

BEAUTIFUL STORIES



DEAR CHILDREN!

READ AND LEARN

MY STORY

AND

COLOURING BOOK

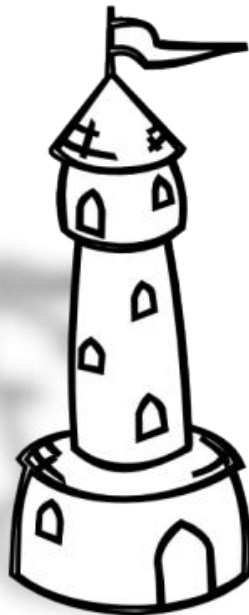
The Story of the Tiny Frogs

There was once a bunch of tiny frogs, who arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower.

A big crowd gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants.

The race began.

No one in the crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. They shouted, “Oh, way too difficult!”, “They will NEVER make it to the top!” and “Not a chance. The tower is too high”.



The tiny frogs began collapsing, one by one except for those who, in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher.

The crowd continued to yell, “It’s too difficult! No one will make it!”

More tiny frogs got tired and gave up. But one continued higher and higher. This one wouldn’t give up! And he reached the top.

Everyone wanted to know how this one frog managed such a great feat.

His secret? This little frog was DEAF!

Moral

- – Be DEAF when people tell you that it can’t be done
- – IGNORE the pessimism of others
- – Stay POSITIVE
- – Put your trust in ALLAH and make DUA to Him to help you achieve your dreams

Hadith

- “... Know that victory comes with patience, relief with affliction, and hardship with ease.”

The King's Idea

Once upon a time, there was a king who ruled a prosperous country. One day, he went for a trip to some distant parts of his country.

When he was back at his palace, he complained that his feet were very painful, because it was the first time that he went for such a long trip. And the road that he went through was very rough and stony.



The king thought he had a brilliant idea. He ordered his servants to cover every road of the entire country with leather. Definitely, this would need hundreds and thousands of metres of cows' skin. This would of course cost a huge amount of money.

Then one of his wise servants dared himself to ask the king, “Why do you have to spend that unnecessary amount of money? Why don't you just cut a little piece of leather to cover your feet?”

The king was surprised, but after giving it some thought, the king agreed to follow his servant's suggestion, to make a pair of 'shoes' for himself. There is a valuable lesson of life in this story : In order to improve the quality of our lives sensibly, perhaps it is better to change ourselves – our attitudes, our hearts. And, not necessarily, the world.

Qur'aan Quote: “...Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. ...” (Qur'aan, 13:11)

The Fable of the Porcupines



It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold.

The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep warm.

This way they covered & protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions.

After a while, they decided to distance themselves one from the other & they began to die, alone & frozen.

So they had to make a choice...

Either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth. Wisely, they decided to go back to being together.

They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions in order to receive the warmth & heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

Moral

- The best group is not the one that brings together perfect people, but when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others & can admire the other person's good qualities.
- Better to be surrounded by warm pricks than be frozen in solitude!

Quotes

And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allah (i.e. this Qur'aan), and be not divided among yourselves, and remember Allah's Favour on you, for you were enemies one to another but He joined your hearts together, so that, by His Grace, you became brethren (in Islamic Faith), and you were on the brink of a pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus Allah makes His Aayaat (proofs, evidence, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) clear to you, that you may be guided. [Qur'aan; Ali-Imraan 3: 103]

The Eagle

There was once a wounded eaglet that was rescued by a kind farmer. The farmer found the eaglet in one of his fields. He felt sorry for him and so took him home, tended to his wounds, and then placed him outside in the barnyard to recover.

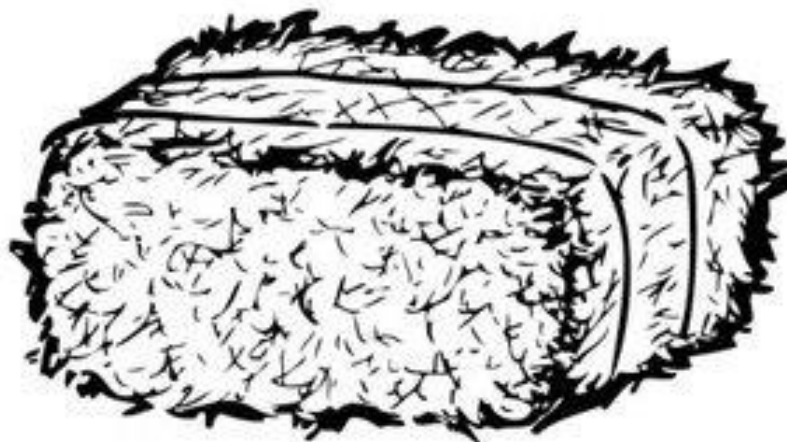
Strangely enough, the eaglet soon adapted to the habits of all the barnyard chickens. He learned to walk and cluck like chickens. He learned to drink from a trough and peck the dirt for food, and for many years the eaglet peacefully resigned himself to this new life on the farm. Time passed and the eaglet grew up to become a beautiful eagle.

