

The Intention in a Small Lamp

Learn together, one small step.

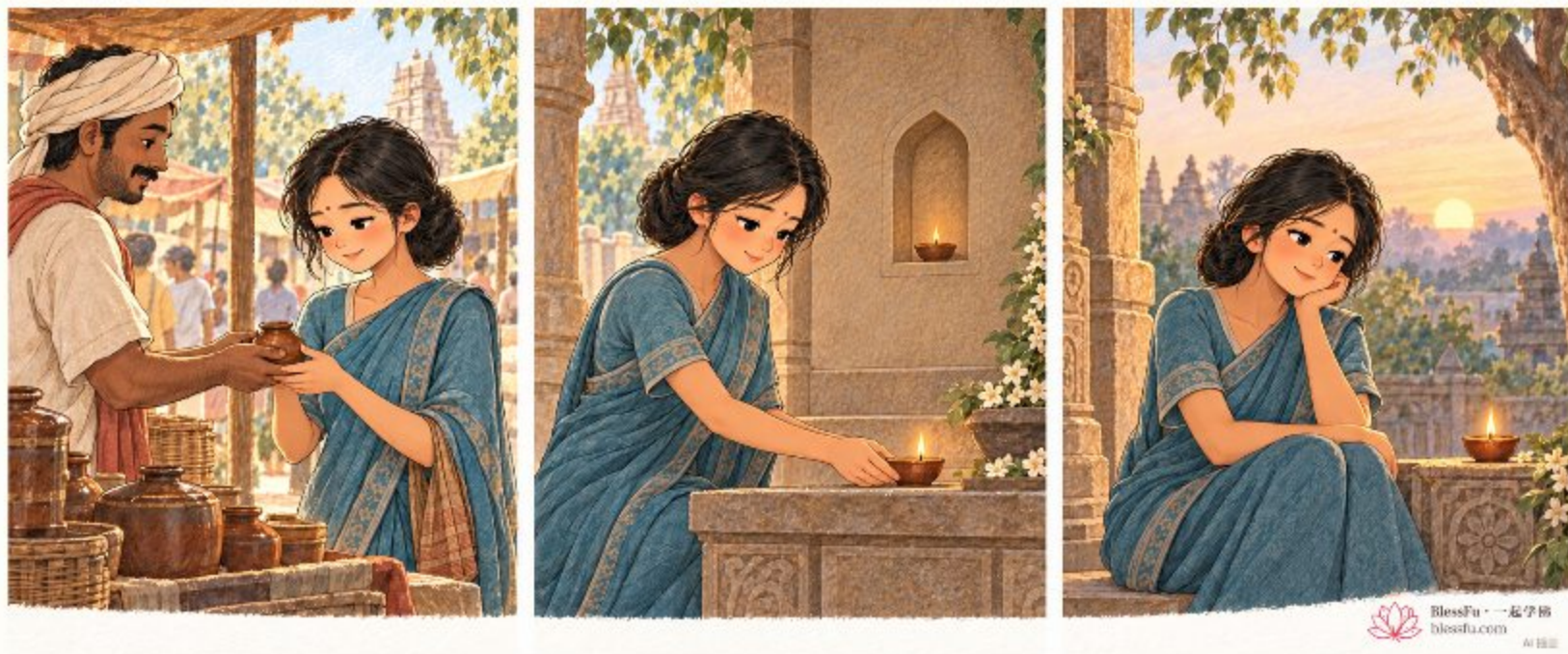


Look closely

What intention could a small lamp express?



