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RAHULA LEADS THE WAY

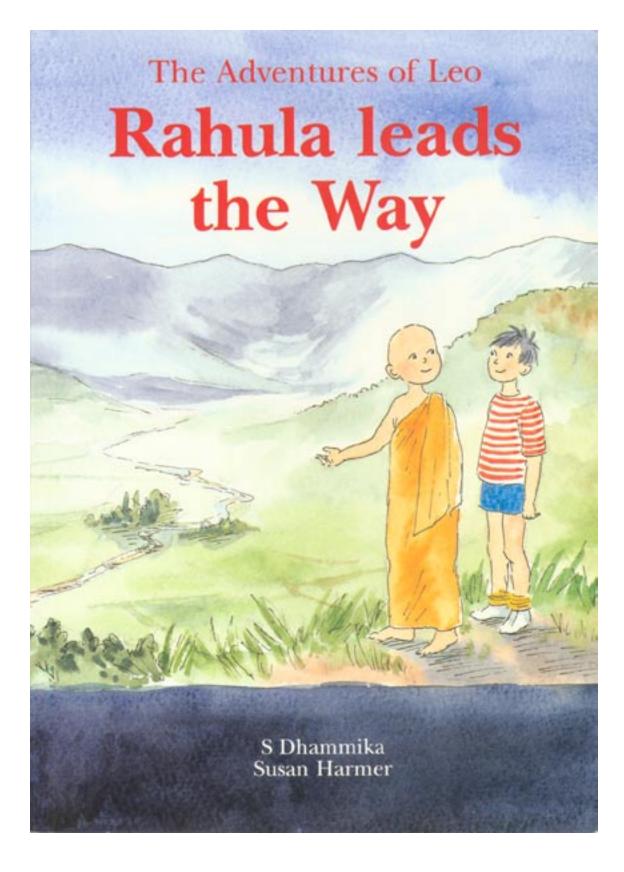
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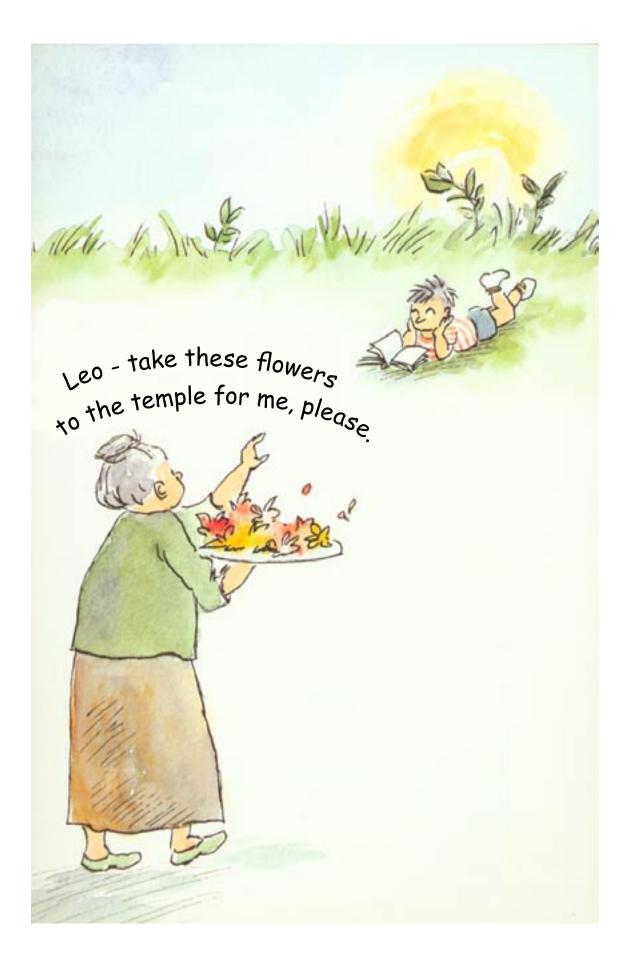
S. Dhammika Susan Harmer

