

Acknowledgement

The “Old Tiger and Small Mosquito” storybook was extracted from the April 1998-last edition of “Fact for Life”. Aiming at improving the book to be able to read, appropriate and attractive for target group – schoolchildren in primary schools, it was re-developed in particular the format and illustration. For the message and main content of the book had been kept as it was.

Much of the information, regarding to malaria transmission its affect and prevention method, would be a good reference for teachers and schoolchildren entire country on how to protect themselves from suffering of the malaria disease.

The organizers wish to express their appreciation for the Health Education staff- Luang prabang Provincial Health Office, as they are the first team who create the story. We also would like to thanks the Task Force members of Health Promoting Schools program (includes the officers from Education and Health sectors) for their effort on improvement the storybook.

We are especially grateful to Mr. Pricha Phetluang- WHO IEC Specialist, for his invaluable advice.

February 2004
Organizer

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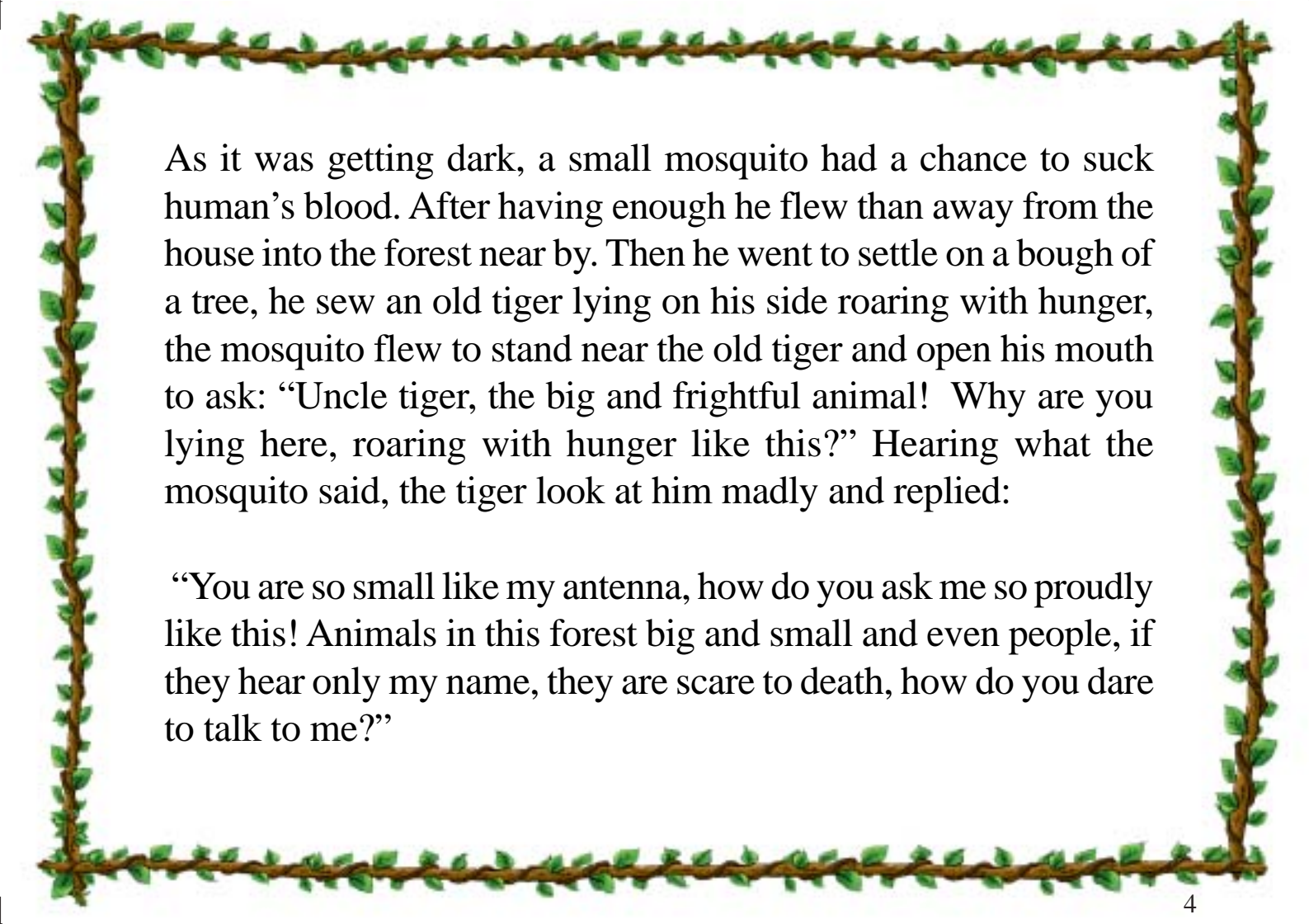
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The “Old Tiger and Small Mosquito”

