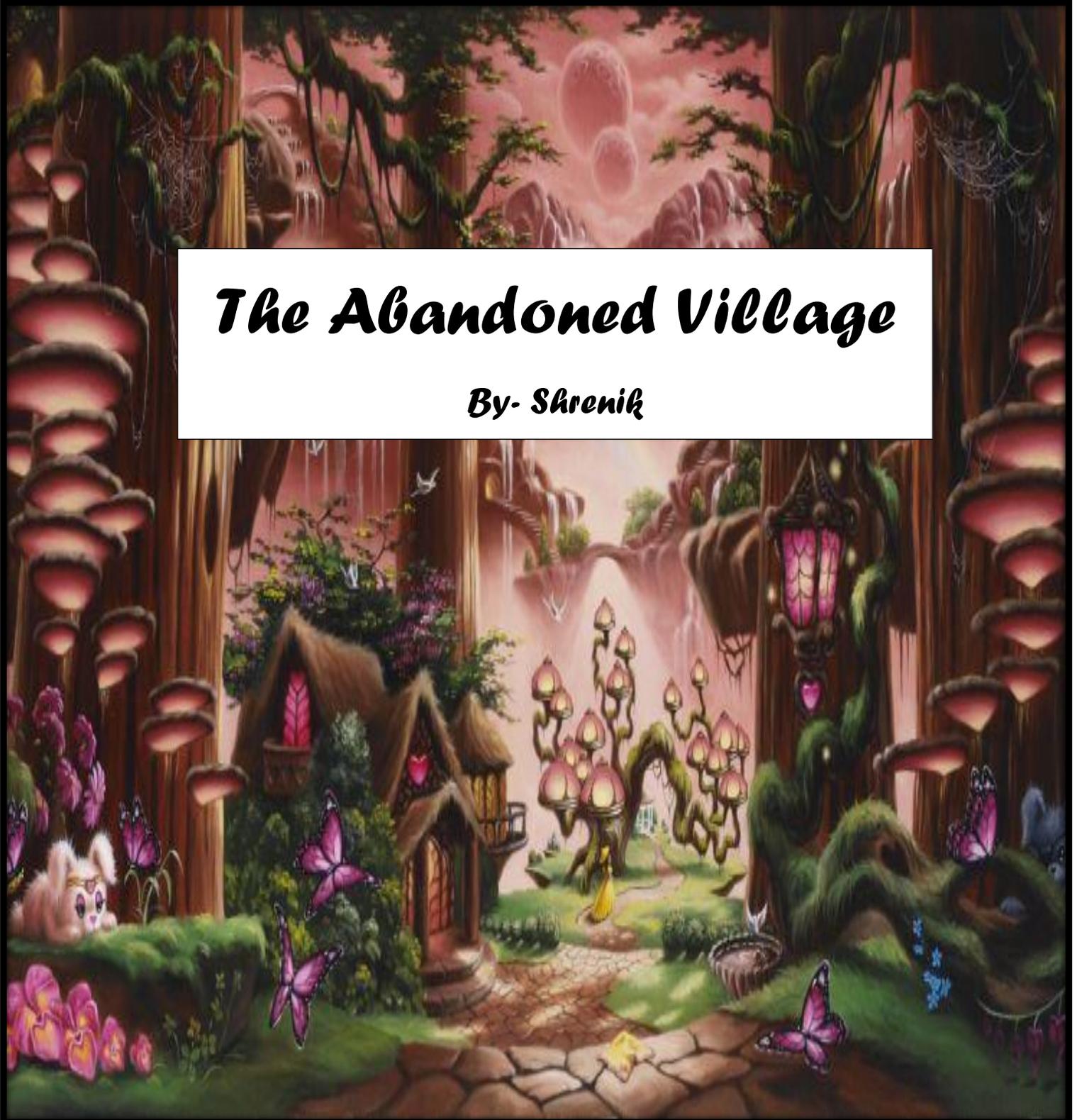


# *The Abandoned Village*

*By- Skrenik*



## **\*\*The Abandoned Village\*\***

*This year has been a totally different experience for Akash. Every year he would be excited to start off going to school. Excitement for the new books, new bag, new stationaries, new shoes and new lunch bag. All this was not possible this year because of the pandemic and the online classes. He would enjoy playing joyfully with his friend Dhruv. Now that they could not meet, they made video calls every weekend.*



