

3

Day for Night in Ultapur



If you are asked to go to bed at sunrise and sleep the whole day, wake up at sunset and go to school, and do all your works at night, how would you feel? Read this story to know how the people of Ultapur felt when they decided to disobey the sun and the moon and the rules of the nature.

Long ago, in faraway Ultapur, ruled by Badshah Batata, everything was **topsy-turvy**. The people woke up at sunset and went to bed at sunrise.

This 'day-for-night' happened suddenly. One day, the badshah asked his **ministers**, "Aren't we all tired of living like everyone else? Every morning we wake up and get to work. Every evening, we return, have dinner and go to bed. We must do things differently."

The ministers **thought hard**. "We have an **excellent** idea!" they said. "We're **bored** because we **follow the laws of nature**."

The fault lies with the sun and the moon. When the sun is up, we get up, and when it sets, we prepare to sleep. Let's stop obeying the sun and the moon!"

The badshah was pleased with the idea. "From tomorrow, everyone will wake up at sunset and go to bed at sunrise," he said, "Everyone should obey this. If they don't, they'll be put in **prison**."

The people of Ultapur could not believe this, but they had to obey the badshah. And so, Ultapur changed. Everyone woke up at six in the evening and left for work as it grew dark.



The markets opened at night, children went to school at night. At dawn, everyone went to sleep!

It was not an easy way to do things. The birds were surprised and began to chirp and fly around.

Horses and goats could not sleep and were very tired every night. Travellers stopped coming to Ultapur. They called it a ‘ghost town’.

Soon, many people came to complain to the badshah. “The rooster crows early in the morning when I’m off to bed and spoils my sleep,” said one of them.

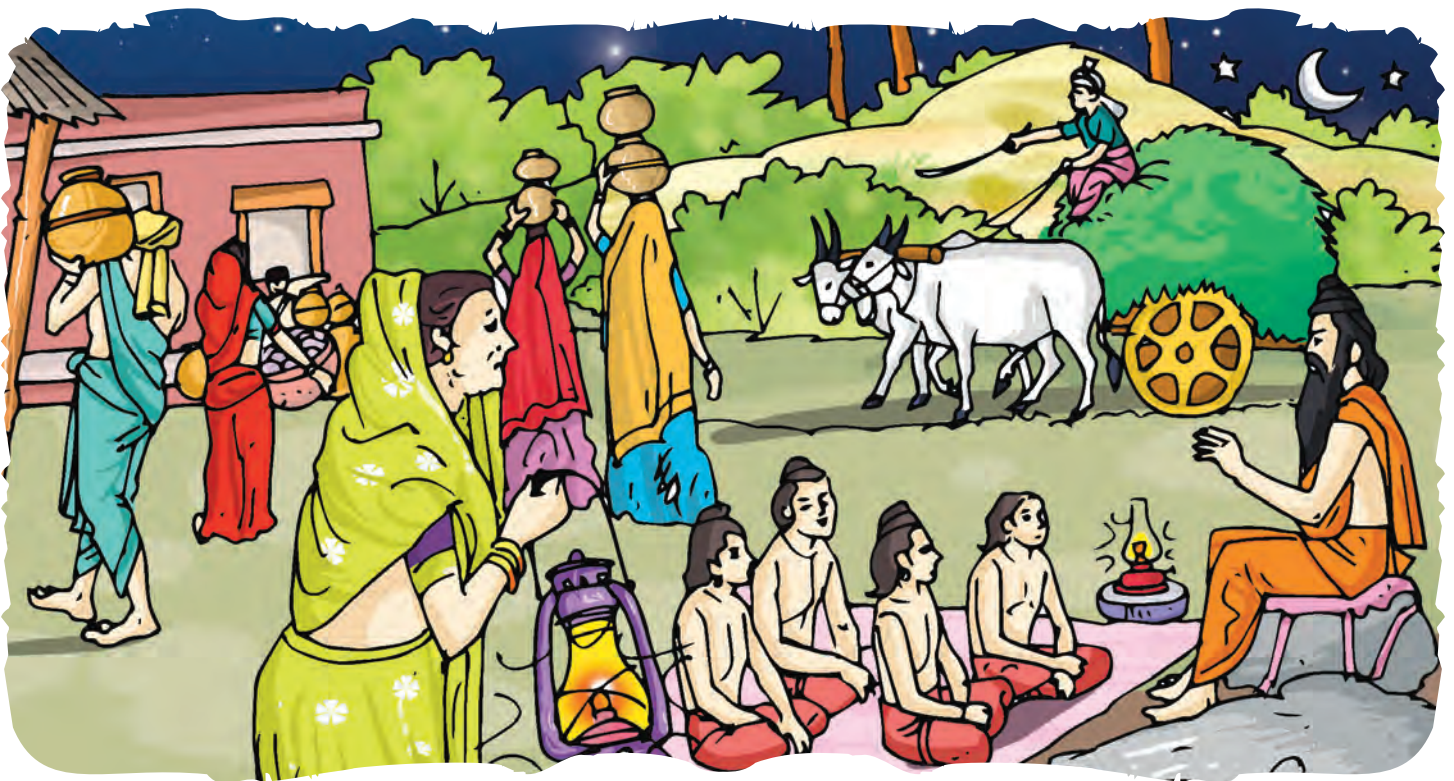
“My donkey won’t stop braying,” said the clothes-washer.