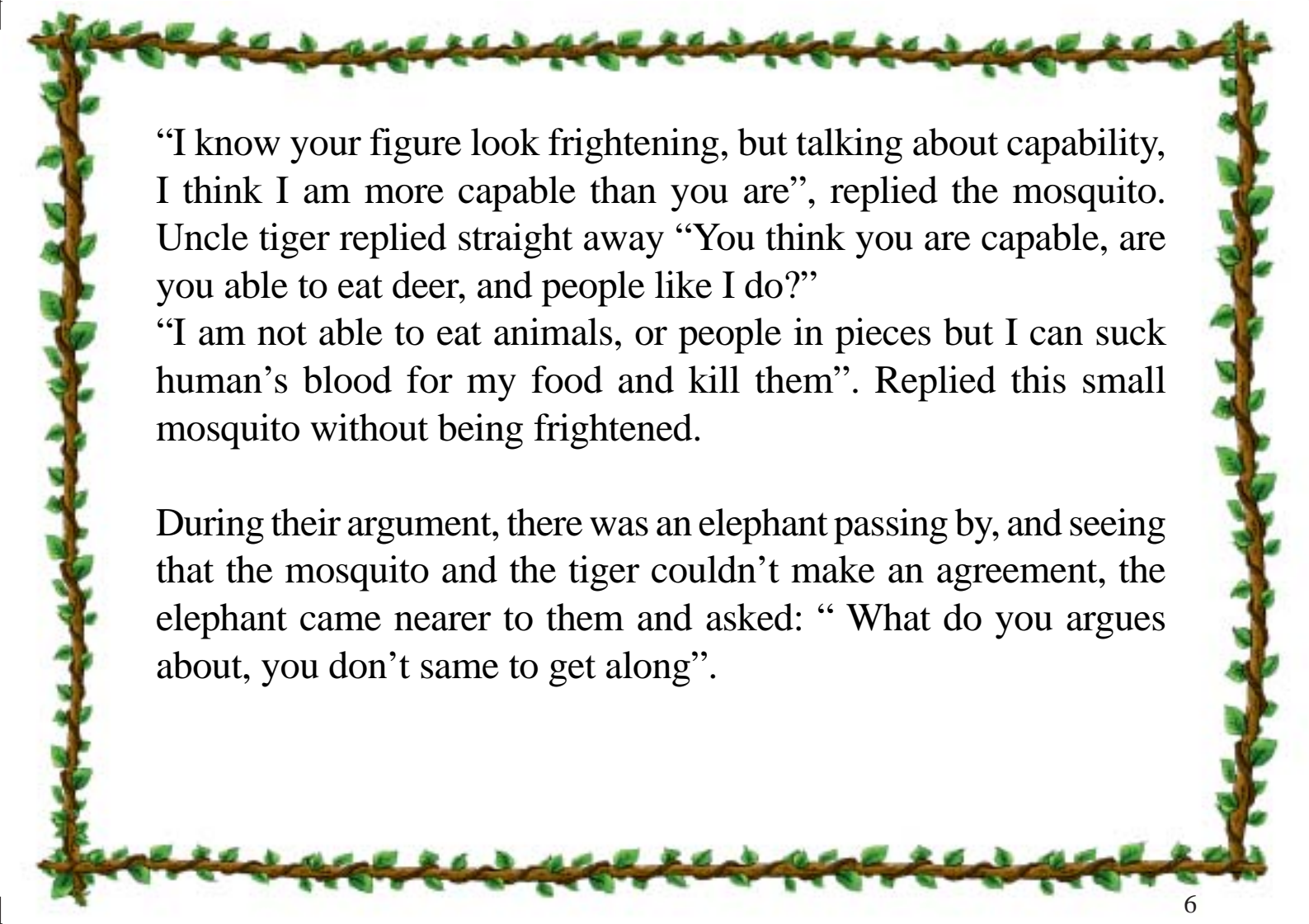




As it was getting dark, a small mosquito had a chance to suck human's blood. After having enough he flew than away from the house into the forest near by. Then he went to settle on a bough of a tree, he saw an old tiger lying on his side roaring with hunger, the mosquito flew to stand near the old tiger and open his mouth to ask: "Uncle tiger, the big and frightful animal! Why are you lying here, roaring with hunger like this?" Hearing what the mosquito said, the tiger look at him madly and replied:

"You are so small like my antenna, how do you ask me so proudly like this! Animals in this forest big and small and even people, if they hear only my name, they are scare to death, how do you dare to talk to me?"



