

Chapter Three

THE BRAVE LITTLE PARROT

LITERAL COMPREHENSION

Once the Buddha was born as a little parrot in a jungle. One day a fire broke out in his jungle home because of lightning and thundering. So they run here and there to save his life first. As he was flying to the river, he sows the suffering animals bellow, trapped in the burning jungle. Then he wanted to save them. A wonderful idea came to his mind to put out the fire. He dipped in to the river water and flew back to the burning forest and released the water attached with his wings. He rapidly flew to the river and brought water. Seeing this, some of the gods in the heaven laugh at the foolishness of the parrot, but one of them was moved and flew down to the parrot in the form of golden eagle. He then advised to the parrot to save his own life. But the parrot did not like his advice. He needed his help. In order to help the parrot the god in the form of golden eagle began to weep. His tears put out the fire in a jungle. All the burned plant and animals were restored freshly. The animal prays the brave little parrot and the wonderful rain.

INTERPRETATION

This story might be trying to tell us that good intension (lgot) is always rewarded and that the action is better than advice. It was the parrot's good intension which made the god help him and thus he was able to save all the animals. So the proverb "heaven helps those who help themselves" is certainly true. This story may also be interpreted to mean that helpfulness is the surest weapon against danger because the parrot was able to bring everything out of danger

CRITICAL THINKING

A skeptic may raise the so many questions about this beautiful story. Do gods exist? Is reincarnation possible? Can tears putout the burned plant and animals back to life? As a reader we should read the deep meaning of the story, not the surface meaning. If we do so, many things become clear to us

ASSIMILATION

When I read this story for the first time I also considered that the parrot was a fool. But as I thought about it seriously, I understood the value of his action. I compare his action to an individual's task of building his nation. It is true that a single person cannot do much for his or her nation. If the person can inspire the whole mass to do something for the country, he or she is really great. The vision to the great leaders seems meaningless in the beginning. But when it is put in to practice it can really build the nation great.