

Jataka Tales - 11

One Good Deed a Fruitful Deed



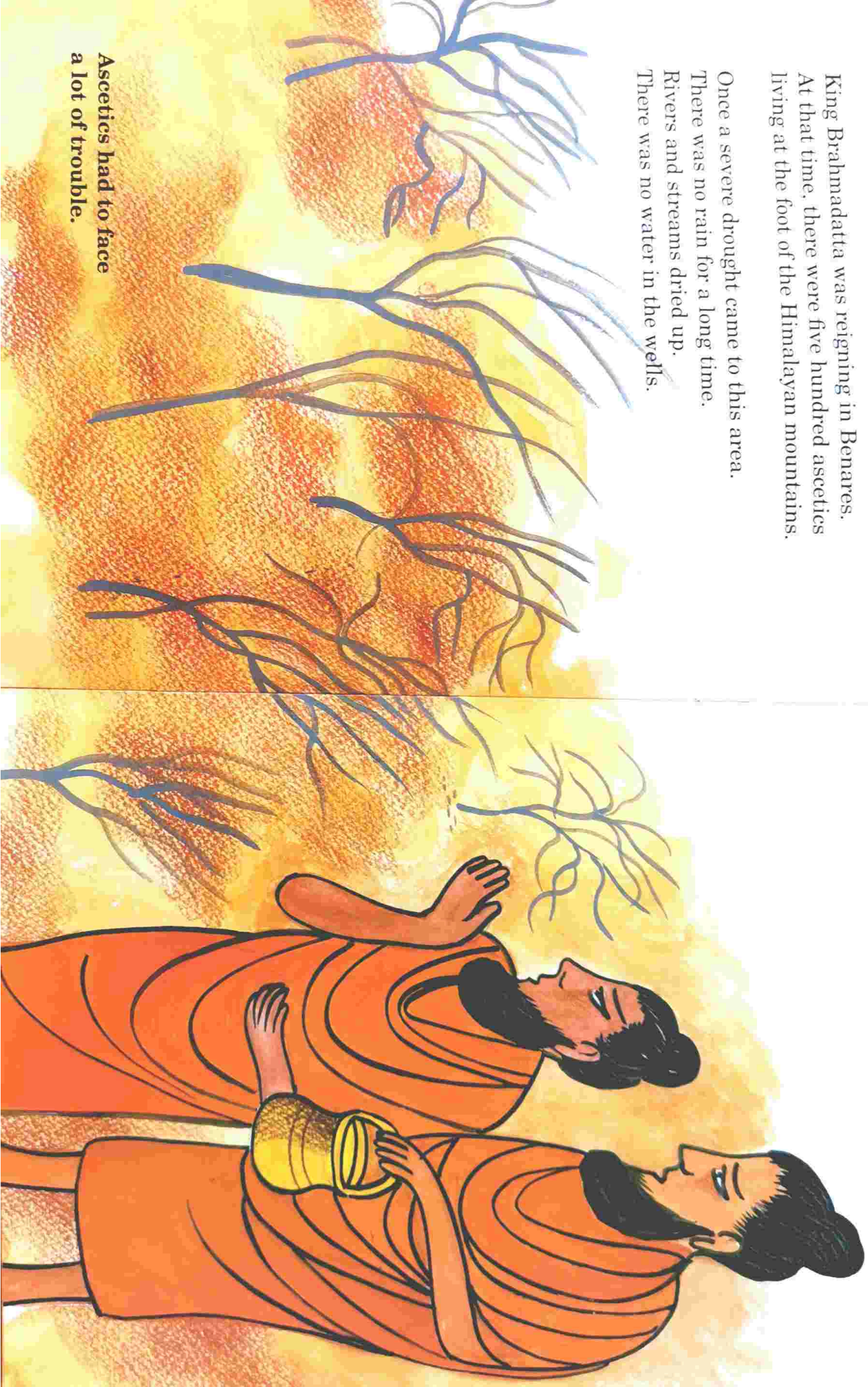
Retold by
Kusum Disanayaka

Illustrated by
Sybil Wettasinghe

King Brahmadata was reigning in Benares.
At that time, there were five hundred ascetics
living at the foot of the Himalayan mountains.

