

## **The honest wood-cutter**

There was a poor wood-cutter. One day, he was cutting a tree on the bank of a river. His axe fell into the river. The river was deep. He began to weep.

Hearing his cries, the god mercury appeared there. She asked the woodcutter, why he was weeping. The wood - cutter told her his sad story.

God mercury dived into the river. She came out with a gold axe. The woodcutter said, "it is not my axe."

Again god mercury dived into the river. This time she came out with a silver axe. The wood-cutter said, "it is also not mine." Then the god mercury dived again and brought an iron axe.

The wood-cutter felt happy to see his own axe. He said, "This is really mine." The god mercury was pleased at his honesty. She gave him all the three axes as a reward.

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