



A LESSON LEARNT

ONCE, a poor old farmer was travelling to a nearby town, when he met a young scholar. The scholar was very proud. He would challenge every one he met to tell him something new that he hadn't heard of before. If they couldn't, he would make them acknowledge him as the most knowledgeable person.

On seeing the farmer, the scholar challenged him but the farmer ignored the scholar and sat down to rest under a tree.

It was a hot day and the farmer was thirsty, hungry and tired. All he could think of was the food he would get to eat when he got back home. The farmer's silence made the scholar angry. He stopped pestering the farmer and opened a box of *rotis*.

Seeing the *rotis*, the farmer's mouth started watering. The scholar noticed the farmer look longingly at his food.

"These are the *rotis* I earned by imparting valuable knowledge to ignorant people. But I don't mind sharing them with you if you can tell me something that I don't already know," he said to the farmer.

The farmer sat quietly for a while. Then, giving the scholar a hard stare, he said, "Only a fool is blinded by his own knowledge."

The scholar was aghast. No one had ever told him that before.

The farmer calmly picked up half the *rotis* from the box, and as he got up to leave, he said, "This is for teaching you something that you don't know!"

— Dr. Rohini Chintha

