

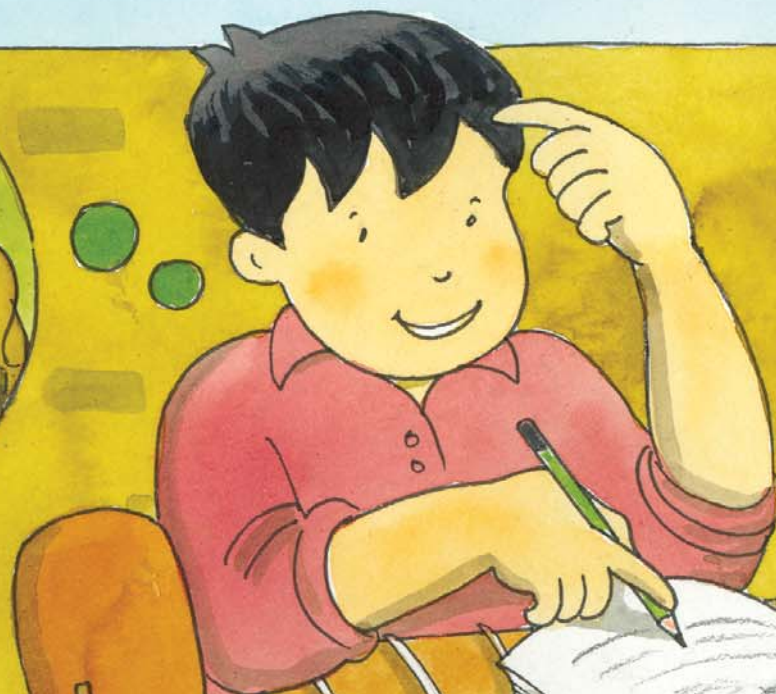
Raju and his Wonderful Dream

Road Safety Stories for Children



Raju was very excited. Tomorrow the school would be taking him for a trip to the nearby zoo where they would see all kinds of animals and birds. It was a real treat. Raju loved animals. All day he would long he would read about them in his school books and draw pictures of them in his notebook.

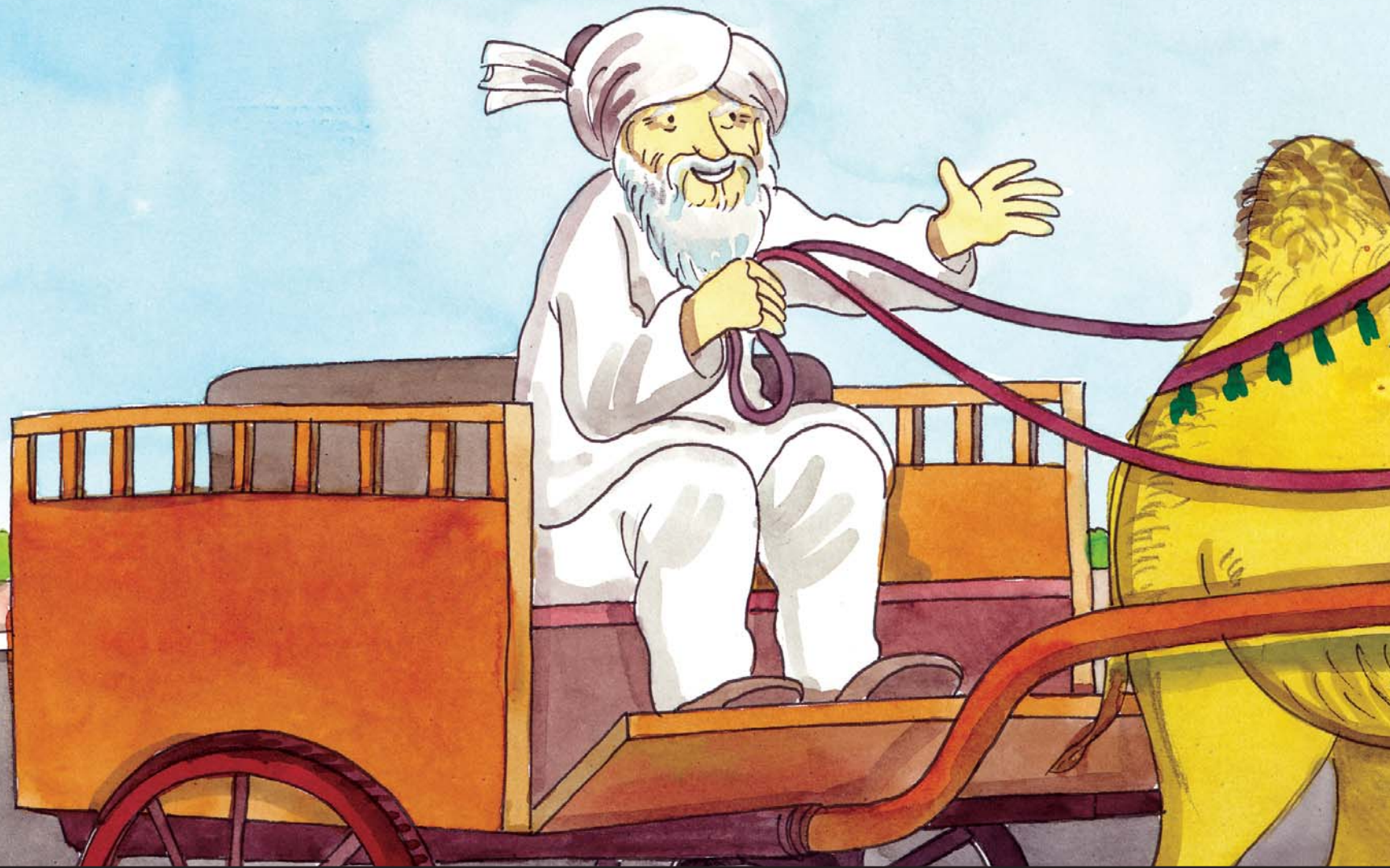
The one he most liked was the camel. Raju had learnt at school that the camel was the largest animal in the desert; tall and strong. Raju's father had also told Raju once that camels were especially clever and hardworking and were called the 'Ships of the Desert' as they could easily carry heavy loads for long distances. Raju had seen many single-humped camels in his village but had never seen a two-humped Bactrian camel and could not wait to go to the zoo to see if they had any.