illustrated by Susan Harmer

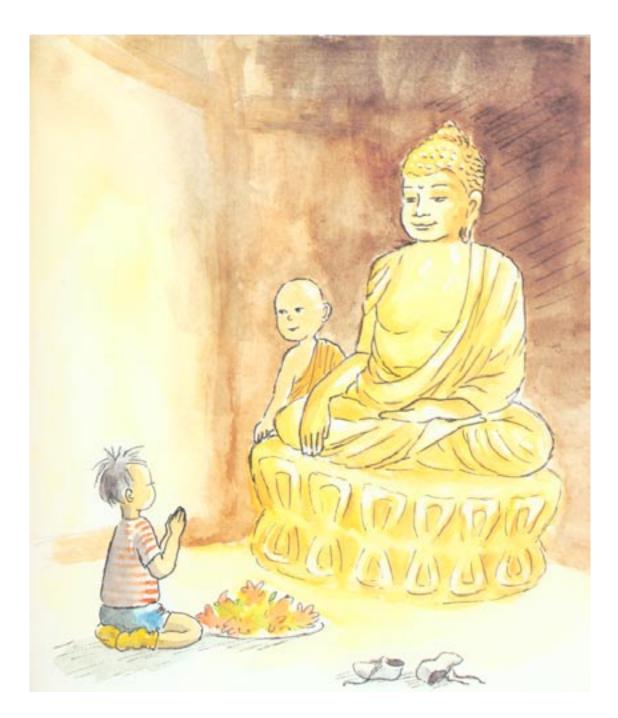


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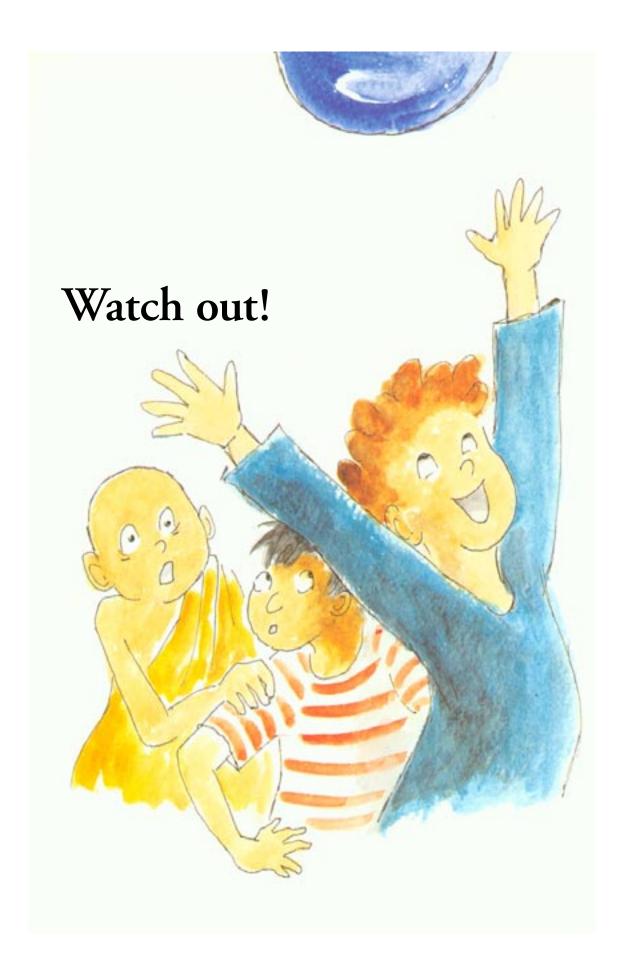
I go to the Buddha for refuge, I go to the Dhamma for refuge, I go to the Sangha for refuge. Hi, Rahula!

Hello, Leo.

Where are you going? Can I come too? Please let me come... nhour

Of course you can. I'm going somewhere special. You'll see when we get there.





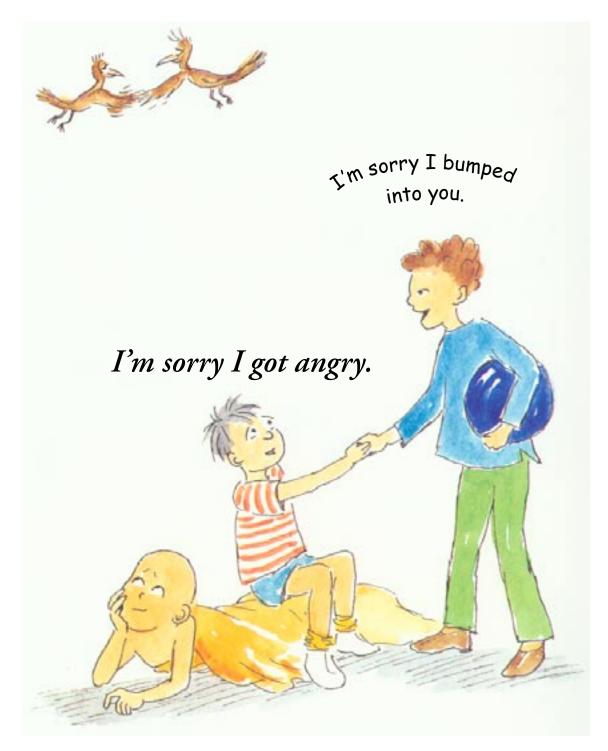


Get off me, idiot! Why don't you look where you're going? Of all the clumsy, stupid, brainless...





Calm down, Leo. Your anger will hurt him but it'll hurt you even more. You'd like him to forgive you if you made a mistake, so why not forgive him?

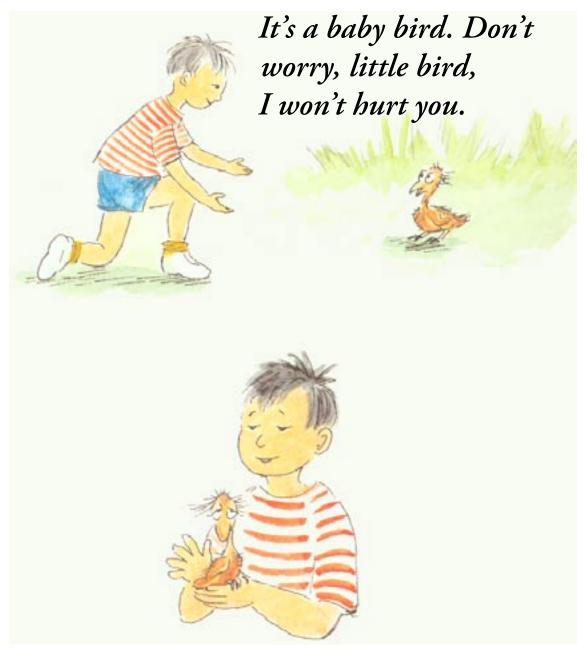


Now you're both friends, can you please get off me so we can get on with our walk?

