

## THE MAGIC RING

Once upon a time, there was a great king. He had been given a magic ring by a pious saint. The saint had guaranteed that the king would be able to keep his throne as long as he had the ring on his finger

Now, as ill luck would have it, the king chanced to lose the magic ring one day. He was so afraid that he was ready to do anything to get the ring back. He got it proclaimed that he would give his daughter's hand to whoever got the ring back for him.

A number of people tried luck but none of them could find the ring. At last a young man came to the king and offered to bring the ring back.

The young man had three abnormal friends who were always ready to help him. These friends were as under:

1. Lynx Eyes who had a very keen eye-sight and could see things lying even at the bed of the ocean.
2. Man Mountain who was so large that, when he lay down, he looked like a mountain.
3. Long John who was so tall that, when he lay down, he stretched for kilometres.

Called for help, the three friends set about the job of getting the king's ring back. The Lynx Eyes was able to spot the ring lying on a rock at the bottom of the ocean. The Man Mountain dived in the sea and brought the ring to its top. At this, the Long John plunged into the ocean and stood on the Man Mountain. Then he lifted the ring with his toes and brought it out. Thus the magic ring was recovered for the king and the young man was married to the charming princess. The royal couple lived happily ever after.