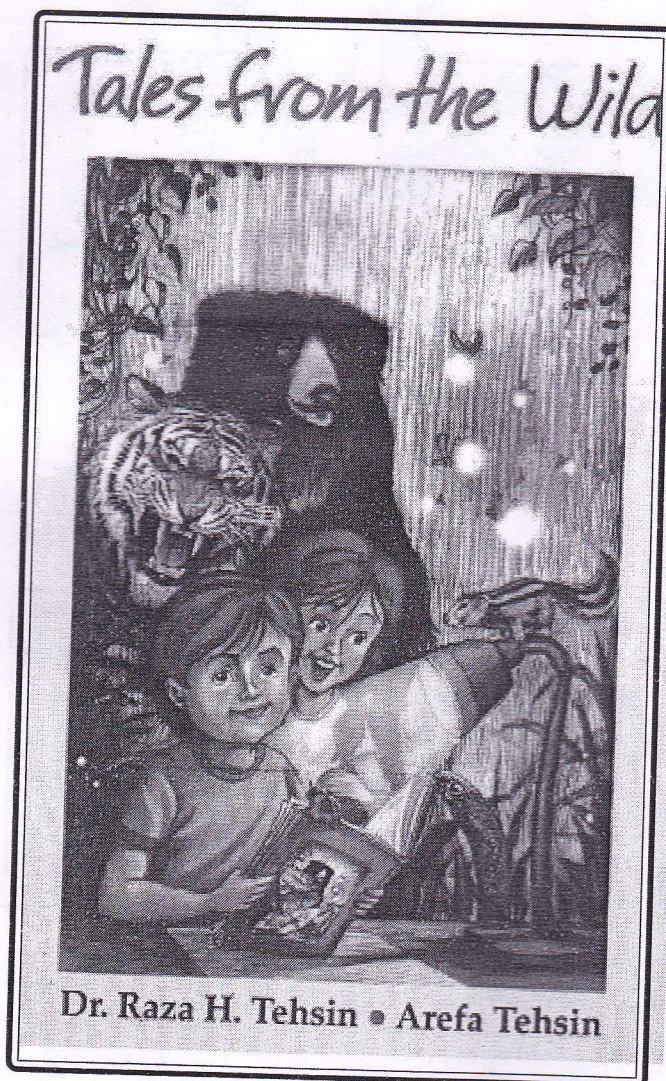


Tales from the Wild

Unicorn Books (ISBN: 978-81-7806-239-6)



Tales from the Wild is a delightful collection of short stories essentially for the growing children. Penned by veteran naturalist Dr. Raza H. Tehsin and his daughter Arefa Tehsin, both based in Udaipur (Rajasthan), the prime objective of the dozen short stories contained in the book is to create interest and understanding about nature and wilderness through what the authors call a "nature edutainment" approach. In his Preface, the senior author explains: "This book is an attempt to reconnect children, particularly adolescents, with nature, through stories. Stories are all about animals, their life cycles, jungles, the delights and thrills of the wilds, conservation, and the fact that we do not have to preserve Nature, but respect it, for it is Nature which is preserving us."

Dr. Raza Tehsin took to the natural world from his childhood days. As he himself admits: "Climbing trees, bee stings, fishing, crushing ants and roaming the wilderness with a catapult made my childhood afternoons. In those initial years, through innocent plays and heartless acts, a bond was formed with nature, unbreakable for life. It pains my heart to see that today children have been alienated from the daily interaction with Nature, especially in the cities.

The absence of understanding the natural world hampers an all-inclusive growth."

The book starts with an interesting tale titled "The Flying Lamps", which is actually about the enigmatic fireflies that can be experienced best in real wilderness and that too at night-time. People confined to urban places know nothing about these tiny creatures. The choice of this topic to start the book is indeed imaginative. Likewise, the following eleven tales relating to different animals or birds, viz. squirrels, vultures, waterhen, sambhar, bear, leopard, tiger, dhole, wild boar, otters, snakes and bats, are interesting as well as informative and also touch upon topical issues requiring conservation action, such as hunting and poaching, illegal trade in skins, loss of vultures, etc. The narrative is in simple language and made interesting with anecdotes. It is just the kind of book for children in the age group 8 to 15 years. Its black-and-white format makes the book affordable at Rs. 96/- only.

Dr. Raza Tehsin's articles have appeared in earlier issues of Mor.

by: Samar Singh, former President, WPA-India.