

## Chapter 9 – *The Beggar*

**Author:** Anton Chekhov

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### ◆ Summary (Easy Language)

“The Beggar” is a story about kindness, self-respect, and the power of honest work. Lushkoff is a beggar who pretends to be a teacher or student to gain sympathy. Sergei, a lawyer, catches him lying but still offers him work instead of money.

Sergei asks his cook, Olga, to make Lushkoff chop wood. Though she scolds him harshly, she secretly helps him and feels pity for him. Gradually, Lushkoff begins to feel ashamed of his lies and lazy life. Olga’s kindness touches his heart and changes him.

Later, Lushkoff becomes a notary and meets Sergei again. He thanks Olga, saying that her strict words and silent help transformed his life. The story shows that true charity lies in helping someone become self-reliant.

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### ◆ Characters

#### 1 Lushkoff

- A beggar and liar
- Lazy and dependent at first
- Later becomes honest and respectable

#### 2 Sergei

- A lawyer
- Strict but kind-hearted
- Believes in dignity of labour

#### 3 Olga

- Sergei’s cook
- Harsh in words but kind at heart
- Instrumental in Lushkoff’s transformation

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### ◆ Theme / Central Idea

- Dignity of labour
- Power of kindness and sympathy
- Importance of self-respect
- True meaning of charity

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#### ◆ **Important Incidents**

- Sergei catches Lushkoff lying
- Sergei offers work instead of money
- Olga scolds but helps Lushkoff
- Lushkoff feels ashamed
- Lushkoff reforms his life

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#### ◆ **Character Sketch (Exam-Useful)**

**Olga:** Though rude on the outside, she is compassionate and kind. Her actions, not words, bring real change in Lushkoff.

**Lushkoff:** He represents moral weakness but also human potential. With guidance and care, he reforms himself.

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#### ◆ **Literary Devices**

- **Irony:** A beggar becomes respectable
- **Contrast:** Harsh words vs kind actions
- **Realism:** Focus on real human behaviour

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#### ◆ **Message / Moral**

Helping someone stand on their own feet is better than giving charity. Honest work gives dignity and purpose to life.