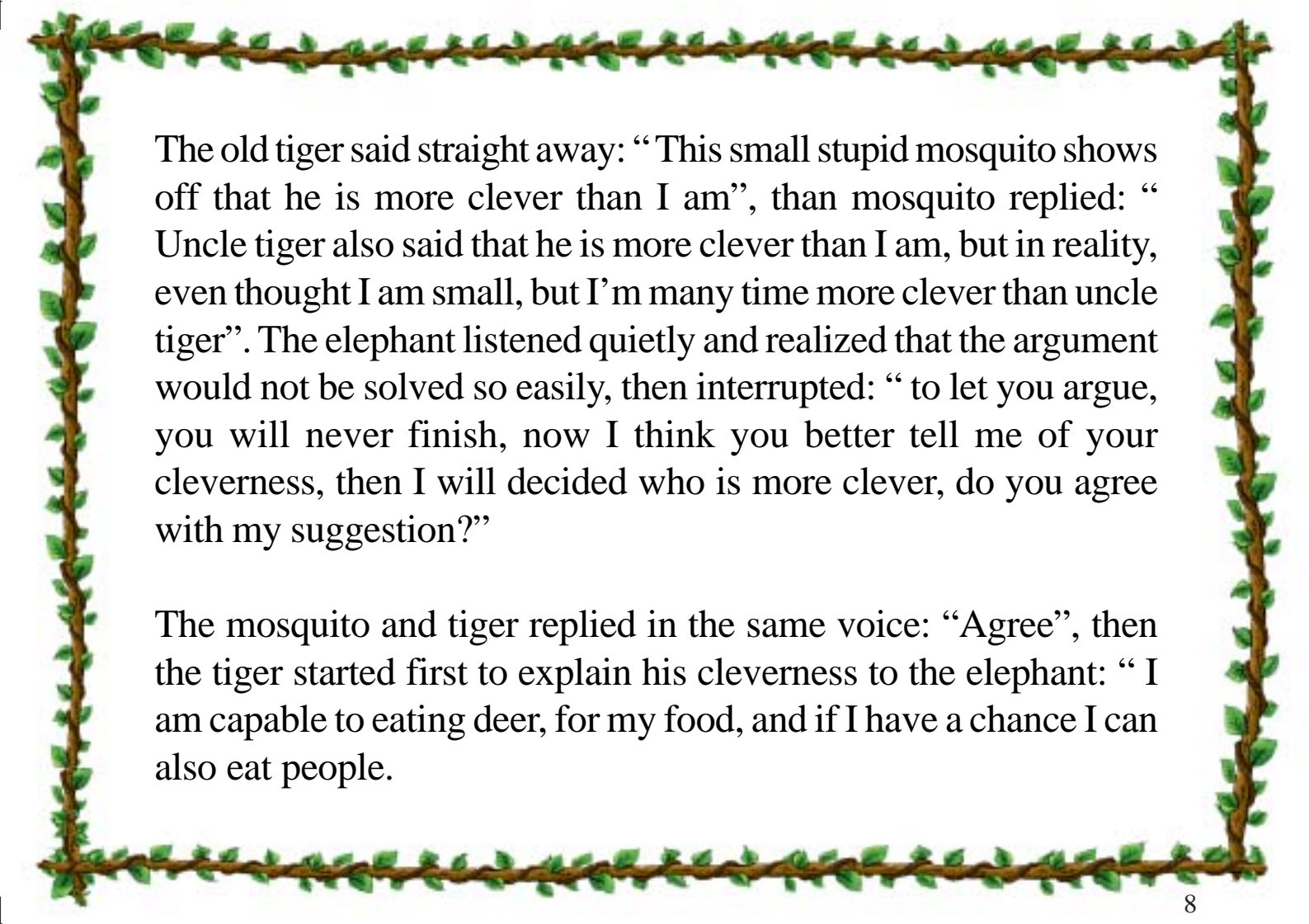


“I know your figure look frightening, but talking about capability, I think I am more capable than you are”, replied the mosquito. Uncle tiger replied straight away “You think you are capable, are you able to eat deer, and people like I do?”

“I am not able to eat animals, or people in pieces but I can suck human’s blood for my food and kill them”. Replied this small mosquito without being frightened.

During their argument, there was an elephant passing by, and seeing that the mosquito and the tiger couldn’t make an agreement, the elephant came nearer to them and asked: “ What do you argues about, you don’t same to get along”.

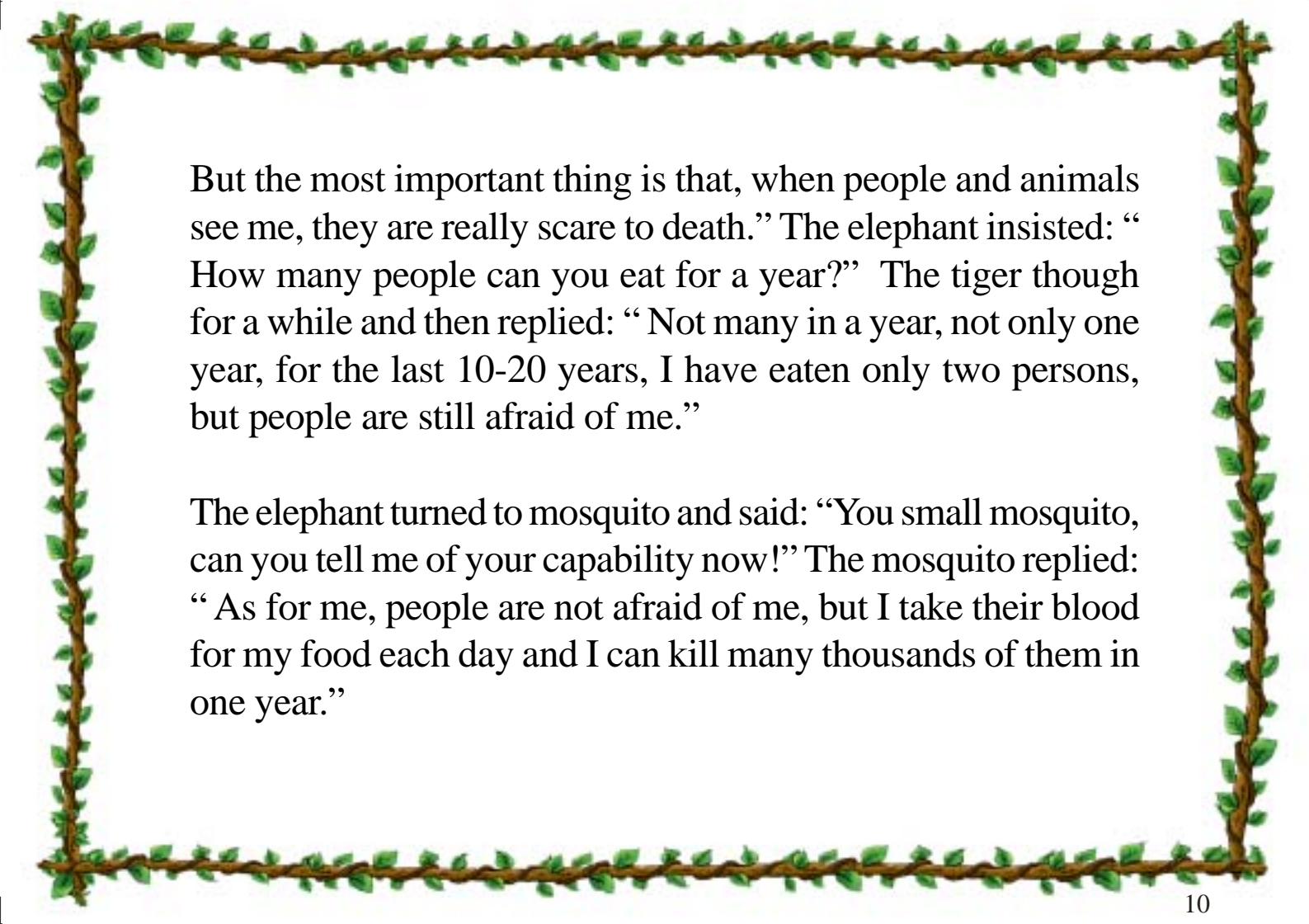




The old tiger said straight away: “This small stupid mosquito shows off that he is more clever than I am”, then mosquito replied: “Uncle tiger also said that he is more clever than I am, but in reality, even though I am small, but I’m many times more clever than uncle tiger”. The elephant listened quietly and realized that the argument would not be solved so easily, then interrupted: “to let you argue, you will never finish, now I think you better tell me of your cleverness, then I will decide who is more clever, do you agree with my suggestion?”

