# THE MAGIC PUPPETS

story & illustrations by
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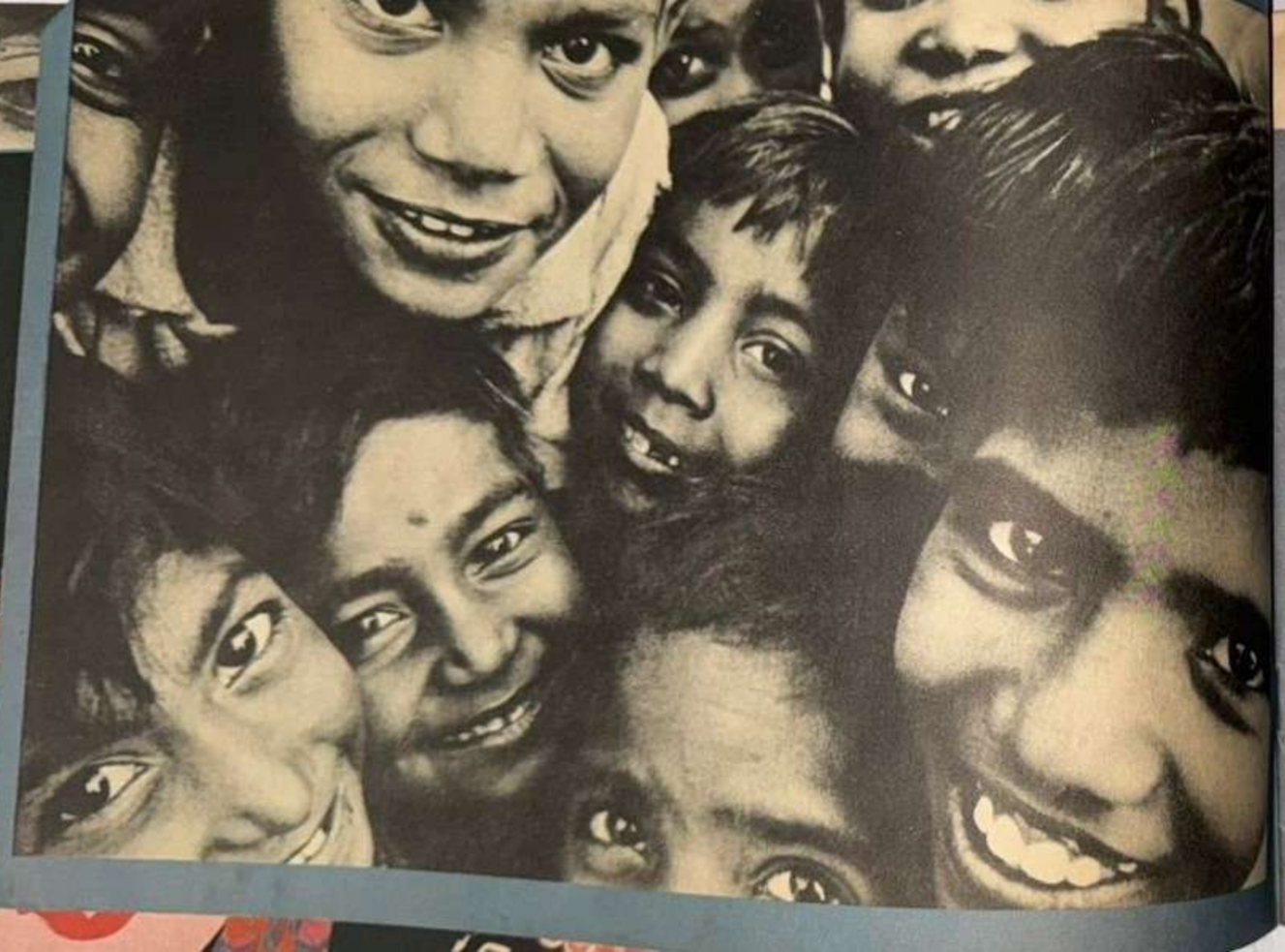
This is a puppet story
Of envy and of fury.
Meet Queen, King and Dancing Girl,
Joker, Soldier—they're in a whirl.

The Puppeteer thinks he makes

*With my Salaams*



AIR-INDIA



The children love the Joker best.
They laugh and laugh and clap with zes
When he is on the stage
The Joker is the rage.

