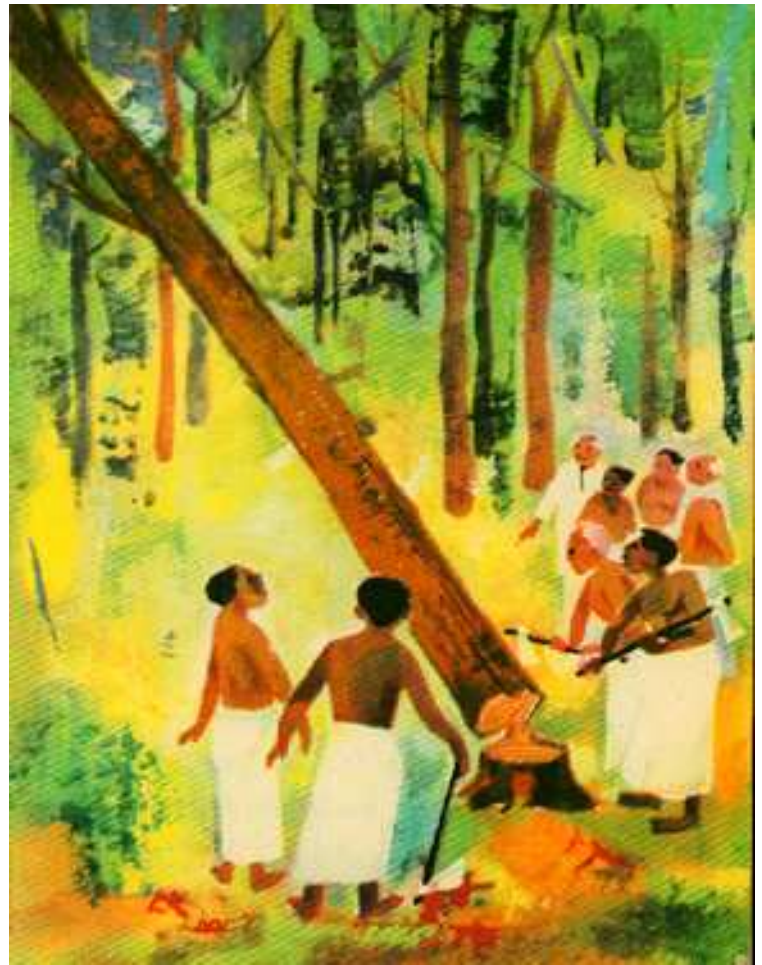


When there was a big festival at the temple, he sent Mahagiri to lead the procession.



Once the people of a village wanted to hold a festival at their temple. The festival could not begin till the temple flag was put up. The temple had a flag, but there was no flag-post.

So the villagers went to the nearby forest and cut down a tall teak tree.

