

## The Golden Bird – Part A

A certain king had a beautiful garden, and in the garden stood a tree which **bore** golden apples. These apples were always counted, and about the time when they began to grow **ripe** it was found that every night one of them was gone. The king became very angry at this, and ordered the gardener to keep watch all night under the tree. The gardener set his eldest son to



watch; but about twelve o'clock he **fell asleep**, and in the morning another of the apples was missing. Then the second son was ordered to watch; and at midnight he too fell asleep, and in the morning another apple was gone. Then the third son offered to **keep watch**; but the gardener at first would not let him, for fear some harm should come to him: however, at last he **consented**, and the young man **laid** himself under the tree to watch. As the **clock struck** twelve he **heard** a **rustling** noise in the air, and a bird came flying that was of pure gold; and as it was **snapping** at one of the apples with its **beak**, the gardener's son jumped up and shot an **arrow** at it. But the arrow did the bird no harm; only it **dropped** a golden **feather** from its **tail**, and then flew away. The golden feather was brought to the king in the morning, and all the council was called together. Everyone agreed that it was **worth** more than all the **wealth** of the kingdom: but the king said, 'One feather is of no use to me, I must have the whole bird.'

Then the gardener's eldest son **set out** and thought to find the golden bird very easily; and when he had gone but a little way, he came to a wood, and by the side of the wood he saw a fox sitting; so he took his **bow** and made ready to shoot at it. Then the fox said, 'Do not shoot me, for I will give you good **counsel**; I know what your **business** is, and that you want to find the golden bird. You will reach a village in the evening; and when you get there, you will see two **inns** opposite to each other, one of which is very **pleasant** and beautiful to look at: go not in there, but rest for the night in the other, though it may **appear** to you to be very poor and **mean**.' But the son thought to himself, 'What can such a **beast** as this know about the matter?' So he shot his arrow at the fox; but he missed it, and it set up its tail above its back and ran into the **wood**. Then he **went his way**, and in the evening came to the village where the two inns were; and in one of these were people singing, and dancing, and **feasting**; but the other looked very dirty, and poor. 'I should be very **silly**,' said he, 'if I went to that **shabby** house, and left this **charming** place'; so he went into the smart house, and ate and drank at his **ease**, and forgot the bird, and his country too.

Time passed on; and as the eldest son did not come back, and no **tidings** were heard of him, the second son set out, and the same thing happened to him. He met the fox, who gave him the good advice: but when he came to the two inns, his eldest brother was standing at the window

where the **merrymaking** was, and called to him to come in; and he could not **withstand** the **temptation**, but went in, and forgot the golden bird and his country in the same manner.

Time passed on again, and the youngest son too wished to set out into the wide world to **seek** for the golden bird; but his father would not listen to it for **a long while**, for he was very **fond** of his son, and was afraid that some **ill luck** might happen to him also, and **prevent** his coming back. However, at last it was agreed he should go, for he would not rest at home; and as he came to the wood, he met the fox, and heard the same good counsel. But he was thankful to the fox, and did not attempt his life as his brothers had done; so the fox said, 'Sit upon my tail, and you will travel faster.' So he sat down, and the fox began to run, and away they went over **stock** and stone so quick that their hair **whistled** in the wind.

When they came to the village, the son followed the fox's counsel, and without looking about him went to the shabby inn and rested there all night at his ease. In the morning came the fox again and met him as he was beginning his journey, and said, 'Go straight forward, till you come to a **castle**, before which **lie** a whole **troop** of soldiers **fast asleep** and **snoring**: take no notice of them, but go into the castle and pass **on and on** till you come to a room, where the golden bird sits in a wooden **cage**; **close by** it stands a beautiful golden cage; but do not try to take the bird out of the shabby cage and put it into the **handsome** one, otherwise you will **repent** it.' Then the fox **stretched out** his tail again, and the young man sat himself down, and away they went over stock and stone till their hair whistled in the wind.

Before the castle gate all was as the fox had said: so the son went in and found the chamber where the golden bird hung in a wooden cage, and below stood the golden cage, and the three golden apples that had been lost were lying close by it. Then thought he to himself, 'It will be a very **droll** thing to **bring away** such a fine bird in this shabby cage'; so he opened the door and **took hold of** it and put it into the golden cage. But the bird set up such a loud **scream** that all the soldiers awoke, and they took him **prisoner** and carried him before the king. The next morning the court sat to **judge** him; and when all was heard, it **sentenced** him to die, unless he should bring the king the golden horse which could run as **swiftly** as the wind; and if he did this, he was to have the golden bird given him for his own.