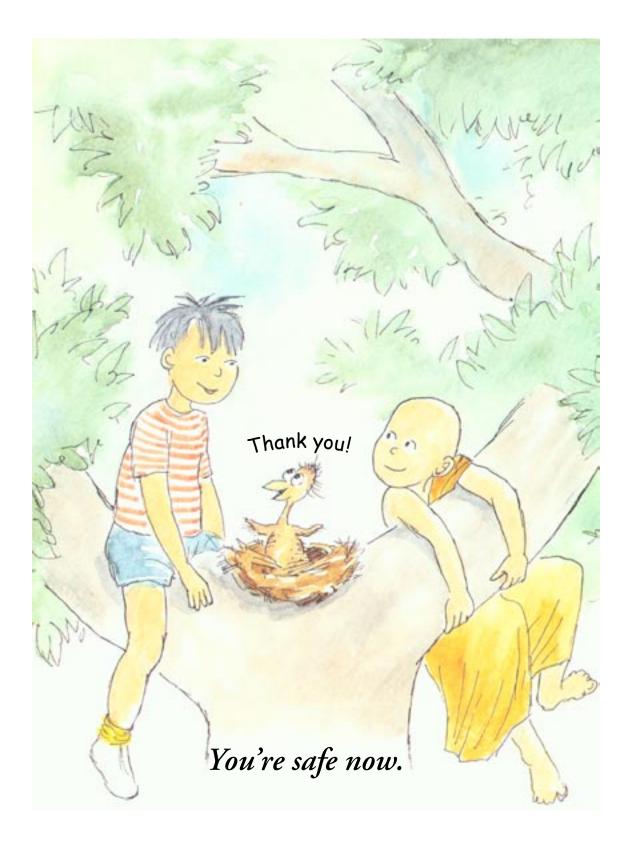


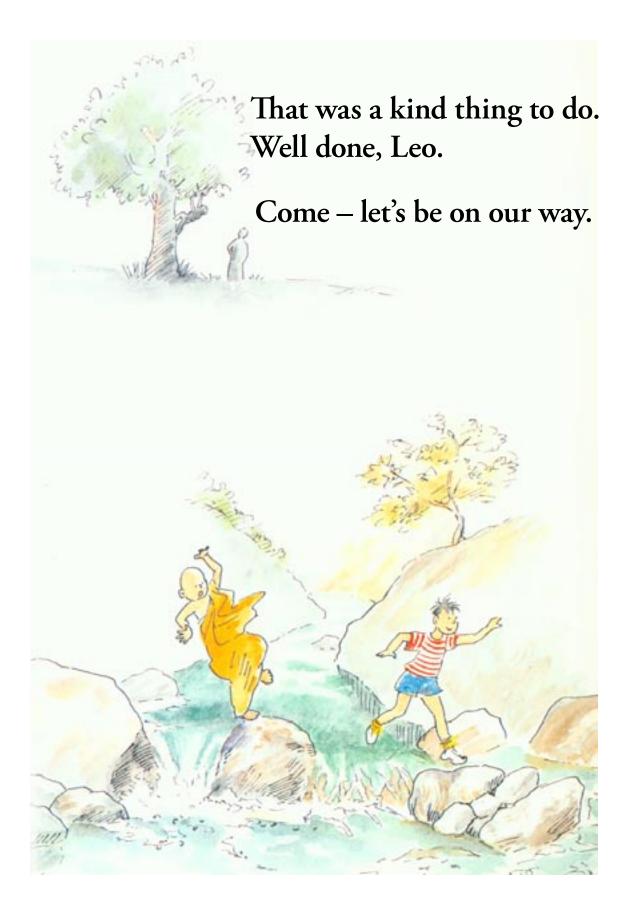
Let's go and see what it is.





Did you fall out of your nest? We'll soon have you back home.

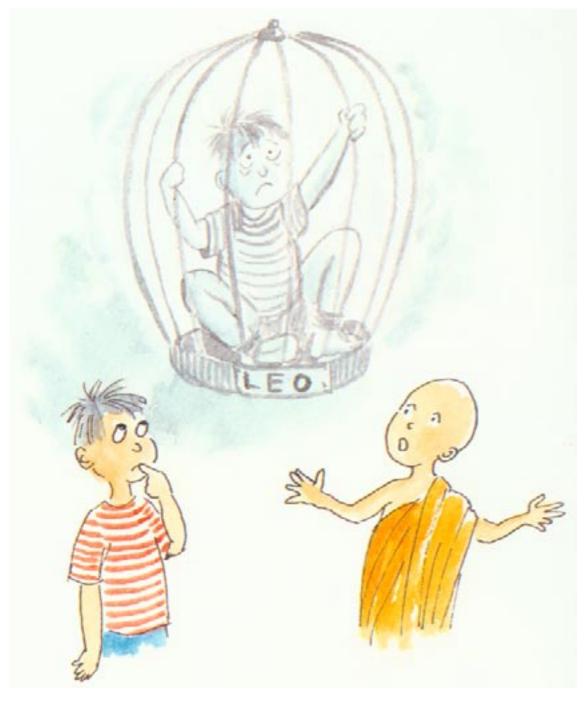




Hello, Squirrel. How are you today? Are you hungry? Have some peanuts. You look so cute with your fluffy tail.

