

सानु कथागुप्तो

Sanu, the frog



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देवेन्द्र पाण्डे 'देवेन' Dewendra Pandey 'Dewen'



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रूम टु रीड
Room to Read

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Room to Read partners with local communities throughout the developing world to establish schools, libraries, and other educational infrastructure. We seek to intervene early in the lives of children in the belief that education is a lifelong gift that empowers people to ultimately improve socioeconomic conditions for their families, communities, countries, and future generations. Through the opportunities that only an education can provide, we strive to break the cycle of poverty, one child at a time.



प्रकाशकको भनाइ

यो कथाको किताप प्राथमिक तहका विद्यार्थी भाइबहिनीहरूका लागि भनी तयार पारिएको हो। यो कथा एउटा जिज्ञासु सानू भ्यागुताको हो। सानू भ्यागुतो बकुल्ला उडेको देखेपछि आफू पनि उड्न खोज्छ। ऊ आफ्नी काकीसँग उड्ने विषयमा धेरै कुरा सोधिरहन्छ। कथा रमाइलो छ, कौतूहलपूर्ण छ। यसमा बबिना शाहद्वारा तयार पारिएको कथारूपी बीउलाई श्री शान्तदास मानन्धरद्वारा कथारूपी रूख बनाइएको छ, भनाँ यस कथाको निर्माण संयुक्त रूपमा भएको छ। कथाको यो किताप हाम्रा बाल-पाठकरूले अवश्य मनपराउनेछन् भन्ने हामीले आशा गरेका छौं।

प्रिय पाठकहरू, मानिसलाई शिक्षाले नै आत्मनिर्भर बन्न सक्ने बनाउँछ र गरिबीका मारबाट जोगाउँछ भन्ने विश्वास रूम टु रीडको छ। संसारमा सकारात्मक परिवर्तन शिक्षित बालबालिकाहरूबाटै थालिन्छ भन्ने कुरालाई आत्मसात् गरेर यो संस्था नेपालका बालबालिकाहरूलाई शिक्षाको अवसर दिने अनेक किसिमका काममा सन् २००० देखि जुटिरहेको छ।



“काकी, काकी, म कहिले बाहिर डुल्ल जान सक्ने हुन्छु ? मलाई बताउनुस् न, हाम्रो यस पोखरीभन्दा पर उता के छ ?” सानू भ्यागुताले सोध्यो ।

“हाम्रो पोखरीभन्दा पर पनि यस्तै अरू धेरै पोखरीहरू छन् । धेरै पर के-के छन्, मलाई पनि सबै थाहा छैन, किनभने मलाई कहिल्यै यताउति हिँड्ने फुर्सतै भएन ।” काकी भ्यागुतीले आफूले देखे-जानेका कुरा बतायो ।

“Auntie, auntie, I am so curious to know what life is like outside of this pond. Can you please tell me when will I get to go out and explore?” Sanu asked in wonderment.

“Well Sanu, I do know there are many other ponds to explore. But I also don't know very much as I myself have not taken the time to roam around,” said Auntie Frog.



“उः त्यो माथि नीलो छ नि, त्यहाँ सदैँ गरेका सेता, फुस्रा र काला-काला देखिने के हुन् नि काकी ?” सानू भ्यागुताले सोध्यो ।

“ती सेता र फुस्रा अनि काला देखिने के हुन् भनी सोधेको हो ? ती पानीका बाकसहरू हुन् र हामीहरूले कराउँदै पानी मागेपछि ती बाकस आफैँ खोलिन्छन् अनि त्यहाँबाट पानी खनिन्छ । त्यसपछि हाम्रो रमाइलो नाच्ने-गाउने चाड सुरु हुन्छ ।” काकी भ्यागुतीले भतिज सानूलाई विस्तारपूर्वक सुनायो ।

Sanu was always full of questions, anxious to know about everything. “Look Auntie, what are all those white, pale and black things in that blue area up there?” Sanu asked her.

“Are you talking about those white, pale and black things? Well Sanu, they are boxes of water and we call them clouds. They open themselves up and give us water when we shout for it. That’s when our festival of dancing and singing starts.” Auntie Frog explained to her nephew Sanu.



सानूले त्यसपछि नयाँ कुरा केही सोधेन, बरु पुरानै प्रश्न दोहोर्‍यायो- “काकी, म साँच्चै कहिले घुम्न जान पाउँछु हुँला ?”

“सानू, अब केही दिनमात्र तिमिले पर्खनुपर्छ । हिजोभन्दा त तिमि आज एक दिनले ठूलो भइसकेका छौ । अब धेरै दिन पर्खनुपर्दैन होला ।” काकी भ्यागुतीलै सम्भायो ।

Even though Sanu was learning new things all the time, he kept asking his Auntie the same question over and over, “Auntie, when do you think I will be able to go and visit other places?”

“Sanu, you will have to keep waiting for a bit longer. You are now one day older than yesterday, so it won't be too much longer,” said Auntie Frog.





“बाहिर डुल्ल पाइने त्यो दिन साँच्चै कति दिनपछि आइपुगछ त काकी ? हेर्नुहोस् त, मेरा दुई खुट्टा पनि पलाइसकेका छन् । अब त म हिँडेरै देखाउन सक्छु जस्तो भइसकेको छु ।” सानू भ्यागुताले आफ्ना खुट्टा चलाएर देखायो ।

“हो सानू, तिम्रा खुट्टाहरू पलाइसकेका छन् । अब ती खुट्टा अलिकति बलिया-बाझा हुन बाँकी छ । अनि सानू, तिम्रा हातहरू पनि भोलि-पर्सि नै पलाउनेछन् । त्यसपछि तिम्री साँच्चै यताउति जान सक्नेछौ ।” काकी भ्यागुतीले सानूलाई ढाडस दियो ।

“But when will that day come, Auntie? Look, my two legs have already grown and I can even show you how to walk,” Sanu Bhyaguto said moving his legs about.

“Yes Sanu, I can see your legs have grown, but they still need to grow stronger. And Sanu, soon your hands will grow, and then you will be able to venture outside of this pond,” Auntie Frog consoled him.

