

Two Donkeys and their Maiden



By

Pamodhya Dhananjani Bandara

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Author

Author's other publications

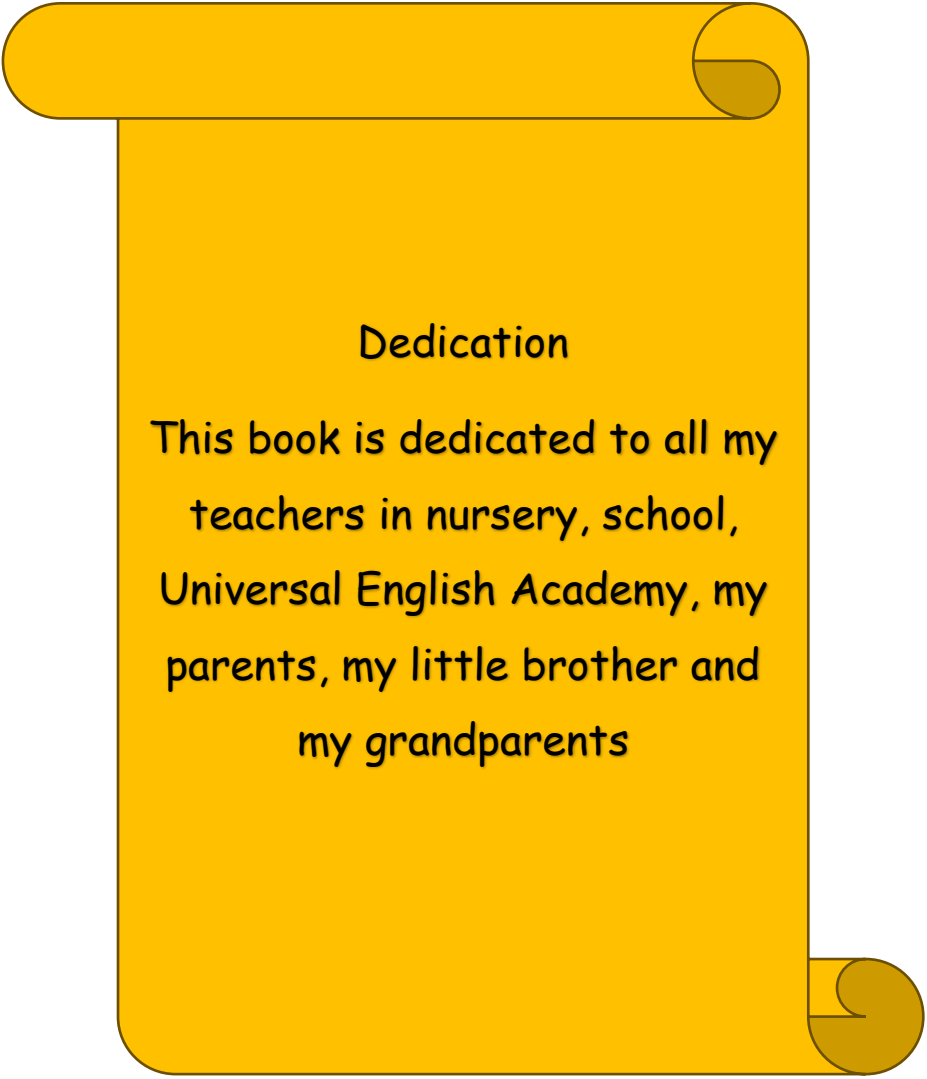
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Dedication

This book is dedicated to all my
teachers in nursery, school,
Universal English Academy, my
parents, my little brother and
my grandparents



Foreword

In an increasingly complex global future, the "Hemamala Upahara" book project, led by Mahamaya Girls' College, stands as a turning point in girls' education. Over a decade, it has successfully nurtured thousands of children to become young authors.