I'm going to take you home. You can be my pet and live with me forever!

di na maria



And just what would you do with him? Keep him locked up in a cage? Keep him away from his family and friends? Make him a prisoner? Why not let him go?



We can enjoy things without having to own them. If you let him go, he can still be your friend.



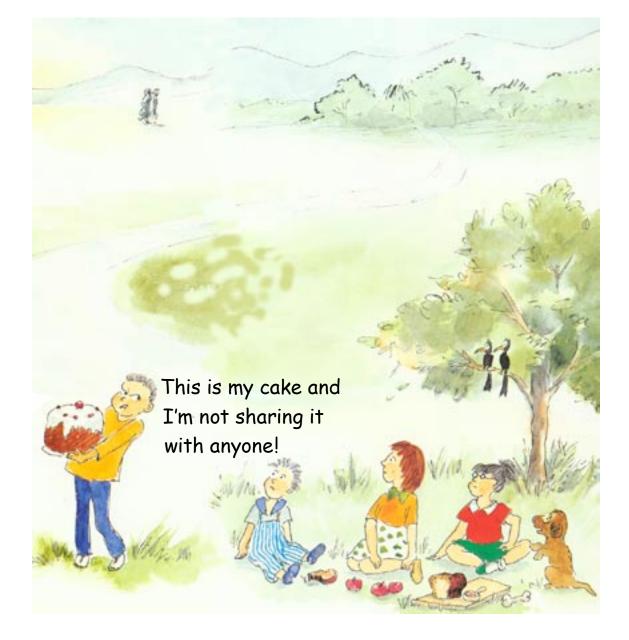
Oh, I give up. I didn't mean to be such a horrible person. I'll never learn to be good.

