

The Magic Pot

In Pataliputra, there lived a poor woodcutter called Subhadatta. One day, when Subhadatta was cutting wood in the forest, he saw four **Yakshas**, dressed in beautiful silk cloth and shining jewellery.

"If they get angry with me, they will **curse** me, Subhadatta thought. His legs started trembling with fear.

However, these Yakshas were kind people. "Who are you?" they asked gently.

"I am Subhadatta, a woodcutter, my master," he replied.

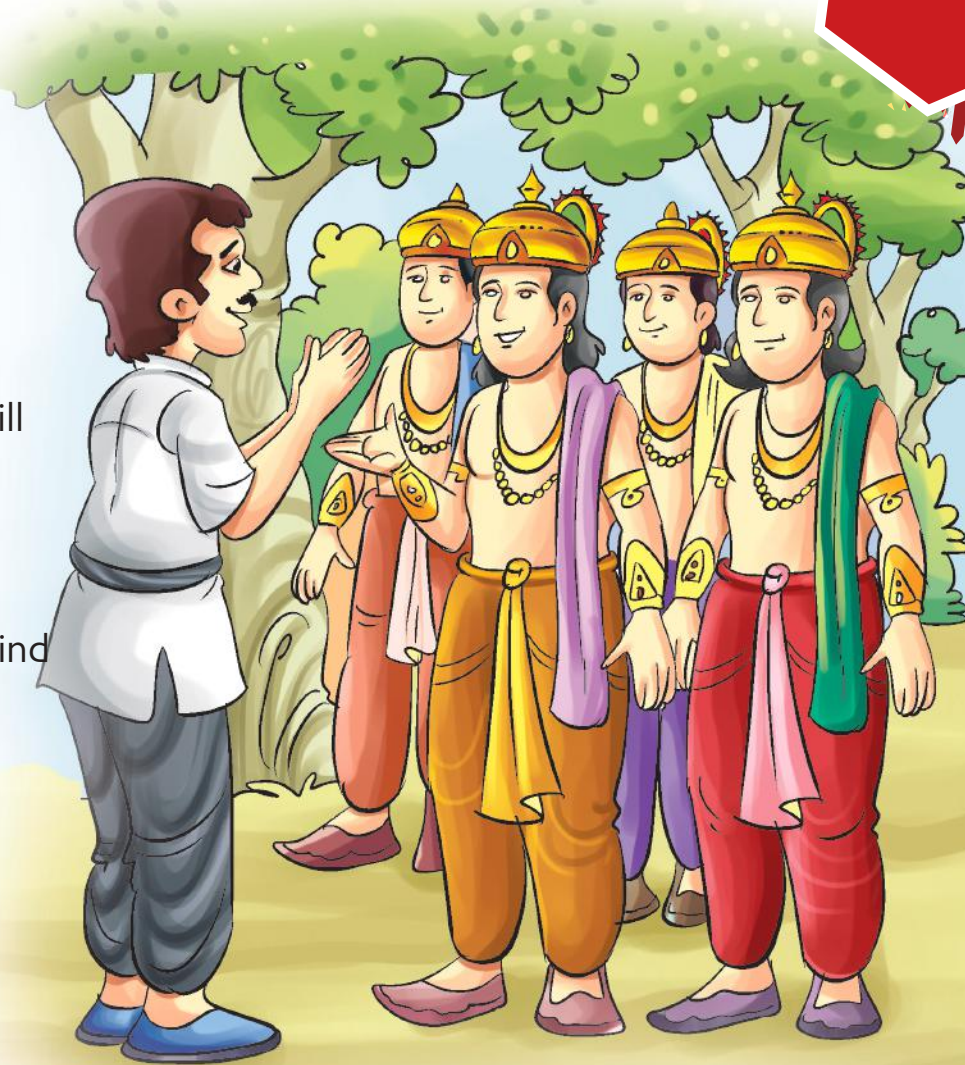
The Yakshas have looked at his torn clothes and his body and decided to help him. They said to him, "Work for us for one month. We will **reward** you well and you will never be hungry again."

