

## The Shepherd's Treasure

IN a village in Iran there once lived a **shepherd**. He was very poor. He did not even have a small **cottage** of his own. He had never been to school or learnt to read and write, for there were very few schools in those days.

**Though** poor and uneducated, this shepherd was very **wise**. He understood people's **sorrows** and troubles, and helped them face their problems with **courage** and common sense. Many people came to him for advice. Soon he became famous for his **wisdom** and friendly nature. The king of that country heard about him, and thought of meeting him.

**Disguised** as a shepherd and riding on a **mule**, one day the king came to the **cave** where the wise shepherd lived. As soon as the shepherd saw the traveler coming towards the cave, he rose to welcome him. He took the tired traveller inside the cave, gave him water to drink and a share of his own **meager** meal. The king rested for the night in the cave and was greatly impressed by the shepherd's **hospitality** and wise conversation.

Though still tired, the king decided to **depart** the next morning. He said, "Many thanks for your **kindness** to a poor traveller. I have a long way to go. **Permit** me to leave."

Looking straight into the eyes of his guest, the shepherd replied, "Thank you, **Your Majesty**, for **paying** me the **compliment** of a **visit**."



The king was **astonished** as well as **pleased**. 'He is **indeed** very wise.' he thought to himself. 'I need people like him to work for me.' And the king appointed this humble shepherd the governor of a small district.

**Although** he **rose to power** and **dignity**, the shepherd remained as humble as ever. People loved and **honoured** him for his wisdom, sympathy and goodness. He was kind and just to one and all. His **fame** as a fair and wise governor soon spread **throughout** the country.

Now the governors of other **provinces** grew **terribly** jealous of him and began to talk to the king against him. They said, "He is very dishonest, and keeps for himself part of the money that he collects as tax from the people." Why did he always carry with him, they added, an iron **chest**? **Perhaps** he carried in it the treasure that he had secretly collected. After all, they said **mockingly**, he was an ordinary shepherd and could behave no better.

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At first the king did not pay attention to these reports, but how long could he ignore these governors and their endless stories about the shepherd? One thing was **certain**, the king discovered. The new governor did carry an iron chest with him all the time.



So, one day, the new governor was **summoned** to the palace. He came riding on his camel, and **to everyone's delight**, the famous iron chest was there **fastened** securely behind him on the camel's back.

Now the king was angry. He **thundered**, "Why do you always carry that iron chest with you? What does it contain?"

The governor smiled. He asked his servant to bring in the chest. How **eagerly** the people standing around waited for the shepherd to be **found out**! But how great was their **astonishment**, and even of the king himself, when the chest was opened! No gold or silver or jewels but an old blanket was all that came out. Holding it up proudly, the shepherd said, "This, my dear master, is my only treasure. I always carry it with me."

"But why do you carry such an ordinary blanket with you? Surely, you are the governor of a district?" the king asked. To which the shepherd replied with quiet dignity, "This blanket is my oldest friend. It will still protect me if, at any time, Your Majesty should wish to take away my new **cloaks**."

How pleased the king was, and how **embarrassed** the jealous governors became to hear the wise man's reply! Now they knew that the shepherd was indeed the humblest and the wisest man in the land. The king made him the governor of a much bigger district that very day.

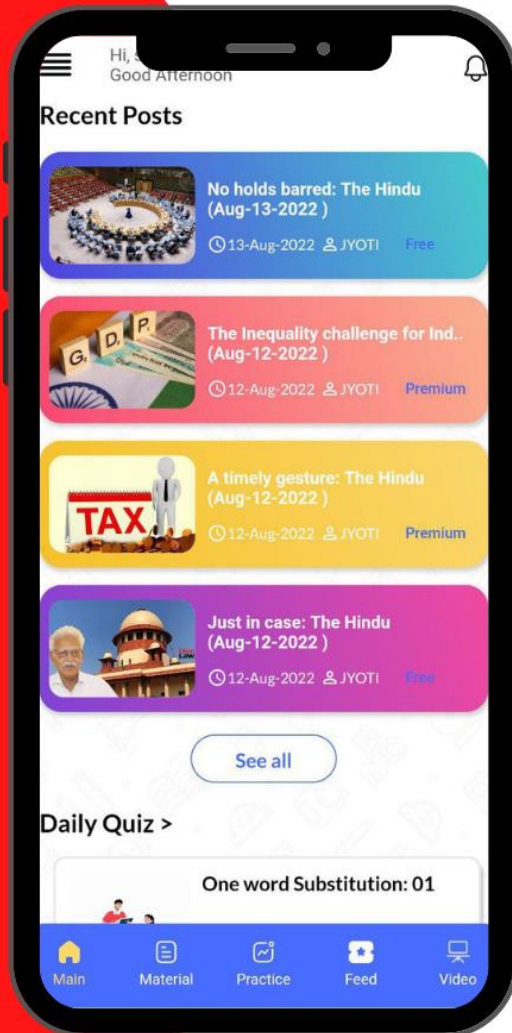
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### Vocabulary

