

Tenali Rama and The Three Dolls

The great king Krishna Deva Raya had a lot of wise ministers in his court. The wisest of them was *Tenali Rama*.

One day, a merchant came to the king's court. He saluted the king and said, "*Your Majesty, I have heard from many people that you have very wise ministers in your court. But with your permission, I would like to test the wisdom of your ministers.*"

"Go ahead " said the King.

The merchant gave the king *three dolls that looked identical*.

He said, "Though these *dolls look similar, they are different* in some way. If your ministers can *find out the difference, I will bow to their wisdom*. But if they can't, I will assume that there are no wise ministers in your court. I will be back in *seven days* for the answer."

Tenali Rama was sick and he was not available in the court. At the end of three days, *none of the ministers could figure out the difference*.

The king got worried and went to visit Tenali Rama .

He said to him, "Tenali it is a *matter of our honour now*. Since no one has been able to find the solution, it is up to you now. You have to find the difference between these dolls."

The problem proved difficult for Tenali too, but at last, he was able to figure out the difference.

He went to the court with the three dolls on the day that the merchant had to return. Then, he announced in front of the whole court that he had found the difference between the dolls.

He said, "*These three dolls are different because one of them is good, one average and one bad.*"

When everyone asked Tenali that which doll was which, he showed them a *tiny hole that was present in the ears of each of the dolls*. Then, he took a very *thin wire and put it in the hole of the first doll's ear*. The wire came out from the *doll's mouth*. He did the same with the second doll and the wire came out from the *doll's other ear*. In the third doll, the *wire went to the heart and did not come out*.

"So , can anyone tell me which Doll is which ? " Tenali said

There was a minister in the court who was very jealous of Tenali Rama.

He laughed derisively.

"*That's easy*" he said .

"In the *first* doll, the wire went in through the ear and came out through the mouth. So, this doll is *bad* as it represents people who *cannot keep a secret*. In the *second* doll, the wire came out of the other ear. So, it is *average* and represents harmless people who *do not understand what is said to them*. The *third* doll, in which the wire went to the heart and did not come out, represents *good* people who will *keep the secret* that you tell them."

The king, the merchant and all the courtiers were very impressed with this wise answer. He jealous minister beamed.

Then Tenali said, "But there can be *another explanation too*. The first doll represents *people who gain knowledge and spread it among others*, so it is *good*. The *second* doll represents *people who do not understand what they are taught*, so it is *average*. The *third* doll represents *people who have knowledge but keep it all to themselves*. They *do not teach anyone anything* and so they are *bad* people "

Moral

The personality of the person reflects through his thoughts. *If you are crooked, your thoughts will be crooked and if you are straight and fair, your thoughts will be likewise.*