

Story 11: The story about Zrajfa and her sisters

Story shared by: *Ji*

Representing: *Moroccan and lives in Belgrade.*

The Story:

This is a story from a rural area about a woman named Zrajfa. She lived with her two sisters. They only had a father, who was a successful merchant. Their mother had not been with them since they were young, and no one knew why. Zrajfa was known as the clever one. Because their father was a merchant, he often left them and travelled to other regions to sell carpets and rugs. So, the three sisters were left in Zrajfa's care, as she was always responsible and sensible.

Two bandits noticed that the three girls lived alone in the house, so they decided to dress in women's clothing and pretend to be two older ladies in order to gain their trust, enter the house, and take advantage of them. The bandits tried to imitate female voices, but their voices cracked. Zrajfa noticed this, but her two sisters didn't, and they were very excited when the man said, "We are your aunts. We're part of the family. Your father was supposed to tell you we were coming, but he didn't." They asked, "Can we stay the night?" The girls replied, "Of course!" But Zrajfa was suspicious.

At one point, one of the bandits turned around, and she noticed that he wasn't a woman under the clothing. She saw under the djellaba that it was a man, but she continued to pretend and made them Moroccan mint tea. She added something to the tea to put them to sleep. Her other two sisters desperately wanted to drink the tea, but Zrajfa skillfully kept it away from them. She waited for the two men to drink the tea and fall asleep. Then she rolled them up in potato sacks and gave her sisters brooms. They took the sacks outside and started beating them. The whole village watched as two potato sacks bounced around, trying to escape the women.

Story Moral: *Be careful whom you let into your home.*