The mosquito and tiger replied in the same voice: “Agree”, then the tiger started first to explain his cleverness to the elephant: “I am capable of eating deer, for my food, and if I have a chance I can also eat people.

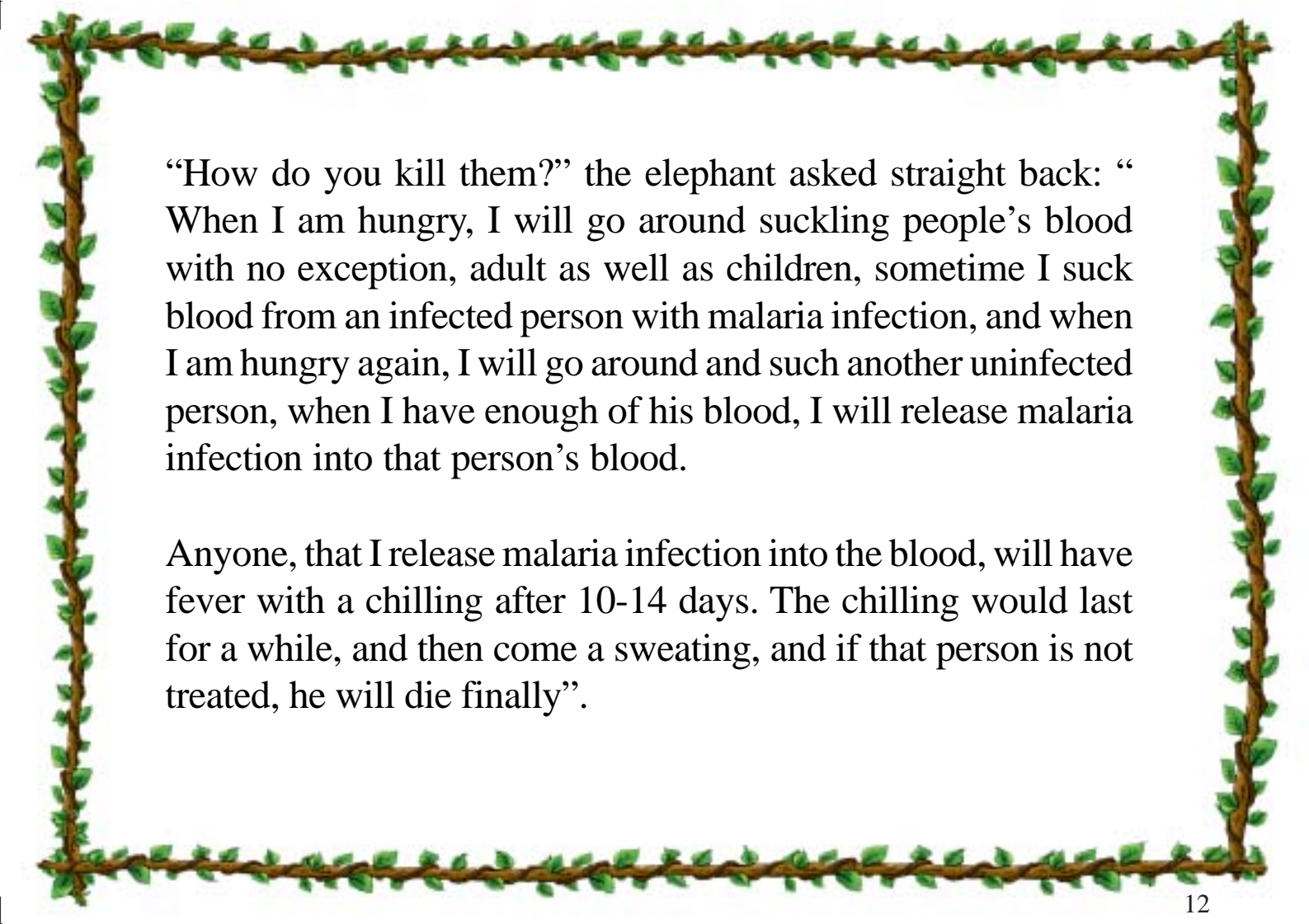




But the most important thing is that, when people and animals see me, they are really scare to death.” The elephant insisted: “How many people can you eat for a year?” The tiger though for a while and then replied: “Not many in a year, not only one year, for the last 10-20 years, I have eaten only two persons, but people are still afraid of me.”

The elephant turned to mosquito and said: “You small mosquito, can you tell me of your capability now!” The mosquito replied: “As for me, people are not afraid of me, but I take their blood for my food each day and I can kill many thousands of them in one year.”

