

- Adapted text:

## **The Fairness of Water**

In a small village surrounded by dry hills, there was only one source of water: an old well in the center of town. For generations, the well had provided water for everyone—families, animals, and plants. The villagers believed it was a gift from nature, something to be shared.

One year, the rains didn't come, and the land dried up. The fields turned brown, and the river near the village disappeared. The well, their only source of water, began to run low. The village leader, Amara, called a meeting. "Each family can only take two buckets of water per day," she said. "If we follow this rule, the water will last until the rains return." The villagers agreed and took turns collecting water carefully.

But one night, a merchant named Sahan arrived at the well with a large cart. He secretly filled it with as much water as he could carry, planning to sell it to other villages for profit. By morning, the villagers discovered that the well was almost empty. Furious, they confronted Sahan. "Why did you take more than your share?" they demanded.

Sahan shrugged. "I worked for it, so it's mine to use however I want," he replied. Amara looked at him sadly. "Water is life—it belongs to everyone. If we don't share it, we all suffer."

Now the villagers faced a difficult decision: should they punish Sahan, let him keep the water, or work together to find a solution?

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