



GUP-GUPANGDAS

Charu Anand

Art by Sujata Singh



a 300m thinkbook from Katha 



Gup-Gupangdas loved to talk. He could very easily tell one story after another.



His friends teased him. “Hey, why don’t you go tell the Emperor a story? He might even give you a reward!”



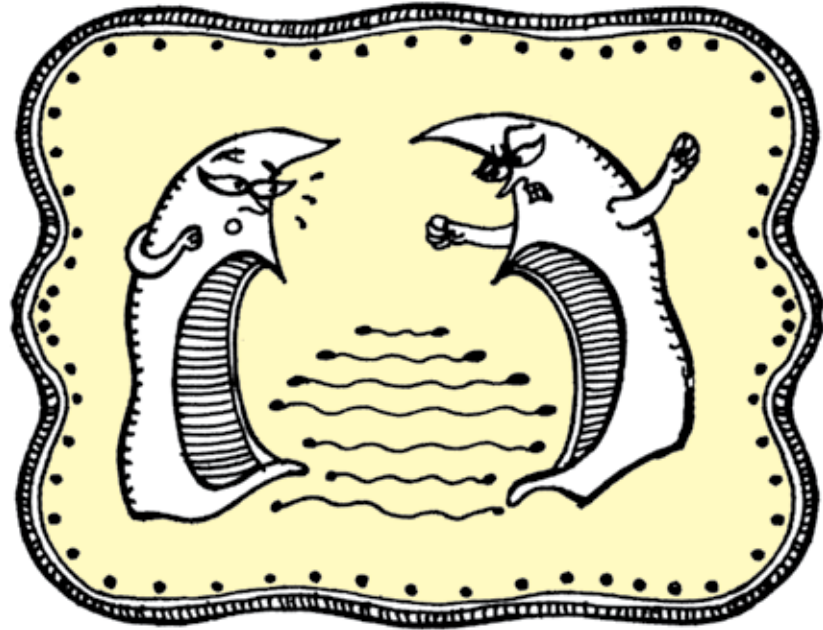


Gup-Gupangdas decided to go to the Emperor's court.

At the court, he said to the Emperor, "O Emperor, please allow me to speak of the strange things happening in your land."

The Emperor was surprised.
He asked, "Why? What are the strange things happening in my land?"
"Huzoor, my shoe has run away!"



