

English stories

01. THREE FRIENDS AND A BAG OF GOLD

The moral of the story is “greed is a curse.” Greed is an extreme longing for material gains. Man never feels satisfied with what he earns. He craves for more and more wealth. Perhaps it is human nature to get more and more.

Once there lived three friends in a village. They were very poor. One day, they set out on a journey to seek some means of earning. They posed to be fast friends, but inwardly they were very selfish. Each wanted to feather his nest by hook or by crook. While passing through a thick forest, they found a bag. They were mad with joy when they opened it. It was full of gold coins. They sat down under a cool shady tree to discuss the matter. Finally, they decided to divide the treasure equally among themselves. However, secretly, each desired to have all the coins to himself. After some time, they felt hungry. They sent one of them to the nearby town to fetch food. The man who had gone to the town to fetch food decided to kill the other two friends by poisoning them. He wanted to have all the treasure to himself. He bought some poison, mixed it in the food and returned to the jungle. The other two friends were even far greedier than he. They had already made a plot to kill him and divide the coins equally between themselves. When the third friend arrived there with food, they fell upon him and killed him mercilessly. As they were hungry, they began to eat the poisoned food greedily. As soon as they finished eating it, they felt senseless and died.

Moral: Greed is a curse.

02. MERCURY AND THE WOODCUTTER

All religions teach the lesson of honesty, truth and uprightness. The path to honesty and truth is full of trials and tribulations but the ultimate gain is always good. The following story very rightly illustrates the moral: Honesty is the best policy.

Once there was a poor woodcutter. He earned his living by cutting and selling wood. One day, he was cutting wood on the bank of a river when his axe slipped from his hands and fell into the river. The axe was his only source of living. The poor woodcutter was so helpless that he started to cry. Mercury, the river-god, felt pity for him and came out of the water. The god asked him the reason of his grief. The wood-cutter said that he had lost his only axe in the water and he had no idea how to retrieve it. Saying this, he started crying again. The god dived into the water and came up with a golden axe. The god asked the woodcutter if it was his axe. The woodcutter said that it was not his axe. The god jumped into the water for the second time and appeared with a silver axe. Again, the woodcutter refused to accept it, saying that his axe was made of iron. The god disappeared for the third time and came out with an iron axe. The woodcutter jumped with joy and said, “This is my axe!” He took it at once and was very pleased. The god was impressed by the honesty of the woodcutter and gave him the other two axes as a reward for his honesty.

Moral: Honesty is the best policy.

English stories

03. THE SLAVE AND A LION

The story teaches us that kindness is always rewarded. It urges us to promote love and kindness. All the religions promote goodness. The Holy Quran says:

“Shall the reward of goodness be other than goodness?”

In ancient times, a cruel master had many slaves. He tortured them just for fun and joy. Harry was one of his slaves. Once, Harry escaped from the cruel claws of his master and took refuge in a cave. There, one day, he came across a fierce lion. He got frightened. He wanted to run away to save his life but then suddenly, he realized that the lion was moaning with pain. He saw that one of his paws was badly swollen. He saw that a big thorn had pierced the lion's paw. He decided to relieve the lion of his plight. He observed the lion's movement for a while. Finally, he decided to take the risk. He went near the lion and pulled out the thorn from his paw. The lion heaved a sigh of relief, cast a look of gratitude at his benefactor and went his way. After a long time, the slave was captured and brought before the cruel master. The master ordered his servants to cast the slave before a hungry lion as a warning for other slaves. On the fixed day, a lion was released upon him. The lion recognized his benefactor and began to lick his feet. As soon as the master learnt the event of the slave's bravery he was moved to tears. He ordered the lion to be set free again in the forest, and the slave to be pardoned and freed.

Moral: Do good and have good.

04. A FOOLISH STAG

‘All that glitters is not gold’ is an old adage. It means that all attractive things are not really valuable. Many things glitter like gold, but actually they are not gold. The idiom, ‘Don't judge a book by its cover’ also conveys the same meaning. We cannot judge the value of a thing by its look; rather we should study it minutely to find out its real worth. Hellen Keller says in this context: “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched; they must be felt with the heart.”