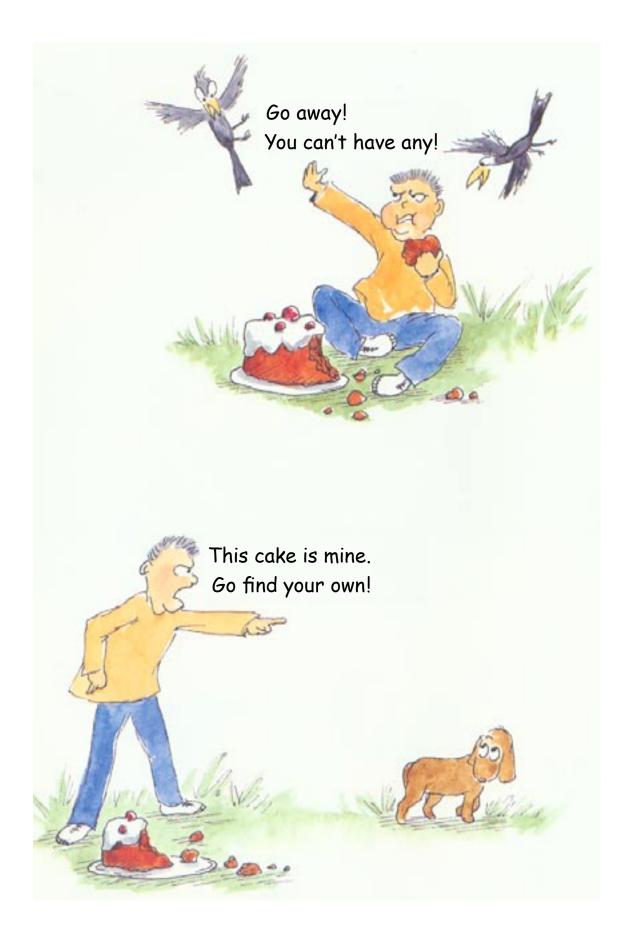


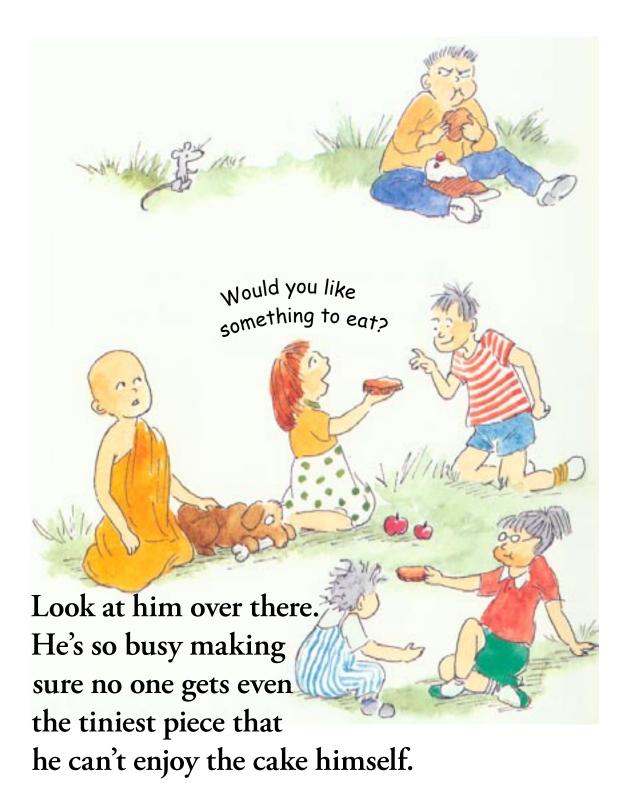
Whenver you feel like giving up, remember what the Buddha said,

"Drop by drop is the water pot filled. A little at a time, wise people make themselves good."

Come on – we've still got some way to go.



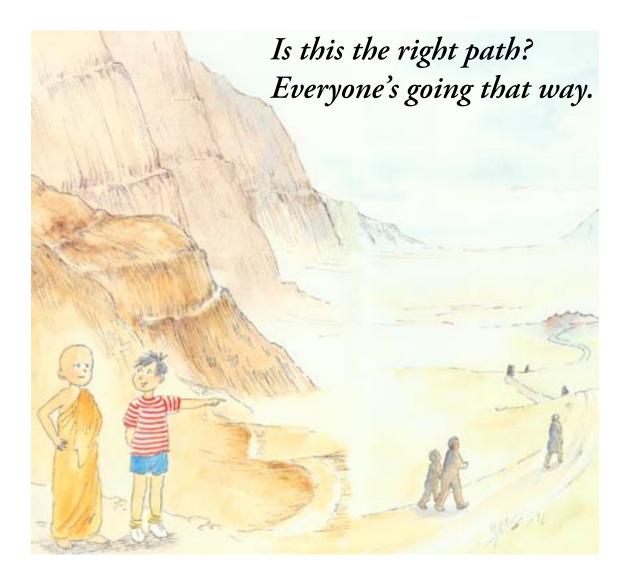




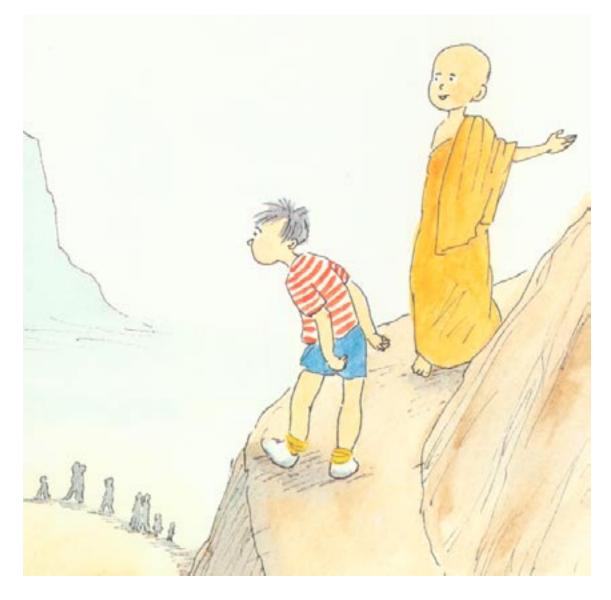




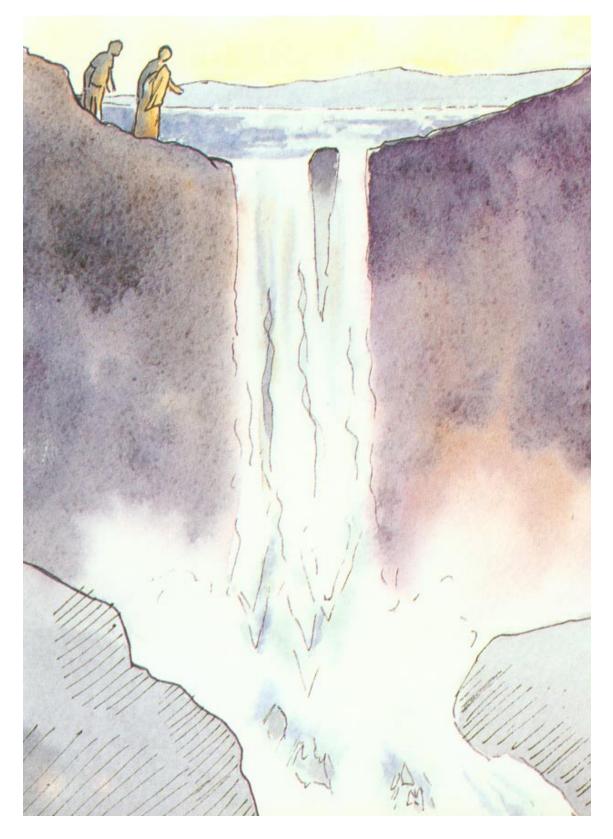
I feel sick!