But then one day, one of the farmer's friends spotted the eagle in his barn and asked, "Why in the world is that eagle acting like a chicken?"

The farmer told him what had happened, yet the friend could hardly accept the situation.

“It’s just not right,” said the friend. “The Almighty Creator made eagles able to soar in the sky, not scavenge in the barnyard!”

So he picked up the unsuspecting eagle, climbed onto a nearby fence post, and tossed him into the air. But the confused eagle just fell back to earth and scurried off in search of his feathered friends.



Undaunted, the friend then grabbed the eagle again and climbed to the top of the barn. As he heaved him off the roof, the eagle made a few half-hearted squawks and flaps before falling into a bale of hay. After shaking his head a few

times, the eagle then made himself comfortable and began mindlessly pecking at pieces of straw.

The farmer's friend went home that night dejected. He could barely sleep as he remembered the sight of those powerful talons caked with barnyard mud. He could not bear the thought, so the very next day, he headed back to the farm for another try.

This time he carried the Eagle to the top of a nearby mountain where the sky unfolded in a limitless horizon.

He looked into the eagle's eyes and cried out, "Don't you understand? You weren't made to live like a chicken! Why would you want to stay down here when you were born for the sky?"

As the man held the confused eagle aloft, he made sure the eagle was facing into the brilliant light of the setting sun. Then he powerfully heaved the bird into the sky, and this time the Eagle opened his wings, looked at the sun,

caught the updraft rising from the valley, and disappeared into the clouds of sky.

Moral

Do you know that we, too, were born for some high purpose in this life? The Almighty Creator has called us to live in the heights, yet too many of us have huddled together in the barnyard, not struggling to search for our own Islamic identity and the purpose of Islamic life?

Quotes

“... My Lord, expand for me my chest [grant me self-confidence, contentment, and boldness]”

Qur’aan, 20:25

Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said:

*“Take benefit of five before five:
Your youth before your old age,
Your health before your sickness,
Your wealth before your poverty,
Your free-time before your preoccupation and
Your life before your death.”*

[Mustadrak Al-Haakim]

The Clever King

There was a country long time ago where the people would change their king every year.

The person who would become the king had to agree to a contract whereby he will be sent to an island after his one year of being a king. So, each year the king would finish his term and it was time for him to go to the island and live there.



The people dressed him up in expensive clothes and put him on an elephant and took him around the cities to say goodbye to all the people.

This was the moment of sadness for all the kings who ruled there for one year. After saying goodbye, the guards took the king with a boat to the remote island and left him there.

One year, on their way back, the guards discovered a ship that had sunk just recently. They saw a young man who survived by holding on to a floating piece of wood. As they needed a new king, they picked up the young man and took him to their country. They requested him to be their king for a year.

At first he refused but later he agreed to be their king. The country's ministers then told him about all the rules and regulations and that how he will be sent to an island after one year.

After three days of being a king, he asked the ministers if they could show him the island where all the other kings were sent. They agreed and took him to the island.

The island was covered with a thick jungle and sounds of vicious animals were heard coming

out of it. The new king ventured a little to see how it was and discovered the dead bodies of all the past kings. He understood that as soon as they were left on the island, the animals came and killed them.

The young new king then went back to the country and requested the people to provide him with one hundred strong workers.

When he was provided with the hundred workers, he took them to the island and told them to remove all the deadly animals and to cut down all the trees. He would visit the island every month to see how the work was progressing.

In the first month, all the animals were removed and many trees were cut down. In the second month, the whole island was cleaned out.

The king then told the workers to plant gardens in various parts of the island. He also took with himself useful animals like chickens, ducks, birds, goats, cows etc.

