



## March for Freedom

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Level 2

- AT SABARMATI ASHRAM -

Dhani looked anxious.

"Why is Gandhiji going on a march? I want to go too! But no one will tell me anything!" he complained gruffly, to himself.

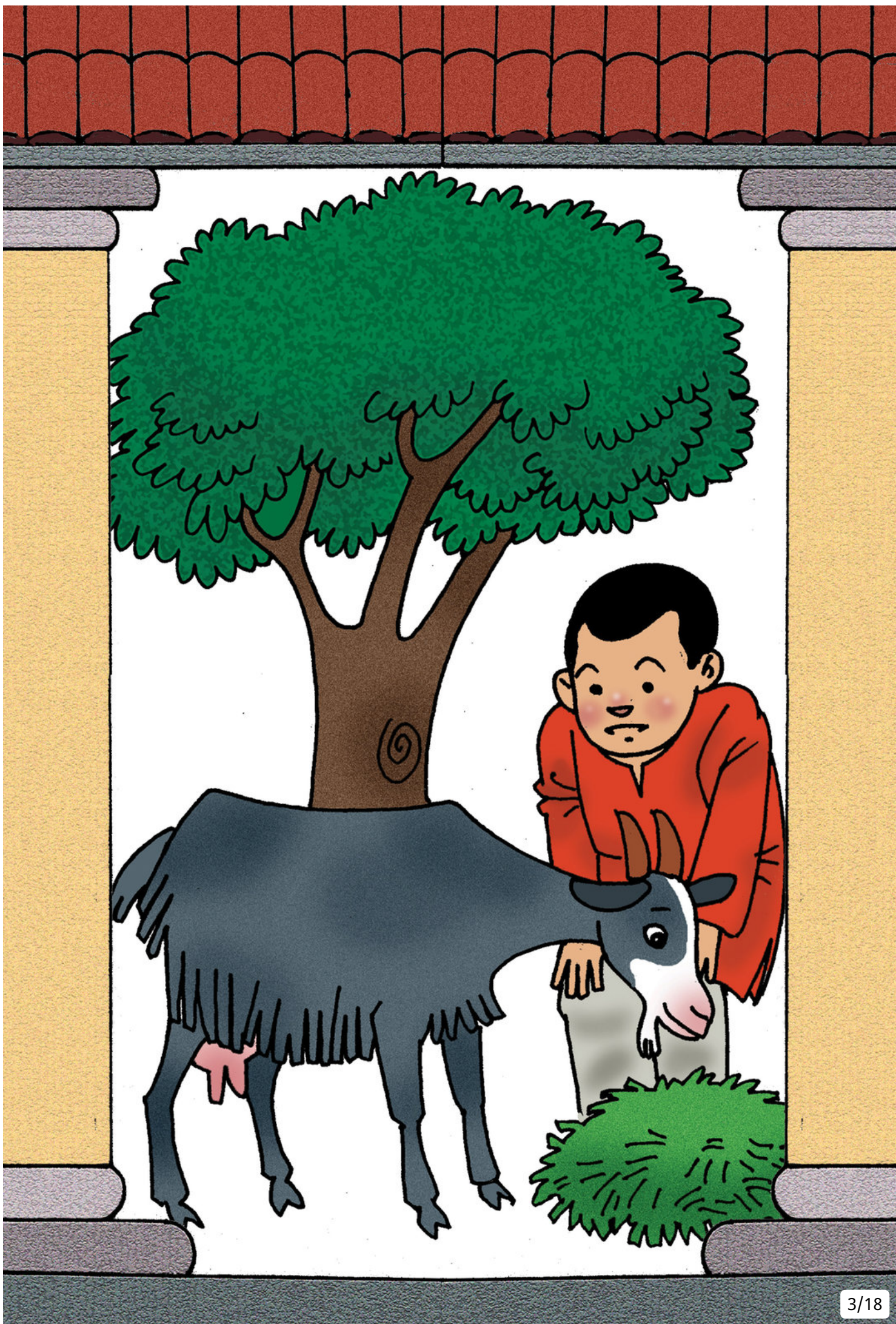
Dhani was a nine-year-old boy. He lived with his family in a special place called Sabarmati Ashram. Sabarmati Ashram was made by a very great man called Mahatma Gandhi.

