

# A Triumph of Surgery



**James Alfred Wight (1916-1995)**



## 1.1 DETAILS ABOUT THE AUTHOR

## 1.2 INTRODUCTION OF THE CHAPTER IN ENGLISH

(Tricki, a small dog, is pampered and overfed by his rich mistress. He falls seriously ill and his mistress consults a veterinary surgeon.)

This story is about Tricki, a dog who is the pet of a rich lady named Mrs. Pumphrey. She loves her dog very much and is unable to refuse him anything he wants. Tricki is fond of eating cream cakes and chocolates. So one day when Mrs. Pumphrey is out with Tricki for a walk when the narrator sees them and stops to talk. While talking to Mrs. Pumphrey, he realizes that she has been overfeeding Tricki and also had been giving him things that he shouldn't eat due to which Tricki had started looking like a bloated sausage. Soon Tricki got unwell and Mrs. Pumphrey has to call Mr. Herriot (narrator) for help. She does not want to send him away but the only way suggested by Mr. Herriot is to get him hospitalized for 15 days. Then the story unfolds into how he gets well.

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## 1.3 INTRODUCTION OF THE CHAPTER IN HINDI

(ट्रिकी, एक छोटा कुत्ता, उसकी अमीर मालकिन द्वारा लाड़-प्यार किया जाता है। वह गंभीर रूप से बीमार पड़ जाता है और उसकी मालकिन एक पशु चिकित्सक से सलाह लेती है।)

यह कहानी ट्रिकी के बारे में है, एक कुत्ता जो मिसेज पम्फ्रे नाम की एक अमीर महिला का पालतू है। वह अपने कुत्ते से बहुत प्यार करती है और उसे कुछ भी मना नहीं कर पाती है जो वह चाहता है। ट्रिकी को क्रीम केक और चॉकलेट खाने का शौक है। तो एक दिन जब श्रीमती पम्फ्रे ट्रिकी के साथ सैर के लिए बाहर जाती हैं, जब कथाकार उन्हें देखता है और बात करने के लिए रुक जाता है। श्रीमती पम्फ्रे से बात करते हुए, उसे पता चलता है कि वह ट्रिकी को बहुत अधिक दूध पिला रही है और उसे ऐसी चीजें भी दे रही है जो उसे नहीं खानी चाहिए जिसके कारण ट्रिकी एक फूली हुई साँसेज की तरह दिखने लगी थी। जल्द ही ट्रिकी अस्वस्थ हो गई और श्रीमती पम्फरी को मदद के लिए मिस्टर हेरियट (कथाकार) को बुलाना पड़ा। वह उसे विदा नहीं करना चाहती लेकिन मिस्टर हेरियट द्वारा सुझाया गया एकमात्र तरीका उसे 15 दिनों के लिए अस्पताल में भर्ती कराना है। फिर कहानी सामने आती है कि वह कैसे ठीक हो जाता है।

## 1.4 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER IN ENGLISH



James Alfred Wight (1916-1995)  
Known as James Herriot

1 James Alfred Wight was born on 3rd October 1916 in Sunderland, County Durham, England.

2 James Alfred Wight is better known by the pen name James Herriot, was a British veterinary surgeon and writer. He graduated from Glasgow Veterinary College in 1933, returning to England to become a veterinary surgeon in Yorkshire.

3 James Herriot used his many years of experience as a veterinary surgeon to write a series of books each consisting of stories about animals and their owners.

4 He is best known for writing a series of eight books set in the 1930s-1950s Yorkshire Dales about veterinary practice, animals. He is best known for his book *If Only They Could Talk* published in 1970.

5 In 2001, a book by Herriot's son, Jim, was published. A review of *The Real James Herriot: A Memoir of My Father*.

6 James Herriot's books have been adapted for film and television, including the 1975 film *All Creatures Great and Small* followed by *It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet* in 1976.

7 Published books of James Herriot -  
(i) *If Only They Could Talk* (1970).  
(ii) *It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet* (1972).  
(iii) *Let Sleeping Vets Lie* (1973).  
(iv) *Vet in Harness* (1974).

