The True Son
Class III Book 1

The True Son
Class III Book 1

Department of School Education
Ministry of Education and Skills Development
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu

Published by
School Curriculum Division
Department of School Eduction (DSE)
Ministry of Education and Skills Development
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu

Tel: +975-2-332885/332880
Toll Free: 1850
Website: www.education.gov.bt

Copyright © 2022 Department of School Eduction (DSE), Ministry of Education and Skills Development.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the permission from Department of School Eduction (DSE), Ministry of Education and Skills Development.

This book remains the property of the Ministry of Education and Skills Development *and must not be taken out of the school at any time.*

Pilot Edition 1991

First Edition 1992

New Edition 1992

Revised in 2007 by the English Curriculum Review Team Classes PP-IV

Revised 2010

Reprint 2023

ISBN 99936-0-141-1

The True Son

Do you like school? Is your school near your village or do you sleep in a hostel?

This story is about a boy called Norbu. His village was many kilometres away from his school, so he lived with the other boys in the school hostel. Norbu had no friends at school.

Reprint 2023

He was not very good at his lessons. Sometimes the other boys in his class laughed at him because he was very poor in his studies. He felt very sad and always wanted to go back to his family.

Every night he dreamed about his mother, father and brothers. He dreamed about the big mountain behind his house with the temple where the lamas prayed. He often woke up in the middle of the night and cried.

Reprint 2023

One day, Norbu made a plan to run away from the school. That night he put his clothes in a bag. When the other boys went to sleep Norbu quietly ran away.

Reprint 2023

Norbu’s village was far away. The path that leads to his village went through a big forest. It was very dark under the tall trees and Norbu was frightened. He began to run. Suddenly he heard someone behind him. Who was it?

“Norbu, Norbu.”

“W-Who is there?” asked Norbu.

Reprint 2023

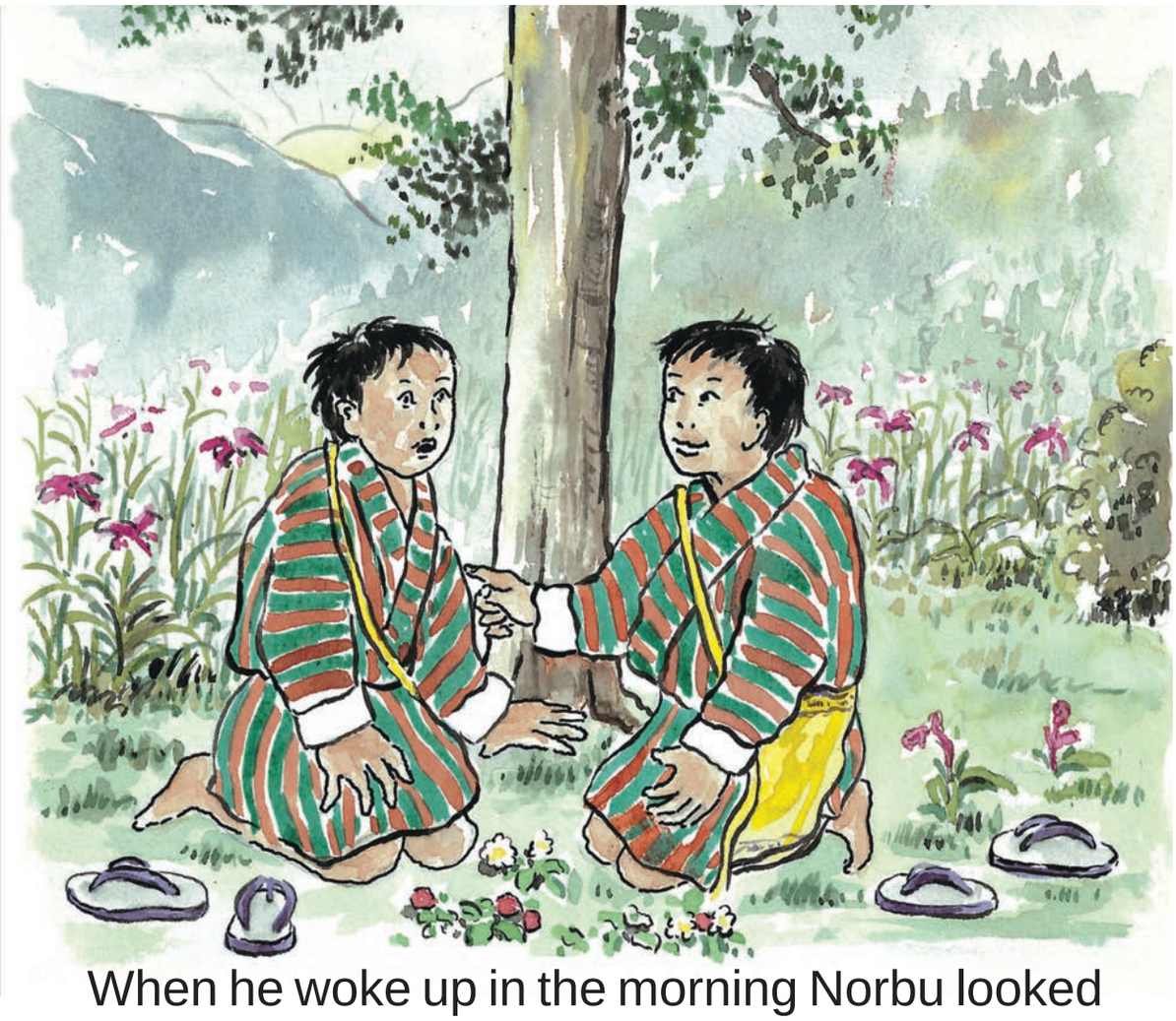
A young boy was standing in the forest. Norbu could not see his face because it was dark but the boy looked the same age as him. Norbu felt delighted and the two boys began to walk together to the village.