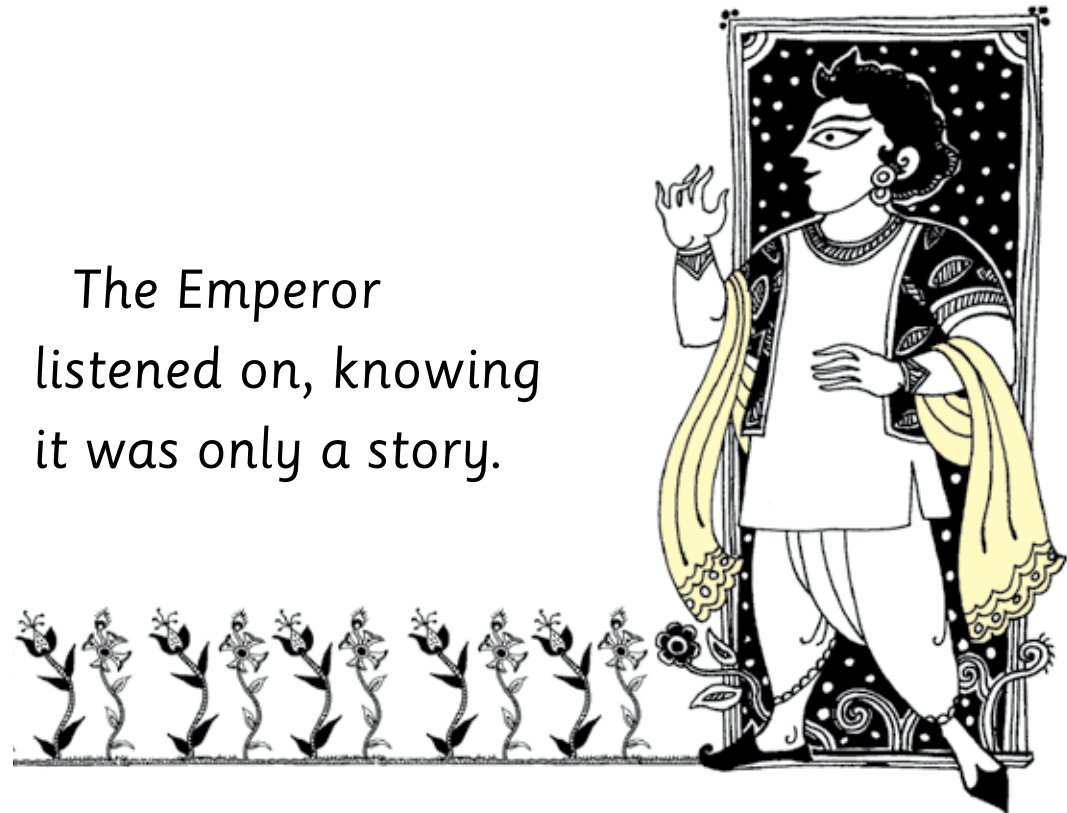


“Your shoe has run away!”
the Emperor looked shocked.

“Yes! Last night, I fell asleep
while polishing my shoes.

Suddenly, I heard the polished shoe
quarrelling with the unpolished one.

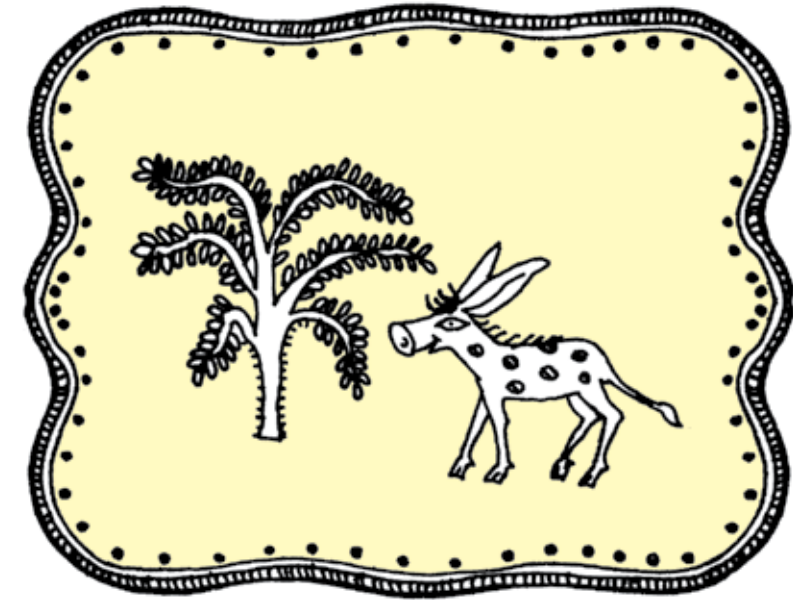
When I scolded the polished shoe,
it put on my coat and walked out.”



The Emperor
listened on, knowing
it was only a story.



“I wore my other shoe and went in search of the unfaithful one. I ran after it. I ran here and there and everywhere. Finally, I stood on a pot and looked in all directions.



An old woman was coming my way. I told her my story. She gave me her donkey and said, “Son, my donkey is old and wounded. But you can take him along.”

I set out with my new companion in search of the runaway shoe.

Then, I saw a rooster, Kokkara Ko, ploughing the zamindar's fields.