*Akash was a grade 4 boy, who was very naughty, but loving and caring. He was a carefree and always take-it -easy boy. This year his naughtiness was limited to his house and the surrounding area due to lockdown. He would often neglect his*

mother's advice. He left his food half-finished and ran to the mobile. It was 9 PM and today being Saturday, he called his best friend Dhruv. His mother kept yelling " Akash, how many times have I told you to finish your food". He winked and said " ok Amma next time, I'll remember". "His next time would never come, anyways", taught his mother, with her usual sigh. Akash, spoke with excitement with Dhruv.

Akash: Hello Dhruv, how are you?

Dhruv: I'm good dude, how are you?

Akash: I'm fine, but I am too very bored staying at home. Nowhere to go and none to play with.

Dhruv: Same here Akash, I have got new toys and new books.

Akash: Emm good.

Dhruv: You know what? I read about some interesting things. In the book, I read that there are animals and people of golden days who are still alive in some forests and in some very old buildings.

Akash: Oh! that's interesting, it would be nice if we could go meet them, how exciting right?

Dhruv: Yes, indeed. Next time we can go to the old banyan tree that's a little away from your house. That place is so old. The old temples that are broken. The banyan tree that's 120 years old and all the surrounding area is so deserted and you remember your grandfather also told us some stories about that place.

Akash: Ah! yes, Dhruv I remember grandpa saying that no one goes to that village. It is a about 100km from our house and people do no go there at all. He said it is an abandoned place and people are forbidden to go.

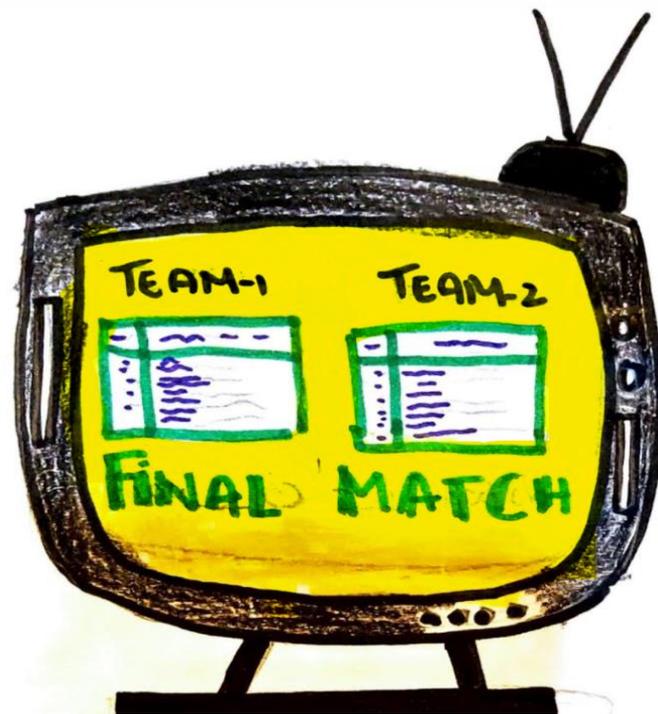
Dhruv: I think there is surely something fishy out there. Anyways when the pandemic goes away, we can try getting there on some small adventure. Ok Akasha. Good night. Enjoy your Dasshera vacation. Bye.

Akash: Ok bye.



