BEELY BUG LOOKS FOR THE TRUTH

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FOREWORD

The Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, and the Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace are happy to present this Reader on Mahatma Gandhi to the young children.

The story narrated here has profound significance and it is hoped that this Reader will generate greater interest on what Mahatma Gandhi stands for. That this is published during the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is also significant.

We would like to express our gratitude to Messers Guy Saddy, Carol Shaben and Tom Saddy for preparing the script and drawings, to Dr B.N. Pande, Vice-Chairman, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, for his guidance and assistance, to Mr N. Vasudevan and Mr Ashok for getting this printed in the present form.

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Beely Bug was some kind of beetle.  
Like most beetles, Beely had six feet.  
Unlike most beetles, at the end of each foot, 
Beely had a red hot running shoe.  
Beely Bug was the fastest beetle in all the land.

Beely Bug with his red hot high-top running shoes
Beely’s fast, little feet had taken him far and wide. They had taken him way, way down the road to Farmer Jaya’s Farm.

Beely Bug at Farmer Jaya’s Farm
They had taken him to the edge of the big stream where he had talked with Filmore Fish.
They had even taken him to the foot of the Great Snowy Mountain. No beetle had been this far before.

Beely gawking at the foot of the Great Snowy Mountain
"I've seen everything.
I must be the smartest beetle ever,"
said Beely.

Just then, Beely heard a crackly, old voice:
"You don't know everything, Beely Bug."
It was old Grandfather Beetle.
He was the oldest, wisest beetle in the village.
“I’ve been almost everywhere and seen almost everything,” claimed Beely.
“What else is there to know?”
“Do you know about truth?,” asked Grandfather Beetle.
“What is truth?,” answered Beely.
“If you don’t know, then you haven’t travelled far enough,” replied old Grandfather Beetle.
“Then I will find it,” said Beely Bug.
And with that, off he went.

Beely Bug heads down the path with a rucksack on his back
Far down the path, Beely saw something he’d never seen before.
It was a big, plump, fluffy moth.
And it was PURPLE!
"You're PURPLE!," exclaimed Beely.
"You have no wings," said the moth, whose name was Bopsie Doodle.
"No, but I have six red hot running shoes," said Beely.
"But you can't fly," said Bopsie.
"I can run as fast as you fly," said Beely.
“What are you doing so far from the beetle village?,” asked Bopsie Doodle.
“I’m looking for the truth,” replied Beely Bug.
“Oh, what fun!,” exclaimed Bopsie. “Do you mind if I come along? Maybe I can help you find it.”
“Sure,” said Beely.
And with that, off they went.
Down the road they met Charlie Caterpillar. He was crying.
"Do you know where I can find the truth?" asked Beely.
"The truth," sniffled Charlie,
"I can't even find my way home."
"Don't worry," said Bopsie Doodle.
"I can fly into the air and find your house."
"And when Bopsie finds your house, you can jump on my back and I can run you home in no time flat," added Beely.
So Bopsie Doodle fluttered her fluffy, purple wings, "KASWOOSH! "KASWOOSH! "KASWOOSH!"
She flew into the air, and quickly spotted
Charlie Caterpillar's house.
"Follow me, she yelled.
Charlie climbed on Beely's back.
And off they went.
When they reached the village, all the caterpillars cheered.
"HOORAY! You found Charlie!"
"Thank you so much," said Charlie’s father.
"Is there anything we can do for you?"
"I’m looking for the truth," said Beely Bug.
"Do you know where I can find it?"
"I think you’re on the right path," replied Charlie’s father.
And with that, off they went.
Not far down the path, Beely Bug and Bopsie Doodle heard a strange sound: "WHICKA, WHICKA, WHICKA."
Taking a closer look, they discovered the sound came from thousands of little legs. They belonged to hundreds of little ants busily building a giant anthill.
"How can such little creatures build such a mighty hill?," wondered Beely out loud.

"It’s not such a mystery," replied Anton Ant as he scurried by with a piece of stick.

"Come help us and you will see how we do it."

Beely and Bopsie meet Anton Ant at the anthill
The ants loaded heaps of grass and sticks on Beely’s back and he ran to and fro, faster than any of the ants could ever go. Bopsie helped out, too. She picked up pebbles from the bottom of the hill and flew them all the way to the top. Everyone worked so hard together, they built the biggest anthill ever.
"How can we thank you?" asked Anton Ant.
"No thanks are needed," said Beely.
"But please, if you could, would you tell us where we could find the truth?"
"I think you’re on the right path," said Anton Ant. And with that, off they went.