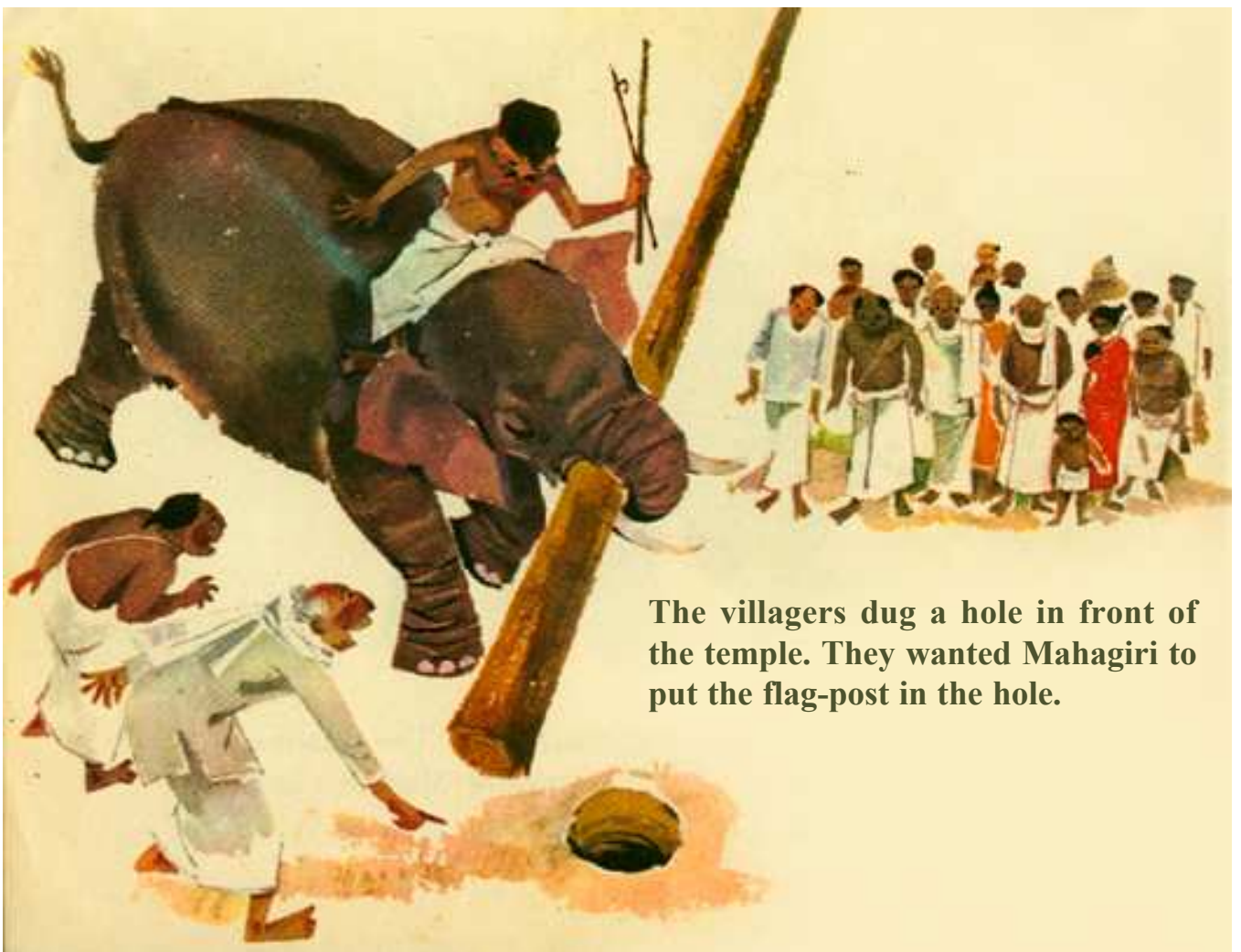


They made the tree trunk into a fine flag-post.





**The flag-post was very long and heavy. The villagers could not carry it. So they brought Mahagiri and made him carry it to the temple.**