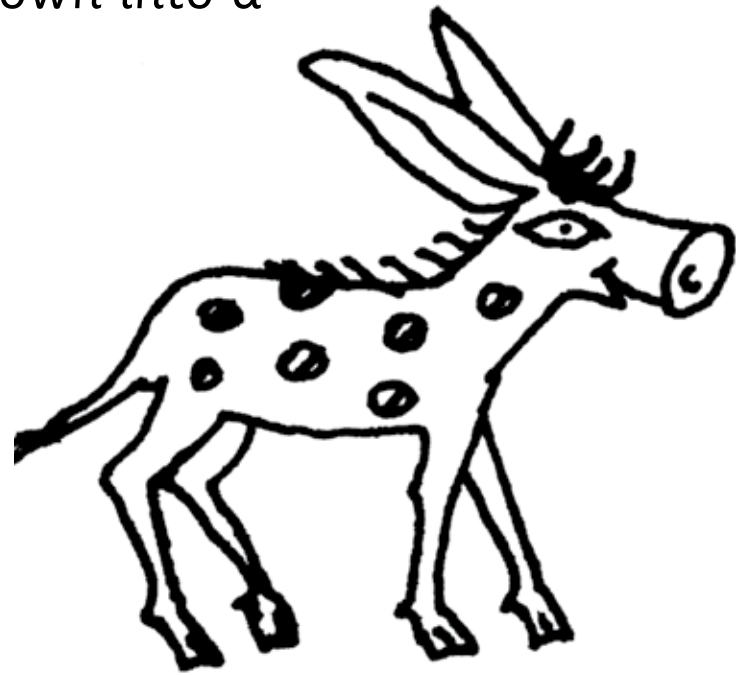


“Can you cure my donkey?”
I asked Kokkara Ko.

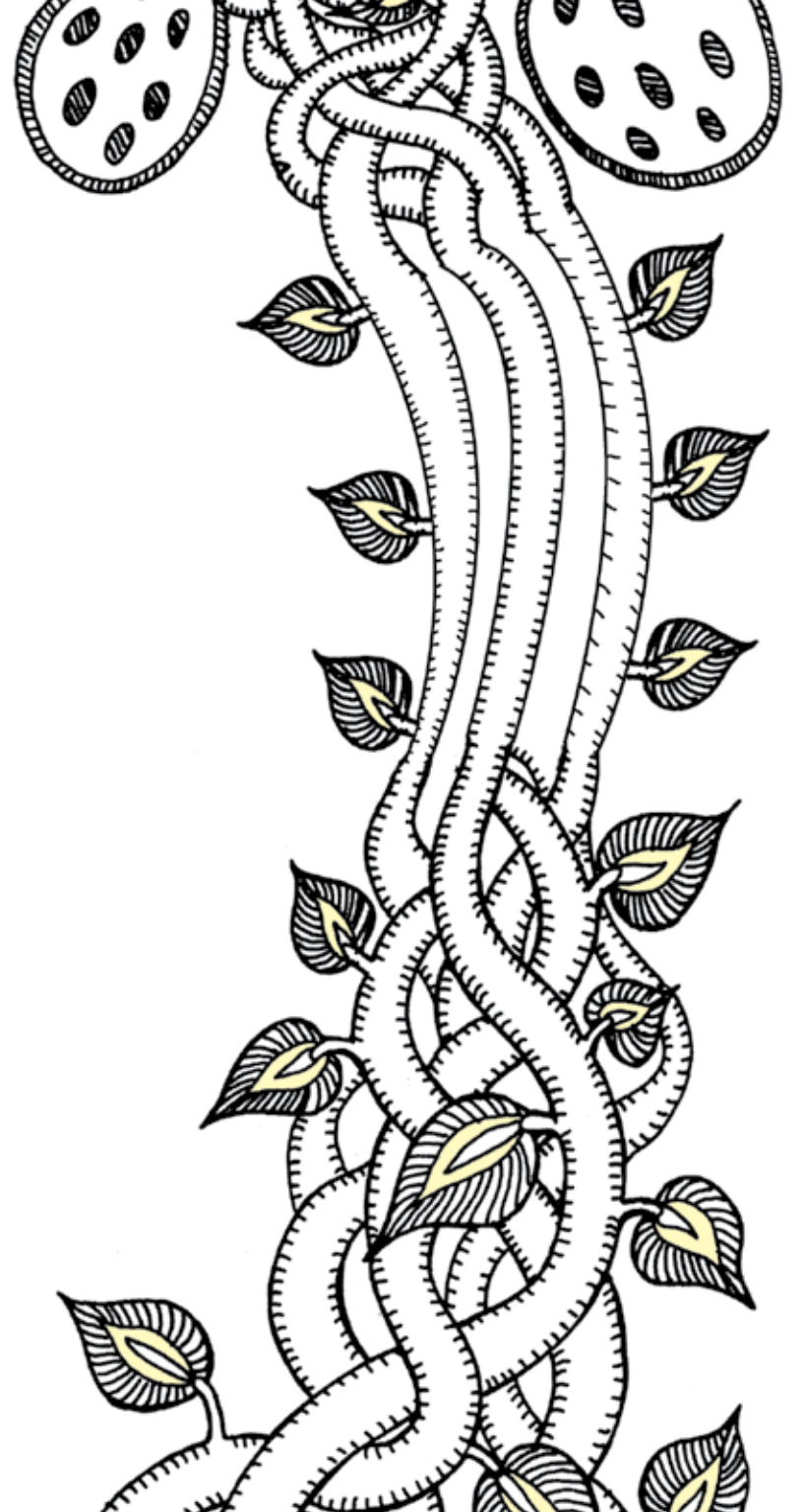
He gave me a peanut saying, “Burn this.
Then apply the ash on
the donkey’s wounds.”


