

English translation:

In a... a certain land, there lived a *pundit*.¹ So, one day he... he had been invited to the king's [palace]. So he went to the king's palace to attend a feast. On his way he saw a tiger stranded in a pond... in the water of a pond. So, he... as he went by the pond, the tiger called out to him... I mean, he called out, "Sir, will you... please help me?" The Brahmin felt sorry [for the tiger]. He went forward to help him out. He got the tiger out of the pond. After a while, the tiger said, "I am very hungry; therefore, I am now going to eat you." Now the Brahmin became very angry. "What's the matter with you? I rescued you, and now you are getting ready to eat me!" To that the tiger replied, "I don't [care]. Right now I need food." At this time, a fox happened to be passing by. He... so the *pundit* then called Mr. Fox over, and said to him, "Please... help me out. Look, I just rescued this tiger, and he is about to eat me. You must resolve this matter for us." Then the tiger... the fox asked the tiger: "Where were you stuck... from where did the *pundit* rescue you?" At which the tiger said, "From the pond... the pond." Then the fox said, "Very well. Let's go there... near the pond. I want to see where you were stranded." Then the tiger [waded] some distance into the pond, and said, "This is where... I was." Then he said, "Here..." I mean, he went into the pond just so much; he didn't go too far into the deep. [So, the fox] asked him, "[Surely,] you can walk out [of the pond] from that spot?" To which the tiger said, "Yes, I can come out of here [on my own]." The fox replied, "So this is not where you were stranded." Then the tiger said, "That is correct; I was stuck in deeper water." [Having said this], the tiger went deeper into the pond, [and] could no longer get out. Then the fox said to him, "Good, now you are where you should be. You cannot be rescued any more. Because if you... if we save you, you will eat me along with the *pundit*. So, you [will have to] stay where you are." After this the tiger slowly drowned in the water... in the water of the pond. [And] the *pundit* and the fox both went their own ways. End of story. Well?

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¹ Sometimes spelled *pandit*: a wise, learned man. In the colonial era, the term could also refer to an official in the Indian judiciary.