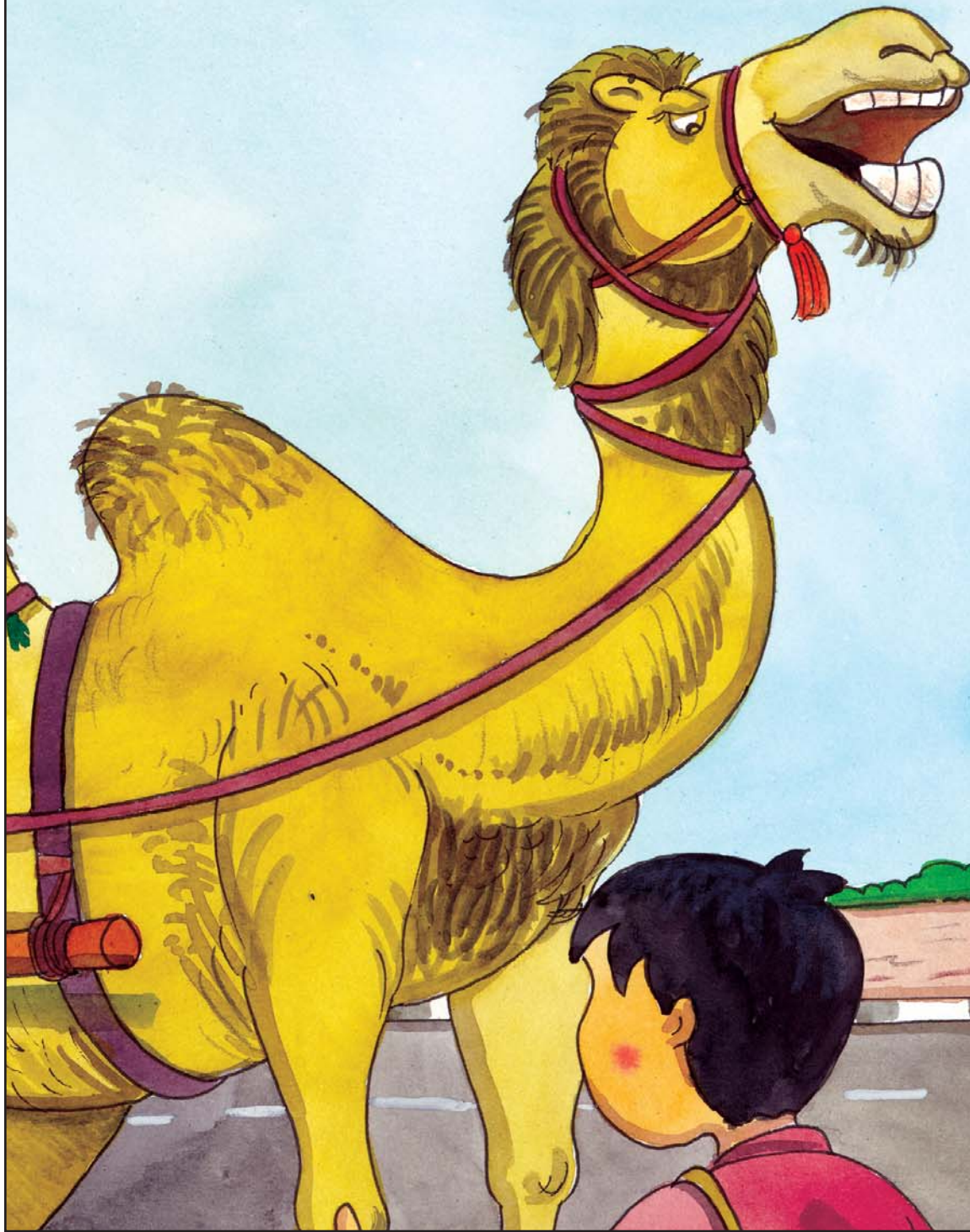


The next day Raju got up for the trip. His teacher had told him the day before that all children had to get to school on time or else they would miss the bus that would take all the children to the zoo. But alas, Raju had woken up late. He had overslept. Raju hastily wore his clothes, had his breakfast and dashed to school. He was worried he would miss the bus. Raju ran on the way he usually took to school.



Running as fast as he could he crossed a road on the way without looking either left or right. A camel cart, traveling on the road, had to suddenly stop itself from running over poor Raju. Raju was caught by surprise but he was in a hurry. Raju noticed that the