

- What do you do when someone comes to you to beg for food, cloths or money, etc.?
- How do you feel after giving him/her the things?
- What will happen when the donor himself/herself turns out to be a beggar?

Let's read this poem

I went begging from door to door on a village path,
When your golden chariot appeared
in the distance like a grand dream,
And I wondered who was this king of all kings!
My hopes rose high
and I thought my bad days were over
I stood waiting for alms



and for wealth to be scattered all over.
Your chariot stopped where I stood.
You glanced at me

and came down with a smile.
I felt the luck of my life has come at last.

Then all of a sudden,
you held out your hand and said:
“What have you to give me?”

Ah! What a royal joke!
To open your palm to a beggar to beg!
I was confused and stood undecided.

And then from my little bag,
I took out two grains of corn,
and gave them to you.
But how great was my surprise,
When at the day's end
I emptied my bag on the floor, to find
Two little grains of gold in the heap.

I bitterly wept and wished
That I had had the heart
to give you all I had.

- Rabindranath Tagore



Glossary:

chariot	:	a four wheeled cart drawn by horses.
alms	:	help; money or something given in charity to someone
glance at	:	take a quick look
heap	:	pile

Activity I

1. **Write the number of the stanza to which the meaning of these sentences match:**
 - i. I felt that within no time I was going to get a precious treasure. But alas! Instead of receiving you asked for something from me !

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- ii. I was a beggar wandering here and there. One day I saw you and thought that you are the greatest king on this earth.
 - iii. Looking at the great reward I became unhappy. Had I been generous, I would have got all I dreamt of
 - iv. I was quite puzzled because out of my greed I could donate only a small portion of my possession.
 - v. Your sight gave me a rosy picture of future. I was expecting a great fortune from you.....

2. Answer these questions:

- i. What was the beggar's condition in the beginning?
- ii. Why did the beggar think that his bad days were over?
- iii. What did the poet expect of the king?
- iv. When did the poet think that his luck had come at last? Why?
- v. Why did the beggar remain a beggar even at the end?

Activity II

1. Find the lines from the poem expressing these emotions and write them.

- i. wonder
- ii. hope
- iii. confusion
- iv. greed
- v. surprise
- vi. sorrow

2. Write the Hindi meanings of the words given in '1' above

Activity III

Suppose the king narrates the story, how will you write it?

You may begin like this:

It was a different day for me . I got into my chariot and went to a village. There I saw a beggar.....

Activity IV

Divide the class into three groups. Ask them to read the given poem within the group and then to recite it before the class. (Allot one stanzas per group. Ask oral questions at the end of this activity)

Be optimistic in your life,
Believe that things will go your way,
And if you need a little help,
Take some time and pray.

You need to have positive thoughts,
The negative needs to leave,
And if you think long enough,
You truly will believe.

So you did think good thoughts,
And being optimistic made things right,
And it was all because,
You saw the light.

Discuss in groups and speak about the advantages of optimistic thoughts/positive thoughts/good thoughts in life.

You can do anything, but not everything