"Neither Inside nor Underneath!"



✍Shreevalli Rai Martell

In olden days, people used a specific type of brass container (Gindi) which had a hollow, circular rim at the base to help it stand upright. Once, there lived a man who was famous for being a bit "too smart" for his own good, meaning, he was quite a fool.

One day, his family gave him ten rupees and the brass container, saying, "Go to the shop and bring some oil."

The man went to Giriyappa’s shop and asked, "Please give me ten rupees' worth of oil." Giriyappa measured the oil and began pouring it into the container. However, the container was full, and there was still a little oil left in the measure.

"Where should I pour the rest of the oil?" the shopkeeper asked.

Thinking he was being very clever, the man flipped the container upside down, pointed to the hollow space in the base, and said, "Pour the rest right here!"

Of course, the moment he flipped it, all the oil already inside poured straight back into the shopkeeper’s drum! Holding back his laughter at the man’s stupidity, Giriyappa simply poured the small remaining bit of oil into the hollow base as requested.

When the man returned home, his family looked at the tiny bit of oil in the base and asked in shock, "Is this all the oil you got for ten rupees?"
The man replied proudly, "Oh no, there is much more inside!" To show them, he flipped the container over once more. Immediately, the tiny bit of oil from the base spilled onto the floor.
In the end, thanks to his "extreme intelligence," the family lost all ten rupees' worth of oil. It was a case of nothing inside and nothing underneath!

Moral: Do not try to show off excessive cleverness. One should learn to be content and manage with what is available.