

## **TARO'S REWARD**

Taro's reward is a popular fairy tale in Japan. This is a story about a thoughtful and loving son. He wanted to fulfill the wishes of his father.

Taro was a poor boy. He earned money by chopping wood from the jungle. But the money he earned was not sufficient for him and his parents.

One day it started growing cold. All people in the home felt cold due to wind passing from the tracks of the wooden house. His father wished if he could have some sake to energise his heart. (Sake is a popular and costly drink of Japan.)

Taro was sad as he did not have money to buy the expensive sake.

He decided to work hard. Next day he woke up early and went to the forest to chop wood.

Suddenly he heard the sound of falling water. It perplexed him as there was no river here earlier.

Since he was also thirsty, he followed the sound of water. Soon he found a waterfall behind the rock. He went near the water and put his hand in the water. He put some water to his lips. To his amazement, he discovered that the plain water was not water but sake. He became happy and filled some sake in his pitcher.

Upon reaching the house, he gave his sake to his father. The father sipped the sake and started dancing with joy.

A neighbour came in the evening. Father offered her a cup of Sake. The woman happily took the sake. Then Taro told her all about the magic of waterfalls.

Now the woman spread the news to all the people in the village. Every villager rushed to Taro's home and tasted the sake.

Next morning Taro woke up early. He searched the biggest pitcher and went to the waterfall.

To his surprise he found that other villagers were also going to the waterfall.

Soon people reached the water fall and tasted the water. But they found that water of the waterfall was not sake but plain water. People became angry and decided to drown Taro into water. Taro hid himself in the forest to escape their anger. When they had gone, he tasted liquid himself. It was the same fine sake. The waterfall was giving Taro Sake while to villager it was giving plain water.

The story of Taro's care for his parents reached the king. He rewarded Taro twenty pieces of gold. Then he named the most beautiful fountain of the city after Taro. This was to encourage other children to take care of their parents.

The moral of the story is that, we should take care of our parents and elders. God helps only that person who takes good care of their parents.

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