



3 TARO'S REWARD



BEFOREHAND

This is a story about a loving and hardworking son, who loved his parents and could do anything to fulfill their wish. In the quest of fulfilling his father's wish of a hot cup of sake, he discovers a magic stream which gives sake to everyone. Though, other people got tempted and tried to have magic sake from the stream but they failed. Read the story and know how God rewards him along with the Emperor of Japan.

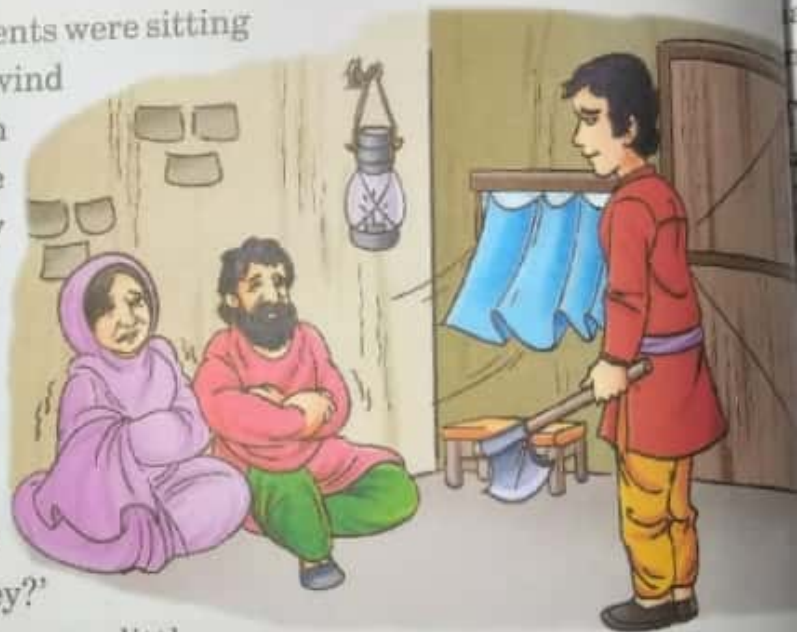
There was a young **woodcutter** named Taro. He lived with his mother and father on a **hillside**. From morning to evening he **chopped** wood in the forest. Though he worked hard, he could not earn much. He felt sad, for he was a dedicated son and wanted to give his parents everything they needed.

One evening, when Taro and his parents were sitting in a corner of their cottage, a strong wind started blowing. It crept in through the cracks of the hut and everyone started shivering with cold. Suddenly Taro's father said, "I wish I got a cup of **sake**; it would give warmth to me and do my old heart good."

Hearing this Taro got sadder than ever, because the heart-warming drink called sake could not be afforded. 'How do I make more money?'

he questioned himself. 'How can I arrange a little sake for my poor old father?' He decided to work harder and longer than before.

Next morning, Taro left his bed earlier than usual and reached the forest. He chopped and cut as the Sun shone brightly and soon he got so warm that he had to take



woodcutter : a person who cuts trees
chopped : cut into pieces

hillside : close to hill
sake : a popular Japanese drink

bucket. His mouth got dry and his face was wet with sweat. 'My poor old father!' he imagined. 'If only he could be as warm as I!'

And with that he started to chop even faster, thinking of the extra money he had to earn to buy the sake to warm the old man's bones.

Then at once Taro stopped chopping. What was that sound he listened? Could it be, could it possibly be rushing water?



Taro could not remember ever seeing or hearing a rushing stream in that area of the forest. He was thirsty. The axe fell out of his hands and he ran in the direction of the sound.

Taro saw a beautiful little waterfall flowing behind a rock. Kneeling at a spot where the water flowed quietly, he took a little in his hands and poured it to his lips. Was it water? Or was it sake? He tasted it again and again, and every time it came to be the delicious sake **instead of** cold water.

Taro quickly filled the pot he had with him and reached home. The old man was extremely happy with the sake. After only one cup of the liquid he felt no shivering and did a little dance in the middle of the floor.

That afternoon, a neighbour came by for a visit. Taro's father **politely** served her a cup of the sake. The lady took it greedily and thanked the old man. Then Taro described her the story of the magic waterfall. She thanked for the delicious drink and she left in a hurry. By nightfall she had spread the story throughout the village.

That evening there was a long march of visitors to the woodcutter's cottage. Each man listened the story of the waterfall and drank a sip of the sake. Within an hour the pitcher ran out of sake.

Next morning, Taro left for work even earlier than the morning before. He took with him the largest pitcher he had, for he wanted first of all to go to the waterfall. When he reached it, he saw to his great surprise all his neighbours there. They were having pitchers, jars, buckets — anything they could carry to hold the magic sake. Then one villager knelt and put his mouth under the waterfall to drink. He drank again and again and then cried with anger, "Water! Nothing but water!" Others also tried, but there was no sake, only cold water.