In the third month, he ordered the workers to build big houses and docking stations for ships. Over the months, the island turned into a beautiful place.



The young king would wear simple clothes and spend very little from his earnings. He sent all the earnings to the island for storage.

Nine months passed like this. The king gathered all the people and told them that, “I know that I have to go to the island after one year, but I would like to go there right now.” But the people didn’t agree to this and said that he has to wait for another 3 months to complete the year.

Three months passed and now it was a full year. The people dressed up the young king and

put him on an elephant to take him around the country to say goodbye to others. However, this king was unusually happy to leave the kingdom. Many people asked him, “All the other kings would cry at this moment and why are you laughing and smiling?”

He replied, “Don’t you know what the wise people would say? They say that when you came into this world as a baby, you were crying and everyone was smiling. Live such a life that when you are dying, you will be smiling and everyone around you will be crying. I have lived that life. While all the other kings were lost in the luxuries of the kingdom, I have always thought about the future and planned for it. I turned the deadly island into a beautiful abode for me where I can stay peacefully.”

Moral: We should take a lesson from this story about how we should live our life. The life of this world is to prepare for the life hereafter. In this life, we shouldn’t get lost in the beautiful things of this world and forget about what is to come in the afterlife. Rather, even if we are kings, we should live a simple life like our beloved Nabi Muhammad (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and save all our enjoyments for the hereafter. May Allah make it easy for us all.

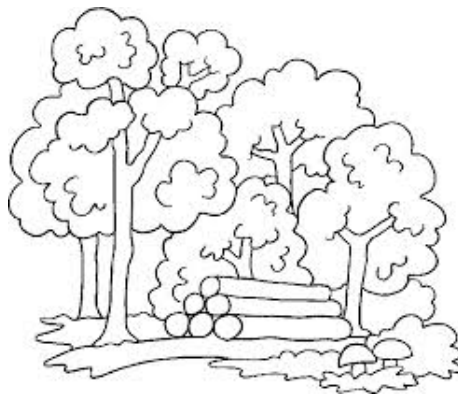
Staying Sharp

Once upon a time a very strong woodcutter asked for a job in a timber merchant, and he got it. The pay was really good and so were the work conditions. For those reasons, the woodcutter was determined to do his best.

His boss gave him an axe and showed him the area where he was supposed to work. The first day, the woodcutter brought back 18 trees.

“Congratulations,” the boss said. “Go on that way!”

Very motivated for the boss’ words, the woodcutter would try harder the next day, but he only could bring 15 trees back. The third day, he tried even harder, but he only could bring 10 trees.



Day after day he was bringing less and less trees.

“I must be losing my strength”, the woodcutter thought. He went to the boss and apologized, saying that he could not understand what was going on.

“When was the last time you sharpened your axe?” the boss asked.

“Sharpen? I had no time to sharpen my axe. I have been very busy trying to cut trees.”



Our lives are like that. We sometimes get so busy that we don't take time to sharpen the axe.

Moral

In today's world, it seems that everyone is busier than ever, but less happy than ever.

Why is that? Could it be that we have forgotten how to stay sharp? There's nothing wrong with activity and hard work. But Allah doesn't want us to get so busy that we neglect the truly important things in life, like taking time to pray, to read. We all need time to relax, to think and meditate, to learn and grow.

If we don't take time to sharpen the axe, we will become dull and lose our effectiveness. So start today. Think about the ways by which you could do your job more effectively and add a lot of value to it.

Little Moosa

I was shocked at the amount of water on the floor in my bathroom.

So I called my five-year old son, Moosa as he had gone in there before me to make wudhu.

Me: Moosa, what happened?

Moosa: I made wudhu, Maa.

Me: Yes, but why so much water on the floor?

Moosa: Maa, my sins fall when drops fall so I used a lot of water to wash away all my sins.

This brought a smile on my face and tears in my eyes as my son reminded me the importance of wudhu. (Masha Allah)

May Allah Ta'ala make my son of the Saaliheen, Muttaqeen and Mumineen. (Ameen)



Hadith Quote

Reported by Abu Hurairah (Radhiyallahu anhu): The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said,

“When a Muslim, or a believer, washes his face (in the course of Wudhu), every sin which he committed with his eyes, will be washed away from his face with water, or with the last drop of water;

when he washes his hands, every sin which is committed by his hands will be effaced from his hands with the water, or with the last drop of water;

and when he washes his feet, every sin his feet committed will be washed away with the water, or with the last drop of water;

until he finally emerges cleansed of all his sins.”

