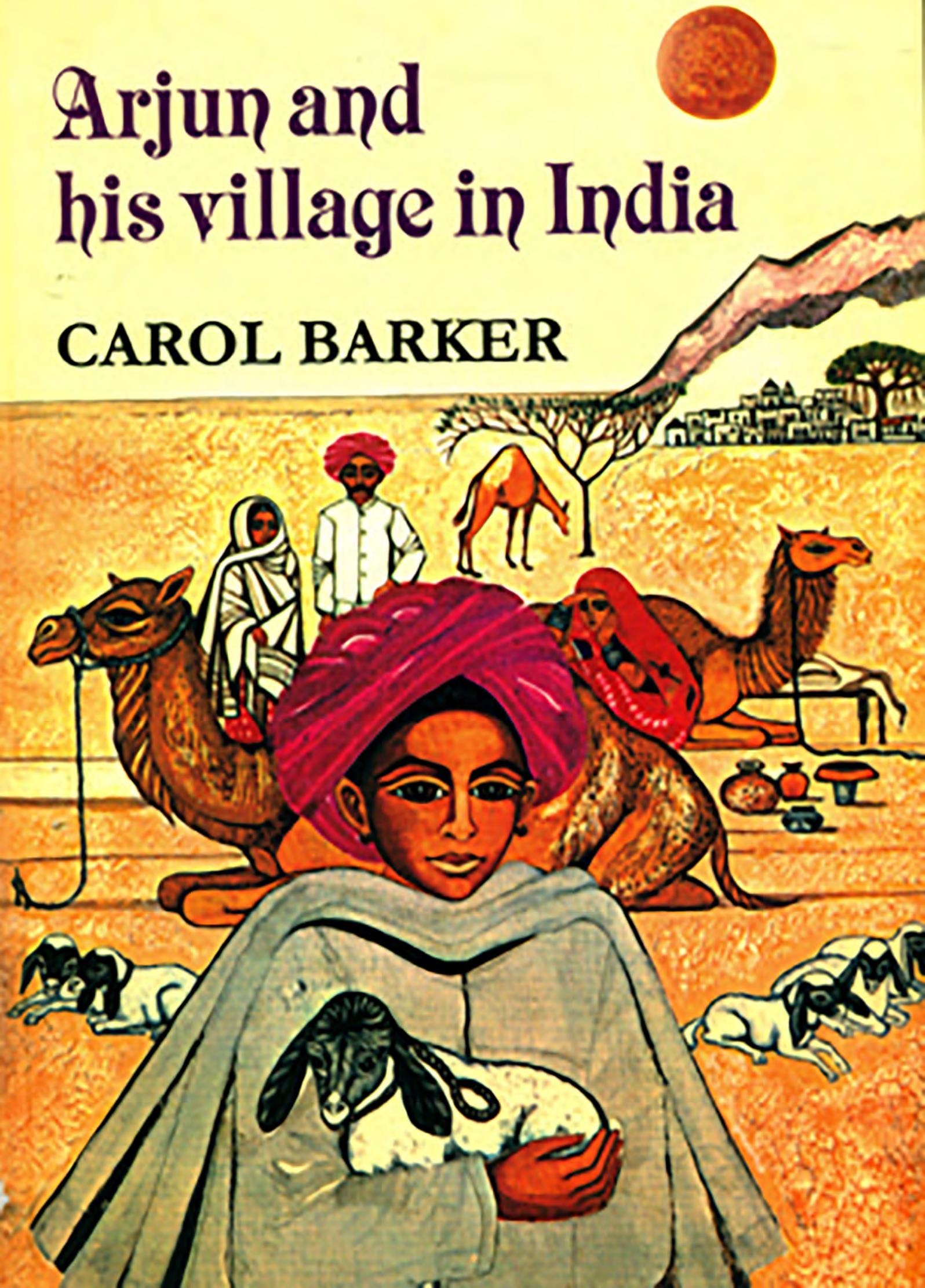


Arjun and his village in India

CAROL BARKER



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Written and illustrated by
CAROL BARKER



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ARJUN AND HIS VILLAGE IN INDIA

