

## Chapter 10

# The Magic Pot

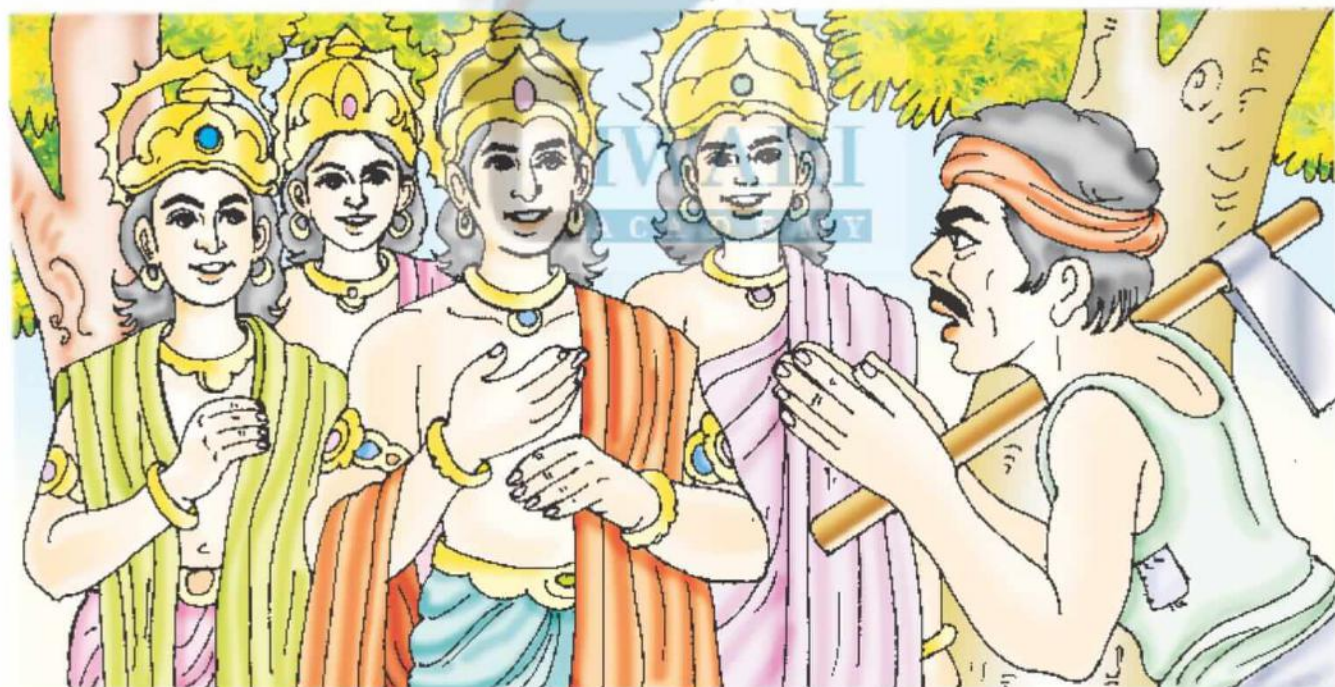
In Pataliputra, there lived a poor woodcutter called Subhadatta. One day, when Subhadatta was cutting wood in the forest, he saw four *yakshas*. They were dressed in beautiful silk clothes and shining jewellery.

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

However, these *yakshas* were kind people. "Who are you ?" they asked Subhadatta gently.

"I am Subhadatta, a woodcutter, my masters," he replied. The *yakshas* looked at his torn clothes and thin 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.



**Teacher's Note:** Ask the pupils to imagine if they had a magic pot, what would they have done.

“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 wakes 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 of the air. Then he laid out the 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 whatever you want will come out of it.”

Subhadatta thought of tasty rice *pulao* and put his hand in the pot. Lo and behold! He had rice in his hand! Then he thought of meat and other tasty food. The dishes appeared before him. He put the food on 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 masters,” 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 jewels 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 a hundred guests and served them the most delicious food they had ever eaten.



“You are just a poor woodcutter. Where did you get the money to buy such good food ?” one of the guests asked.

Subhadatta grinned to himself but 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 broke! 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, it 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.

—A tale from Katha Sarit Sagar

## Words to Learn

curse  
neighbours

boasting  
vanished

grinned

wonderstruck

## Skill Test

### WORK OUT

Answer the following questions :

1. Why did Subhadatta's legs tremble with fear ?

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2. Why did Subhadatta go with the yakshas ?

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3. What reward did he get for his hard work ?

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4. What did Subhadatta do with the reward ?

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5. Describe what happened during the feast ?

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## GRAMMAR

**A. Some nouns are called countables and some are uncountables. For example, you say 'pen' which is countable and 'a pinch of salt' which is uncountable.**

### Countable

book  
chair  
boy  
bag  
pen

### Uncountable

sugar  
sand  
grains  
iron  
rice



**Make a list of five countable and five uncountable nouns from this lesson.**

**B. Some verbs form their past tense by changing the vowel in the present tense of the verb: For example: write-wrote. These are known as strong verbs.**

**Write the past tense of these verbs**

Present tense	Past tense	Kind of verb
1. write		
2. ride		
3. sweep		
4. think		
5. work		
6. write		
7. begin		
8. dig		
9. teach		
10. sit		

## VOCABULARY

### A. The following are 'sound' words :

rattling, squeaking, pattering, clanking, clicking

**What do you associate these sounds with ?**

### B. A woodcutter cuts wood :

What do these people do ?

1. a cobbler .....
2. a butcher .....
3. a grocer .....
4. a baker .....
5. a florist .....
6. a chemist .....

### C. Match the opposites :

#### Column A

poor  
curse  
kind  
safe  
happy  
buy  
whole  
foolish

#### Column B

cruel  
dangerous  
rich  
sell  
half  
wise  
sad  
boon

IWARI  
ACADEMY

## COMPOSITION

**Write down the names of three things you would like to take out of the magic pot :**

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