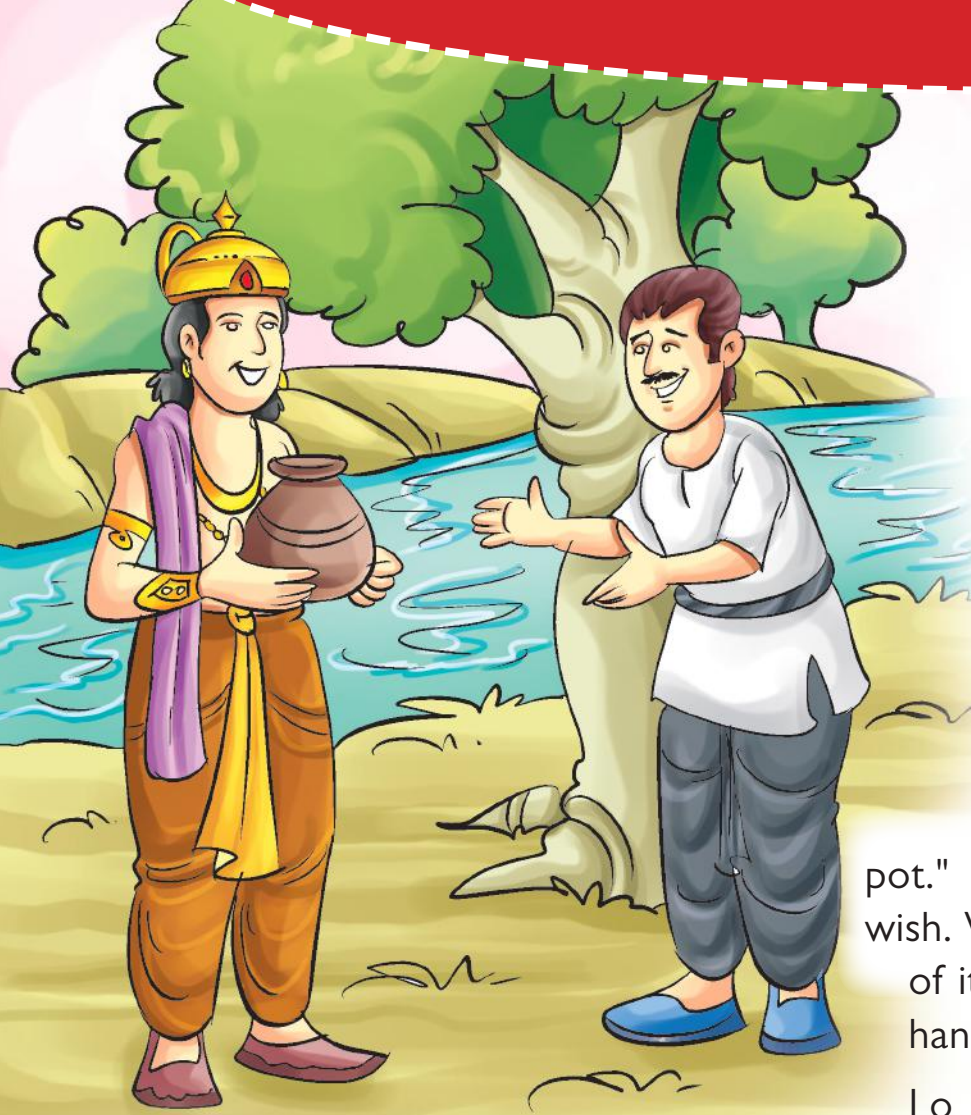
"But what about my family?" Subhadatta asked.

"Tonight we will send you to your wife in a dream" said the Yakshas.

"You will tell her that you are safe and that you will return after a month. In the morning when she will wake up she will find money and clothes by her side."

"Then I will gladly work for you, my masters," said Subhadatta happily.





Subhadatta went with the Yakshas. They bathed in the river. He helped them dress in silks which they drew out from the air. Then he laid gold plates which too they produced magically. But there was no food.

"There is no food, my masters," he said to the Yakshas. One of them smiled and said, "We know that. Take this pot." And he gave Subhadatta a beautiful pot." Put your hand in it and make a wish. Whatever you want will come out of it. Subhadatta thought and put his hand in the pot.

Lo and behold! He had rice in his hand! Then he thought of other tasty food. The dishes appeared before him. He put the food in the gold plates and set them before the Yakshas. "What a wonderful pot!" he said after the meal.