8 He had been diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1991. He died on 23 February 1995 at home in Thirby at age 78.

James Alfred Wight is popular as James Herriot, and He was a British veterinary surgeon and writer too. He has written this story, *A triumph of Surgery*. The story starts when Mrs Pumphrey, a rich lady, takes her dog

Tricky for a walk outside. A nearby veterinary doctor saw the dog and was in shock as the dog looked like a bloated sausage with a leg at each end. Then He advised her to stop giving him diet. But Mrs Pumphrey is

not able to refuse the dog. Soon Tricky fell sick and the doctor was called.

The narrator, Mr. Herriot, somehow takes Tricky to his hospital for treatment, even knowing the fact that Mrs. Pumphrey will never leave the dog. He took the dog along and put a bed for him in his surgery. For two days the dog did not move much and also did not eat anything. On the third day he wanted to go outside and there he started playing with the bigger dogs. He also licked the bowls of other dogs to eat the remaining food.

His condition started improving rapidly. Also, he started fighting for his meals with other dogs. After hearing this news Mrs. Pumphrey started sending eggs to the hospital as she thought that Tricky needed energy foods after recovery. But Mr. Herriot and his partners started eating those eggs as morning breakfast.

Also, to improve Tricky's blood, Mrs. Pumphrey started sending wine in bottles. But again, Mr. Herriot consumed those. Not only this, when she started sending brandy in bottles they consumed that also. After a few days the Doctor made a wise decision and called up Mrs. Pumphrey as she was very worried, for taking Tricky back home. Tricky was very happy to see his mistress and jumped into the car. Then Mrs. Pumphrey said that she won't be able to ever thank him for all this wonder. And she said that his surgery had been successful as Tricky was now cured.

## 1.5 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER IN HINDI -

जेम्स अल्फ्रेड वाइट जेम्स हेरियट के रूप में लोकप्रिय हैं, और वह एक ब्रिटिश पशु चिकित्सा सर्जन और लेखक भी थे। उन्होंने यह कहानी लिखी है, सर्जरी की एक विजय। कहानी तब शुरू होती है जब एक अमीर महिला श्रीमती पम्फ्री अपने कुत्ते ट्रिकी को बाहर टहलने के लिए ले जाती है। पास के एक पशु चिकित्सक ने कुत्ते को देखा और सदमे में था क्योंकि कुत्ता प्रत्येक छोर पर एक पैर के साथ एक फूला हुआ साँसेज जैसा दिख रहा था। फिर उसने उसे सलाह दी कि वह उसे आहार देना बंद कर दे। लेकिन मिसेज पम्फ्री कुत्ते को मना नहीं कर पा रही है। जल्द ही ट्रिकी बीमार पड़ गया और डॉक्टर को बुलाया गया।

कथाकार, मिस्टर हेरियट, किसी तरह ट्रिकी को इलाज के लिए अपने अस्पताल ले जाते हैं, यहां तक कि इस तथ्य को जानते हुए भी कि श्रीमती पम्फ्री कुत्ते को कभी नहीं छोड़ेगी। वह कुत्ते को साथ ले गया और उसकी सर्जरी में उसके लिए एक बिस्तर लगा दिया। दो दिन तक कुत्ता न ज्यादा हिला और न कुछ खाया। तीसरे दिन वह बाहर जाना चाहता था और वहाँ वह बड़े कुत्तों के साथ खेलने लगा। बचा हुआ खाना खाने के लिए उसने दूसरे कुत्तों के कटोरे भी चाटे।

उसकी हालत में तेजी से सुधार होने लगा। इसके अलावा, वह अन्य कुत्तों के साथ अपने भोजन के लिए लड़ने लगा। यह खबर सुनने के बाद, श्रीमती पम्फ्री ने अस्पताल में अंडे भेजना शुरू कर दिया क्योंकि उन्हें लगा कि ट्रिकी को ठीक होने के बाद ऊर्जा खाद्य पदार्थों की आवश्यकता है। लेकिन मिस्टर हेरियट और उनके साथी उन अंडों को सुबह के नाश्ते के रूप में खाने लगे।



## 1.6 KEY POINTS FROM THE CHAPTER - A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY

1 Tricki was a small dog and was excessively loved by his mistress, Mrs. Pumphery. He was greedy and loved food, but no exercise. As a result he became fat and Mrs. Pumphery believed that he became lazy because he suffered from malnutrition.

