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Sympathy

Rabindranath Tagore

Art by Sujata Khanna



This book belongs to

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About Katha

Katha, a nonprofit organization founded in 1988, works in the literacy to literature continuum. We work with slum communities and municipal corporation schools to ensure that every child learns to read for fun and at grade level. We also work with women and teachers so that all children achieve their potential.

Our books, workshops and learning centres strive to forge cross-cultural connections through story and Story Pedagogy®. As one of India's finest publishers, our initiative has been recognized as "a unique and special moment in Indian publishing history" by *The Economic Times*.

Katha's books have received global recognition, including the nomination by an international jury for the prestigious Astrid Lindgren Award, the world's biggest prize for children's literature.

We love to work with new and established writers, translators and illustrators.

Do you like writing, illustrating, translating for children? Write to us at editors@katha.org to become a cherished member of the Katha family!

"[Katha] ... an educational jewel in India's crown."

— Naoyuki Shinohara, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

"Katha stands as an exemplar for all the creative projects around the world that grapple with ordinary and dramatic misery in cities."

— Charles Landry, *The Art of City Making*

"Katha has a real soft corner for kids. Which is why it ... create[s] such gorgeous picture books for children."

— Time Out

"Katha's work is driven by the idea that children can bring change to their communities that is sustainable and real, just as the children do in [their books]."

— Papertigers





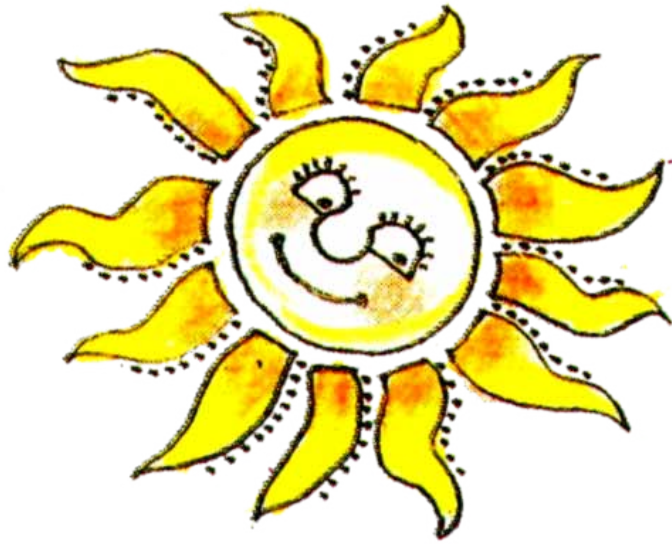
If I were only a little puppy, not your baby, mother dear, would you say “No” to me if I tried to eat from your dish?





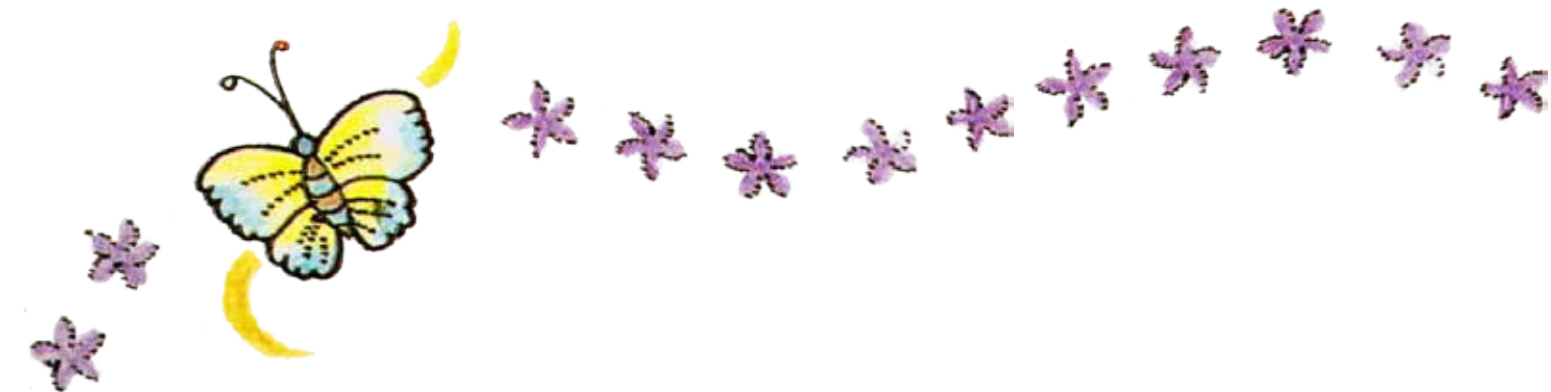
Would you drive me off, saying to me,
“Get away, you naughty little puppy?”
Then go, mother, go! I will never come to
you when you call me, and never let you
feed me any more.