This year, by collaborating with other schools, we aimed to provide students with a wealth of new experiences. The goal was to develop multi-faceted skills, including communication, values, and creative growth. As a result, children have written books that pay tribute to Princess Hemamala, who brought the Sacred Tooth Relic—the supreme symbol of the Buddhist world—to the Hill Country (Kandy).

I extend my gratitude to everyone involved, including the students who contributed their creativity and the teachers who guided them.

Shashikala Senadhira

Principal

Mahamaya Girls' College

Congratulatory Message

I highly appreciate the noble and outstanding effort of the Principal and the academic staff of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy, the student daughters, the students of other participating schools, and everyone who dedicated themselves to plan and implement this book publication project. The project was organized under the leadership of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy, with the participation of other schools in the Kandy Zone, with the aim of encouraging children toward book creation within the current school system, as a tribute to Hemamala Kumariya who brought the Sacred Tooth Relic to Sri Lanka.

For several decades, Sri Lanka has been committed to providing free, compulsory, quality, and equitable education to all children, thereby producing a future generation of intelligent and skilled citizens. In such a context, this book creation program for school children helps develop creative ability, critical thinking, and other positive qualities for a balanced and well-rounded personality, and contributes to building a future knowledge-based society.

May all activities of the Hemamala Tribute Book Creation Project be successful through the blessings of the Sacred Tooth Relic.

Pradeep Nilanga Dela

Diyawadana Nilame,

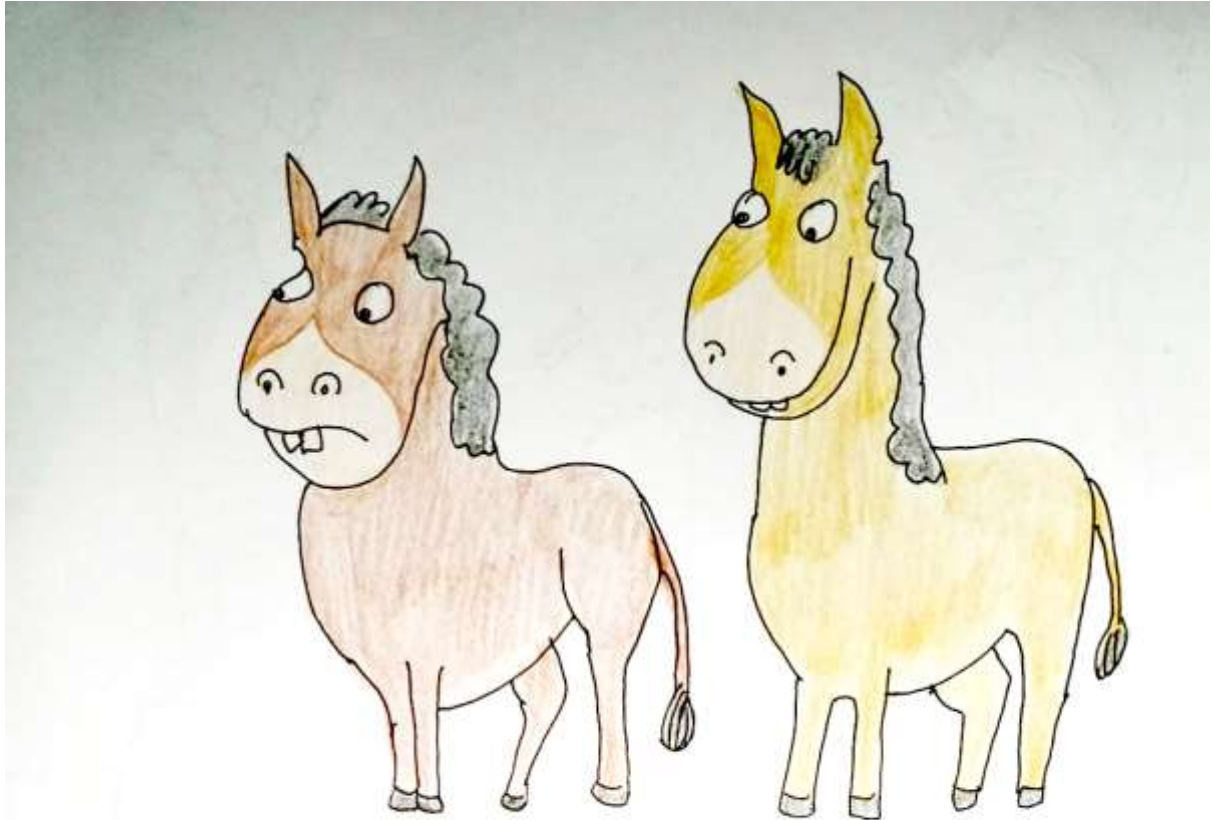
Sri Dalada Maligawa.

