

## Chapter 5: Honesty always pays

### **Summary**

- Bhola was a poor woodcutter who cut wood to earn money for his family.
- One day, his iron axe fell into the river, and he cried because he couldn't get it back.
- The river Goddess came out and showed him a golden axe, but Bhola said, "This is not mine."
- Next, she showed him a silver axe, but Bhola again said, "This is not mine either."
- When the Goddess gave him his old iron axe, Bhola jumped with joy and said, "This is my axe!"
- The Goddess was so happy with his honesty that she rewarded him with the golden and silver axes too.
- Moral: Always tell the truth, and you will be rewarded like Bhola!

### **Hindi Translation**

**अध्याय के बारे में:** यह कहानी एक गरीब लकड़हारे के ईमानदार व्यवहार पर प्रकाश डालती है। आइए पढ़ें कि उसने अपनी ईमानदारी दिखाकर नदी देवी को कैसे खुश किया।

भोला एक गाँव में एक गरीब लकड़हारा था। वह अपने परिवार के लिए पैसे कमाने वाला एकमात्र व्यक्ति था। एक दिन जब वह नदी के किनारे एक पेड़ की सूखी शाखा काट रहा था, तो उसकी कुल्हाड़ी उसके हाथ से फिसल कर नदी में गिर गई। इसपर लकड़हारा जोर-जोर से रोने लगा।

उसी समय, नदी देवी बाहर आई और लकड़हारे को देखा। उन्होंने उसे एक सोने की कुल्हाड़ी दी। लेकिन लकड़हारे ने इसे लेने से इनकार कर दिया।

उसने कहा, "यह मेरी नहीं है।" तब नदी देवी ने उसे एक चांदी की कुल्हाड़ी दी।

उसने यह कुल्हाड़ी भी स्वीकार नहीं की। फिर उसने लकड़हारे को उसकी अपनी लोहे की कुल्हाड़ी दे दी।

अपनी कुल्हाड़ी देखकर लकड़हारे की खुशी का ठिकाना नहीं रहा। वह चिल्लाया, "यह मेरी कुल्हाड़ी है! यह मेरी कुल्हाड़ी है!" लकड़हारे की ईमानदारी देखकर नदी देवी प्रसन्न हुई। उन्होंने उसे उसकी ईमानदारी के इनाम के तौर पर सोने और चांदी की कुल्हाड़ी दी। भोला अब बहुत खुश था।

**नैतिक शिक्षा:** ईमानदार व्यक्ति को हमेशा इनाम मिलता है।

**Use the words from the box and complete the sentences.**

**Word Bank:** *golden, iron, honesty, woodcutter, cry*

1. Bhola was a poor \_\_\_\_\_ who cut wood near the river.
2. When Bhola's axe fell in the river, he started to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The river Goddess first offered Bhola a \_\_\_\_\_ axe.
4. Bhola only took the \_\_\_\_\_ axe because it was really his.
5. The Goddess rewarded Bhola for his \_\_\_\_\_.

**Choose the best answer for each question.**

1. Why did Bhola cry when his axe fell in the river?

- a. Because he wanted to swim
- b. Because the water was cold
- c. Because he saw a fish
- d. Because he needed his axe to work and help his family

2. What did Bhola do when the Goddess showed him the golden axe?

- a. He said "No, that's not mine"
- b. He took it and ran home
- c. He threw it back in the river
- d. He asked for two more axes

3. How did the Goddess know Bhola was honest?

- a. He told her his name
- b. He only took the axe that was really his
- c. He gave her a present
- d. He could swim very well

4. What happened because Bhola was honest?

- a. He became a fisherman
- b. The river dried up
- c. He forgot his old axe
- d. He got to keep all three axes

5. What lesson does this story teach us?

- a. Always play near rivers
- b. Gold is better than iron
- c. Telling the truth brings good things
- d. Goddesses like axes

**Use these words to make new sentences.**

1. Woodcutter
2. Axe
3. Goddess
4. Knew no bounds
5. Honesty