I did that, and sat down to rest. Soon, the donkey began to hum.

Suddenly, a plant came out of the ash that had spilled on the ground. Soon it had grown into a huge, big tree.


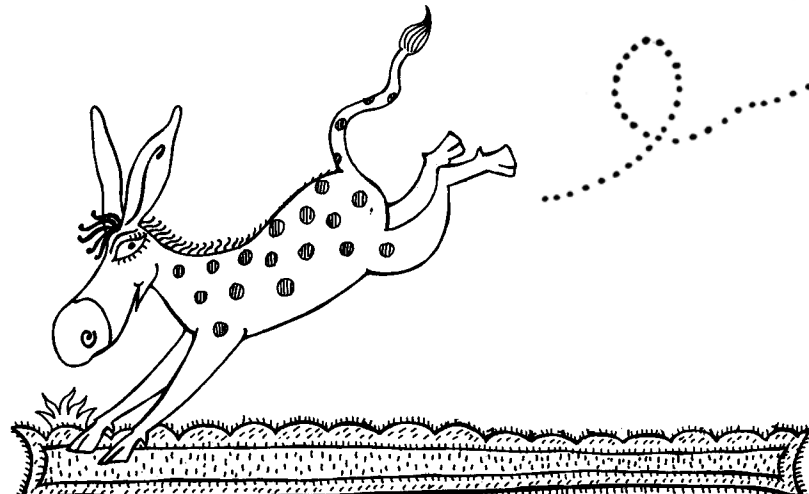


There were watermelons hanging from the tree. I wanted to eat one, but did not know how to get it.





The donkey and I thought hard. Finally, we came up with a plan. I sat on a big stone. The donkey gave it a hard kick which sent me flying ... and I landed on the tree.

