

Story of Shri Satya Narayana - The Real Wealth

Once there ruled a king named 'Ulkamukha'. He was well-known for his valor and generosity. The life was peaceful and everybody in his kingdom was happy. The king and his wife, both were great worshippers of 'Lord Satya Narayana'. They worshipped him and followed the way of 'Satya' – The Truth.

Once they were performing the 'vrata' on the bank of river 'Bhadrashila'. There came a merchant named Sadhuwani. He saw the 'pooja' and was eager to know more about it. He went to the king and requested him to tell everything about the 'vrata'. The king happily told him how to perform the 'vrata' and its advantages. Sadhu was very impressed by it.

He went home and told everything to his wife, Leelawati. She too was impressed. They decided to perform the 'vrata' and follow the path of truth. Soon, because of their following the truthful way of life, they obtained wealth and fulfillment. They had everything except one thing. They didn't have a child. It was a great sorrow for them. They invoked 'Lord Satya Narayan' and promised to perform a 'pooja' when a child is born. It was the influence of the 'vrata' that they had a very nice baby. They named her 'Kalawati'. But forgot about the 'pooja'.

Days passed by. Kalawati was growing. She was given good education and was brought up very carefully by her parents. Soon she entered the age of marriage. Sadhu married her with a worthy young man. Sadhu had vowed to perform the 'pooja' at the time of Kalawati's marriage. But this time also he didn't perform it. Sadhu's son-in-law started helping him in his business.

Sadhu and Leelawati had forgotten their 'Satyavrata'. Leelawati took up a leisurely way of life and spent her time in indolence. There is a rule to enter the 'Vanprasthashrama' after fulfilling your duties in the 'Grihasthashrama'. But

Sadhu did not bother about these rules. He was not able to throw away his luxurious life. He became blind because of his greed for wealth and went far away from the ways of truth. He adopted dishonest practices and illegal ways of gathering wealth. He made 'money' which was his only aim in life and neglected the real purpose of human life – 'search for the ultimate Truth'.

But dishonesty and unrighteousness can not prevail for long against righteousness and justice. The truthful subjects of 'Ratnasarpur' complained against Sadhu. The king charged Sadhu for his crimes and he was sent to jail with his son-in-law. He was deprived of his wealth. Sadhu realized his mistakes & begged for pardon. King decided to give him a chance to correct his mistakes. So he freed them and allowed them to restart their business with only that money which they had earned honestly. Sadhu thanked the king and vowed to be veracious.

It is the work of a man which tells his value. Vanity never attract God, rather he hates it. He likes those who work hard. Mere praise and prayer can not win God.

Once God decided to test Sadhu's devotion towards 'Truth'. Sadhu and his son-in-law had gone to a nearby port to buy goods. There was an 'ashrama' on the sea-shore near the port. God disguised himself as the 'Rishi running the 'ashrama'. He went to Sadhu and said, "The 'ashrama' is meant for the upliftment of the society. Money which is earned in an honest way and offered with a sincere heart can only be used for this noble purpose. I heard that you are a 'Satyavratee'. You can offer some money for this work." Sadhu refused to help the Rishi. He said that he had no money and went away. Greed made him to forget his 'Satyavrata'. Charity is one of the most important things for a 'Satyavratee'. But Sadhu had lost his path and incurred misfortune.

Sadhu then went to his ship and ordered to load the ship as much as possible. He set off with his ship. But as the ship was overloaded it got drowned after a few minutes. Sadhu managed to save his life and reach the shore. He had lost everything with the drift of the ship. Now he really had no money. HE saw the Rishi there and realized he had done. He fell on the Rishi's feet and apologized for his bad deeds. Rishi said that his attitude was changed because of the wealth. But any wealth belongs to the nation. So he agreed to help Sadhu. His disciples tried hard and fetched out the drowned goods and valuables. Sadhu was very grateful. To show his gratitude he offered some portion of the wealth for the 'Ashram'. But the Rishi said, "We had asked for charity because you were a satyavrata. But you refused. Now you offered this money as remuneration for our help which we should not accept. You take the wealth away and use the money for good purpose".

Calamity is a true touchstone of a man. Sadhu after this incidence was completely a changed man. His heart was purified. The Rishi's word made him sad. He said, "O great sage! Please forgive me! My sins had drowned my wealth but your virtue saved it. Now I have no right over this wealth. All this belongs to you and not to me. I don't want it. You can do anything of it" and he started off. Rishi was very pleased with his change. He stopped Sadhu and accepted the required amount. He told Sadhu to take the wealth and warned him to keep and use it as a national fund.

Sadhu happily went home and told everything to his family members. They all were very sorry to forget their duties and they all apologized before Lord Satyanarayana. They performed the 'vrata' to thank him for saving them. They also decided to perform the 'vrata' every year so that they won't loose their path of truth and attain salvation. Then onwards, they never forgot their words and worked hard and followed the truthful way of life and reached to ultimate truth.

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