

# STORY TELLING COMPETITION

2019-20

STD.3

## AKBAR – BIRBAL STORIES

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<https://www.moralstories.org>

<https://www.storiestogrowby.org>

[www.english-for-students.com](http://www.english-for-students.com)>Birbalstories

<https://www.momjunction.com>



## Story No. 1

### **THE POT OF THE WIT**

Once Emperor Akbar became very angry at his favourite minister Birbal. He asked Birbal to leave the kingdom and go away. Accepting the command of the Emperor, Birbal left the kingdom and started working in a farmer's farm in an unknown village far away under a different identity.

As months passed, Akbar started to miss Birbal. He was struggling to solve many issues in the empire without Birbal's advice. He regretted asking Birbal to leave the empire. Akbar sent his soldiers to find Birbal but they failed to find him. No one knew where Birbal was. Akbar finally found a trick. He sent a message to the head of every village to send a pot full of the wit to the Emperor. If the pot full of wit cannot be sent, fill the pot with diamonds and jewels.

This message also reached Birbal who lived in one of the villages. The people of the village got together. All started talking, "The wit is not a thing which can be filled in the pot. How will we arrange for diamonds and jewels to fill the pot and send to the Emperor?" Birbal who was sitting among the villagers said, "Give me the pot, I will fill it in one month's end". Everyone trusted Birbal and agreed to give him a chance. They still didn't know his identity.

Birbal took the pot with him and went back to the farm. He had planted watermelons on his farm. He selected a small watermelon and without cutting it from the plant, he put that in the pot. He started looking after it by providing water and fertilizer regularly. Within a few days, the watermelon grew into the pot so much that it was impossible to get it out of the pot.

Soon, the watermelon reached the same size as the pot from inside. Birbal then cut the watermelon from the vine and separated it with the pot. Later, he sent a pot to Emperor Akbar with a message that "Please remove the wit without cutting it from the pot and without breaking the pot".

Akbar watched the watermelon in the pot and realised that this can only be Birbal's work. Akbar himself came to the village and took Birbal back with him.

Moral: Don't hasten the decision. Think hard to find a solution for the strangest situations.

## Story No.2

### **THE THREE QUESTIONS**

King Akbar was very fond of Birbal. This made a certain courtier very jealous. Now this courtier always wanted to be the chief minister but this was not possible as Birbal filled that position. One day Akbar praised Birbal in front of the courtier. This made the courtier very angry and he said that the king praised Birbal unjustly and if Birbal could answer three of his questions, he would accept the fact that Birbal was intelligent. Akbar always wanting to test Birbal's wit readily agreed.

The three questions were

1. How many stars are there in the sky?
  2. Where is the centre of the Earth?
- and
3. How many men and women are there in the world?

Immediately Akbar asked Birbal the three questions and informed him that if he could not answer them, he would have to resign as chief minister.

To answer the first question, Birbal brought a hairy sheep and said, "There are as many stars in the sky as there is hair on the sheep's body. My friend the courtier is welcome to count them if he likes."

To answer the second question, Birbal drew a couple of lines on the floor and drilled an iron rod in it and said, "This is the centre of the Earth. The courtier may measure it himself if he has any doubts."

In answer to the third question, Birbal said, "Counting the exact number of men and women in the world would be a problem as there are some specimens like our courtier friend here who cannot easily be classified as either. Therefore if all people like him are killed, only then can one count the exact number."

### **Story No.3**

#### **FARMER'S WELL AND WITTY BIRBAL**

Once a man sold his well to a farmer. Next day when a farmer went to draw the water from that well, the man did not allow him to draw the water from it. He said, "I have sold you the well not the water so you cannot draw the water from the well."

The farmer became very sad and came to the Emperor's court. He described everything to the Emperor and asked for the justice.

The Emperor called Birbal and handed over this case to him. Birbal called the man who sold the well to the farmer. Birbal asked, "Why don't you let him use the water of the well? You have sold the well to the farmer." The man replied, "Birbal, I have sold the well to the farmer not the water. He has no right to draw the water from the well."

Birbal smiled and said to him, "Good, but look, since you have sold the well to this farmer, and you claim that water is yours, you have no right to keep your water in the farmer's well. Either you pay rent to the farmer to keep your water in his well or you take that out of his well immediately."

The man understood that his trick has failed. Birbal has outwitted him.

Moral: Don't try to cheat. You will end up paying for it regardless of how smart you think you are.

## Story No. 4

### **THE WICKED BARBER**

As we all know, Birbal was not only Emperor Akbar's favourite minister but also a minister dearly loved by most of the commoners because of his ready wit and wisdom. People used to come to him from far and wide for advice on personal matters too. However, there was a group of ministers who were jealous of his growing popularity and disliked him intensely. They outwardly showered him with praise and compliments but on the inside they began to hatch a plot to kill him.

One day they approached the king's barber with a plan. As the barber was extremely close to the king, they asked him to help them get rid of Birbal permanently. And of course, they promised him a huge sum of money in return. The wicked barber readily agreed.

The next time the king required his services, the barber started a conversation about the emperor's father who he also used to serve. He said that he had a dream where the emperor's father complained that he needed some company in heaven as it was boring there.

The barber mentioned that he knew of a magician who could come of help. The magician could send a person up to heaven to enquire about his father's welfare. But of course this person must be wise, intelligent and responsible. The barber then suggested the best person for the job – the wisest of all ministers, Birbal.

The king was very excited about hearing from his dead father and asked the barber to go ahead and make the arrangements immediately. He asked him what was needed to be done. The barber explained that they would take Birbal in a procession to the burial grounds and light a pyre. The magician would chant some 'mantras' as Birbal would ascend to the heavens through the smoke. The chanting would help protect Birbal from the fire.

The king happily informed Birbal of this plan. Birbal said that he thought it a brilliant idea and wanted to know the brain behind it. When learning that it was the barber's idea, he agreed to go to heaven on condition that he is given a large sum of money for the long journey as well as one month's time to settle his family so that they had no trouble while he was gone. The king agreed to both conditions.

In the duration of this month, he got a few trustworthy men to build a tunnel from the funeral grounds to his house. And on the day of the ascension, after the pyre had been lit, Birbal escaped through the concealed door of the tunnel. He disappeared into his house where he hid for a few months while his hair and beard grew long and unruly.

In the meantime, his enemies were rejoicing as they thought that they had seen the last of Birbal. One day after many, many months Birbal arrived at the palace with news of the king's father. The king was extremely pleased to see him and ready with a barrage of questions. Birbal told the king that his father was in the best of spirits and had been provided with all the comforts except one.

The king wanted to know what was lacking because now he thought he had found a way to send things and people to heaven. Birbal answered that there were no barbers in heaven which is why even he was forced to grow his own beard. He said that his father had asked for a good barber.

So the king decided to send his own barber to serve his father in heaven. He called both the barber and the magician so that he could send them to heaven. The barber could say absolutely nothing in his own defense as he was caught in his own trap. And once the pyre was lit he died on the spot. Nobody dared to conspire against Birbal again.