

## THE HONEST WOODCUTTER

Long long ago there was a wood cutter living in a village. He was living with his family of five members. He was a humble person. He was going regularly to collect firewood from the nearest forest. He was selling the wood in the nearby market. With that little earning he was managing his family. Like the usual routine one day he had gone to the forest to collect firewood. He saw a tree having dry wood branches. It was on the bank of a river he climbed the tree and while cutting the wood he met a misfortune. His iron-axe slipped away from his hand and was lost. He had lost his only-axe in the river. His crying was intense and disturbed the water-god. The water-god came from the river and appeared before the wood-cutter and asked the reason for his crying. The wood-cutter narrated the incident in detail to the water-god. After listening the incident, the water-god took pity on him. Then the water-god plunged into the river water, after a while came out from the river with a.

golden-axe. He showed the golden-axe to the wood-cutter and asked "Is it yours?" The wood-cutter examined the golden-axe and said "No my lord"! it's not mine". Keeping the golden-axe aside, the water-god again plunged into the river second time and came with a silver-axe and asked again "Is it yours"? The wood cutter said "It's not mine," I am a poor wood-cutter, how can I have a golden or silver axe. I have only one iron axe. "Listening to this the water-god plunged once - again inside the river and came back with a iron-axe of the wood-cutter. When the wood cutter saw his iron-axe he became very happy. He showed his gratefulness and respect to the water-god. Seeing the honesty and simplicity of the wood-cutter, the water-god gave the golden-axe and silver-axe as a gift to him with his original iron-axe and vanished.

Always be honest, Honesty is always rewarded.