

## Story 10: From sand to gold

Story shared by: *Marija*

Representing: *Palestinian and lives in Belgrade.*

### The Story:

Once upon a time, there was a young married couple. The husband was trying to turn sand into gold. He was wasting a lot of time on this idea. He spent the entire day working on it, trying to figure it out, imagining himself as some kind of chemist. His wife came to him and said, “What you’re doing makes no sense. You’re wasting time and spending the little money we have! When are you going to come to your senses?” To which he replied, “I’m close. I just need a little more time. We’ll be rich... I’ll succeed!” She realized there was no use in arguing, so she went to her father and told him what was going on. He said, “I’ll handle it!”

And indeed, the next day, the father-in-law came and started talking to his son-in-law. “What are you doing?” he asked. The son-in-law replied, “I’m trying to turn sand into gold.” The father-in-law then said, “Wow, that’s amazing! Want me to share a secret with you? I tried to do the same when I was young. I almost discovered the secret, but I got old and couldn’t achieve it, having wasted so many years and so much time on it... I need a young person to see it through.” To say the son-in-law was excited would be an understatement. The father-in-law told him he needed to plant a banana tree — from the banana leaves, a powder could be extracted that was supposedly golden. The son-in-law was still thrilled. The father-in-law continued, “While planting it, you have to recite this mantra. Say it, and you’ll succeed!”

He even rented a piece of land for his son-in-law, bought the seeds, and the son-in-law started planting. Each time he planted, he would recite the mantra. He watched over the plants, taking care of them and cleaning off pests whenever they attacked. He was so dedicated. He then asked his father-in-law, “How much of this powder is needed to turn the sand into gold?” The father-in-law replied, “You need enough powder to make two coins.”

After the son-in-law had planted everything, he realized it wasn’t enough. So, he went and bought more seeds, continued planting and doing all the work, and eventually succeeded. He went to his father-in-law and said, “Here, I brought what you asked for. How do we turn it into gold?” The father-in-law responded, “Now you’ll see how.” His daughter came in, and he asked her, “Did you succeed?” While her husband was growing bananas and collecting the powder, she had been taking those bananas and selling them. In doing so, she managed to accumulate a pile of gold.



