

Exercise: 1

Krishna Devaraya and Tenali Rama

Sri Krishna Devaraya was the emperor of Vijayanagar. He had eight advisors. Tenali Rama was one among them. He was very clever and spontaneous. Sri Krishna Devaraya had some special kind of brinjal plants in his garden. The brinjal was a very rare kind and the curry made out of it was very tasty which was loved by the emperor. As it was a rare kind, the garden was well guarded and no one was allowed to view the plants without the emperor's permission.



Once the emperor had arranged dinner for his advisors and the brinjal curry was served. Tenali Rama had enjoyed the brinjal curry very much and went home. But he was unable to forget the taste. He told his wife about the taste of curry. Tenali Rama's wife also liked brinjal curry, she asked Tenali Rama to bring a few brinjals so that she can prepare a curry. But Tenali Rama knew that the emperor was taking extreme care about the Brinjal plants and he could easily detect the missing of even one brinjal from his garden. And, the emperor will punish such thief if caught stealing a brinjal from his garden. But Tenali's wife pleaded with him to bring a brinjal from the garden without telling anybody.



Tenali Rama had no choice other than stealing a brinjal from the emperor's garden. One night he went to the garden, jumped the wall and plucked a few brinjals from the garden. By God's grace, no one had seen him. His wife cooked the brinjals and the curry was very tasty. Like all the mothers, she too loved her son very much and wanted to serve the brinjal curry for him. But Tenali Rama asked her not to do such thing because if their son reveals to anybody that he had a rare brinjal curry, then they may get caught and get punished for stealing a brinjal from the garden. But his wife did not agree. She wanted to serve the curry to her son. She was unable to eat the curry alone without serving her little kid who was sleeping after doing his homework on the roof of their house. She asked Tenali Rama to find a way so that their son can also taste the brinjal curry.



Tenali Rama also loved his son, so he thought of an idea and with a lot of hesitation went on to the roof to wake up his child with a bucket of water and poured the water on the child. When the child woke up he said "It is raining. Let's go inside the house and have dinner". After going inside the



room he changed the clothes of his son and gave him the rice and brinjal curry for the dinner. Tenali Rama told his wife loudly that "it was raining outside, and let the boy sleep in the room".