

CLASS -6 ,

A PACT WITH THE SUN –SUPPLEMENTARY READER

THE SHEPHERD’S TREASURE (AN IRANIAN FOLKTALE)

FOLK TALE : A folk tale is a story passed on by word of mouth. It is passed from generation to generation.

IN a village in Iran there once lived a shepherd. He was very poor. He did not have even a small cottage of his own. He had never been to school or learnt to read and write, for there were very few schools in those days.

Though poor and uneducated, this shepherd was very wise. He understood people’s sorrows and troubles, and helped them face their problems with courage and common sense.

Many people came to him for advice. Soon he became famous for his wisdom and friendly nature. The king of that country heard about him and thought of meeting him.

Disguised as a shepherd and riding on a mule, one day the king came to the cave where the wise shepherd lived. As soon as the shepherd saw the traveller coming towards the cave, he rose to welcome him. He took the tired traveller inside the cave, gave him water to drink and a share of his own meagre meal. The king rested for the night in the cave and was greatly impressed by the shepherd’s hospitality and wise conversation

The king was astonished as well as pleased. ‘He is indeed very wise.’ he thought to himself. ‘I need people like him to work for me.’ And the king appointed this humble shepherd the governor of a small district

Now the governors of other provinces grew terribly jealous of him and began to talk to the king against him. They said, “He is very dishonest, and keeps for himself part of the money that he collects as tax from the people.” Why did he always carry with him, they added, an iron chest

They reported that the governor kept a part of the tax collected in an iron chest .At first the king did not pay attention to these reports, but how long could he ignore these governors and their endless stories about the shepherd?

So, one day, the new governor was summoned to the palace. He came riding on his camel, and to everyone's delight, the famous iron chest was there fastened securely behind him on the camel's back. Everyone was delighted to see the governor with the iron chest . They thought the new governor proved to be dishonest on the opening of the chest. In the presence of everybody , the new governor got the chest opened. There was an old blanket in the chest. The Shepherd said it was his only treasure and the oldest friend. He said the blanket was his only treasure. It shows the shepherd's humility and wisdom. Impressed by these qualities of the shepherd , the king appointed him the governor of a much bigger district as reward.

- ☉ In this story, we see that a shepherd rose to the position of governor with his wisdom . kindness ,humility and humble nature ,and even after becoming governor he remained as humble as he was earlier.