


The Rumor

A Tale from Ancient India

**Why should we ask
questions and
gather facts
before believing a
story about
someone?**



Stories that Teach

A collection of tales.

These stories teach about life.

They show how actions and words can affect others.

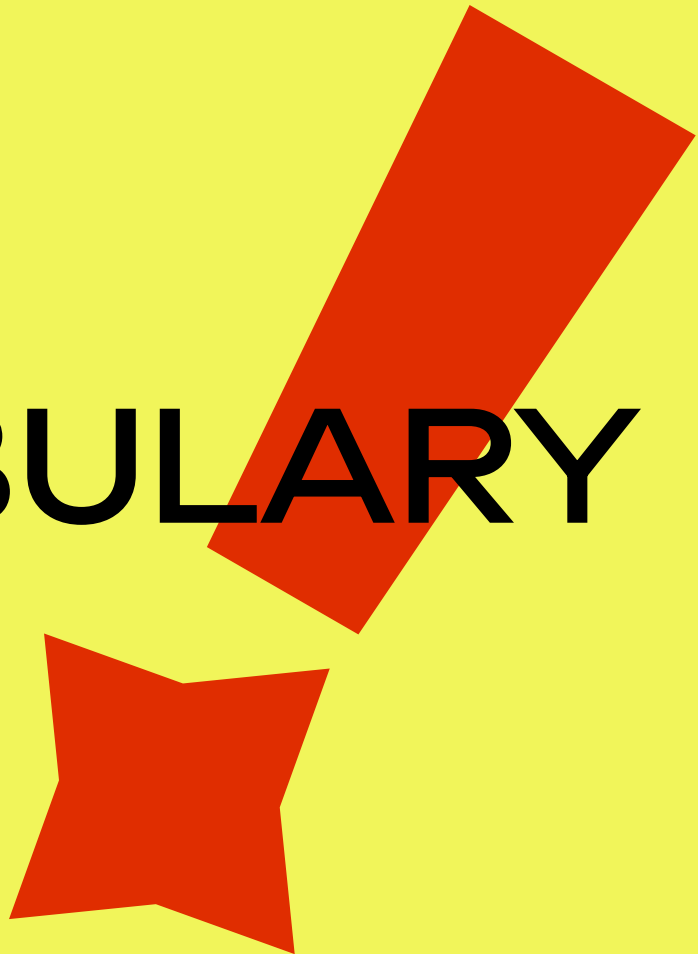
They originated in Ancient India.

Meet the Characters

What do you think each person's role will be in this story?

- Hara-svāmin (ascetic):
- Wicked man:
- Townsfolk:
- Messengers:

KEY VOCABULARY



Ascetic

A person who lives simply, often for spiritual reasons.



Hypocritical

Pretending to have virtues or ethics you do not truly have.



Exonerated

Freed from blame
or guilt.



Slander

False statements
that harm
someone's
reputation.



Pre-reading: What is a rumor?

How can a rumor affect someone's life?

During reading: Why
did the wicked man
start a rumor about
Hara-svāmin?

During reading: How
did the townspeople
treat Hara-svāmin
after they believed the
rumor?

During reading: What
steps did
Hara-svāmin take to
clear his name?

Post-reading

- What lesson do you think the townspeople learned?

Post-reading

- Why did Hara-svāmin still want to leave the city even after being cleared of blame?

Post-reading

- How can we make sure we don't believe or spread false information about someone?

Connect to Your Life

- Think about a time you or someone you know was misunderstood. What happened? How was it resolved? What could have been done to stop it earlier?