Reprint 2023

The boy asked Norbu everything about his family, his school and his village. Norbu was happy to have a friend and told him all about himself and his family.

It was very dark and cold in the forest. They could not go further, so they lay down under a tall tree and went to sleep.

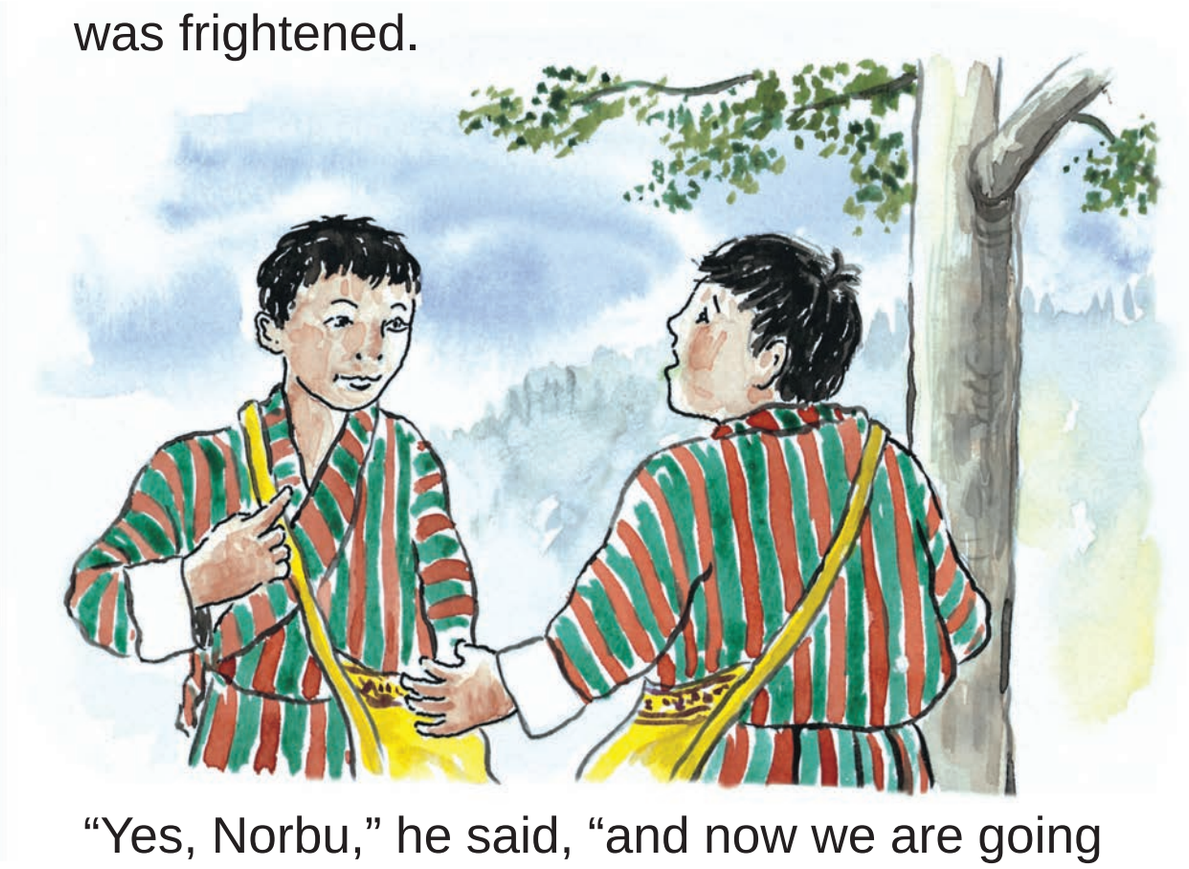
Reprint 2023



When he woke up in the morning Norbu looked at his friend. Norbu became very frightened. The boy looked exactly like him. It was like looking in a mirror. The same face, the same hair and the same clothes. He must be a demon!