[Muslim – Riyaadh us Saaliheen, Chapter 185, 1028]

Precious

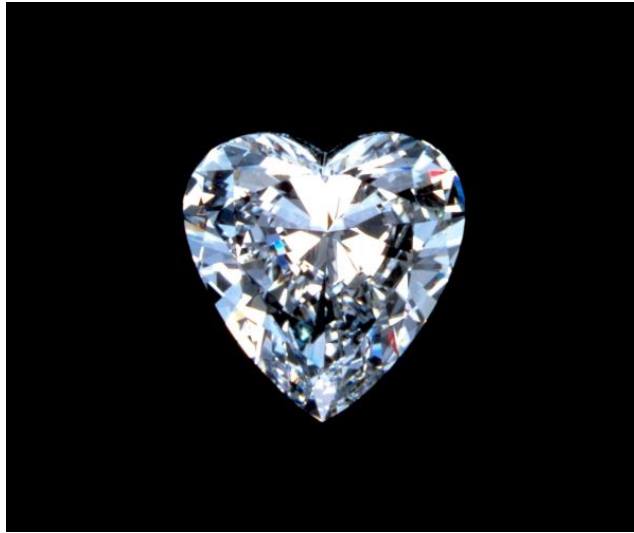
An incident transpired when Muhammad Ali's daughters arrived at his home wearing clothes that were quite revealing.

Here is the story as told by one of his daughters:

“When we finally arrived, the chauffeur escorted my younger sister, Laila, and me up to my father's suite. As usual, he was hiding behind the door waiting to scare us. We exchanged ...many hugs and kisses as we could possibly give in one day.

My father took a good look at us. Then he sat me down on his lap and said something that I will never forget. He looked me straight in the eyes and said, “Hana, everything that Allah made valuable in the world is covered and hard to get to.

Where do you find diamonds?
Deep down in the ground, covered and protected.



Where do you find pearls?

Deep down at the bottom of the ocean, covered up and protected in a beautiful shell.

Where do you find gold?

Way down in the mine, covered over with layers and layers of rock. You've got to work hard to get to them."

He looked at me with serious eyes.

"Your body is sacred. You're far more precious than diamonds and pearls, and you should be covered too."

Starfish



One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, “What are you doing?”

The youth replied, “Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The waves are up and the tide is going out. If I don’t throw them back, they’ll die.”

“Son,” the man said. “Don’t you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can’t make a difference!”

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the sea. Then, smiling at the man, he said, “I made a difference for that one.”

Moral

This story is a great example showing how a little favour or act of kindness or help can mean so much to somebody.

Rasulullah (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) said:

“The parable of me and mankind is like a person who lit a fire. When it became light all around moths and other insects started falling into the fire. The man tries to stop them but they overwhelm him and fly into the fire. So I am holding onto your waists to save you from the Fire but you are tumbling into it.”

(Mishkaatul Masaabeeh)

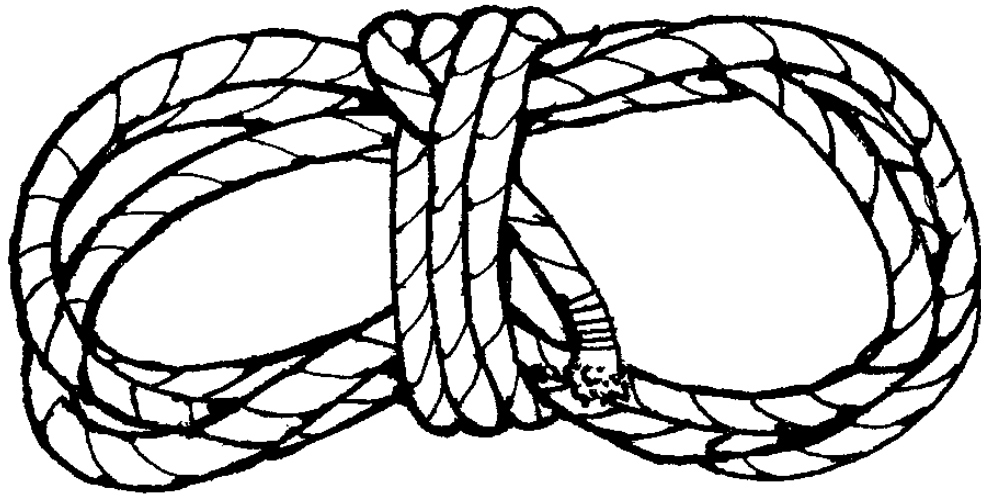
The Elephants and the Ropes

As Omar was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

Omar saw a trainer nearby and asked why these huge, amazing animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away.