"We have been lied!" shouted the villagers. "Where is Taro? Let us throw him in this waterfall." But Taro had been wise enough to hide behind a rock when he saw how things were going. He could not be found.

instead of : in place of

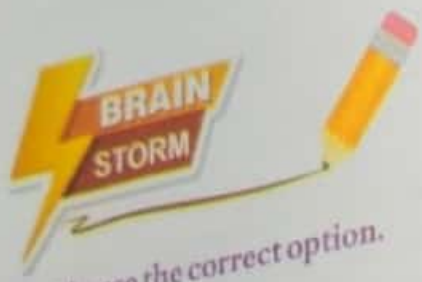
politely : gently

Muttering their anger and disappointment, the villagers went home one by one. Taro emerged from his hiding place. Was it true, he wondered? Was the sake a lie? Once more he took a little liquid in his hand and poured it to his lips. It was the same delicious sake. To the thoughtful son, the magic waterfall gave it. To everyone else, it gave only cold water.



The tale of Taro and his magic waterfall reached the Emperor of Japan. The young woodcutter was sent for and rewarded with twenty pieces of gold for having been so kind. Then the Emperor named the most beautiful fountain in the city after Taro. The Emperor, was to inspire all children to respect and obey their parents.

—A JAPANESE STORY



A. Choose the correct option.

1. Taro was a _____ .
 - a. farmer
 - b. woodcutter
 - c. blacksmith
 - d. none of these
2. Who wished for a cup of sake?
 - a. Taro
 - b. Taro's father
 - c. Taro's mother
 - d. Villagers
3. Taro saw a beautiful little _____ hidden behind a rock.
 - a. lake
 - b. river
 - c. waterfall
 - d. pond
4. Taro was rewarded by the _____.
 - a. villagers
 - b. emperor of Japan
 - c. his father
 - d. none of these

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. All day long, Taro _____ wood in the forest.
2. This made Taro _____ than ever.

muttering : speaking unclearly



A. Choose the correct option.

1. Taro was a _____.
a. farmer b. woodcutter c. blacksmith d. none of these
2. Who wished for a cup of sake?
a. Taro b. Taro's father c. Taro's mother d. Villagers
3. Taro saw a beautiful little _____ hidden behind a rock.
a. lake b. river c. waterfall d. pond
4. Taro was rewarded by the _____.
a. villagers b. emperor of Japan
c. his father d. none of these

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. All day long, Taro chopped wood in the forest.
2. This made Taro happier than ever.

muttering : speaking unclearly

3. Taro lived with his parents on a lonely hillside.
4. The sake dropped out of his hands and he ran in the direction of the waterfall.
5. In less than an hour the pot was empty.

Write True or False.

1. Taro lived alone on a lonely hillside. False
2. The old man was delighted with the sake. True
3. Taro had no money to buy expensive sake. True
4. Taro tasted the liquid flowing from the waterfall again and again to confirm that it was sake. True
5. The villagers were not greedy. False

Answer the following questions. (See Worksheet)

1. What was the demand made by Taro's father?
2. How did Taro get the magic sake for his father?
3. How did the villagers come to know about the magical waterfall?
4. Why did the neighbours want to kill Taro?
5. How did the Emperor of Japan reward Taro?

Give a character sketch of Taro.

Taro was a loving and hardworking person. He was dedicated towards working hard in order to fulfill his parents' wish. He was also truthful and honest.

WORD TRACK

Match the words in column 'A' with their correct meanings in column 'B'.

Column 'A' (Words)

1. Delighted
2. Cracks
3. Lonely
4. Hurried
5. Delicious

Column 'B' (Meanings)

- a. Narrow gaps (2)
- b. Deserted (3)
- c. Tasty (5)
- d. Very happy (1)
- e. Rushed (4)

G. Use the following words in your own sentences (use yourself)

1. Rushing water
2. Remember
3. Stopped
4. Reward

H. Who said the dialogues given below.

1. "I wish I got a cup of sake."
2. "How do I make more money?"
3. "We have been lied."
4. "Water! Nothing but water."
5. "If only he could be as warm as I."

I. Write when the following situations took place.

1. Taro's father wished for warm sake when
he started shivering from cold.
2. Taro's face was wet with sweat when
he was chopping woods in the forest.
3. Taro was surprised when
he found the magic waterfall.
4. A neighbour came to know about the magical sake when
Taro's father invited him to his house.
5. The emperor of Japan called Taro when
he found about him and the magical sake.

GRAMMAR Stock

Adverbs

An **adverb** is a part of speech that gives more description to a verb, an adjective or another adverb. There are following types of adverbs:

Adverbs of manner tells us the manner in which (or how) an action is done.

Example: Jack writes **fast**.

Adverbs of time tells us about the time of the action. They answer the question **when**.

Example: He reached the class **late**.

Answer Key
Class VI (English)
Chapter 3 Taro's Reward

Exercise D)

1. Taro's father demanded a hot cup of sake.
2. Taro found a magic waterfall which was running with sake.
3. Taro's father told the villagers about the magic waterfall.
4. The villagers wanted to kill Taro because they thought Taro and his parents lied about the magic waterfall.
5. The Emperor of Japan rewarded Taro with twenty pieces of gold. Also, he named the most beautiful fountain in the city after his name.