

LESSON - 11



THE OLD KAKI



There was an old lady called 'Kaki'. She crept because her hands and feet were very weak. Her husband had died long ago. She lived with her nephew, Buddhiram. She had transferred all her property to him. Rupa was Buddhiram's wife. Buddhiram had two sons and a daughter 'Ladli'.

The boys never behaved properly with 'Kaki'. They used to tease her a lot. Kaki would cry out but no one listened to her. Ladli was the only one who had sympathy for 'Kaki'.

It was an evening, shehnai was being played at Buddhiram's doorstep. It was his elder son's engagement. Celebrations were going on. 'Purees' were being fried in 'Kadhai'. The sweet smell of 'ghee' and spices was in the air.

Kaki was sitting in her room and it was dark inside. She could smell the crispy and sizzling purees. Images of purees floated before her eyes. She began to move slowly and crept close to the 'kadhai'. When Rupa saw Kaki sitting close to the kadhai, she lost her temper and shook Kaki with both her hands and shouted abuses. Old Kaki didn't speak a single word. She returned to her room. She felt insulted.

The dinner was ready. All the guests had started eating. Kaki in her room thought not to go until she was called.

The pleasant smell of food was tempting but no one came to call her for dinner. Thinking she is not a guest that she should wait for the call, she decided to go outside. She crept into the courtyard but bad luck! One of the guests saw her and shouted, "Who is this old woman? Where has she come from? Be careful, she may touch someone."

Pandit Buddhiram became furious. He caught Kaki with his hands and dragged her into the room. Seeing this, Ladli felt really bad. She thought 'What, if Kaki had eaten before the guests. Would she have eaten all the purees?'

It was eleven in the night. Everyone was sleeping. Ladli had not eaten her purees yet. She put them in her doll's basket and went to Kaki's room and said, "Get up Kaki, I have brought purees for you". Kaki asked, "Has your mother sent these?" Ladli replied, "No, it's my share." Kaki finished all the purees but she was still hungry. Kaki said to Ladli, "Child, go to your mother and bring some more." Ladli

replied, “If I wake her up she will get angry.” Kaki said, “Take me to the place where the guests ate.”

Ladli took her and made her sit among the 'pattals'. Kaki began to eat the food which was left over by the guests.

Just then Rupa woke up. She did not find Ladli beside her. She went out into the courtyard and saw Ladli standing near the 'pattals'. Kaki was picking the left over food and eating. Rupa was stunned. She felt sorry for Kaki who remained hungry even on a day of feast, where so many people had food to their content. Kaki behaved like this just for some pieces of purees. She was in a state of shock. Her eyes were filled with tears.

It was already midnight. Rupa went to Kaki’s room with food. With tearful eyes she said, “Get up Kaki. I committed a blunder today by not serving you food. Please forgive me.”

Hearing these words Kaki's heart melted. She forgave her and began eating. Kaki blessed her soulfully.

-Adopted from the story 'Budhi Kaki' by Munshi Prem Chand

New Words

Word Meaning

craving	-	तीव्र इच्छा
property	-	संपत्ति
sizzling	-	गरमा गरम

insulted -अपमानित किया
tempting -ललचाने वाला
dragged - घसीटा
blunder -मूर्खतापूर्ण गलती

Comprehension Questions

1. Answer the following questions:

- Who did 'Kaki' live with?
- Who was Ladli? Was she sympathetic towards her kaki?
- What was the occasion for celebration in Buddhiram's house?
- Why did Kaki feel insulted?
- Why did Rupa apologise to Kaki? Did Kaki forgive her?
- Why did Pandit Buddhiram become red with anger and what did he do?
- How should old people be treated?

2. Who said these lines and to whom:

- "Be careful, she may touch someone."
- "Get up Kaki, I have brought purees for you."
- "Take me to the place where the guests were eating."
- "No! It's my share."

Word Power

1. Complete the sentences with suitable words given in the box :

tempting dragged properly melted crept forgave

- The cat _____ silently towards the bird.
- The ice-cream in the cup _____ as it was very hot.
- The mother _____ me for my mistake.
- The labourer _____ the jute rice sack into the room.
- He always does his work _____.
- The dish which Amit prepared look _____.

Language Practice

1. Read the following sentences and understand them:

- 'Yet' refers to an action that is expected in the future.
- 'Already' is used to refer to an action that happened earlier than the time expected.
- 'Still' is used to refer to an action or situation which continues upto the present because it has not finished.

Now complete the following sentences using- already / yet / still:

- They have ___ left.
- Are you ___ angry with me?
- We are not ready to leave ___.
- She's ___ reached there.

- Sholay is __my favourite movie.
- Don't start the car __ Wait for Manju.

2. Complete the following story with the help of words given below:

(tree, mouse, lion, woke, struggled, begged, gnawed, laughed, repay, caught ,trap ,nibbling ,sharp, noise, kill, pity, at last)

One day a lay down under a shady to sleep. While he slept, a playful ran over his body. The lion up. He put out his great paw and was just going to the mouse. The little mouse for mercy. The lion took on him and let him go. The mouse thanked the "I will try to your kindness", said the mouse. The lion at this. Several days passed by. Then, while hunting in the forest, the lion was in a He and roared to get free. The little heard the and ran to help him. At once he began at the massive ropes with his teeth. After much hard work, he through the ropes the lion was set free.

Good deeds are rewarded

» Be friendly with an elderly person in your neighbourhood. Spend time with him/her everyday and watch the changes in that person. Talk about the changes you noticed.

» Make new words with the letters from the word **'CELEBRATIONS'** :