

The Value of Work

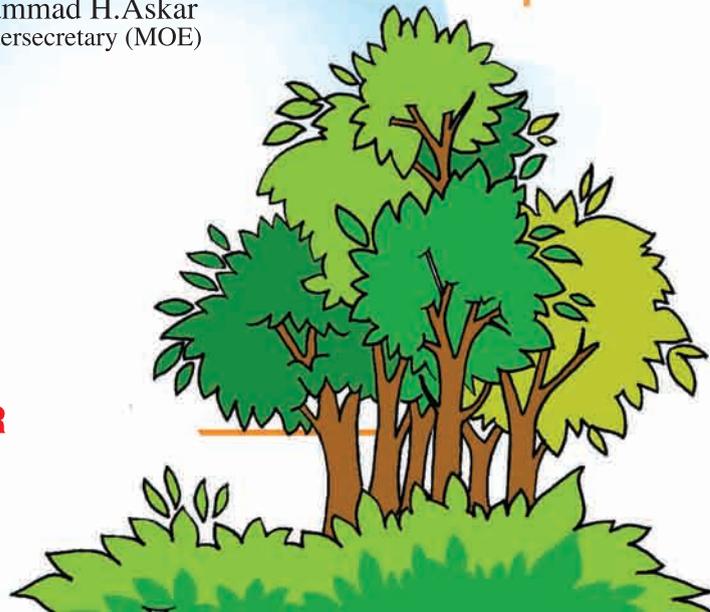
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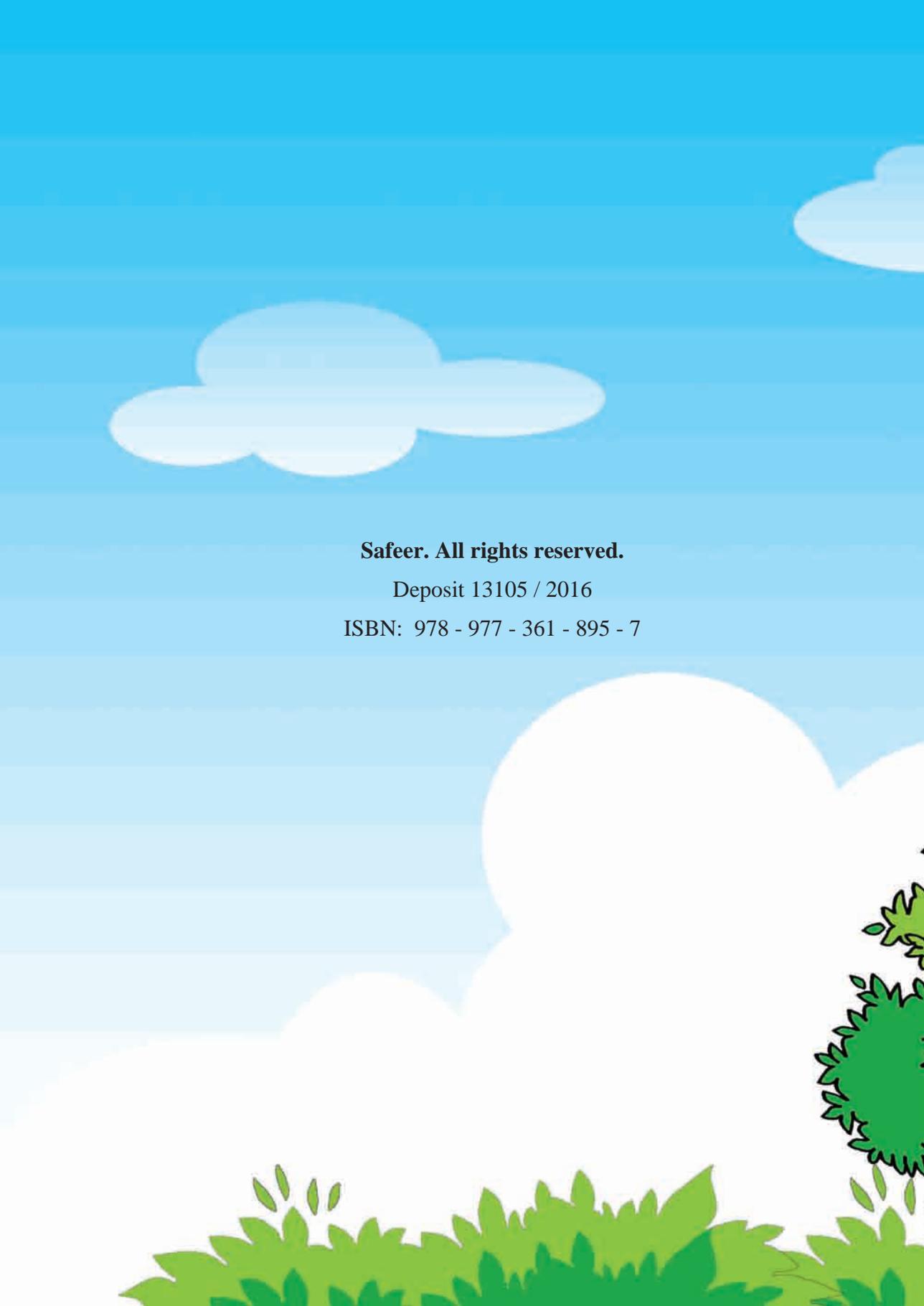
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Deposit 13105 / 2016

