



## Kailari

Tortured by the evil landowner, Dukhuwa and his family leave to make a new home in an unknown land. They cut through dangerous forests, cross multiple rivers, and face unimaginable obstacles. Will they ever find a new home?



Kailari  
Chhabilal Kopila

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# Let's Read



**The Asia Foundation**



Dukhuwa Tharu works hard to put together a small plot of land in Deukhuri.



But the landowner tricks him and snatches the land away. Dejected, Dukhuwa makes up his mind to leave the village.



The following morning, Dukhuwa wakes up early. His wife, Dukhaniya, is already up. Bipattiya, their 12 -year-old daughter, stirs awake.



Then, Dukhuwa wakes his son. Mangalawa yawns and asks, "Baba, why are you waking me up so early in the morning?"



Once they finish packing, they untie the sheep, cow, and ox. Balancing the wooden bahinga pole with their belongings on one side and Mangalawa on the other, Dukhuwa and his family set out on their journey. A few other villagers also decide to join them.





After passing through the first forest, Dukhuwa looks back. He sees fields where he poured years of his own sweat; the serpentine Rapti river; grass-thatched homes set up like train cars; and green meadows as far as the eye can see. His heart becomes heavy. "Can I really leave this village, my birthplace, for good?" he thinks. Meanwhile, Mangalawa asks in a sad voice, "Baba, why didn't Budhana come? If he doesn't come, who will I play marbles with?" Mangalawa had been looking for his best friend.



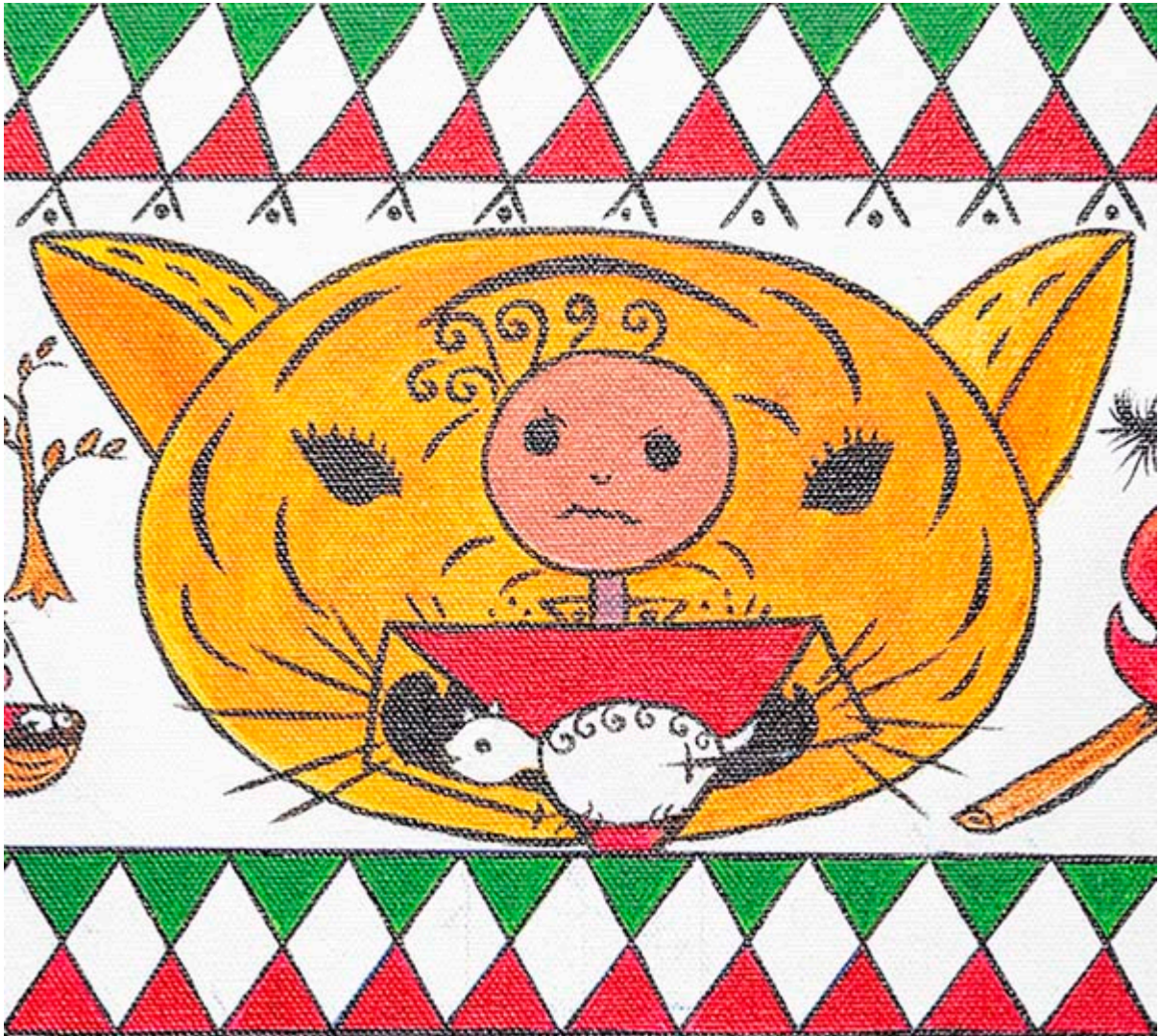
After walking for a while, they stop by a river to cook food.