“Well,” the trainer said, “when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it’s enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe that they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free.”

Omar was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.



Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before?

Moral:

Failure is part of learning; we should never give up the struggle in this life.

If we have failed once, it doesn't mean that we can never do it again. We need to try again and again if we want to succeed, Insha'Allah!

The Bear's Secret



There were once two friends, named Qaasim and Burhaan, who went camping at one of the state's National Parks.

After erecting their tent, they decided to take a short walk through the forest, before the sun set. Qaasim had a sprained ankle, so they strolled slowly, talking while snapping some good shots on their mobile phones along the way.

They agreed that anything dangerous could happen to them at any time in this wilderness especially when they were both unfamiliar with the surroundings. So they

promised each other that they would remain united in any risky situation.

Suddenly, from behind the bushes some 10 metres ahead, a large brown bear appeared and started to approach them.

Burhaan, without a single word, ran away quickly and climbed the tallest tree behind them, forgetting about his friend with the sore foot. Qaasim, shocked that his friend had fled, knew that he was unable to rush anywhere nor climb any trees. So using common sense, Qaasim laid down on the ground immediately, holding his breath, pretending to be dead.

The brown bear soon came near Qaasim, smelling his ears for several minutes before slowly leaving the place, looking for food elsewhere. Step by step the bear walked away without looking back.

Burhaan, upon confirming that they are now safe, climbed down the tall tree. He ran to his friend who was slowly trying to get up from the ground.

“Qaasim, what did the bear whisper in your ears? It seemed to have told you a secret,” Burhan asked cheekily.

Qaasim, brushing off some dirt and dried leaves off his clothes sharply replied, “The bear advised me not to trust a false friend.”

Moral:

A True Friend is the one who always supports and stands by you in any situation.

Rasoolullah (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said:

“A person is on the Deen of his friend. So, see who you are taking as a friend.”

Lesson from a Butterfly

One day, a small opening appeared in a cocoon; a man sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole.

Then, it seemed to stop making any progress.

It appeared as if it had gone as far as it could and it could not go any further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly: he took a pair of scissors and opened the cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a withered body; it was tiny and shrivelled wings.

The man continued to watch because he expected that at any moment, the wings would open, enlarge and expand, to be able to support the butterfly's body, and become firm.

Neither happened!

In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a withered body and shrivelled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and his goodwill did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening, were Allah's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings, so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes, struggles are exactly what we need in our life.

If Allah allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as we could have been; never able to fly.

“I asked for Strength... and Allah gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for Wisdom...and Allah gave me problems to solve.

I asked for Prosperity...and Allah gave me a brain and brawn to work.

I asked for Courage....and Allah gave me obstacles to overcome.



I asked for Love...and Allah gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for Favours...and Allah gave me Opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted...

But I received EVERYTHING I needed.”

A POND OF MILK?

Once there was a king who told some of his workers to dig a pond. Once the pond was dug, the king made an announcement to his people saying that one person from each household has to bring a glass of milk during the night and pour it into the pond.

So, the pond should be full of milk by the morning.

After receiving the order, everyone went home. One man prepared to take the milk during the night. He thought that since everyone will bring milk, he could just hide a glass of water and pour inside the pond. Because it will be dark at night, no one will notice.

So he quickly went and poured the water in the pond and came back. In the morning, the king came to visit the pond and to his surprise the pond was only filled with water!

What had happened was that everyone was thinking like the other man that, “I don’t have to put the milk; someone else will do it.”



Dear friends, when it comes to helping the Religion of Allah, do not think that others will take care of it. Rather, it starts with you. Don't feel contented that others will do the Work of Deen, "I can lay back."

So, change yourself to the Way of Allah to serve Him and that will make the difference for everyone, Insha-Allah.

The Qur'aan says:

If you turn away (from the Deen of Islam) then He (Allah) will replace you with another nation. Then they will not be like you."

