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STANDARD VIII: BOOK III

THE GOLDEN TOUCH

2919

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STANDARD VIII SERIES

BOOK III

THE GOLDEN TOUCH

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F. I. EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS

THYCAUD :: TRIVANDRUM.

1957 *[Price 8 As.*

Number of Copies: 500.

Printed at
St. Joseph's Press, Trivandrum.

2917

THE GOLDEN TOUCH

1. THE KING

Once there was a king in Greece. He was a wise and good man and he ruled the country well. So the people loved him. But the king had no son to rule after him. So the people said, "Our king is getting old, who will become king when he dies?"



Before long the king fell ill and died. Then the people said, "Let us pray to the gods[1] to give

1. gods-ദേവന്മാർ

us a king." So they went to the temple and prayed. "O, gods," they said, "give us a wise and good king." Then the gods appeared to them and said, "You shall have a new king to-morrow. Come to the temple in the morning. Then you will find[1] a man coming to you in a cart drawn by two white bullocks."

So all the people went to the temple in the morning. Then they saw a man coming towards them. He came in a cart drawn by two white bullocks. "There comes the

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1. find-see

new king," the people said. The cart stopped at the temple gate and the man got down. The people stood up and cried, "Long live the king." They took him to the palace and made him king.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. The king had no——to rule after him. (queen, son, daughter)
2. When the king died, the people prayed to the gods for a new—— (temple, king, queen)
3. The new king came to the temple in a cart drawn by two—— (horses, white bullocks)
4. The people took him to the——and made him king. (temple, hill, palace)

2. MIDAS

The king had a son named Midas. He was a good boy, but he was not very wise. The king loved his son very much. "He will become king," said he, "when I die." The king gave many presents to Midas. Some of them were made of gold.



Midas loved gold very much. He had many gold plates and cups. He bought many things[1] made of gold. He kept them in a stong box. Every day

1. things—സാധനങ്ങൾ

he would open the box and look at the gold. I want more," said he. "When I am king, I'll fill[1] my boxes with gold."

The years went by. The king grew old and died. When his father died, Midas became king. He was very rich; yet he wanted more. "I must become the richest man in the world[2]" said he. He filled his boxes with gold. He made a strong room and kept all his gold in it.

One day Midas was sitting in his room. Then some people came to him and said, "In the temple

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1. fill—നിറയ്ക്കുക
2. world—ലോകം

there is an old man who is drunk[1]. What shall we do with him?" "Bring him to me," said Midas. They brought the old man to the palace. They were right. The man was drunk. The old man said, "Don't kill me. I am an old friend of the wine-god. That is why I drink. So let me go, I want to go to the god."

Then Midas turned to his people and said, "The man is old and he is a friend of the wine-god. Don't kill him; send him away." So they sent the old man away.

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1. drink—മദ്യപിക്കുക

He was very much pleased when Midas let him go. He went to the wine-god and told him the story.

"Midas was very kind and good to me," he said. "Can't you bless him?" "What can I do for him?" the god asked. "I'll see if he wants anything." So the wine-god went to see Midas.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. Midas loved——very much.
   (his father, his brother, gold)
2. One day the people brought him an old man who was——
   (drink, drank, drunk)
3. But Midas——him go. (let, lets)
4. The man was a friend of the——
   (old king, Midas, wine-god)
5. So the god was——with Midas.
   (angry, pleased)

3. THE WINE-GOD

It was night when the wine-god came to the palace. Midas was sitting in the strong room looking at his gold. He opend the boxes one by one. All of them were filled with gold. But the king wanted more gold. "I want more gold," said he. "I want all things in my palace to be of gold."

Midas did not see the god who came into the room. "Midas, Midas," the god said softly. Then Midas looked up and saw the god standing before him. "How did you get into the room?," the king asked.

"I shut the door when I came in." "I am a god," said he, "and I can get into any room, I want."

Then the god looked round. "You are very rich," said he. "All these boxes are filled with gold." "Many of them are not full," said Midas. "I want more gold to fill them." "Well," said the god, "I have come to give you a boon.[1] Ask and it shall be given to you." Then Midas said, "Turn everything I touch into gold.[2]" "Do you want the golden touch[3]?" the god asked. "But I don't think it is good for you."