So he set out once more on his journey, **sighing**, and in great **despair**, when on a sudden his friend the fox met him, and said, 'You see now what has happened **on account of** your not listening to my counsel. I will still, however, tell you how to find the golden horse, if you will do as I **bid** you. You must go straight on till you come to the castle where the horse stands in his **stall**: by his side will lie the **groom** fast asleep and snoring: take away the horse quietly, but be sure to put the old **leathern saddle** upon him, and not the golden one that is close by it.' Then the son sat down on the fox's tail, and away they went over stock and stone till their hair whistled in the wind.

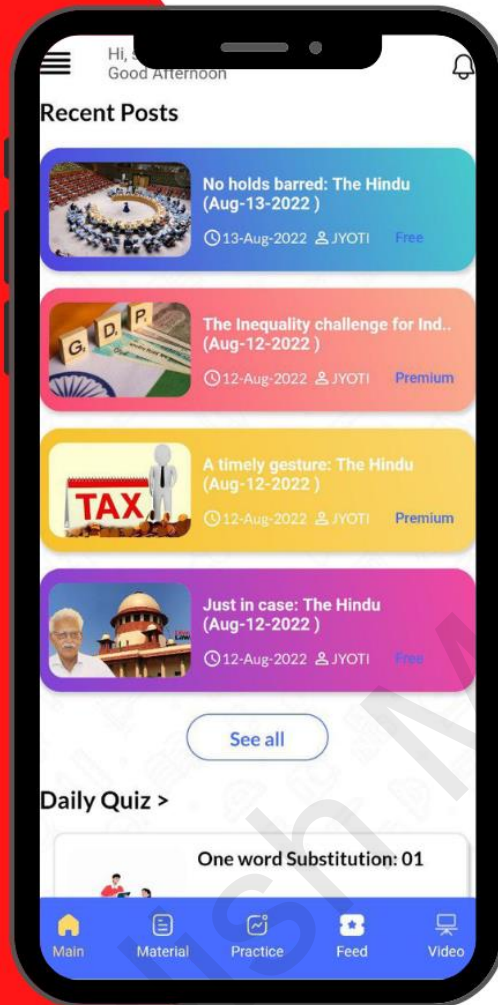
[To be continued.....]

## Vocabulary

1. **Bear** (verb) – (of a tree or plant) produce (fruit).
2. **Ripe** (adjective) – fully developed or matured and ready to be eaten or used परिपक्व, पका हुआ
3. **Fall asleep** (phrase) – to start to sleep सो जाना, नींद में पड़ना
4. **Keep watch** (phrase) – Stay on the lookout for danger or trouble. निगरानी करना
5. **Consent** (verb) – Agree, comply, assent, acquiesce, concur, accede सहमत होना
6. **Lay** (verb) – Recline, rest, stretch out लिटाना
7. **Clock Strike** (phrase) – it is used to refer to a particular time.
8. **Hear** (verb) – listen, listened, understand, overheard सुनाई पड़ना
9. **Rustling** (adjective) – rustle, whispering, whisper, murmurous, swish सरसराहट
10. **Snap** (verb) – to try to bite somebody/something किसी को काटने की कोशिश करना
11. **Beak** (noun) – bill, mouth चोंच
12. **Arrow** (noun) – a long, thin stick, pointed at one end, that can be shot from a bow तीर
13. **Drop** (verb) – release, let fall गिराना
14. **Feather** (noun) –wing, fin, plume, pinna, sail पंख
15. **Tail** (noun) – a part of an animal's body, sticking out from the base of the back पूंछ
16. **Worth** (adjective) – having a particular value, especially in money मूल्यवान
17. **Wealth** (noun) – money, affluence, prosperity संपत्ति
18. **Set out** (phrasal verb) – Take the first step or steps in carrying out an action प्रस्थान करना
19. **Bow** (noun) – a weapon for shooting arrows धनुष
20. **Counsel** (noun) – advice, guidance, guidelines, attorney सलाह
21. **Business** (noun) – An activity that someone is engaged in.
22. **Inn** (noun) – a small hotel or old pub, usually in the country छोटा होटल या पुरानी मद्यशाला (प्रायः पश्चिम के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में)
23. **Pleasant** (adjective) – nice, pleasing, enjoyable, friendly सुखद
24. **Appear** (verb) – seem, look लगना
25. **Mean** (adjective) – (especially of a place) poor in quality and appearance; shabby, Squalid, poor तुच्छ
26. **Beast** (noun) – An animal जानवर