**The villagers dug a hole in front of the temple. They wanted Mahagiri to put the flag-post in the hole.**





**Mahagiri carried the flag-post to the hole. Then suddenly he stopped and turned back.**

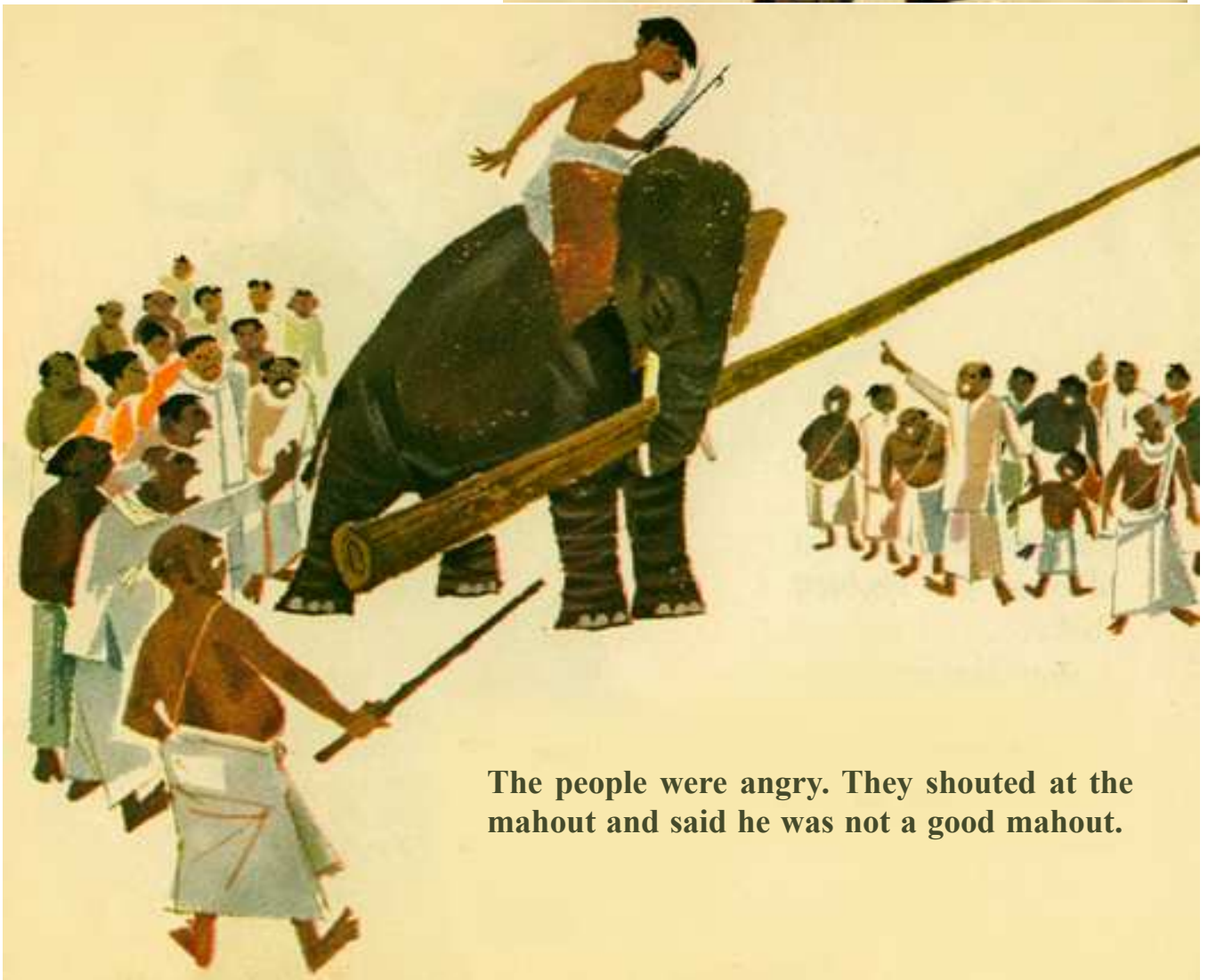


**The mahout ordered Mahagiri to put the flag-post in the hole.**

**But Mahagiri would not move.**

**The mahout told him again and again, but Mahagiri refused.**

**The mahout beat Mahagiri with his hard stick.  
But Mahagiri just stood still.  
The mahout beat Mahagiri till his stick broke.**