Just because everyone else is taking that path, it doesn't mean that it's the right way. Don't follow the crowd. Find out for yourself. That road leads back to where we started. This, here, is the right path.

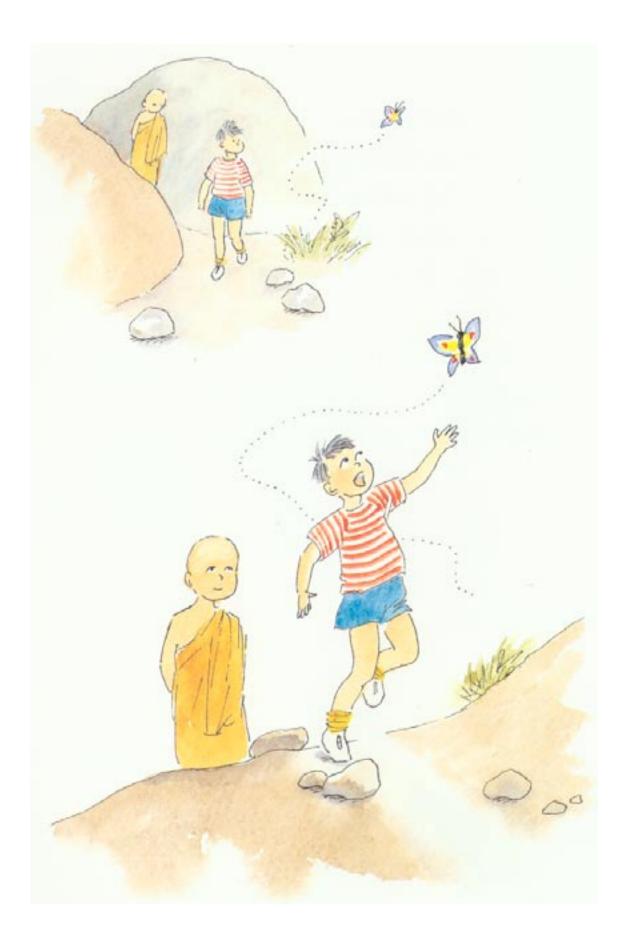


Look at this waterfall. See how the water tumbles into the river below.

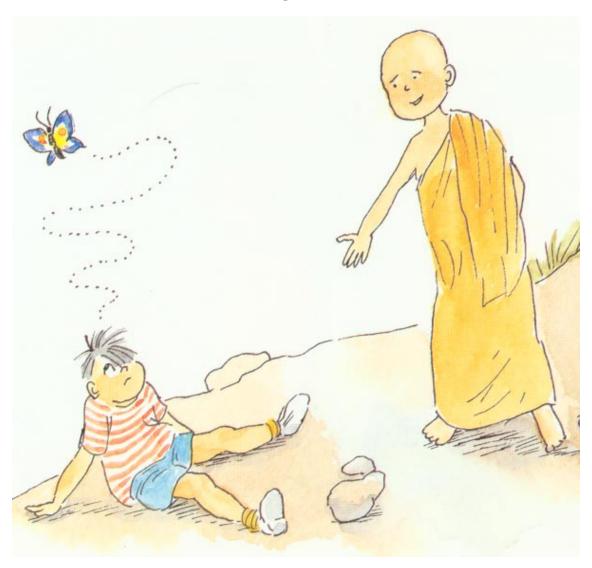


We are like this river. Here in the beginning, the water rushes along and makes a lot of noise. Gradually, it begins to slow down taking its time flowing through the fields. Then, much further down, the river is wide and the water moves gently along until, finally, it flows into the sea. Our lives are like that – always moving on, always changing.