2 Mrs. Pumphery was a wealthy woman. She loved her dog too much. She gave him some little extras between meals to build him up, malt, cod-liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks at night.

3 Mrs. Pumphrey gave him a lot to eat but no exercise. Once he became ill and she was worried and made a frantic call to Harriot, who was a vet.

4 James Harriot was a vet. He was shocked to see Tricki hugely fat, like a bloated sausage with a leg to each other. He advised her to cut down on the sweet things.

5 James Harriot was called by Mrs. Pumphrey, as Tricki refused to eat. Harriot told her that Tricki needed immediate hospitalization for keeping under observation at his surgery for a fortnight.

6 There Harriot gave him no food, no medicine but plenty of water. Gradually Tricki mixed with other dogs and started playing with them. Tricki had a lot of exercises and fun at the surgery.

7 Tricki was completely recovered and transformed into a hard muscled dog. James Harriot treated the dog without medicine or surgery. Mrs. Pumphery thanked Harriot and said it was a triumph of surgery.

8 Message in the chapter - The lesson imparts a message for ones suggesting them to own the responsibilities. One should not shower unnecessary love to their young ones as it might be fatal to their life.

## 1.7 ABOUT THE CHARACTERS IN THE CHAPTER -

**James Herriot** - James is a veterinary surgeon, who proves to be a capable doctor and a wise individual. He is an animal lover and a caring guardian.

**Mrs Pumphrey**- Mrs. Pumphrey is a wealthy single woman. She is very much attached to her dog, Tricki. She is very loving but weak at heart.

**Tricki**- Tricki is a lazy and fat dog who loves food. He is very fond of his owner. He turns out to be energetic and lively after recovering from his illness.

**Hodgkin**- He is the gardener of Mrs. Pumphrey. He takes care of Tricki and also plays a ring-throwing game.

साथ ही ट्रिक का खून सुधारने के लिए मिसेज पम्फ्रे ने बोतलों में शराब भेजना शुरू कर दिया। लेकिन फिर से, श्री हेरियट ने उन्हें खा लिया। इतना ही नहीं जब वह बोतल में ब्रांडी भेजने लगी तो उन्होंने उसका भी सेवन कर लिया। कुछ दिनों के बाद डॉक्टर ने एक बुद्धिमान निर्णय लिया और श्रीमती पम्फ्रे को फोन किया क्योंकि वह बहुत चिंतित थी, ट्रिकी को घर वापस ले जाने के लिए। अपनी मालकिन को देखकर ट्रिकी बहुत खुश हुआ और कार में कूद गया। तब श्रीमती पम्फ्रे ने कहा कि वह इस सब आश्चर्य के लिए उन्हें कभी धन्यवाद नहीं दे पाएंगी। और उसने कहा कि उसकी सर्जरी सफल रही क्योंकि ट्रिकी अब ठीक हो गई है।

## 1.7 ABOUT THE CHARACTERS IN THE CHAPTER -

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**Hodgkin**- He is the gardener of Mrs. Pumphrey. He takes care of Tricki and also plays a ring-throwing game.