**The people were angry. They shouted at the mahout and said he was not a good mahout.**



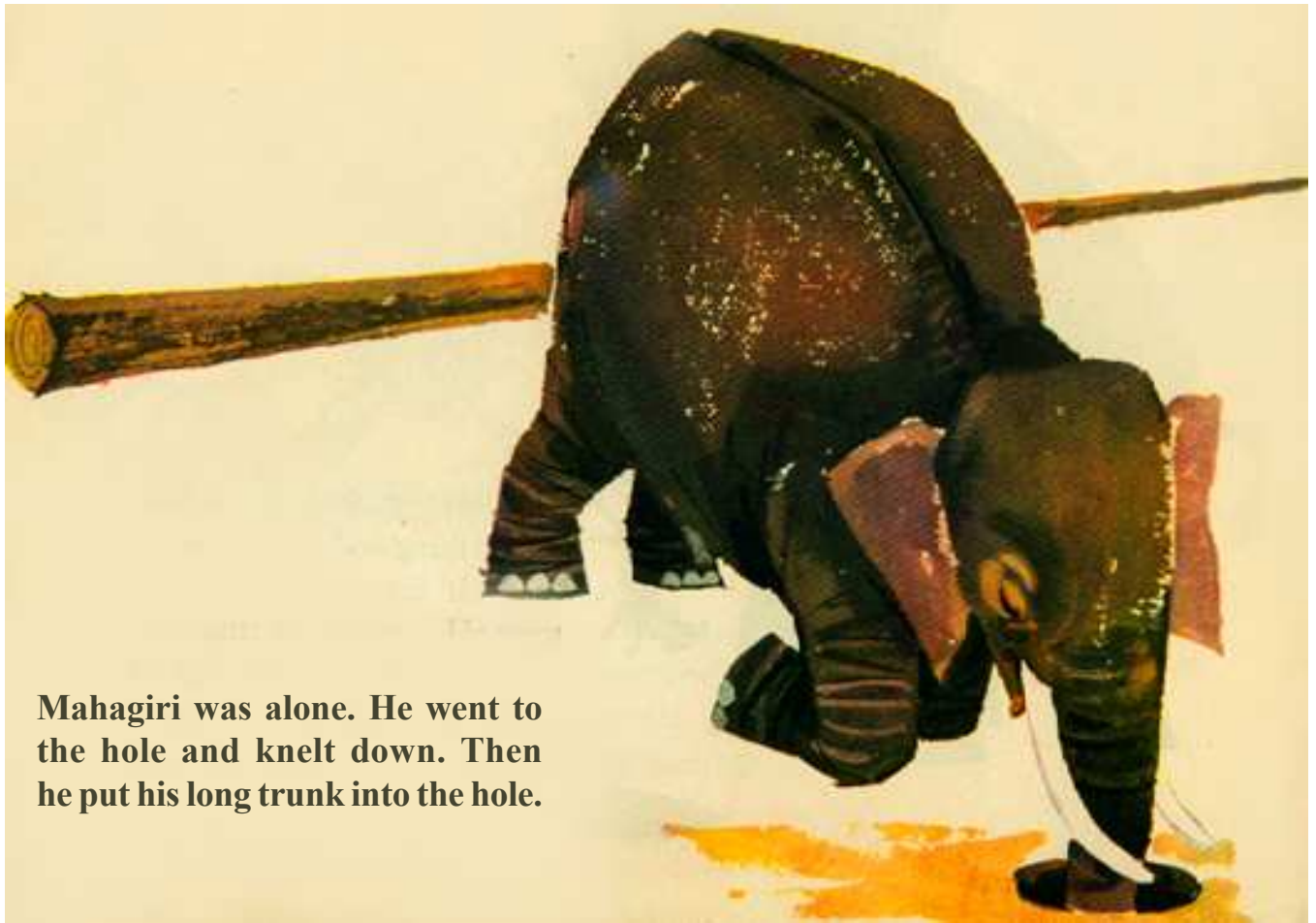
The mahout was angry. He took out his sharp knife and stabbed Mahagiri many times on the neck saying, “Now you will do as I tell you.”

Mahagiri could not bear the pain any more.

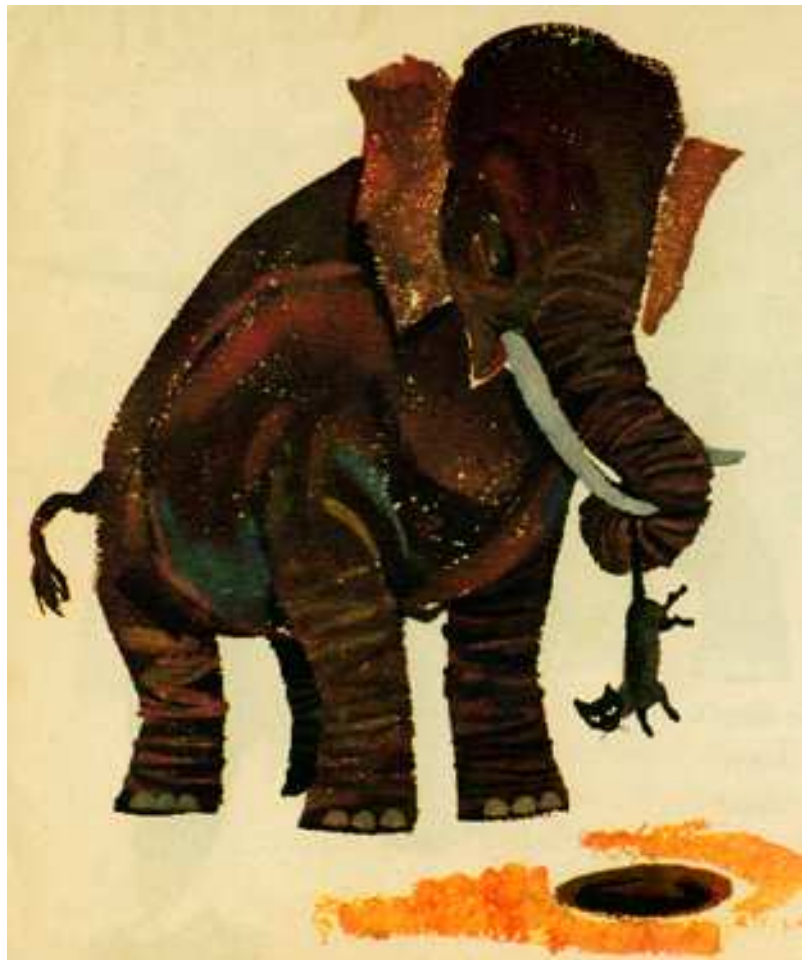
He was angry. He threw away the flag-post.