by Carol Barker

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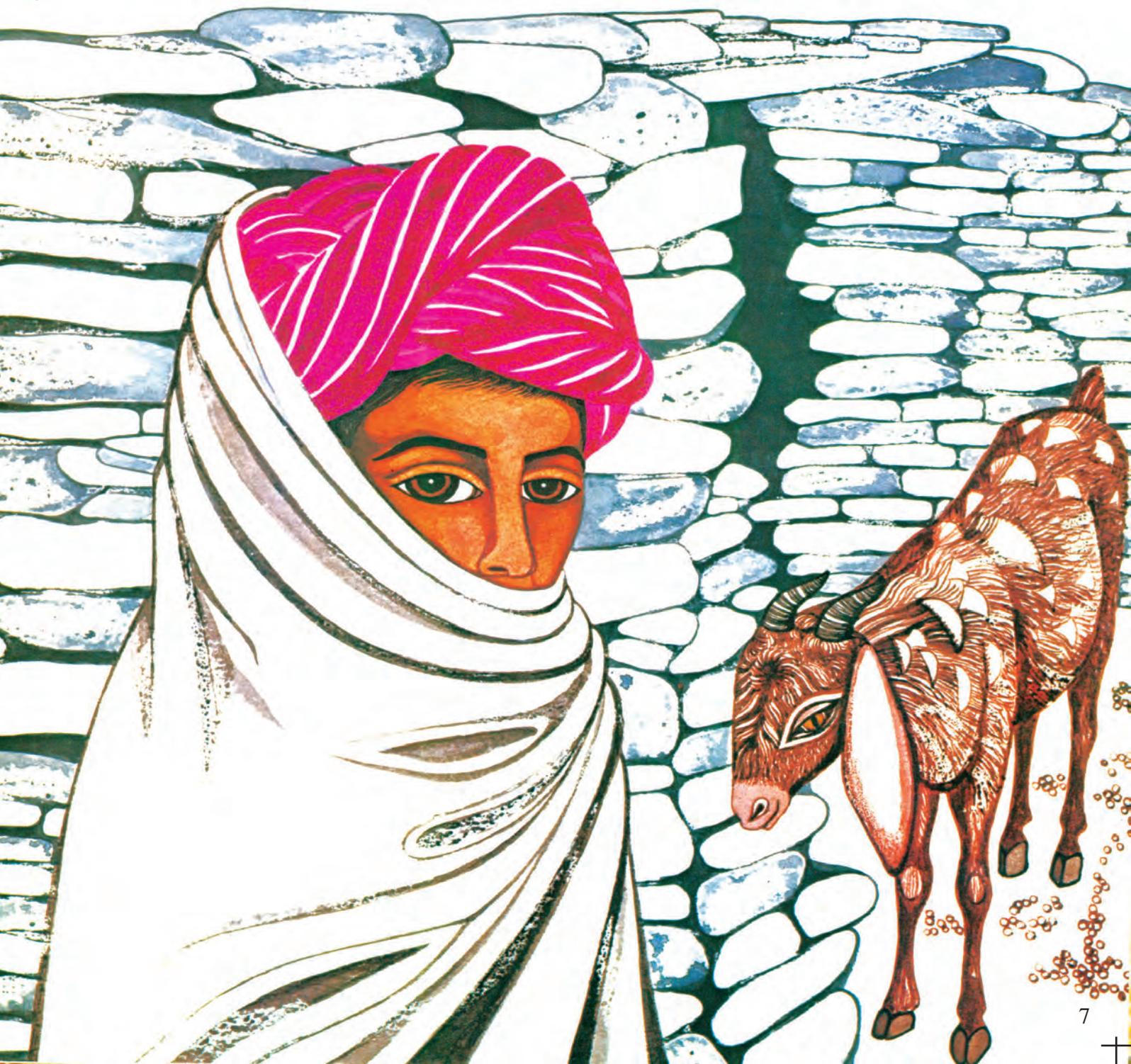
Vani Foundation's signature motif is created by Artist S.H. Raza

This book is dedicated to
Bunker and Aruna Roy, Manya Jayaram-Lindsay,
also to Ram Kurran Ji, Ram Niwas Ji, Teja Ram-Ji,
Teena, Bata, Santosh, and to all my other friends in India.
And in remembrance of S. Shri-Niwasan (Vasu) 1949-2014
and Bhanwar Gopal (Bhurji) 1953 – 2004.



Arjun lives in Tilonia, a village in Rajasthan, which is a state of northwest India. The land is usually dry and parched, as the monsoon rains do not last long there. On one side of Tilonia are bare rock-mountains where vultures and kites live, and miles and miles of arid wasteland. On the other side, where wells have been built, are green fertile fields, and trees and flowers. Here wild peacocks strut alongside their flocks of peahens, and green parrots fly.

Arjun himself told me about his family and his own life in the village. 'My father's name is Ghisa-Baba Jat, and my mother is called Rami Devi. I am twelve, and I have got two older sisters and two brothers, a sister younger than me, and a baby sister.'

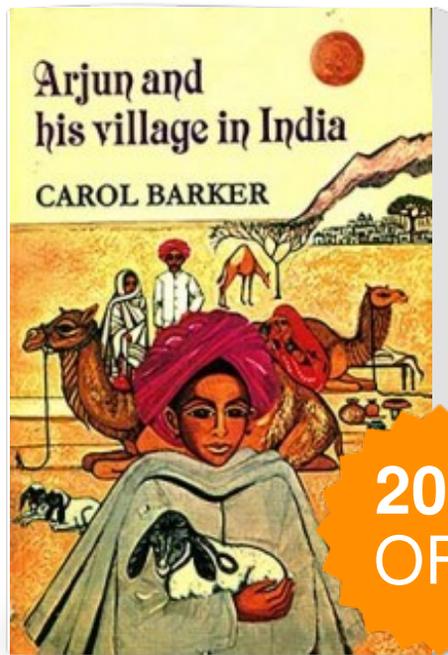


‘My grandparents and four uncles and their wives and children live with us too. We have houses next to each other round a communal courtyard, and we share the same kitchen and take turns to do the cooking. Grandfather is head of the household but when he dies his eldest son, my father, will be head of the household. My father is a farmer and he has got twenty-five bighas of land, and my uncles have each got twenty-five bighas too.’ (A bigha is about half an acre, so Arjun’s family owns about 60 acres of land altogether.)





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