

# THE STORY OF THE BANYAN TREE

*Written and illustrated by Aahana Gaur*



## Chapter 1

### The big banyan



Once in India ,in the village Brahmpur lived a boy named Raju. Raju was 10 years old. He had a sister whose name was Riddhi. Riddhi was 8 years old. The two of them loved playing together in nature. Everyday when they used to go to school, they used to pass a Banyan tree which was their favourite tree. They always asked their mother “Amma can we leave a little early for school we want some time to climb the Banyan tree”. Mother always allowed them on the condition that they stay safe and go directly to school after they visit the Banyan tree. It was their favourite place in the village. The tree was huge with thick luscious foliage. In the warm summer months it gave good cooling shade to those passing by and in the monsoon months all animals and birds sought shelter from the rains under the tree. The tree was over 70 years old and was the pride of Brahmpur.

## Chapter 2

### Bringing out the axe



One day they were going to the Banyan when they overheard some men talking about cutting it down. Raju and Riddhi were shocked to hear this. Raju said “Riddhi we have to do something about this. We can’t let them cut down the tree!!!”. Riddhi replied in a soothing voice “We will do something about the tree Raju. But first we need to go to school otherwise amma will not let us visit the Banyan tree anymore and we will not be able to do anything at all about the tree”. Raju agreed and they went to school. Soon after returning from school they went home dropped their bags on the ground and gulped down their milk and rushed to save the Banyan tree. As soon as they reached the tree, they saw the same men that they had overheard before. It seemed like they were from the municipality. They wanted to cut the tree down because of road development in the village. One of the men had in his hand an axe. He was just about to hurt the tree when the siblings Raju and Riddhi rushed in front of them and screamed “No please stop you can not harm this innocent tree”. The man laughed and said “what are two kids going to do about it”. Raju replied “Sir we are aware that you think that it is just a tree but with all due respect it is a living thing as well”. Riddhi jumped into the conversation by

saying “Sir Raju is correct. How would you feel if a person came with an axe in hand and planned on cutting you”? Riddhi added that the tree is the pride of the village and brings us all a lot of joy and cutting it was a very terrible thing to do.

## Chapter 3

### The brave fight



The officials didn't agree and directed the woodcutter to begin cutting down the tree. On seeing this Raju and Riddhi rushed and climbed up the tree. They said they would not get down unless the woodcutter goes away and they promise that the banyan will not be cut down. Raju and Riddhi spent all evening on the tree. Soon it began to become dark and the villagers and the panchayat gathered around the tree. But Raju and Riddhi didn't budge and relentlessly stayed on top of the tree. They pleaded to the villagers and the panchayat to spare the tree. They made their case on the importance of the tree and how cutting down a tree also impacts pollution levels.

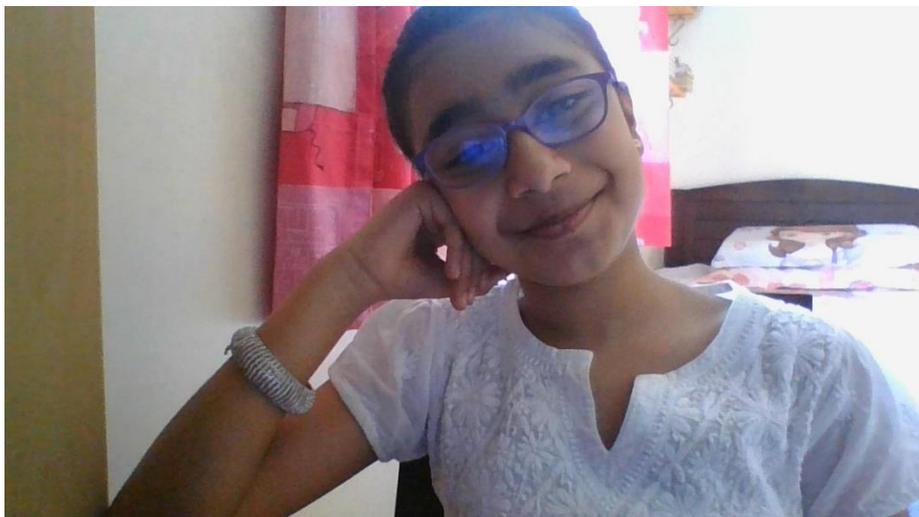
## Chapter 4

### The victory



Looking at this everyone was touched and moved and finally by sunset the officials realised their mistake and agreed to leave the tree uncut. The man said “Well I suppose I realise what the tree means to you both and the village. I would not at all like to harm it. I am sorry. The men said sorry and left. Raju and Riddhi were grateful for their apologies. When they returned home, they told their mother the story. They were expecting a scolding but instead their mother said “You expect me to believe that story?”. Raju and Riddhi were trembling with fear as their mother continued. “Then I definitely believe it” Raju and Riddhi were confused but they were happy that their mother understood. “My two heroes” their mother said as she hugged them and laid out dinner.

## About the Author



Aahana is a 10 year old Grade 4 student of NPS Koramangala. In her spare time she loves playing badminton, cycling and singing. She discovered her love for writing during the lockdown and has penned four short stories. Her favourite genre is mystery.

## **Blurb**

A short story on a warm connection between two siblings and their beloved tree.  
This story brings forth compassion and conviction to save the planet.