

BROTHERS FROM CHICHIBABA

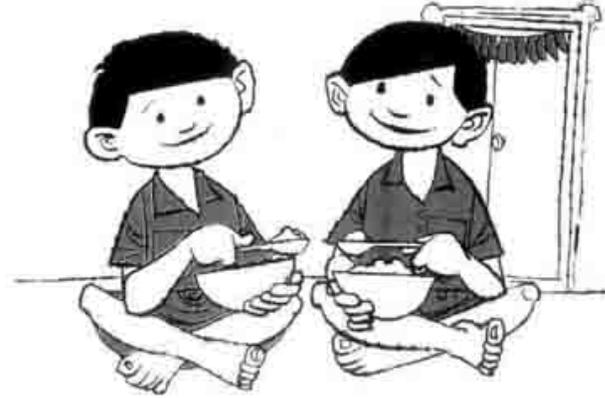
PROF. D. P. SENGUPTA

(Price Rupees Forty only)

DEDICATED TO THE KARGIL ORPHANS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

**“ON THE SEASHORE OF ENDLESS WORLDS CHILDREN MEET.
THE SKY IS MOTIONLESS OVERHEAD
AND THE RESTLESS WATER IS BOISTEROUS.
ON THE SEASHORE OF ENDLESS WORLDS
THE CHILDREN MEET WITH SHOUTS AND DANCES.”**

- TAGORE



**IN A DISTANT LAND CALLED CHICHIBABA
THERE LIVED TWO BROTHERS.
ONE WAS CALLED GURUK
AND THE OTHER WAS CALLED TURUK.
THEY LOVED EACH OTHER VERY MUCH.
THE ONLY THING THEY USED TO FIGHT ABOUT
WAS THAT GURUK WAS RIGHT HANDED
AND TURUK WAS LEFT HANDED.
GURUK ATE WITH HIS RIGHT HAND
AND WROTE WITH HIS RIGHT HAND.
BUT TURUK ATE WITH HIS LEFT HAND
AND WROTE WITH HIS LEFT HAND.**



**GURUK THOUGHT THAT HE DID THE RIGHT THING
AND TURUK WAS WRONG.
TURUK THOUGHT HE WAS RIGHT
AND GURUK WAS WRONG.
SOMEDAY THEY WOULD ARGUE ABOUT WHO WAS RIGHT AND WHO WAS
WRONG AND GET INTO A FIGHT.
GURUK WOULD BEAT TURUK WITH HIS RIGHT HAND AND TURUK WOULD
BEAT GURUK WITH HIS LEFT HAND.**



**BUT THEY WOULD SOON STOP FIGHTING.
GURUK WOULD PUT HIS RIGHT ARM AROUND TURUK,
TURUK WOULD PUT HIS LEFT ARM AROUND GURUK,
AND THE TWO WOULD GO FOR A WALK,
LAUGHING AND TALKING ALL THE WAY.**



**YEARS PASSED. GURUK AND TURUK
HAD GROWN INTO MEN AND RULED OVER THE LAND.
THEY STILL ARGUED AND QUARRELLED
BUT LOVED EACH OTHER.
THERE WERE ALSO OTHER RIGHT-HANDED
AND LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE IN THE LAND
WHO FOUGHT AMONG THEMSELVES
WHEN GURUK AND TURUK FOUGHT EACH OTHER.**



**ONE DAY THEIR FIGHT WENT ON FOR A WHILE
AND A WICKED MAN CALLED TOMTOM
WHO WAS VISITING THEM FROM A DISTANT LAND SAID,
“YOU BETTER LIVE APART,”
AND THEIR LAND WAS DIVIDED
AND A WALL WAS RAISED,
SEPARATING THE TWO BROTHERS.**



**GURUK'S LAND WAS NAMED CHINCHIN AND
TURUK'S LAND WAS NAMED CHINCHUN.
ALL RIGHT-HANDED PEOPLE MOVED TO CHINCHIN.
ALL LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE MOVED TO CHINCHUN.
THEIR FAMILIES GREW BUT SOME LEFT-HANDERS WERE BORN AMONG
THE RIGHT-HANDERS AND SOME RIGHT-HANDERS WERE BORN AMONG
THE LEFT-HANDERS.**



**TOMTOM USED TO VISIT CHINCHIN AND CHINCHUN
FROM TIME TO TIME.
“BE CAREFUL ABOUT TURUK,”
TOMTOM WOULD TELL GURUK,
“I SHALL GIVE YOU A NEW RIGHT-HANDED CATAPULT TO PROTECT
YOURSELF,” AND HE TOOK A LOT OF MONEY FROM GURUK FOR THE
CATAPULT THAT HE SOLD HIM.**



