

# GAMES OF STONES

By

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## Games of Stones

### **Trouble in the City (Chapter-1)**

One fine day in the city of Mumbai a boy named Arjun who was 14 years old, was playing cricket with his dad. His dad bowled a slow spin on his on-side which made it very easy for the boy to smash a six. The ball was hit so hard that it went into the corner of the street into a 2 meters wide and 10 feet low ground.

The boy went to fetch the ball.

When he reached the place where the ball was, he screamed with horror. He saw some octopus like creature with 10 tentacles, razor sharp teeth and a hole on the top. The ball was next to it. He called his father for help. His father came running to him. When he saw the creature, his face turned white.



His dad stretched his arm to get the ball. Suddenly the creature put a tentacle around the Arjun's father and tossed him in its mouth. Few seconds later the creature spit Arjun's father out and tossed him out of the hole. His father was still alive but struggling to breathe.

The creature had sucked all his nutrients and grew bigger than before. There was a hospital just opposite to the road and with help of some passersby, he took his father to the hospital where he was attended immediately. He then ran faster than the speed of Usain Bolt straight towards the police station.

He told the police inspector about the Decapod (10 tentacles) and the officer did not take him seriously and wanted to check it out. He sent two of his policemen Ramlal and Shyamlal to find out more about that creature.

Moment they reached the spot, the Decapod who was waiting for someone to come, pulled Ramlal by his tentacle and swallowed Ramlal. He sucked his energy out and grew bigger tossing his body out. Ramlal was barely breathing and had to be taken to the hospital.

Shyamlal ran to the police office and told the senior officer what happened. The officer told Arjun and Shyamlal to go to renowned Baba Kishor to ask if he knew what the creature was. They agreed and went to Baba Kishor. They told Baba about the creature.

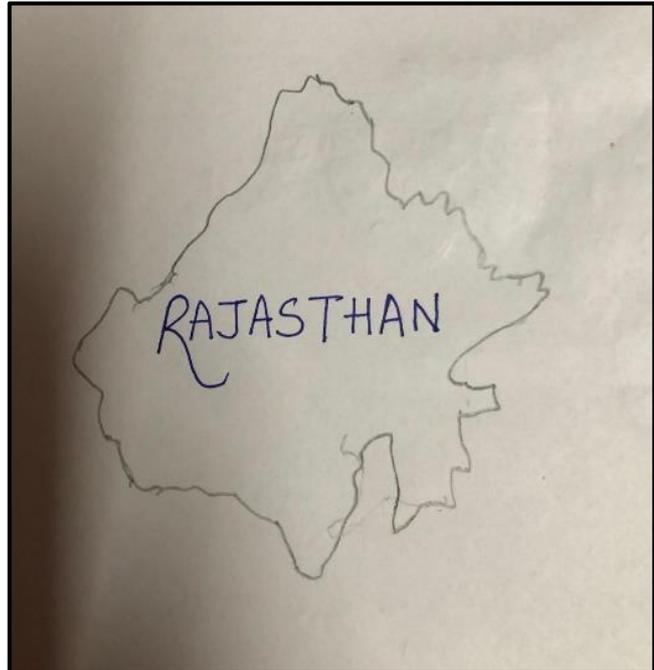
Baba thought for a moment and told Arjun that it was a Monster from an extinct clan of Decapod Monsters. And the only way to defeat it was to get the three stones of victory and fight him with that. He told that the stones were red, blue and yellow colour and had special powers.

The first one was the bravery stone; second one was a speed stone and the third one was a smartness stone. Then he gave a map to Arjun for all the stones. He also gave him a triangular amulet with three holes and told him that this is where you must insert your stones and every time you do it; you will see what happens! Arjun told I will get these stones for good.

## The Bravery Stone (Chapter-2)

Arjun decided to take his two friends Karan and Vikram with him on the journey to get the three stones. Arjun was very quick and a fast runner while Karan was smart and intelligent while Vikram was very strong and brave.

The first stone was the bravery stone in Rajasthan. They took a flight straight to Rajasthan and reached the Blue City, Jodhpur where the stone was available. When they reached there Arjun told Karan & Vikram that the stone was in the Umaid Bhawan Palace.



They went straight to Umaid Bhawan Palace and went to the museum in there and started searching the place for the bravery stone.

They searched for 2 hours but didn't find anything. Suddenly, Vikram stepped on a tile with a lion printed on it. A pillar moved and a warrior appeared out of it. Vikram called his friends to come and see what had happened.

The warrior started talking to them and asked what is it they were looking for. Arjun told him that they had set out to get the 3 stones to be able to defeat the Decapod who had terrorized the city of Mumbai. He also told that they had come to Umaid Bhawan Palace in search of the Bravery stone and asked Warrior for the same.

