

RAMESH THE PETTY SMUGGLER

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Intent of the story

- *Expectations bring frustrations.*
- *Looking for small things we miss the essentials*
- *Looking at the trees we miss the forest*
- *Overstressing rituals we overlook reality*
- *Overdoing celebrations we forget what we celebrate*

The Story

Ramesh was an elderly man who lived near the border of two states. Every week Ramesh would take his bicycle across the border with a basket full of straw on the handle bar and another one on the back carrier. And every time he crossed the border patrol, the octroi officers would carefully check the straw baskets for anything that might be hidden. But they would find nothing.

One day the officers were sitting at the local chai shop having their chai when Ramesh happened to pass along. So they called him to join them and said: Look here Ramesh, every week you come across this border on your bicycle. We know that you are smuggling something but we haven't found out what. But anyway you're a simple fellow so if you tell us what you're smuggling we promise not to spoil your *danda*. So Ramesh told them what he had been smuggling all along: bicycles!