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Subject English.

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Chapter 10

THE BEGGAR

Read the Story

What stimulated the beggar, Lushkof. to change his ways? Let's read and find out.

Kind sir, have pity: turn your attention to a poor, hungry man! For three days have had nothing to eat; I haven't five kopecks for a lodging. I swear it before God eight years I was a village schoolteacher and then I lost my place through intrigues. I fell a victim to calumny. It is a year now since I have had anything to do. The advocate, Sergei, looked at the ragged, fawn-coloured overcoat of the suppliant, at his dull, drunken eyes, at the red spot on either cheek, and it seemed to him as though he had seen this man somewhere before.

I have now had an offer of a position in the province of Kaluga," the mendicant went on, "but I haven't the money to get there. Help me kindly; I am ashamed to ask, but - I am obliged to by

man's overshoes, one of which was high and the other low, and he suddenly remembered something. "Look here, it seems to me I met you the day before yesterday in Sadovya Street, he said; "but you told me then that you were a student who had been expelled, and not a village schoolteacher. Do you remember?"

"N-no, that can't be so," mumbled the beggar, taken aback. "I am a village schoolteacher, and if you like I can show you my papers." "Have done with lying! You called yourself a student and even told me what you had been expelled for. Don't you remember?" Sergei flushed and turned from the ragged creature with an expression of disgust. "This is dishonesty, my dear sir!" he cried angrily. "This is swindling - I shall send the police for you, damn you!"