The warrior told that lot of bravery need to be shown to get this stone. He asked three of them on who was ready to give a shot for the bravery stone. Vikram told he would try to get the bravery stone.

The warrior asked Vikram, what was his greatest fear. Vikram thought for a while and then said that he was afraid of spiders. The warrior muttered something under his breath and suddenly in front of Vikram stood a giant spider. The warrior gave a sword and armour to Vikram to fight. The warrior told that there will be only one survivor at the end of the fight.

Vikram was very scared of the spider, but he decided to remove his fear and fight the spider. Vikram took the sword and started to fight with the spider. Spider kept hitting Vikram with one of his many tentacles. Vikram started getting hurt and tired but he continued.

Vikram fought with extreme bravery and won after a long 30 minute battle with the spider. The warrior was very impressed and told Vikram that he had done a good job. He said that they can get the Bravery stone now. All three of them gave a sigh of relief.

The warrior then opened his hand and inside there was a sparkly red gem. Arjun took it from him and put it in his triangular amulet. Suddenly an armour appeared around him.

He was happy and told his friends that they were next going to get the speed stone!

### **The Speed Stone (Chapter-3)**

Before they left that day, the warrior offered them a flying carpet so that they can complete their tasks quickly. The warrior also told them if they ever need his help, they could call him by rubbing the red gem and remembering him. Arjun told he would be pleased to have him and would surely call the Warrior if they ever needed help.

Arjun took the flying carpet and told his friends to also sit on it. They all sat on the magical carpet and thanked the warrior. They left the palace after feasting on some food. They headed to Bangalore.

When they got to Bangalore, they went to the Bangalore Palace they were greeted nicely. They then immediately went to the artifacts room and started searching for clues to finding the stone. This time Arjun found a lion symbol same as the one in Rajasthan, but it was unreachable. It was like a thin and long tube. In the bottom was the symbol.

The three friends started searching for things to help them reach the lion symbol. Then Arjun got an idea. He quickly went to the dining hall and got a long spoon. Then he fitted it inside the tube. Eureka!!! It worked.

Suddenly a genie appeared out of the tube. He asked them what is it that they were looking for. Arjun was petrified but still gave out the answer "The... The- Speed Stone". Ah! Said the genie turning towards Arjun. He said it was not going to be easy to get the Speed Stone.



To obtain the Speed Stone you must run a 100m race in 12 seconds. You have only 1 chance. Even if you are 0.1 second late, you will lose the speed stone forever.

Looks like a job for Arjun to do says Vikram as Arjun was the fastest runner among them. The genie created two white lines with a 100m gap. Arjun took his position at the start line. The countdown started and when the genie said go, Arjun was speeding on the tracks.

By the first 6 seconds he only ran 43m and then by 10 seconds he was done 79m only! In 2 seconds, he had to run 21m. He stretched his legs hard and he finished the full race in 11.74 seconds.

Genie was very impressed, and he said they can now have the stone. The Genie also told them if they ever need his help, they could call him by rubbing the stone and thinking of him. Then the Genie congratulated him, gave him the stone, and went into the tube again.

Arjun was breathless but was happy to see the stone. The stone shone the room with its beautiful blue colour. He gently inserted the stone in the amulet and suddenly he got two dragon swords appeared crisscross at the back of the amulet. Arjun was full of joy and wanted to get the last stone.

Off we go to the get the last stone and the finish the Decapod he cheered, and they joined him. Yippee!

#### **The Smartness stone (Chapter-4)**

The next day they were tired but wanted to get the stone as soon as possible because they were getting calls that things are getting worse in Mumbai. They frantically packed their bags and took off. Their next and final stop before they again go back to Mumbai was Delhi.

When they reached Delhi, they were confused. The map which Baba Kishor had given said the stone is in Lotus Temple, Qutub-Minar and India Gate. They were all confused. Karan being the smartest understood it and told the others that there must be clues in these places.

They went to explore the Lotus Temple first. In the basement of the Lotus Temple they found a paper with the same lion symbol. It read "Get the other 2 pieces to complete me, my next piece is at Qutub-Minar."

The friends next went to the Qutub-Minar where they wanted to get the next piece of paper. But the security did not allow them to get to the top of Qutub-Minar.

Arjun got an idea. He got his armour and started climbing the walls with a good grip. However, that was not successful as Qutub-Minar was very slippery. Karan then suggested that he should use the two swords to climb. Arjun did that. He started climbing the walls. It was a miracle as he could climb now!!!



He reached the top of the Qutub-Minar got another piece of paper and joined it to the previous paper and it said "Get the other 1 piece to complete me. next piece is on the top of the Amar Javan Jyoti at the India Gate."