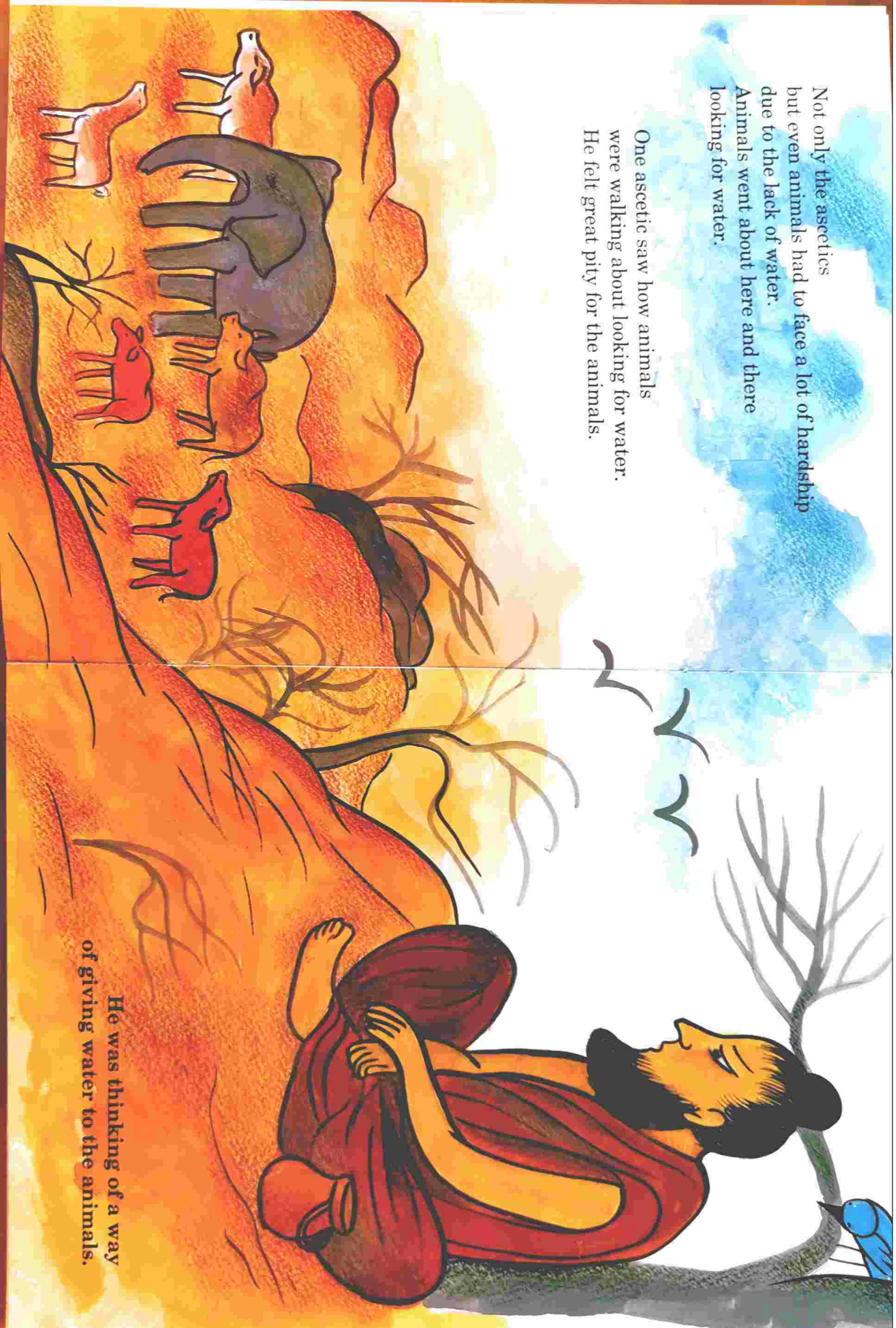
Once a severe drought came to this area.
There was no rain for a long time.
Rivers and streams dried up.
There was no water in the wells.

Ascetics had to face
a lot of trouble.



Not only the ascetics
but even animals had to face a lot of hardship
due to the lack of water.
Animals went about here and there
looking for water.

One ascetic saw how animals
were walking about looking for water.
He felt great pity for the animals.



He was thinking of a way
of giving water to the animals.

The ascetic cut down a tree.
He made a trough out of its trunk to store water.



He went in search of water everywhere
and brought water to fill the trough.
Birds like parrots,
small beasts like monkeys and deer,
and big animals like elephants
came to drink water from it
and quench their thirst.
He did this every day.
He did not have time to go
in search of food for himself.
He worked only to get water to fill the trough.



