A Tale of Three Fish
Tales from Panchatantra
तीन मछलियाँ
पंचतंत्र की कहानी
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Once upon a time, there lived three fish in a beautiful lake, which was in the very heart of a dense forest.

एक बार की बात है, एक खूबसूरत झील में तीन मछलियाँ रहती थीं। झील घने जंगल के बिल्कुल बीच में थी।
Though the three fish were firm friends and spent all their time together, each was very different from the other.

हालाँकि तीनों मछलियाँ पक्की दोस्त थीं और अपना सारा समय एक-साथ बिताती थीं, लेकिन उनमें से हरेक एक-दूसरे से बिलकुल अलग थीं.
The first fish was very wise and learned. He always did what was right.

If ever any other creatures in the lake were in any trouble, they knew they could count on him to bail them out.
The second fish was resourceful.

Though he was not the smartest of the creatures in the lake, he always managed to think something up in order to get himself out of a mess.
The third fish however was rather foolish. Though he generally meant well, he would end up getting both himself and his friends into trouble.
One day as the wise fish was leaping about in the water, he heard some fishermen talking. He was curious to hear what they had to say and so he swam as close to them as he dared.

He heard the fishermen say that they would arrive there the next morning to fish in the lake.
The wise fish quickly swam to where the other fish were and told them what he had heard.

He also told them that he had decided to swim away through the canal and escape.

"Why don't the both of you come with me so that we can reach safety?" asked the wise fish.
The resourceful fish refused. “This has been my home for so many years,” he said. “I cannot leave it. I will stay and see what can be done.”

The foolish fish said, “Oh! The two of you worry too much! Nothing will happen at all.” Saying this he swam away.

चतुर मछली ने जाने से इनकार कर दिया।
"यह झील कई सालों से मेरा घर रही है," उसने कहा, "मैं उसे नहीं छोड़ सकती. मैं रुंगी और देखूं कि मैं और क्या कर सकती हूँ।"

मूठ मछली ने कहा, "ओह! तुम दोनों बेकार में बहुत चिंता करती हो! असल में कुछ भी नहीं होगा।" यह कहकर वो वहां से तैरकर चली गई।
The fishermen came the next day and caught a lot of fish, among them were the resourceful fish and the foolish fish.
The resourceful fish lay still, pretending to be dead and was placed on the ground by the lake.

He quietly slipped back into the lake and swam away.
The foolish fish kept tossing about until one of the fishermen struck him hard and killed him.

मूर्ख मछली इधर-उधर छटपटाती रही फिर मछुआरों ने उसपर जोर से वार करके उसे मार डाला.
कुछ दिनों बाद, बुद्धिमान मछली वापस आई। वो और चतुर मछली ने इस बात का शोक मनाया कि उनकी दोस्त कितनी मूर्ख निकली। उन्होंने कहा, "अगर उसने केवल अपने दिमाग का इस्तेमाल किया होता तो शायद वो अभी भी हमारे साथ होती।"

A few days later, the wise fish came back. He and the resourceful fish mourned the fact that their friend had been so foolish.

“Had he only used his brains he might have been with us still,” they said.