“मेरा हात कहिले पलाउलान् त काकी ? अनि मेरो जस्तो तपाईंको पुच्छर खोइ त ? तपाईंको पुच्छर किन छैन काकी ?” सानूले सोध्यो ।

“हात पलाउन थालेपछि तिम्रो पुच्छर पनि बिस्तारै छोटिँदै जान्छ । हामीले पौडिन जान्नेपछि अनि हिँड्न र उफ्रन । हातखुट्टा भएपछि हामी पौडिन र उफ्रन सकिहाल्छौं, अनि त्यस पुच्छरको के काम ? त्यो त बिस्तारै हराउँदै जान्छ । त्यसो हुनु ठीकै छ ।” काकी भ्यागुतीले सामान्य रूपमा सुनायो ।

“Then when will my hands grow, Auntie? And where is your tail like mine? Why don't you have one like me, Auntie?” asked Sanu.

“Well Sanu, your tail will slowly disappear when your hands start to grow. As frogs, we must learn to swim and walk and jump. We will be able to swim and jump only when we have hands and legs, and then there won't be any use for a tail.” Auntie Frog explained to Sanu.





काकीका कुरा सुनेर सानू भने निकै रोमाञ्चित र उत्साहित भयो । त्यसपछि सानू भ्यागुतो आफ्नी काकीसँग छिन-छिनमा यो के, त्यो के भनी सोधेको सोध्यै गरिरहन थाल्यो । उता काकी भ्यागुती अलिकति पनि दिक्क नमानी सानूका कौतूहलले भरिएका प्रश्नहरूको जबाफ दिइरह्यो ।

Sanu became really excited and happy after hearing all that Auntie Frog had said. Sanu Bhyaguto then began asking many more questions about all sorts of things. Auntie Frog patiently answered all his questions without getting annoyed.



सानूको काका त्यति बेलै तिनीहरूका अधिल्लिर टुप्लुक्क आइपुग्यो । सानू छिन-छिनमा थरीथरीका कुरा सोधिरहेको थियो । काकी भ्यागुतीचाहिँ पनि भर्को नमानी आफूले जानेबुझेका कुरा माया गरी-गरी सुनाइरहेको थियो । त्यो देखेर काका भ्यागुताले सोध्यो- “कति बताइरहन सकेकी ? थकाइ पनि लाग्दैन कि कसो तिमिलाई ? यो सानू फेरि कस्तो, सोधेको सोध्यै गरिरहन्छ !”

Then Sanu's Uncle Frog arrived and saw that Sanu was asking one question after another while Auntie Frog was happily answering Sanu's questions. He asked, "Don't you get tired of answering all these questions? And Sanu, he never stops asking, does he?"

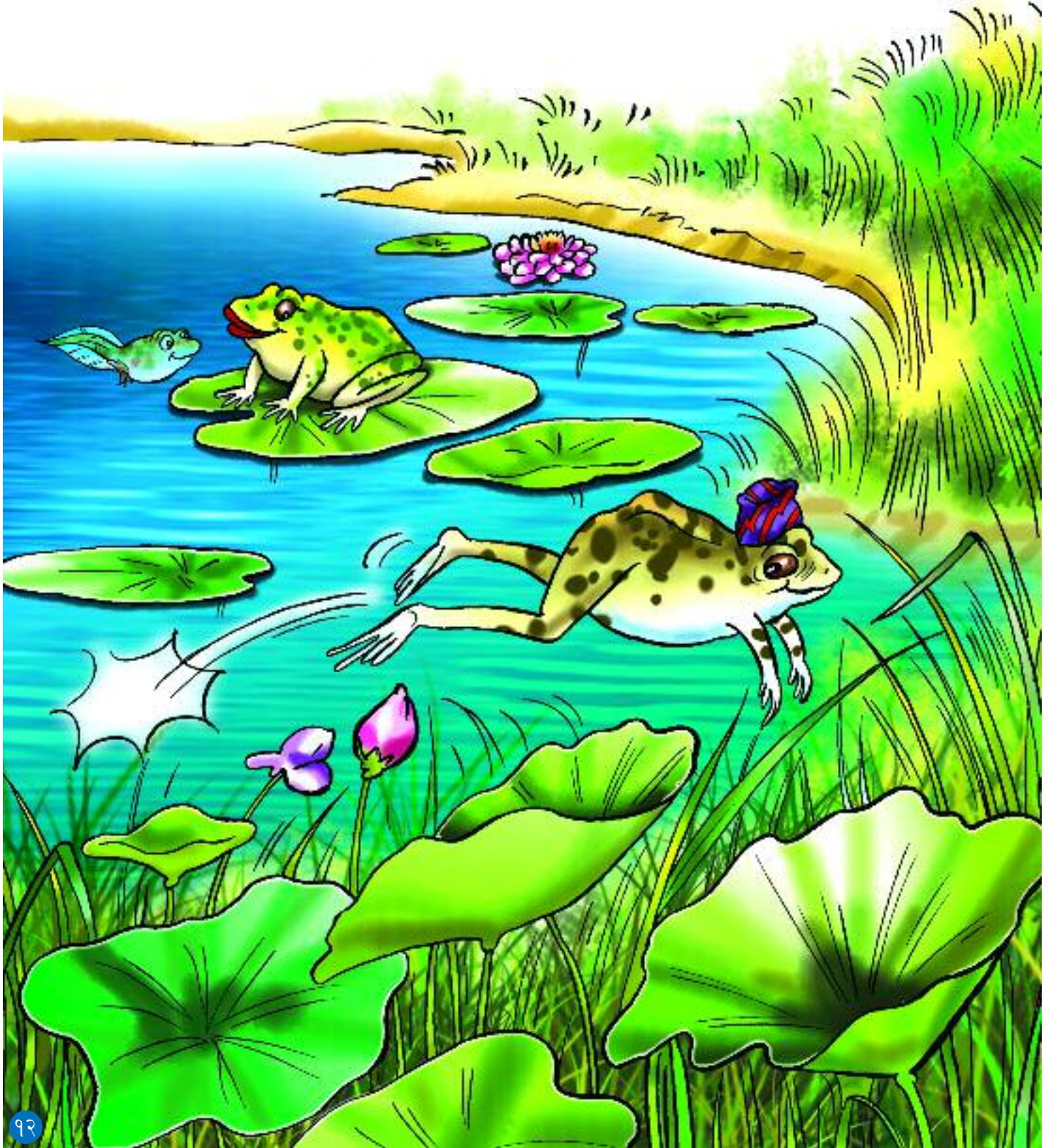
सानूतर्फ पुलुक्क हेरेर काकी भ्यागुतीले आफ्ना श्रीमान्लाई भन्यो- “के भन्नुभएको ? साना नानीहरूले यो के, त्यो के भनेर नसोधे तिनीहरू कसरी राम्ररी हुर्कलान् ? तपाईं लोग्ने मान्छेहरूले ओथारो बसेर फुल नकोरियुन्जेल बोकेर हिँड्नुपरेन रे ! लौ, कम्तीमा हुर्किनुपर्ने आफ्ना छोराछोरीहरूले सोध्या’ जति कुरा जानेबुझेसम्म भर्को नमानी सुनाउन- सिकाउन त सक्नुहुन्छ नि ! तिनीहरूले जान्न चाहे-खोजेका कुरा बताउन भर्को मान्यौं भने हाम्रा छोराछोरीहरू पछि कस्ता होलान्, भन्नुस् त ?”