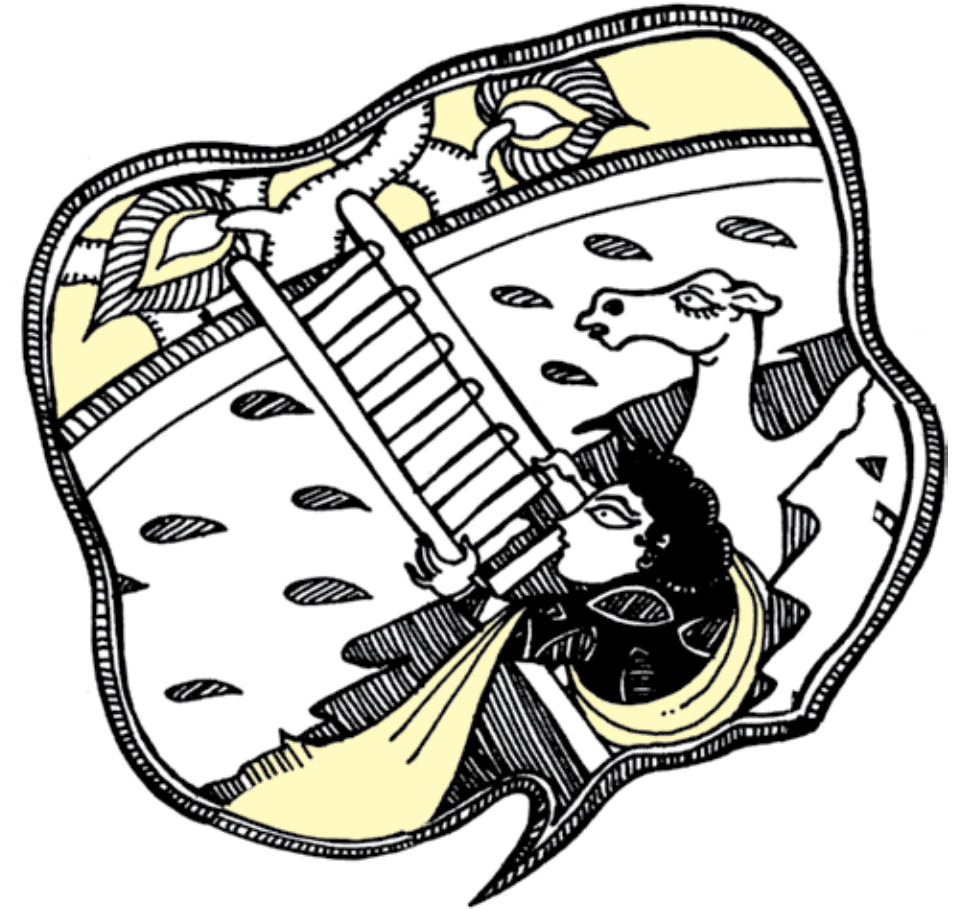


The melons were huge. I managed to cut one. But my knife fell into the melon. I had to jump into the watermelon to take my knife out.

There I found a man, looking for something.

I said, "Sir have you seen my knife?"

"Don't disturb me!" he said, "I have lost forty camels in here!"



That scared me. I found a ladder and somehow got out of the watermelon.



From the top of the tree,
I looked down ... and saw
my shoe was running away
with my donkey.

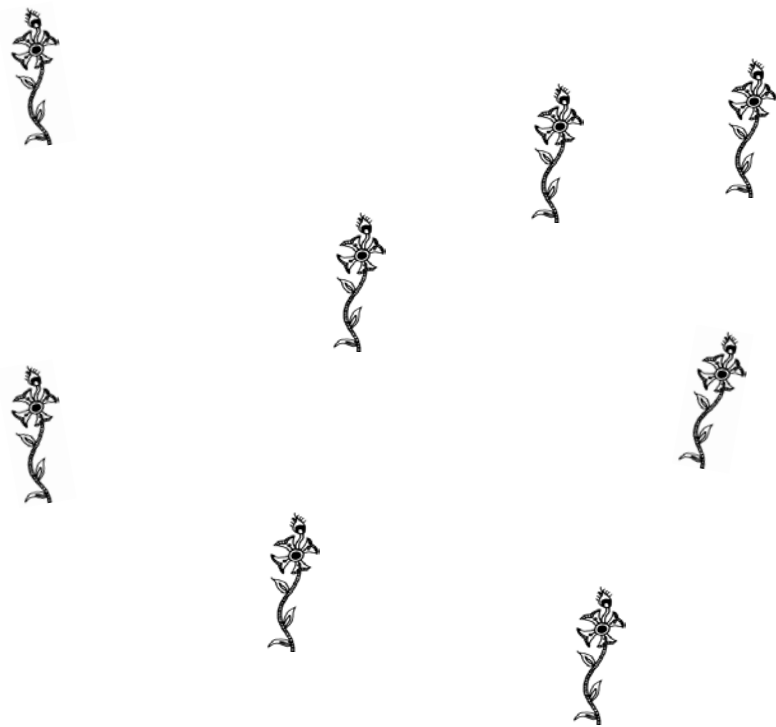
So I ran after them and
caught them.



