

A Game of Chance

The Eid fair lasted many days in Rasheed's village every year. Tradesmen sold all kinds of goods there. Rasheed's uncle took him and Bhaiya (a domestic help), to the fair. A few of his uncle's friends met him. They wished him to spend some time with them.

Uncle asked Rasheed and Bhaiya to look around the fair in his absence. He warned them neither to buy anything nor to go too far. The uncle knew that there were many shop-keepers in the fair who cheated the gullible. Rasheed and Nanoo reached the Lucky Shop. The shop was called Lucky Shop because the owner of the shop wanted everybody to pay 50 paise and try his luck.

An old man won a beautiful clock. He sold the clock back to the shopkeeper for 15 rupees. He went away highly pleased. A boy won a comb, a fountain pen, a wrist watch and a table lamp. The boy was happy. He had returned the items and had received a good deal of cash.

Bhaiya encouraged Rasheed to try his luck. He played many games and lost all his money. Both of them returned to the place where Rasheed's uncle had left them. Rasheed was very upset. In the hope of winning a big prize, he had lost all his money.

Rasheed's uncle returned soon after. Rasheed was looking upset. Bhaiya told the uncle what had happened. Rasheed's uncle smiled and patted him. He bought a beautiful umbrella, biscuits, sweets and some other gifts for Rasheed. Then they returned home.

Rasheed's uncle told him that the lucky shop man had played a trick on him. He said that the old man and the boy who won costly things were the friends of the shopkeeper. He advised Rasheed to forget about the incident and his foolishness.