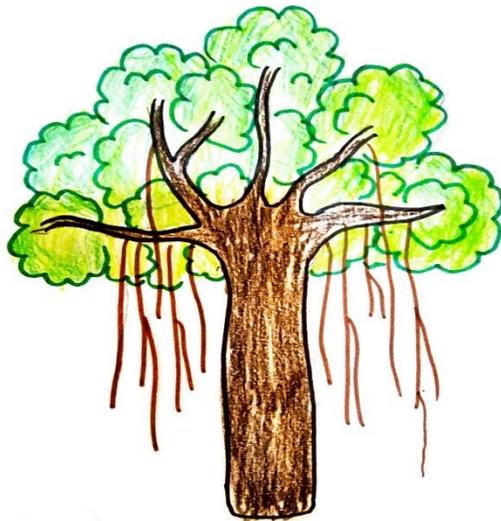
Akash went to bed. He could not sleep though. His mind was revolving with the idea of mysterious people and the mysterious places. Is there something near the banyan tree? That old distorted temple the huge sandy area and the dry weeds that covered the entire place. He couldn't stop thinking. He ran out of his room, went down the stairs. Looked around, everyone was fast asleep. He peered into his grandfather's

room. His grandfather was watching the cricket match on the TV. He ran up to him.



Grandfather was startled, he enquired, " what happened dear Akshu (it was Akash's pet name). Haven't you slept yet? What's the matter, do you need something? Akash reluctantly, with a feeble voice said, " grandpa, can you tell me about the old banyan tree and the abandoned village near it? Grandpa, looking through his thick glasses, with a question mark on his face, asked, "why?"

*Akash spoke up" grandpa, I was wondering what was this place like in the golden days, have you seen the people there? What were they like? Are they different from us? Are they still there? Why can't we go there? Why is it abandoned? Why are people forbidden to go there?*



*Grandfather knew, Akash was very curious and very keen about the details. He spoke. " Akash, you are a good boy, isn't it? So, listen to grandpa. Many many years ago, people lived very happily and healthily. They were like us, but they were much happier than us. They lived a simple life. Everybody was good and righteous. Now they no longer are such people. My grandfather said that no one is supposed to go to that village. I obeyed and have never gone there. You are a very obedient boy, aren't you, so I expect you too to just listen to your elders and be a good boy. Now come on its late go to sleep.*

*Still unsatisfied, Akash slowly walked up to his room. He laid there gazing at the moon outside his window. The owl hooted and dogs brayed. He recalled Dhruv's words. As he starred with an unwin'ked eyes, suddenly, he saw a huge bird lying by. He bounced out of bed and looked out of the window. The night was dark, but the moonlight made it easy to view things around. He once again saw the shadow of a flying thing. What was it? It was so big. With huge wings. Was it an eagle? Still puzzled, Akash tried to bend down the window to look for the shadow. After a few minutes, a huge creature was seen just outside his window. Akash stood still like a statue. He was scared at this sight. What he saw left his open mouth. He saw a huge lion with eagle's head and with wings. There was a very tall man who sat on this flying lion. Before akash could react, he heard the voice of that man. He said " How are you little boy, I suppose you have been talking and thinking of us, so I just came to meet you". Before Akash could reply, the man asked " Do you want to come with me, for a ride?".*



The next minute, Akash saw himself on the monstrous creature, alongside the tall man. Whooo! They flew fast like a lightning. Soon they came near the banyan tree and flew past it to the abandoned village. Crossing the broken pillars of the temple, they swiftly flew deep down to the basement. Akash saw a small opening with a bright light on the other end. Soon, they flew into the light and emerged from the other end.

What Akash saw next was truly amazing. He saw a big green land with so many tall people. The people were as tall as 15 feet. Everyone dressed in golden clothes. Many animals that looked so strange. The griffins and pegasus flying. Girls and boys playing with huge rabbits. He saw that the animals could speak. There was so much of bright light. The sun was so tender. As he stood looking at this new, beautiful and amazing world. The man who got him here spoke. "Dear Akash, my name is Yug, I am the protector of this place. You have been very keenly thinking of us that's why you are here. We have the power to read people's minds. This is our world. A world filled with health, happiness, compassion and care. You can spend some time here."

Akash said "I am surprised, I mean.... I don't understand. That abandoned village is so small, but this place is so very big. And those creatures flying. I had only seen them in movies. They are just imaginary animals, then how are they real. How is it that you people are so big? Is this some kind of dream?"