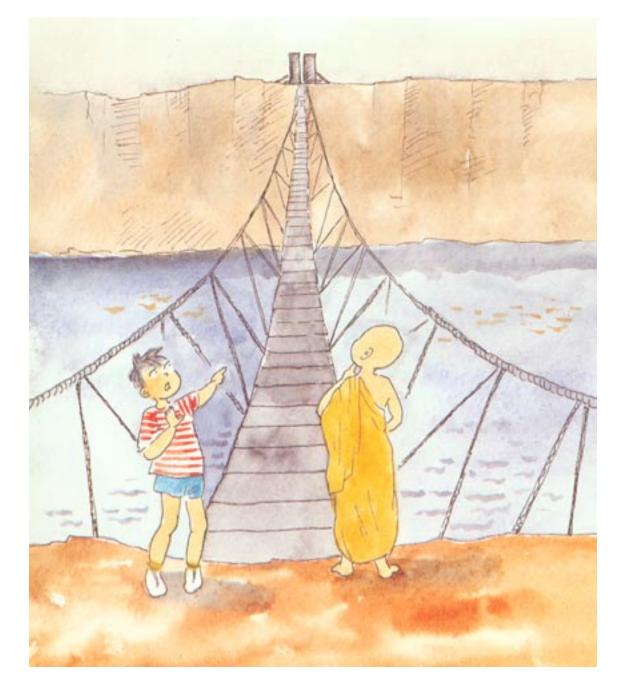




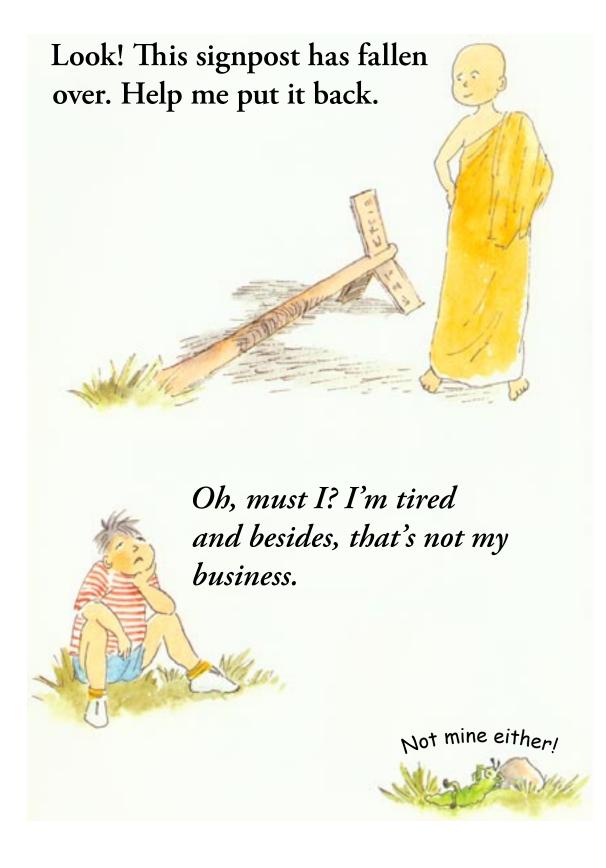
Oops! You see what happens when you let your mind wander? You know, it helps if we concentrate not just when we are walking but when we do anything.



I'm not crossing that bridge. The water's such a long way down.



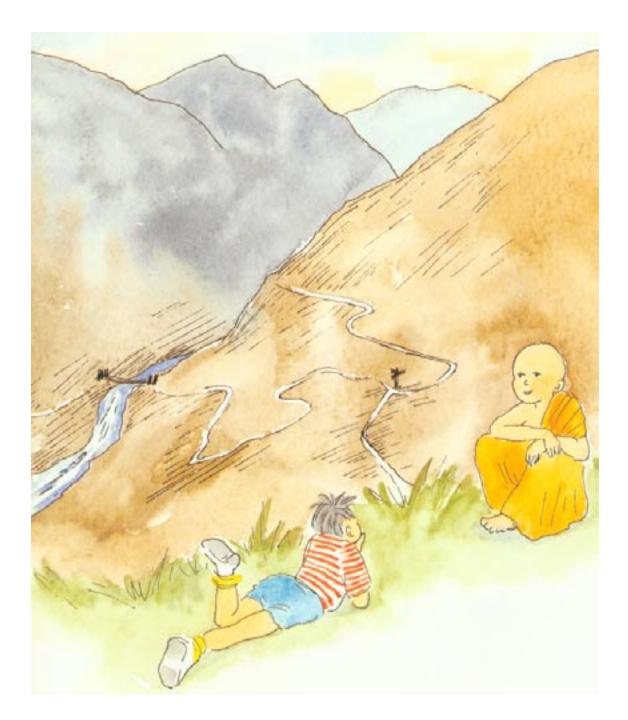
Don't be afraid. It's quite safe. Give me your hand. I'll help you across. That's what friends are for.



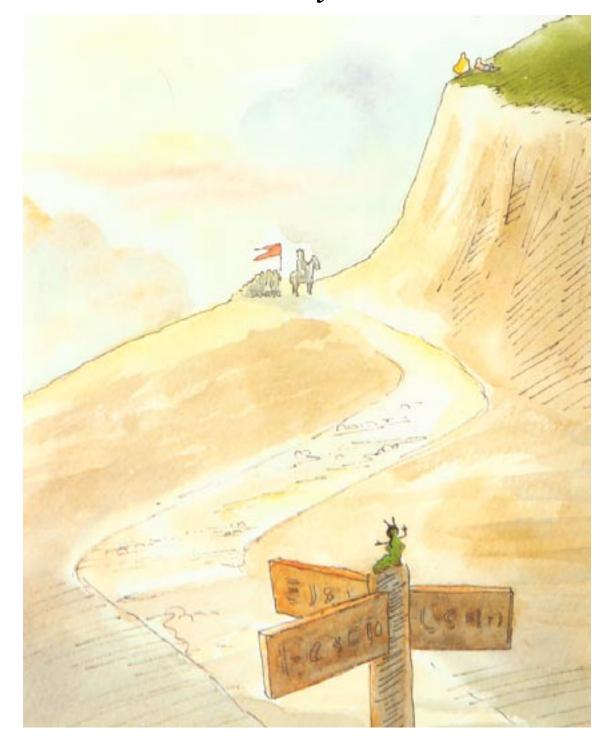
Faster, faster!