Auntie Frog looked at Sanu and replied to Uncle Frog, “Why of course not! Little children always ask questions about everything. Otherwise how will they ever grow up? You males don’t wait for their eggs to hatch, so can you at least teach them and answer their questions without getting irritated? If we aren’t able to answer their questions about things they want to know, then how will they grow up to be smart?”



त्यसपछि सानूको काका 'हो, हो' भन्दै अन्तै लाग्यो । सानू भने आफ्नी काकीलाई माया गर्दै हाँस्यो र काकीनेर, अझ छेवैमा बस्न गयो ।

Uncle Frog agreed with Auntie Frog. Sanu smiled at his Auntie and sat down next to her, giving her a huge hug.





सानूले पोखरीभन्दा अलि परका रूखमा बसिरहेको बकुल्लो उडेर गएको देख्यो र अचम्म मान्दै सोध्यो- “काकी, त्यस रूखमा बसिरहेको को ? त्यहाँबाट फुत्त उफ्रेको त्यो को हो नि ?” काकी भ्यागुतीले हडबडाउँदै भन्यो- “उफ्रेको होइन त्यो । त्यो त उडेर गएको नि ! सानू, त्यता हेर्दै नहेर । त्यस रूखमा बस्ने ती दुष्टहरू हुन्, निठुरीहरू हुन् । तिनले कहिल्यै हाम्रो भलो गर्दैनन्, बरु हामीलाई खोजी-खोजी खान्छन् ।”

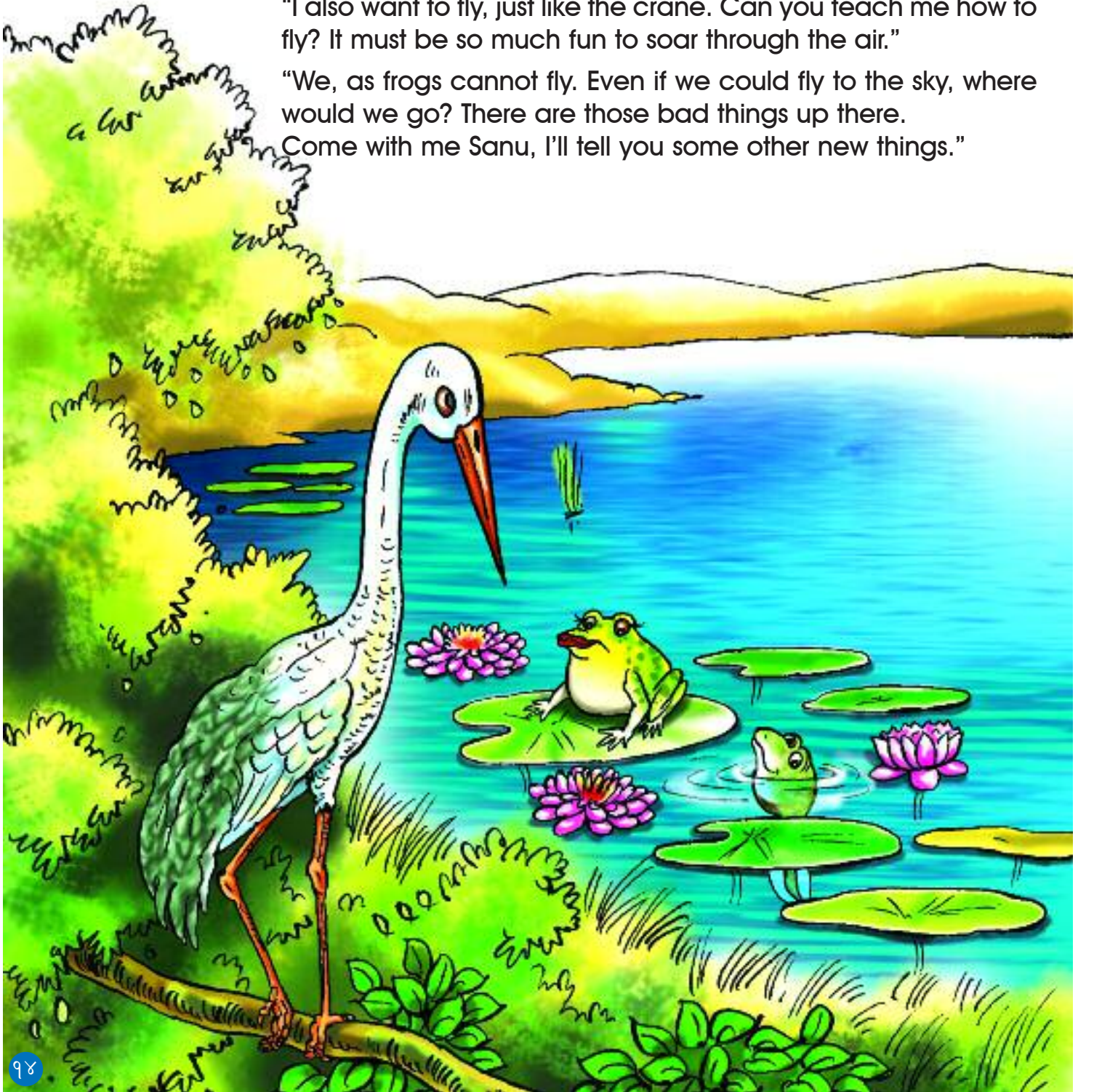
Then Sanu saw a crane flying from a tree, “Auntie, what animal is that on the tree that just hopped away?” Sanu asked her. “The animal was not hopping Sanu, it was flying. It is a crane. Sanu, don’t even look there. They are bad things. They never do anything good for us, but they look for us and eat us.”

