



Educational stories for children

KARIM AND THE BIRD NEST



By

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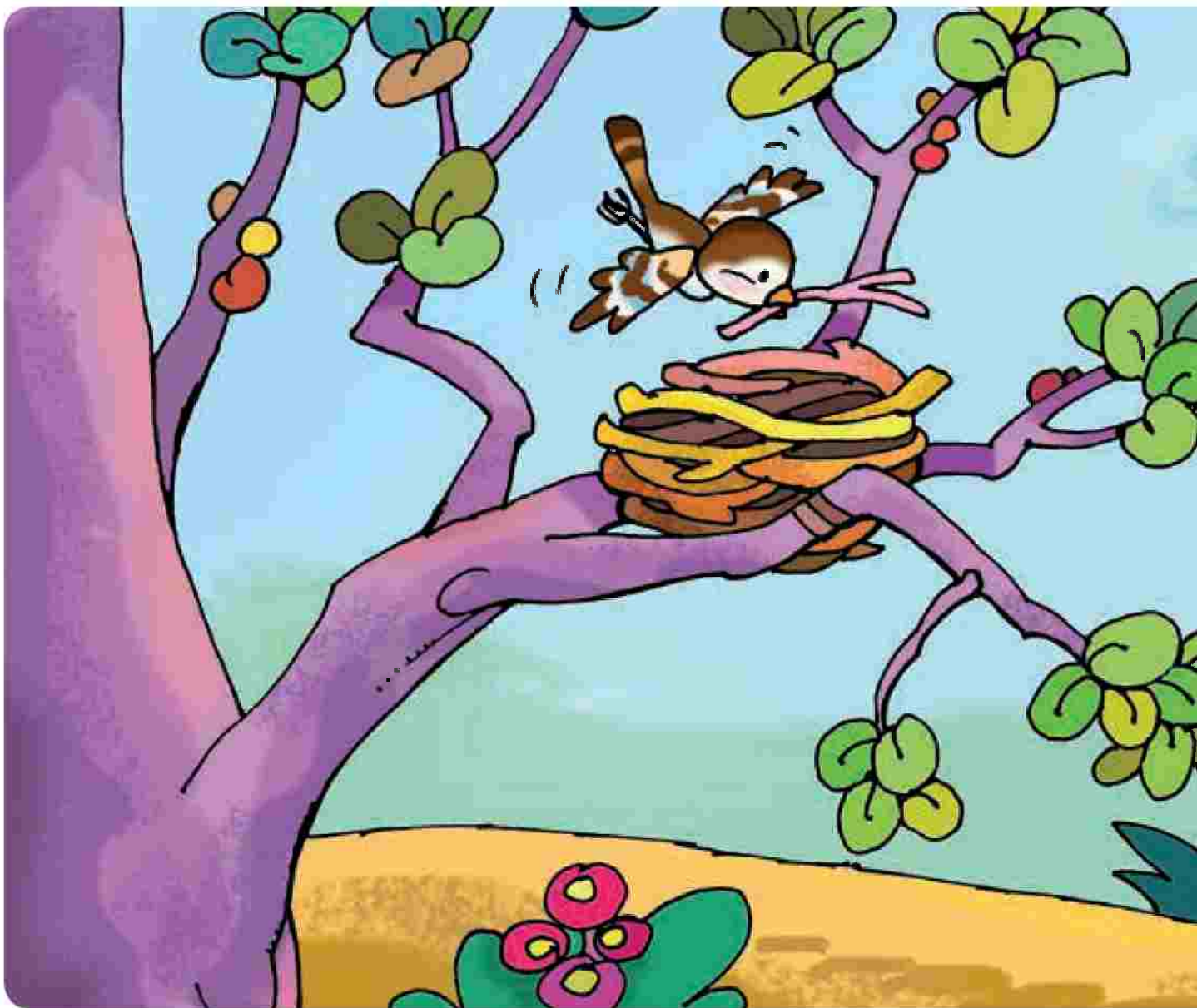
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Karim excitedly watched a sparrow fly about carrying pieces of straw in its beak to a tree branch.



The sparrow placed the pieces of straw one upon the other, pulled them into place, and firmly secured them onto the branch, creating a sturdy nest.



Karim said to the sparrow, "My! What a lovely nest, my friend! I want to live in a nest like that."



“Do you like my nest?” asked the sparrow.



“Yes, I like it very much,” Karim said, “and I’m going to build one for myself just like it.”



The sparrow chuckled and said, "You won't be able to."



Challenging the sparrow, Karim said, “Yes I will. I’m going to build it right now.”



“A nest is a house for birds, not for people,” the sparrow said.
“I’m going to build a nest and live in it,” Karim insisted. “I like nests more than houses.”



Karim gathered some sticks and weeds and placed them atop each other in the form of a nest, just as the sparrow had, until his nest was complete.



