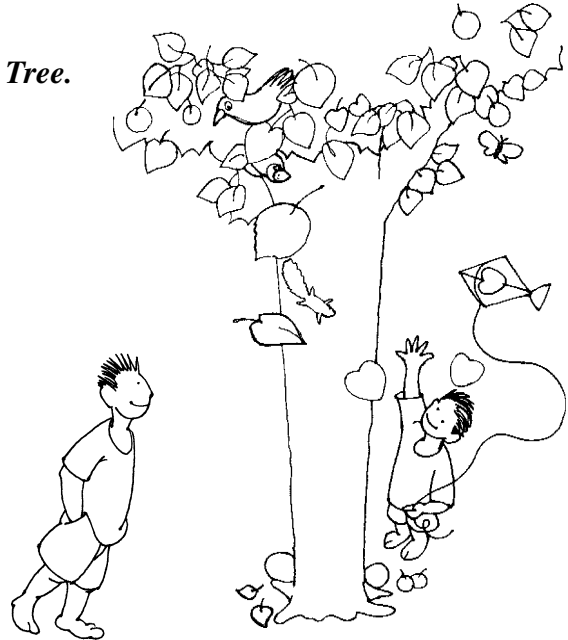


THE GENEROUS TREE

The most inspiring “green” tale ever.
An adaptation of Shel Silverstien’s classic *The Giving Tree*.

Once there was a tree and a little boy. The tree loved the boy very much. Everyday the boy played under the tree. He picked up flowers and made them into a garland. He climbed the tree trunk and swung from its branches. He played hide and seek with the squirrels and talked to the birds. By afternoon he got very tired. Then he slept under the shade of the tree. Whenever he felt hungry he ate the fruits of the tree. The boy loved the tree too.

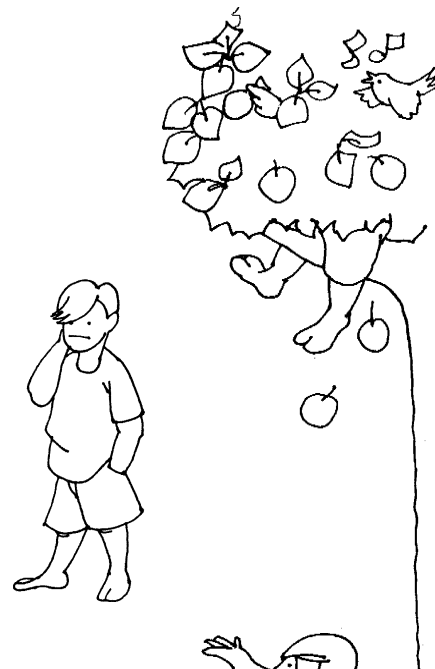


But time flew by. And the boy grew up.
Then he stopped coming to the tree.
The tree felt very sad and lonely.

After many years one day the boy came to the tree. The tree was overjoyed to see him. He said, “Come boy, come play and have fun. Climb on my trunk and swing from my branches.”

The boy said, “I don’t have time for that anymore. I want some money. I want to go to the bazaar and buy something. Can you give me some money?”

The tree replied, “I don’t have any money to give you. But you can pluck my fruits and sell them in the market. Then you will have the money to buy what you want.” So the boy took all the fruits. The tree was happy.

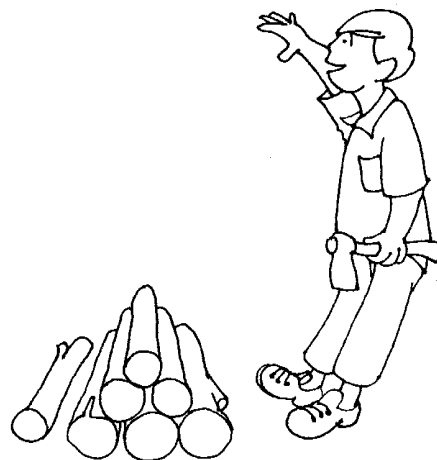


The boy disappeared. Years passed.

One day he came and said, “I need a house. Soon I will be getting married and I need a house for my wife and children.”

“You can chop my branches and make a log house”, said the tree. And this is what the boy did.

Now all that remained of the tree was its tall trunk.



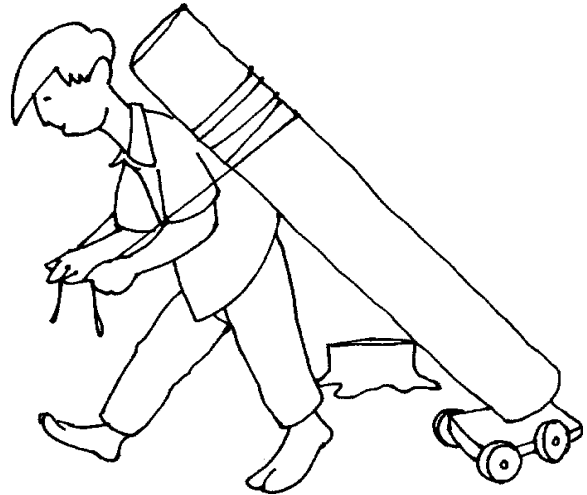
Several years passed and the boy did not come back. The tree remembered him and felt sad. So, one day when the boy came the tree actually shook with joy. The boy was carrying a kind of executive briefcase.

“What can I do for you my child?” asked the tree.

“Well, I have to go on a business trip for which I need to cross the sea. I urgently need a boat. Can you give me one?”

The tree thought for a while and said, “All I have left is a trunk. You can make a boat out of it.”

So the tree lost its trunk too. All that was left of the tree was a stump.



Many-many years passed.

One-day one doddering old man came up to the stump.

The tree immediately recognised it to be its childhood friend.

The tree very apologetically said,

“Sorry, my friend I have nothing left to give you. My fruits are gone. My branches and trunk are gone. All that is left of me is a lowly stump.”



The old man sighed and said,

“You see, I have no teeth left to eat your fruit. I have no energy left to climb up your trunk and swing from your branches. I am too tired. All I want is a place to rest and relax.”

“Then sit on me,” said the tree. The tree was still happy.



(Illustrations by Dilip Chinchalkar)