Mangalawa starts playing with Munu, his pet lamb. But Bipattiya grabs Munu and runs off. Crying and screaming, Mangalawa runs after her. Bipattiya trips over a rock and falls down. "Ha! Serves you right!" Mangalawa squeals. He grabs Munu and runs off.



The forest is quiet. As they walk, they hear something that sounds like a tiger's growl. Mangalawa's face turns pale with fear.



But he sees that Munu is also trembling. "Don't be afraid, Munu. I won't let anything happen to you." Mangalawa puts on a brave face.



When darkness falls, they find a clearing in the forest to set up camp. During the night, a snake bite kills Bipattiya in her sleep. Everyone mourns. With tears in his eyes, Mangalawa places Munu on Bipattiya's chest. He regrets not letting her play with the lamb yesterday.



The next morning, accompanied by birdsong, they set out. Without Bipattiya, everyone walks in quiet sorrow. All day, Mangalawa's eyes are filled with tears. Crossing a wide body of water, they come across yet another forest. They decide to spend the night there. Just as they are preparing to sleep, they hear the roar of a tiger. Everyone gets up to bang on pots and pans, making a lot of noise. Clanging on a steel plate, Mangalawa jumps up and down. Tonight, his excitement takes over his fear.



In the morning, they find that Munu is missing. They look for him, but he is nowhere to be found. Mangalawa beats his chest and cries, but no matter how much he cries, Munu doesn't return. No one knows that Munu had been snatched by a tiger during the night.

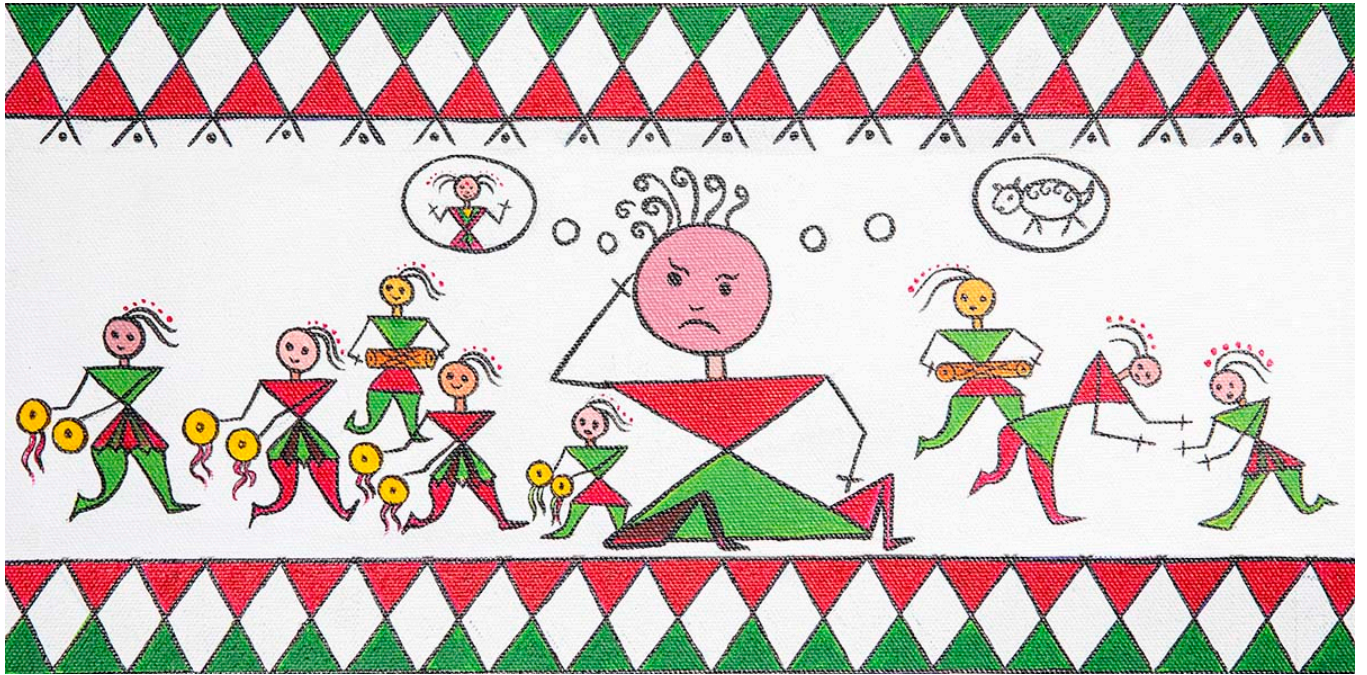




The morning clouds are as gloomy as Mangalawa's heart.



Once they cross over a hill, they arrive at a flat area. Littered with shrubs and bushes, the land appears expansive. It is the perfect place for a new village, a new home. They rest their load.



The villagers are excited. But Mangalawa's heart is empty. Where is Bipattiya? Where is Munu? That night, he falls asleep without eating anything.



Early in the morning, they start making a new place to live, just like honey bees do. Some start digging up tree roots. Others start making their house. Together, they all make a beautiful village by their strength.



Crops begin to grow in no time. The land becomes green. And so they decide to call the place Kailbari, meaning greenery. Over time, it becomes known as Kailari.



One day, Munu's mother gives birth to a new calf. Mangalawa feels joy. It is like Munu has returned home.



After a few days, a new family arrives in Kailari. It is Budhana's family.



Mangalawa's heart becomes full with happiness. The two run off to play marbles.



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