

The Lazy Dreamer

Once, in a small village, there lived a poor man. He was very learned, but did nothing all day. He lived on the alms the villagers gave him every day.

One day, as usual, the man got up in the morning, performed his morning rituals and set out to beg for alms. As he went from door to door, people gave him several things. Some gave fruit. Others gave him rice and yet others gave him vegetables. But one generous lady gave the man a large measure of flour.

"Ah! What good luck. I will not have to beg for alms for a long time," thought the man to himself.

He went home and cooked his lunch. After he had eaten, the man put the flour into a large mud pot and hung it near his bed. "Now, it will be safe from rats," he said to himself as he lay down in his bed for an afternoon nap.

He began to think, "I will save this flour until there is a famine. Then I will sell it at a very good price. With that, I will buy a pair of goats. Very soon, I will have a lot of goats. With their milk, I will make more money. Then I will buy a cow and a bull. Very soon I will also have a large herd of cows. Their milk will give me a lot of money. I will become very rich. I will build for myself, a huge palace and get married to a beautiful woman... Then we will have a little son. I will be a proud father. In a few months my son will start crawling. I will call out to my wife to take care of him. But she will be busy with house work and will ignore my call. I will get so angry. I will kick her to teach her a lesson like this..."

The man threw out his leg up. His foot hit the pot of flour hanging overhead and it came down with a resounding crash, spilling the flour all over the dirty floor. The lazy man realised that his foolishness and vanity had cost him a precious measure of flour. The laziness and foolishness taught him a lesson. Thereafter he lived an active life which took to heights.

- 1) Where did the man get money from?
- 2) What was the man going to do with the flour?
- 3) How did the man destroy the mud pot?
- 4) How did he live after that?