



**Ensure availability
and sustainable
management of water
and sanitation for all**

A Timeless Drop – SDG 6 –Clean Water &Sanitation



‘Hurry up slowpoke!’ Shreyansh called out to tease his sister Riya as he waited for her near the bank of the river of their village. Both siblings, aged sixteen and seventeen, shared a love of nature and of course troubling each other like little kids.

‘That’s not fair! You know I can’t run as fast as you with your giraffe legs!’ Riya complained. The duo had come to fill their buckets with water to take home. In that area, this river was the only source of water, two kilometres away from their village. It was the siblings’ daily routine to fetch water.

As they sauntered towards the bank, Shreyansh stopped short, his eyes fixed at a distance. ‘What’s wrong?’ Riya asked him, tracing his line of sight. Her jaw dropped at what she saw. A hole opened in mid-air out of which two people jumped out. They pulled a big pipe out of the hole and pushed the mouth into the river a few feet off the bank. The pipe sucked large volumes of water out of the river, and a few minutes later, the two persons rolled up the pipe, stepped into the hole and poof! The hole vanished, taking them with it to who-knows-where!

‘What just happened?’ Riya screamed, clutching her brother’s arm in fright. ‘I-I...I don’t know,’ Shreyansh muttered and they both took off running towards home scared to their very bone. ‘Mom! Mom! Mom!’ both of them shouted for their mother the moment they reached home. ‘Yes, yes I’m here. What’s wrong?’ their mother came out of the kitchen, holding a big earthen pot in her hands. As soon as the siblings relayed all the past events to their mom, she started laughing and said, ‘you’ve been daydreaming. That’s all. Now go and fetch water from the nearby well. Even if it’s dirty, we can boil it and make-do.’ The kids returned

to their chores, not having forgotten the earlier happenings.

The next day, they went to the river at the same time and waited. But nothing happened. For the next two days, they waited in expectation but the strangers never came. The following day, as they were filling their buckets from the river, someone called out from behind them. 'Hi!' They both jumped in fear and dived into some bushes nearby. Keeping their calm, the strangers approached the bushes and said softly, 'come on out. We don't mean any harm.' The siblings slowly stood up and walked close to them. The boy stranger spoke up. 'I am Mark, and this is my sister, Lulu.'

'I-I am Riya. And he is my brother, Shreyansh.'

'Nice to meet you. Why did you get scared of us?' Lulu asked.

'Um. Sorry about that. We were just shocked because of that hole in the air,' Shreyansh said, pointing in the direction of the hole in which the pipe rested.

'That's the entrance to our time machine,' Mark said. 'What! A time machine?'

'Yeah. We know you don't have it in your time. But we didn't have any other solution to our problem except building a time machine,' Lulu replied.

'Huh? How did the problem get that bad?' Shreyansh questioned.

'You see, there's no water on our earth in the future. The land is dry. Only rocks and sand as far as the eye can see.'

'What? No water? Then how do you live there?' Riya asked in shock.

'Before, we used to get by with creating water molecules using hydrogen and oxygen. But now, we can't do it anymore otherwise the quantity of breathing oxygen will not be sufficient. That's why we had to invent time machines to go back in time and get water to fulfil our needs,' Mark explained.

'But how could all the water go away? Something must have happened. Who is responsible for this?' Shreyansh asked. Mark and Lulu looked at each other and said in unison, 'you are.'

'How come we are the ones to blame? This is not fair,' Riya gasped.

'But you are. The people of your time, they never valued water. They never realized that if one day, like in our world, water disappears, they will disappear with it too,' Lulu declared.

'Exactly. You won't realize the importance of something until you lose it forever,' Mark stated.

Shreyansh and Riya were stunned. As they bid farewell to their new friends, they both had a plan in mind. The very next day, they started making committees to help save water within their village. The villagers didn't believe Riya and Shreyansh when they told them about their meeting people from future, but they believed one thing that water is the elixir of life which needs to be saved for future.

In a span of two months, with the villagers who were inspired by their commitment, they had set up rainwater harvesting units. Rainwater from rooftops is collected in underground storage tanks which can be used later by the house members. The village flourished and soon became a hub of water conservation which set an example for the other villages to start practicing water conservation. Everyone realized the importance of clean water and sanitation, thus uniting to save water for themselves and their future generations.

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I believe in sustainable use of planet resources and practice the 4Rs of sustainability - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover. Sustainability is crucial for preserving natural resources, reducing environmental impact, and promoting long-term ecological, social, and economic balance. By embracing sustainable practices, we not only preserve the environment for future generations but also create a resilient and thriving world for all.



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