“मलाई पनि त्यसरी नै उड्न मन लाग्यो। मलाई उड्न सिकाइदिनुहोस् न। तिनीहरू कसरी उड्छन्! उड्न कस्तो मजा होला हकि!”

“हामीहरू तिनीहरूजस्तै उड्न सक्तौं। फेरि उड्न नै सक्यौं रे लौ! उडेर कहाँ जाने? माथि आकाशमा त तिनी दुष्टहरू हुन्छन्। बरु सुन, म अर्कै कुरा भन्छु।”

“I also want to fly, just like the crane. Can you teach me how to fly? It must be so much fun to soar through the air.”

“We, as frogs cannot fly. Even if we could fly to the sky, where would we go? There are those bad things up there. Come with me Sanu, I'll tell you some other new things.”





“होइन, होइन काकी, मलाई उड्न नै सिकाइदिनुहोस् । म त उड्न पाए साह्रै रमाइलो मान्छु । उड्न जानेपछि म त कहाँ-कहाँ पुग्छु, पुग्छु, जताततै पुग्छु, सब हेर्छु ।” सानूले जिद्दी गर्‍यो ।

“Please Auntie, what I really want to do is learn how to fly. I could go to so many places if I could fly and see everything,” Sanu insisted.

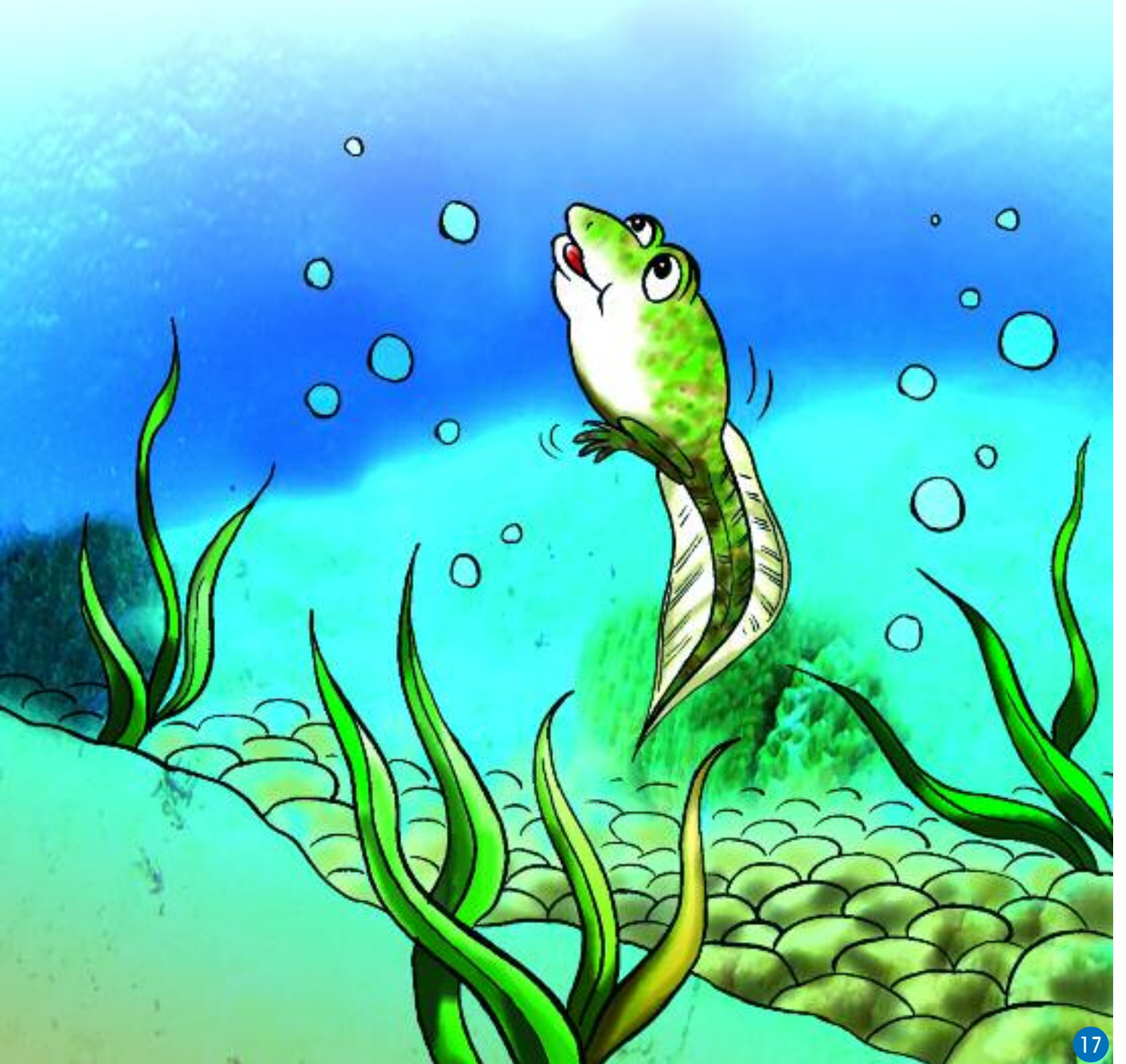


त्यसपछि काकी भ्यागुतीले बिस्तारै सम्भायो- “हेर सानू, उड्नलाई हातै चाहिन्छ भन्ने छैन । हात नभए पनि खुट्टा चाहिन्छ, तर उड्नलाई त पखेटा नभई हुँदैन । तिम्रा हात अहिलेसम्म पलाइसकेका छैनन् । अब हातका ठाउँमा पखेटा पलाए भने तिम्री उड्न सक्ने हुनेछौ ।” भतिज सानूलाई माया गर्दै काकी भ्यागुतीले आफ्ना अँगालामा लियो ।

