Chaami, Buddu and the Chosen One

It had just rained and a whiff of air brought along the sweet fragrance of moist soil from the garden. Chaami could no longer remain indoors, and she rushed out into her lawn stepping on the wet grass. A neatly cut lawn surrounded by the most beautiful roses with an array of colours encircled the garden. Bees flew; butterflies fluttered, hither and thither from flower to flower-gathering nectar. Birds glided across the sky. It was breathtaking, and Chaami spread her hands out like wings and started running around, soaking in the natural fragrance.

Buddu soon joined her and together they had fun chasing the squirrels and started playing a game of ‘catch-the ball’.”I cannot play anymore now, I am feeling tired”, declared Chaami after sometime, and Buddu’s face lost its entire colour on hearing this. He wanted to play for some more time, after all why waste such lovely weather. “Believe me, I am not lying. I want to play more but I do not know why I am feeling so weak”, pleaded Chaami and sat down on the garden steps. Buddu too came and sat beside her, he was feeling helpless.

Five minutes later, as if a flash of an idea had struck him; Buddu got up and plucked a red rose from the garden and handed it to Chaami. “Here, Chaami, eat the petals of this rose and you will no longer feel fatigued”. Chaami was amused, but she still listened to Buddu’s advice, and started chewing the petals slowly. The petals were sweet to taste, and she enjoyed the lingering taste on her tongue. And as if by magic, Chaami was no longer feeling tired! “Thank you Buddu, for being such a great help, now, I shall remember this great tonic that you have suggested”. Together they continued their game, when Chaami’s mother called them inside, “Come in, and have your glass of milk”.

Chaami excitedly rattled off the story of Buddu’s magic potion to her mother and she smiled. “Yes, besides being lovely, these roses have medicinal properties too and are used for many ailments”, added her mother. Chaami was feeling thrilled. She went to peep through the window into her garden. A garden that she loved very much! She admired the glorious and blooming flowers gently swaying by. Chaami always had a special place for flowers in her heart. But more than all others, she loved the roses the most. And the roses in her garden were of many kinds. From the wild button roses with their apple-scented green leaves to the most splendid, large, crimson roses. They grew against the garden walls; wound themselves around the fence and the boundary. The roses were of many colours, and of every fragrance and form. She kept on looking at them, and finally screamed a big thank you to the rose flowers. But she did not notice that the rose flowers had acknowledged her wishes and they bowed down to her, gently.....

"Hey, Chaami! Why not take a beautiful rose flower from the garden for our class teacher tomorrow? As It is tomorrow is Teacher’s Day, and I am sure our teacher would love this beautiful present", suggested Buddu, when he saw Chaami admiring the flowers for long. Chaami agreed to this brilliant idea and said, “Come, let us go and choose a nice rose for our teacher”. Little did she realize yet again, that the rambling roses were listening to this whole conversation.

Word hastily spread around. “The rose that gets picked is the chosen one, and will get a place of honour in the teacher’s heart” the rambling roses declared. The roses soon became jealous of each other, and quarrelsome, arguing as to why they should be the chosen rose. “I should be the chosen one, just look at my perfect coral colour”. “Huh, who has ever heard of a hybrid as the chosen one?” said the red rose. Bickering broke out amongst them, and their shades started changing.

When Buddu reached for the red rose again, the flower got excited for being selected. “I knew it, that I would be the chosen one”. But as soon as he touched the red rose, its petals started coming off and all what Buddu could lay his hands upon was the stalk. Now, Chaami reached for the yellow rose, but she also experienced the same thing. The flowers were now ashamed and they realized their mistake. Finally, Chaami picked up a pure white rose, that was often times ridiculed by the other roses, yet always remained tranquil and composed never replying angrily, or saying any unkind words. And this time, the petals did not fall.

"What a beautiful rose", said her teacher next day when being presented with the white rose. “I shall always cherish this and preserve it in a book that will remind me of its purity and fragrance”. The ‘chosen one’ was already turning pink hearing this. And in their class, Chaami and Buddu learned more about these fascinating roses......
ROSES ARE RED

It is believed that when Venus, the beauty Goddess, walked through the garden and pricked her foot on a thorn; it was the droplets of her blood that turned the roses red.

The rose has always been valued for its beauty and has a long history of symbolism. A rose flower is referred as "the King of flowers". There are currently over 16,000 varieties of roses available worldwide.

The Rosaceae or rose family is a large family of plants

Rosa damascena, more commonly known as the Damask rose or simply as "Damask" is a popular rose hybrid, renowned for its fine fragrance, and its flowers are commercially harvested for rose oil used in perfumery.

It is a deciduous shrub growing to 2.2 m tall, the stems densely armed with stout, curved prickles and stiff bristles.

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Rosales
Family: Rosaceae
Subfamily: Rosaideae
Genus: Rosa
Species: damascena

Rose Petal Jam (Gulkand)

Gulkand, a general tonic of Ayurveda. It is also naturally rich in calcium and has antioxidant activity.

Rose petals are used in making ‘Gulkand’. In a wide mouthed glass jar, arrange the layers of rose petals and sugar alternately using sugar twice the weight of petals. Close the mouth of jar and keep it in sunlight daily 10 AM to 4 PM, for three to four weeks and Gulkand becomes ready. The time varies depending on sunlight availability, season etc.

Gulkand has been traditionally used as a cooling tonic to combat fatigue, lethargy, muscular aches, biliousness, itching, and heat-related conditions.
The rose is more than a beautiful and popular flower; it has many medicinal uses.

Rose flowers, petals, rosehips, root, root bark and essential oil have medicinal value.

- The dried hips of the wild rose are especially high in vitamin C, having three times that of citrus fruits, and have long been used to prevent scurvy.
- The Damask rose is used for depression and anxiety.
- Rosewater is used as a skin remedy and moisturizing lotion for skin prone to pimples or acne.
- Gargling with rose petals infusion is used for sore throats.
- Rose petal decoction in water is used for diarrhoea digestion.
- Rosehip syrup is used as a cough remedy or taken as a source of vitamin C.
- Dried rose flowers mixed with water make a good anti-inflammatory remedy for the eyes or any other inflamed area of the body and applied cool for headaches.

A rose is a rose is a rose...
But...Rose is also the cousin of Apple

Rose and apple are considered to be related (both in the rose family) because of similarities of flower and fruit structure (such as: they both have 5 sepals, 5 separate petals and many stamens, all arranged on the rim of the floral cup (hypanthium), with the pistils inside the cup. Apple fruit is called pome and rose fruit is called rose hip. And the rose hip is similar to the apple in that it develops (at least in part) from the hypanthium.

Can rose plants grow from seeds?

Yes! Roses do and can grow from seeds. But only the wild rose species are generally self fertile and seeds can be grown easily to true to type of plants. They can also be propagated through stem cuttings. However, the Hybrid roses or commercially cultivated roses do not breed true to type from seeds so they are usually propagated by stem cutting, budding and grafting.

* CONTEST:- Why do butterflies do not visit rose flowers.
Send your entries by 25th September 2007.