



Two years went by. Then one evening, as Sergei was standing at the ticket window of a theatre paying for his seat, he noticed a little man beside him with a coat collar of curly fur and a worn sealskin cap. This little individual timidly asked the ticket seller for a seat in the gallery and paid for it in copper coins.

“Lushkoff, is that you ?” cried Sergei, recognizing in the little man his former wood-chopper. “How are you ? What are you doing ? How is everything with you ?”

“All right. I am a notary now and am paid thirty-five roubles a month”.

“Thank Heaven ! That’s fine ! I am delighted for your sake. I am very very glad, Lushkoff. You see, you are my godson, in a sense. I gave you a push along the right path, you know. Do you remember what a roasting I gave you ? I nearly had you sinking into the ground at my feet that day. Thank you, old man, for not forgetting my words”.

“Thank you, too”. said Lushkoff. “If I hadn’t come to you then I might still have been calling myself a teacher or a student to this day. Yes, by flying to your protraction I dragged myself out of a pit.”

“I am very glad, indeed.”

“Thank you for your kind words and deeds. I am very grateful to you and to your cook. God bless that good and noble woman ! You spoke finely then, and I shall be indebted to you to my dying day, but, strictly speaking, it was your cook, Olga, who saved me.”

“How is that ?”

“When I used to come to your house to chop wood, she used to begin; ‘Oh, you sot, you ! Oh you miserable creature ! There’s nothing for you but ruin.’ And then she would sit down opposite me and grow sad, look into my face and weep. ‘Oh, you unlucky man ! There is no pleasure for you in this world and there will be none in the world to come. You drunkard ! You will burn in hell. Oh, you unlucky man ! Oh, you unhappy one ! And so she would carry on, you know, in that strain. I can’t tell you how much misery she

suffered. How many tears she shed for my sake ! But the chief thing was- she used to chop the wood for me. Do you know, sir, that I did not chop one single stick of wood for you ? She did it all. Why this saved me, why I changed, why I stopped drinking at the sight of her I cannot explain. I only know that, owing to her words and noble deeds, a change took place in my heart; she set me right and I shall never forget it. However , it is time to go now; there goes the bell". Lushkoff bowed and departed to the gallery.

Anton Chekhov

**Comprehension check :**

- 1) When and where did Sergei meet Lushkoff ? How was Lushkoff dressed ?
- 2) What work did Lushkoff do then ? How much salary did he get every month ?
- 3) Did Sergei become happy to see the beggar in a different form? How do you know this ?
- 4) Was Lushkoff very grateful to Sergei ? Which statement(s) say so ?
- 5) Who really saved and changed the beggar's life and how ?
- 6) What made the beggar stop drinking ?
- 7) Which character in the story do you like most ? Support your answer with suitable reasons.

**C. Glossary :**

copeck : Russian coin equal

swear : promise

intrigue	:	a secret plot / plan
ragged	:	wearing old torn clothes
fawn	:	light brown
suppliant	:	a person making humble request
mendicant	:	beggar
expel	:	to force a pupil to leave a school
swindling	:	cheating a person of money
flush	:	become red
disgust	:	strong disapproval
fiction	:	imaginary story
choir	:	singing group or melody party
billet	:	a thick piece of wood
vodka	:	a colourless strong alcoholic drink
waif	:	a homeless person
shovel	:	remove snow with a shovel ( a tool like a spade with a broad blade and typically unturned sides)
roasting	:	an informal or humorous word : here scolding
sod	:	a habitual drunkard

#### **D. Writing :**

Answer the following questions in fifty words.

- 1) Who were Sergei and Lushkoff ? Describe their first meeting.
- 2) Did Lushkoff become a beggar by circumstances or by choice ? What reasons did the beggar give to Sergei for telling lies ?

- 3) Why did Lushkoff agree to chop wood ? What were the other things Lushkoff had to do ?
- 4) Collect information about Sergei's cook and write a short paragraph.
- 5) What made the beggar change his way of life ?
- 6) Which character do you like most and why ?
- 7) Write a short paragraph suggesting some ways for abolishing the practice of begging in our country.

### **E. Activity**

#### **Activity -1**

Read the following statements and write the names of the persons who said the statements in the blank spaces provided.

- a) She set me right and I shall never forget it . \_\_\_\_\_
- b) For three days I have had nothing to eat . \_\_\_\_\_
- c) I only know that, owing to her words and noble deeds, a change took place in my heart. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) I shall send the police for you . \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Well, I am happy that my words have taken effect. \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Help me kindly : I am ashamed to ask - but I am obliged to by circumstance. \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Work ! That's what you can do ! You must work ! \_\_\_\_\_
- h) No one will give me anything when I tell the truth . \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Work hard, don't drink, and remember what I have said to you. \_\_\_\_\_
- j) Thank you for your kind words and deeds. \_\_\_\_\_
- k) I am delighted for your shake. \_\_\_\_\_
- l) How are you ? What are you doing ? How is everything with you ? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Activity-II**