(Surah Muhammad, 38)

ONLY FOR ALLAH

There was a pious man among the Bani Israaeel who always remained busy in the worship of Allah. A group of people came to him and told him that a tribe living nearby worshipped a tree. The news upset him, and with an axe on his shoulder he went to cut down that tree.

On the way, Shaitaan met him in the form of an old man and asked him where he was going. He said he was going to cut a particular tree. Shaitaan said, “You have nothing to be concerned with this tree, you better mind your worship and do not give it up for the sake of something that does not concern you.” “This is also worship,” retorted the worshipper. Then Shaitaan tried to prevent him from cutting the tree, and there followed a fight between the two, in which the worshipper overpowered Shaitaan.

Finding himself completely helpless, Shaitaan begged to be excused, and when the worshipper released him, he again said, “Allah has not made the

cutting of this tree obligatory on you. You do not lose anything if you do not cut it. If its cutting was necessary, Allah could have got it done through one of his many Prophets.” The worshipper insisted on cutting the tree. There was again a fight between the two and again the worshipper overpowered the Shaitaan.



“Well listen,” said Shaitaan, “I propose a settlement that will be to your advantage.” The worshipper agreed, and Shaitaan said, “You are a poor man, a mere burden on this earth. If you stay away from this act, I will pay you three gold coins every day.

You will daily find them lying under your pillow. By this money you can fulfil your own needs, help your relative, help the needy, and do so many other virtuous things. Cutting the tree will be only one virtue, which will ultimately be of no use because the people will grow another tree.”

This proposal appealed to the worshipper, and he accepted it. He found the money on two successive days, but on the third day there was nothing. He got enraged, picked up his axe and went to cut the tree. Shaitaan as an old man again met him on the way and asked him where he was going. “To cut the tree,” shouted the worshipper. “I will not let you do it,” said Shaitaan. A fight took place between the two again but this time Shaitaan had the upper hand and overpowered the worshipper.

The worshipper was surprised at his own defeat, and asked the Shaitaan the cause of his success. Shaitaan replied, “At first, your anger was purely for earning the pleasure of Allah, and therefore Almighty Allah helped you to overpower me, but now it has been partly for the sake of the gold coins and therefore you lost.”

SAMMY'S BIG CATCH

Sammy was a good-looking young boy who lived in the Deep South. His summer days were filled with times of walking through the woods, playing, and fishing in the pond down the dirt road. Fishing was by far his favourite passtime. Just about every day during his summer vacation, he would dig up some worms and head off, pole in hand, for a day of fishing.

This steamy hot day was like most others during Sammy's summer break. Waking early, he could hear as though the pond was calling him to come and fish. Sammy quietly walked out the front door, grabbed his pitchfork and worm pail from the porch, and walked into the woods to search for bait. He turned over old stumps and dug under leaves hoping to find worms. Under one old stump he hit the jackpot. The ground was writhing. In two minutes he had all the bait he needed, and in 15 minutes he was at the pond.

Reaching into his bait bucket, Sammy pulled out a big worm. He double hooked it and tossed it into the water. He noticed a stinging in his hand, but filled with the excitement of the moment, he paid no attention to it. Within 30 seconds, Sammy had a strike and pulled in a nice catfish. "Wow", he thought, "A fish in the first minute. This is unbelievable!"

He put the catch on his stringer, hurried to re-bait his hook, and tried his luck again. Once again he felt a stinging sensation in his hand as he threw his hook into the pond. He didn't have time to worry about it. Within just a few seconds, he had another huge fish. He fumbled the next time he baited his hook—his hand felt numb and stiff. But Sammy was too excited about catching another fish to give it much thought.

At the end of only an hour of fishing, Sammy had caught eight large fish. This was definitely his best fishing day ever. He was so proud of his accomplishment that, even though there were plenty of days left to fish, he threw the heavy stringer of fish over his shoulder and dashed down the dirt road towards home to show off his catch to his mom and dad.



The local sheriff happened to drive up alongside Sammy and started to congratulate him on his catch of fish. With a smile and a victory whoop, Sammy held up the stringer. The sheriff gasped, parked his car and strode over to Sammy.

His eyes hadn't deceived him—Sammy's arms really were red and swollen to about twice their normal size. "Exactly where have you been and what bait did you use to catch all those fish?" the sheriff asked Sammy, already guessing the answer.

