

## (1) The Honest Woodcutter

Once upon a time, in a small village near a big forest, there lived two woodcutters named John and Tim. John was a hardworking and honest man, while Tim was lazy and always tried to take shortcuts in life.

One day, while John was cutting a tree by the riverbank, his axe accidentally slipped out of his hand and fell into the river. He felt very sad as he did not have any other axe to continue his work. "Oh no! I lost my axe. How will I work now?" cried John as he sat on the riverbank feeling hopeless.

Suddenly, a beautiful goddess appeared from the river and asked him, "Why are you so sad, John?"

"My axe fell into the river, and now I have nothing to continue my work," replied John.

The goddess asked, "Would you recognize your axe if you see it?"

"Yes, I would," replied John.

The goddess went back into the river and returned with a golden axe in her hand. "Is this your axe?" she asked.

John looked at the axe and said, "No, this is not my axe."

The goddess went back into the river and returned with a silver axe in her hand. "Is this your axe?" she asked again.

John looked at the axe and replied, "No, this is not my axe either."

The goddess went back into the river one last time and returned with an iron axe in her hand. "Is this your axe?" she asked for the third time.

John saw the iron axe and smiled happily, "Yes, this is my axe. Thank you so much, goddess!"

The goddess was pleased with John's honesty and integrity. As a reward, she gave him all three axes, including the golden and silver ones.

John went back home and showed all three axes to his friend, Tim. Tim was surprised and asked, "How did you get so many axes?"

John then narrated the whole incident to Tim, and he got jealous. The next day, Tim went to the same spot where John had lost his axe and deliberately threw his axe into the river.

He waited for the goddess to appear and said, "Goddess, I have lost my axe in the river."

The goddess appeared and asked, "Would you recognize your axe if you see it?"

Tim replied, "Yes, I would."

The goddess went back into the river and returned with a golden axe in her hand. "Is this your axe?" she asked.

Tim got greedy and lied, "Yes, that's my axe."

The goddess was furious and said, "I know this is not your axe. You are dishonest, and you will not get your axe back because of your greed."

Tim felt ashamed and returned home empty-handed. He realized that honesty is always the best policy, and one should never try to take shortcuts in life. From that day on, Tim promised to be honest like his friend, John, and always work hard to achieve success.

## (2) Catching Santa

Once upon a time, there was a family of bunnies called the Hoppers who were eagerly waiting for Christmas. Snubby Nose, the youngest bunny, was very excited to see Santa Claus. He couldn't wait to see the big man in red who would bring him presents. "I want to see Santa Claus!" he said, bouncing up and down.

Mother Hopper warned Snubby Nose, "Santa won't come if you're not asleep."

As the night went on, everyone in the family started to get sleepy, except for Snubby Nose. He peeked out of the window, looking for Santa's sleigh, but he couldn't see anything. Then, he heard something. "Did you hear that?" he whispered to his siblings.

The other bunnies were half asleep and didn't hear anything. But Snubby Nose had sharp ears, and he heard the sound of footsteps coming towards the door. He tiptoed towards the door, and when he opened it, he saw his father, Papa Hopper!

"Hi, Snubby Nose," Papa Hopper said with a smile. "Did you see Santa Claus yet?"

Snubby Nose shook his head. "No, but I'm still trying to stay awake. Do you think he'll come soon?"

Papa Hopper chuckled. "Well, Snubby Nose, you know what they say, 'If you're not asleep, Santa won't come!'"

Snubby Nose sighed. "I know, but I really want to see him."

Papa Hopper gave Snubby Nose a pat on the head. "Don't worry, Snubby Nose, you'll see him next year. Now, it's time for bed."

But Snubby Nose couldn't help feeling disappointed. As he lay in his bed, he thought, "I'll never get to see Santa Claus." Suddenly, he had an idea! He could sneak downstairs and see if he could catch Santa Claus in the act!

So, he quietly tiptoed down the stairs and peeked into the living room. He saw a flash of red and white and heard the sound of jingle bells. Snubby Nose gasped and turned on his flashlight. "Ha! I see you, Santa!" he cried.

Suddenly, Santa Claus turned around, surprised. "Oh, no! You're not supposed to be up, Snubby Nose! You're supposed to be asleep!"

Snubby Nose was scared and ran to hide in the closet. He felt ashamed that he had disobeyed his parents and ruined Santa's surprise. "I'm sorry," he whispered to himself.

Snubby Nose then heard Santa filling the stockings with presents and going up the chimney. Soon after, he heard the sound of sleigh bells ringing in the distance. The next morning, Snubby Nose woke up to find his stocking full of presents, just like his siblings.

But he couldn't shake the feeling that he had done something wrong. He wrote a note to Santa, apologizing for not being asleep and promising to never try to catch him again. To his surprise, Santa wrote back! "Snubby Nose, it's okay that you wanted to see me. But next year, remember to stay in bed until morning. I'll make sure to leave you an extra special present!

From then on, Snubby Nose learned that it's important to listen to his parents and that Santa will always find a way to bring him presents, even if he doesn't see him.