The Ashram was a peaceful place on the banks of the River Sabarmati. People here lived and worked together in simple-looking cottages and on the fields around. Dhani loved playing under the Neem trees with his special friends, the birds and squirrels.

Everyone had some work to do at the Ashram. They spun their own cloth thread on special wooden wheels called charkhas. They wove this thread into khadi cloth and sewed their own clothes. They fetched their own water, grew their own vegetables, and milked their own goats.

Binni the goat, was Dhani's best friend!







## DHANI TRIES TO FIGURE IT OUT!

Dhani ran over to Binni.

Binni the goat, looked calm and satisfied.

"Why is Gandhiji going on a march, Binni?" Dhani asked seriously. "I want to go too!"

Binni chewed slowly on his breakfast; he did not even look up from his grass.

Then Dhani peeped into the kitchen. Ammaji looked tired and worried.

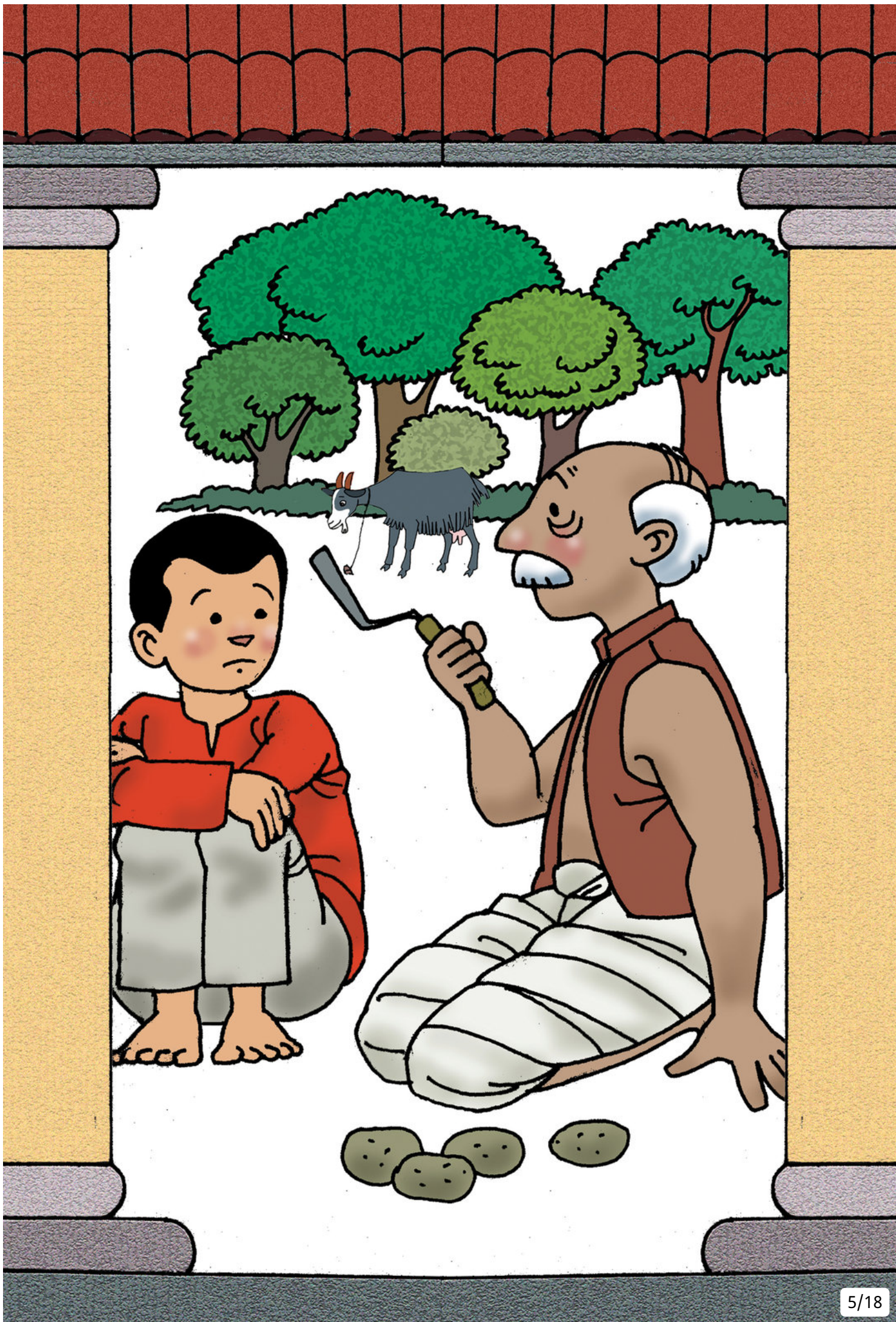
"Why is Gandhiji going on a march, Ammaji?" Dhani asked, seriously. "I want to go too!"

