

# “The Lion-Makers”

By Vishnu Sharmam

## *Reading Competencies:*

Relate content or theme to previous experiences and background knowledge.  
Organize information in tables, graphs, and maps.

A Reading Pamphlet for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Vishnu Sharma (Sanskrit: विष्णुशर्मन् / विष्णुशर्मा) was an Indian scholar and author who is believed to have written the Panchatantra collection of fables. The exact period of the composition of the Panchatantra is uncertain, and estimates vary from 1200 BCE to 300 CE. Some scholars place him in the 3rd century BCE.

Vishnu Sharma is one of the most widely translated secular authors in history. The Panchatantra was translated into Middle Persia in 570 CE by Borzuya and into Arabic Language in 750 CE by Persian people scholar Abdullah Ibn al-Muqaffa as Kalīlah wa Dimnah (“Arabic Language”: كليلة و دمنة).



Activity I

- J 1.
- A 2.
- D 3.
- B 4.
- C 5.
- I 6.
- H 7.
- F 8.
- E 9.
- G 10.

Activity II

- 1. Because the fourth Brahman only acquire commonsense and the eldest believes that having commonsense only will gain nothing without knowledge.
- 2. Knowledge/Scholarship
- 3-5. Answers may vary.

*“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to Change the World.”*  
- Nelson Mandela ☺

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In a certain town there dwelt four Brahman youths who lived in friendship. Three of them had reached the far shore of all scholarship, but lacked sense. The other found scholarship distasteful; he had nothing but sense. One day they met for consultation. “What is the use of attainments,” said they, “if one does not travel, win the favor of kings, and acquire money? Whatever we do, let us all travel.”

But when they had gone a little way, the eldest of them said: “One of us, Gumption, is a dullard, having nothing but sense. Now nobody gains the favorable attention of kings by simple sense without scholarship. Therefore we will not share our earnings with him. Let him turn back and go home.”

**Q. Do you think that the third Brahman would say/do the same to the fourth Brahman?**

"Then the second said: "My intelligent friend, you lack scholarship. Please go home!"

But the third said: "No, no. This is no way to behave. For we have played together since we were little boys. Come along, my noble friend. You shall have a share of the money we earn."

With this agreement they continued their journey, and in a forest they found the bones of a dead lion.

**Q. What do you think the four Brahman would do to the bones of the dead lion?**

Thereupon one of them said: "A good opportunity to test the ripeness of our scholarship. Here lies some kind of creature, dead. Let us bring it to life by means of the scholarship we have honestly won. "Then the first said: "I know how to assemble the skeleton." The second said: "I can supply skin, flesh, and blood." The third said: "I can give it life."

**Q. Is bringing a lion back to life a good idea? Why?**

**Activity II. Direction:** Answer the following questions. 2pts each correct answer.

1. Why did the first and the second youth Brahman outcast the fourth Brahman?

2. What do you think the three Brahman have that the fourth Brahman doesn't acquire?

3. Using a graphic organizer, differentiate a man with intelligence to a man with commonsense.

4. Plot the story using any graphic organizer.

5. Give the lesson of the story.





**Activity I. Direction:** Choose the correct word from the box for the following definition. Write your answer on the space provided.

- |                |             |                |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| a. distasteful | b. dullard  | c. scholarship |
| d. noble       | e. ripeness | f. simpleton   |
| g. Brahman     | h. sprang   | i. Gumption    |
|                |             | j. dwelt       |

- \_\_\_ 1. Live in or at a specified place.
- \_\_\_ 2. Causing dislike or disgust; offensive; unpleasant.
- \_\_\_ 3. Showing fine personal qualities or high moral principles and ideals.
- \_\_\_ 4. A slow or ignorant person.
- \_\_\_ 5. Academic study or achievement; learning of a high level.
- \_\_\_ 6. Shrewd or spirited initiative and resourcefulness.
- \_\_\_ 7. Fiercely attack someone
- \_\_\_ 8. A simple or gullible person
- \_\_\_ 9. Having mature knowledge, understanding, or judgment.
- \_\_\_ 10. A member of the highest Hindu caste, that of the priesthood.

So the first assembled the skeleton, the second provided skin, flesh, and blood. But while the third was intent on giving the breath of life, the man of sense advised against it, remarking: "This is a lion. If you bring him to life, he will kill every one of us."

"You simpleton!" said the other, "it is not I who will reduce scholarship to a nullity." "In that case," came the reply, "wait a moment, while I climb this convenient tree."

**Q. What do you think will happen to the other three Brahman? and What do you think will happen to the fourth Brahman?**

When this had been done, the lion was brought to life, sprang up, and killed all three. But the man of sense, after the lion had gone elsewhere, climbed down and went home. "

And that is why I say:

Scholarship is less than sense;

Therefore seek intelligence:

Senseless scholars in their pride

Made a lion; then they died."



**-The End-**