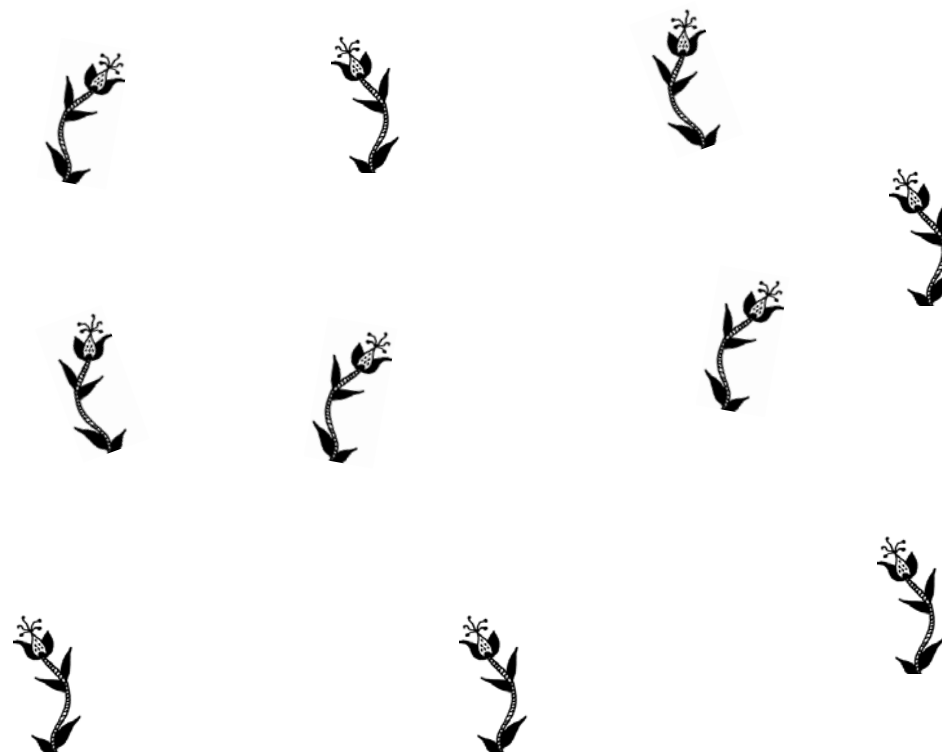
And now, I present
my only shoe to
you, Your Majesty.”



The Emperor had never had
so much fun in his life!

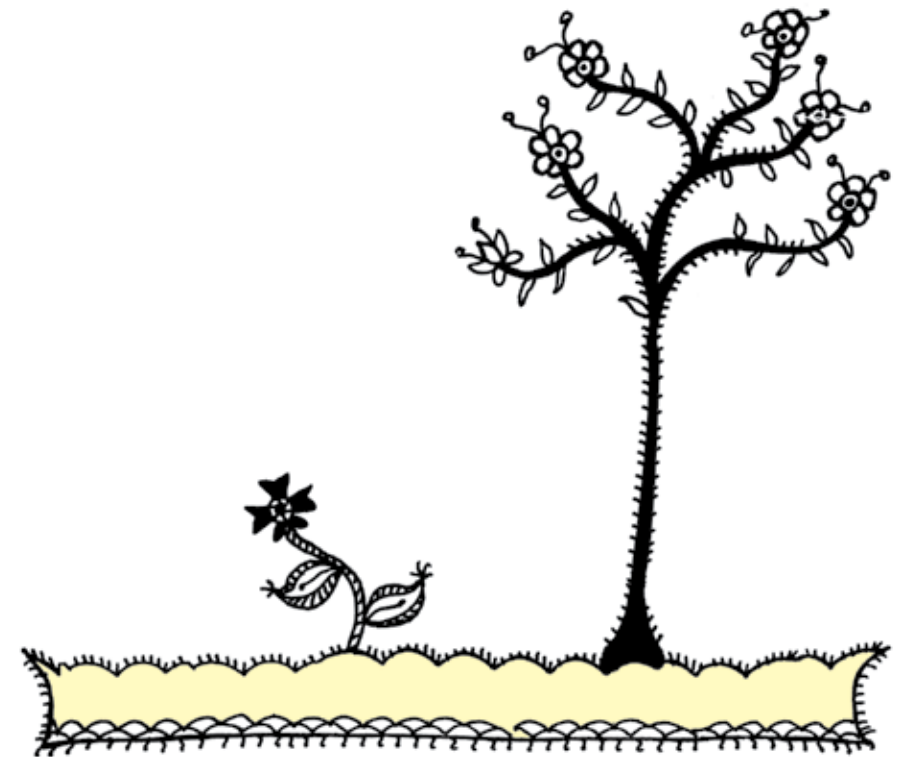


He gave Gup-Gupangdas a pair
of embroidered, satin shoes.





What more could
Gup-Gupangas wish for!

