The Birth-Giving Pot

Before You Read: New Words and Exercises

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Tibetan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>landlord</td>
<td>སྲུང་ཚེ་བུགས།</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pot</td>
<td>དཔེར་བུགས།</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lend</td>
<td>གསར་བུགས།</td>
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<tr>
<td>borrow</td>
<td>གསར་བུགས།</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>give</td>
<td>གསར་བུགས།</td>
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<tr>
<td>return</td>
<td>གསར་བུགས།</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gold</td>
<td>བུགས།</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>birth-giving pot</td>
<td>མངལ་བཙའ་བུགས།</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>so kind</td>
<td>བུགས་བཙའ་བུགས།</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ready</td>
<td>བཅུག་བུགས།</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surprised</td>
<td>རྟེན་བཅུག་བུགས།</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>had a baby</td>
<td>དྷྱིན་བཅུག་བུགས།</td>
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<tr>
<td>return two</td>
<td>དཔེར་བུགས།</td>
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Exercises: Answer the questions below

1. Do you have any pots in your home? What do you use them for? What do you think a birth-giving pot is?

2. Find these words in the story: lend, borrow, give, return. What do you think they mean? How are they different from one another?
A rich landlord had many pots. The poor people did not have any pots. They could not cook food.

The landlord would not lend his pots to them.

One day, Uncle Dunba went to the landlord. “Landlord, may I borrow a pot from you? You are always so kind to us. I will give the pot back to you when I am finished using it.”

The landlord agreed, “If you give the pot back to me in two days, I will lend it to you.”

Two days later, the landlord came to Uncle Dunba’s home to take the pot. Uncle Dunba was ready. Before the landlord came, Uncle Dunba put a small pot in the landlord’s pot. When the landlord saw the small pot, he was surprised. He asked, “Where did this small pot come from?”

Uncle Dunba said, “Your pot had a baby. I will return both pots because the big pot is yours.” The landlord was very happy and returned home.

A month later, Uncle Dunba went to the landlord’s home to borrow a pot. The landlord thought, “If I lend him one pot, he will return two! Of course I will lend him a pot.”

After a few days, Uncle Dunba put a small pot into the larger one. He returned both pots to the landlord.

The landlord told his wife, “When I lend pots to Uncle Dunba, he always returns two.”

His wife said, “We should lend him gold pots. Then, we will get small gold pots. We will become richer. Next time, lend him a gold pot.”

When Uncle Dunba asked to borrow a pot, the landlord said, “Here, take this gold one.”

Uncle Dunba broke the pot into many pieces. He gave each piece to a poor person who could not buy a pot.

When the landlord came to get his pot, Uncle Dunba looked unhappy. He said, “Your pot died. I have no pot to return to you.”

The landlord said, “How can a pot die?”

Uncle Dunba said, “Everything that gives birth also dies. People, yaks, horses, even pots are the same.”

The landlord was angry but he couldn’t get his pot back.
ཞིང་བདག་སོང་བས་ནི་དོན་སདན་དགེ་གནང་བོ་དཔྲ་བཞི་བཞི་ཏིང་བཞི་བཞི་རིང་པོ་མེད་པ་ནི་ཆོས་ཕྱི་མོ་བཞི།

སིང་གི་བོད་སྐྱེས་པའི་དགེ་བའི་ཐོག་མེད་ལོག་མེད་ལོག་སེམས་དཔའི་དགེ་འདི་གཞི་ལ། གཏན་པ་བདག་ལགས། ལོང་ཞིག་རིགས་ི་ཆོས་ཕྱི་གཞི་གཏན་པ་བདག་གིས་འདོད། ལོང་ཞིག་རིགས་ད་། ལོང་ཞིག་བདག་གིས་ལོང་ཞིག་གཡར། དེ་ཚར་སོང་བས་ལོང་ཞིག་རིགས་འདི་རིང་པོ་མེད་པ་ནི་ཆོས་ཕྱི་ཡི་སིང་།

ཞིང་བདག་གིས་འདི་རིང་པོ་མེད་པ་ནི་ཆོས་ཕྱི་མོ་བཞི། རིང་པོ་མེད་པ་ནི་ཆོས་ཕྱི་མོ་བཞི་ནི་ཁུལ་མ་བཞི་གཞི་ལ། རིང་པོ་མེད་པ་ནི་ཆོས་ཕྱི་མོ་བཞི་གཞི་ལ། རིང་པོ་མེད་པ་ནི་ཆོས་ཕྱི་མོ་བཞི་གཞི་ལ།
Grammar Focus: lend, borrow, give, return

**Notice:** There are two patterns for using lend, borrow, give, and return.

1. give/lend/return something to someone

   ex: The landlord would not lend his pots to them.

2. someone give/lend someone something

   ex: We should lend him gold pots.

**note:** This pattern is only true for give and lend.

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Practice: Match these words with their meanings.

a. lend 1. to hand something to someone and allow them to keep it
b. borrow 2. to take something from someone for a period of time
c. give 3. to hand something back to its owner
d. return 4. to hand something to someone for a period of time

Practice: Answer the questions below.

1. What do you often borrow from friends?

2. Have you ever borrowed something but not returned it? Describe what you borrowed and what happened.

3. In America, students give their papers to the teacher with one hand. The teacher returns students’ papers with one hand. In your school, how do you give and return papers?
Part 1: Do not look at the story. Re-write the story using the following words to help you:

landlord  borrow  gold
pot    give  birth
lend   return

Part 2: Creative Thinking

What do you think the villagers did with the gold that Dunba gave them? Make a list of at least five things that they did.
Part 3: Characterization

1. Uncle Dunba helps many people with the gold from the pot. However, he also does not return something that he borrowed. Which of these is more important? Do you think that Dunba is good or bad? Explain your answer.

2. If you were the landlord, how would you feel when Dunba did not return your gold pot? Write a letter to a friend describing how you feel.

Part 4: Group Discussions

Discuss the following question in groups of four: Is it more important to return something that someone lent you or to keep something that someone lent you in order to help people? After your discussion, write your answer.
Simplified English text by Rose Hyson.

The Tibetan version of this text was prepared by G.yang skyabs rdo rje and Bsod nams rin chen rgyal.