man riding the cart was not from the village. He was an old man with a beard as white as milk. But what Raju noticed with more surprise was that the camel the man was riding was a two-humped Bactrian camel.



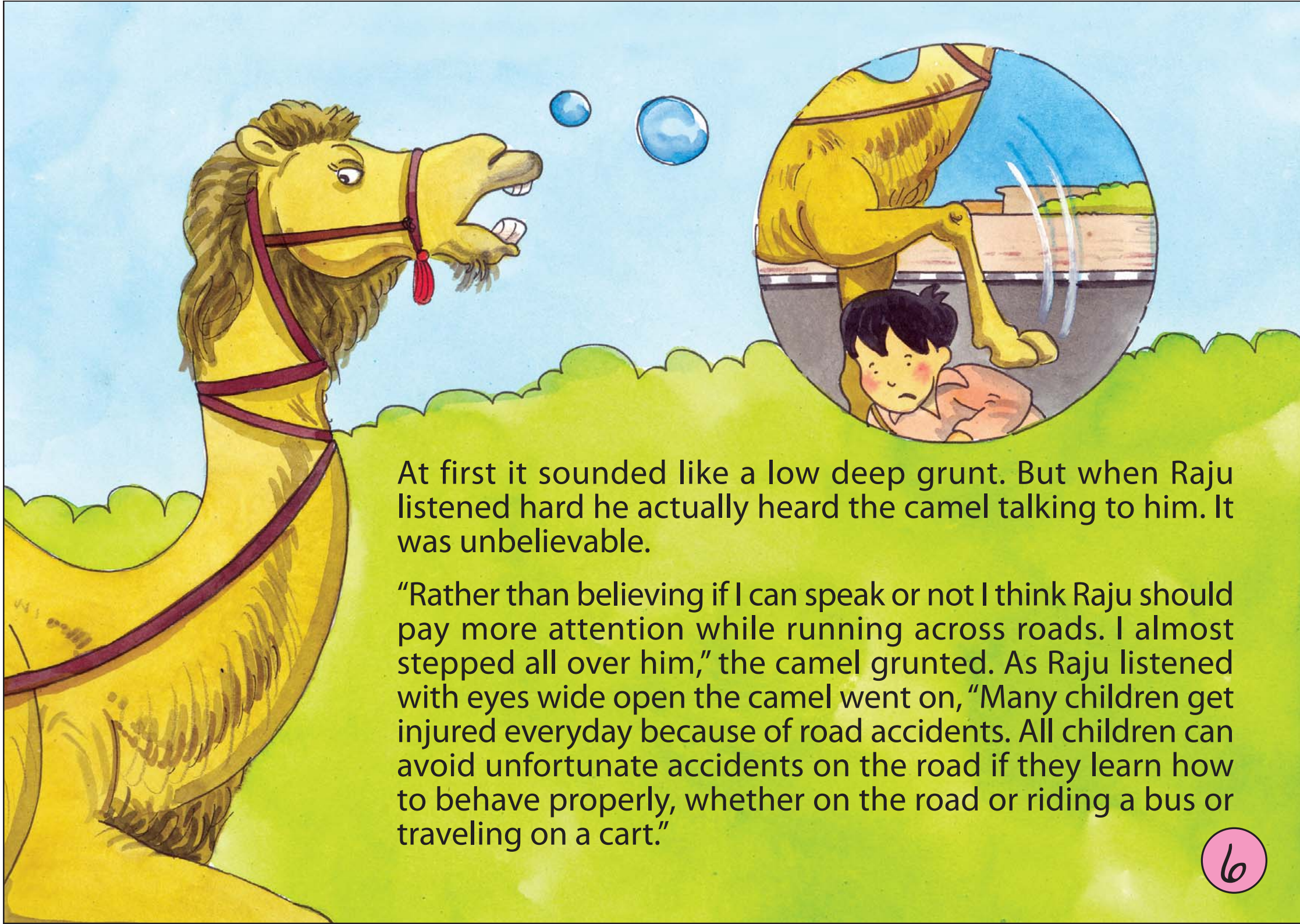


The old man noticed Raju was both frightened and surprised. "Where are you going in such a hurry? My camel almost ran over you," the old man told Raju. Panting, Raju told him that he was late for school and that he would miss the trip to the zoo if he did not get to school on time. The old man offered Raju a ride which Raju gladly accepted. First, he would get to school on time. Second, he could tell his sister that he saw and rode a two-humped Bactrian camel!

