



মহাশিক্ষা বিভাগ (সংস্কৃত)  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

## LESSON- 5

### BITTER GOOSEBERRIES

#### NOTES:

##### SUMMARY:

There was once a snake and he lived in a gooseberry bush, and every night he turned into a handsome prince. There was also a woman who lived in a little bamboo house and she had three daughters called Ma Gyi, Ma Lat and Ma Nge. Ma Nge was the youngest and the nicest and the most beautiful. One day the mother went out to fetch some gooseberries from the forest. She saw the snake. Then the woman said, “If you like my eldest daughter, Ma Gyi, give me a gooseberry.” He didn’t care for Ma Gyi because he knew she had a terrible temper, but he gave her a gooseberry. The mother again said, “If you like my second daughter, Ma Lat, give me another gooseberry.” The snake knew that Ma Lat had a squint but he didn’t want to hurt anyone’s feeling, so he gave her another gooseberry. Thus encouraged, she said, “And if you like my youngest daughter, Ma Nge, give me another gooseberry.” The snake trembled so violently from top to tail that every gooseberry fell off the bush.

The snake followed the woman to her house; he slid out and coiled round her arm. The woman cried: “If you love my daughter Ma Nge, let go!” The snake fell swooning to the ground. And as night came, the mother found a prince in the snake’s place, smitten with love for her youngest daughter. And she wasted no time in getting him married to Ma Nge. However, Ma Nge found it rather irritating being married to a prince who was her husband by night and a snake by day.

Ma Nge found her husband a job and he completely forgot how to turn himself back into a snake. He stuck to his job so hard that his wife felt quite lonely. He became so disgusted with her constant nagging that he turned into a snake again and started to swallow his wife.

The prince then told his mother in law to let him live like a prince for she wanted a prince for a son-in law. The mother agreed to his terms and he unswallowed his wife. And from that day onwards the two women did all the work while the prince sat in the verandah and drank a wonderful beer made from bitter gooseberries.

## WORD MEANINGS:

Gooseberry: *a small, round green, sharp tasting fruit that grows on a bush*

Fond: *having a great liking*

Squint: *a disorder of the eye muscles causing the eyes to look in two different directions*

Slid: *go smoothly over a surface, wind or twist round and round*

Coil: *a continuous circular shape*

Temper: *state or condition of the mind*

Relish: *to enjoy; be pleased and satisfied with*

Smitten: *to have a powerful, sudden effect on; becoming suddenly fond of a person*

Supplicant: *a person begging something from someone in power*

Spell: *a condition caused by magical power*

Enormous: *extremely large*

Amorous: *feeling or expressing love*