Once, a stag arrived at a stream to drink water. He drank his fill. Suddenly, he caught sight of his reflection in the clear crystal water. He was extremely delighted to see his beautiful antlers. He felt very proud and admired the grace of his antlers. Suddenly, he caught sight of his legs. He was disappointed to see his slender and thin legs. While he was thus contemplating, he heard the howls of hounds from a distance. To his fright, he saw a pack of hounds running towards him across the field. He immediately took to flight into the jungle. Soon, with the help of his thin legs, he was well away from the hounds. By chance, he had to cross a part of forest overgrown with bushes. While running through it, his antlers got entangled in the thick bushes. He made desperate efforts to free himself but all to no avail. His lean legs, which he badly hated, had brought him away from death. But, his majestic antlers, which he admired so proudly, had brought him on the verge of death. In no time, the howling hounds fell and tore him to pieces.

Moral: All that glitters is not gold.

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05. THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

The story tells us about one of the seven deadly sins i.e. the pride. It advises us not to be proud of anything in life. Read the Holy Quran:

Indeed, He (ALLAH) does not like the arrogant.

Pride is a big cause of spiritual crisis among humans. Man should never be proud of his bearings, intelligence, status or even piety. We should not belittle others. The arrogant are finally bound to fall. The story also teaches us another lesson of steadfastness. It urges us to be steady in our doings.

This story took place in old times when all the animals lived peacefully. It so happened that a hare and a tortoise became good friends. The tortoise lived in a pond while the hare had made his burrow nearby. Their relationship went on smoothly except that there was one problem. The hare was very proud of his speed and often taunted his friend for his slow speed. The tortoise would get hurt but remained silent. One day, the hare was sitting with other animals and as usual boasting of his speed. Out of pride, he challenged them to run a race with him. The tortoise said that he would accept the challenge. "What a joke," remarked the hare distrustfully, but the tortoise kept calm. A distant tree was chosen as the finishing point. The race started and the hare got out of sight at once. But, soon, he stopped to show his contempt for the slow tortoise and lay down for a nap. In the meantime, the tortoise kept on moving steadily. After waking up, the hare looked back and got satisfied for not seeing any sign of the tortoise nearby. It was evening, and the weather was mild, so he began to walk leisurely towards the finishing point. When he reached there, he was stunned to see the tortoise already resting at the winning post. He became much embarrassed when the tortoise remarked. "You were very proud of your speed but behold slow and steady wins the race".

Moral: Pride hath a fall.

06. THE FARMER AND HIS SON

An old farmer lived in a village with his three sons. The sons were grown up and healthy, but they used to quarrel with one another all the time. The father tried his best to bring harmony among them. But even his best efforts proved fruitless in bringing peace among them. It so happened that he fell seriously ill one day. In fear of being dead soon, the father thought of a plan to teach them a lesson about the worth of unity for the last time. He summoned his sons and asked them to bring some sticks of equal length with them. When the sons did the same, he tied them together into a bundle and asked them to break it one by one. All of them tried their best to do what they were told but remained unsuccessful. At this, the father smiled and said, "Well, my sons! Now untie the bundle and try to break the sticks separately". In no time, the sticks of the bundle were reduced to small pieces. It was the time that the old man was waiting for, so, he said, "My sons! You see, when the sticks were tied together, nobody could break them. Once, they were separated, it became easy to break them. Thus, together you rise and individual you die. "These words touched the f h sons deeply. They at once realized their mistake and understood what their father wanted them to learn. Henceforth, they always remained united and powerful.

Moral: Union is Strength.

07. THE WOLF AND THE LAMB

The story highlights the maxim: 'might is right.' It highlights the idea that the mighty people have got an exclusive right to assert themselves. They are justified in their doings regardless what other people think of them.

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