Reprint 2023

The boy laughed when he saw that Norbu was frightened.



"Yes, Norbu," he said, "and now we are going to go to your house. Your father and mother must choose their true son. If they choose you I will go back to the forest but if they choose me you will die!"

Reprint 2023

Norbu did not know what to do. The demon boy spoke like him, looked like him and did the same things as he did. How could his father and mother know which one was their true son? He was very worried.

When they saw the village, both boys began to run down the path as quickly as they could.

Reprint 2023

When he got near his house Norbu went inside quickly and locked the door but the demon boy walked through the wall and stood beside him. He laughed quietly when he saw how frightened Norbu was.

Reprint 2023

Then Norbu's mother came out of the kitchen and Norbu went to hug her but the demon boy pushed past him and hugged her first.

"Mother, mother. Look, it's me. It's Norbu," shouted Norbu but the demon boy also said:

"Hello, mother. I am your son, Norbu."

Reprint 2023

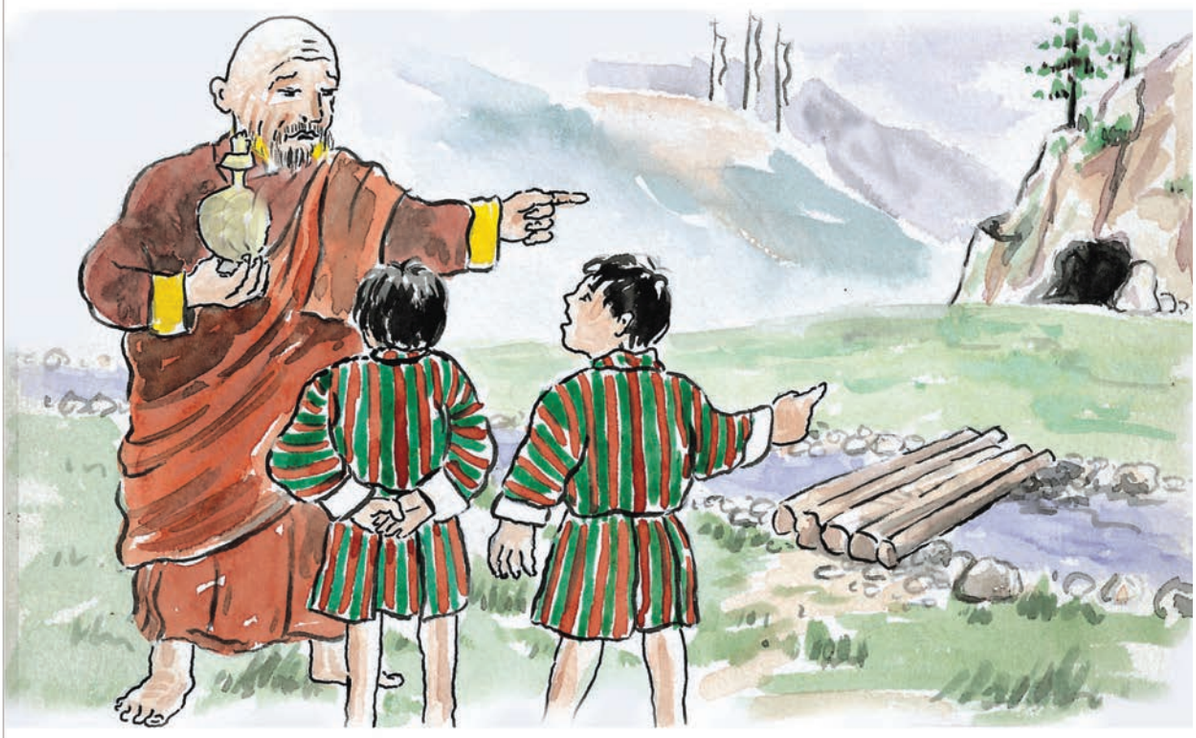
Norbu's mother was old but a very clever woman. She had heard stories about demon children who lived in the forests and mountains.

She looked carefully at both the boys.

"One of you is my true son," she said, "and I am going to find out which one of you is that."

Reprint 2023

The next day Norbu's mother called the village lama to help her.



The lama looked at the two boys and showed them a vase. He said, "I am going to put this vase inside that cave. When I count three, you must run to the cave. The first boy who reaches the cave and climbs into the vase is the true son. The other boy will die!"

Reprint 2023

Norbu was terrified and began to sob. He knew that the demon boy could run faster than him.