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1. boon–വരം
2. turn into gold–സ്വർണ്ണമായി മാറുക
3. golden touch–കനകസ്പർശം

"Bless me with the golden touch," he said again. "Think well," the god said again, "before you ask." But Midas wanted only the golden touch. "Then," said the god, "you shall have it. From to-morrow morning everything you touch shall be turned into gold."

Midas was filled with joy.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. When the wine-god came, the king was sitting in the ——
   (temple, strong room, garden)

2. The god gave him ——
   (gold, presents, the golden touch)

3. Everything he touched would be turned into ——
   (wood, paper, gold)

4. THE GOLDEN TOUCH

Midas was very happy. All the night he was thinking about the golden touch. "I will turn even the walls of the palace into gold," he said.

When the east was bright Midas got up. "It is morning," said he and sat up. He touched the bed-clothes and they were turned into gold. "It is gold," said he.

Midas was very much pleased. He took the cloth in his hand and looked at it. It was real[1] gold cloth.

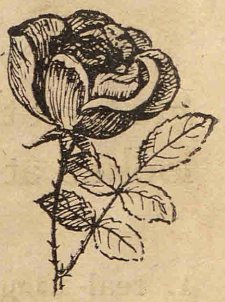
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1. real-വാസ്തവമായ Read: here, real.

Then he touched the bed and it turned into gold. Next he ran down and touched everything he saw on the way. The chairs, the tables, the windows and the doors all turned into gold. It was a palace of gold.

When he saw so much gold, the king was filled with joy. He sang to himself and went out into the garden.

There was a beautiful garden round the palace. It was full of flowers. They were white, yellow, blue and red. But the most beautiful flowers



were the roses. Their sweet smell cameto the king when he opened the gate and walked in.

"I'll take a rose," said he "and smell it." He took a rose and smelt it. Then the red rose turned into yellow gold. He touched some more. All of them turned into gold. 'Oh,' said the king, "they have turned into gold."

The king looked at the gold roses and at the real roses. Real roses were better. They were soft[1] and they had a sweet smell. They were much more beautiful. Midas did not feel very happy. So he went back to the palace.

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1. soft-മാർദ്ദവമായ

When he was going back to the palace he saw that his clothes had turned into gold. 'Oh,' said he "my clothes have become gold." But gold clothes are not good to wear. They are not soft and warm[1] The king did not like them. "I'll take them off," said he, "and put on new clothes."

He went into his room and took off his clothes. Then he took new clothes and put them on. But they also turned into gold when he touched them. The king was very unhappy. He wanted soft warm clothes. But when he put them on, they became gold.

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1. warm-ಬೆಚ್ಚಗಿನ

TEST. Complete the following sentences:–

1. Midas touched the bed and it became——
(dirty, old, gold)

2. He touched many things and they —— into gold. (became, were, turned)

3. It became a palace of——
(wood, stone, gold)

4. When he touched the roses they turned into —— (red, yellow, gold)

5. The king's —— turned into gold.
(cloth, clothes)

6. Gold clothes are not——and——
(old, soft, new, warm)

7. His clothes became gold—-he put them on.
(when, and, because)

8. Gold clothes are not good.....

(i) because they are costly.

(ii) because they are yellow.

(iii) because they are not soft and warm.

5. THE KING'S DAUGHTER

When Midas was sitting in his room, a servant came to him and said, "Breakfast is ready." Midas was hungry. So he rose up and went out to take breakfast. Breakfast was ready. There was milk in a cup. The servant brought bread and fruit. The king sat down to eat. He took some bread in his hand. But when he touched it, it turned into gold.

"Who can eat gold?" the king said. So he put it down and took a fruit from the plate. That also

turned into gold. 'Oh,' said the king, "how can I eat anything if all things turn into gold when I touch them."

Then he took the cup of milk. But when he touched it, the cup and the milk became gold. "Oh," said the king, "the milk too has turned into gold."

Midas was hungry and there was food before him. But he could not eat it. He was thirsty and there was milk in the cup. But he could not drink the milk. "I will die of hunger," said the king, "if I don't eat anything."

He could not eat anything because all things turned into gold when he touched them.

The king had a daughter. She was a little girl of eight and was very fond of flowers. She loved beautiful red roses. Every morning she would go into the garden to get red roses. But she did not get them that day.



The red rose had turned yellow! She touched them. They were not soft! She smelt them. They had no smell! So she ran to her father crying.

"O father," she said, "look at these roses."

She had some roses in her hand. They were the roses that had turned into gold when the king touched them.