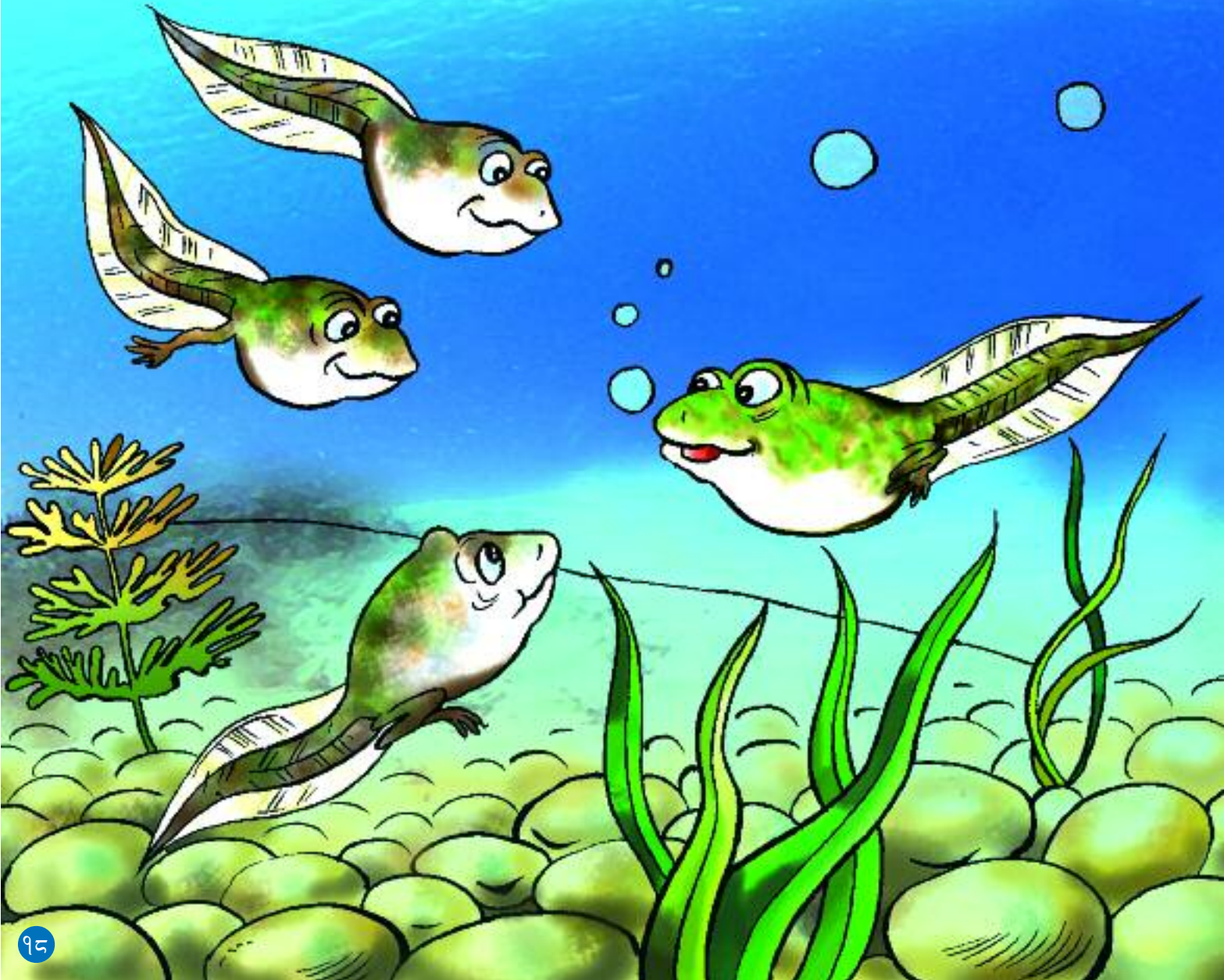
Then Auntie Frog slowly said, “Look Sanu, you don't need hands or legs to fly, but you certainly need wings. Your hands haven't grown yet, but if wings grow instead of your hands, then you will be able to fly,” and lovingly embraced her nephew.

सानूले काकी भ्यागुतीले भनेका कुरा सम्झ्यो 'हातका ठाउँमा पखेटा पलाए भने तिमी उड्न सक्ने हुनेछौ ।' अनि ऊ एक्कासि करायो- "वाह रे वाह ! हातका ठाउँमा पखेटा पलाए भने त म उड्न सक्ने भइहाल्छु !" त्यसपछि उसले छिनछिनमा कतै पखेटा पलायो कि भनेर आफ्नो कम्मर मर्काई-मर्काई हेर्न थाल्यो ।