As soon as Raju seated himself on the cart, the old man called out to his camel and told him to speed away to Raju's school. "But how do you know the way to my school? And how can the camel understand what you are saying?" queried Raju. "Camels can't talk."

The old man smiled at Raju and spoke to his camel, "What do you have to say to this little boy, who does not believe us?" To Raju's surprise, the camel spoke up.





At first it sounded like a low deep grunt. But when Raju listened hard he actually heard the camel talking to him. It was unbelievable.

"Rather than believing if I can speak or not I think Raju should pay more attention while running across roads. I almost stepped all over him," the camel grunted. As Raju listened with eyes wide open the camel went on, "Many children get injured everyday because of road accidents. All children can avoid unfortunate accidents on the road if they learn how to behave properly, whether on the road or riding a bus or traveling on a cart."

A little embarrassed and still very surprised Raju replied, "I'm sorry I did not look both ways before crossing. It's just that my teacher is taking the whole class on a trip to the zoo this morning and I am afraid I might miss the bus."

Understanding Raju's situation the camel replied, "Don't worry. I'm sure I will reach your school on time and I'm sure you won't miss your chance to see all the different animals at the zoo. But you mentioned you were going to the zoo on a bus. I hope you know the safety rules of traveling in a bus."

"Well, I just know that children should not distract or disturb the driver," Raju meekly replied.

"That's right," said the camel, nodding his head. "Whether you are on a motorcycle or a car or a bus or even a magic carpet you should never distract the driver. As children you have to make sure you don't create a lot of commotion or noise for the driver to get disturbed or lose his temper."