But the badshah wanted them to try the plan a little longer.

Then something surprising happened. There was a total solar eclipse. A solar eclipse is when the moon passes in front of the sun and casts a dark shadow on earth.

It was three in the afternoon, a time when the sun shone bright most days. Suddenly a shadow fell over the town and it became dark. Owls woke up and filled the air with hoots. dogs howled, cows mooed and babies cried. For about five minutes, it looked as if night had made an extra visit to the earth.

The people of Ultapur were puzzled. They rubbed their eyes and woke up and did their work as usual. But after a short period, it was day again. The sun came up and the roosters began to crow.



How could it be day again so soon, thought the people of Ultapur. What should they do now? In about three hours, it would be dark again. Should they sleep or stay awake?

“Let's ask the badshah,” said someone, and they all went to see him.

The ministers said, “Nature has **fooled** us today, but we should not **give in**. Let's do the opposite. The next time the rooster crows, let's wake up and go about our work”.

The people of Ultapur were very happy to hear this. Badshah Batata was also secretly pleased. So, from then on, Ultapur woke up at sunrise and went to bed at sunset, like most people in the world.

—by Jayanath Kodkani

Word-Web

- **topsy turvy** : the opposite of how things should be
- **ministers** : people who work for the king and advise him
- **thought hard** : spent a lot of time thinking (about the problem)
- **excellent** : very good • **bored** : a feeling that comes when you do the same thing again and again
- **follow the laws of nature** : do things that are right, like working in the day and sleeping at night
- **“The fault lies with the sun and the moon.”** : “It is the mistake of the sun and the moon.”
- **prison** : jail, confinement • **dawn** : very early in the morning • **complain** : say that you are unhappy with something or angry with someone • **rooster** : a fully grown male chicken • **spoils** : ruins or disturbs • **casts a dark shadow** : makes a shadow • **hoots** : the sounds made by an owl • **puzzled** : confused; did not know what was happening • **fooled us** : played a trick on us • **give in** : stop doing something because it is difficult or impossible



Comprehension

Multi-Menu

Multiple Choice Questions

A. Tick the correct answers.

1. The people of Ultapur woke up at _____ and went to bed at sunrise.
(a) midnight (b) noon (c) sunset
2. Let's stop _____ the sun and the moon.
(a) respecting (b) obeying (c) looking at
3. The _____ opened at night, children went to school at night.
(a) roads (b) schools (c) markets
4. The birds were _____ and began to chirp and fly around.
(a) surprised (b) happy (c) shocked

5. Suddenly a _____ fell over the town and it became dark.
 (a) cloud (b) tree (c) shadow

» **Pick and Fill**

B. Fill in the blanks with correct words from the box.

shadow believe moon puzzled tospy-turvy complain

1. Everything was _____ in Ultapur ruled by Badshah Batata.
2. The people of Ultapur could not _____ but they had to obey the badshah.
3. Soon, many people came to _____ to the badshah.
4. A solar eclipse is when the _____ passes in front of the sun and casts a dark _____ on earth.
5. The people of Ultapur were _____.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements.

1. The people of Ultapur woke up at sunset and went to bed at sunrise.
2. The ministers were happy because they followed the laws of nature.
3. The markets opened at night, children went to school at night.
4. Horses and goats slept soundly and were not tired of working at night.
5. Badshah Batata was also secretly pleased.