2026.05.10.

Once upon a time, in the noisy town of Momo, there lived an old maiden named Mela and her two donkeys, Dide and Sedie.

Long ago, Dide and Sedie could speak just like people.

But the two donkeys were very foolish and annoying.



Every day, Dide shouted rude jokes in the market.
Sedie laughed loudly and kicked over fruit baskets.

"Move aside, slow humans!" Dide would yell.

"We own this town!" Sedie would laugh.



Mela never stopped them. Instead, she joined the trouble. She argued with neighbors, threw garbage into the streets, and laughed when people became angry.



Soon, the peaceful town of Momo became dirty and unhappy. Finally, the townspeople went together to complain to the king.



"Your Majesty," they said, "Mela, Dide, and Sedie are harming our town and disturbing everyone every day."

The king became very angry.



The king ordered,
"As punishment, Mela, Dide, and Sedie must work with the
palace cleaning workers without payment until they learn
discipline."



So the next morning, the three troublemakers began cleaning the palace floors, washing dirty walls, and carrying heavy trash bags.



One evening, while nobody was watching, Dide smelled something sweet.

"Look!" he whispered. "A keg of the king's wine!"

Mela's eyes became wide.

"Let's drink it!" she said foolishly.



So Mela, Dide, and Sedie secretly stole the king's wine and drank every drop.

The next morning, the king came to inspect their work.

But something very strange had happened.