Dhani's mother kept working and fanned the kitchen fire slowly; she looked up but did not say a word.

Finally, Dhani looked out into the garden, where Kanu Kaka was digging. Kakaji looked restless and agitated.

"Where is Gandhiji going, Kakaji?" Dhani asked, seriously. "I want to go too!"

Kanu Kaka looked at Dhani, Ammaji and Binni. He cleared his throat loudly and coughed importantly.





"Listen carefully, Dhani. Gandhiji is marching to Dandi to protest against the British."

Dhani looked puzzled.

"I don't understand Kakaji, what is a protest?"

"Protest.

That means to speak out against anything wrong or unjust.

Gandhiji is protesting against the unjust Salt Tax."

Dhani looked even more puzzled.

"I still don't understand Kakaji. What is Salt Tax?"

"The Salt Tax law is a rule made by the British rulers. The Salt Tax law does not allow Indians to make salt. Every Indian has to pay the British extra tax money to buy salt from the British."

"But that's unfair," shouted Dhani! "I want to go to protest too!"



Kakaji smiled.

"Gandhiji will march all the way to Dandi. Only the grown-up men and women who are strong and healthy will join. You and I can't go that far, Dhani. We can wait here in the Ashram, and pray for them."

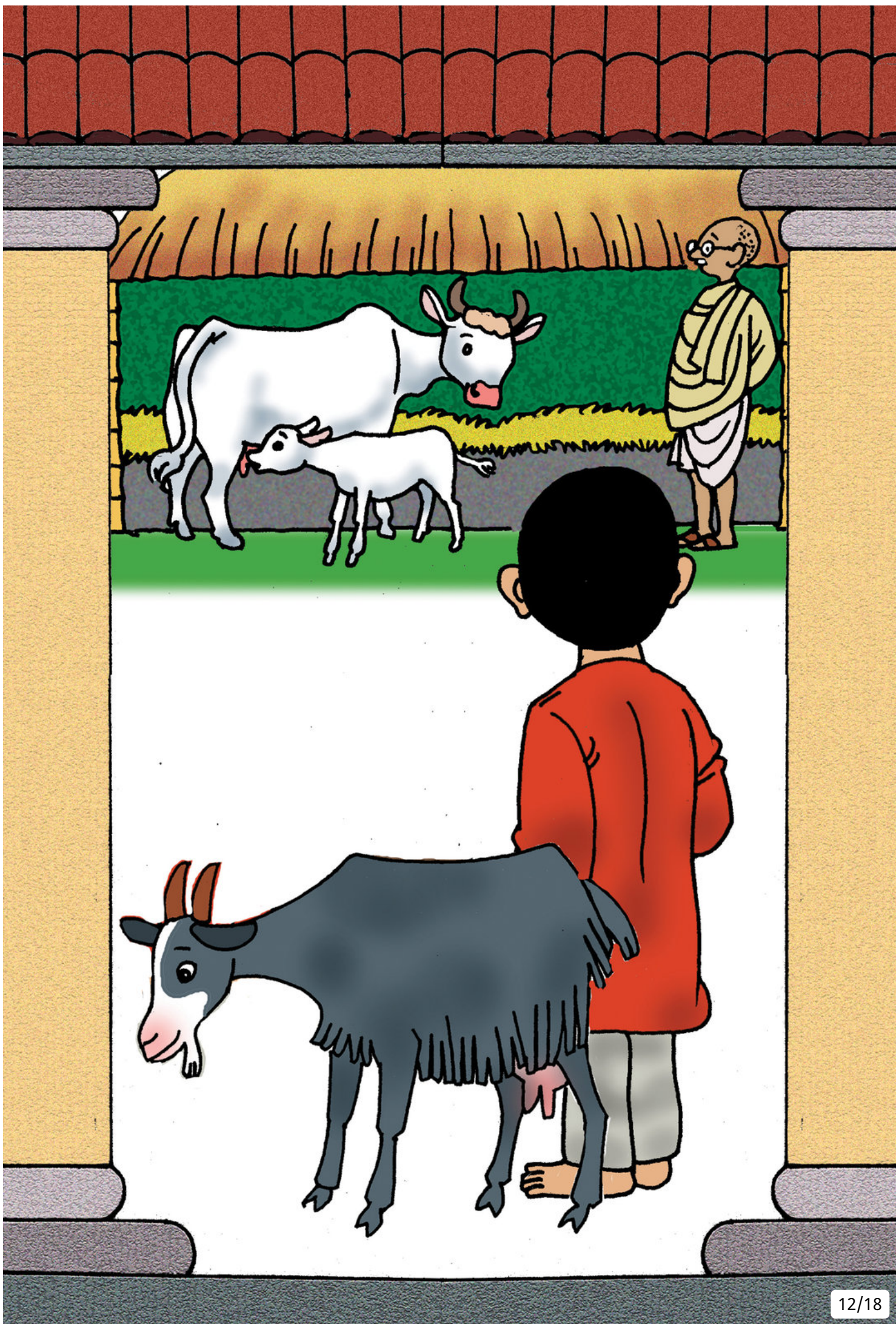






"Papa, will you go for the march? with Gandhiji?"

"Yes, Dhani, we must all do what we can to protest against injustice."





"Look, Binni, there's Gandhiji. What can we do to help with Gandhiji's protest?"

"Dhani, you have a very important job during our march," said Gandhiji, kindly. "You must look after Binni, and the goats and all the other animals, when the grown-ups leave for Dandi."

Dhani beamed from ear to ear. He made a proud promise. "Don't worry Bapuji, I will protect all the animals at Sabarmati Ashram while you are gone. When you return from the march, you will find all of them safe, healthy and happy."