Yug laughed "Ha Ha Ha, no my little Akash. This is a real world; we have been living here for hundreds of years. Human beings have been very cruel and had killed many of our people in the

*past. Thus, we have kept our land away from human beings. We wanted to live in harmony with everyone, but people started capturing our animals for their magical abilities. So, now we have sealed this place, to protect our people and all other living creatures. We have a protective shield because of which no one can see or feel us. We can see and are aware of all the things happening in your world. The road behind the banyan tree and the abandoned village will lead you to this place."*

*Oh! said Akash, it's so unbelievable.*

*Yug introduced Akash to Madhu, who was Yug's little sister. She was very friendly. Akash along with Madhu, roamed around the place on the griffin and the pegasus. He made friends with the Griffin who was called Leo. He also flew high in the sky on a red Phoenix. It was incredible. The sky there was orange and yellow. So many trees and many different flowers. Huge sunflowers. The big buzzing bees. There were no vehicles. People flew on these creatures. They could swing from one*

*tree to another. Akash felt so excited. He felt like a small mouse in front of these big people. Yet he felt special.*



*It was beginning to get dark. Soon Madhu took Akash to her house. It was a huge palace made of wood and glittering stones. They entered a big room where everyone sat in a circle and had dinner. The people said a prayer and ate quietly. Akash too ate the food and when full he got up. Madhu pulled and made him sit. She whispered "you shouldn't waste food. We respect food. We take great care in preparing and serving the food. Anyone who disrespects or wastes food is punished. "*

*Akash stared at Madhu "what? Punishment? But I have left just a little bit."*

Madhu, "Even little bit is not allowed to be waste. My father says that a person's greatest mistake is wasting food. If a person doesn't know to respect food then he won't respect anything in this world."

Emm! Sighed Akash and gobbled the remaining food.

It was dark now. Akash saw many small twinkling creatures flying around the place. They were the fireflies. Suddenly, Akash realised he was away from home for a long time. He ran up to Yug and spoke. "I need to go home now, Amma will be worried."

He bid good bye to all his friend, Madhu, the unicorn, red Phoenix and others. Madhu gave him a gift, A sparkling bracelet in blue. Akash felt happy, but he was sad to leave. He then sat on the griffin Leo, and off they went. Soon he was in his room. Yug said" Akash, you should promise me not to talk about our world to anyone. But whenever you please, you can surely come. Bye."



*Early next morning, Amma came into the room and said "Akash it's very late, get up soon. It's time for your online sessions". Akash woke up and looked around asking " Where is Yug, Madhu and Leo?"*

*Amma: What are you blabbering. Maybe you had a dream. Now come on go into the bathroom.*

*Akash went into the bathroom. He took his brush and thought, maybe it was a dream but it was such a beautiful dream. It was so real. As he brushed in front of the mirror, he saw the blue bracelet in his hand. Wow! He jumped out of joy. It wasn't a dream. Oh! It was a real world. I just love it....*

*He ran down and sat on the table, had his breakfast with absolute silence and respect. He went to his mother and said "Amma, I promise not to waste any food from now". He then ran up to his grandfather, hugged him and said "grandpa I love you so much, we will live healthier and happier".... Akash smiled with contentment.*

*The End*

## About the Author...



Shrenik is a 10-year-old boy. Shrenik is a great learner and always look up for things. He likes reading and creating adventurous stories. Shrenik is an animal lover and is also into sports. His hobbies are playing cricket and football. He is very energetic and loves helping others. He also is nature friendly. Shrenik loves travelling around.

### **\*BLURB\***

*Akash was a grade 4 boy, who was very naughty, but loving and caring. He was a carefree and always take-it -easy boy. This year his naughtiness was limited to his house and the surrounding area due to lockdown. He would often neglect his mother's advice. He doesn't have any idea about a magical miracle that will make his mind blown. He loves adventure and yet will experience on soon. Akash will meet different creatures and learn new things during this journey. Read the novel to see what happens next.....*