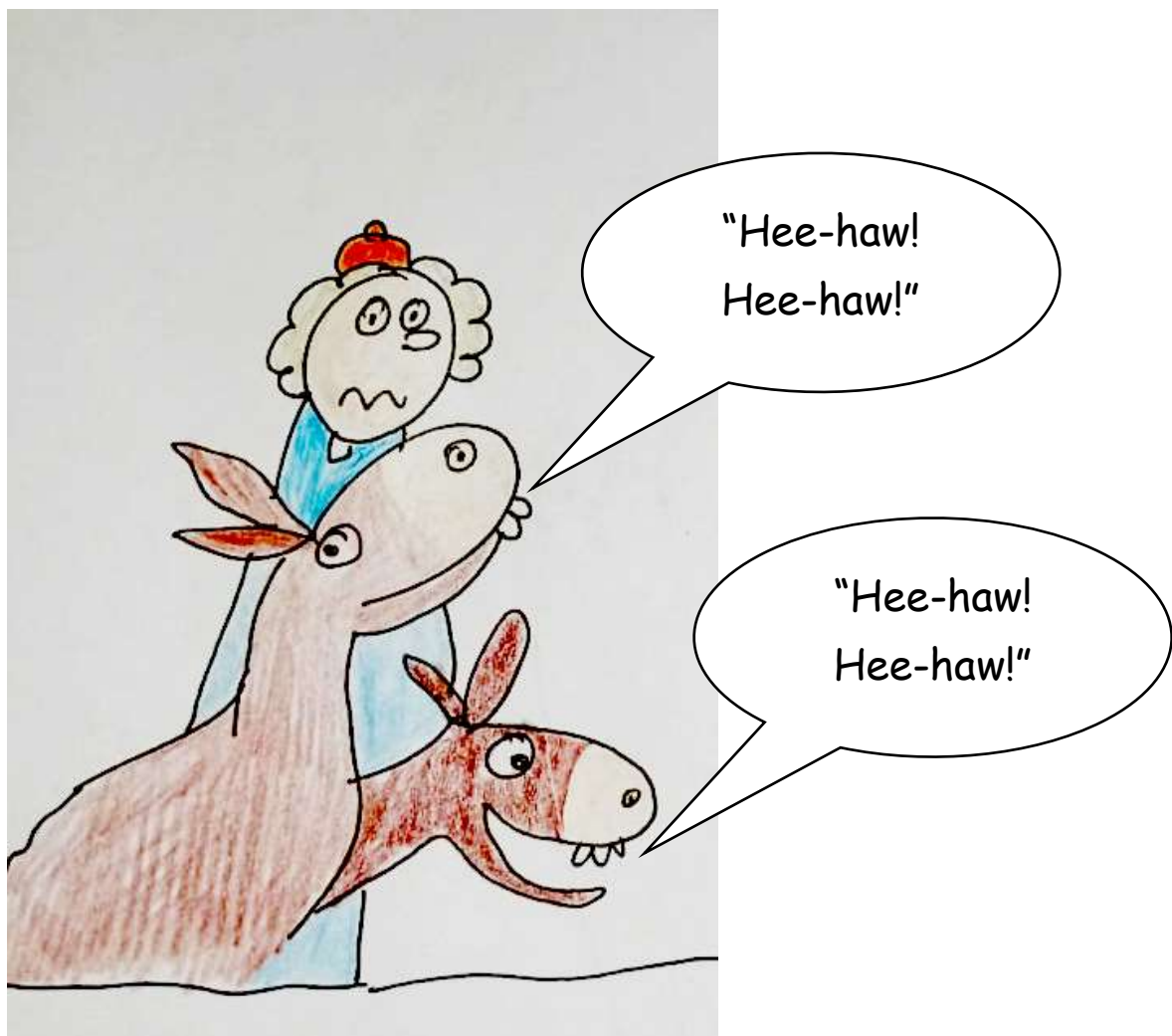
Dide tried to speak.

"Hee... hawww!"

Sedie opened his mouth.

"Hee-haw! Hee-haw!"

The donkeys could no longer talk like humans.



And Mela looked very different too. Her face had become wrinkled and ugly, and all her teeth had fallen out because of the stolen wine.

The king shook his head sadly.

"That is the result of foolishness, stealing, and bad behavior," he said.



From that day on, Dide and Sedie could only say,
"Hee-haw! Hee-haw!"

And Mela spoke with a funny toothless voice that made
children giggle.



After that, the three finally stopped causing trouble and quietly worked in the palace gardens for many years.



And the people of Momo always remembered this lesson:

"Bad behavior and stealing may bring laughter for a moment, but trouble and shame will always follow."



The End



Pamodhya Dhananjani
Bandara

Afterword

With the approval of the Ministry of Education, this research-based project has empowered thousands of student authors for over ten years. Educationists recognize it as a program that significantly enhances the quality of school education.

In alignment with modern educational reforms, encouraging students to author a research work is a milestone in this journey. In this digital age of "Smart" technology, the modern school must demonstrate through research that books and technology should be used together. This is because the unique joy a child receives from a book cannot be replaced by anything else.

To prevent children from drifting away from books—which remain our primary educational tool and storehouse of human knowledge—Mahamaya Girls' College has spearheaded the "Hemamala Upahara" project for many years. Its primary objectives are to foster academic discipline, promote values, and pay tribute to Princess Hemamala, who fulfilled a historic mission to empower women.

We express our gratitude to the Principal, teachers, parents, alumni of Mahamaya Girls' College, representatives of other schools, the Diyawadana Nilame, and the staff of the Sri Dalada Maligawa (Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic) for their support.

Seneviratne Mahalekam
(Project Creator)

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