



# Story



*King Midas  
and the Golden Touch*

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Once upon a time, a long time ago in ancient Greece, there lived a king named Midas. King Midas loved three things more than anything else in the world - his little daughter, his rose garden, and gold. Nothing gave him more pleasure than seeing his little daughter picking roses in the garden, roses she placed in a golden vase to decorate the castle. One night, while strolling through his rose garden, the king stumbled over a satyr. A satyr was half man and half goat. This satyr looked half starved and very ill. King Midas brought the satyr into his castle. He made sure the satyr was washed and fed and tucked into bed for a good sleep. When the satyr woke up the next morning, his fever was gone.

The king and the satyr had quite a nice chat over breakfast. King Midas was surprised to hear that the satyr belonged to the powerful god Dionysus, the god of wine and truth. That very day, the king personally took the satyr home in his best chariot. The satyr might only be a servant, but he was the servant of a god, and deserved the best treatment, which is something the king would have done anyway, because the king had a very kind heart. As it turned out, the satyr was more than a servant. To Dionysus, the satyr was his teacher and good friend. Dionysus told the king he would grant any one wish the king made to thank him for taking such good care of his friend. The king did not wish anything for his daughter because he had given her everything. He did not wish anything for his rose garden because everyone knew he grew the finest roses in all the world.





## King Midas and the Golden Touch



He thought of gold. King Midas wished that everything he touched would turn to gold. When the king arrived back at his castle, he pulled out a chair to sit down at his table. The minute he touched it, the chair turned to gold. He touched the table. He touched a vase. As soon as he touched them, they turned into gold. King Midas raced through his castle. Everything he touched turned to gold! He was very happy. He shouted to his servants to cook him a feast in celebration! His servants cooked and served him a feast. That's when the trouble started. Everything looked and smelled so good that King Midas sat to eat to his heart's content.



## King Midas and the Golden Touch

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Lo! The food too turned into gold and made quite a clatter when he dropped it back on the table in shock. It had turned to gold in his fist. He touched other food. Whatever he touched turned into gold. The king's eyes filled with fear. He knew if he could not eat, he would starve. This was terrible. The king did not know what to do. King Midas wandered sadly in his rose garden. His little daughter was in the garden, picking roses. When she saw her father, she ran into his arms for a hug and turned to gold. King Midas hung his head and cried. As his tears fell on his precious roses they turned to gold, but the king did not care. He did not care about his roses or his gold or himself. "Dionysus, hear my prayer", the king begged. "Take my wish back! Please, take my wish back and save my daughter!" One last time, the king's wish was granted. So now you know what idiom 'Midas touch' has come?



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