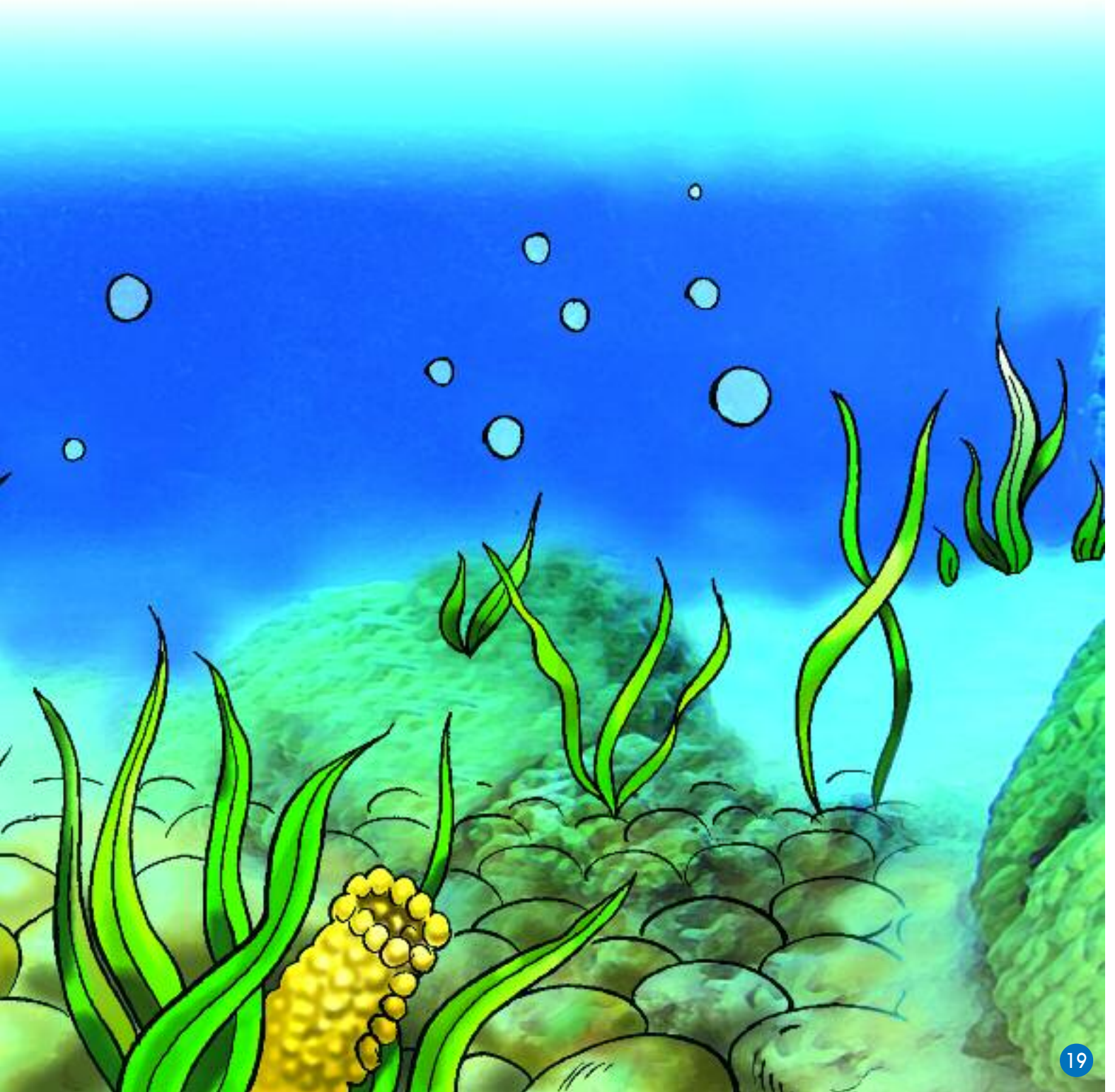
Auntie Frog's words were swimming in Sanu's mind, 'If wings grow instead of your hands, then you will be able to fly!' Then he suddenly wished out loud, "Oh if only wings would grow instead of my hands, then I could fly!" He kept on looking back at his shoulder to see if any wings were beginning to grow.



एकै छिनपछि सानू काकी भ्यागुतीलाई छोडेर खेलन गयो । उसका साथीहरू पनि निक्कै रमाइला थिए र तिनीहरू थरी-थरीका कुरा गर्थे । आफूले देखे-सुनेका कुरा सुनाउँथे । आज तिनीहरूले सानूलाई पानीमाथि फुल्ने कमलको फूलको कुरा गरे, फेरि बूढो रूखको फेदतिर उम्रने च्याउको कुरा पनि गरे । तिनीहरू मीठा र रमाइला कल्पना गर्थे र आफ्ना मनमा खेलेका विभिन्न कुराहरू आफ्ना साथीहरूलाई सुनाउँथे । आज सानू भ्यागुताले आफ्ना साथीहरूलाई सुनायो- “तिमीहरूलाई थाहा छ, अब मेरा हातहरू पलाउने ठाउँमा पखेटा पलाए भने म त उड्न सक्ने हुनेछु रे ! मेरी काकीले नै मलाई भन्नुभएको !”



Sanu then left to play with his friends. His friends were funny and they used to talk about many things. They used to talk about interesting things they had seen and heard of. That day they talked about the lotus flowers that grew above their home and of the mushrooms that grew of the foot of the old tree. They shared their thoughts and dreams. Sanu shared with his friends, "Did you know that if wings grew in place of my hands, then I would be able to fly?"



सानूका सबै साथीहरूले अचम्म मानेर उसलाई हेरे । सानूले थप्यो- “हुन सक्छ, तिमीहरूका पनि पखेटा पलाउन सक्छन् । त्यसपछि त क्या मज्जा होला ! हामीहरू सबै आकाशमा उडेर विभिन्न ठाउँ हेर्न जानेछौं । त्यहाँबाट हेर्दा हाम्रो यो घर (पोखरीलाई तिनीहरू घर भन्थे ।) कस्तो राम्रो देखिएला, हकि ?” सबैले आकाशतिर आ-आफ्ना टाउका फर्काए अनि आफ्ना पुच्छरलाई फनक्क घुमाउँदै यताउति पानीमा दगुरेर खेल्न थाले ।

Sanu's friends looked at him in amazement. He added, "Maybe you will all grow wings as well and then we could have so much fun flying and travelling everywhere. Imagine all the places we could see together! I wonder how our home would look from way up there." Sanu's friends looked up at the sky, briefly imagining life with wings, and then again started playing and jumping in the water.





त्यस दिनदेखि सानूले काकी भ्यागुतीलाई एक छिन पनि छोड्न चाहेन । उसले आफ्नी काकीसँग सोध्यो- “काकी, रुखमा बस्ने ती बकुल्लाहरू सबभन्दा पहिले कसरी उड्छन् ? उड्नुभन्दा अगावै तिनीहरूले पखेटा चलाउने हुन् कि उडिसकेपछि, भन्नुस् न काकी ?” सानूको सोधाइ काकीलाई मनपरेन क्यारे ! उसले आफ्नो मुटो फर्कायो, तर सानूले भने सोधेको सोध्यै गयो- “भन्नुस् न काकी, कसरी उड्छन् ?”

From that day, Sanu followed Auntie Frog wherever she went. He asked her, “Auntie, how do cranes first begin to fly? Do they learn to flap their wings before they know how to fly, or do they learn this after?” Auntie Frog was getting a little tired of Sanu’s many questions, and did not always answer them. But Sanu kept insisting, “Please Auntie, please, do you know how is it that cranes fly?”