Subhadatta worked with the Yakshas for a month. Then one day they said to him, "You have served us well. We will give you anything you ask for."

"I will take the magic pot, my master," said Subhadatta.

"If you break the pot, it will return to us. Ask for something else," said the Yakshas.

"But I want the pot and nothing else," said Subhadatta.

"Then take it," said the Yakshas and gave him the pot.

Subhadatta took the pot and went home. His wife and children were very happy to see him back. He showed them the magic pot. He drew out beautiful clothes and shining jewellery from it.

They were *wonderstruck*.

"Let us have a feast for all the neighbours. But don't tell them where the food comes from," said Subhadatta to his wife.

So they invited hundred of guests and served them with the most delicious food they had ever eaten.

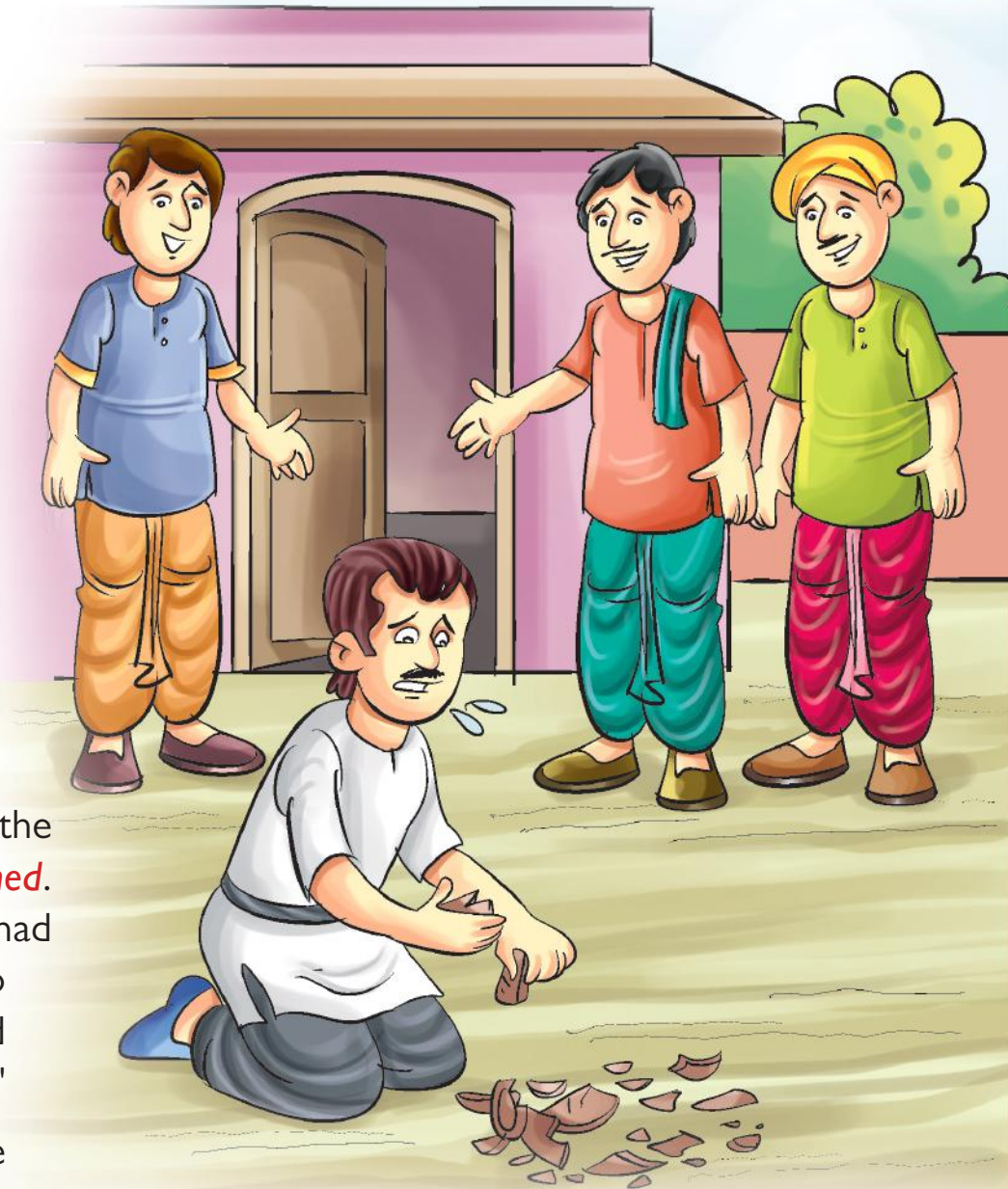
"You are just a poor woodcutter. From where did you get the money to buy such good food?" one of the guest asked.

