

# The Clever Heeralal



Long ago, there lived a jeweler called Heeralal. He was a very clever and rich man. He had everything, good clothes, good food, and much more.



Sadly after a while, he became poor, and everyone called him the unlucky Heeralal. People began saying that if Heeralal were the first person you saw in the morning, you would not get food for the whole day.



The king heard this rumor and wanted to meet him. Heeralal came to see him the next day. The king asked him,

"Is it true that if you are the first person anyone sees in the morning, they do not get food the whole day?"



Heeralal said

"I do not know. Only the person who sees me in the morning can answer your question."

The king ordered,

"Come and meet me in the morning. You will be the first person I see."



Heeralal came as ordered. The king saw him and sent him on his way. That day the king missed breakfast because he had too much work in court. He looked forward to lunch because it smelled delicious. He sat down and was about to take a bite when a fly fell into his food. The king got very angry. He thought it was all because of Heeralal, so he ordered him to be killed.



Poor Heeralal was about to be killed when the king asked him,

"What is your last wish?"

"Oh, king,"

he said,

"Let everyone in the kingdom know that if you see Heeralal's face first thing in the morning you don't get food the whole day. But if you see the king's face the first thing in the morning you will get killed."



The king understood that Heeralal was a clever man, and realized that one day he would become rich again. He knew that a person who was hopeful would always do well, so he set him free.





You must be hopeful  
even when things seem  
bad.