Mahagiri cried loudly and shook himself violently. The mahout was thrown off. The people were frightened. They thought the elephant had gone mad. They all ran away.



**Mahagiri was alone. He went to the hole and knelt down. Then he put his long trunk into the hole.**



**He picked up something and gently placed it on the ground. It was a cat!**

**The cat had been hiding in the hole.**

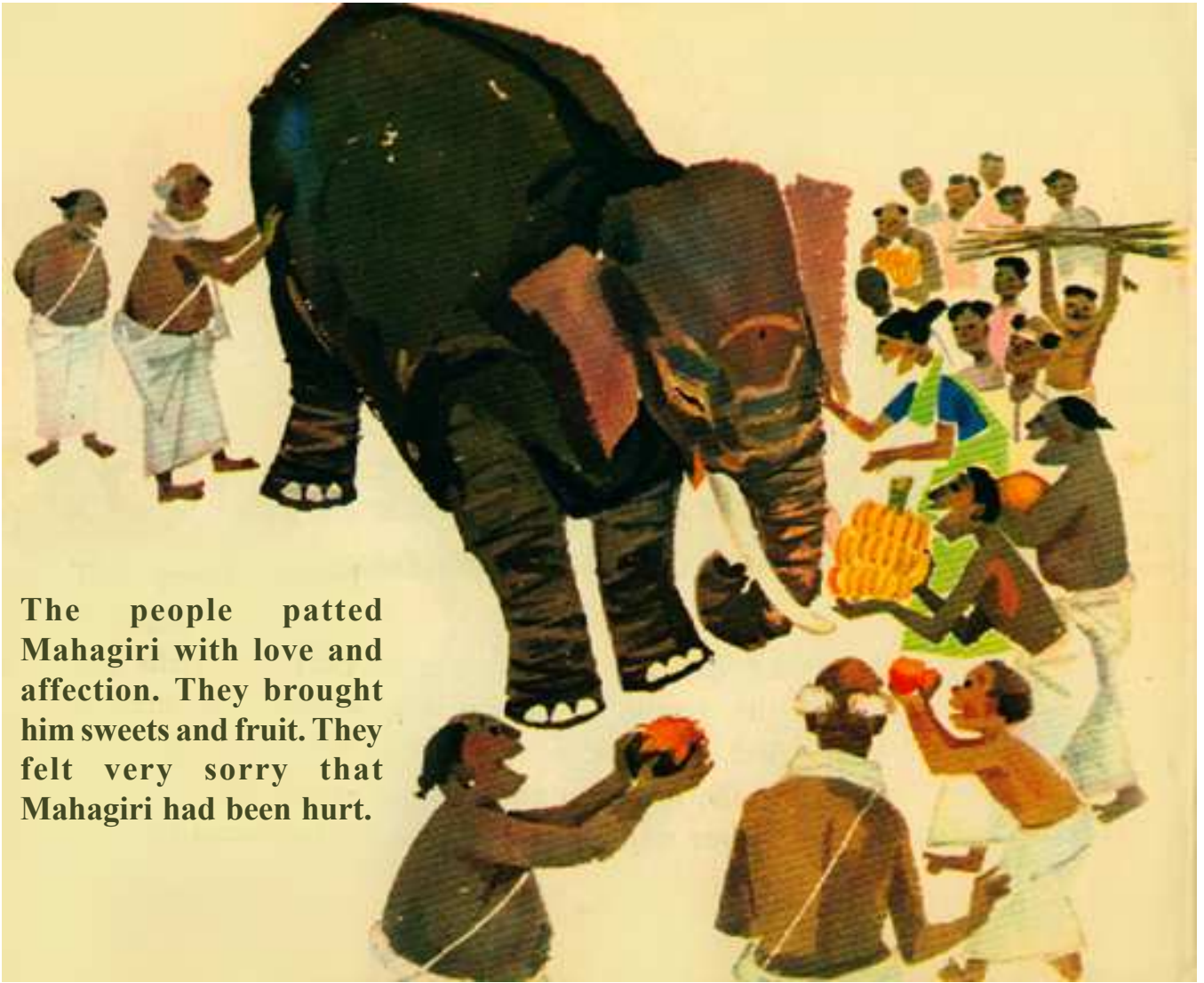