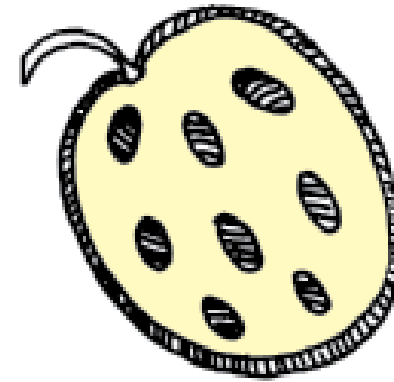


Weave a tale

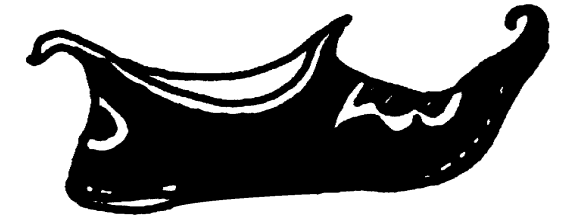
Gup-Gupangdas won a prize with his tall tale. Now you take a flight of imagination, take all the characters given on these pages and make a story that's your very own.



Old woman



Juicy watermelon



Satin shoe



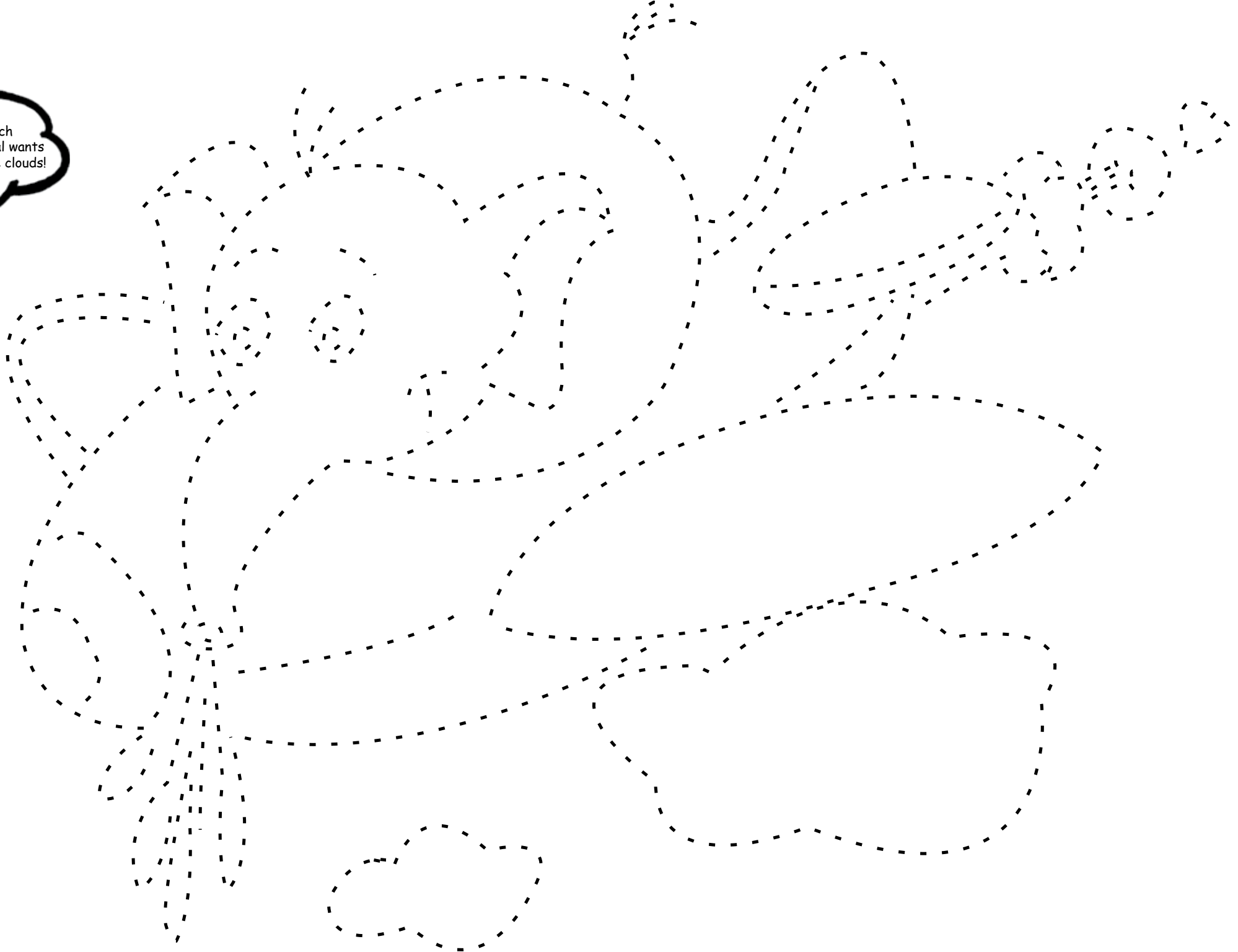
Kokarra ko



Washerman's donkey



Find out which magnificent animal wants to fly through the clouds!



And fill in the colours of your fantasy!