Subhadatta grinned to himself to kept quiet. He was afraid that someone would steal his pot. But the neighbours were curious. They kept asking him. At last, Subhadatta could not stop himself from *boasting*.

He brought the pot out and said, "see, the Yakshas gave me this magic pot because I worked so hard. It gives me anything I want."

Subhadatta started dancing with the pot in his hand. And then, horror of horrors, the pot slipped from his hand and broked into pieces! He quickly started picking up the pieces to put them together again. For a moment, everyone saw the whole pot and then it *vanished*. Subhadatta cried, "If only I had not been foolish enough to boast about. The pot, would still be here, what a fool I am."

But nothing could bring the pot back now. Subhadatta went looking for the Yakshas many times but he never saw them again.



Word Treasure

yakshas : heavenly beings said to guard the riches of the gods.

curse : words that cast a spell to hurt or punish

wonderstuck : felt admiration and surprise

vanished : disappear suddenly

oasting : talk about oneself with excessive pride

reward : a thing given in recognition of service.



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. Who was Subhadatta?

a. Carpenter b. Farmer c. Woodcutter

2. What did he see in the forest?

a. Lion b. Yakshas c. Devil

3. He was sent to his wife's in her :

a. Bus b. Dream c. Taxi

4. What did Yaksha give him?

a. Ring b. Money c. Pot

B. Fill in the blanks :

dream, hundred, neighbours, food

1. Subhadatta was sent to his wife's _____.

2. He wished for tasty _____.

3. They invited _____ of guests.

4. The _____ were curious to know the truth.

C. Answer the following questions :

1. Who was Subhadatta and where did he live?

2. What did Subhadatta see in the forest?

3. What did Yakshas do for Subhadatta's family?

4. What reward did Subhadatta get for his hard work?

5. How was the pot broken?

D. Who said to whom :

- 1. "Who are you?" _____ said to _____
- 2. "But what about my family?" _____ said to _____
- 3. "Let us have a feast to all the neighbours." _____ said to _____
- 4. "You are just a poor woodcutter." _____ said to _____

Fun with Words

E. Write the names of the young ones of the given animals with the help of aid box :

puppy, calf, cub, colt, fawn, duckling, chicken, piglet, lamb

- 1. Cat - Kitten
- 2. Hen - _____
- 3. Dog - _____
- 4. Lion - _____
- 5. Sheep - _____
- 6. Horse - _____
- 7. Cow - _____
- 8. Deer - _____
- 9. Pig - _____
- 10. Duck - _____

F. Listen and repeat the words- There are some word with "ph" but these sound like "f" :

- | | | |
|--------|----------|------------|
| Phone | Phantom | Phenomenon |
| Phrase | Pharmacy | Phobia |

Essential Grammar

Preposition : Prepositions show the relationship between nouns or pronouns and other words in sentences.

Here we read about the use of- at, on, and in, in case of time

At : It is used for a specific time.

On : It is used for days and date.

In : It is used for non specific time in a day, a month, a season or a year.

G. Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentence :

- 1. We went to the store _____ 3:00. (on/at).
- 2. My mother is coming _____ Monday (in/on).
- 3. He started the job _____ 1971 (on/in).

4. We reached Delhi _____ Sunday (at/on).
5. I shall return your book _____ a week (in/on).
6. I went to the school _____ 7 : 00 AM (at/on).
7. He is going to Mumbai _____ September (in/at).
8. We are having a party _____ fifth of August (on/at).

Essential Speaking

H. Do you know what a speech is ?

A speech is a formal talk that you give to an audience.

Think of ten sentences about 'My Parents are my real God'. Speak on the topic in your class.

Essential Writing

G. Visit to your school library. Borrow a book about 'Lord Ram stories'.

Now write what you got from it under the given title :

A. Name of the book : _____

B. Writer of the book : _____

C. Is there a single story in it ? _____

D. Moral of the story : _____