Karim climbed into the nest and stuck his head out like the sparrow. He let himself daydream, saying to himself, “My! My nest is so beautiful! I’ll sleep here, and wake up early in the morning and fly about. I’ll pick



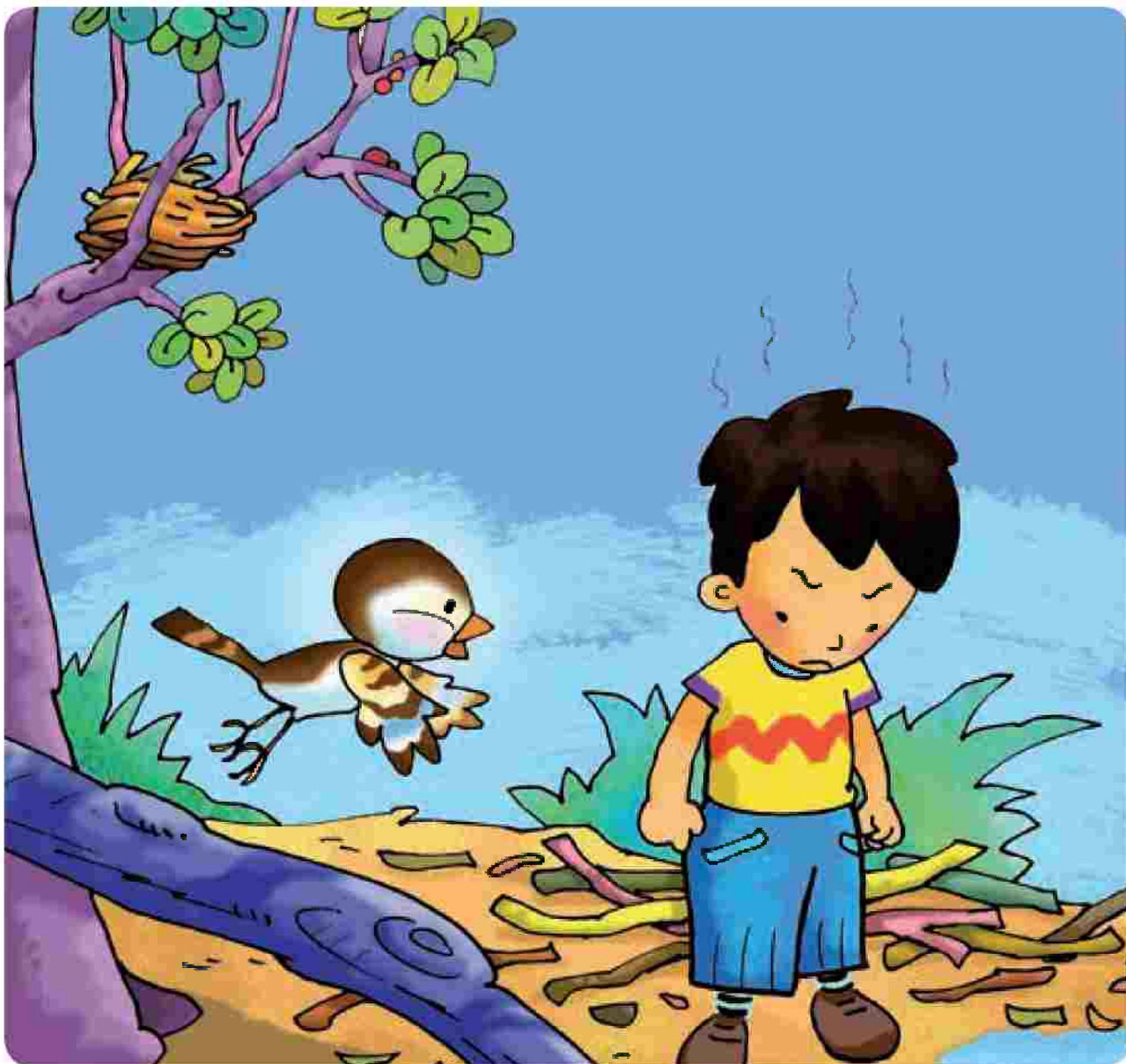
up seeds with my beak, for seeds are so much nicer than eggs or milk with honey. I'll scratch my beak against the branch to clean it, instead of using a toothbrush and toothpaste..."



And suddenly, a heavy wind blew and rain poured down. The nest rocked to and fro, and Karim was drenched from head to foot with rain.



The sparrow called out, “Be careful, Karim, your nest is going to fall apart!” Karim tried to hold his nest together with his hands, but it fell apart to become a mere pile of sticks.



Karim angrily got up and brushed the weeds and rain drops off his hair and clothes. The sparrow said, "I told you you couldn't do it!"



Karim stormed off. “Wait,” the sparrow said, “don’t be angry! Think about it; why did that happen?” Karim thought for a moment and then smiled and said, “You have a point.”



"I wish I could help you," the sparrow told him. "But you're a human, Karim, and humans don't live in nests like birds. Humans live in houses."



For every creature that God created, He also made a suitable dwelling. Look around you and you'll see for yourself. Look, that ant lives in a tiny hole!



And that lizard lives in a big hole!

That rabbit lives in a burrow.

That horse lives in a stable.



The lion lives in a lair. The monkey lives in a cave.

The cow lives in a pen.



As for the bird, it lives in..."

Karim cut him off and blurted out, "a nest!"



The sparrow smiled and asked him, "And the human?"

Karim replied, "lives in a house!"



Karim laughed and leapt into the air. "I got it, I got it!" he said.

The sparrow laughed and clapped its wings.

"You're so clever, Karim!" it said.