27. **Wood** (noun) – an area of land that is covered with trees. A wood is smaller than a forest छोटा जंगल
28. **Go someone's way** (phrase) – travel in the same direction as someone.
29. **Feast** (verb) – Eat an elaborate meal (often accompanied by entertainment) भोजन करना
30. **Silly** (adjective) – stupid, foolish, dumb, ridiculous, crazy मूर्ख
31. **Shabby** (adjective) – looking old and in bad condition because of being used for a long time जर्जर
32. **Charming** (adjective) – delightful, attractive, lovely, appealing आकर्षक
33. **Ease** (noun) – comfort, luxury आराम
34. **Tiding** (noun) – news, information, message समाचार, खबर
35. **Merrymaking** (noun) – jollification, celebration, enjoyment, fun, conviviality मौज-मस्ती
36. **Withstand** (verb) – face, hold out, resist सामना करना
37. **Temptation** (noun) – lure, enticement, attraction, allurements, fascination प्रलोभन
38. **Seek** (verb) – attempt to find (something). तलाश करना
39. **Long while** (phrase) – a long time
40. **Fond** (of) (adjective) – Having or displaying warmth or affection प्रिय
41. **Ill luck** (noun) – bad luck; misfortune. मुसीबत/अनहोनी
42. **Prevent** (verb) – stop, hinder, avert, inhibit, preclude रोकना
43. **Stock** (noun) – animal
44. **Whistle** (verb) – to make a high sound by moving rapidly in the air सीटी बजाना
45. **Castle** (noun) – palace, fortress, fort, citadel, stronghold महल
46. **Lie** (verb) – to be in or move into a flat or horizontal position (so that you are not standing or sitting) लेटना, पड़े होना
47. **Troop** (noun) – A group of soldiers सेना
48. **Fast asleep** (adjective) – Sleeping, in a deep sleep. गहरी नींद में
49. **Snore** (verb) – make a snorting or grunting sound while asleep ; saw wood खरीटा लेना
50. **On and on** (phrase) – continuing for a long time:
51. **Cage** (noun) – a space surrounded on all sides by bars or wire, in which birds are kept पिंजरा
52. **Close by** (phrase) – very near; nearby. पास में
53. **Handsome** (adjective) – good-looking सुंदर

54. **Repent** (verb) – regret, atone, be sorry, rue, feel remorse पछताना
55. **Stretch out** (phrasal verb) – extend or stretch out to a greater or the full length बढ़ाना, फैलाना
56. **Droll** (adjective) – funny, amusing, comical, humorous, witty मज़ेदार
57. **Bring away** (phrasal verb) –to move something away from something.
58. **Take hold of** (phrase) – to seize ; grasp पकड़ना।
59. **Scream** (noun) – yell, shout, holler, shriek, howl चिल्लाहट
60. **Prisoner** (noun) – captive, convict, inmate, detainee, jailbird कैदी
61. **Judge** (verb) – come to the conclusion, decide निर्णय करना
62. **Sentence** (verb) – (used about a judge) to tell somebody who has been found guilty of a crime what the punishment will be सज़ा सुनाना
63. **Swiftly** (adverb) – rapidly, quickly, fast, speedily, briskly तेजी से
64. **Sigh** (verb) – moan, breathe, exhale noisily आह भरना
65. **Despair** (verb) – misery, depression, despondency, gloom, melancholy निराशा
66. **On account of** (phrase) – because of, due to, by virtue of के कारण
67. **Bid** (verb) –offer, command, direct आदेश देना
68. **Stall** (noun) – a cage-like compartment in which a horse is held immediately prior to the start of a race.
69. **Groom** (noun) –a person employed to take care of horses; stableman घोड़े की देख-रेख वाला
70. **Leathern** (adjective) –Made of leather चमड़े का
71. **Saddle** (noun) – a seat hooked on the back of a horse काठी



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