



Gopal Bhar and the Kingdom's Crows

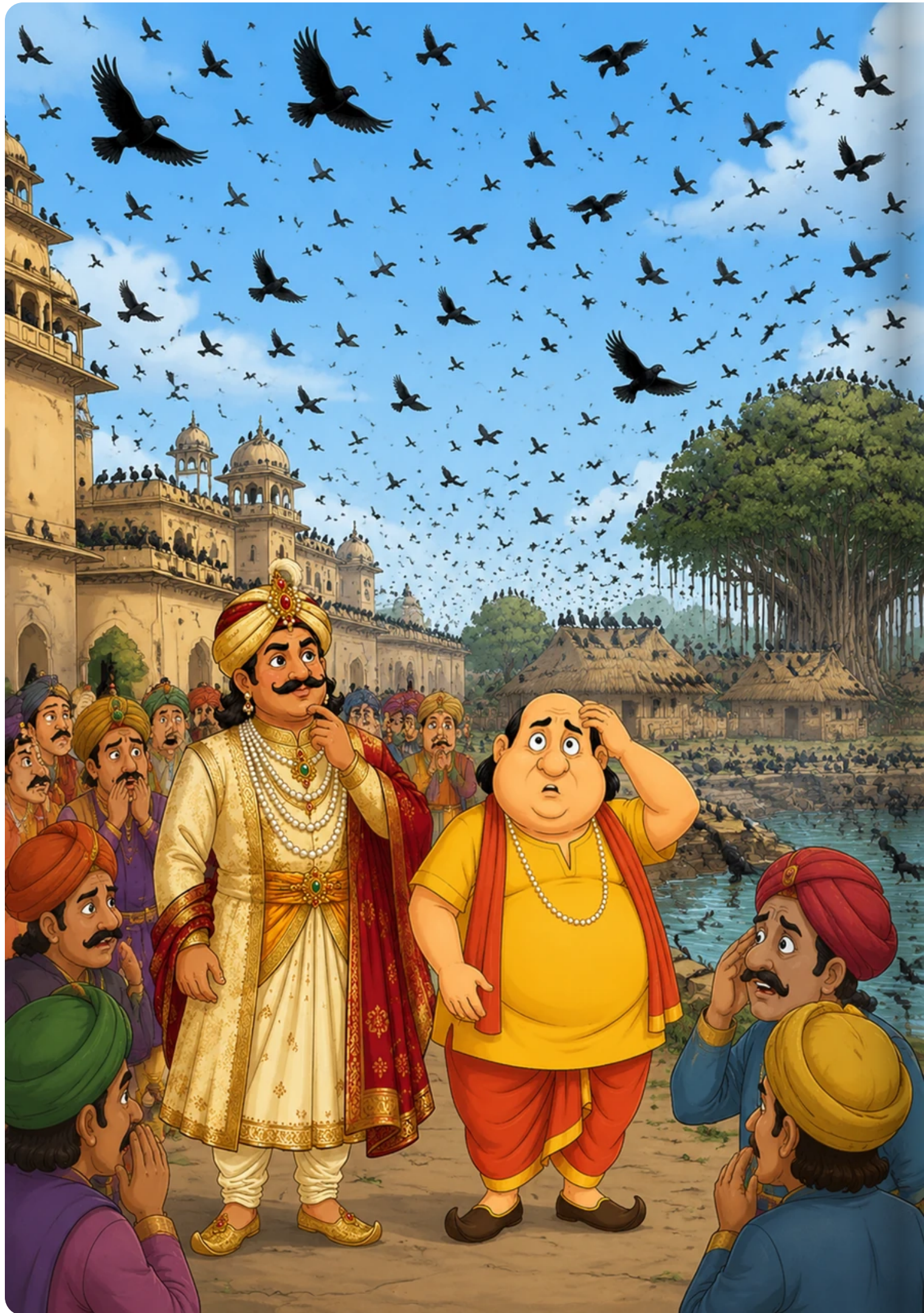
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In the grand golden court of Nabadwip, Maharaja Krishnachandra sits upon his ornate throne surrounded by ministers and scholars. Looking out at the birds fluttering past high arched windows, a mischievous smile plays on the King's lips as he prepares to test his court's wisdom.



The King announces a grand challenge, asking his court to figure out the exact number of crows living in the kingdom of Nabadwip in exchange for one thousand gold coins. A heavy silence falls over the royal hall as ministers look at each other in complete dismay.



Outside the palace walls, thousands of black crows fly freely across the blue skies, perching on thatched roofs, banyan trees, and riverbanks. The courtiers whisper nervously among themselves, realizing that counting every moving bird across the vast kingdom is a humanly impossible task.



Suddenly, Gopal Bhar, the King's favorite court jester, steps forward with a bright, confident smile and bows respectfully before the royal throne. While everyone else hangs their heads in silence, Gopal looks calm and ready to answer without a moment of hesitation.



With complete assurance, Gopal declares that there are exactly one hundred sixty-five thousand three hundred twenty-two crows in Nabadwip. The entire court gasps in astonishment, and King Krishnachandra raises an eyebrow, curious to see how his jester calculated such a precise number.



The King leans forward and asks Gopal what would happen if royal guards counted the birds and found more crows than the stated number. Gopal chuckles warmly and replies that extra crows simply mean distant relatives from neighboring kingdoms have arrived to visit their family for the holidays.



Amused by the clever answer, the King pushes further and asks what would happen if the official tally showed fewer crows than predicted. Gopal gently pats his round belly and explains that missing crows have merely gone on a short vacation to neighboring lands to rest from their hard work.



Upon hearing Gopal's brilliant and humorous logic, the entire royal court bursts into loud laughter, filling the grand hall with cheer. Even the sternest ministers cannot help but smile at the jester's unbeatable presence of mind.



Delightedly laughing himself, King Krishnachandra realizes that no tricky question can ever trap his clever jester. In deep appreciation of Gopal's quick wit, the Maharaja takes off his priceless pearl necklace and places it around Gopal's neck.



Gopal bows humbly while admiring his splendid new pearl necklace, his warm smile brightening the entire court. Once again, the beloved jester proves to everyone that clever thinking and lighthearted humor can effortlessly solve even the most impossible problems.