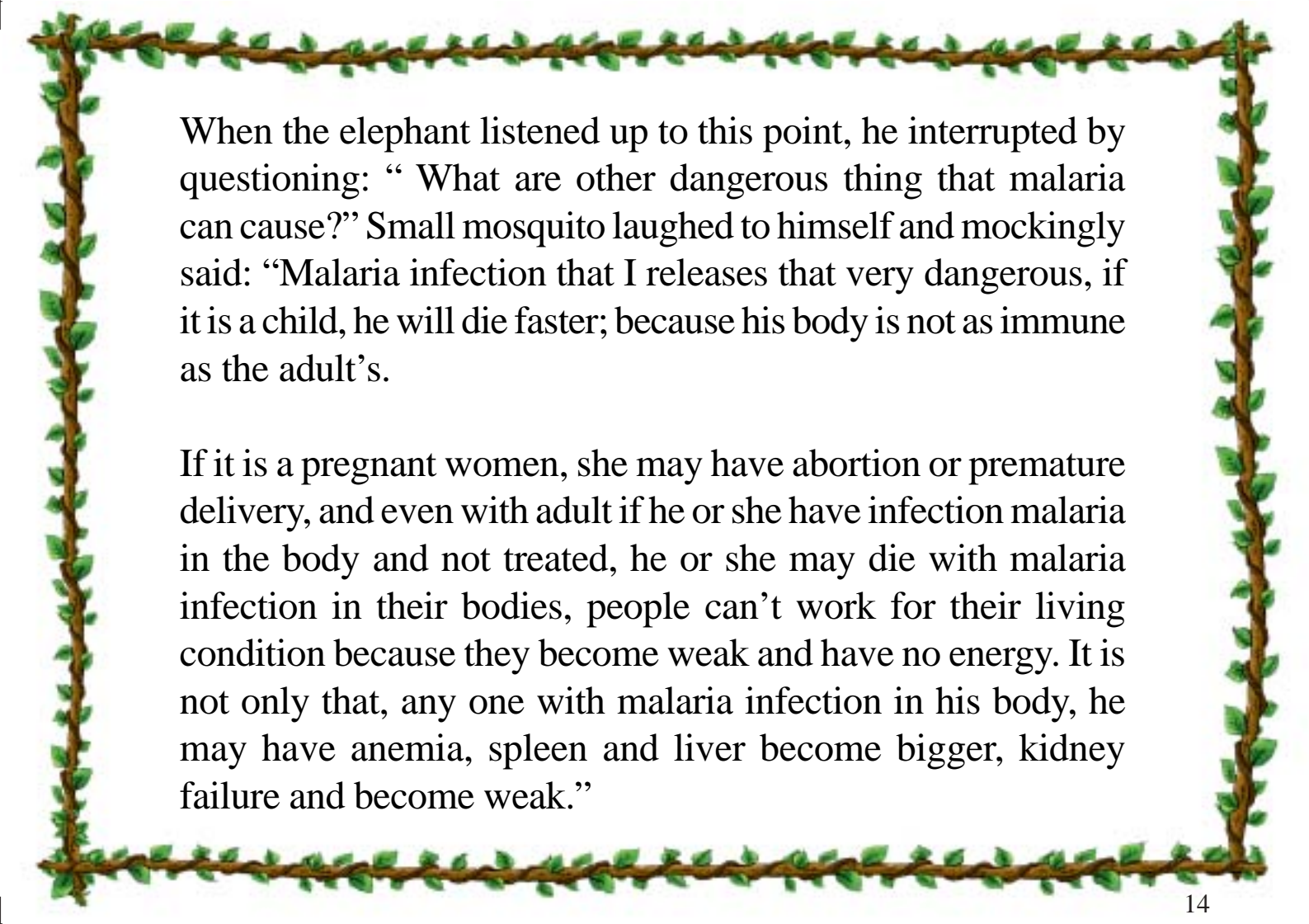




“How do you kill them?” the elephant asked straight back: “When I am hungry, I will go around suckling people’s blood with no exception, adult as well as children, sometime I suck blood from an infected person with malaria infection, and when I am hungry again, I will go around and such another uninfected person, when I have enough of his blood, I will release malaria infection into that person’s blood.

Anyone, that I release malaria infection into the blood, will have fever with a chilling after 10-14 days. The chilling would last for a while, and then come a sweating, and if that person is not treated, he will die finally”.