काकी भ्यागुतीले पन्छाउन नसकेपछि बिस्तारै भन्यो- “तिनीहरू आफ्ना गुँडबाट निस्कन्छन्, पखेटा फिँजाउँछन् अनि हुत्तिँदै गएपछि पखेटा चलाउँछन् । हेर सानू, मलाई तिनीहरूको कुरा गर्ने मन लाग्दैन । अब फेरि यस्तो कुरा मसँग नसोध है ।”

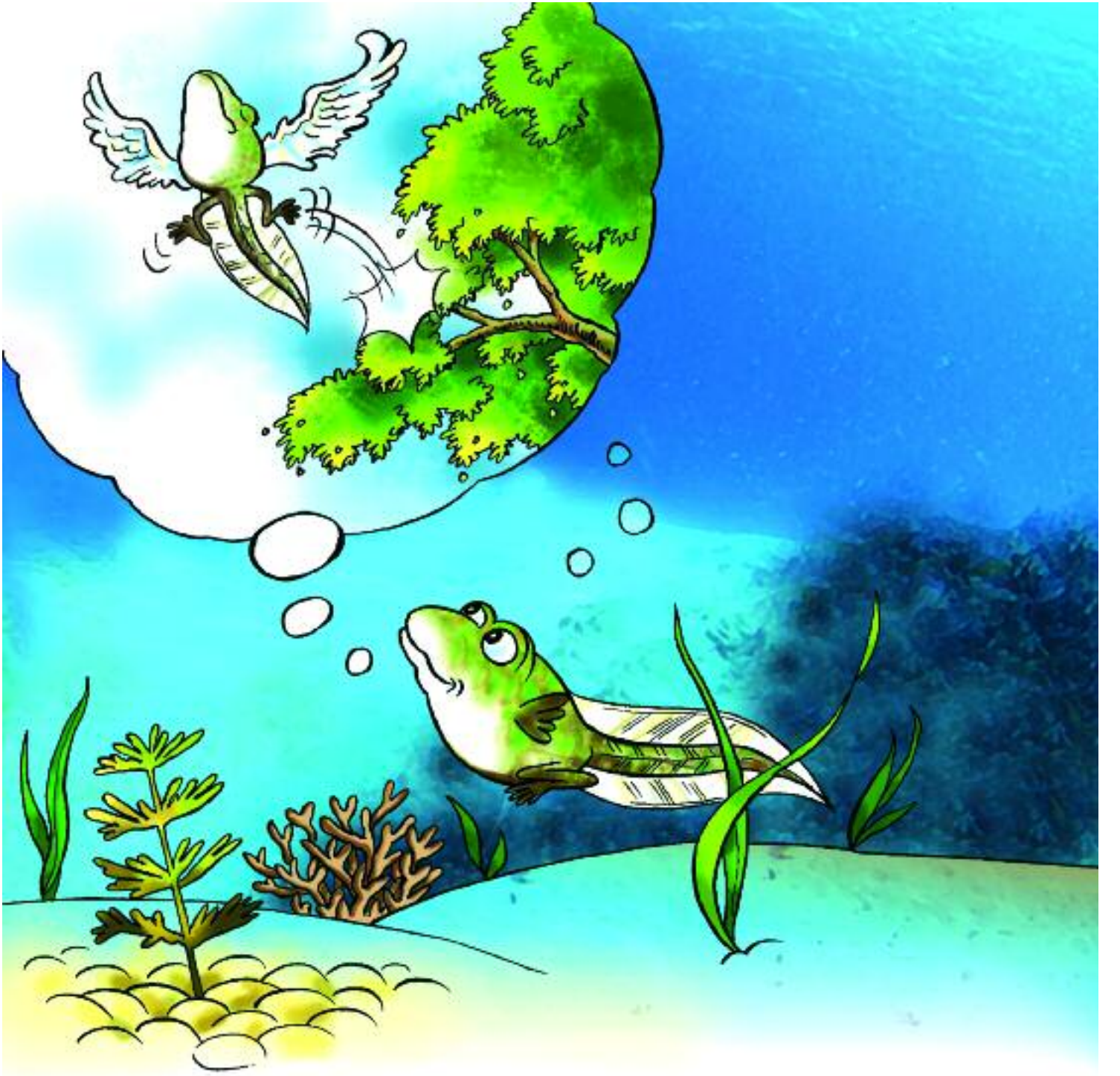
Failing to avoid Sanu's many questions, Auntie Frog responded, “The birds come out of their nest, they spread their wings and then they take off by flapping their wings as hard and fast as they can. Please Sanu, I am getting a little tired of all these questions, can you please stop asking them?”





नभन्दै त्यसपछि काकी भ्यागुतीले केही बोलेन । सानूले सम्झ्यो 'काकी भ्यागुतीलाई निद्रा लागेकाले सुत्न खोजेको होला ।' सानू पनि एक छिन चुप लाग्यो । उसलाई निद्रा आए-आएजस्तो भइरहेको थियो । त्यसै बेला उसलाई आफ्नो पुच्छर अलि छोटो हुन थालेको र हात पलाउने ठाउँमा पखेटा नै पलाउन थालेको जस्तो लाग्यो । यस कुराले ऊ अति उत्साहित भयो ।

Auntie Frog stopped talking while Sanu thought to himself, "Auntie must be trying to sleep, so I had better stop asking questions." Sanu remained quiet for a bit. He suddenly felt his tail getting smaller and in place of his hands, and a pair of wings was beginning to grow. Sanu was very happy, and began to imagine all the new adventures he would have.

