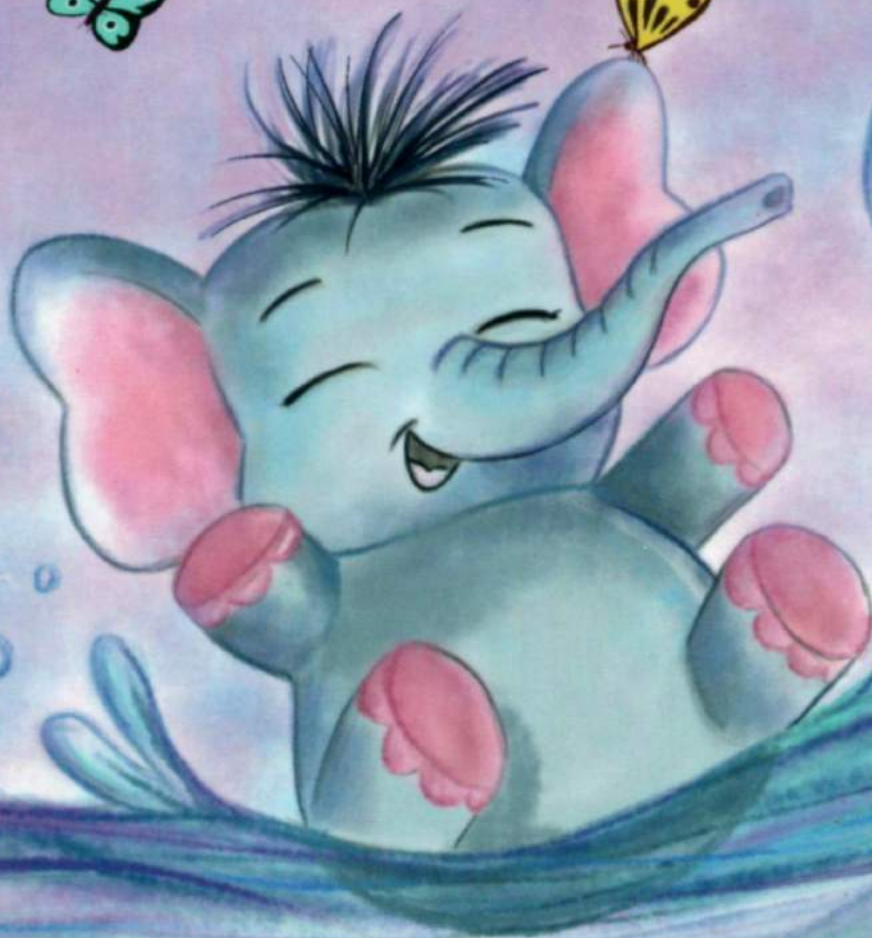


ELEPHANT TALES



SHANTHI RADHAKRISHNAN
ILLUSTRATED BY VIDYA VASUDEVAN



Elephant Tales

Second Edition

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Illustrations

By

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Dedication
To
Jaahnvi
&
All My
Grandchildren

Content of the Book

This children's book is in ten small chapters and narrates the adventures of a baby elephant. The elephant herd is on its migration to find fresh green pastures and adequate water. The mystery hinted at in the beginning is solved at the end of the book on a happy note. This book is written to help a child understand more about wild life and to make them realize that Planet Earth, is home to a wide variety of animals and birds and insects. We are all part of one large web, with each species interdependent on the other for survival.

Preface

This story is set in the forests of India, and the scenes described have actually been witnessed by me, firsthand, in my more than thirty years of “wildlifing.” Of all the denizens in the forests, the most visible by their sheer size are elephants.

Elephant herds in the wild consume a huge quantity of fodder, and they keep on moving through well delineated and familiar migration paths. This migration allows for regrowth of vegetation in exhausted grazing areas. The leader of the herd is the matriarch or dominant female. Another female brings up the rear with the young in the middle for protection.

The Malabar Giant Squirrel mentioned in the story is endemic to South and Central India. It is one of the most colorful of the canopy wildlife, with the face of a rabbit and a very large, luxuriant tail.


All the facts and animal behaviors in the narration are scientifically accurate with just an occasional fictional digression, to hold the interest of young readers and help them to relate to the story line.

Acknowledgement

Ajay Desai and his group who were the experts on the Asian Elephant.

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Our Planet Earth is home to all the living creatures that walk and fly, swim and crawl, and stand still. Each is unique, indispensable, and beautiful. Elephant Tales provides young readers with the valuable lesson that Planet Earth can sustain everyone's need, but not anyone's greed.



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