The animals saw how the ascetic was giving them water even without thinking of his own food. All animals, big and small, got together to discuss what they could do to help the ascetic.

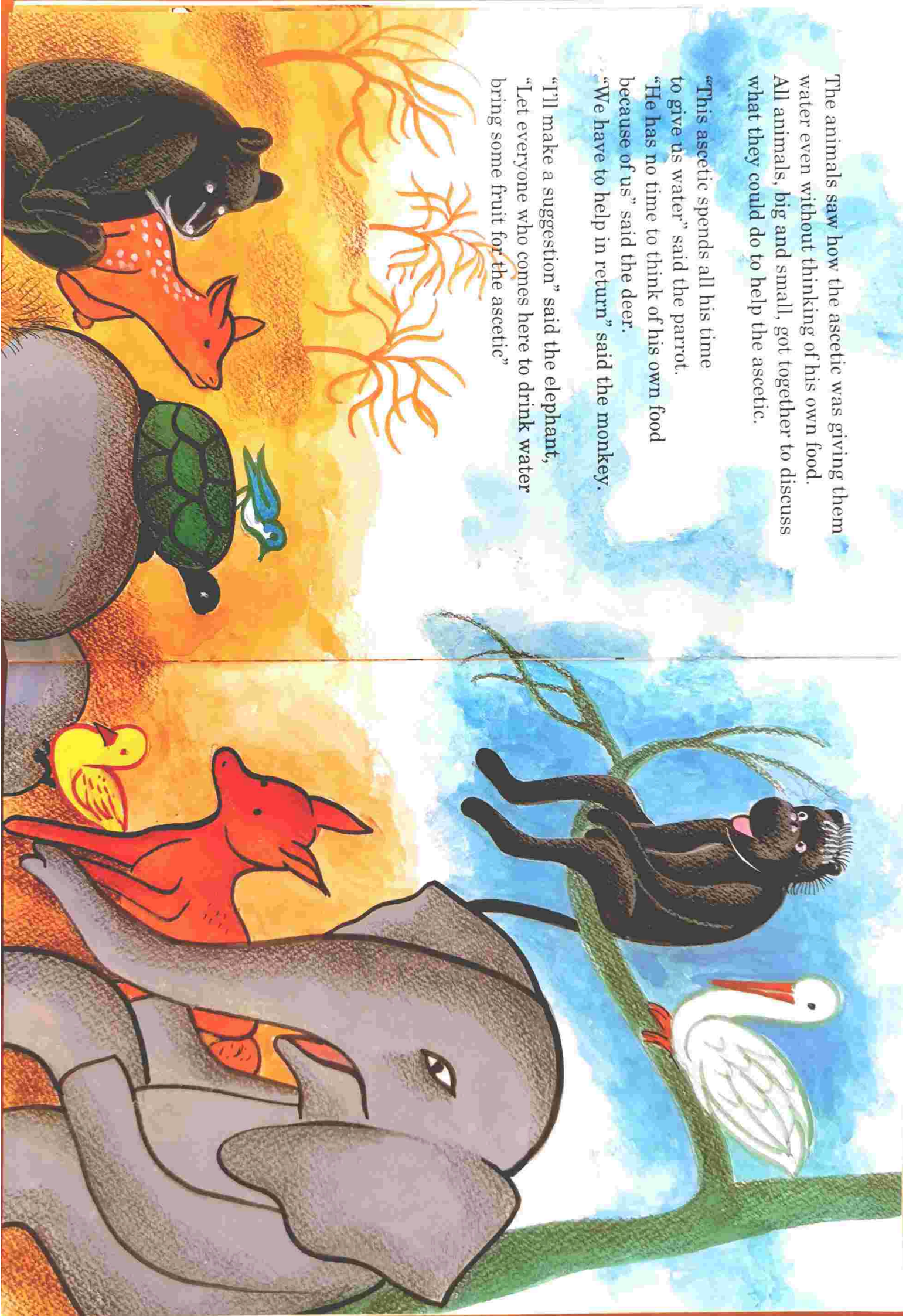
“This ascetic spends all his time to give us water” said the parrot.

“He has no time to think of his own food because of us” said the deer.

“We have to help in return” said the monkey.