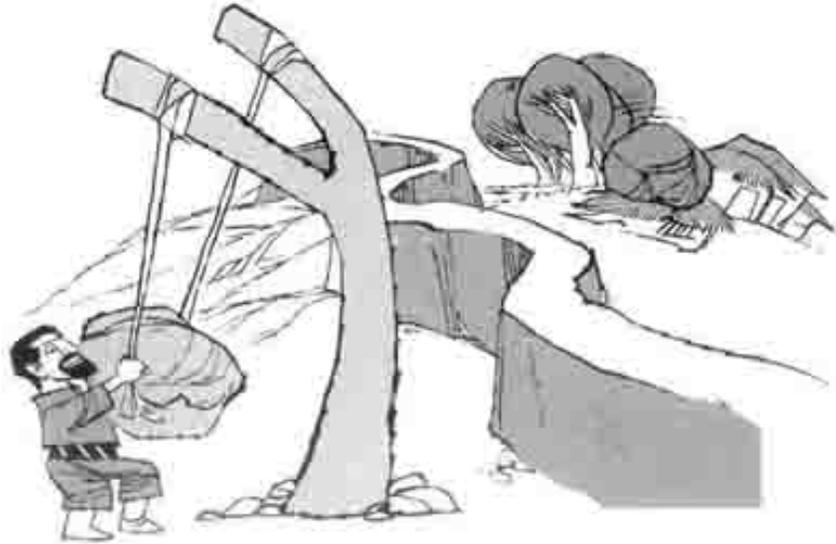
**‘BE CAREFUL OF GURUK,’ TOMTOM TOLD TURUK,
‘I SHALL GIVE YOU A NEW LEFT-HANDED
CATAPULT TO PROTECT YOURSELF,’
AND HE COLLECTED A LOT OF MONEY FROM TURUK.**



**AS WE ALL KNOW,
THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN A RIGHT-HANDED CATAPULT
AND A LEFT-HANDED CATAPULT.
THEY ARE EXACTLY THE SAME.**



**PROUD OF HAVING A CATAPULT,
GURUK WENT NEAR THE WALL
AND SHOWED IT TO TURUK.
TURUK PRETENDED
HE HAD NOT SEEN GURUK'S CATAPULT
BUT HE DISPLAYED HIS CATAPULT
AND MADE SURE GURUK HAD SEEN IT.**



**THERE LIVED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY
A MAN CALLED SAMSUM WHO MADE WEAPONS.
SAMSUM SOLD GURUK A BIGGER CATAPULT
THAT COULD BE USED TO THROW BIG STONES.
THESE STONES COULD BREAK HOUSES
WHEN THEY FELL ON THEM.**



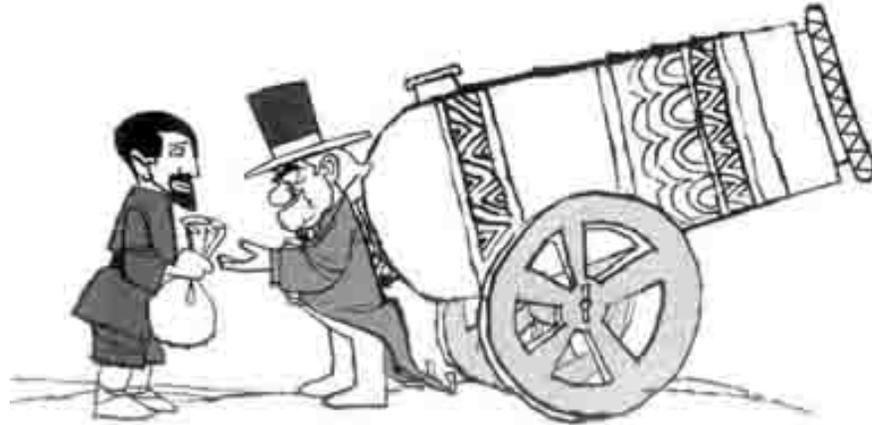
**GURUK WAS VERY PLEASED.
HE SAT DOWN HAPPILY WITH HIS HOOKAH AND SMOKED.
A GURGLING SONG CAME OUT OF THE HOOKAH:
‘GURUK, GURUK, GURUK,
TURUK IS A KURUK.’
BY ‘KURUK’ THE HOOKAH OF COURSE MEANT ‘CROOK’.**



