

# THE FOREST

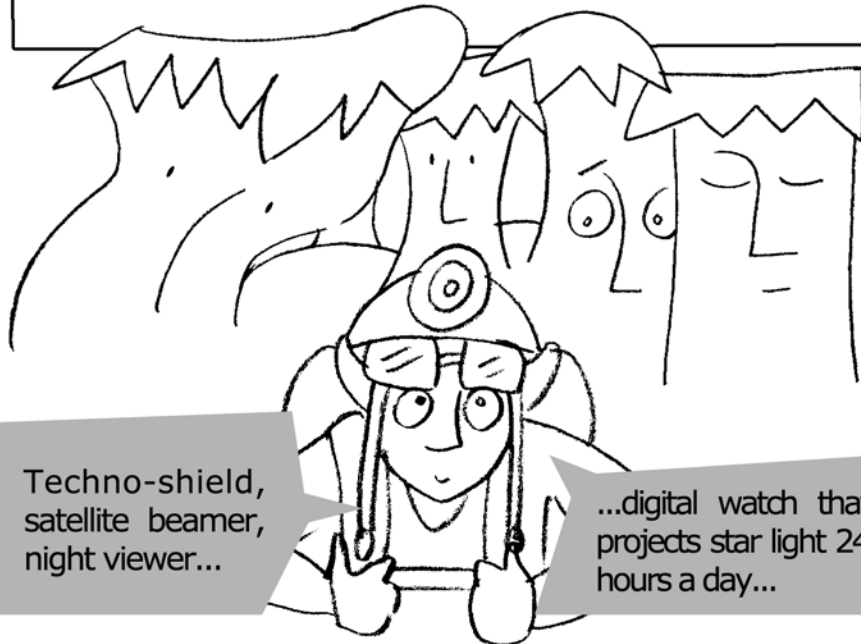
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The Story of Marty

Marty has been on planet earth for a long time and has covered a lot of ground; travelled along streets, roads and highways but still hasn't found his way home...



"EHM... THIS PATH ISN'T LIKE THE OTHER ONES..."

...looks more like an underground tunnel. Some call it the *inner path*. Gee it's getting dark. But I have no reason to worry. I'm perfectly equipped!



Techno-shield, satellite beamer, night viewer...

...digital watch that projects star light 24 hours a day...

He turns on all his gadgets, confident in their help, but strange enough. Nothing works!

"OH COM'ON!"

Nothing's working! And they call it technology! Seems more like tricknology\* to me!

Marty trips and jumps back. A dark shadow is laying in front of him. It's a snake!

"A SNAKE!"



Watch out, Marty. It might be poisonous.

\* Some expressions in this story are quoted or paraphrased from sayings of Sathya Sai, for which the author takes no credit.

*But at a closer look the boy realizes that it's not a snake at all, just the play of the senses!*



Whew! What a scare!  
It's just an old rope.

SIC!

"OOF! GETTING OUT OF THIS FOREST IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT!"



Maybe I made a mistake,  
not suppose to be here...  
chose the wrong path.  
What a fool!

*A comforting song rises up from within his heart.*

"When I'm sad and I'm afraid and don't  
know what to do..."

My mind in doubt, my face a pout,  
feeling such a fool. I start the day  
and sit and pray, hoping that I'll find  
my way. And then I hear, within my  
ear...



Take heed, Marty!

"Fearlessness is what  
you need..."

Who's there?  
Who talked?

... or you'll never get out of this forest! Oh, and by the way... that rope... On planet earth things can appear different from what they really are.



**WOW!**

You're a real live elephant and you talk!

Elephant? Ehm, elephant is not the word...

"Did you just get here?"



Actually I landed on the planet quite a long time ago sir. Could you lead me out of this forest?

I could, but you'll have to adjust your antennas.

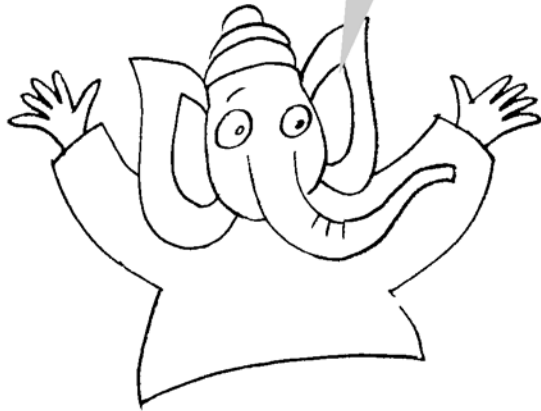


"ADJUST MY WHAT?!"