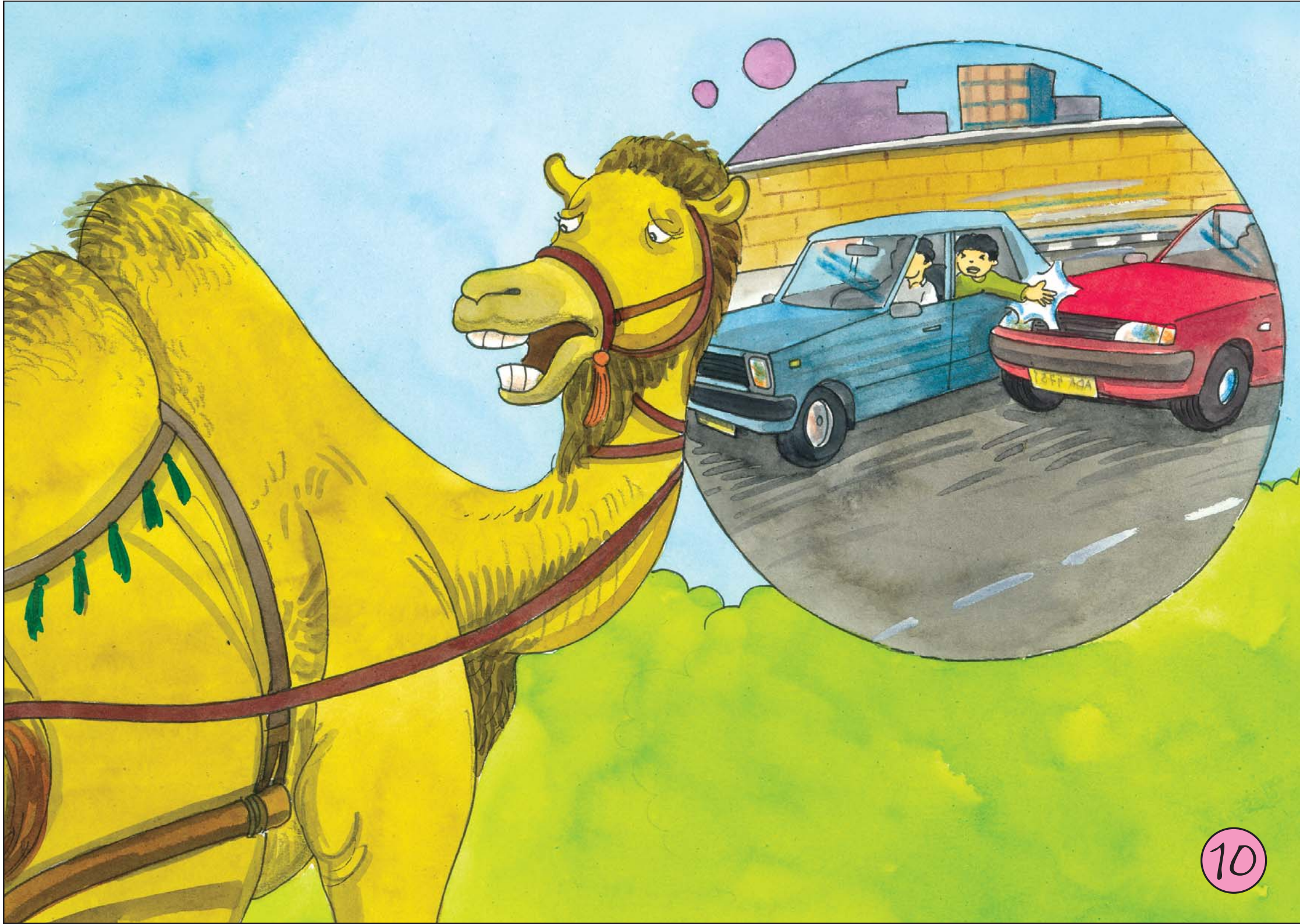




“At times, children also have the bad habit of putting their heads and their hands out of the window when sitting in a bus or a car. That can result in really bad injuries. Just imagine, a car coming from behind you and suddenly hitting your head or your hand outside the window,” lamented the camel.

The thought of a speeding vehicle hitting his hand scared Raju. He made a silent promise to always behave properly when traveling in a bus.





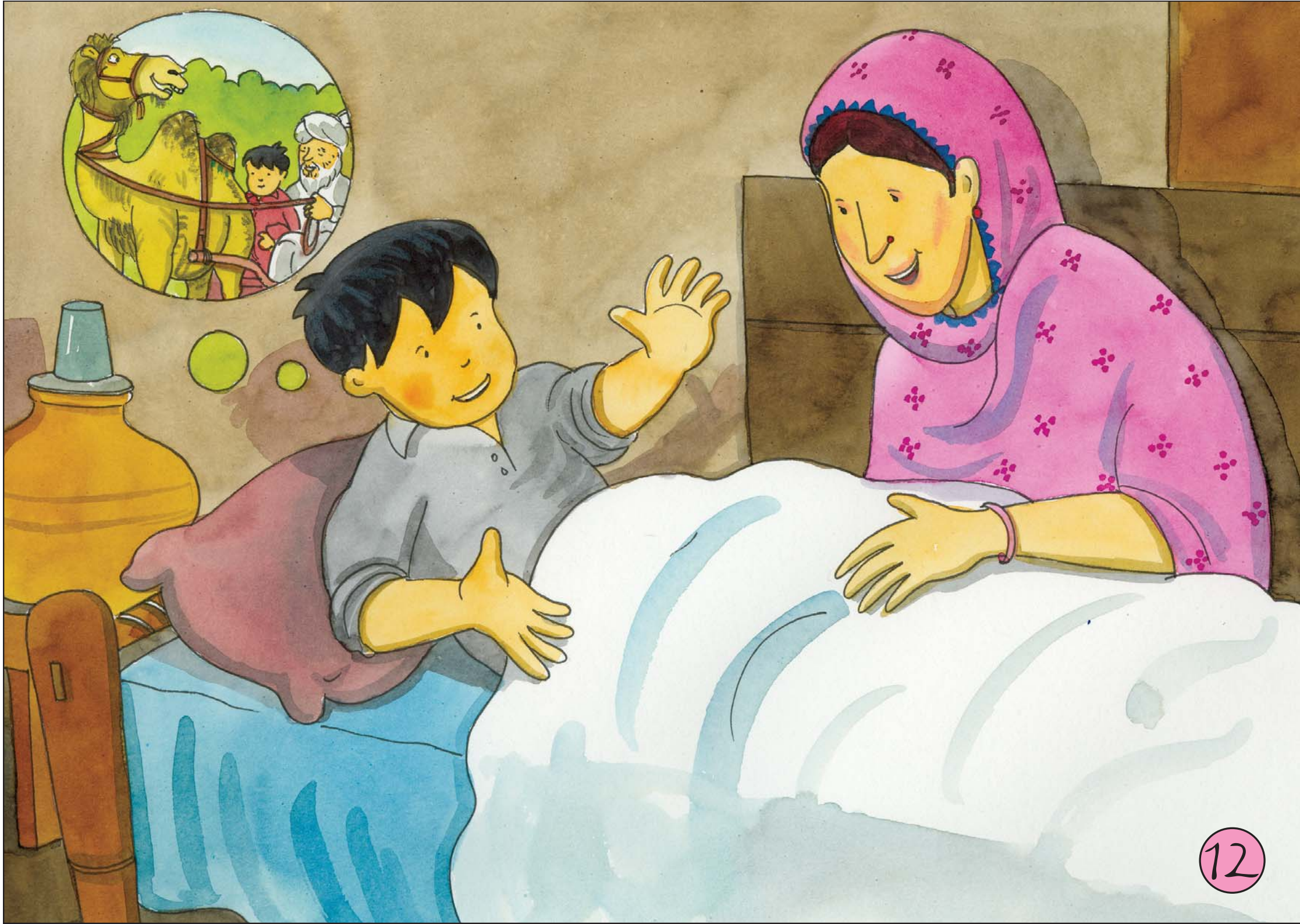
Raju was lost in his thoughts thinking about a fast bus hitting his hand as he waved them about outside the window when the old man shook Raju to bring back his attention. "Wake up Raju, stop dreaming."