**TURUK HEARD THE SONG. HE WAS VERY UPSET
AND WENT TO TOMTOM.
TOMTOM HAD DEVELOPED A NEW WEAPON.
HE CALLED IT A CANNON.
YOU COULD STUFF SOME GUNPOWDER INTO IT
AND PLACE A HUGE IRON BALL INSIDE.
AS SOON AS YOU SET FIRE TO THE POWDER IT WOULD EXPLODE.
THE IRON BALL WOULD SHOOT
AND GO A LONG DISTANCE.
“IT CAN DESTROY MANY HOUSES
AND KILL MANY PEOPLE,” SAID TOMTOM.
TURUK PAID TOMTOM A LOT OF MONEY AND BOUGHT THE CANNON.**



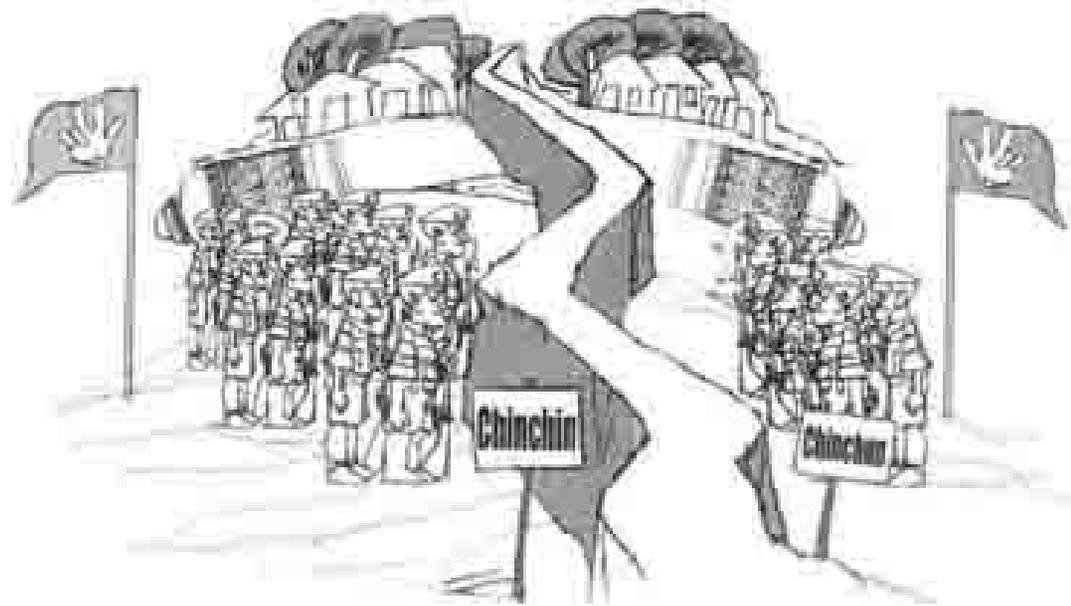
**TURUK PLACED THE CANNON NEAR THE WALL THAT SEPARATED HIS LAND FROM GURUK'S LAND AND POINTED IT TOWARDS GURUK'S HOUSE. HE SANG LOUDLY SO THAT GURUK COULD HEAR THE SONG WHICH WENT:
"I AM THE KING, I AM THE KING,
I HAVE A CANNON AND GURUK HAS A SLING."**



**GURUK HEARD THE SONG.
HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT A CANNON WAS.
HE WENT TO SAMSUM WHO GAVE GURUK
A BIGGER CANNON AND TOLD HIM
HOW IT COULD DESTROY HOUSES AND HUMAN BEINGS.
GURUK PAID SAMSUM A LOT OF MONEY
AND BROUGHT THE CANNON HOME.**



**AND SO IT WENT. ON AND ON. GURUK AND TURUK,
THE RIGHT-HANDED
AND LEFT-HANDED BROTHERS
WHO LOVED EACH OTHER ONCE,
HATED EACH OTHER NOW.**



**THE WALL THAT SEPARATED THEIR LANDS
HAD CANNONS AND GUNS
AND ALL SORTS OF WEAPONS POINTING AT EACH OTHER.
RIGHT-HANDED SOLDIERS AND LEFT-HANDED SOLDIERS WEARING
UNIFORMS GUARDED THE WALL ON EITHER SIDE.**



**A LOT OF MONEY HAD TO BE SPENT
TO BUY WEAPONS AND UNIFORMS
AND PAY THE SOLDIERS.
BOTH GURUK AND TURUK BECAME POORER AND POORER
AS TOMTOM AND SAMSUM
BECAME RICHER AND RICHER.**



THE WALL THAT SEPARATED CHINCHIN AND CHINCHUN HAD BROKEN AT A CERTAIN PLACE AND THERE WAS A BIG HOLE. CHILDREN FROM ONE SIDE WOULD GO TO THE OTHER SIDE AND PLAY WHEN THE ELDERS WERE NOT LOOKING.



