

## Unit 8C

### Explanation:

The story is set in the city of Ujjain. The story starts with Madananka, a young merchant. He lost his father when he was in his teens. He was brought up by his mother with great affection and love after he lost his father. But, Madananka turned out to be a vagabond. His mother was worried and upset for him. She thought if he was married he would become normal. So, she found a suitable girl for him and got him married. Yet, Madananka did not become normal.

He left his home one day, leaving behind his old mother and pregnant wife. His mother was disheartened. His wife after sometime gave birth to a son. His son was named Ratnanka. Ratnanka's grandmother and mother in spite of being poor raised him with love and affection. They had given him education with whatever little money and jewellery they had with them.

One day when Ratnanka was ten years old, his grandmother told him how he was brought up and that they were left with nothing. So, she told Ratnanka about Yakshadatta, the well-to-do merchant in the neighbouring village, who lends money to the poor but capable one. She suggested him to go to Yakshadatta and seek help.

Listening to his grandmother, Ratnanka went to Yakshadatta. He was taking a stroll that time when Ratnanka approached him. Ratnanka narrated everything about him to Yakshadatta and asked him to help Ratnanka with some money for business and promised to return him soon.

Hearing to Ratnanka, Yakshadatta laughed and looked around. There was a dead rat lying at one corner. He pointed the dead rat to Ratnanka and said that, that dead rat could fetch an intelligent millions and even if he gives millions to an unintelligent man that would be of no use.

Ratnanka made a cup out of a leaf and put the dead rat inside it. He took it for sale. A merchant was taming a cat to get rid of cats which were a menace to his shop bought that dead rat and gave him a handful of bengalgram. Ratnanka took the bengalgram and went home and soaked it in water and the next day, he took it

along some drinking water and sat under the shade of a tree and offered each woodcutter some bengalgram and water. The hungry and thirsty woodcutters were very pleased to have those and thus each woodcutter gave him two pieces of firewood. Ratnanka had a big heap of firewood by the evening. He sold them away for two rupees in the city. Out of the two rupees he gave one rupee to his grandmother for saving and with the other one rupee he bought some more bengalgram. He soaked one kilo of bengalgram everyday and repeated the process of feeding the hungry and thirsty woodcutters again. And in this way, within a month he collected many cart-loads of fuel. Luck was by his side and fortunately, there were incessant rains for the next ten days which led to the scarcity of firewood in the city. Ratnanka then utilised the opportunity and sold them and earned a hundred gold coins. With that money he opened a firewood stall and started dealing in timber. And since then he didn't look back. His business started growing from timber to cloth, from cloth to grain and from grain to diamond and it progressed rapidly. He became one of the leading merchants in that city.

Ratnanka grabbed the opportunity to the fullest and grew his business and flourished. He made it possible with his intelligence. But he never forgot to pay his gratitude towards Yakshadatta. He made a rat of gold, weighing one kilo, eyes made of rubies, ears of sapphires and it had a diamond chain round its neck. The rat was kept in a silver trap and was carried in a procession with pomp. Ratnanka was leading the procession and reached Yakshadatta's residence. Hearing the band and the hub-bub Yakshadatta was surprised and enquired about the same. It was then Ratnanka thanked him for giving the dead rat as a capital for his business which made him a millionaire.

Yakshadatta was amazed and happy to hear to his story.

So, we see how intelligence can lead a person from nowhere to the epitome of success.