

The Day Dreaming Priest

[Story from the Panchatantra]

Once upon a time there lived a priest who was extremely lazy and poor at the same time. He did not want to do any hard work but used to dream of being rich one day. He got his food by begging for alms. One morning he got a pot of milk as part of the alms. He was extremely delighted and went home with the pot of milk. He boiled the milk, drank some of it and put the remaining milk in a pot. He added some curds in the pot to convert the milk to curd (yogurt). He then lay down to rest.

He was extremely delighted at the pot of milk he found and started dreaming about the pot of curd while he lay asleep. He dreamt that if he could become rich somehow all his miseries would be gone. His thoughts turned to the pot of milk he had set to make curds. He dreamt on: "By morning, the pot of milk will have become curds. I will churn the curds and make butter from it. I will then heat the butter and make ghee out of it. I will go to the market and sell that ghee, and make some money. With that money I will buy a hen. The hen will lay many eggs, which will hatch and there will be many more hens. These hens will in-turn lay hundreds of eggs and I will soon have a poultry farm of my own." He kept on imagining.

"I will sell all the hens from my poultry and buy some cows, and open a milk dairy. All the town people will buy milk from me. I will be very rich and soon I shall buy jewelry and sell it for profit. The king will buy all the jewelry from me. I will be so rich that I will be able to marry an exceptionally beautiful girl from a rich family. Soon I will have a handsome son. If he does any mischief I will be very angry and to teach him a lesson, I will hit him with a big stick." During this dream, he involuntarily picked up the stick next to his bed and thinking that he was beating his son, raised the stick and hit the pot. The pot of milk broke and he awoke from his sleep. Only then did he realize he was daydreaming.

MORAL: There is no substitute for hard work. Dreams cannot be fulfilled without hard work.