

The River Dragon

In a small village next to the Sparkling River, a boy named Leo loved to play by the water. He skipped stones, watched fish swim, and listened to the soft splashes of the waves. The river gave the village fresh water and food. But the elders always warned, **“Do not go too far! The River Dragon watches over the water.”**

One sunny morning, Leo saw something strange. A golden fish was stuck in some sticks and leaves. Its shiny scales sparkled like the sun, and its small fins moved fast.

Leo quickly stepped into the water and gently picked up the fish.

“You’re free now,” he said, placing it back in the river.

At once, the water began to glow! Silver light spread across the surface. Then, with a big splash, a huge dragon rose from the river!

The dragon had silver scales that shone in the sunlight. Its eyes glowed like two bright moons. It had a long, winding body that curled above the water. Leo was not afraid. He only felt wonder.

“Who saved my golden fish?” The dragon asked in a deep but gentle voice.

Leo stepped forward. **“I did. I didn’t want it to be stuck.”**

The dragon looked at Leo and smiled. **“You have a kind heart. Because you helped my friend, I will grant you one wish.”**

Leo thought for a moment. He could ask for gold, toys, or anything he wanted. But then he remembered the hot summers when the river dried up and the village had little water.

He looked up at the dragon and said, **“I wish for my village to always have fresh water.”**

The dragon's eyes sparkled. **"A wise wish."**

The dragon touched the river with its long tail. The water began to shine and flow faster and clearer, smelling like fresh rain.

"From now on," the dragon said, **"this river will never run dry."**

Leo ran back to the village, shouting the good news. The villagers saw the strong dragon and the fresh river water and cheered. They thanked Leo for his kindness and smart choice. From that day on, they never feared the hot and dry summers again.

Sometimes, when Leo played by the water, he saw something shining under the waves—A flash of silver and a pair of glowing eyes. He knew the **River Dragon** was still there, watching over them all.

BY, MOHAMMED ABDUL HASEEB

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ADIS MUROOR