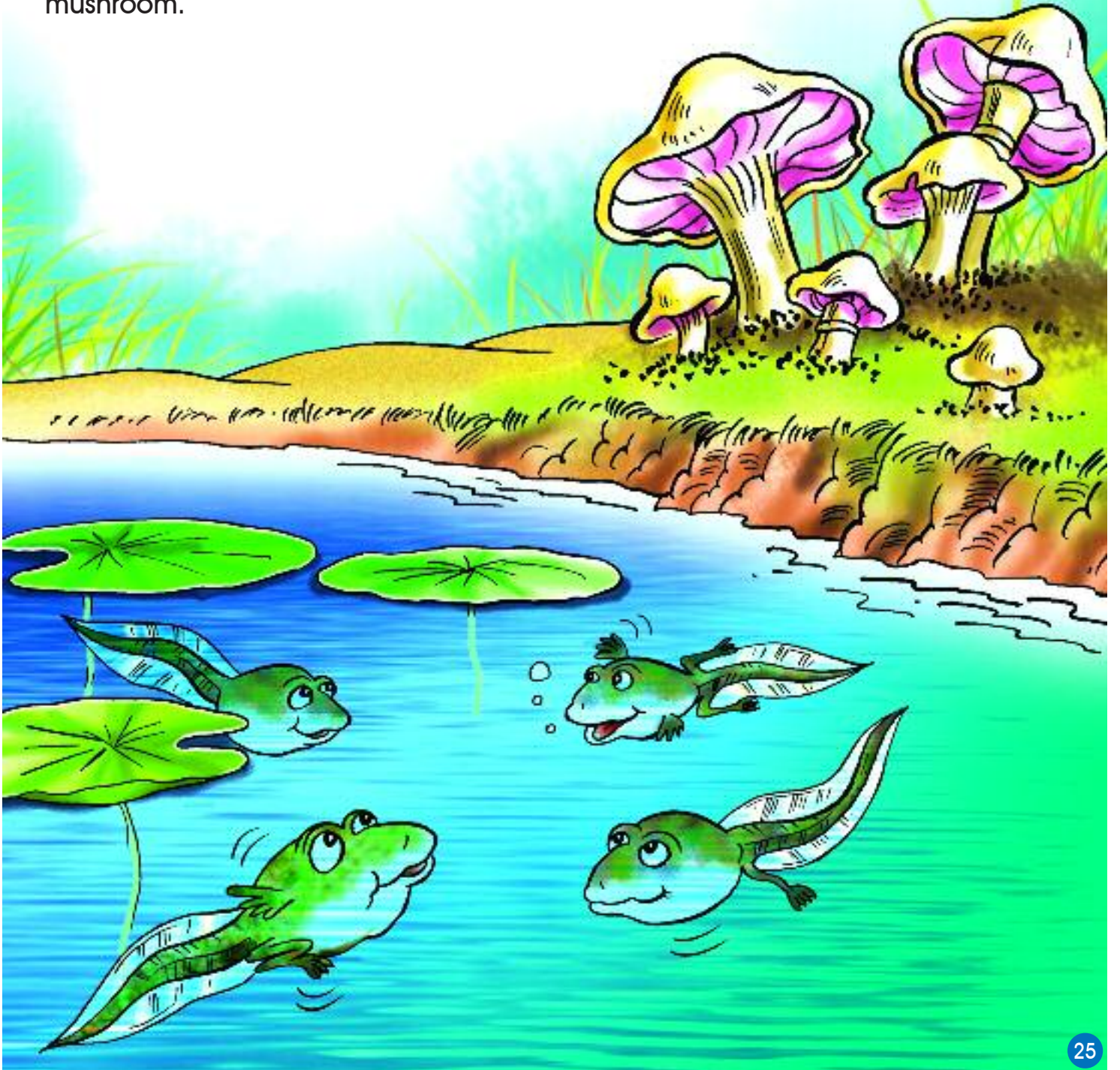


उसले बारम्बार पखेटाजस्तो हातलाई खुट्टाले छोड्नेच्यो । “ओहो, क्या गजब ! पखेटा नै पलाएका जस्ता छन्, खालि प्वाँखहरू उम्रिसकेका छैनन् ।” उसले मनमनै सोच्यो- “रूखजत्तिकै अग्ला ठाउँमा पुग्न पाए त्यहाँबाट अहिल्यै उडेर हेर्नु हुन्थ्यो !”

He touched his wing-like hands with his legs, “Yes, indeed wings have grown, and now I only need to grow feathers.” He thought, “If I can just climb a tall tree nearby, then I could take off from there.”

सानूले अलि पर आफ्ना साथीहरूले आफैलाई हेरिरहेको देख्यो । सानू तिनीहरू बसेका ठाउँमा पुग्यो । सानूलाई साथीहरूले सल्लाह दिदै भने- “सानू, तिमी उः त्यस च्याउमा उक्लनू नि । त्यो त एकै छिनमा हलक्क बढिहाल्छ अनि तिमी माथि पुग्न सकिहाल्छौ ।” साथीहरूलाई धन्यवाद दिदै सानू च्याउमाथि चढ्यो ।

Sanu saw his friends at a distance and went up to them. His friends suggested, “Sanu, you should go and climb that mushroom. It grows very fast and you can reach the height you want to fly.” Sanu thanked his friends and climbed up the mushroom.





“लौ, साँच्चै यो त हलक्क बढ्दै अग्लिन पो थाल्यो !” सानू दङ्ग भयो । उसले त्यहाँबाट तल हेर्‍यो । उसका साथीहरू भन्-भन् साना हुँदै देखिन छाडे । काकी भ्यागुती भने निदाइरहेको अझै प्रस्ट देखिन्थ्यो । पोखरीछेउको रूखभन्दा पनि माथि पुगेपछि सानूले भर्खरै पलाउन थालेका जस्ता आफ्ना पखेटा फिँजायो र हुत्तिँदै फालहाल्यो । उसले त्यसपछि पखेटा चलाउन बिर्स्यो वा के भयो । ऊ एकै चोटि तल खस्यो । ऊ करायो-
“आम्मै ! म त मरँ नि !”

“Hey, this mushroom does really grow really fast!” Sanu thought to himself. He looked down. As he climbed higher, his friends were becoming even smaller and smaller, until he could barely see them. Auntie Frog was surely in a deep sleep. When Sanu reached even higher than the tree near the pond, he spread his wings and took off, ready for flight. But he forgot to flap his new wings and came crashing to the ground. He cried out in pain, “Aww! Ouch! That hurts!”

सानूले हातका ठाउँमा पलाएका भन्ठानेका पखेटा छोएर हेर्न खोज्यो । त्यहाँ न पखेटा थिए, न हात नै पलाएका थिए । सानूलाई थाहा भयो, ऊ त सपना पो देखिरहेको थियो । उसले काकी भ्यागुतीलाई यो कुरा भन्न सकेन, बरु ऊ काकीकै अँगालामा बाँधिएर रह्यो र बिस्तारै निदाइरहेकी काकीसँगै आफू पनि निदायो ।

Sanu tried to touch his wings, but there really weren't any wings in place of his hands, he couldn't fly, and he was still a frog after all. Suddenly Sanu realised that he had been dreaming all along. He didn't say anything to his Auntie, but snuggled and went back to sleep.

