

Jagjit's Mysterious Book

Once there was a man whose name was Jagjit. When he was young, his parents always used to fight with each other. His brothers and sisters were mean to him and they never had very much money. But when he grew up he became very wealthy, he had lots and lots of friends and he was a very kind man. He was very happily married and had many blessings in life.

One time Jagjit had a guest visit his house, "Welcome Gupta, please come in!" The guest loved him, and he loved her. Her name was Narayan Gupta, she was Jagjit's best friend. Jagjit went to get some food for them to eat, "While I'm gone, treat this as your own home!" She decided to comb her hair and went looking for an extra comb. When she came in Jagjit's room, she saw a beautiful altar with flowers, incense and beautiful inspiring pictures above it. The altar looked so enchanting, Narayan moved closer to see everything. She noticed some really dazzling and expensive jewels! "Wow! rubies, emeralds... sapphire gems all decorating this wonderful altar! This is so gorgeous. I didn't know my friend was that rich!" As she moved closer to see what was there. Narayan's eyes shined as she saw more wonders.

In the center of the altar was a book. The cover of the book was filled with the most expensive jewels, and rich designs. The letters were made out of solid gold and studded with the purest glittering diamonds! "Gold...pure diamonds!! I've never heard of a book that has so much jewelry on it! What kind of book is this anyway?" As she looked closer, the gold designs were so tiny that it seemed only an ant could have crafted it. "What kind of stories could possibly be written in this book?" Gupta became even more intrigued when she read the gold and diamond studded title of this seemingly magical book. It said, 'The Secret To All Happiness And Success'.

Even though it was on her best friend's altar, she couldn't resist herself. She had to open the book to see what was written inside. On the first page she saw something written by her friend, Mr. Jagjit himself. "It's definitely his handwriting." It looked like a diary. "If it's just a diary, why would he have put so many expensive jewels on this book??" She was so so curious now! "What is on these pages? Did Jagjit write down notes from a spiritual master? Does it contain the secrets of the universe??"

She read from the first page. It said: "*It is December and I am 9 years old. Today I was walking down the street and a lady I've never met before smiled and said 'Hi' to me. She was a stranger and she waved to me as she walked by. It made me feel nice.*" Narayan flipped forward some pages: "*It is March and I am 14 years old. God must have given me a high-five today because I just found a five dollar bill on the road. I feel good to be lucky!*" She flipped some more pages forward: "*It is June and I am 18 years old. My friend Narayan Gupta just treated me to lunch. I thanked her. It was very generous of her to do that for me.*" Narayan thought, "Gosh that was so many years ago. I can't believe he remembered that. Yes actually think about it I did give him lunch! I was in a generous mood that day!"

She was still confused though, "It really wasn't worth writing down... who thinks of such small things? Why did Jagjit write down all these little things that happened? They were nice things sure, but why did he put such a silly thing in the middle of his altar? Why on earth did he put so many diamonds and gold work on the cover of the book? And why is the book called 'The Secret To All Happiness and Success.!'?"

She flipped through more of the book. It was filled... filled with these things that happened in Jagjit's life. Some were big things, but by far, most of them very small things. One of the entries said: "*It is September and I am 30 years old. My mom just gave me something I really like for my birthday. I love my family so much!*" Gupta thought to herself, "I don't understand Jagjit. He's always been a very smart man... he mostly seems very happy, he has a good job that he really likes doing, he loves his wife and kids very much, he has everything he's really wanted in life.... actually come to think of it... HE REALLY MUST HAVE THE SECRET TO HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS!!"

Just then the door opened, Gupta was surprised, "Oh! Sorry, I was just... I .. the altar... it..it smelled nice..." "I see you've found my secret to success and happiness."

Remember what happened last time?..... Narayan Gupta was reading Jagjit's book, he came in while she was reading it and said, "I see you've found my secret to happiness and success!".... Then Gupta asked her friend with pure curiosity, "My dear man... I don't get it. Why did you put so many diamonds and all that beautiful gold work on this little diary?" He told her that it was not a simple diary, he said, "Listen my beloved friend. What you hold in your hand is an incredible secret.... I haven't told anyone. In that book I have written down some very specific things." What he had written seemed random to her, so he explained, "My friend, I wrote down two things. Number one: I wrote down every single time someone did something kind to me!" Narayan Gupta thought for a second and said, "I'm not sure if I could fill a book with things people did that was kind to me." He gave her a mischievous smile, "You would be surprised, If you really paid attention, you would realize that there is a lot more kindness in the world than you think!"

As Narayan held the book in her hands, she felt a flutter of hope in her heart. She started to think there actually might be some magic on these pages, "OK what was the second thing you wrote down?" Jagjit stood up straight and said with a radiant and totally satisfied smile, "I wrote down every time I honestly felt good!" The room echoed with the purity of his cheerfulness. Narayan asked, "So, all you did was write down: Every time someone did something kind for you... and: Every time you felt honestly good!?... It seems so simple." Jagjit smiled, "This universe we live in is simple my friend.... I've never been sad for too long in my life. Whenever I feel bad, I would just read from this book. It reminds me of all the good stuff. It also reminds me of the kindness. I could never stay down for too long. How could I? If everyone else did this, no one would stay sad for too long."

She interjected, "But some people have really hard lives. What if no one is ever kind to them, and they never feel good?" Jagjit paused in a deep silence. Then he said, "Even they might be surprised if they wrote it all down. They might find they didn't realize how much kindness people give them. Certainly, I will give them kindness."

Narayan felt honestly good when her friend said that.

She just let the feeling sit in her heart until she thought of another question, "It's a beautiful and wonderful idea... just tell me why you put so much gold and diamonds on the cover of this book. It must be worth a fortune!" Jagjit kindly explained to her, "Kindness is the real wealth. It is more valuable than anything I own. All these jewels and gold will stay here on the earth when I leave this body of mine. Kindness... my friend... THAT I take with me." The room seemed to fill with light. "This little book reminds me of all the kindness that has been given to me. Then I am filled with kindness! It is because I am full of this kindness that people trust me, and I have become wealthy in this world. It is because I was full of this kindness that I have all the friends that I have. This book reminds me of all that makes me feel honestly good. It is this goodness that inspires me to share! It is because I am full of this goodness, that I know what I want. It is from being full of this goodness that I am totally satisfied with my life. This little book sincerely and truly is the secret to All Happiness and Success."

Just then Narayan remembered something kind some one did for her earlier. She said, "Actually just today, I got lost on the way to your house. I asked some one for directions and the guy who helped me was being so nice. He took ten minutes to explain how to get here. He really went out of his way when he didn't have to. It was very kind of him. I felt good when he did that. I feel good again now just thinking of it again!"

Jagjit pulled another book from under the altar. It was totally plain on the outside and all the pages were blank. "It's not hard, try it. Go ahead by dear friend! Write down what he did for you... Write down how it made you feel... You can use this book." She took the book, "Thank you so much. I guess it can't hurt.....Huh, it's funny, now that we're on the subject.... giving me the book was very kind of you! Oh! I'm going to write that down right now!" And she started writing it down... Then she got a smirk on her face, "This book doesn't have gold and diamonds on it." Jagjit told her most confidently, "Not yet my friend.....but you would be surprised.... you would be surprised...."