Once a wood-cutter was felling a tree at the bank of a river. By chance his axe fell into the water. He began to weep. The god mercury heard his cries. He appeared before him and said, “why are you weeping?” The wood-cutter told him the whole story.

The God dived. Soon he came out with a golden axe. The wood-cutter said. “Sir it is not my axe. My axe was not so beautiful.” Then the god dived again. He came out with a silver axe. The wood-cutter said, “Sir, it is not mine. My axe was not so shining.”

The God dived for the third time. He came out with an iron axe. The wood-cutter felt very happy. He said, “This is mine. How should I thank you?” The God was pleased at his honesty. He gave him all the three axes as a reward.

Moral: Honesty is the best policy.

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