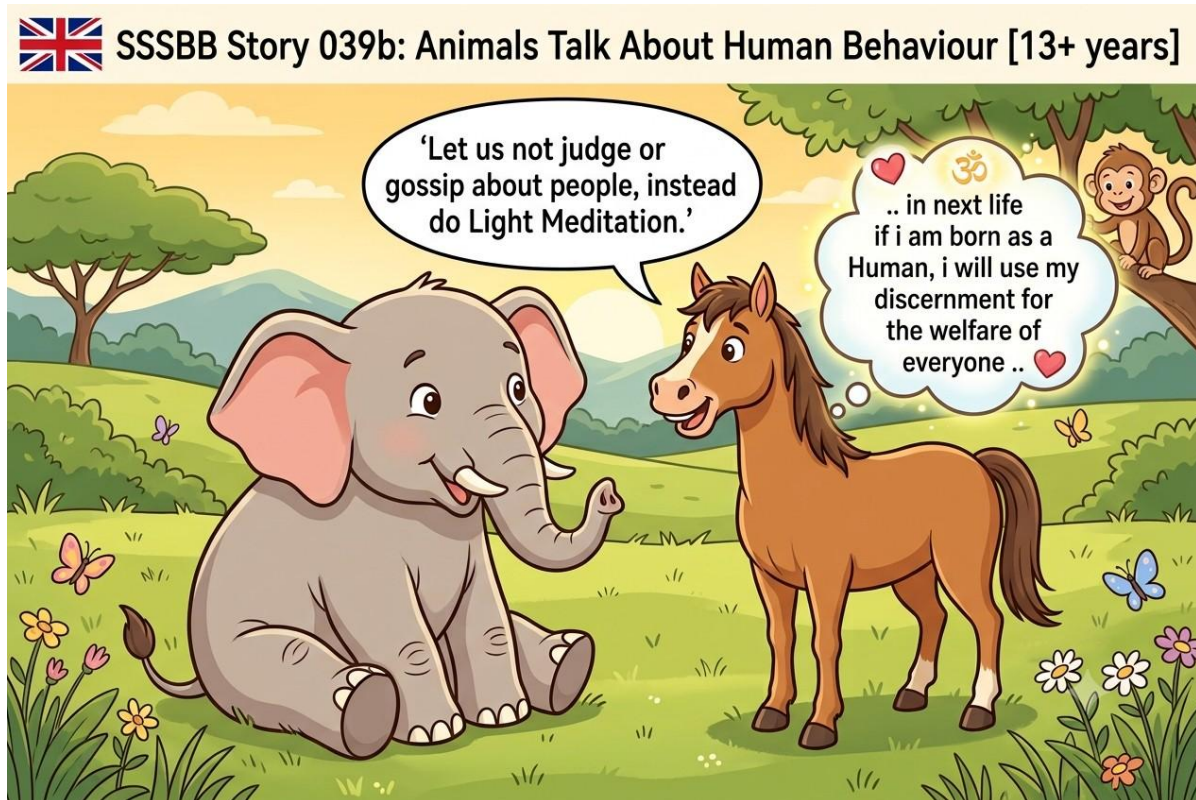




An elephant and a horse were having a conversation, in animal language, about humans.

Elephant: *"It's not good to gossip about others, but there's something I don't understand."*

Horse: *"We should never gossip, my friend Elephant. But tell me, what troubles you? If we don't know the answer, we can always ask the clever Fox."*

Elephant: *"It's about humans. They have discernment — they know exactly what is right and what is wrong — yet they don't always use it. They get jealous, sometimes dishonest, and often think they are better than other people and even better than animals. They get angry over the smallest things. Some people act as if they are the gods of us animals. They put our families in zoos. They know that eating vegetarian is healthier, yet they still eat our kind. I would love to tell humans all of this... but they don't understand our animal language."*

The horse had also noticed this, but said: *"You're right, but I don't want to judge or gossip about people. From now on, I will do light-meditation: think good, hear good, and see good. And who knows... maybe in my next life I will be born as a human. Then I will use my power of discernment and set a good example."*

The elephant felt regret for his thoughts and words and said: *"You are right. I also hope to be born as a human one day. From now on, I will never gossip again. I will only see the good in people."*

Together, they began imagining what they would do if they were reborn as humans.

The elephant said: *"If I am born as a human in my next life, the first thing I will do is convince other people to close all zoos and set all animals free. And also to become vegetarian — just like we elephants and horses. Second, only after I have used my own discernment, I will give a speech and tell everyone about my experiences, and the importance of using our inner wisdom in everything we do."*

Elephant: *"And what would be the first thing you'd do, dear Horse, if you were to become a human?"*

The horse said: *"If I am born as a human in my next life, the first thing I'll do is rent a horse, and ride through the entire city to see where the opportunities are to do seva (selfless service). After that, I want to help as many plants, animals, and people as I can. And once I have started doing seva myself, I will give a speech to inspire others, sharing the opportunities I found and my experiences."*

Question and Heart-Work: Can you remember a time when you judged someone too quickly, but later discovered something good about them?