THESE CHILDREN DID NOT KNOW THAT BY NOW THE CLEVER MEN OF CHINCHIN AND CHINCHUN HAD FOUND OUT HOW TOMTOM AND SAMSUM HAD MADE SPECIAL BOMBS THAT COULD COMPLETELY DESTROY A COUNTRY.

THESE CLEVER MEN ALSO WORKED HARD AND MADE THE SAME KIND OF BOMBS.

GURUK TOLD HIS PEOPLE, ‘WHEN I DROP THIS BOMB ON CHINCHUN, EVERYONE WILL DIE INSTANTLY. IT WILL BE HOT THAT EARTH WILL MELT LIKE BUTTER.’ ‘HURRAH !,’ SAID THE PEOPLE OF CHINCHIN.



**TURUK TOLD HIS PEOPLE, ‘WHEN I DROP THIS BOMB ON CHINCHIN, EVERYTHING WILL MELT. EVERYONE WILL DIE AND THERE WILL NOT BE ANY OF THESE RIGHT-HANDED PEOPLE TO THREATEN US. FOR YEARS AND YEARS NOT A BLADE OF GRASS WILL GROW THERE.’
‘HURRAH!’ CRIED THE PEOPLE OF CHINCHUN.**



**THE CHILDREN DID NOT UNDERSTAND ALL THIS.
AS EVENING FELL THE CHILDREN FROM CHINCHIN AND CHINCHUN
GATHERED NEAR THE BIG HOLE IN THE WALL. CHILDREN FROM
CHINCHIN STRETCHED THEIR RIGHT HANDS AND HELD THE LEFT HANDS
OF THE CHILDREN
FROM CHINCHUN.
THEY WERE SCARED.
THEY DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT MEANT TO MELT LIKE BUTTER.**



“IF WE MELT, WE WILL HAVE NO HANDS AND THERE WON’T BE LEFT-HANDED CHILDREN AND RIGHT-HANDED CHILDREN. WE SHALL ALL BE THE SAME,” SAID KINGSHUK FROM CHINCHIN.

**‘HOW DOES IT MATTER? WE SHALL ALL BE DEAD, DON’T YOU SEE?’
ASKED RUKMA FROM CHINCHUN.**

**‘WE WILL BE DEAD ANYWAY. I HAVEN’T EATEN FOR TWO DAYS,’ SAID A
YOUNG BOY AND NO ONE KNEW WHETHER HE WAS FROM CHINCHIN OR
CHINCHUN.**



FROM THE WINDOWS OF THEIR HOUSES GURUK AND TURUK SAW THESE CHILDREN HUDDLED TOGETHER. THE SOLDIERS WERE GOING TO CATCH THE CHILDREN BUT THE TWO BROTHERS PREVENTED THEM. THEY CAME OUT OF THEIR HOUSES AND AS THEY STOOD ON EITHER SIDE OF THE WALL, NEAR THE HOLE, GURUK AND TURUK LOOKED AT EACH OTHER.



IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAD MET AND SEEN EACH OTHER FOR MANY YEARS. AS THEY KEPT LOOKING THEY REMEMBERED THOSE DAYS WHEN THEY LIVED TOGETHER AND LOVED EACH OTHER.

“WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO OURSELVES?” THEY CRIED OUT AND TEARS WELLED UP IN THEIR EYES.

GURUK AND TURUK STRETCHED OUT BOTH THEIR HANDS AND THEY EMBRACED EACH OTHER.

“WE SHALL DESTROY ALL OUR WEAPONS AND BOMBS AND WILL LIVE AS WE USED TO LIVE BEFORE,” THEY SAID.

THE CHILDREN COULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT THEY SAW. AT FIRST THEY WERE SCARED AND THEN THEY BEGAN TO LAUGH LOUDER AND LOUDER.

PEOPLE FROM BOTH SIDES JOINED THEM AND EVERYONE LAUGHED AND THEN.....



**THE CHILDREN MADE A RING
AND THEY BEGAN TO SING
AND DANCE IN JOY AND GLEE,**



**THE ELDERS LAUGHED AND CRIED,
TILL THEIR TEARS ALL DRIED,
AND LOVE MADE HATRED FLEE.**

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