ISBN: 978 - 977 - 361 - 895 - 7

In a beautiful forest there lived a pretty little sparrow named Chippy . He had a sweet voice.

He loved to fly and to play and to eat seeds and greens. And he stayed like that until he grew up.





One day Chippy asked himself, "I have grown up, why am I not working?"

"There must be some work for me to do or some job to perform." "I will look for some work that I like and that I can be proud of."

"It must be some useful job, so that I can be of use to everyone."





Chippy went to his friend the egret and said, "I want to work with you."

The egret said, "You are welcome to come with me to the farmers' fields and help me keep them free of insects."

Chippy went to the fields, but he could not catch a single insect.

He said to the egret, "I am not good at this work, even though it is of great usefulness."



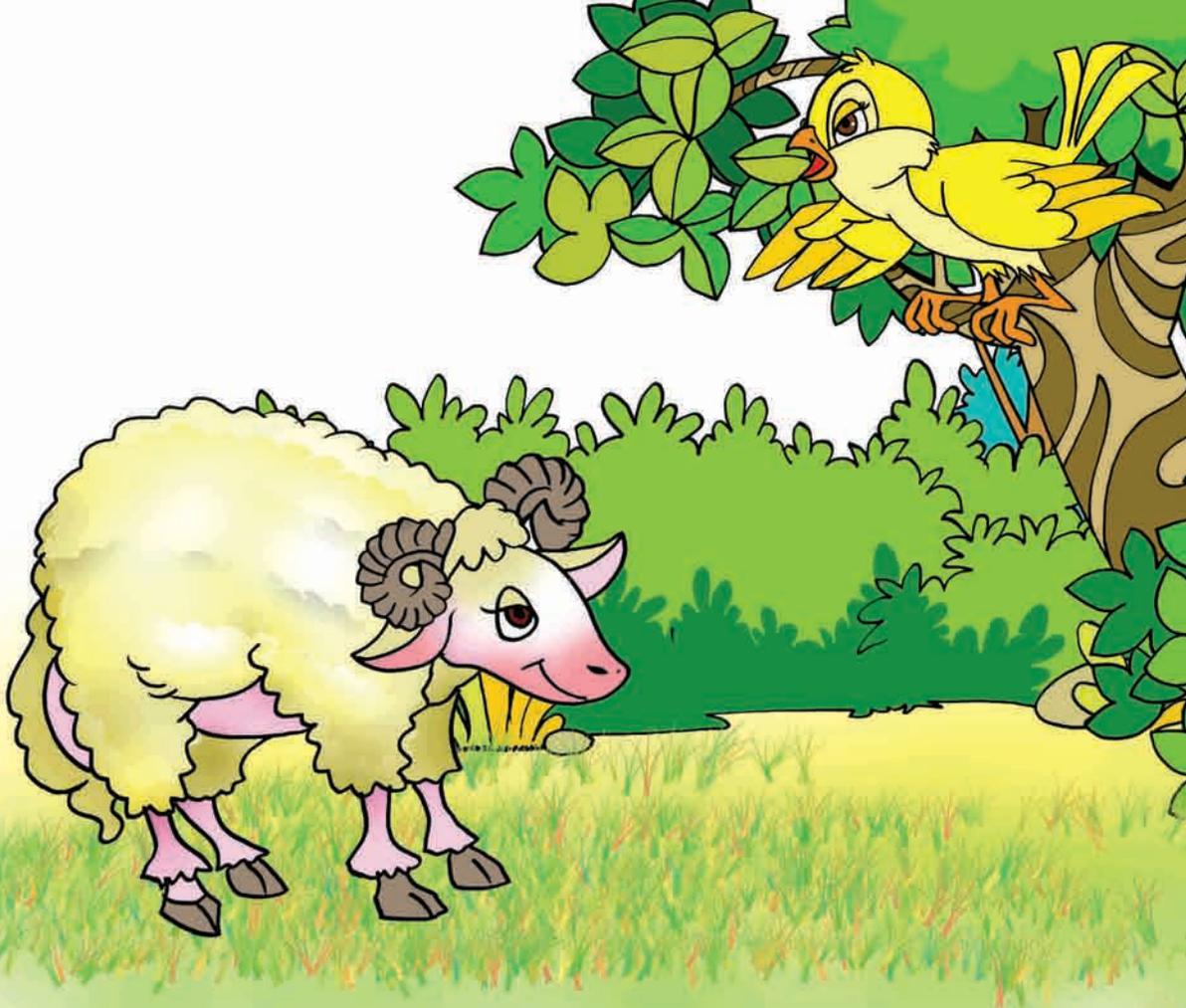
Chippy went to the chicken yard and said, "Auntie Hen, I want to work with you."