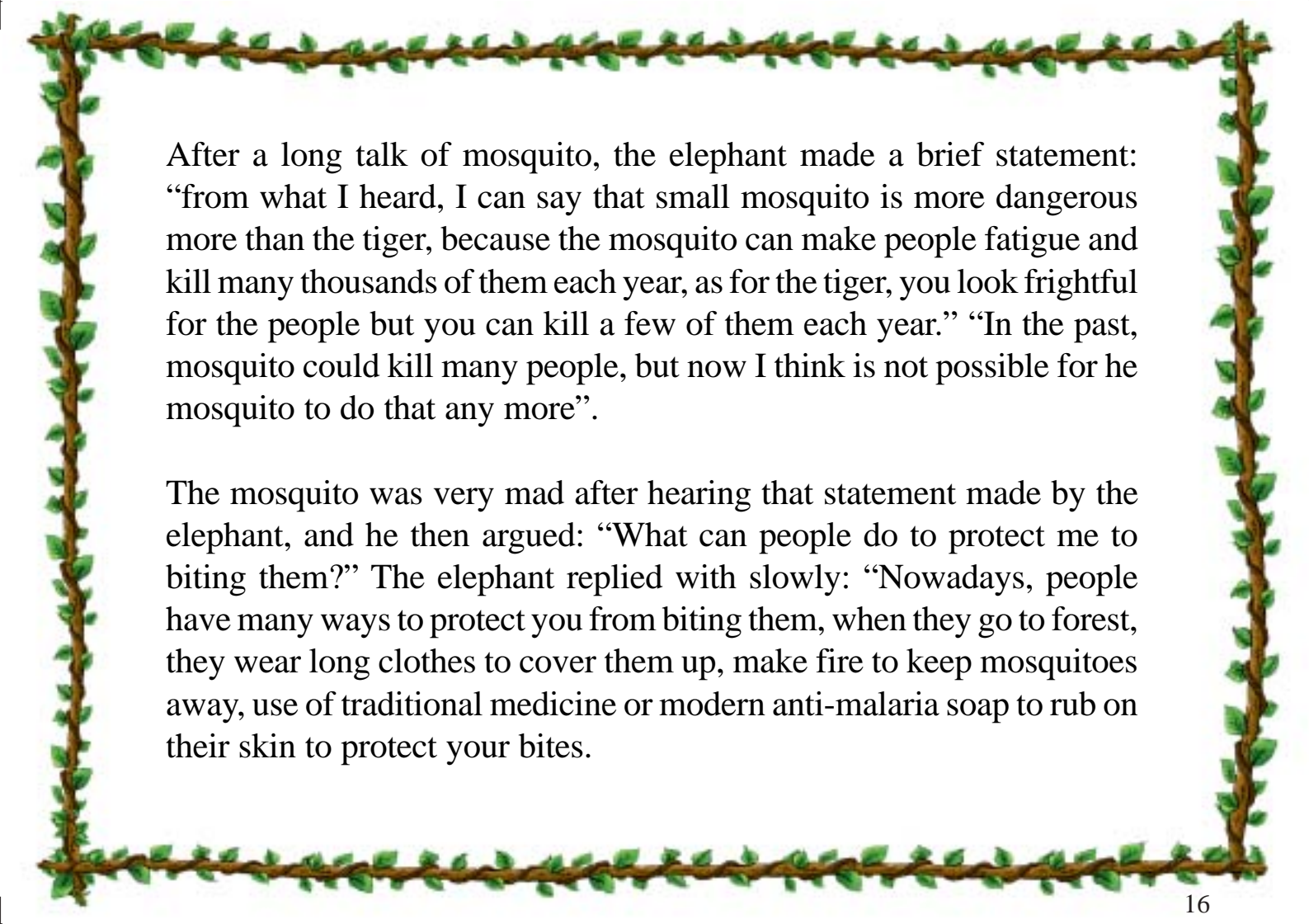




When the elephant listened up to this point, he interrupted by questioning: “ What are other dangerous thing that malaria can cause?” Small mosquito laughed to himself and mockingly said: “Malaria infection that I releases that very dangerous, if it is a child, he will die faster; because his body is not as immune as the adult’s.

If it is a pregnant women, she may have abortion or premature delivery, and even with adult if he or she have infection malaria in the body and not treated, he or she may die with malaria infection in their bodies, people can’t work for their living condition because they become weak and have no energy. It is not only that, any one with malaria infection in his body, he may have anemia, spleen and liver become bigger, kidney failure and become weak.”