## 1.8 WORD-MEANINGS -

1. **Awaiting-** wait for (an event)  
(का इंतजार)
2. **Bloated-** excessive in size or amount (फूला हुआ)
3. **Chauffeur-** a person employed to drive a private or hired car (चालक)
4. **Compelled-** bring about (something) by the use of force or pressure  
(मजबूर)
5. **Gleaming-** reflecting light, typically because it is very clean or polished  
(चमचमाती)
6. **Licking-** pass the tongue over (something) in order to taste, moisten (चाटना)
7. **Maids-** a female domestic servant (नौकरानियों)
8. **Severe-** very great; intense (तीव्र)
9. **Tweed-** a rough-surfaced woollen cloth (एक प्रकार का ऊनी कपड़ा)
9. **Bloodshot (of the eyes)-** inflamed or tinged with blood, typically as a result of tiredness (रक्तमय)
10. **Ceremonial-** festival  
(अनुष्ठानिक)
11. **Concern-** anxiety (चिंता)
12. **Determined-** with a set mind (निर्धारित)
13. **Fortnight-** a period of two weeks  
(दो सप्ताह का समय)
14. **Greyhound-** hunter dog (खरहे का शिकार करनेवाला कुत्ता)
15. **Ignored-** overlooked  
(अवहेलना करना)
16. **Inhaled-** to breath through nose (साँस लेना)
17. **Interior-** inner (आंतरिक)
18. **Lithe-** thin, supple, and graceful (मुलायम)
19. **Wrung-** twisted (गलत किया हुआ)

### 1.9 MCQ's of the chapter

1. Who do you blame for Tricki's illness?

- (a) Mrs. Pumphrey
- (b) Tricki
- (c) Herriot
- (d) Vet

**Ans. (a)**

2. How would you describe the vet?

- (a) tactful
- (b) over-doing
- (c) careless
- (d) irrational

**Ans. (a)**

3. What did they use out of these?

- (a) toys
- (b) cushions
- (c) coats
- (d) none of the above

**Ans. (d)**

4. What made the narrator call Mrs Pumphrey after a fortnight?

- (a) Tricki got recovered
- (b) Tricki got unwell
- (c) he knew she is suffering
- (d) both a and c

**Ans. (d)**

5. what did Mrs Pumphrey bring at first?

- (a) two dozen fresh eggs
- (b) four dozen fresh eggs
- (c) wine
- (d) both a and c

**Ans. (b)**

6. What does the narrator refer to Tricki as, in the group of other dogs?

- (a) silky little object
- (b) shaggy little object
- (c) he didn't say anything
- (d) none of the above

**Ans. (a)**

7. what is the meaning of the word "jostling"?

- (a) running
- (b) struggling
- (c) walking
- (d) none of the above

**Ans. (b)**

8. Who was Joe?

- (a) nurse      (b) pug
- (c) greyhound      (d) cat

**Ans. (c)**

9. Why did the other dogs ignore Tricki?

- (a) he was an uninteresting object
- (b) he was ill
- (c) he was furious
- (d) all of the above

**Answer: (d) all of the above**

10. How was Tricki acting?

- (a) refusing to eat his favourite food
- (b) didn't go for walks
- (c) vomiting
- (d) all of the above

**Ans. (d)**

11. Was the narrator waiting for a call from Mrs Pumphrey?

- (a) no                      (b) yes
- (c) maybe                (d) maybe not

**Ans. (b)**

12. What was the dog unable to play?

- (a) ring-throw
- (b) walk
- (c) hide and seek
- (d) all of the above

**Answer: (a) ring-throw**

13. Did Mrs Pumphrey cut down on sweets as was advised?

- (a) yes
- (b) no
- (c) only for a while
- (d) she was not advised anything like that

**Ans. (c)**

14. What is the name of the veterinary surgeon?

- (a) Tricki
- (b) Mrs. Pumphrey
- (c) Hodgkin
- (d) Mr. Herriot

**Ans. (d)**

15. Who is the author of the story "A Triumph of Surgery"?

- (a) James Herriot
- (b) Ruskin Bond
- (c) Robert Arthur
- (d) Victor Canning

**Ans. (a)**

16. At his surgery, the doctor gave Tricki no food for ..... days.

- (a) two                      (b) three
- (c) four                    (d) five

**Answer: (a) two**



17. What was Tricki's real disease?

- (a) stomach pain
- (b) vomiting due to overfeeding
- (c) cholera
- (d) fever

**Ans. (b)**

18. "I think I know a cure for you."  
What is the 'cure'?

