

## Problems, Problems, Problems A Folktale from India

In a certain village in India, long ago, mosquitoes were a terrible problem. As soon as people opened their doors, the pests swarmed them. The constant buzzing and biting was driving everyone mad. Something had to be done.

"Frogs are the solution!" shouted one of the leaders.  
"They love to eat mosquitoes."  
The villagers quickly agreed.  
They captured thousands of frogs and set them loose.  
It wasn't long before the mosquitoes were gone.

But now the village was overrun with frogs!  
People couldn't walk down the street without stepping on one.  
Frogs hid in milk jars, jumped out of cupboards,  
and hopped on the table while people were eating.  
At night, their croaking was so loud that no one could sleep.  
Something had to be done.

"Snakes are the solution!" shouted one of the leaders. "They love to eat frogs."  
Again, the villagers quickly agreed.  
They captured thousands of snakes and set them loose.  
The snakes gobbled down one frog after another.  
Before long, the frog problem was solved.

But now the village was overrun with snakes! They hissed!  
They sneakily slithered around, waiting to pounce on their prey.  
When there were no more frogs to eat, they ate cats and dogs.  
Something had to be done.

No one could think of a solution.  
The leaders finally admitted, somewhat sheepishly,  
"It seems that sometimes the solution to a problem can be worse than the problem itself."  
The people felt they had no choice but to pack up their belongings and move away.

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