

# The Beggar and The Merchant



There was a young, lazy man.

He did not want to work hard, so he began begging.

Every day he would stand at the street corner and beg.



One day on his way, a merchant saw this young beggar and laughed at him.

The beggar was very surprised.

Every day when the merchant went by this route and saw the young beggar, he laughed at him.



One day, the beggar could not take it any longer.

So he waited for the merchant.

As soon as he came, the beggar asked him, "Why are you laughing at me? Is it because I'm poor?"



"No," said the merchant, "come to my shop, and I will show you why I'm laughing at you."

The beggar went along with the merchant, and when he reached the shop, the merchant got him a very comfortable chair to sit on.



Then, he went inside the shop and got a huge bag of money.

"There are ten million rupees (worth 250 thousand dollars) in this bag.

Give me your eyes for them!" said the merchant, suddenly.



The beggar was surprised, "How can I? My eyes are very precious."

"Alright then, give me your hands," said the merchant.

The beggar said, "How can I? My hands are also very precious."



"Then, give me your legs," said the merchant.

The beggar was now very angry, "How can I?", he shouted, "My legs are very precious too."



"Then give me your good health,"  
said the merchant.

This time the beggar screamed for  
all to hear, "How can I? My good  
health is very precious too."



The merchant smiled and said,

"See, you have so many precious gifts in your life, good eyes, hands, legs, and health. Why are you wasting them? You must not beg and make them useless."



The lazy, young man learned his lesson, and he looked for work and stopped begging from that day.

**We must not be lazy, as it will be a waste of all the good gifts in our life.**

