



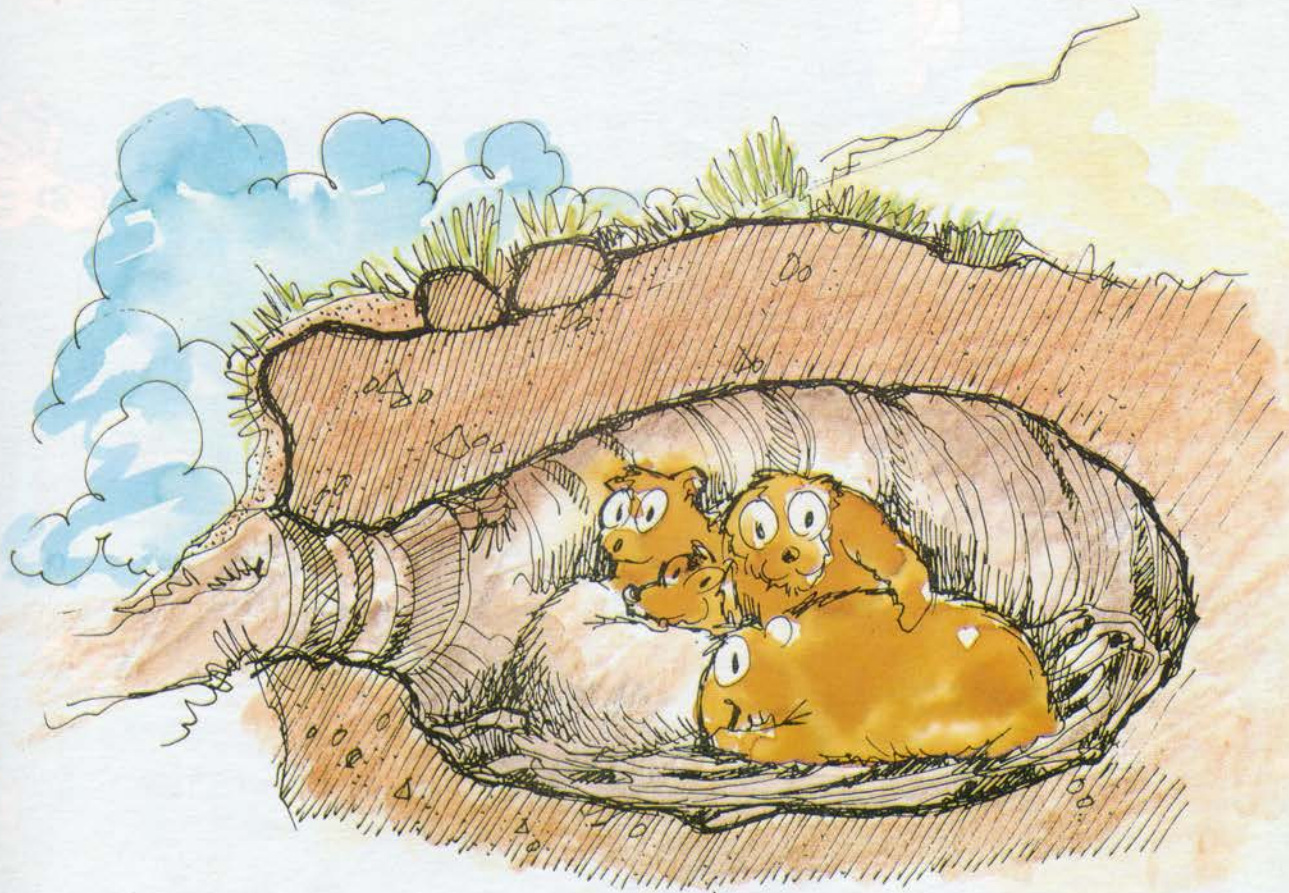
Naveed's First Lesson

There once was a golden marmot named Naveed who lived in Pakistan's Khunjerab National Park. Naveed was born along with his two brothers and two sisters in June. For about three weeks, their mother fed them milk, and their father kept other marmots away from the nesting den.

When Naveed and his siblings were three weeks old and their mother was out eating grass, they sneaked out of their burrow to have a look outside. Naveed was the bravest of his littermates, and on a dare he explored the area around his den.

Suddenly, Naveed's mother ran quickly back to their burrow and chirped to her pups to return as quickly as possible. Naveed had never heard this sound before, but it really scared him, so he ran back towards his mother

Little did Naveed know, but an eagle was swooping in behind him. He was scared — he saw his brothers and sisters disappear into the burrow in front of him and he ran even faster —



he didn't want to be alone. As soon as he was close enough to jump into the burrow he took a great leap and disappeared inside. The eagle swooped and missed him by a couple of centimetres.

Once safely inside, his mother reprimanded all her siblings and explained to them that their meadow was a scary place. In addition to eagles that loved the taste of young marmots, there were wolves, foxes, snow leopards and lammergeiers who loved to eat young marmot. Naveed listened attentively to his mother's lecture.

Naveed's mother said that the sound they heard her give was called an alarm call and that whenever they were scared they were to run to their burrow and give it. Whenever they heard it they were to run to their burrow as fast as possible.

This lecture took a long time. When his mother was finished, Naveed asked if he could go out again. His mother said yes, but be careful. Naveed promised to be careful and to call whenever he was scared. This is why you hear marmots calling when you visit their meadows in Khunjerab National Park. ■