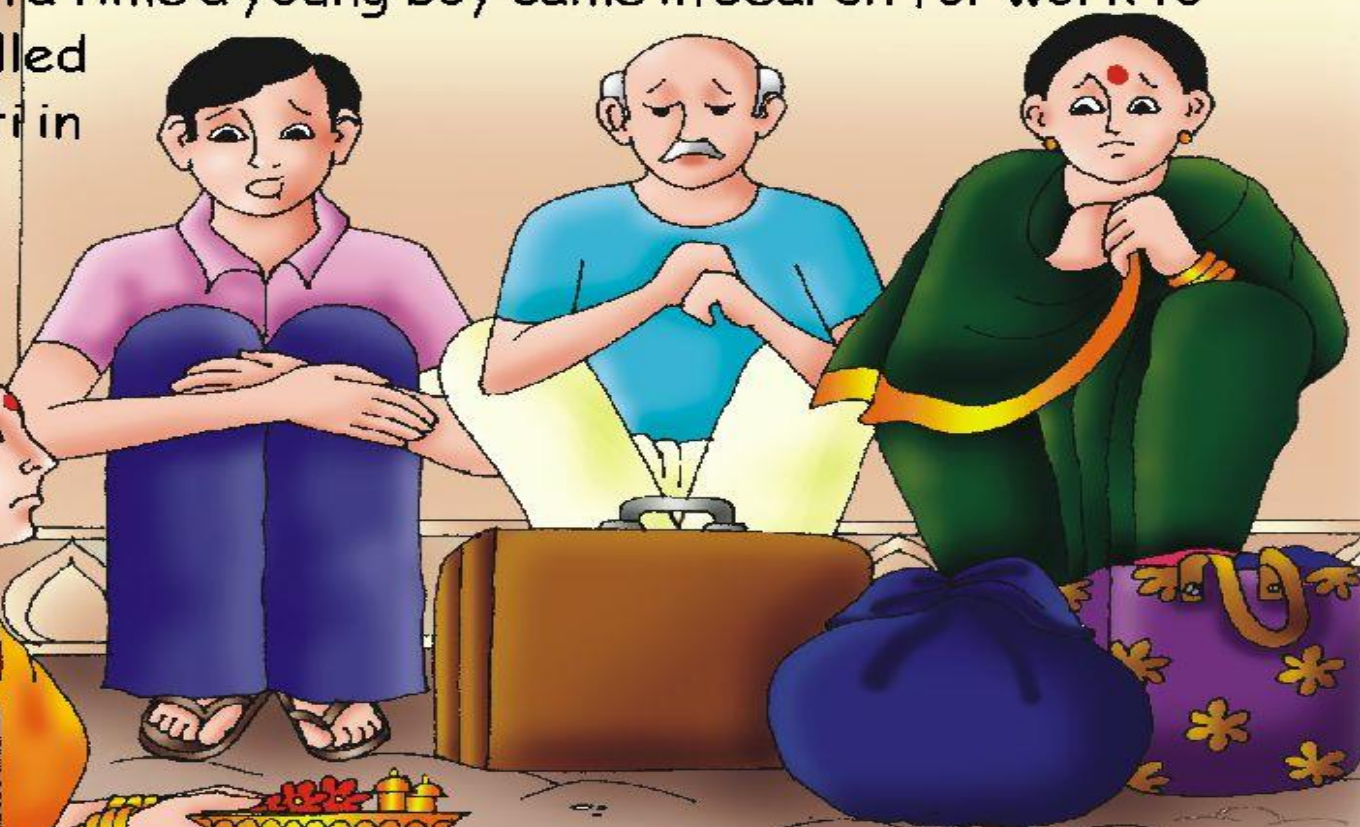


GENEROUS LAXMI BEHN

Once upon a time a young boy came in search for work to a place called Karnavatti in Gujarat.



He found no work and what was worse there was no place for him to stay. He was worried that family would be cold and hungry that night. So he sat near a temple feeling very sorry for himself. Just then a lady went by. She was Laxmi behn. The lady was known for her goodness. She stopped and looked at the boy. "What is your name? She asked. The boy told her that his name was Uda. Her face seemed kind, so he told her about how he had come to search for work, but now he had nothing. Laxmi behn felt very sorry for him.

She called him and his family over and gave them a nice hot meal, and a place to stay.



The boy found a job, and he started doing much better. One day he decided to improve the house he was staying in. As this was given by Laxmi behn, he went to ask her for permission. "This is your house, you can do as you please," said the generous Laxmi behn.



While they were digging the wall, Uda found something strange. It was a fabulous treasure that was buried in the wall of the house.



As Uda was a truthful person, he went back to Laxmi behn, and showed her this immense fortune; after all, the entire house was really hers. Laxmi behn looked at the treasure and said, "Son you found the treasure in your house. The day you started living there the home became yours. Do as you please with this treasure." Uda really pleaded with her to take the treasure. Laxmi behn refused. She was not greedy.



Uda grew to be an important person in Gujarat. Yet he never forgot the role of the very generous lady Laxmi Behn in his life. **We must also be generous; it will help in making the world a happier place.**