

Once upon a time, there lived a king who had everything a man could wish: wealth beyond measure, a magnificent palace, loyal subjects, and boundless authority. Yet, he had no peace.

One day, the king turned to his trusted minister and said,

“Though I have all the comforts in the world, my mind is restless. But look at my servant—he earns truly little, yet he laughs freely and sleeps peacefully. Tell me, why is he happier than I am?”

The minister smiled knowingly and replied,

“Your Majesty, the answer lies in what is called the Test of Ninety-Nine.”

Curious, the king asked him to explain.

The minister said,

“Place ninety-nine silver coins in a bag. Add a note that says, ‘These are one hundred silver coins, meant just for you.’ Leave it at the servant’s door tonight. Tomorrow, you will understand.”

That night, the king followed the advice.

When the servant stepped out of his house and saw the bag, his heart leapt with joy. Realizing it was a royal gift, he hurried inside and began counting the coins. His excitement slowly turned into confusion.

Ninety-nine.
He counted again. And again.
The note said one hundred coins, but there were only ninety-nine.
His joy dissolved into unease. He searched the house, questioned his wife and children, checked every corner, every shadow. That missing coin consumed his thoughts. Sleep abandoned him that night, the first sleepless night of his simple, content life.
The next morning, the servant came to the palace, tired and troubled.
The king asked gently,
“What troubles you so?”
The servant bowed and said,
“Your Majesty, you were gracious enough to give me one hundred coins. But one coin is missing. Cannot stop thinking about it.”
At that moment, the king felt a quiet awakening within himself. He understood.
The servant is sad for one coin that is missing, but he is not enjoying the 99 coins that he has in his hand.
He had lost his contentment.
The king came to understand that, although he was surrounded by many blessings, he remained unhappy because he focused only on what he did not have.

From that day on, the king carried this wisdom in his heart:
Human suffering is born not from poverty, but from unfulfilled desire.
We mourn the one thing we do not have and forget to cherish the ninety-nine already in our hands.
True happiness, he learned, lies not in having more, but in being grateful for what already is.
Moral:
Greed steals peace. Gratitude restores it.
Happiness grows when we count our blessings, not our losses.