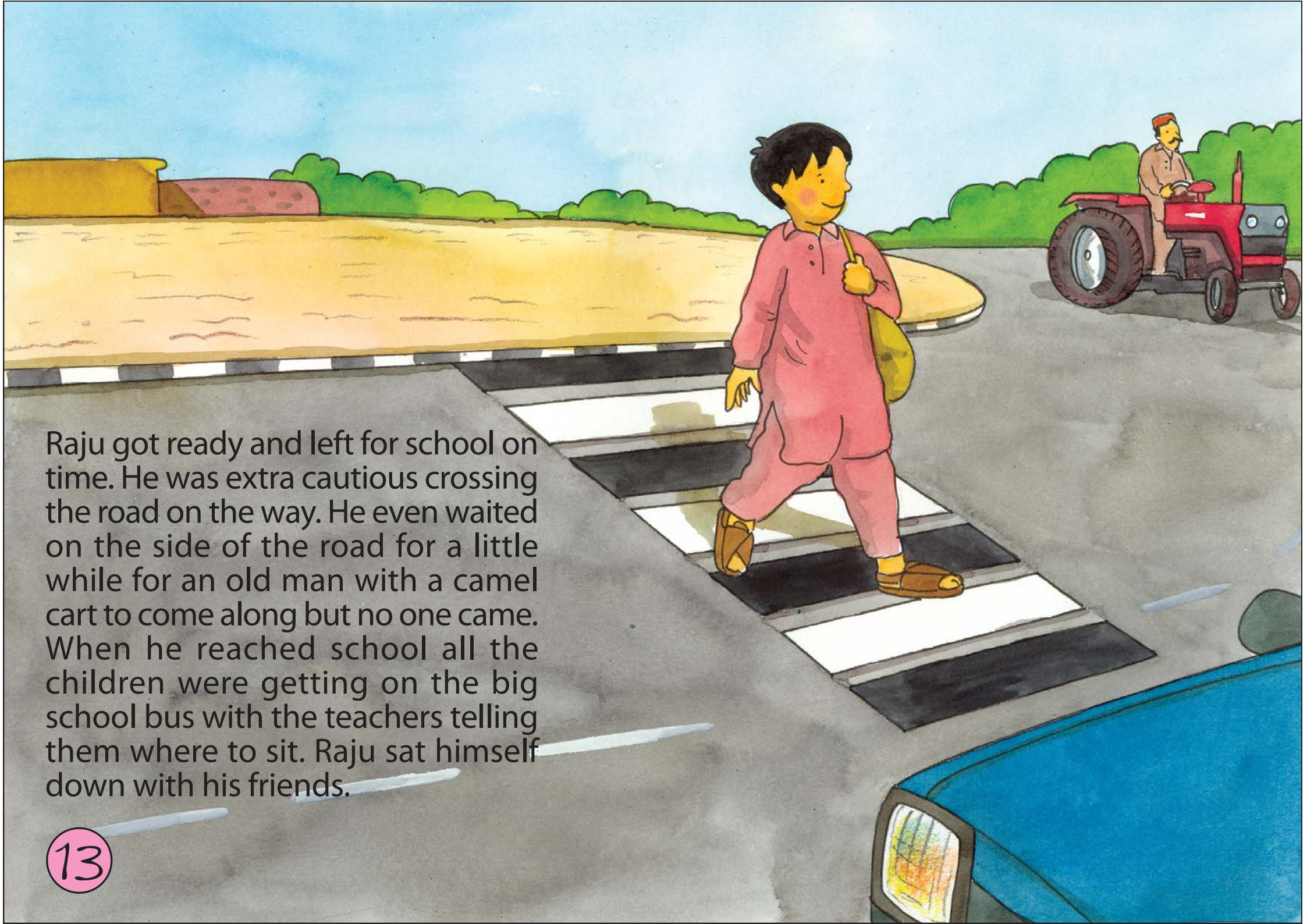
Raju opened his eyes and there in front of him was his mother shaking him to get up and out of bed. "Wake up Raju or you will be late for school. You do remember you have a trip to the zoo today. You don't want to miss that now do you?" said his mother as she tried to wake him up.