The hen said, "You are welcome to lay eggs as I do or to wake people up at dawn to pray as the cock does. Can you do either of those things?"

Chippy said, "I will try."

At dawn, Chippy awoke and started to cry out, "Tweet tweet, tweet, tweet."

He said, "Oh my voice is very weak. No one heard me. "I am no good at this work."



Chippy went to the sheep and asked if he could work with him.

The sheep said, "You are welcome to come with me. I eat grass and supply people with wool."

Chippy said, "But I do not eat grass and I do not have any wool to give to people".

"Excuse me, I would be of no good for this work."



Chippy went to his neighbour the dog and asked for a job.

The dog said, "It is good that you like to work, Chippy. Come with me to guard this garden. If you see a thief coming, you must bark at him, "bow wow, bow wow," and run after him.

"Let us give it a try! I will act like a thief"

When the dog came near the garden, Chippy started crying out, "Tweet tweet, tweet tweet," to the dog.

The dog laughed and said, "What is this, Chippy? Your voice is very weak and you are very small. Thieves will not be afraid of you. Your voice will not awaken the owner of the garden, or warn the watchman."



Chippy went to the cat. She let him work with her at hunting mice.

That night, he saw a mouse and went running after it to grab it with his beak.

The mouse bit him on the leg and ran away.

Chippy said, "I am not able to rid people of mice. I am not good at this work. I must look for some other work."

