

## Story 11: Dream of the Cruel Sultan

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Representing: *Kurdish Community*

### The Story:

Once upon a time, in a distant land, there lived a sultan. This sultan was very cruel to his people and treated them like slaves. He would destroy people's houses and seize their property by force. The people living in this land could not open their eyes because of this cruelty.

But one day, something unexpected happened. The sultan said to his soldiers, "Tell my people that I will no longer oppress them, I am setting them free."

The soldiers traveled to the cities and villages one by one and announced this news. The news was greeted with great happiness by the people, children played in the streets and the people celebrated as if it were a holiday.

The sultan had a vizier who was closest to him. This vizier was very surprised by the sultan's sudden decision and asked himself: "Our sultan was so hard to his people, he was such a cruel ruler. What has changed in one day that this man has become such a good person?"

The vizier appeared before the sultan and said, "My sultan, forgive me, but I want to ask you a question."

The sultan said "go ahead".

"My sultan, you used to be so harsh and cruel, you used to give the people a lot of hardship. How did you suddenly decide to give them so much freedom?"

The sultan began to tell his story: "One day I went to the forest alone. There I saw a shepherd grazing his sheep in a pasture. There was cheese and bread in his bag and I secretly took the bag without the shepherd seeing. The shepherd was hungry until the evening. When I went to sleep that night, I dreamt of the shepherd whose bag I had taken. That shepherd beat me very badly until morning. He beat my body from side to side. It was such a dream that I thought I was going to die and this fear lasted until I woke up in the morning. Finally, he said to me, 'Even if you are a sultan, those who oppress will be oppressed, and oppressors will eventually pay for their cruelty.' When I woke up, I vowed not to oppress my people anymore and to be a good and just sultan."

**Story Moral:** *Cruelty and oppression of people would sooner or later be met with cruelty and oppression. Leaders should treat their people in a good and just manner.*