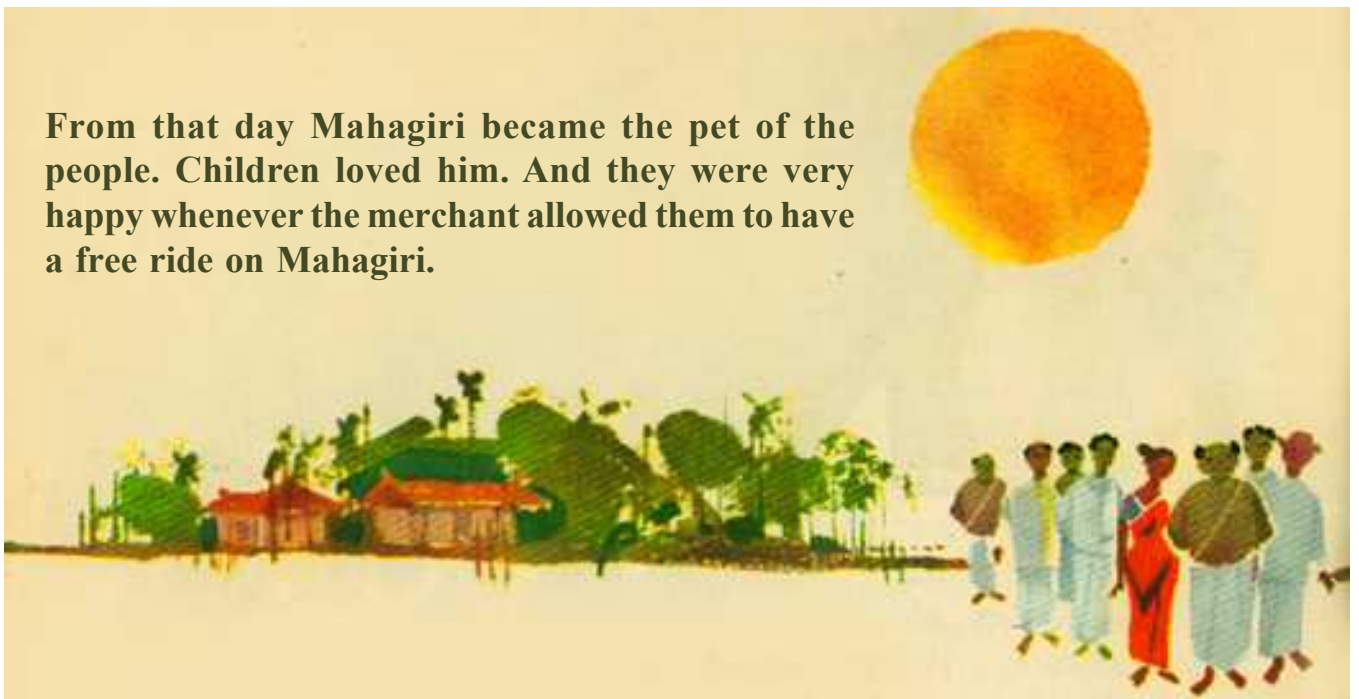
**The people were watching Mahagiri from a distance. They knew now why he had disobeyed the mahout's orders. The huge elephant did not want to hurt the little cat. They ran to him in great joy.**



**Mahagiri then lifted the flag-post, lowered it into the hole, and held it up with his trunk so that the people could fill up the hole with earth.**

