



The Missing Bowl

A Story from the Travels of Guru Nanak

Author: Gursharn Singh

<https://maastarji.com/>

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Travels of Guru Nanak

Long, long ago, there lived **Guru Nanak**. He was always smiling and kind. He wanted people to know how to live truthfully and be good human beings. So, with his friend **Bhai Mardana**, he began traveling to many places. Everywhere he went, people loved his words and became his students, called **Sikhs**.



A City by the Sea

On his first journey, **Guru Nanak** came to the famous city of **Jagannath Puri**. There, he heard about a man called **Kaljug Pandit**. This pandit was no true teacher. He tricked people and took their money. **Guru Nanak** decided it was time to show him the right path.



The Pandit's Tricks

The next day, **Guru Nanak** and **Bhai Mardana** went to watch the **pandit**. He sat cross-legged with his eyes shut, pretending to be very holy. People placed coins in a big bowl in front of him. Sometimes he opened one eye, then closed the other. “*I see this god! I see that god!*” he cried. The people gasped in wonder. Then he said, “*Close your eyes! I will show you the gods too.*” Everyone shut their eyes at once.



The Vanishing Bowl

Guru Nanak looked at **Bhai Mardana** and gave him a small smile. Quietly, **Bhai Mardana** picked up the money bowl and hid it in the bushes nearby.

When the **pandit** opened his eyes, the bowl was gone. He turned red with anger “*Who stole my bowl?*” he shouted. “*Do not play tricks with a holy man!*” The crowd grew restless.



Guru Nanak Speaks

Guru Nanak stepped forward and said, “*Pandit ji, you say you can see gods and their worlds. Then why can you not see your own money bowl?*” The people burst out laughing. “*Pandit ji, where is your bowl? Why can’t you find it?*” they asked. Everyone now understood that the **pandit** had been fooling them.



The Lesson

Guru Nanak spoke gently: *“Do not be fooled by people who pretend to be holy. You cannot become good by closing your eyes or making faces. You become good only by doing good deeds.”* The **pandit** hung his head in shame. He realized his mistakes.



A New Beginning

Kaljug Pandit asked **Guru Nanak** to guide him. He promised never to cheat people again. From that day, he became a true student of **Guru Nanak**, dedicating himself to living with honesty, kindness, and sewa, which is selfless service to others. By serving his community and living with integrity, he finally found true happiness.

Discussion Points

- How do you think Guru Nanak felt when he saw people being tricked? What would you do if you saw someone being unfair?
- How did Guru Nanak teach the lesson without being mean to the pandit?
- Have you ever seen someone pretend to be something they're not? How did it make you feel?
- How is doing kind actions different from just pretending to be good?
- What are some good deeds (sewa) we can do every day?

About This Story

This story comes from **Guru Nanak's** amazing travels. For more than 20 years, he went on four long journeys to spread his message of truth and kindness.

This meeting with **Kaljug Pandit** happened in the year 1510. **Guru Nanak** wrote about this encounter in one of his beautiful hymns found in the **Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji**, the central holy religious scripture of Sikhism, regarded by Sikhs as the final, sovereign and eternal Guru.

“Some people try to fool the world by closing their eyes and holding their noses. They say they can see all the worlds, but they cannot even see what is right behind them! Without God’s name in their hearts, no one finds true peace.”

Just like in our story, **Guru Nanak's** words remind us that being truly good comes from having a kind heart and doing good things for others.

Thank You

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To Our Reviewers

Special thanks to [Harmanjeet Singh, Jagjit Singh and Navdeep Singh](#). Your thoughtful feedback helped make this story much better and ensured Guru Nanak's message reaches young readers clearly.

To Our Readers

Finally, thank you to the parents, teachers, librarians, and children who will share this story. May it spark meaningful conversations about kindness, truth, and the importance of good deeds in our daily lives.

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