

Chapter- 5

A Legend of the Northland

STUDY NOTES

- In Northland, there lived a little woman in a cottage.
- She was baking delicious cakes in the evening.
- Saint Peter, during his sojourn (a temporary stay or visit) around the world, reached her door.
- He was very tired and hungry as he had been preaching all day and had not eaten any food.
- He asked her for a piece of cake.
- She was an ungenerous and close-fisted woman.
- She, therefore, tried to bake a small cake to give away.
- But each time she baked, she felt the cake was too big to give away.
- Ultimately she tried to bake a paper thin cake, which also turned big in her estimation.
- She began to wonder how the cakes meant for others seemed big to her, and those that were meant for her to eat, seemed very small.
- The final cake was also put on the shelf.
- She refused to part with the cakes.
- This angered the saint, who was hungry and faint.
- He told her that she did not deserve to be human being nor did she deserve to live in a house and have fire to keep her warm.
- He cursed her, and said henceforth, she would have to build her own house and would have to bore holes in hard dry wood, to acquire the scanty food that a bird requires to survive.
- All of a sudden, a woodpecker flew off from the top of the house.
- The little woman was turned to a woodpecker, noticed by every school boy as keeps pecking at the wood in search of food.