CHAPTER 1: ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES

Read the story to find out how Ali Baba is saved from the forty robbers

In a town in Persia, there lived a poor woodcutter called Ali Baba. One day when he was chopping wood in the forest, he saw a troop of men on horseback approaching. Ali Baba thought that the men were robbers, so he climbed up a tree and hid himself behind the leaves. Peering from the branches, Ali Baba counted fortymen.

Just then, the leader of the gang dismounted and stepped towards a large rock wall. Facing the wall, the powerful man shouted, 'Open, Sesame!' Miraculously, the rock wall gave way to a secret cave! The leader stepped into the cave, and the other robbers followed him.

Ali Baba waited until the thieves walked out of the cave. The leader closed the door, saying, 'Shut, Sesame!' Then the thieves rode away.

When Ali Baba was sure that they had gone away, he came down, went to the rock and shouted, 'Open, Sesame!' And the door opened. Ali Baba stepped in to find a large room glistening with gold, silver and jewels. He quickly collected all that he could and left the cave. Outside he said, 'Shut, Sesame!' and the door closed.

In haste, Ali Baba dropped a gold coin near the secret door.

A few weeks later, the leader of thieves caught sight of the coin glimmering in the sunlight. He was very angry.

'You, careless men! How could you drop the coin and risk revealing our hiding place!' he growled.

'But, Master,' the thieves said, 'none of us could have made this mistake. We know the punishment for such a mistake.'

'Then, someone else knows of our secret cave,' said the leader anxiously. 'We must go to the town and find out who has become rich recently and kill him.'

I. Write the meanings of the underlined words (use dictionary) and learn the spellings.

II. Fill in the blanks:
   a. Ali Baba thought that the men were__________, so he climbed up a tree to hide himself.
   b. In haste, Ali Baba dropped a___________ near the secret cave.
   c. The door of the secret cave opened saying ____________.

III. Answer the questions in short:
   Q1. Who was Ali Baba and where did he live?
   Q2. What did Ali Baba do when he was sure that the thieves had gone away?

- The End -