

Tender Heart High School, Sector 33 B Chandigarh

Subject: English Literature

Class: V

Chapter: 10 “The Water God’s Challenge”

Good morning students,

Today, let us read and understand in simple English - Chapter number 10, “The Water God’s Challenge” given on page number 74 in your English reader.

This is a beautiful story from Nigeria, a small country in Africa, which teaches us about staying humble and not letting people’s admiration make us arrogant. The saying "Pride goes before a fall" fits well here, as it’s exactly what happened to Olokun.

Olokun was the powerful god of water. He lived deep in the blue sea in a magical palace and controlled a mighty river that filled all the oceans on Earth. The people of Nigeria loved Olokun and worshipped him as their favourite god. They thought of him often, thanked him for his blessings, built beautiful temples for him, and decorated these temples with valuable materials and intricate carvings. Many people even had statues of Olokun in their homes and prayed to him every day.

All this admiration made Olokun feel extremely important, and soon he started to think he should be more than just the god of water. He began believing that he should be the Chief God, the greatest god of all.

One day, Olokun shared this feeling with his chief servant and declared, “I don’t see why I can’t be the Chief God. What does the Chief God do that I can’t do?” His servant was surprised and stuttered in response. Olokun then demanded his servant go to the Chief God with a message: “Tell him that I challenge him for the title of Chief God!”

Though the servant was nervous and knew this was a bold challenge, he obeyed and travelled to the Chief God’s palace. He feared the Chief God would be angry because, unlike Olokun, the Chief God ruled over the whole Earth, not just the seas. When the servant finally reached the Chief God, he was trembling with fear and struggled to speak. But the Chief God already knew why he was there, as he could read the thoughts of all creatures.

To the servant's surprise, the Chief God calmly accepted Olokun's challenge. Instead of meeting Olokun personally, he decided to send a messenger as his representative. The servant quickly returned to tell Olokun the news.

When Olokun heard that the Chief God was sending only a messenger, he was insulted. "A mere messenger?" he thundered. But his servant quickly suggested that maybe the Chief God was afraid to face Olokun himself. This idea pleased Olokun, and he prepared a grand welcome to show off his power. Hundreds of servants decorated Olokun's palace with colourful coral, laid tables with delicious food, played beautiful music, and scattered countless shells all over the floors.

When the Chief God's messenger finally arrived, everything was perfect as Olokun wanted to impress him. Olokun entered his throne room, dressed in spectacular robes that flowed like the waves of the sea. But then, Olokun stopped suddenly. The messenger was dressed in the exact same clothes as Olokun! This was a shock, as Olokun expected to stand out. This unexpected turn hinted that Olokun's challenge might not be as easy as he thought and suggested that his pride would soon lead to his downfall.

This continues until Olokun, realizing he has been outdone, finally accepts defeat. He understands that if he can't even compete with the Chief God's messenger, he is no match for the Chief God himself.

The story's twist is that the Chief God's messenger was actually a chameleon, an animal that changes its colours to blend with its surroundings. Olokun had been tricked, not by magic or force, but by nature itself. Humbled, he learns that no matter how powerful he is, pride can lead to one's downfall. This story reminds us of the proverb, "Pride goes before a fall," teaching that humility is a wise and noble quality.