- (a) controlling Tricki's diet
- (b) giving him a surgery
- (c) giving injections
- (d) keeping under observation

**Ans. (a)**

19. The dogs at the clinic took no interest in Tricki because he was:

- (a) dull and boring
- (b) not of their race
- (c) of small size
- (d) more powerful than them

**Ans. (a)**

20. When Mr Herriot took Tricki to his clinic, Mrs Pumphrey was:

- (a) happy
- (b) excited
- (c) wailing
- (d) thanking the doctor

**Ans. (c)**

21. When Tricki was seriously ill, who did Mrs Pumphrey make a frantic call?

- (a) to her son
- (b) to her husband
- (c) to a vet doctor Mr Herriot
- (d) to her maid-servant

**Ans. (c)**

22. Tricki falls ill because

- (a) he met an accident
- (b) of bad weather
- (c) he did not get proper food to eat
- (d) his mistress overfed him

**Ans. (d)**

23. What was the name of Mrs Pumphrey's dog?

- (a) Ben                      (b) Tommy
- (c) Tricki                (d) Jonny

**Answer: (c) Tricki**

## SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (30-40 WORDS EACH)-

1. Why is Mrs. Pumphrey worried about Tricki?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey was worried for her pet because he did not seem well to her. She was distraught as Tricki was not eating anything. When she offered its favorite dishes, it did not show any interest. It had bouts of vomiting. It spent all its time lying on the rug and panting. It did not want to go for walks or do anything. It became lethargic and disinterested.

2. What does Mrs. Pumphrey do to help him? Is she wise in this?

Ans. She made every effort to make him more lively and happy. But when she failed in her efforts. She called the doctor to help Tricki. The doctor suggested that Tricki should be hospitalized. Ultimately the doctor was successful in curing Tricki. As her pet was healthy again, we can say that her decision to take him to doctor was wise.

3. What kind of a person do you think the narrator, veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful as well as has common sense?

Ans. The narrator was truly a professional vet. He diagnosed the reason behind the ill-health of

the pet. He handled the situation tactfully. He adjusted himself well to the circumstances. He immediately understood Tricki's problem. Tricki didn't suffer from any sort of illness.

He took the dog to his surgery. There he keeps it in a natural environment. The dog gets well under his supervision and natural environment of surgery.

4. Do you think Tricki was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?

Ans. When Tricki saw its mistress, it jumped into her lap and thus we can say that Tricki was very happy to go home. Tricki was also happy at the surgery. When the dog was brought into the surgery, it was ill. But in spite of it, the dog got cured in two days without any medication. The proper diet and regular exercise helped a lot in its speedy recovery. Now, Mrs. Pumphrey would give extraordinary attention and would over pamper him. It is praiseworthy, but it would make Tricki listless again.

5. Do you think this is a real-life episode, or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?

Ans. The story could be a mixture of both real-life episodes and fiction. Mrs. Pumphrey is a rich lady and has a pet dog. Although she has good intentions in her mind but excess of everything

is bad. It can be called real life for those parents who take excessive care of their child. She overfed her pet that shocked the vet. He observed that its mistress had pampered it to the level that made her pet lethargic and listless.

6. This episode describes the silly behavior of a rich woman who is foolishly indulgent, perhaps because she is lonely. Do you think such people are merely silly, or can their actions cause harm to others?

Ans. The episode describes about a rich lady who seems to be lonely as her focus was too much on her pet. Mrs. Pumphrey overfed it at her home and also sent food to the surgery. Thus she does extra care that worsens the health of Tricki.

7. Do you think there are also parents like Mrs. Pumphrey?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey is certainly an epitome of over indulgent care takers. Yes, there are parents who are too much possessive about their kids. Their overdoing of things harm their children. Either they become rebellious or too docile to raise their voice. There are also examples of strict parents who put unnecessary pressure on their child for study and particular behavior patterns.

8. What would you have done if you were: (i) a member of the staff in

Mrs. Pumphrey's household. (ii) a neighbor? What would your life have been like, in general?

Ans. (i) As a staff I would have no other way than to follow Mrs. Pumphrey's orders. Otherwise she would have sacked me from my job.

