



The Secret of Shanti Bhavan

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Rahul and his seven friends stood together outside the massive gates of Shanti Bhavan, an ancient mansion rumored to be haunted. 'This is it, our biggest adventure!' Maya whispered excitedly, holding Zara's hand.



After finding a loose window, the children slipped silently into the dusty main hall, their flashlights cutting beams through the air. Grand statues stood like silent guardians, and faded portraits lined the crumbling walls.



While exploring a grand staircase, they gasped as a soft glow filled the air and translucent figures appeared. A gentleman in an old-fashioned suit was reading, a woman with a shimmering saree was painting, and a small child smiled shyly. 'Don't be afraid,' the old man said gently.



The ghosts introduced themselves and explained their home was about to be demolished to build a shopping mall. Mr. Bose, a developer, didn't believe in ghosts or history. The ghosts were worried they would have nowhere to go.



Back in their treehouse, the kids discussed a plan. Rahul suggested they should search for old records that could prove the building's historical importance. 'We can't let them destroy this beautiful place,' Kabir added determinedly.



They returned to the rajbari and searched the sprawling library, covered in cobwebs. Vikram found an old, locked wooden chest. One of the ghosts, a helpful spirit who once lost his spectacles, guided them to a hidden key in a flower pot.



Inside the chest, they found an ancient royal decree stating that Shanti Bhavan must always be a center for art and learning. Maya's eyes widened. 'This means it can't be a shopping mall!' she cheered quietly.



The next day, when Mr. Bose came with his blueprints, the ghosts helped the kids cause strange drafts and make a chair move. The developer got nervous, thinking the place truly was haunted, much to the kids' silent amusement.



The children bravely stepped forward and showed the royal decree to Mr. Bose and the city counselor who was present. They explained the mansion's history and its intended purpose. The counselor examined the document and nodded thoughtfully.



The decree was verified, and Shanti Bhavan was saved, becoming 'The Children's Center for Arts and Storytelling.' In the bright, restored hall, the eight friends were laughing and creating, while the happy ghosts watched over them from the shadows, knowing their home was safe.