Norbu's mother looked at both the boys and gave them a big hug each.

"Do your best and good luck to both of you," she said.

Reprint 2023

The lama counted “One, two, three!” and the boys began to run.

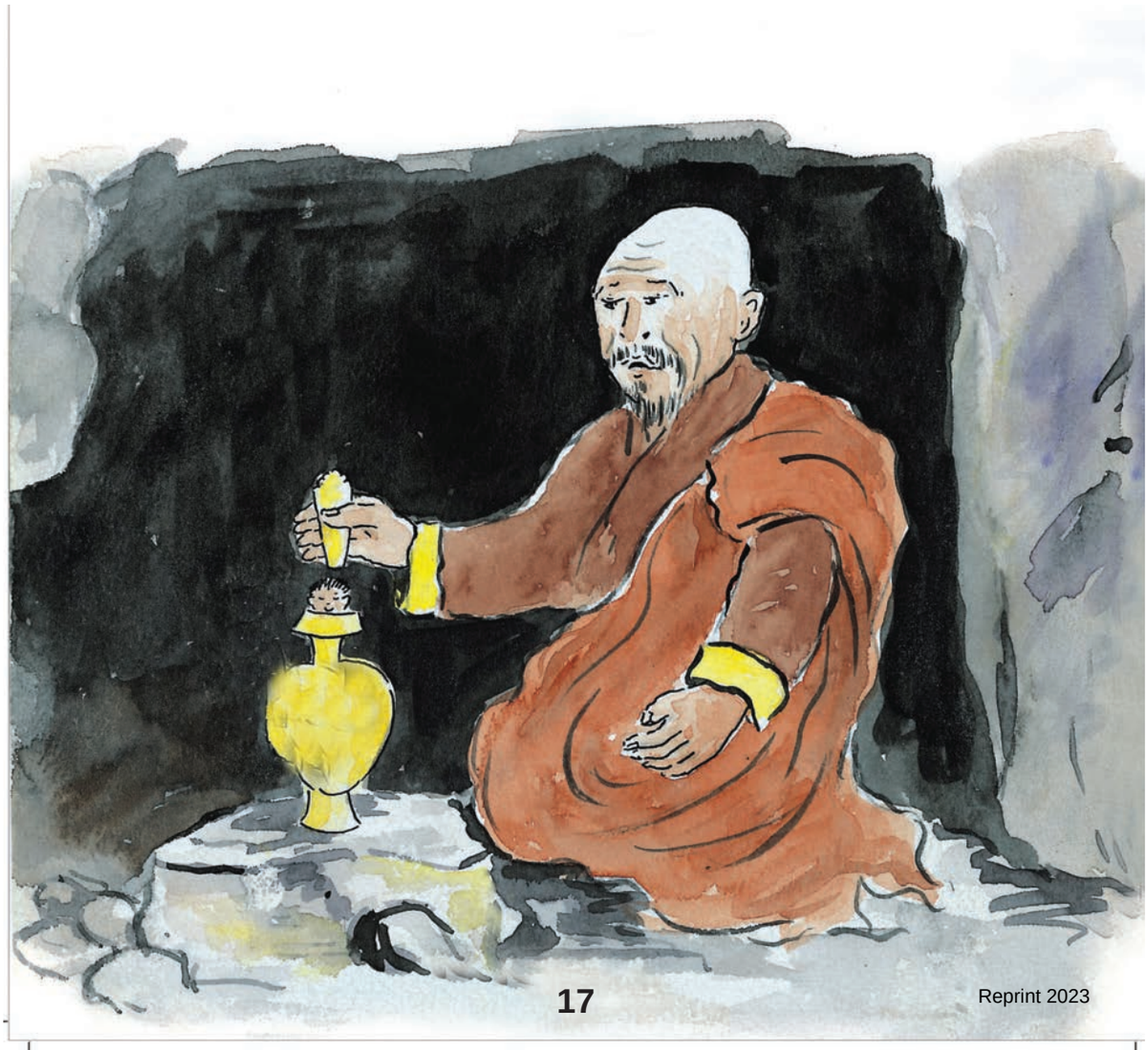
Reprint 2023

Norbu ran as quickly as he could but the demon boy ran like the wind. He got to the cave in a minute and climbed quickly into the vase.

Norbu was far, far behind. He began to cry as he saw the demon boy climb into the vase. He felt very frightened.

Reprint 2023

But the lama who was kneeling beside the vase in the cave immediately put the lid on. The demon boy was trapped inside and could not get out.



Reprint 2023

“You are the true son,” the Lama said to Norbu. Norbu ran to his mother and father and hugged them happily.

Reprint 2023

VISION

"An education and enlightened society of GNH, built and sustained on the unique Bhutanese values of Tha Dam-Tsig Ley Gju-Drey."