

The Lump of Gold

Paul was a very rich man but never had the courage to spend any of his money. He was always afraid of someone stealing his money. He pretended to be poor and wore tattered clothes.

People in the town used to make fun of him. Children followed him in the streets and pointed at him but he didn't care. All he cared about was his money.

One day, he bought a big lump of gold. He hid it in a hole under a big tree in a faraway hill. Every night, he used to go out in the dark to check his lump of gold and make sure it is still there.

One night, while Paul was checking the lump of gold. A thief was following him and saw the hole with the gold inside. He waited until Paul left, stole the gold, and ran away.

The next day, Paul went to the big tree to check his gold but it wasn't there. He went crazy and couldn't believe his eyes. He started crying out loud and didn't know what to do. An old religious man heard him and came closer.

"What is wrong my dear son? Is everything ok?" Said the old man. "No, there's a catastrophe. I buried all the gold I have in this hole and now I can't find it. Someone must have stolen it." Paul said

"Don't worry my dear son. I know what you need to do. You have to look for a big rock and put it in the hole instead of the lump of gold." said the old man. "What? What are you saying? How could that solve my problem and get me my stolen gold back?" said Paul.

"Tell me! What did you do with your gold?" said the old man. "I just checked it every single day and made sure it is still there," said Paul. "You would do exactly the same with the big rock," said the old man.

Paul thought and thought then smiled and said: "Yes, you are totally right. I don't need gold to make me happy."