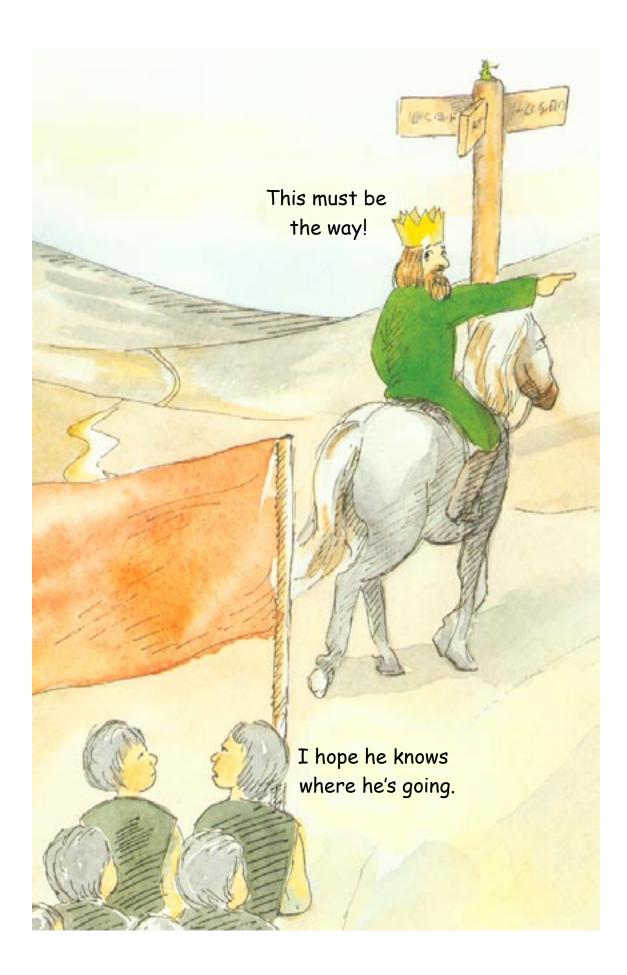
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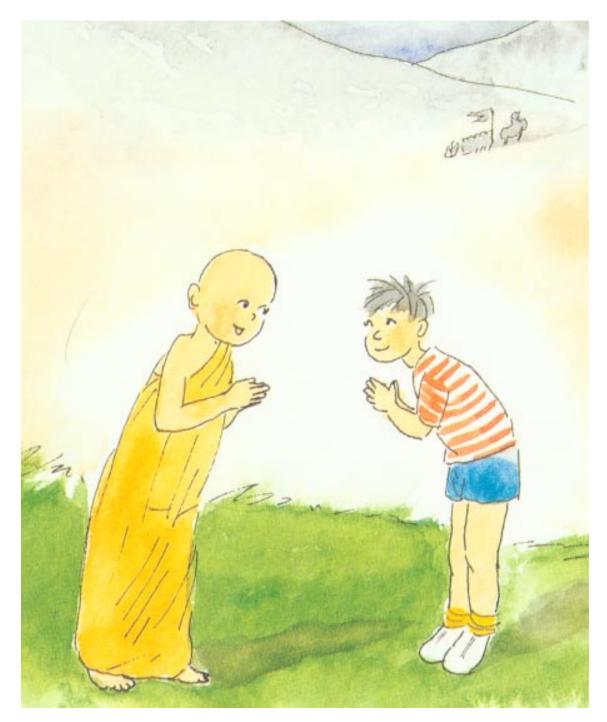
It won't take long but I can't do it on my own – it's too heavy!



We may know which way to go, but other people might not. Putting the signpost back was a small thing for us to do but it will help those who don't know the way. Rahula! Isn't that the King? He looks so grand and important. Next to him I am nobody.

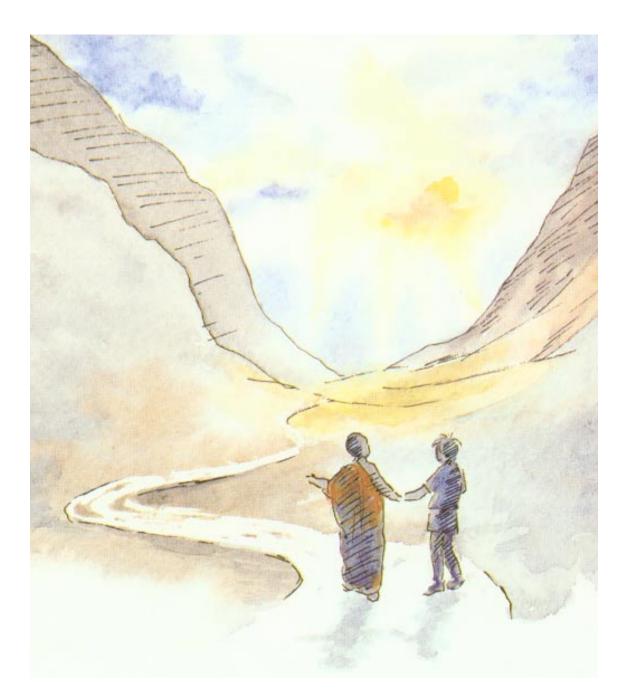






He may be a King but if we hadn't fixed the signpost, he might have lost his way. So aren't we just as important as he? We all depend upon each other so that makes each of us important.

Come – we still have far to go...



We haven't finished our journey yet. The path is long and in some places difficult. But we'll make many new friends along the way who will help us and keep us company.