Sujata Singh is an artist and a visual arts teacher. She has worked as a designer and illustrator on many children's books, and has also held several exhibitions of her work in India and abroad.

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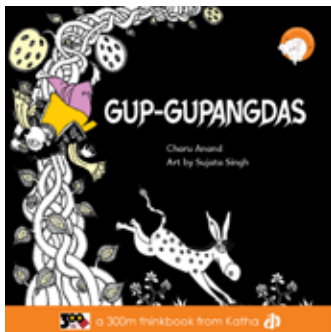
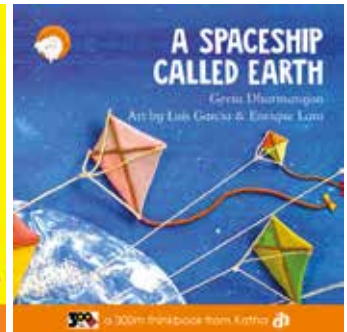
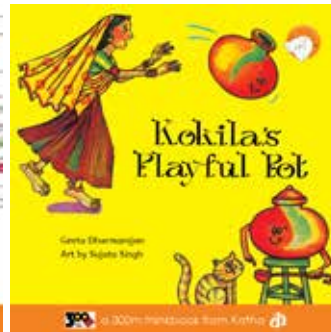
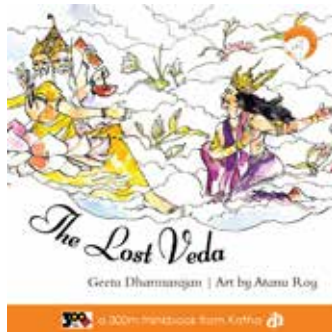
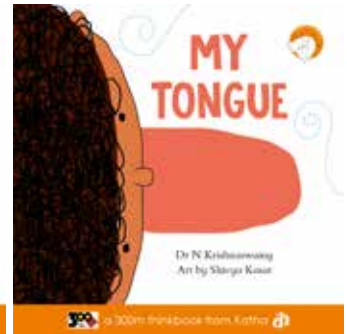
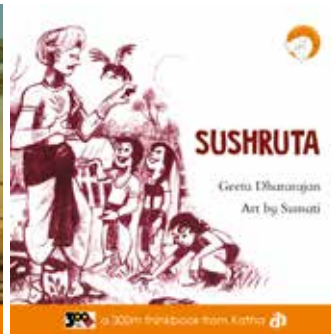
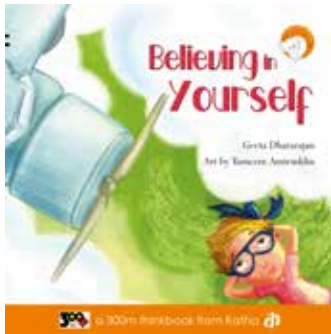
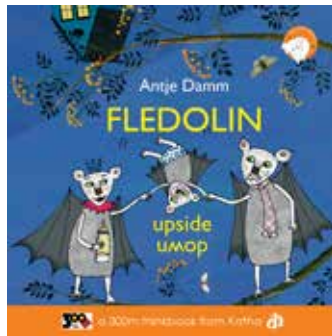
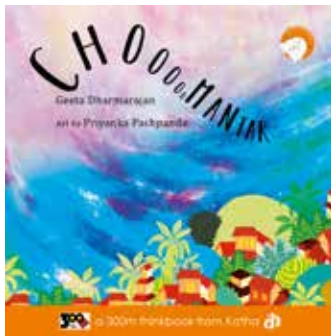
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