

Storyboarding

Draw an image to represent the stages of the story, as you read through, you will then need to put the story into your own words using the images as reference points.

Background information for ISKCON Food For Life

This story, cited on Food For Life's website is a teaching from the Bhagavat Purana (9.21: 2-15) which encourages members of ISKCON to act in a selfless way and work for those in need.

Full copy of the Bhagavat Purana found at <http://www.gita-society.com/section3/BhPuran.pdf>.

The Story of King Rantideva

Rantideva is famous in both this world and the next, for he is glorified not only in human society but also in the society of the demigods.

Rantideva never endeavored to earn anything. He would enjoy whatever he got by the arrangement of providence, but when guests came he would give them everything.

Thus he underwent considerable suffering, along with the members of his family. Indeed, he and his family members shivered for want of food and water, yet Rantideva always remained sober.

Once, after fasting for forty- eight days, in the morning Rantideva received some water and some foodstuffs made with milk and ghee, but when he and his family were about to eat, a brahmana guest arrived.

Because Rantideva perceived the presence of the Supreme Godhead everywhere, and in every living entity, he received the guest with faith and respect and gave him a share of the food. The brahmana guest ate his share and then went away.

Thereafter, having divided the remaining food with his relatives, Rantideva was just about to eat his own share when a sudra guest arrived. Seeing the sudra in relationship with the Supreme Personality of Godhead, King Rantideva gave him also a share of the food.

When the sudra went away, another guest arrived, surrounded by dogs, and said, “O King, I and my company of dogs are very hungry. Please give us something to eat.”

With great respect, King Rantideva offered the balance of the food to the dogs and the master of the dogs, who had come as guests. The King offered them all respects and obeisances.

Thereafter, only the drinking water remained, and there was only enough to satisfy one person, but when the King was just about to drink it, a candala appeared and said, “O King, although I am lowborn, kindly give me some drinking water.”

Aggrieved at hearing the pitiable words of the poor fatigued candala, Maharaja Rantideva spoke the following nectarean words.

I do not pray to the Supreme Personality of Godhead for the eight perfections of mystic yoga, nor for salvation from repeated birth and death. I want only to stay among all the living entities and suffer all distresses on their behalf, so that they may be freed from suffering.

By offering my water to maintain the life of this poor candala, who is struggling to live, I have been freed from all hunger, thirst, fatigue, trembling of the body, moroseness, distress, lamentation and illusion.

Having spoken thus, King Rantideva, although on the verge of death because of thirst, gave his own portion of water to the candala without hesitation, for the King was naturally very kind and sober.

Demigods like Lord Brahma and Lord Siva, who can satisfy all materially ambitious men by giving them the rewards they desire, then manifested their own identities before King Rantideva, for it was they who had presented themselves as the brahmana, sudra, candala and so on.

Activity Ideas:

- 1) Ask pupils to read through the information and summarise in no more than 80 words, but no less than 60.
- 2) Ask pupils to draw an image for each statement – cut along the margin and use the images to rewrite the story into their own words.
- 3) Mindmap the key events of the story.
- 4) Assign different parts to different pupils and ask them to act out the story.
- 5) Provide pupils with an exam style question to assess their knowledge and understanding of the work Food For Life do.