Anton and the other ants gather to thank Beely and Bopsie
Beely Bug and Bopsie Doodle had not travelled far when they heard a terrible argument. A cricket and a ladybug were fighting over a big brown peanut shell. Two fat, juicy peanuts rattled around inside.

"It's MINE!," cried Loulou Ladybug.

"No, it's MINE! I saw it first," yelled Conrad Cricket.
"Oh dear," said Bopsie Doodle.
"What shall we do?"
"Please, please, stop this fighting," Beely Bug said.
"You must work together."
"How can we? We're so very different," answered Loulou Ladybug.
“Beely Bug and I are different. But we’ve worked together and done great things,” explained Bopsie Doodle. “Yes,” said Beely. “Why don’t you share one peanut and plant the other?”
“What a wonderful idea!,” exclaimed Conrad Cricket. “Then there will be food for everyone.” “We’ll help you plant it,” offered Beely and Bopsie. And so they did.
After they finished planting the peanut, Beely and Bopsie waved goodbye and again set off down the path. They soon came upon a wizened, old snail. He was sitting on a stone.
“Excuse me,” said the snail.
“I’ve been watching you for some time now and I see you’ve come a very, very long way.
“‘Yes’ said Beely.
“We are looking for the truth.”
“Be-e-e-ee-ely Bug,” drawled the snail.
“I think you’ve found it.”
And, indeed they had.

Beely and Bopsie hands linked, walk into the sunset
The lessons in this book were taught many years ago by a kind, wise man. His name was Mahatma Gandhi and he lived in India, a country far away. He taught people about love and sharing, and how to help each other. He was well loved by people of all countries for his ideas. Today, his lessons are a way of life for everyone to follow.
Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace

The Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation For World Peace is a Federally incorporated, non-profit organization whose mission is to conduct programmes and activities that promote the teachings and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi in order to advance understanding and harmony among peoples of the world, provincially, nationally and internationally.

The objects of the Foundation include:
* the advancement of peace and understanding among peoples of the world by the application in contemporary life and times of the teaching and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi;
* to share, in a cross-cultural way and universally, knowledge of Mahatma Gandhi’s beliefs and philosophies;
* to initiate, conduct and support research, studies, writing, teaching, education and scholarship in international understanding and peace based on the teachings, philosophies, activities and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi;
* to establish, maintain and support academic chairs, lectureships, professorships, fellowships, exchanges and assistantships on its own account or in conjunction with other institutions.

Membership in the foundation is open to all, and it is the hope of the founders that the objects and programs of the Foundation will be embraced by the entire Canadian community in recognition of the universality of Gandhi’s beliefs and teachings.

The Foundation celebrates Mahatma Gandhi Peace Week every year during the week of Mahatma’s birthday-i.e. the week of 2nd October, by organizing a programme of exhibitions, conferences, garlanding of Mahatma Gandhi’s bust in the Centennial Library Plaza in Edmonton and by a Commemorative banquet. The Mayor of Edmonton, at our request, declares the week as the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Week.

Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation For World Peace
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GANDHI SMRITI AND DARSHAN SAMITI

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) was formed in 1984 by the merger of Gandhi Darshan at Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti at 5, Tees January Marg. The basic aim and objective of the Samiti is to propagate the life, mission and thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi through organising various socio-educational and cultural programmes.

Gandhi Smriti

Gandhi Smriti at 5, Tees January Marg, New Delhi is now a national memorial where the epic life of the Father of the Nation ended on Friday, January 30, 1948. The hallowed house treasures many memories of the last 144 days of his life. The exhibition on the Mahatma, the room he lived in and the prayer ground where he fell a martyr with god’s name on his lips attract a large number of visitors every day. The atmosphere reverberates with the bhajan he liked most, Easwar, Allah, tere naam. . . .

Gandhi Darshan

Situated close to the Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat, on a 36-acre land, Gandhi Darshan offers (1) a comprehensive exhibition on Gandhi spread out in four pavilions, (2) Films auditorium, (3) Conference hall, (4) Camping facilities for major national and international camps, (5) Children’s corner, (6) Library, and (7) Photo unit which supplies photographs for exhibition on Gandhi.

Other Programmes

Among the other programmes undertaken regularly are (i) Taking Gandhi to Schools, (ii) Shanti Sena Training Programme, (iii) Mobile exhibitions, (iv) Seminars, workshops, symposia, special exhibitions and meetings for the promotion of Mahatma Gandhi’s ideals and the causes identified with him, and (v) Gandhi Memorial Lectures.

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