

- Have you read any of the stories from 'Hitopadesh'?
- Name that story.
- What is the moral of the story?

**Let's read this story:**

Once upon a time there was a great kingdom, named Mahapal. It was a very fertile kingdom and people of the kingdom were happy.

Mahapal was ruled by king Mahender, who was a noble king. He took care of the people like his own children. But the people of Mahapal were not happy about the fact that the king Mahender didn't have a child of his own. One day the ministers came to the king with a request.

King asked, "What is it?"

The ministers said, "We request you to kindly adopt a child, for our generations to thrive."

Then the king replied, "You are correct. I am old now and I should look out for a person to succeed me."

"Shall we lookout for a child?" ministers asked.

"No, no, I'm not young enough to bring up a child now. Let's find a loyal person who can sit on the throne." The king answered.

The ministers asked anxiously, "Is there going to be any competition?"

"Yes, a different kind of competition. Pass on my instructions." The king said.

As per the king's instructions the people of the city were made to assemble in the palace on the full moon day. The ministers were supposed to call one person from each family to the palace.

The king announced, "People of this great kingdom, I welcome you all. I want to





select a talented and good individual to ascend the throne after me. For this reason I am holding a small competition. I will hand out plant-seeds to each person. The seeds are to be planted and maintained well for three months. Whoever brings back the best grown plant with colourful flowers will be chosen as the crown prince. If a person

who can take care of the plant and make them grow, can also make the kingdom prosper.”

The people were excited. They took the seeds and went back home.

After three months the people returned with their flower pots in which beautiful and colourful flowers were blossoming. There were green plants in pots all over the palace ground.

Each pot was bearing a tag with the name of the owner in bold letters.

The minister appointed a team of judges to select the winner.

“Your Highness! All the plants are bright and beautiful!”

“My lord! It is difficult to select the right person.”

The judges declared after judging all the plants.

Hearing this the king said. “Come, let's go to the palace garden.”

The king was very pleased to see the beautiful and colourful flowers in his garden. He said, “All the pots are beautiful!”

“Your Highness! Our judges are not able to select the right person.” The minister replied.

“There is a man who has not succeeded in growing any plant. There is only soil in



the pot, not even a tiny plant. Shall I send him back?"

The king demanded, "Show me the pot with no plant."

"Yes my lord."

The minister brought the pot. The king saw the name tag and called for the man.

Someone from the crowd screamed,

"Look at the pot, not even a single tiny plant. He might be severely punished for this."

The owner of the pot, Vikram, came to the king trembling with fear. "Why there is no plant in the pot?", the king asked.

Trembling with fear and folded hands Vikram answered,

"Your Excellency! My lord, I tried my best even by adding more fertilizers and carefully watering the seeds. I'm sorry to say that I could not bring up a plant." Hearing this the king was



very happy and he stood up and addressed the people. "My dear people, this man Vikram who has not grown any plant will be my successor."

The people were disappointed. The ministers and the judges were shocked.

The king continued, "I was looking for a man with a strong character and I have found him. I had all the seeds roasted before I gave them out. This fact was kept as a secret."

"I was on the look out for an honest person.

When I saw the pot without any plant, I knew that I've found the honest man."

The people were surprised.

The ministers and the judges appreciated the king for his wise decision.

King Mahender declared Vikram the prince of Mahapal.

The People were happy with the king's decision. At last, they could get their true successor.



**Glossary:**

thrive	:	to flourish, to grow
anxious	:	worried
individual	:	single person
to ascend (the throne)	:	to rise, to climb (the throne)
screamed	:	cried loudly
trembling	:	shaking with fear or pain
fertilizers	:	manure
successor	:	one who succeeds another and takes his/her place
roasted	:	cooked in direct fire without oil
appreciate	:	to praise

**Activity-I****1. Choose the correct alternative:-**

- i. Ministers went to the king and requested him to-
  - a. consult an astrologer
  - b. adopt a child
  - c. throw a party
  - d. go to the jungle
- ii. The king gave his people:-
  - a. seeds
  - b. flowers
  - c. books
  - d. clothes

**2. State whether the following sentences are True or False:**

- i. The king of the great kingdom, Mahapal had many sons.
- ii. The king announced for a competition to choose a successor for his kingdom.
- iii. The queen suggested the king to adopt a child.
- iv. Only one man brought a pot with many beautiful plants.
- v. The ministers and the judges opposed the king's decision.

**3. Answer the following questions in 10-15 words each:**

- i. Why did the king organize a competition?
- ii. What was the competition?
- iii. How did Vikram win the competition?
- iv. What quality of Vikram is portrayed in the story ?.



## Activity II

### 1. Find out one word for the group of words given below:

- i. to take someone's child legally .....
- ii. one who succeeds another person .....
- iii. to give judgement .....
- iv. a house in which a king lives .....

### 2. Match the words given in column A with their meanings given in column B:

A	B
thrive	to cry loudly
look out for	to praise
appreciate	search
scream	to prosper

### 3. Fill in the blanks with correct words choosing from the bracket:

(scream, thrive, appointed, roasted)

- i. These animals rarely ..... in captivity.
- ii. He fell down with a big .....
- iii ..... food is good for health.
- iv. Aruna was ..... the leader of the campaign.

### 4. Complete these words by inserting a/i in the blanks.

- i. exc\_ ted                      iv. m\_ intain
- ii. char\_ cter                v. t\_ lented
- iii. appo\_ nt

## Activity III

### 1. Look at the underlined words in the following sentences. These words tell us about the manner of actions.

He was extremely frightened.

I turned the handle slowly, and the door opened.

**Fill in the blanks by converting the words in brackets, as shown in the above examples**

- i. I ..... (grateful) acknowledge my elder sister's help in completing my project.

- ii. The tortoise ran .....(slow) and won the race.
- iii. Being an avid reader, Arpita speaks English ..... (fluent)
- iv. The crowd was very well-behaved; they waited .....  
(patient) for the actor to arrive, but he never came.
- v. Akshat is generous; he agreed ..... (ready) to lend  
me his hockey stick.

### Activity IV

You must have heard the story of Raja Harish Chandra, who sacrificed his kingdom and all his comforts for the sake of honest duty. Explore any story about honesty and tell it in the class.

### Activity V

1. Suppose you are on the way to home from school. You find a wallet on the road with a thousand rupee note, an ATM card and some personal documents. You take the wallet to the police.

Write in dialogue form the conversation with a policeman.

You may start this way:

student- May I come in, sir?

policeman – Yes, please do.

student – I have found a wallet on the road while going back home from school.

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2. Divide the class into two groups. Ask the first group to make yearly calendar mentioning months, days and dates. Now ask the second group to find out the months and days (tithi) according to Indian mythology. Ask them to find out when and after how many days does full moon (Purnima) and new moon (Amavasya) occur. Display the calender in your class.

*Success is walking from failure  
to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.*