## THE DANDI MARCH

On March 12th, 1930, Gandhiji and 78 men from the Ashram walked for almost four hundred km towards Dandi. Every day they marched peacefully for about fifteen km a day, through many villages and towns of Gujarat. As they marched, more followers joined in. Everywhere along the way, they were welcomed with flowers and songs. At the end of twenty-four days, fifty thousand protesters reached Dandi. They walked up to the seashore. There they made their own salt out of seawater. At the end of the march, Gandhiji picked up grains of salt in his own hand as a symbol of the protest against the British.

BREAKING NEWS!

INDIA's NON-VIOLENT PROTEST - SATYAGRAHA

The news of Dandi March spread like wildfire.

There were pictures in all newspapers and reports on the radio. People all over the world came to know that the Indians were protesting against the British.

Gandhiji and his followers were arrested by the police.

All across India, supporters from schools, colleges and offices joined Gandhiji's peaceful movement. Sixty thousand protesters were imprisoned. The jails of India filled up with freedom fighters. But they all followed Gandhiji's principle of 'Ahimsa' or non-violence.

The whole world watched as the people of India joined in the largest non-violent freedom struggle in the history of the world. It came to be known as "Satyagraha - the force of Truth".



# GREAT MARCH FOR LIBERTY BEGINS.

## Mahatma Starts With His Chosen Band Of 78.

RUMOURS OF IMPENDING ARREST  
BELIED.

Ashram Besieged By Eager Crowds:

SOUL-STIRRING SCENES ON BIDDING FAREWELL.

1,000 WOMEN PARTICIPATE IN HUGE PROCESSION.

CONGRESS FLAG  
BOASTED IN  
JAPAN.

Association With Chinese  
Revolutionary Revived.

FIRST STEP  
TOWARDS SWARAJ.

Gandhi's Address  
Atul Village.

PROBABLE OF 24.7.

LABOUR GOVT. CAN'T  
PLAY TORY GAME.

"Daily Herald" Quotes Burke  
On "Great Empire & Little  
Minds"

"NO REPRESSIVE POLICY  
IN INDIA"



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## March for Freedom (English)

Mahatma Gandhi and his followers have decided to march to Dandi to protest against the unfair salt tax imposed by the British. 9-year-old Dhani who lives at the Sabarmati Ashram wants to go too. This tale captures the spirit behind the momentous event that inspired millions of Indians to join the struggle for Independence.

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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