"I found some special bait under an old stump," Sammy boasted. "These worms really wiggle well," he commented, handing up the bait bucket for inspection. After a close look at the worms, the sheriff went into fast-forward. Securing the bucket in his truck, he then scooped Sammy and his stringer of fish into the back seat of his patrol car. Spinning a U-turn on the gravel road, he sped off to the hospital, but Sammy was already dead.

What the sheriff had discovered was that Sammy had been fishing with baby rattlesnakes. Sammy's deadly bait brought him a good morning's fishing but cost him his life. Had Sammy stopped fishing after that first sting, he could have been saved. One bite from a baby rattler won't kill a person who gets treatment in time. But Sammy was having fun and didn't bother himself with the "small voice

of pain” in his hand. Then, as his hand grew numb, even that small voice was silenced.

Playing around with sin is like using baby rattlesnakes for bait. Sinning seems harmless to people who don't recognize sin and are unaware of its deadly consequences. The more sin you get into, however, the number you become to its sting. In the excitement of the moment, you ignore the still small “Voice of the Creator” warning you of danger and encouraging you to choose good rather than that which is evil.

Hadeeth

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah (Radhiyallahua anhu) narrates that Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) said: “When a Mu'min (Believer) sins, a black spot appears in his heart and when he makes *taubah* (repentance) and *istighfaar* (seeks forgiveness) his heart is cleansed (of the black spot). And when he sins more, the spot enlarges till it covers the entire heart.”

When the heart is darkened, things no longer appear as they truly are. Bad things become appealing and good things are not seen for the good in them.

LESSONS FROM A DONKEY

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbours to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly.



Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw.

With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbours continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

MORAL: Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up. Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred – Forgive.
2. Free your mind from worries – Most never happens.
3. Live simply and appreciate what you have.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less from people but more from yourself.

HELPING AN OLD MAN

It was a bitter, cold evening. The old man's beard was glazed by winter's frost while he waited for a ride across the river. The wait seemed endless. His body became numb and stiff from the frigid north wind. He heard the faint, steady rhythm of approaching hooves galloping along the frozen path.

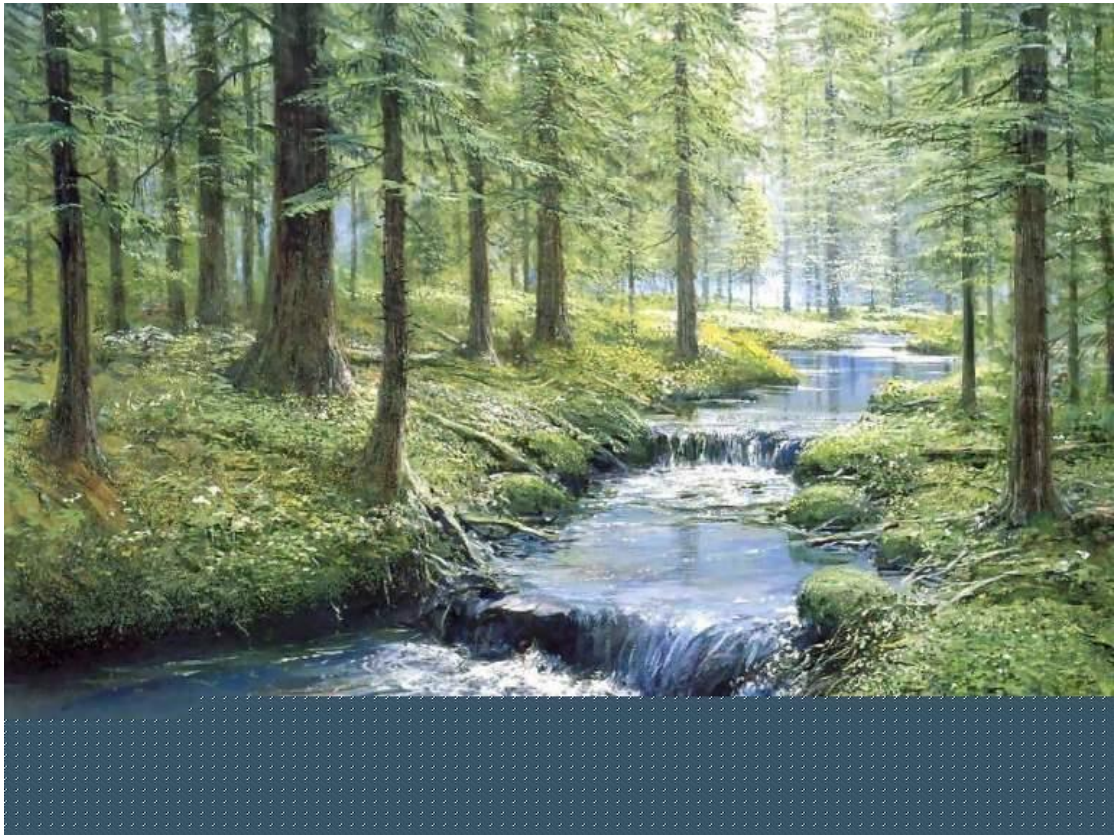
Anxiously, he watched as several horsemen rounded the bend. He let the first one pass by without an effort to get his attention. Then another passed by and another. Finally, the last rider neared the spot where the old man sat like a snow statue.