"They are hard and yellow," she said, "and they have no smell." She threw them down. "My roses, my roses," she cried and fell into his arms. The king was sitting in his chair. He took her in his arms and asked, "Why are you weeping, my little child?"

But the girl did not answer. She was cold and heavy. Her soft

arms and face became hard. She turned into gold when he touched her. She did not move. She did not speak. She had no life!

"Oh, oh, oh," cried Midas and put her down.

Midas sat down and cried, my daughter, oh, my daughter. "I don't want the golden touch. O gods, take it away."

Then he rose up and went to the temple to pray. "O gods," he prayed, come and take away the golden touch." But the gods did not come to him.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. The king sat down to have——
   (meal, food, breakfast)

2. Bread turned into gold——he touched it. (and, but, when)

3. He touched milk —— it became gold.
   (and, but, when)

4. The king could not eat anything, —— everything turned into gold —— he touched it.
   (when, because)

5. The king's little —— came running to him.
   (son, daughter)

6. She was ——
   (singing, laughing, crying)

7. Midas took her in his ——
   (hands, arms)

8. She —— into gold.
   (made, became, turned)

6. THE RIVER

The king sat in the temple praying all the day. "I won't go away," he said, "till the wine-god comes and takes away the golden touch from me."

It was night. Then the god came to him again. "O king," he asked, "How is the golden touch?" "O god," cried the king, "take it away. I touched my little daughter and she turned into gold." "Don't you want more gold?" the god asked. "I don't want gold," said he.

"I have lost my daughter. I can't eat anything. What is gold for?"

The god laughed. "You have become wise," said the god.

"Take away the golden touch from me," said Midas again. There was a river near the temple. "Go to the river in the morning and bathe in it. It will wash off[1] the golden touch," said the god.

"O god", said Midas, "give me my daughter." "Take some water from the river," said the god, "and wash your daughter's face with it.

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1. wash off—wash away—കഴുകികളയുക

She will come back to life[1]." Then Midas thanked the god, and the god went away.

Midas did not go to the palace that night. He sat praying in the temple till morning. When the sun rose up, he went to the river and bathed. "O river," he said, "wash off the golden touch from me." Then he took a cup and filled it with water. The cup and the water did not turn into gold. Midas was happy when he saw it.

He ran to the palace and washed his daughter's face with it.

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1. come back to life–വീണ്ടും ജീവൻ വരുക (ജീവിക്കുക)

"Come back to life, my daughter," he said. Then the girl opened her eyes and laughed.

"My roses, my roses," she said. The gold roses turned into red roses.

The king was filled with joy when his daughter came back to life. He took her in his arms and said, 'My daughter, O my daughter.'

Then he went in and had breakfast. He ate bread and fruit and drank milk. Midas was very happy. "What can gold do for man?" he said. "It can't make man happy." If Midas could get

anything he asked for, he would not ask for gold.

Would you ?

TEST. Complete the following sentences:-

1. The——came to Midas at night.
(girl, god, man)

2. Midas asked him——away the golden touch. (take, to take, took)

3. The god told him——in the river.
(bathe, bathed, to bathe)

4. The king went to the river——bathed.
(but, and, when)

5. It——off the golden touch.
(god, washed, gave)

6. His daughter came back to life——he washed her face with the water.
(when, and, but)

7. If you——get anything you asked for ——you ask for gold?
(would, could)

FINAL TEST

Complete the following sentences:—

1. Midas helped an old man.....
   (i) who was ill.
   (ii) who was turned into gold.
   (iii) who was a friend of the wine-god.

2. He asked for the golden touch.....
   (i) when the old man came to him.
   (ii) when he went to the temple.
   (iii) when the wine-god came to him.

3. He could not eat anything.....
   (i) because everything turned to gold when he touched it.
   (ii) because he was ill.
   (iii) because he was not hungry.

4. When he touched his little daughter.....
   (i) she began to cry.
   (ii) she fell down.
   (iii) she turned into gold.

5. He asked the god.....
   (i) to make him king
   (ii) to bathe in the river.
   (iii) to take away the golden touch.

6. When he washed her face with the water from the river.. ...
   (i) she became clean.
   (ii) she wanted to bathe.
   (iii) she came back to life.

7. Would you ask for gold.....
   (i) if you are ill?
   (ii) if you are hungry?
   (iii) if you could get what you asked for?



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