Raju sat up and looked around. He was in his house, sitting on his bed. He could not believe that his meeting with the old man and the camel was just a dream. It was all so real.

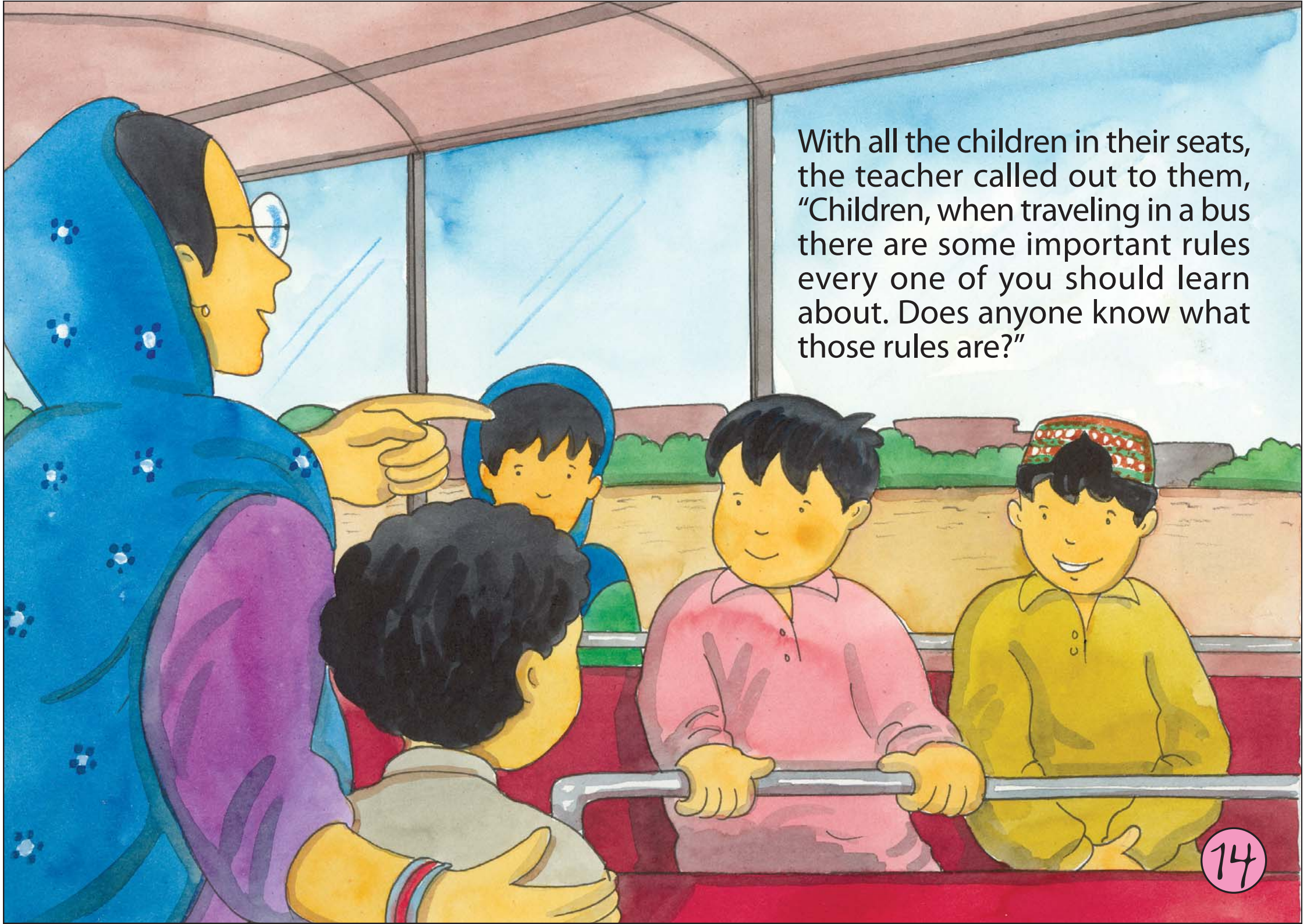
"Ammi, I had the strangest dream. I dreamt I was sitting on a camel cart with this old man, and the camel had two humps like the Bactrian camels, and he was talking to me and he was...", went on Raju, bursting to tell his mother everything he saw in his dream.

"Oh Raju, you and your love for animals. Now you are talking to camels, next you will be singing with the birds. Now get ready for school and tell me about your dream and your trip to the zoo when you get back home from school. Go get ready and have your breakfast," said Raju's mother.





Raju got ready and left for school on time. He was extra cautious crossing the road on the way. He even waited on the side of the road for a little while for an old man with a camel cart to come along but no one came. When he reached school all the children were getting on the big school bus with the teachers telling them where to sit. Raju sat himself down with his friends.