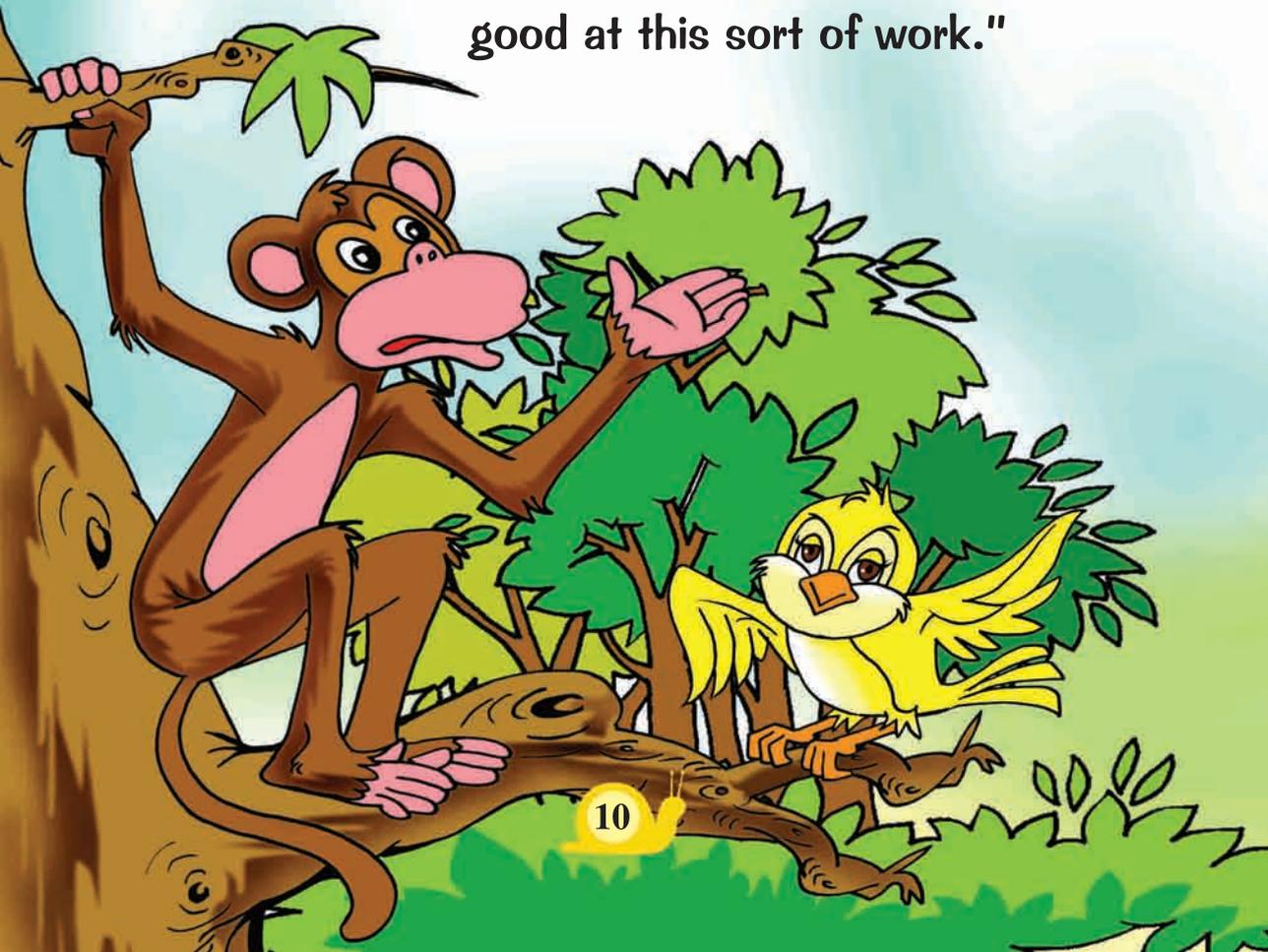
Chippy went to the monkey and asked to work with him.

The monkey said, "You are welcome to come with me to the circus and to play comical games.

I jump, walk on my hands and walk the tightrope. Children and grown-ups watch me and have fun and clap their hands."

The monkey performed a few of his comical stunts and asked Chippy, "Can you do this?"

Chippy said, "I cannot do as you do. I am not good at this sort of work."



Chippy went to the donkey and said, "Donkey, I have worn myself out looking for work. Please find me some work to do with you."

The donkey answered, "But you could not help me in my work."

"I help people by carrying them and their goods on my back and I draw their carts."

"Can you do that?"

"No," said Chippy,

"I cannot."





Chippy went to the cow and said to her, "Cow, I am sad because I am not working, and I have been looking for work since this morning without finding any. Do you have any work for me?"

The cow said, "Chippy, it is good that you are looking for useful work with me. Come with me, I help people with their work in the fields, and I give them milk to drink and to make cheese and butter."

Chippy answered, "But I am weak, as you see. I would not be good at that work."



Chippy went to the camel and asked him to find some work for him to do.

The camel said to him, "You are welcome to work with me, Chippy, while I help people by carrying their goods on my back.

They also ride me through the deserts, since Allah has given me patience to endure thirst, and long journeys."

Chippy said, "But I am weak, as you see. I would not be good at that work."



Chippy grew tired of so much looking for work.

He alighted sadly in a tree and began to cry in a loud voice.

"I am no good for anything, tweet tweet! I am no good for anything, tweet tweet!"

"Every animal has a role to play in life that helps people, but not me."



At that very instant there was a group of children gathering under the tree wondering what to do for the day. They noticed Chippy's voice coming from the tree. One of them said, "What a beautiful voice that bird has!"

"It makes us so happy to hear it. Let us play along to its tune!," said another.



The children began to play and to run around the tree following the tune of Chippy's voice.

Chippy noticed this and said, "Now I have found good work. I will make people happy!"

"Allah has given me a lovely voice and a beautiful appearance. People love me for that. Why don't I make them happy?"

Chippy flew around the tree singing in his beautiful voice, while the children ran around below playing and laughing.