Will you follow the advice I give you?

I sure will!

OK, I'll make an opening for you to get through! Now do one thing. Throw away your sleeping bag, you won't need it anymore. Catch me?



Marty flings his sleeping bag and back-pack out of the way.



"I won't need this old rag bag anyway"... he thinks to himself.

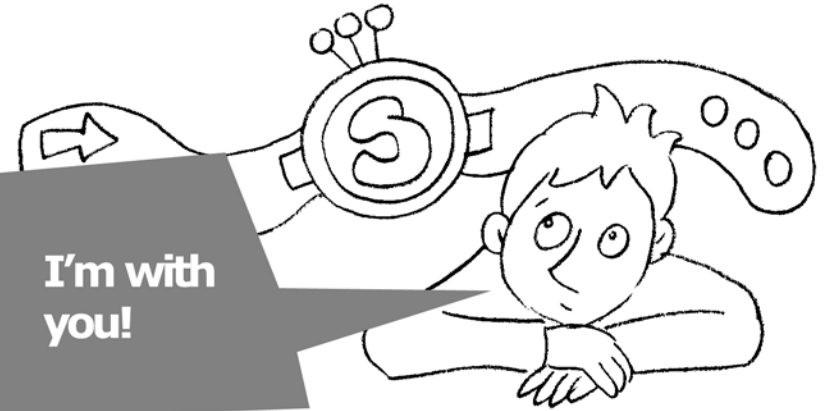
With all that weight off my shoulders everything feels lighter!



"Good. Now listen attentively. What is important is to know where you're going and why. Call it goal, focus or vision, it will guide you on your journey." The elephant's tone is firm and clear. He knows what he's saying.

"Your thoughts and feelings are what count the most, you need to learn to observe, to watch them... Are you with me?"

I'm with you!



"Catch this!" says the elephant, tossing Marty a watch. "It will help you remember. Pretty original, isn't it?"

Looks like a compass to me. Well, thank you.

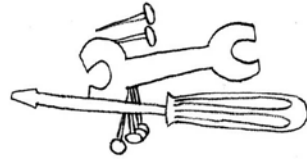
Now look who's coming! A mouse and a monkey! The mouse hands Marty a key, and the monkey a bag full of tools.



Take this!



You'll need that key, Marty, and the tools will serve useful too...while you tread the path.



Now listen closely. You'll have to build faith in yourself. Self confidence is the foundation of the mansion of life! Remember that.



Self-confidence?

Yes Sir.

Let's see, I guess that's more or less all you need to know. Oh, well of course, Don't follow the body, it's like a water bubble!



"A WATER BUBBLE..."



"And don't follow the mind! It's like a mad monkey!"

**"FOLLOW THE MASTER!"**

Be confident, be sure, be happy, take the lead!

Be character! Be Pure! In thought, word and deed.

In truth you know you can love and serve your fellowman.

With beauty in your heart you'll know from where to start.

And if goodness will shine in your mind.... no problems you will ever find!

The elephant, the mouse and the monkey leave the scene...



What happened to everyone? Mr. Elephant! Are you there?

Alone again in this big, wild forest, with a key, a watch and a bag of tools. Hey, look! There's something written on this key: "See always inside". Wonder what that means. Well, let's start by looking inside of this bag of tools!

Watch out for..

**DISTRACTIONS**

**DOUBTS**

Despair



The 5 D's and more. Instructions for use. Don't be distracted by doubt, depression, despondency, disappointment and delusion.



Be devoted to your mission, your vision.

Use your discrimination: watch your steps!

Let discipline mind you.... and discipline that mind!

Be determined to finish this game: never give up!

And remember, its your duty to get back home!

**Delusions**

At the bottom of the bag there seems to be something else...



"WAIT!"



Looks like more instructions. Let's see...

BUT...

"Read me later!  
First get home!"

Marty ponders over the meaning of his encounter, and as he thinks about all the new things he learned that day his confidence gets stronger. He takes a step and then another, and starts whistling a happy tune. It's time to move on!

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don't know what to do...

My mind in doubt, my face a  
pout, feeling such a fool.

I start the day and sit and pray,  
hoping that I'll find my way.

And then I hear, within my ear, a  
voice resounding so...

Be confident, be sure,  
be happy, take the lead!

Be character! Be Pure!  
In thought, word and deed.

In truth, you know, you can  
love and serve your fellowman.



With beauty in your heart  
you'll know from where to  
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And if goodness will shine  
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"... AND WHEN GOODNESS WILL  
SHINE IN MY MIND, NO PROBLEMS  
WILL I EVER FIND!"