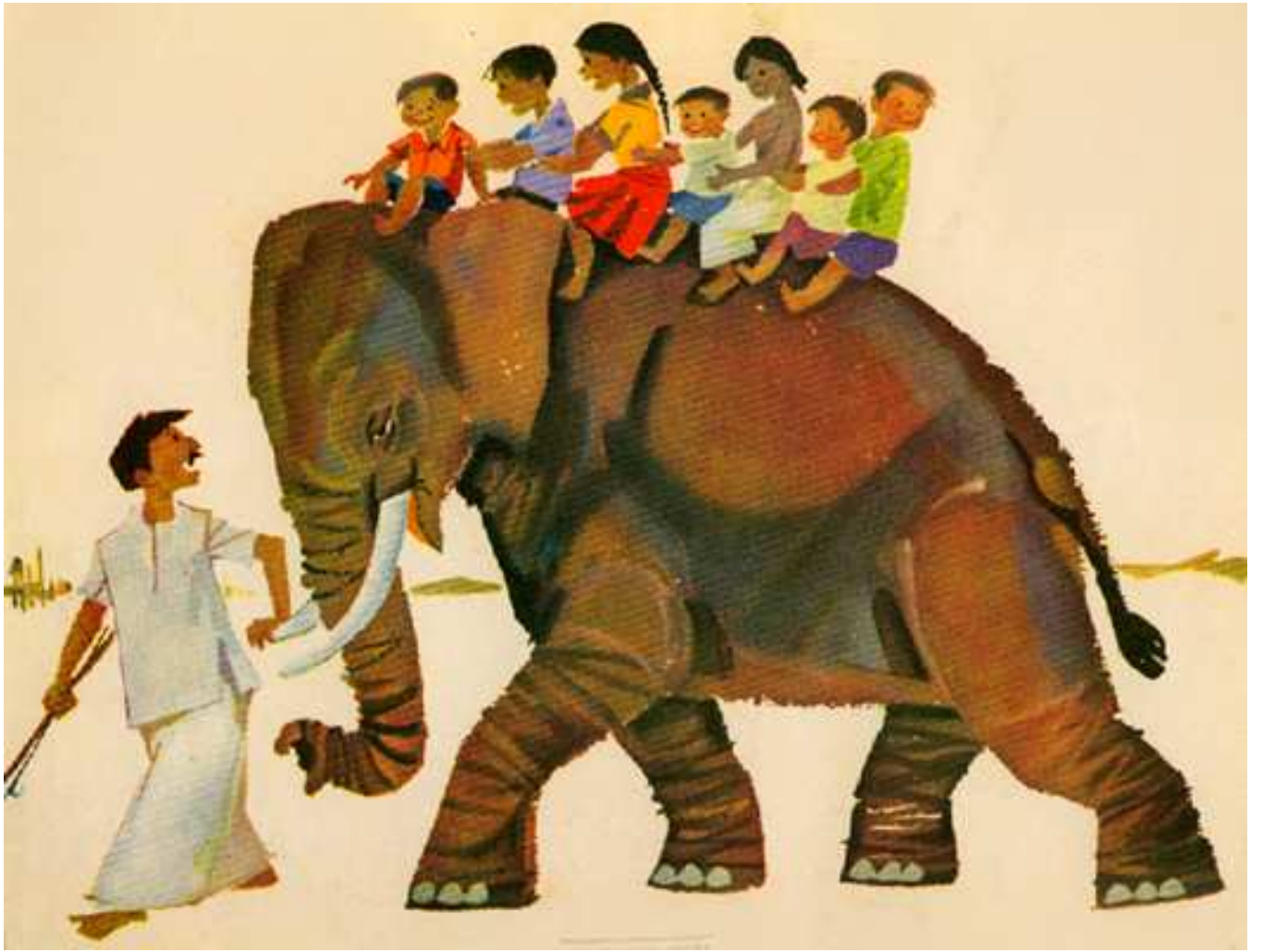


**The people patted Mahagiri with love and affection. They brought him sweets and fruit. They felt very sorry that Mahagiri had been hurt.**



**From that day Mahagiri became the pet of the people. Children loved him. And they were very happy whenever the merchant allowed them to have a free ride on Mahagiri.**





END