



## The Three Foolish Scholars and the Wise Friend

Four boys were best friends since their childhood. They had studied all the scriptures under the same teacher and were well versed in all rituals. However, three of them were more scholarly than the fourth. The fourth friend was not scholarly but sensible. Yet he was considered a dullard by the other three.

Now in their youth, they wanted to test their knowledge and also earn wealth. So they decided to go to the city and gain the King's patronship for their knowledge. One of them said, "I feel only the three

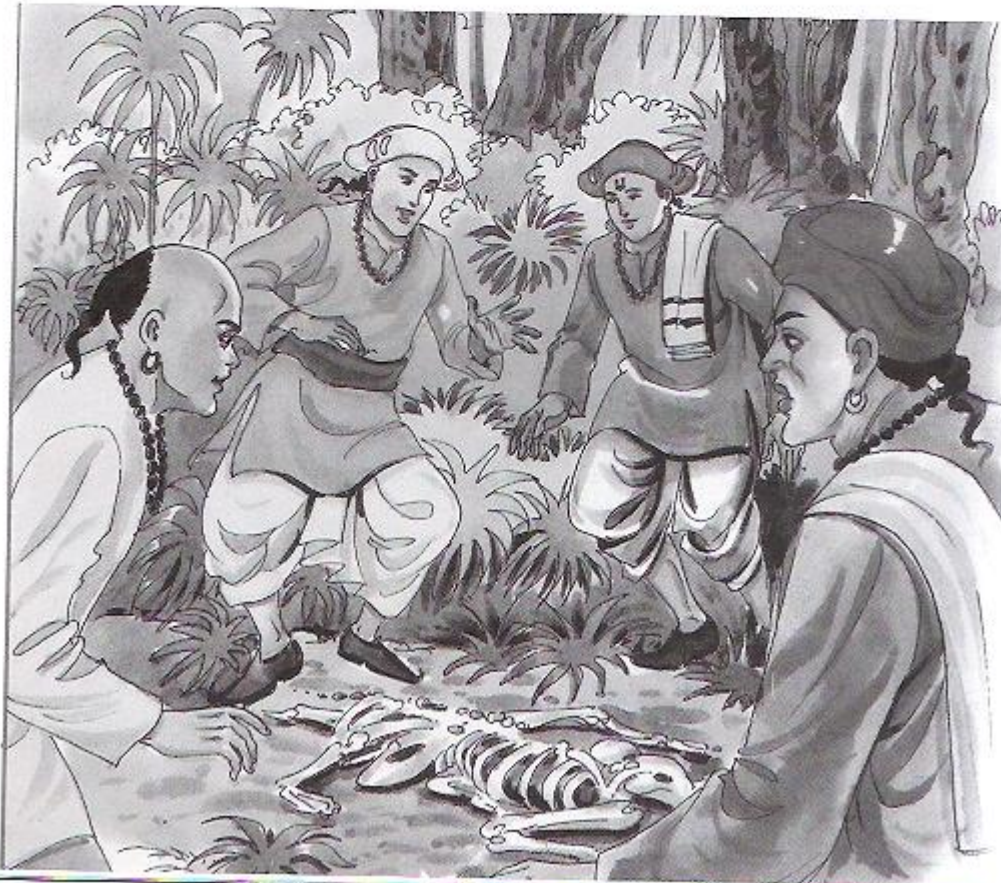




of us should go as we are scholars, but the fourth one must stay behind, as he is so dumb."

"No, dear friend," said the second one, "we cannot do so, for we have been together since childhood in every endeavour." The third one added, "Yes, we must stick together as foursome as we have always done."

So. The four friends went to the city. On their way they passed through a forest. There they saw a skeleton of a lion. The first one said, "Ah, there is a chance for me to test and display my learning. I will



assemble the skeleton." The second one announced, "I will supply the skeleton with skin, flesh and blood." Third one said "And I shall bring the creature back to life!"



At this point, the three looked at the fourth friend who was a dullard in their opinion. The sensible one said, "Friends, I advise you against these tests, for if this wild and ferocious lion comes to life he will surely kill us"

"Oh you are as dumb as we always thought and a coward too" said the three friends. At this the fourth friend said, "Do as you want to, but let me climb up a tree to protect myself before you perform your life giving task." The friends agreed and the sensible friend scrambled up a



tree.

Then the first person got the skeleton together, the second provided the skin, flesh and blood and the third one gave it the breath and life.

The instant it came to life, the lion roared and jumped at the three scholars. They tried to run away but the lion caught them and ripped them apart. Then it leisurely had its lunch and left the spot.



Then the sorrowful yet sensible friend climbed down the tree and went home safe.

**Moral:**  
Scholarship is less important than sensibility.