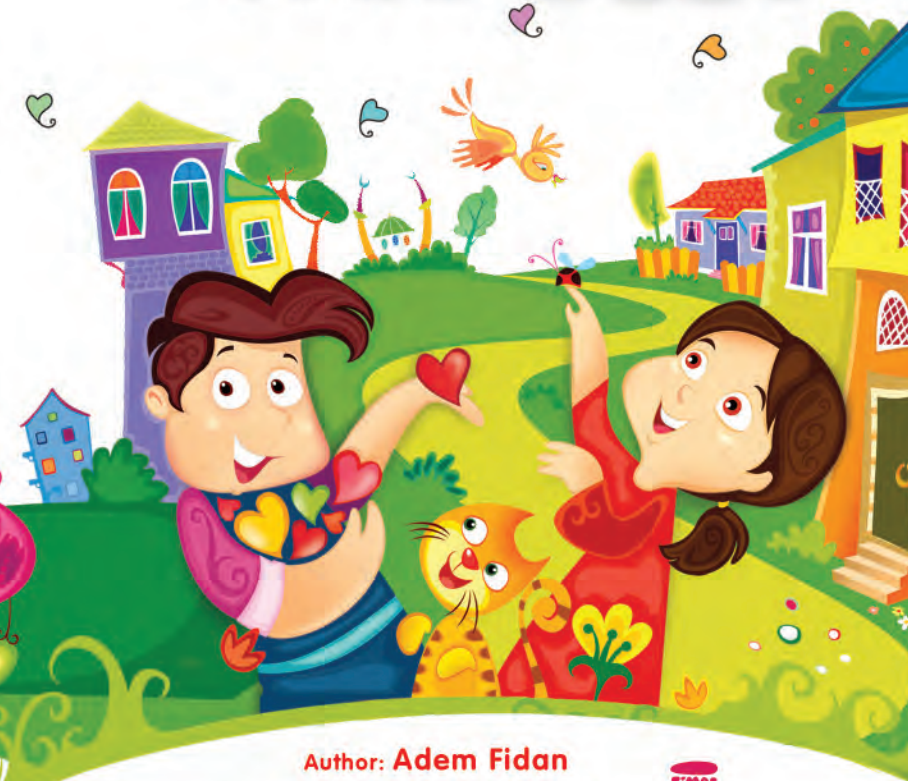


MORAL EDUCATION IN RELIGIOUS STORIES

PRECIOUS PARABLES



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WHICH IS MORE VALUABLE?

Honesty

A long time ago in a faraway land, there lived a poor mother and her two children. They lived in a small village in the mountains of Persia. The name of their son was Abdul Qadir. Everybody dearly loved Abdul





Qadir. He was well known for his honesty and intelligence.

Abdul Qadir really wanted to go to school. But there was no school in his village. He used to imagine going to a school in a distant city. He heard that there were very brilliant scholars in the city of Baghdad. He asked his mother for permission to go to Baghdad. His mother understood how much her son desired to go and so she said yes.





Before Abdul Qadir set off on his journey, his mother put forty gold pieces into a moneybag and stitched it into Abdul Qadir's jacket. She had set this money aside for tough times. Then she looked into her son's eyes and said: "My dear son Abdul Qadir! Go with Allah's protection."





“My last advice to you is: Never lie no matter what happens! Do not throw away your honesty. Do not forget that Allah always helps truthful people, no matter where they are.”







In those days, people used to go from one place to another by way of camel caravan. Abdul Qadir traveled with one of these caravans that was headed towards Baghdad. They had only traveled a little bit when the people in the caravan became frightened.





Bandits had crossed the caravan's path.

Abdul Qadir could not understand what was going on. "O Uncle! Who are these men?" Abdul Qadir asked an old man next to him.







“My son!” replied the old man. “These men are bandits. They don’t work for a living. Instead they steal other people’s money by force.”





The bandits took the bags off of the camels and lined up all of the travelers. They stole all of their belongings. The bandits then started to search the travelers one by one for something. Soon it was Abdul-Qadir's turn to be searched.

One of the thieves came to





Abdul Qadir and gave him a look. Seeing the old clothes on Abdul Qadir, the bandit thought that this boy could not possibly have anything of value. "Alright kid! What do you have?" asked the bandit in a mocking voice.

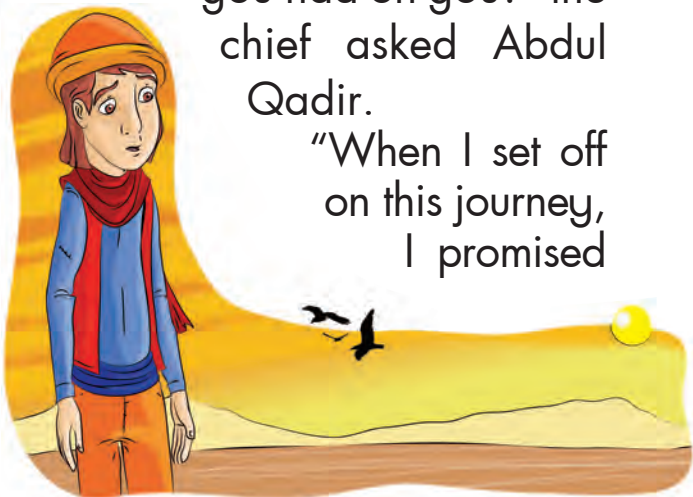
"I have forty gold pieces with me sir," Abdul Qadir answered.

The bandits immediately searched Abdul Qadir for his gold, which they soon found in the lining of his





coat. They took Abdul Qadir to their chief. They told the chief what happened with the boy. The chief was amazed at Abdul Qadir's honesty. "Why did you tell us about the gold you had on you?" the chief asked Abdul Qadir.



"When I set off on this journey, I promised





my mother that I would not lie no matter what," responded Abdul Qadir. "Allah will help those who tell the truth. I will not disappoint both Allah and my mother."

Abdul Qadir's words touched





the chief's heart. The chief turned to his men and said that: "I have stolen people's goods and money for most



of my life. Not once have I told the truth. O my friends! Listen to me carefully.

We have done so many harmful things. I am now seeking Allah's forgiveness for all of the bad we have done. Come, let's all swear never to do wrong again!"

The other bandits listened to the chief. They repented from the bad things they had done





before and swore never to steal again.

The chief held Abdul Qadir's hand. "We now give up our bad ways thanks to you," said the chief. "We will become good men." They gave the goods that they had taken by force back to the owners. From that day on





the bandits lived the rest of their lives as truthful men.

Young Abdul Qadir went to Baghdad and attended all of the schools that he had dreamed of. He studied at the feet of many great scholars. When he grew up, he became a great scholar as well. He taught many people. He is remembered as Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani.





A JAR OF GOLD

Justice

In olden times there were two friends named Husain and Hasan. They lived in a small village. Husain and Hasan loved each other very much. The two friends were so close that they would use the same toothpick. They played and wandered together. As



the years passed, the two friends grew up, found wives and got married. A few years later they had children. Hasan gave his daughter the name of Banu. Husain gave his son the name of Bahadir. The two friends' homes were each very peaceful.