

## The crows and the snake

Long ago, in India, a pair of crows nested in a hollow tree at the bottom of which lived a fierce snake which used to eat the young birds as soon as they were hatched.

"Oh dear, how can we stop this horrid snake eating our children?" said the mother crow one day.

"We must get rid of him, my dear," replied the father crow.

"But that is impossible," said Mrs. Crow. "You know very well that he is much stronger than we are."

"Don't worry, my dear," answered her husband. "Just leave everything to me."

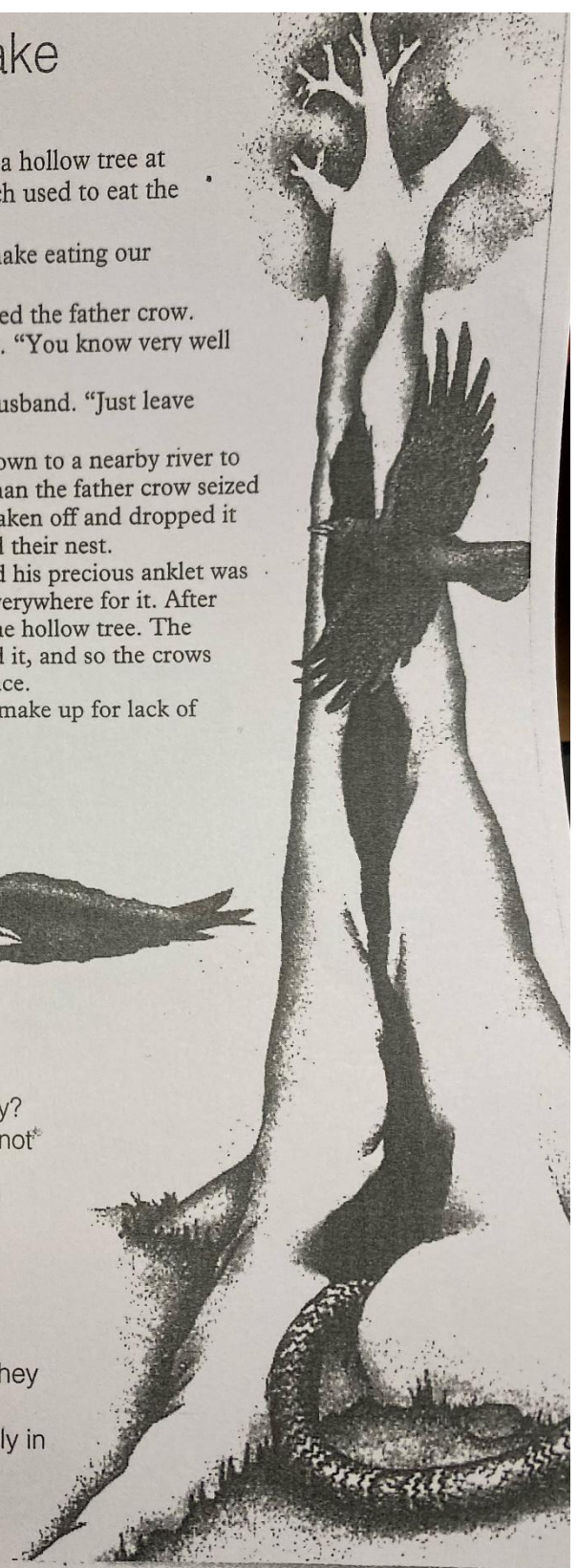
The following day the king's son came down to a nearby river to swim. No sooner had he entered the water than the father crow seized the lovely gold anklet which the prince had taken off and dropped it inside the hollow tree in which the crows had their nest.

When he was dressing, the prince noticed his precious anklet was missing and ordered his servants to search everywhere for it. After some time the missing anklet was found in the hollow tree. The servants also found the cruel snake and killed it, and so the crows were able to bring up their next family in peace.

This fable teaches us that skill will often make up for lack of strength.



- 1 Why were the crows unable to bring up a family?
- 2 Why did the mother crow think that they could not get rid of their enemy?
- 3 Who came down to the river the following day?
- 4 Why did he come?
- 5 What did the crow take when the prince was swimming?
- 6 Where did he hide it?
- 7 What did the servants find in addition to what they were looking for?
- 8 Why were the crows able to bring up their family in peace after this?



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