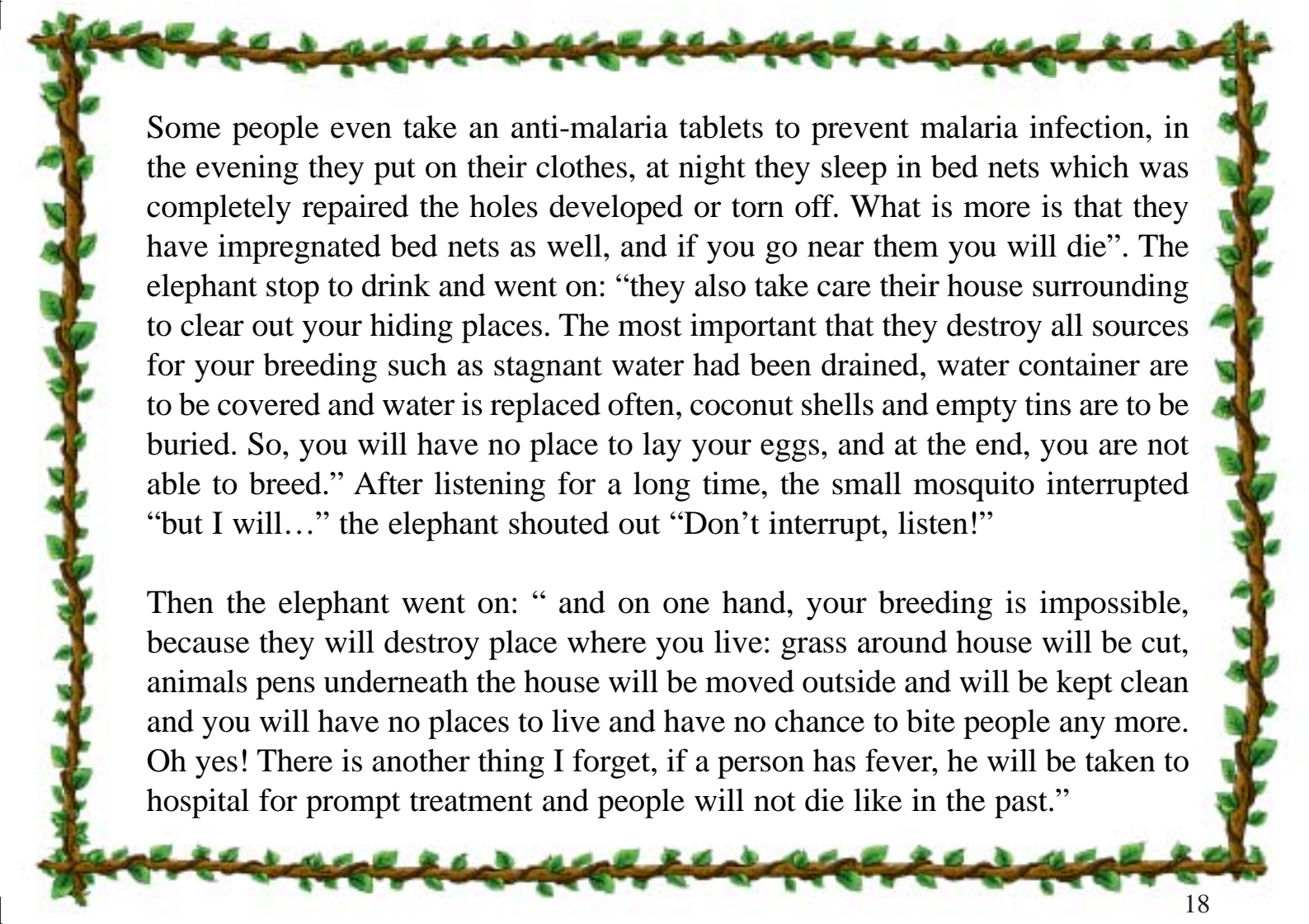




After a long talk of mosquito, the elephant made a brief statement: “from what I heard, I can say that small mosquito is more dangerous more than the tiger, because the mosquito can make people fatigue and kill many thousands of them each year, as for the tiger, you look frightful for the people but you can kill a few of them each year.” “In the past, mosquito could kill many people, but now I think is not possible for he mosquito to do that any more”.

The mosquito was very mad after hearing that statement made by the elephant, and he then argued: “What can people do to protect me to biting them?” The elephant replied with slowly: “Nowadays, people have many ways to protect you from biting them, when they go to forest, they wear long clothes to cover them up, make fire to keep mosquitoes away, use of traditional medicine or modern anti-malaria soap to rub on their skin to protect your bites.

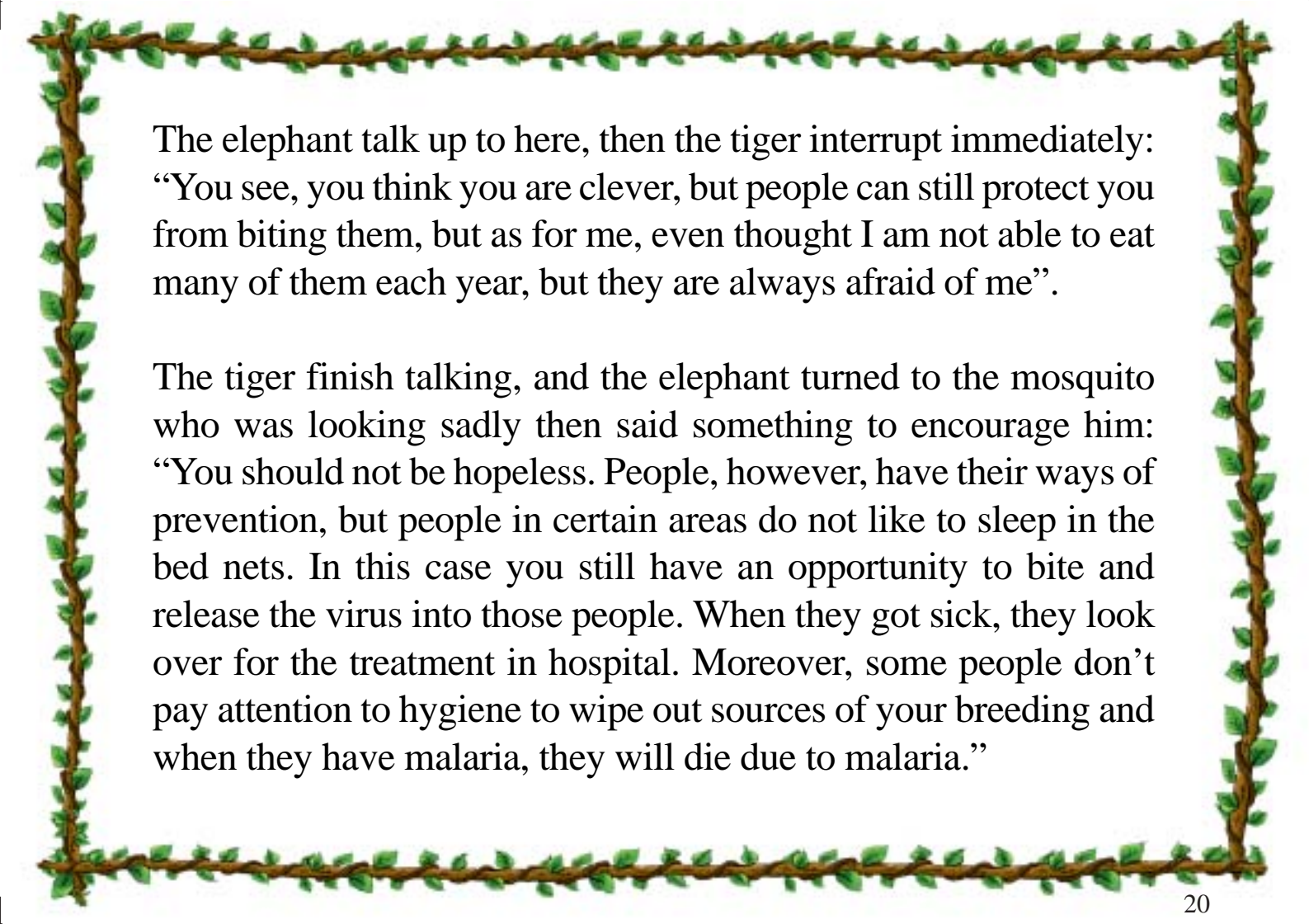




Some people even take an anti-malaria tablets to prevent malaria infection, in the evening they put on their clothes, at night they sleep in bed nets which was completely repaired the holes developed or torn off. What is more is that they have impregnated bed nets as well, and if you go near them you will die”. The elephant stop to drink and went on: “they also take care their house surrounding to clear out your hiding places. The most important that they destroy all sources for your breeding such as stagnant water had been drained, water container are to be covered and water is replaced often, coconut shells and empty tins are to be buried. So, you will have no place to lay your eggs, and at the end, you are not able to breed.” After listening for a long time, the small mosquito interrupted “but I will...” the elephant shouted out “Don’t interrupt, listen!”