- Shepherd** (noun) – someone who keeps the sheep together in a flock चरवाहा, गड़ेरिया
- Treasure** (noun) – any possession that is highly valued by its owner खजाना
- Cottage** (noun) – a small house with a single floor कुटिया
- Though** (adverb) – however हलांकि
- Wise** (adjective) – Astute, intelligent, prudent, sage, sensible, judicious, clever बुद्धिमान
- Sorrow** (noun) – Grief, Mourning, Sadness, Distress, Sorrowfulness, Unhappiness दुःख
- Courage** (noun) – Bravery, Nerve, Pluck, Valor, Daring, Audacity साहस
- Wisdom** (noun) – Understanding, Knowledge, Sense, Insight, Perception बुद्धि
- Disguised** (adjective) – having changed one's appearance in order to conceal one's identity. प्रच्छन्न
- Mule** (noun) – hybrid offspring of a male donkey and a female horse खच्चर
- Cave** (noun) – Hollow, Pothole, Fissure, Cavity गुफा
- Meager** (adjective) – Scanty, Insufficient, Paltry, Skimpy, Small, Insubstantial अल्प
- Hospitality** (noun) – Welcome, Friendliness, Warmth, Kindness, Generosity, Openness आतिथ्य
- Depart** (verb) – Leave, Proceed, Go forward रवाना होना
- Kindness** (noun) – Compassion, Sympathy, Gentleness, Kindheartedness, Kind-heartedness, Benevolence दयालुता
- Permit** (adverb) – Authorize, Allow, Let, Approve, Sanction, Pass अनुमति देना
- Your Majesty** (noun) – used for talking to king or queen महाराज
- Pay someone a compliment** (noun) – to say something nice about someone. किसी की तारीफ करना
- Visit** (noun) – the act of going to see some person or place or thing for a short time भेंट, मुलाकात
- Astonished** (adjective) – Surprised, Amazed, Astounded, Dumbfounded, Flabbergasted, Incredulous, Overwhelmed आश्चर्यचकित
- Pleased** (adjective) – Satisfied, Happy, Content, Delighted, Contented, Thrilled प्रसन्न

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22. **Indeed** (adverb) – Certainly, Really, Undeniably, Definitely, Truly वास्तव में
23. **Although** (adverb) – Though, While, Even though, Even if यद्यपि
24. **Rise to power** (phrase) – the act of attaining or gaining access to a new office or right or position (especially the throne)
25. **Dignity** (noun) – high office or rank or station; position, status गरिमा
26. **Honour** (verb) – Esteem, Respect, Admire, Revere, Reverence, Venerate, Exalt आदर करना
27. **Fame** (noun) – Celebrity, Renown, Reputation, Distinction, Recognition, Eminence, Prominence प्रसिद्धि
28. **Throughout** (adverb) – in every part of a place or object. हर जगह
29. **Province** (noun) – Area, Sphere, Field, Jurisdiction, Domain, Authority प्रदेश
30. **Terribly** (adverb) – Awfully, Dreadfully, Appallingly, Horribly, Offensively, Intolerably बहुत
31. **Chest** (noun) – Box, Trunk, Container, Coffin, Strongbox संदूक
32. **Perhaps** (adverb) – Maybe, Possibly, Perchance, Conceivably, Feasibly, Imaginably शायद
33. **Mockingly** (adverb) – Scornfully, Contemptuously, Sarcastically, Derisively, Sardonicly, Insultingly, Disdainfully मजाक उड़ाते हुए
34. **Certain** (adjective) – Sure, Convinced, Positive, Confident, Firm, Definite निश्चित
35. **Summon** (verb) – ask to come बुलवाना
36. **To everyone's delight** (phrase) – causing someone to be very happy किसी की खुशी के लिए
37. **Fasten** (verb) – Attach, Clip, Affix, Join, Chain, Tie, Hook, Hitch, Pin जकड़ना, बांधना
38. **Thunder** (verb) – Shout, Bellow, Boom, Roar, Yell, Bark गरजना
39. **Eagerly** (adverb) – Keenly, Enthusiastically, Excitedly, Readily, Willingly, Impatiently, Fervently बेसब्री से
40. **Find out** (phrasal verb) – Expose, Uncover, Reveal, Unmask, Catch खुलासा होना
41. **Astonishment** (noun) – Surprise, Amazement, Wonder, Bewilderment, Shock आश्चर्य
42. **Cloak** (noun) – a loose outer garment चोगा
43. **Embarrass** (verb) – Humiliate, Mortify, Shame, Discomfit, Disconcert शर्मिंदा होना



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