

The Bags from Lord Brahma

(From Indian Moral Stories – Shravan Kumar)

Once upon a time the creator of this world, Lord Brahma, called the man to him and asked – “I have created you and therefore, it is my duty to find out what you wish.”

“I want progress! I want to pass my life peacefully and happily and I wish people to appreciate me.....give me due.....” replied the man.

“It’s a matter of great pleasure. I also wish so. I am therefore, giving you two bags. One of these full of vices of your neighbor, load it on your back and always keep it close. You should neither see it yourself nor show it to anyone else. The other bag is carrying your vices. Hang it just in front of you and keep it open and look inside, and show it to others too.” With these wise words, Lord Brahma handed over the bags to him.

The man set off with those two bags. While walking back, he committed a great blunder on the way. He loaded the bag of his vices on his back and tied its mouth as close as he could. He, then kept the bag of his neighbor’s vices in front of him. He kept its mouth open and throughout the way, he kept on seeing it and showing it to others. His boons were now reversed. He was heading towards a fall now instead of showing any progress. Instead of praising him, people began to condemn him.

He grew worried and thought – “I had asked Lord Brahma to live peacefully and happily and to make progress. How has it all been reversed then? What mistake have I committed? He ran to Brahma Ji and said, “Your Lordship! What is all this? I had asked you to give me the boon to live peacefully and happily and to do progress in life. Why have you reversed it all? What mistake have I committed, O Lord, to deserve your wrath thus?”

When Lord Brahma heard his question, he laughed and said, “I have not reversed anything. You yourself have reversed all this; instead of hanging the bag of your vices in your neck in the front, you load it on your back - and hung the neighbor’s bag on your neck.”

Hearing it, the man realized his mistake and with folded hands he requested, “Your Lordship! You are very kind. Please bestow your kindness upon me too and tell me some way out for correction my mistake.”

Lord Brahma, then said, “If you correct your mistake you will certainly have progress in your life. You will get peace and happiness. People will give you due respect and appreciation.”

Having heard this, the man reversed his bags. He tied the bag of his neighbor’s vices and loaded it on his back and hung the bag of his own vices on his neck.

And he lived happily ever after.

MORAL: Those who ignore their own vices and always find faults with others, can never be happy.