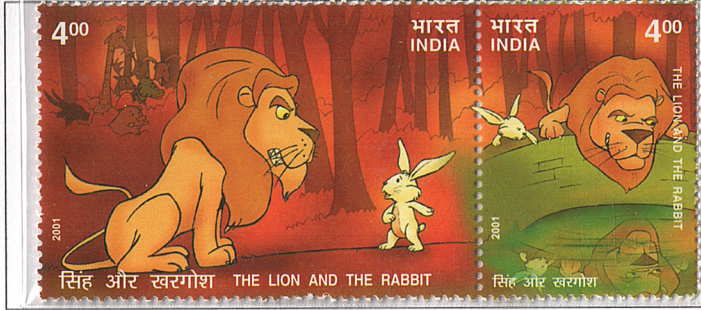


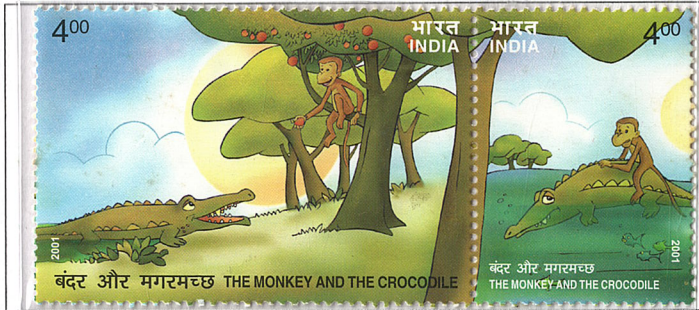
The wise conduct of life

The Panchatantra is an ancient Indian collection of interrelated animal fables in Sanskrit verse and prose, arranged within a frame story. The surviving work is dated to about 300 BCE, but the fables are likely much more ancient. The text's author is unknown, but has been attributed to Vishnu Sharma in some recensions and Vasubhaga in others, both of which may be fictitious pen names. It is likely a Hindu text, and based on older oral traditions with "animal fables that are as old as we are able to imagine".

It is "certainly the most frequently translated literary product of India", and these stories are among the most widely known in the world. It goes by many names in many cultures. There is a version of Panchatantra in nearly every major language of India, and in addition there are 200 versions of the text in more than 50 languages around the world.



Mitra-bheda -The Lion and the Rabbit



Labdhapranāsam -The Crocodile and the Monkey

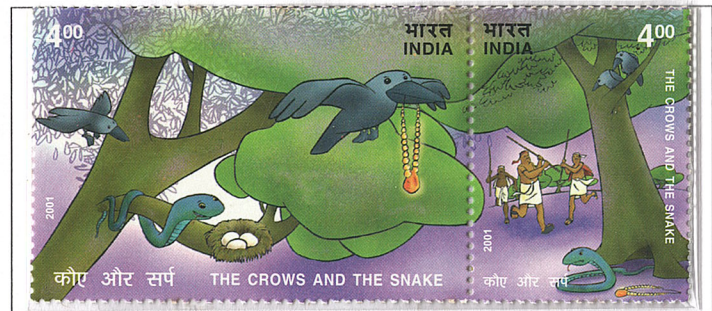
In the Indian tradition, The Panchatantra is a nītiśāstra. Nīti can be roughly translated as "the wise conduct of life" and a śāstra is a technical or scientific treatise; thus it is considered a treatise on political science and human conduct. Its literary sources are "the expert tradition of political science and the folk and literary traditions of storytelling". It draws from the Dharma and Artha śāstras, quoting them extensively. It is also explained that nīti "represents an admirable attempt to answer the insistent question how to win the utmost possible joy from life in the world of men" and that nīti is "the harmonious development of the powers of man, a life in which security, prosperity, resolute action, friendship, and good learning are so combined to produce joy".

Panchatantra stories is based on following classifications:

- ◆ **Mitra-bheda** -The Loss of Friends
- ◆ **Mitra-lābha** - The Winning of Friends
- ◆ **Kākolūkiyam** - On Crows and Owls
- ◆ **Labdhapranāsam**—Loss of Gains
- ◆ **Apariksitākārikam**—Ill-Considered Action



Mitra-bheda - The Tortoise and the Geese



Mitra-bheda -The Crows and the Snake