» **Matching-Mania**

D. Match the words in Column A with correct words in Column B.

Column A

1. Nature has •
2. Let's do •
3. The owls •
4. The dogs •
5. The cows •

Column B

- (a) hooted.
- (b) howled.
- (c) mooed.
- (d) fooled us today.
- (e) the opposite



» **Question-Queue (Short)**

E. Answer each question in a few words or a sentence.

1. Who ruled Ultapur?
2. Who had an excellent idea?
3. Who had to obey the badshah?

4. Who stopped coming in Ultapur?
5. When does the rooster crow?

» Question-Queue (Long)

F. Answer each question in one or two sentences.

1. Did the people of Ultapur follow the new law gladly? Why?
2. What happened to the animals of Ultapur because of the new law?
3. What is a solar eclipse? How did it affect the animals of Ultapur?
4. Why did the ministers of Ultapur change the new law?
5. The badhsah of Ultapur was secretly pleased. Why 'secretly'?



Vocabulary

► Complete the following sentences with one word for the words/word given in brackets.

1. "Aren't we all tired of living like everyone else?
We must do things _____ . (in a different way)
2. The ministers thought they had an _____ idea. (a very good)
3. The minister said, "So let's stop _____ them. (following)
4. Many people came to _____ to the badshah. (say they were unhappy)
5. "The rooster crows early in the morning and _____ my sleep. (upsets)
6. "Nature has fooled us today, but we should not _____. (accept defeat)
7. The badshah wanted them to try the plan _____. (for some more time)
8. Badshah Batata was also _____ pleased. (in a secret way)



Think-n-Thrive

Why do we sleep in the night and wake up and do all our works in the day? What would be if there was no night and it was day all the time?



Grammar-Grip

► Tense : The Simple Present Tense

The tense is used to show the time of the action, state or possession expressed by the verb. There are three tenses : (i) the present tense (ii) the past tense, and (iii) the future tense. Each of these tenses is of four kinds : (i) simple tense (ii) continuous tense (iii) perfect

tense, and (iv) perfect continuous tense.

The simple present tense is used for action that are repeated or done habitually. Such actions may be daily routine, habits, hobbies, etc. It is also used to express facts or scientific, natural and universal truths.

Sentence structure: Subject + V1 (the first form of the verb) + (s or es) + object.

Remember that with **I, you** and plural subjects, we use the first form of the verb alone but with singular subjects, we add **-s** or **-es** to the first form of the verb.

Examples : I **go** to school daily.

We **like** apples.

Children **play** every evening.

She **goes** to school daily.

He **likes** grapes.

The sun **rises** in the east.

► **Complete the following sentences, using the simple present tense form of the verbs in the brackets.**

1. My grandmother _____ me stories every night. (tell)
2. Girls _____ skirts. (wear)
3. Children _____ chocolates. (like)
4. He _____ in Dehradun. (live)
5. I _____ to God everyday. (pray)
6. My friend _____ with me in the evening. (play)
7. Anita _____ her car very carefully. (drive)
8. The lion _____ the flesh of other animals. (eat)

► **Reading Skills**

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Bridge building has changed over the years and continues to do so. The earlier bridges were made of ropes and wood. Later came the stones and today we have bridges made of cement, concrete, steel and iron.

Why did man think of building bridges at all? Well, the answer is simple– to fill up the ‘gaps’ in nature. There were water channels which could not be swum across. Bridges were used to cross them. Besides, the flow of water current was very fast which made it difficult to use boats and ships all the time. Therefore, man decided to construct bridges.

1. How were earlier bridges made of?
2. What things do we use today to make bridges?

3. What made it difficult to use boats and ships all the time?
4. What could not be swum across?
5. Why did man begin to make bridges?

» **Fun to Write**

► Write the following groups of words in correct order to make meaningful sentences.

1. helped/teacher/Asha/sum/the/in solving

2. am going/a walk/I/for/woods/in the

3. on the/many/we/sang/bus/songs

4. watched/yesterday/a film/Kumar

5. nest/the/in/sat/bird/the

6. Ultapur/puzzled/the/were/people/of

7. was/hands/my dog/her/licking

8. young/dressed/in red/and was/was/she

9. emotions/love/as/dogs/such/had/fear

10. standing/a woman/the doorway/was/in

