

Once a farmer who was looking for a source of water for his farm bought a well from his neighbour. On asking why, he replied, "I sold the well to you, and not the water." After saying this he walked away. The distraught farmer didn't know what to do. So he went to Birbal, a clever man and one of the nine courtiers of Emperor Akbar, for a solution. The emperor called both the farmer and his neighbour and asked why the man was not letting the farmer draw water from the well. The cunning man said the same thing again, "Your majesty I sold the well, and not the water