As this one drew near, the old man caught the rider's eye and said, "Sir, would you mind giving an old man a ride to the other side? There doesn't appear to be a passageway by foot."

Reining his horse, the rider replied, "Sure thing. Hop aboard."

Seeing the old man was unable to lift his half-frozen body from the ground, the horseman dismounted and helped the old man onto the horse. The horseman took the old man not just across the river,

but to his destination, which was just a few miles away.



As they neared the tiny but cozy cottage, the horseman’s curiosity caused him to inquire, “Sir, I notice that you let several other riders pass by without making an effort to secure a ride. Then I came up and you immediately asked me for a ride. I’m curious why, on such a bitter winter night; you would wait and ask the last rider. What if I had refused and left you there?”

The old man lowered himself slowly down from the horse, looked the rider straight in the eyes, and

replied, “I’ve been around here for some time. I reckon I know people pretty good.”

The old-timer continued, “I looked into the eyes of the other riders and immediately saw there was no concern for my situation. It would have been useless even to ask them for a ride. But when I looked into your eyes, kindness and compassion were evident. I knew, then and there, that your gentle spirit would welcome the opportunity to give me assistance in my time of need.”

Those heart-warming comments touched the horseman deeply.

“I’m most grateful for what you have said,” he told the old man. “May I never get too busy in my own affairs that I fail to respond to the needs of others with kindness and compassion.”

Yaa Allah, Make me among those about whom the Holy Qur’aan has said:“And they give preference to others over themselves even though they are in need”. (Surah Hashr, 9)

The Tale of Two Frogs

A group of frogs were hopping contentedly through the woods, going about their froggy business, when two of them fell into a deep pit. All of the other frogs gathered around the pit to see what could be done to help their companions. When they saw how deep the pit was, the rest of the dismayed group agreed that it was hopeless and told the two frogs in the pit that they should prepare themselves for their fate, because they were as good as dead.

Unwilling to accept this terrible fate, the two frogs began to jump with all of their might. Some of the frogs shouted into the pit that it was hopeless, and that the two frogs wouldn't be in that situation if they had been more careful, more obedient to the froggy rules, and more responsible.

The other frogs continued sorrowfully shouting that they should save their energy and give up, since they were already as good as dead. The two frogs continued jumping as hard as they could, and after several hours of desperate effort were quite weary.



Finally, one of the frogs took heed to the calls of his fellows. Finished and disheartened, he quietly resolved himself to his fate, lay down at the bottom of the pit, and died as the others looked on in helpless grief. The other frog continued to jump with every ounce of energy he had, although his body was wracked with pain and he was completely exhausted.

His companions began a new, yelling for him to accept his fate, stop the pain and just die. The weary frog jumped harder and harder and - wonder of wonders! Finally he leapt so high that he sprang from the pit.

Amazed, the other frogs celebrated his miraculous freedom and then gathering around him asked, "Why did you continue jumping when we told you it was impossible?" Reading their lips, the astonished frog explained to them that he was deaf, and that when he saw their gestures and shouting, he thought they were cheering him on. What he had perceived as encouragement inspired him to try harder and to succeed against all odds.

Moral

This simple story contains a powerful lesson. Your encouraging words can lift someone up and help him or her make it through the day. Your destructive words can cause deep wounds; they may be the weapons that destroy someone's desire to continue trying - or even their life. Your destructive, careless word can diminish someone in the eyes of others, destroy their influence and have a lasting impact on the way others respond to them.

I WANT TO BE

A WONDERFUL PERSON

TO EVERYONE

