



The Honest Woodcutter's Reward

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In a quiet little village, there lived a poor but hardworking woodcutter named Ramu. Every morning, he would set out into the lush green forest with his old iron axe to gather wood to support his family.



One day, Ramu found a sturdy tree growing right on the bank of a deep, fast-flowing river. He began to chop the wood with great focus, the rhythmic sound of his axe echoing through the peaceful woods.



RAMU'S LAMENT

Suddenly, Ramu's hand slipped, and his only iron axe flew into the deep water with a loud splash. He watched in shock as the ripples spread and his only tool vanished beneath the dark surface.

**RAMU'S HEALING**

Ramu sat by the riverbank, overcome with grief, and began to cry. He felt helpless and wondered how he would ever be able to earn money for his family's food without his precious axe.



Hearing his sincere cries, a radiant Water God suddenly emerged from the river in a shimmer of magical light. The God looked at Ramu with compassion and asked him why he was so distressed.



The God dived into the deep water and returned holding a magnificent axe made of pure, shining gold. He asked Ramu if this was his lost tool, but Ramu honestly replied that it was not his.



The God dived again and brought up a beautiful silver axe that sparkled brilliantly in the sunlight. Ramu looked at it closely but again shook his head, explaining that his axe was much simpler.



Finally, the God pulled out the old, rusty iron axe from the depths of the river. Ramu's eyes filled with joy, and he happily exclaimed that this was indeed his own familiar tool.



The Water God was so impressed by Ramu's unwavering honesty that he decided to reward him. He gave Ramu the gold and silver axes as a gift to keep, along with his own iron axe.



Ramu returned home to his family as a wealthy and happy man, his heart full of gratitude. He shared his story with the entire village, teaching everyone that the fruits of honesty are always sweet.