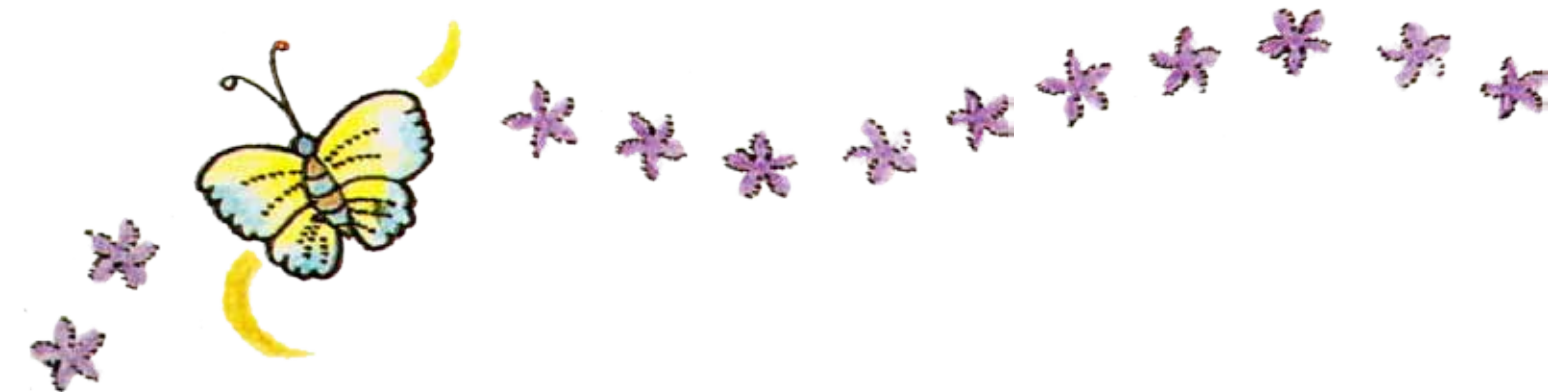

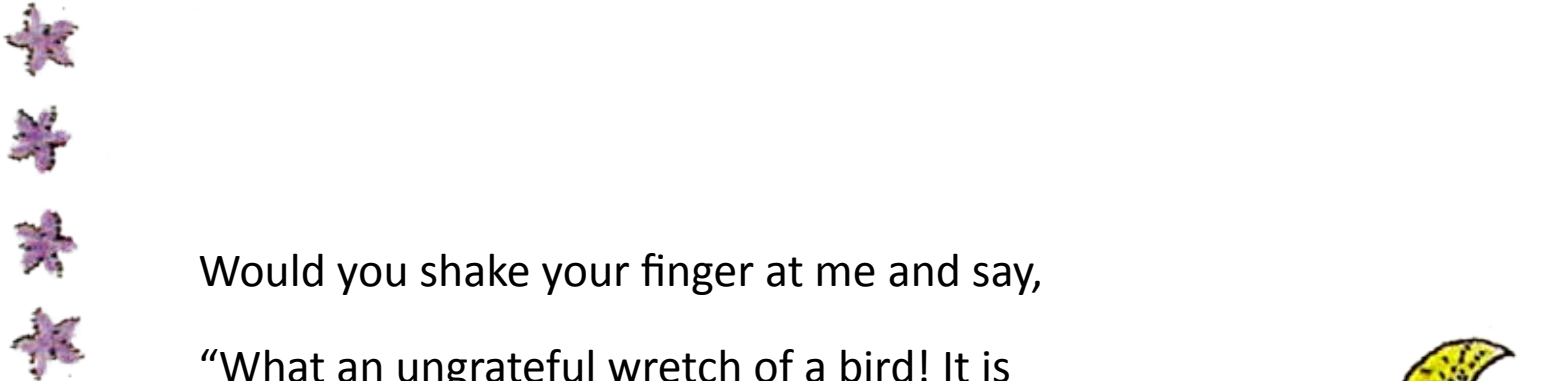


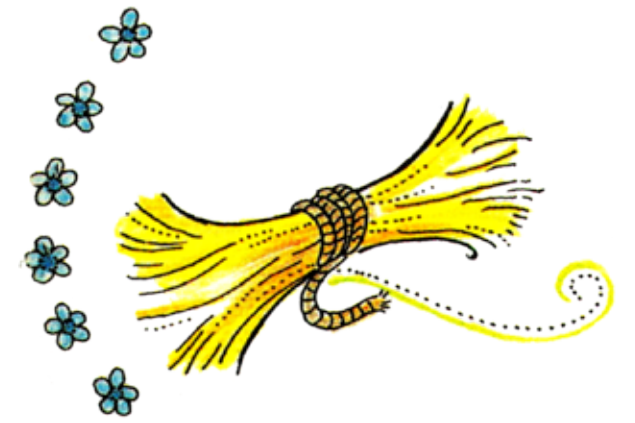
If I were only a little green parrot, and not
your baby, mother dear, would you keep me
chained lest I should fly away?





Would you shake your finger at me and say,
“What an ungrateful wretch of a bird! It is
gnawing at its chain day and night”?





Then go, mother, go! I will run away into
the woods; I will never let you take me in
your arms again.





Rabindranath Tagore, lovingly called Gurudev, was born on May 7, 1861 in Calcutta. He wrote his first poem when he was seven. At the age of seventeen, his first book of poems was published. His writings, with their magic and lyricism, stir deep emotions and makes one marvel at the ease of words and the flow with which he weaves them together. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for his collection of well-known poems *Gitanjali*.

Sujata Khanna has been working as an illustrator and cartoonist since 1992. She has illustrated books for *Katha*, The India Today group's *Target magazine*, *Tata McGraw Hill publishers*, *Down to Earth magazine*, *Nirantar* and *Oxford University Press*. She paints canvases as a creative hobby and writes poetry with sketches for her online blog.

Through her innocent and insightful questions, a little girl teaches her mother to care for animals and birds, the way in which she shows concern for her daughter. This story drives home the message of how human beings should be more sympathetic to the sufferings of other beings, and envelope them in their love. A heart-warming story with a profound message for young readers.