(ii) As a neighbor, I would have given her the proper suggestion. But the choice of following or refusing my suggestions is up to her. She is a rich lady who loves to splurge her money. So there is the least chance that anybody can forcefully change her opinion about a subject.

9. What would you have done if you were placed in the narration's place?

Ans. I would have done the same thing which the narrator did. In addition to it, I would have strongly recommend the severity of health hazard that the over pampering could do.

What made James Herriot expect a call from Mrs. Pumphrey?

Ans. James Herriot's encounter with Mrs. Pumphrey and Tricki made him expect a call for help. He was sure that the extra diet and no physical activity would soon put Tricki's health in danger. And just as anticipated, Mrs. Pumphrey called the vet a few days afterwards.

## LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (100-120 WORDS EACH)-

1. Is the narrator as rich as Tricki's mistress?

Ans. The narrator is not as rich as Tricki's mistress, Mrs. Pumphrey, although it is not directly mentioned in the story. While the narrator is able to provide Tricki's with only a warm loose box as a bed and at Mrs. Pumphrey's house, Tricki has a daybed, a night bed, cushions, toys, rubber rings, a breakfast bowl, a lunch bowl, a super bowl, a whole wardrobe of tweed coats and perhaps many more things when he arrives to take the dog with him, Mrs. Pumphrey has her entire staff at her disposal to transfer all of Tricki's belongings to the doctor's car. On hearing from the doctor about Tricki's gradual recovery, Mrs. Pumphrey sends along two dozen eggs at a time, along with bottles of wine and brandy – all in order to help in Tricki's speedy recovery.

Finally, when she calls upon the narrator to take her recovered dog home, she comes in a chauffeur-driven "thirty feet of gleaming black metal". Thus, it can be concluded that Mrs. Pumphrey is rich as the vet mentioned her various instances.

2. How does the narrator treat the dog?

Ans. The doctor observed the sluggish state of the pet. He knew already that he was over pampered. The doctor gave Tricki no food, but plenty of water for two days. Slowly, the dog started showing interest in his surroundings and began mixing with the other dogs at the surgery. On the third day, the doctor saw Tricki licking the empty supper bowls of the other dogs. Next day, a separate bowl was kept for it and the doctor was pleased to note that Tricki was running to eat its food with enthusiasm. From that day onwards, its progress was rapid. It did not require medicinal treatment of any kind and recovered quite well at the end. So, the vet took some hard steps initially to make the dog more energetic.

3. Why is he tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey was a rich lady who has spoiled her pet and sent eggs and wine etc. for it to strengthen its stamina. However, the vet knew that consumption of such food articles would spoil its health. So he and his friends started enjoying it. According to the narrator, those were the days of deep content for them – starting with the extra egg in the morning, then the midday wine, and finally finishing the day with brandy. This was the reason why the narrator was tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest.

4. Why does Mrs. Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is "A Triumph of Surgery"?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey had overpampered the pet and spoiled its condition. She tried everything to make it well. She was worried. She thought that the dog's recovery was "A Triumph of Surgery" because in two weeks, Tricki had been transformed into a hard – muscled animal. When Tricki saw her, it leaped into her lap and licked her face. She was so excited that tears started rolling out of her eyes. She declared Tricki's recovery as "A Triumph of Surgery" to express her happiness and gratitude towards the doctor.

5. What was the status of Mrs. Pumphrey?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey was a rich lady who had a small dog, named Tricki. She had pampered the dog by providing him things like

a raincoat for wet days, a whole wardrobe, full of tweed coats. There were separated bowls like breakfast bowl, lunch bowl, supper bowl etc. for his different meals. She had a lot of servants and maids to take care of him. Besides, she owned a chauffeur driven long, black car. All these things suggest that she was a rich lady.

### QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. What kind of dog was Tricki?
2. How was Tricki an exceptional case for Dr. Herriot?
3. Why was Tricki kept with the other dogs?
4. Was it Mrs. Pumphrey who spoiled Tricki health How?
5. 'The recovery of Tricki's health was really a triumph of surgery.' Justify.