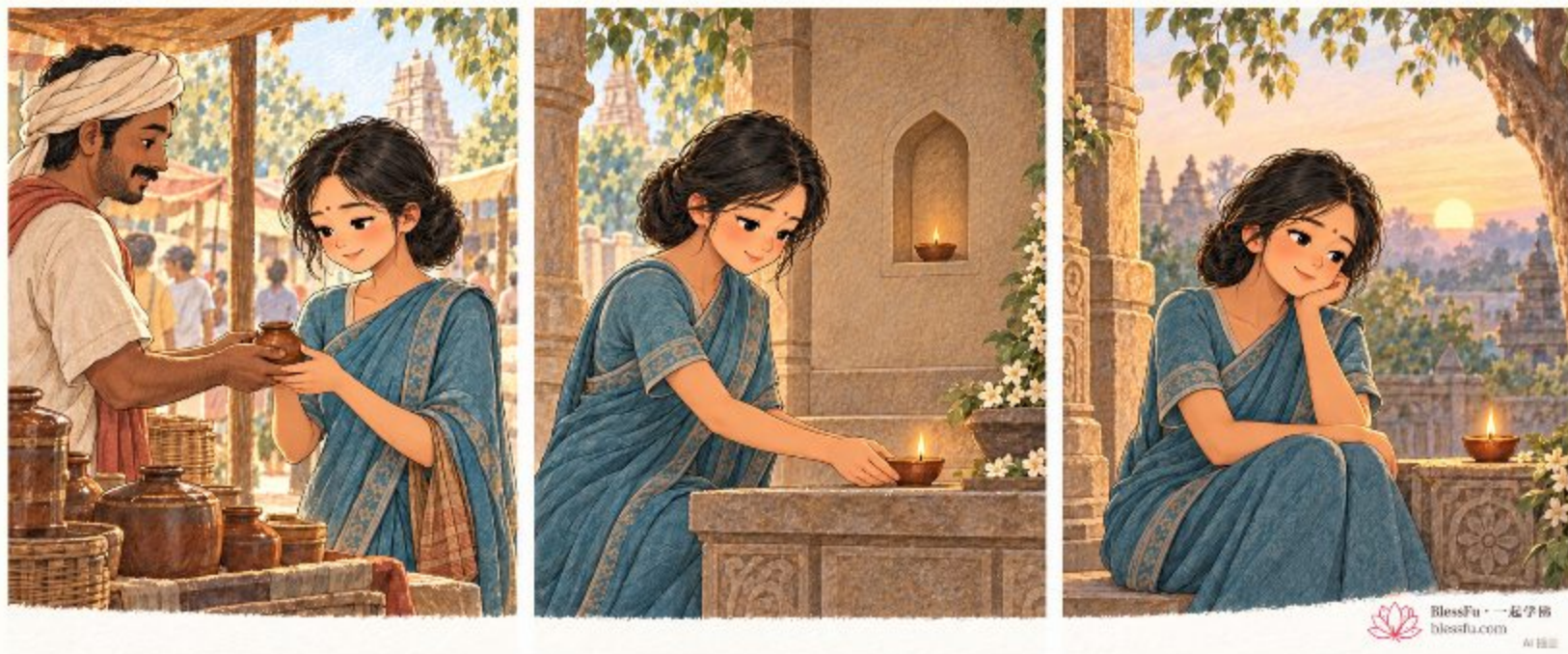
Story 1 / 3



The Sutra of the Wise and the Foolish tells of a woman called Nanda. She lived in poverty and wished to make an offering to the Buddha. She took a little money to buy oil. Hearing her intention, the seller added enough oil for a small lamp.

Pause and ask: How did the seller respond to her intention?

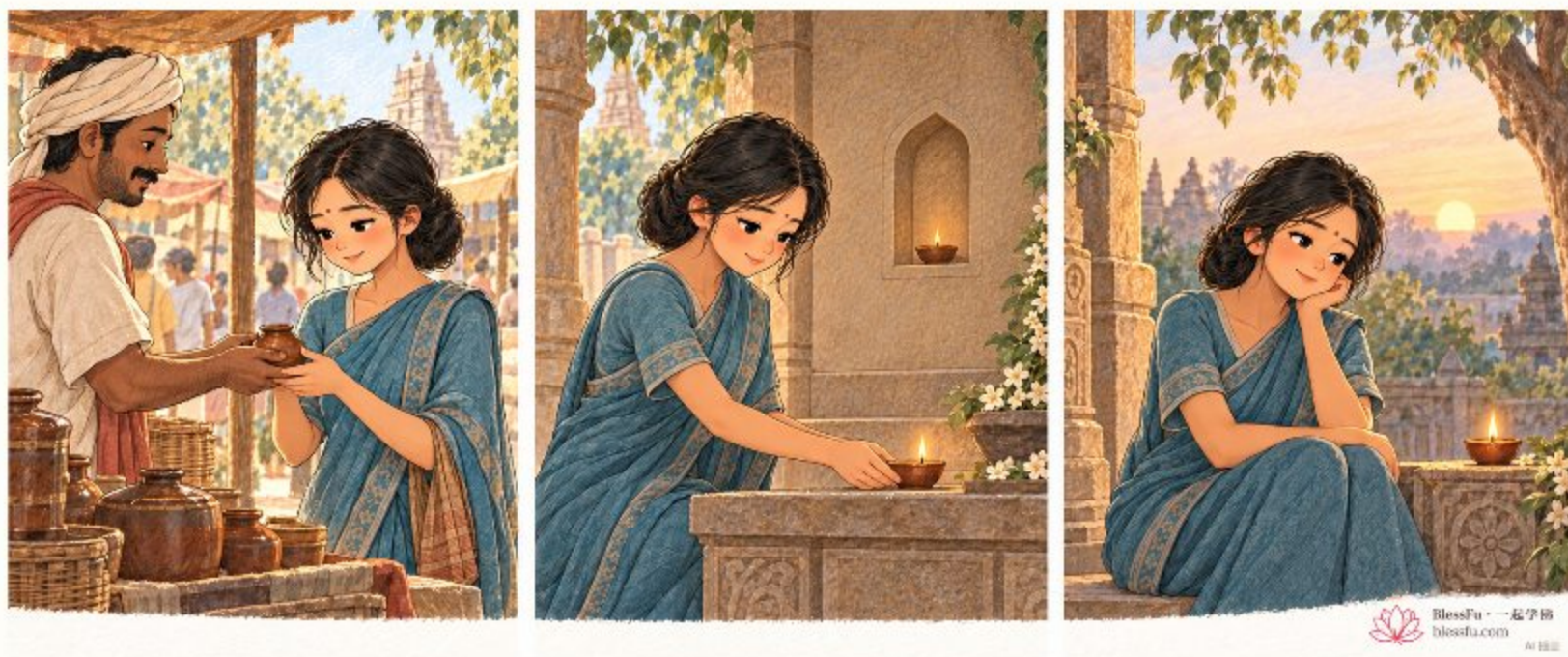
Story 2 / 3



Nanda placed her lamp among the others. She wished to grow in wisdom and help beings overcome ignorance and suffering. Her wish included others. The lamp was small, but the story draws attention to intention rather than the number of lamps.

Pause and ask: Who else was included in her wish?

Story 3 / 3



The scripture goes on to describe the lamp still shining at dawn, beyond Maudgalyayana's attempts to extinguish it. This is a special event within a religious story. A real lamp's flame does not test anyone's faith. We can express care through company and practical help too.

Pause and ask: What can we learn without testing a miraculous event?

A Buddhist idea

Notice a generous intention
without pricing a person's worth.



Talk together

How did the oil seller help?

How can someone offer care without money?



Try an activity

Draw a lamp and a possible act of care.



For grown-ups

Read aloud, discuss and try a small activity.

Stories and exercises: BlessFu

Illustrations: AI-assisted

Full references and guidance are in the companion booklet.