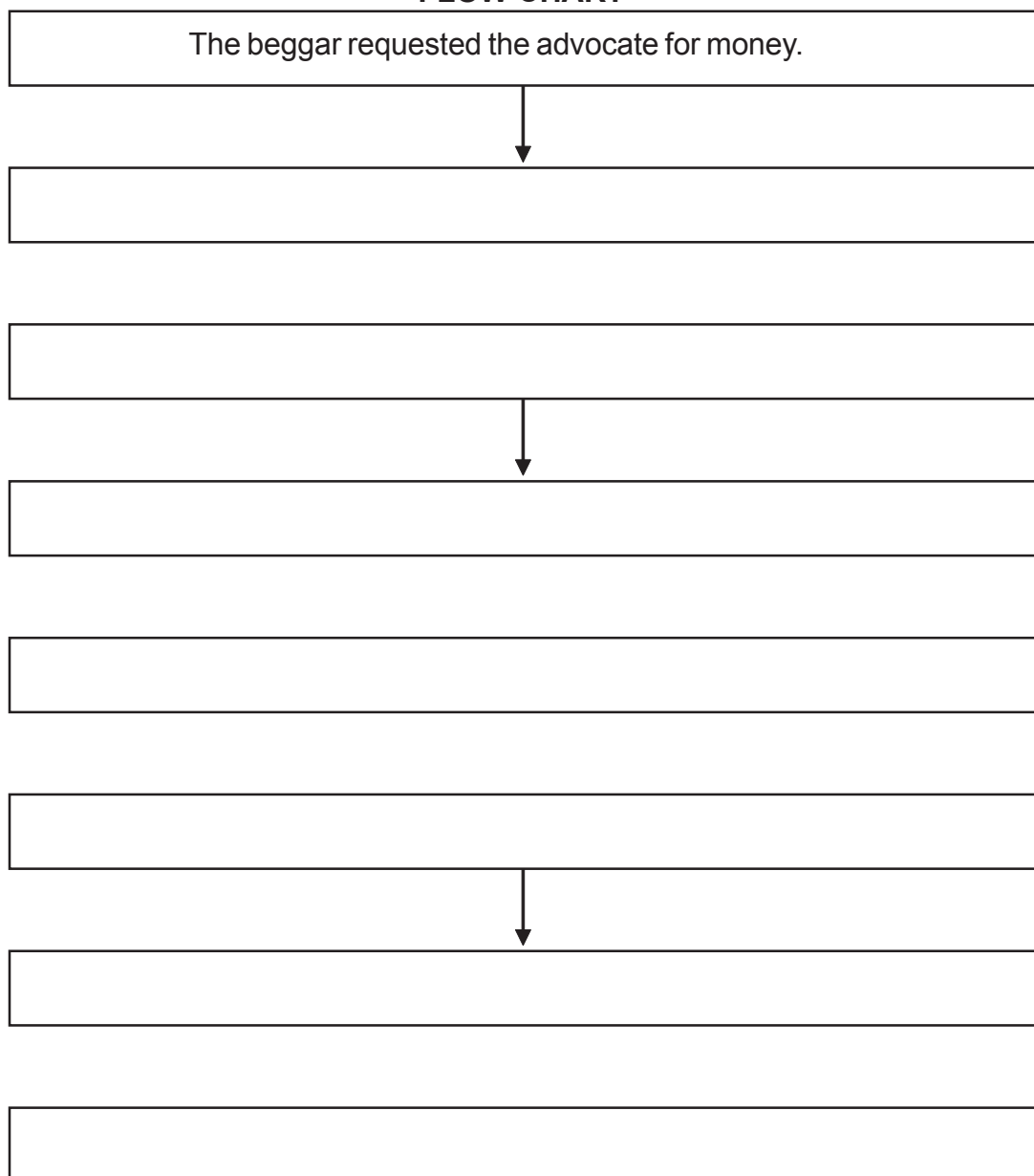
Arrange the above statements in proper order as they are used in the story.

### Activity - III

Supply appropriate information from brackets for the blank spaces in the flow chart.  
One is done for you.

(asked the beggar to chop wood, the beggar requested the advocate for money, the advocate offered another one of copying, advocate met Lushkoff after two years, the beggar owed a lot to the cook and departed, the advocate wanted to know the truth, the beggar told him every thing about his change, on the first of every month appeared and earned half a rouble)

#### FLOW CHART



**Activity - IV**

Read the story and fill in the blanks in the table with information about the characters.

Name of the Characters	Physical appearance	Profession	Dress	Quality	Work



## THE VILLAGE JUDGE



### A. Before you read :

- 1) Do you sometimes fight with your brother(s) and sister(s) ? Who do you go to settle your quarrel ?
- 2) Why do people go to the judge ?
- 3) Do you know about the village 'Panch' ? Can you tell the class what you know?
- 4) The title of the story you are going to read is "The Village Judge". Do you think it will be a story about friendship or enmity?

### B. The Text :

#### I

Jumman Sheikh and Algu Chaudhuri were great friends. Each trusted the other completely. Jumman Sheikh had an old aunt. She had a small piece of property. Jumman had **persuaded** her to transfer the property to his name. So long as it was not done, the aunt had been treated with great kindness and respect. But when the property was transferred, all kindness vanished. Jumman and his wife, Kariman, became harsh and rude.

For some time the aunt bore all this. But when she could bear it no more, she complained to Jumman. "Soon, I can't go on like this anymore. You should give me some money. I shall cook and eat separately.

Jumman replied rudely. "Money does not grow on trees here."

The aunt grew angry. She threatened to call a panchayat. Jumman said " Certainly, have a panchayat by all means. I also would like a decision. I hate there daily quarrels myself."