



Once upon a time, Trees and People were friends.

They cared very deeply for each other. Trees had feet and could also walk, just like People. You would see Trees and People dancing and singing together. Their children would play together merrily.

Jugnu Rani, the smallest of Fireflies, loved this friendship.



But she felt very bad when she looked at herself. **“Why is my body so small?”** she wondered. “Had I been a little bigger, I could have played games with Trees and People. How I wish I could join them in singing songs. But, I am small and so alone. What can I do?” She would think this and become sad.

One such day, Jugnu spotted a group of Honeybees. She saw that Rani Madhumakhi, the queen-bee, was sitting on a flower. Jugnu quickly flew to her and asked, **“Rani Madhumakhi, what are you doing? Why are you sitting on these flowers?”**





“I am doing something very useful. I’m collecting nectar from these Flowers,” replied Rani Madhumakhi happily. “I’ll make honey from it. People love honey. I will also eat the honey, just like other Honeybees. When I take nectar from these Flowers, it helps the Plants.”

Although Jugnu was pleased with Rani Madhumakhi’s efforts, she thought to herself, **“If only I could also do something useful..”**

Touched by Suraj Dada's words, Jugnu said "Suraj Dada, you are so clever that all the praises for you are not enough... I'm only a little Firefly, but I would also love to do something like you, for our world."

Suraj Dada said wisely, "**Jugnu, you should first travel the world, and understand it...learn from it.** If you don't find something useful by yourself, then come back to me. I will happily show you how to help Mother Nature."

Taking his advice, Jugnu took off without a second thought.



The beautiful Mehrauli island

Jugnu flew all the way to Mehrauli, a tiny island in a long and wide river. Everyone—Animals, Flowers, Birds, and Insects, Plants, Trees and People—came here for holidays and enjoyed themselves.



The air was cool and everything was in bloom that day. Everyone was busy preparing for the spring festival of Basant. Later, it would be time for the annual Friendship-Meal.