The Puppeteer thinks he makes

*With my Salaams*

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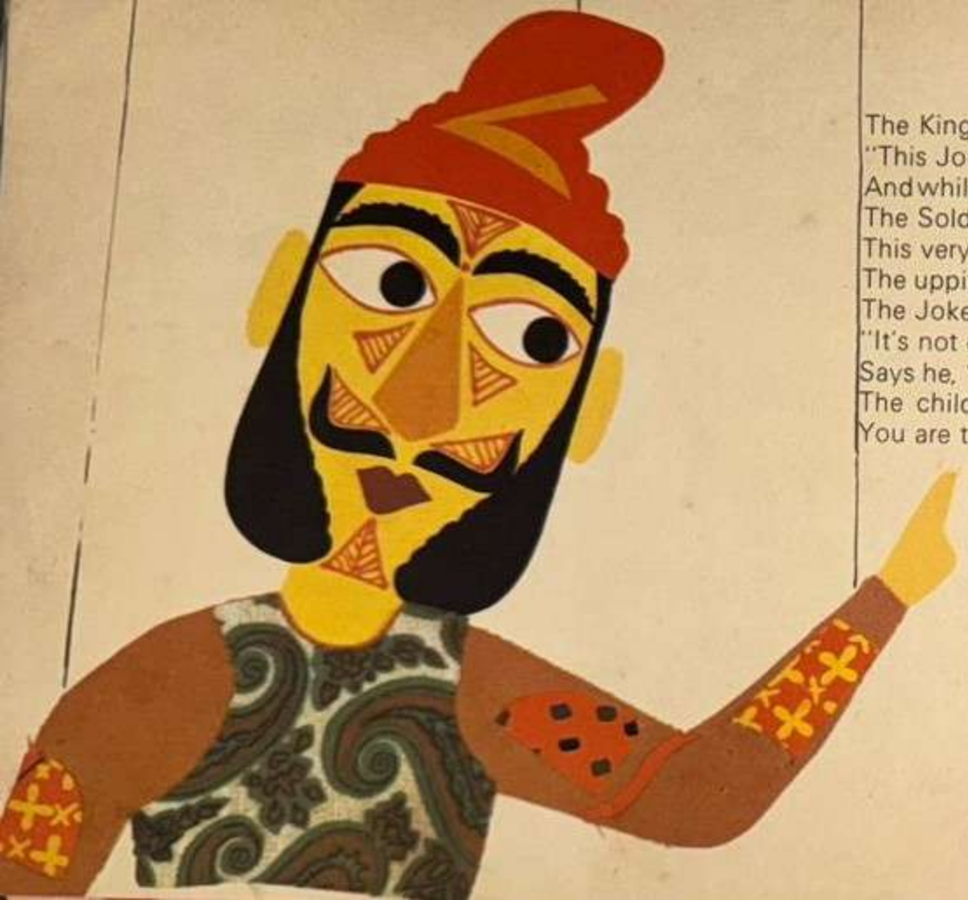

The King is jealous, wild is he—
"This Joker is loved more than me."
And while his rage grows fierce and fiercer
The Soldier whispers: "Do you hear Sir?
This very night we shall over-ride
The uppity puppet and finish his pride."
The Joker hears them whispering—
"It's not enough to be a king,"
Says he, "You've got to dance and sing
The children love a puppet gay,
You are too stiff and dull, they say."

The next day at the first leap
The Joker falls down in a heap.
Here a leg and there an arm—
The children rise up in alarm!
The children scream—the children shout.
The puppet show is in utter rout.

## BIRTH OF KRISHNA

Nine long years passed. Deviki had six babies and each time Kansa killed them at birth. There was a severe famine in the kingdom and the people bore the sufferings of the parched earth with a deathly resignation. Everyone awaited an end to Kansa's wickedness.

After Deviki gave birth to her seventh child who was to grow up to be Balaram the strong one, Gangacharya a priest walked into the prison with a basket of flowers in which he had hidden a still-born baby. He put Balaram in the basket and left the dead baby with Deviki. Hurrying out of the prison he sent Balaram across the river to Gokul to Rohini who was Vasudeva's first wife.

Kansa was wild with anger when he saw the dead child, but the fear of general revolt restrained him from violence against Deviki and Vasudeva.

At last the child most dreaded by Kansa, Deviki's eighth child was born. Deviki and Vasudeva were overwhelmed with joy and love for this child who was the cause of all their suffering but who they knew would also be the means of their salvation.

At the same time in Gokul, Nanda's wife Yashoda had a daughter, Yogmaya. Nanda was Vasudeva's most trusted friend. Gangacharya arrived again at the prison, but this time he carried Nanda's new born daughter in the flower-basket. Vasudeva tenderly took Yogmaya and placed her beside Deviki. Hiding his precious son Krishna in the basket, he walked out into the dark rainy night.

JOKER

DANCING GIRL

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