With all the children in their seats, the teacher called out to them, "Children, when traveling in a bus there are some important rules every one of you should learn about. Does anyone know what those rules are?"





Raju's eyes gleamed with surprise. What a coincidence! He raised his arm with all the energy and enthusiasm he had. He knew those rules and he wanted to tell everyone about his dream.

His teacher called him up and Raju told all the children sitting in that bus all the things that the camel had told him in his dream. What a strange and surprising dream Raju had.

Riding in a Bus



- ☛ If the vehicle has seatbelts make sure you wear them.
- ☛ Never lean or wave out of the window, or throw or hand anything out.
- ☛ Do not block the driver's view in the mirror.

- ☛ When you get in or out of the car, use the door on the pavement side.
- ☛ Only get out when you are sure it is safe.



- ☛ When you wait for a bus, stand on the pavement well away from the traffic.
- ☛ If you are waiting to get on a bus first wait for people to get off the bus then get on.



- ☛ Only open doors or windows if it is safe.
- ☛ Keep your hands away from the door handles while the car is moving. Lock the door when you sit in the vehicle.

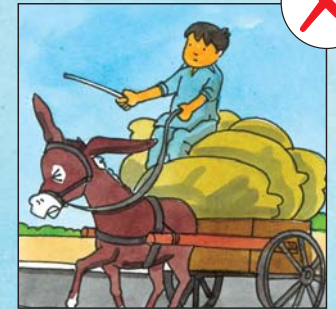


- Drivers need to concentrate on what they are doing, make sure that you do not distract the driver, no matter what vehicle you are traveling in.
- Always do what the drivers tell you and do not distract them.

- If you need to cross the road after getting off a bus, wait for it to move away first then cross the road safely

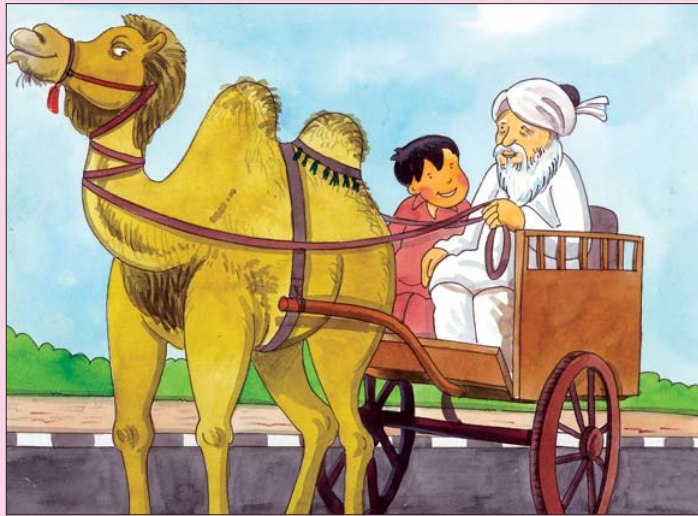


- Make sure that you load the cart safely before taking it on the road.
- Make sure the loaded material does not hurt pedestrians and other road users



- If you are riding a cart make sure you can control your horse or donkey. If the animal is nervous or uncontrollable it is advisable to not use the cart on hi-traffic roads.
- Be aware of pedestrians and other road users when riding a cart.



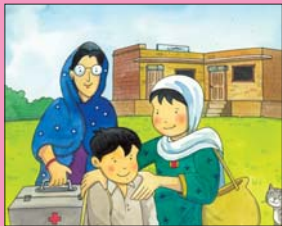


Raju and his Wonderful Dream

What most children don't realize is that being a good passenger is as important as being a good driver for staying safe on the road, may it be riding on the back of a motorcycle, taking a trip on a tanga or traveling by bus. But how did Raju learn so much about being a responsible passenger by just a dream and his love for animals? Read on to find out more.

The Road Safety Education Program is a joint program that is being implemented in 100 schools of high-traffic districts of Sindh by the Road Sector Development Directorate, Government of Sindh and the Sindh Education Foundation.

This story is part of a wonderful series of books that can help children learn more about keeping themselves safe on the streets. Read the whole series and be a road safe child.



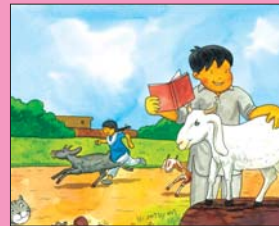
Raju and his Injury



Raju Learns Something New



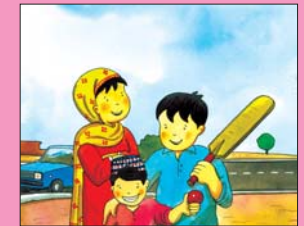
Who is the Stranger in the Village?



Bablu and his Cleverness



Raju's New Cycle!



Playing on the Road can be Fun but...



Sindh Education Foundation
Government of Sindh



Road Sector Development Directorate
Works and Services Department
Government of Sindh

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