Then the elephant went on: “ and on one hand, your breeding is impossible, because they will destroy place where you live: grass around house will be cut, animals pens underneath the house will be moved outside and will be kept clean and you will have no places to live and have no chance to bite people any more. Oh yes! There is another thing I forget, if a person has fever, he will be taken to hospital for prompt treatment and people will not die like in the past.”

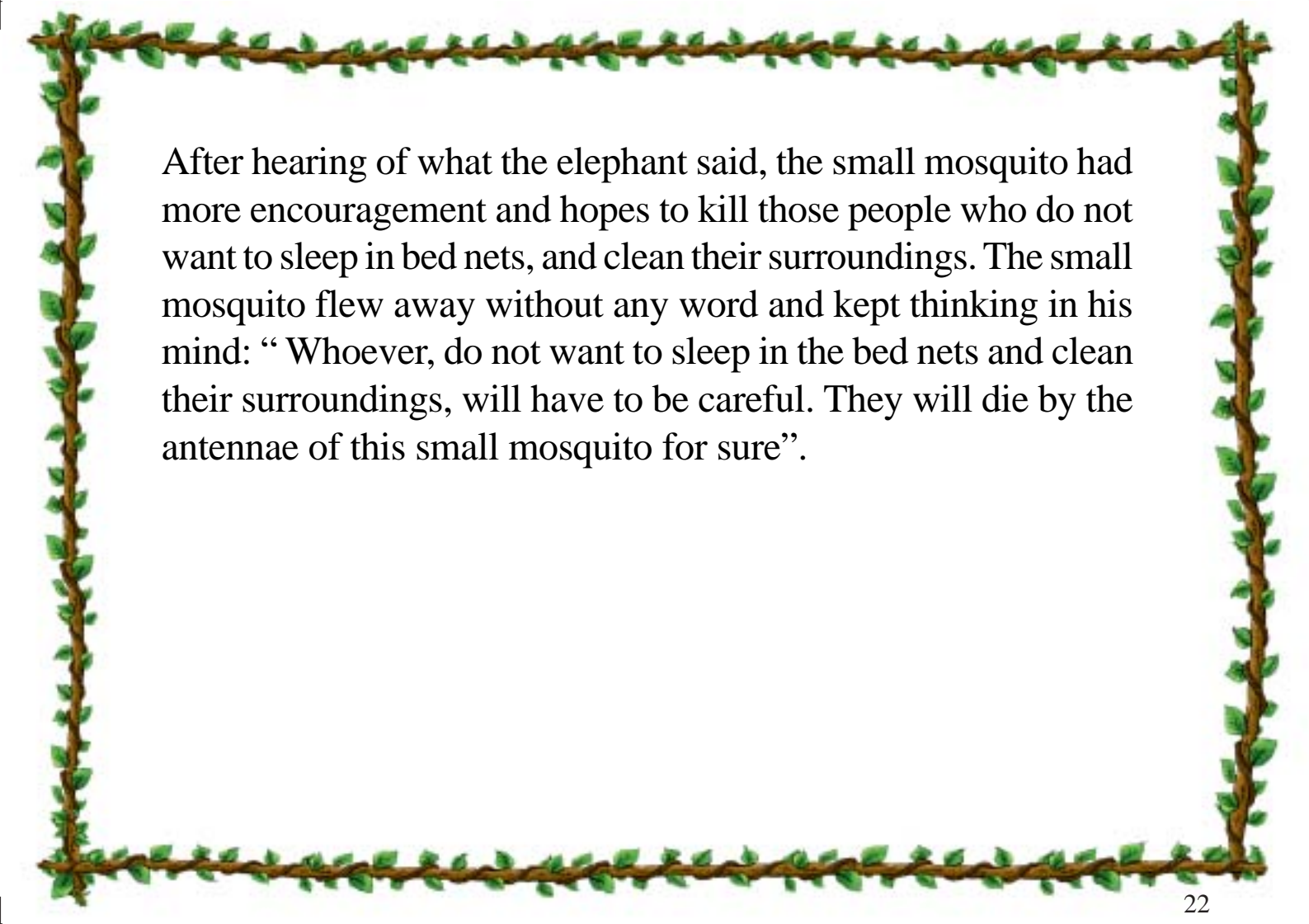




The elephant talk up to here, then the tiger interrupt immediately: “You see, you think you are clever, but people can still protect you from biting them, but as for me, even though I am not able to eat many of them each year, but they are always afraid of me”.

The tiger finish talking, and the elephant turned to the mosquito who was looking sadly then said something to encourage him: “You should not be hopeless. People, however, have their ways of prevention, but people in certain areas do not like to sleep in the bed nets. In this case you still have an opportunity to bite and release the virus into those people. When they got sick, they look over for the treatment in hospital. Moreover, some people don’t pay attention to hygiene to wipe out sources of your breeding and when they have malaria, they will die due to malaria.”





After hearing of what the elephant said, the small mosquito had more encouragement and hopes to kill those people who do not want to sleep in bed nets, and clean their surroundings. The small mosquito flew away without any word and kept thinking in his mind: “Whoever, do not want to sleep in the bed nets and clean their surroundings, will have to be careful. They will die by the antennae of this small mosquito for sure”.





Assess yourself on what information gotten from the story

Question:

1. What did uncle tiger and small tiger argue about?
2. What different capability do old tiger and small mosquito have between them?
3. When the small mosquito bit people, what did he release into their blood, and how were the conditions of those people?
4. How does malaria infection affect people, especially children and pregnant women?
5. In our country, do we have the conditions like the small mosquito said?
6. What is the condition of a person who is bitten by a mosquito?
7. Who is the most dangerous between old tiger and small mosquito?
8. What answer did elephant give to mosquito about prevention of mosquito bites?
9. What can people do to prevent the mosquito breeding?