“I’ll make a suggestion” said the elephant,

“Let everyone who comes here to drink water bring some fruit for the ascetic”

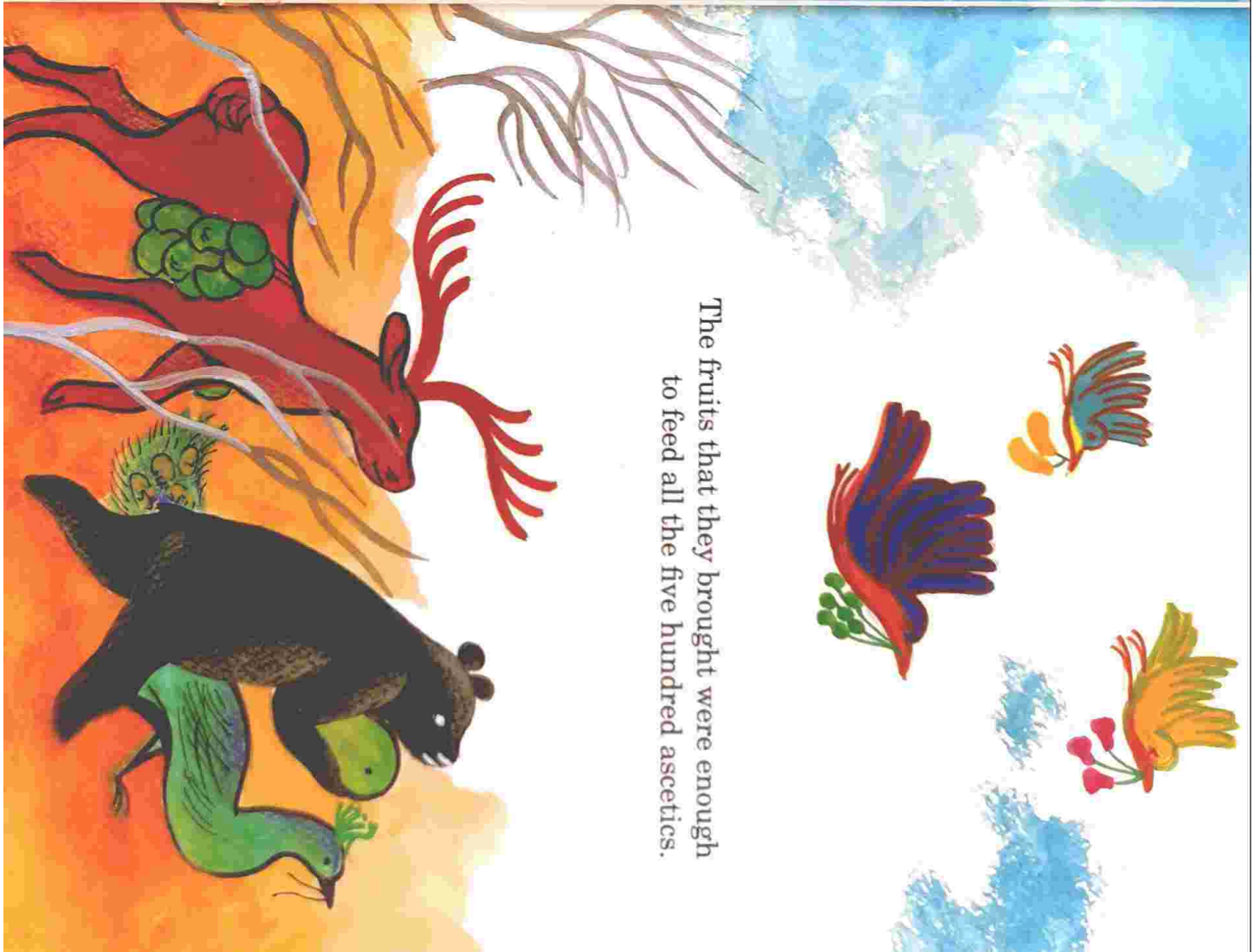


“That’s a good idea. We agree” said the animals.
All accepted the suggestion.



From the next day,
every animal brought some fruit.
The parrot brought a mango.
The rabbit brought a big bunch of bananas.
The monkey brought a bread-fruit.
There were rose-apples, guavas,
oranges and many others in plenty.





The fruits that they brought were enough
to feed all the five hundred ascetics.

The chief of the ascetics
who saw every thing that happened said
“ Much benefit was brought upon a lot of people
because of a good deed of one person.
The result of a good deed is always good.
Even animals were grateful for what was done for them.
They showed their gratitude in the way they can.”
Do good in whatever way you can.
That will make you and everybody happy.

