A CRANE AMONGST THE HERONS
There was one crane. He was innocent.
One day he went to play with herons
As he returned his mother said....

Child, you must not play with the herons. They are very sharp. They stand on one leg as if they are doing some austerity and with other leg they perform their conspiracy. You will be spoiled if you associate with them.
O mother, do not worry. As the lotus lives in the filthy place, similarly I will remain with herons. None of their bad habits will enter me.
The crane repeatedly went and mingled with the flock of herons.
The crane roamed and played with them. One day they planned for a picnic.

We are going for picnic. Will you join us?

Sure.
So the crane too set out for picnic with herons. All the herons and the crane were flying in the sky.
While flying, the herons saw that there were wholesome grains scattered in the field.
The flock of cranes glided down to pluck the grains. The innocent crane just stood there watching them.
The herons took charge of the grains and ate like hogs.
As they moved ahead to eat more, they found out that their legs were caught in the net. All the herons and the crane too was caught.
A farmer approached and said....

O attackers of my field, today I have caught you very nicely in my net! Now I will teach you a good lesson.
Hearing this, the crane said...

O farmer, I am a crane. I am really innocent. I promise, I have not eaten even one grain. O uncle, please be merciful to me. Please leave me
So what if you are innocent? Why were you moving out with the herons? Now you will also get the punishment along with the herons.
In this way, the poor crane was killed along with herons.

I wish I had listened to my mother.
MORAL:

It is better to be alone than associating with bad company.