Arjun said he will ask the army security and take the piece from top of the Amar Javan Jyoti. In that meantime you wait for me in the restaurant on the corner of the street. Arjun went and asked the army security that could take the piece of paper on the top of the Amar Javan Jyoti.

The security told that he would get the paper himself. The security got the paper and gave it to Arjun. Arjun took the paper and went to his friends. Together they joined the pieces.

Boom!!! A spirit rose and said beat me in a game of chess to get the smartness stone. Karan was very smart and good at Chess, he told he could try and do that. The game started between the Spirit and Karan.

The spirit quickly captured Karan's Queen, both Bishops, both Knights, one of the Rooks and 4 pawns while Karan had captured the Spirit's both Rooks, a Bishop, one Knight, and 5 Pawns. The game was intense. After a while, the only pieces remaining with Karan were 2 pawns and a Rook while the spirit still had a Knight, a Bishop and 2 Pawns remaining.

The Spirit's Knight captured one more pawn of Karan. Luckily, the other pawn reached at the end of the board and Karan got his Queen back. The Queen killed the Spirit's Knight and the bishop and then his Rook and Queen check mated the Spirit's King. Wow, Karan had won!!!

The spirit told Karan that his game was "impressive" and gave him the Smartness stone. Karan gave the stone to Arjun and Arjun put it in his amulet and suddenly his suit and sword got upgraded! It was an awesome upgrade!! The spirit also told them if they ever need his help, they could call it and then it vanished.

Arjun told that they needed to leave for Mumbai immediately and they had no time to waste.

## **Payback Time (Chapter-5)**

When he reached there, the things were worse than he imagined. The people were running here and there. The Decapod had grown so large that it could easily eat a whole house. All three of them panicked.

Arjun ran towards the monster and slashed his sword on the monster's hand. One of the tentacles got cut but what, another one grew in its place. Arjun kept cutting his tentacles for some time and new ones kept coming.

Arjun got an idea and called the Genie by rubbing the stone. The Genie came. Arjun requested the Genie to make his swords of fire. The Genie did so. Arjun gave a little smirk and said "You are over MONSTER! ARRRGHHHHH!" He ran towards the monster and cut the tentacles again. It cut and the place where the new tentacles grew got burnt and the new one did not come.

Like this he cut seven of his tentacles, three were remaining. One of the tentacles caught Arjun and swung him far away. Arjun landed far on the ground and got hit very hard. He lay down there for some time in agony. Karan and Vikram ran to come to him but Decapod caught Vikram. When he was about to devour Vikram, Arjun rubbed the red stone and called the Warrior. The warrior came and ran quickly towards the monster.

Then the Warrior cut the tentacle in which the monster was holding Vikram. Vikram fell on the ground and ran away from the Decapod thanked the warrior. Then the Arjun called the Spirit by rubbing the last stone. The Spirit came and asked him what he wanted. Arjun told the Spirit to reset his health level back to 100%. The Spirit did so.

Arjun picked up his fire sword and said to himself you are dead DECAPOD. He ran and slashed 1 more of the monster's tentacle. Baba Kishor had also told him that if you cut all the monster's tentacles they will respawn. Arjun was alerted.

His friends were already throwing big stones on the remaining tentacles making it break off from the monster's body. Arjun got ready.

He ran and jumped, swinging his sword right on the Decapod's chest. Suddenly the monster started growing bigger. Arjun knew that the monster would burst. Arjun and his friends jumped on the flying carpet along with his friends and rushed away from the monster. In few seconds, Decapod burst sending gloopy, slimy, purple acid everywhere, but Arjun and his friends escaped.

They rejoiced their victory as they had saved the Mumbai city. All three of them were later called to the Red Fort at the Republic Day and were given awards by the President of India for bravery they had shown.



## About the Author



Aryaman Nagalia is the author of the Novella "Games of Stones" and this is his first Novella. Aryaman is from Bangalore in India and currently studies in fourth grade at National Public School, Koramangala. Aryaman loves drawing and likes playing Tennis and Cricket. In his free time he likes cooking for his parents.

An avid reader, his favourite books are the Harry Potter series and Wings of Fire series which are both excellent pieces of fantasy fiction. Aryaman is also an ardent fan of the Marvel Avengers. This is the reason why Aryaman likes to write fiction and he draws his inspiration from the likes of Harry Potter and Avengers.

### **Blurb :- Game of Stones**

Get ready to witness a roller coaster of a ride with our hero Arjun and his two friends fight the dangerous Decapod to save the city. See him go around the country in search of the 3 power stones to put them in an Amulet to get the special powers. This story is a real roller-coaster and keeps you on the edge of your seat till the last scene. Get ready for the action to begin.