

### **A MAN HIDES IN A WELL**

A man who has committed a crime is running away; as guards are following him, he tries to hide himself by descending into a well by means of some vines that are growing in it.

As he descends he notices a viper in bottom of the well, so he decides to cling to the vine for safety. After a time, his arms start to get tired, he notices two mice, a white one and a black one, gnawing at the vine. If the vine breaks, he will fall on the viper and die.

Suddenly, on looking upward, he notices just above his face a bee-hive from which occasionally falls a drop of honey. The man, forgetting all his danger, tastes the honey with delight.

\* Discuss about the story.

- “man” means those who are born to suffer and to die alone.
  - Review Four Noble Truths
  
- “Guards” and “Viper” refers to the body with all its desires.
  - Review the sufferings.
  
- “Vines in a well” means the continuity of the human life.
  - Review the impermanence.
  
- “Two mice” refers to the duration of time, to night and day, and passing of years.
  - Review the interdependence.
  
- “Sweet honey” is the rare happiness that misleads the suffering of passing years.
  - Review the Four Noble Truths.