

Story 12: Inheritance for 3 Brothers

Story shared by: *Ismail Bey*

Representing: *Kurdish Community*

The Story:

A rich man in a village had 3 sons. When this man died, all his property was left to these 3 sons. His sons had great difficulty in sharing the inheritance of the man who had many fields, gardens, estates and properties. Especially the youngest son did not agree to any sharing and always wanted a bigger share. No matter how hard the elder brother and the middle brother tried to come to an agreement, they could not convince the younger brother.

When a growing animosity between the brothers emerged, one of the village elders came up with an idea. He said that there was a kadi living in one of the neighboring villages who was influential and highly respected. He said, "Go to him and tell him your situation, and he will give you the fairest solution for sharing the property."

Unable to reach a solution among themselves, the brothers accepted this idea and set off for that village. On the way, they were chatting among themselves. They saw the footprints of an animal that had passed by before. The elder brother looked at the tracks and said:

"Brothers, the animal that left these tracks is a camel."

The middle brother said:

"This camel carries tar on one side of its saddlebag and oil on the other."

The youngest brother said:

"Brothers, this animal is a blind camel."

As they were talking, a man came running up to them and asked, "I lost my animal, did you see it?"

The older brother asked, "Was your animal a camel?" The man said "yes".

The middle brother asked, "Was there tar on one side and oil on the other side of the camel's saddlebag?" The man said "yes".

The younger brother asked, "Well, was your camel blind?" "Yes, he was blind," the man replied.

After all these questions, the man said, "Since you know all this, you have my camel. Give me my camel!"

The brothers said they had not seen the camel, but the man was not convinced and said, "You took my camel. How else can you know all this? You will come with me to the kadi in the next village!" he insisted. Since the brothers were already on their way to the kadi, they agreed and all of them went together.



The man said to the kadi, "I have a complaint against them. They stole my camel and now they deny it. When I asked them, they told me a lot of information about my camel. If they had not seen my camel, how could they know these things?"

Then the kadi asked the brothers: "If you did not see the camel as you say, how did you have this information? Explain!"

The elder brother said:

"I knew it was a camel without seeing the animal, because camels make their feces differently from other animals. I knew it was a camel because I saw it."

"Okay," said the judge. He turned to the middle brother and asked him how he knew the animal's load. The middle brother said:

"Sir, as you know, it is spring. Flies were landing on one side of the road the camel had traveled, but not on the other side. Flies go to oil, but not to tar. That is why I came to this conclusion."

"Okay," said the kadi and turned to the younger brother. "You explain, the biggest doubt is on you. How did you know the animal was blind without seeing it?" The little brother said:

"Sir, the camel had only grazed on one side of the road. It did not touch the fresh grass on the other side. If it was not blind, it would have grazed on both sides. That is why I knew it was blind."

"Okay," the kadi said again, turning to the man who had complained: "these men did not take your camel. Go on your way, look for your lost camel".

Thus, all three brothers were relieved. They were convinced that this man was indeed a fair and wise person and they explained why they had come there. When the kadi realized that his guests were smart and intelligent people, he said, "You have come from the road. First have a meal and fill your stomach. Then we will decide your case."

The food was prepared, the table was set and the three brothers sat at the table. The kadi left the room and started to listen and watch the brothers from behind the door.

After the kadi went out, the elder brother said:

"Brothers, the meat in this dish is not mutton, it is dog meat."

The kadi was very surprised to hear this, but he continued to listen. Then the middle brother said:

"The woman who made this dish is a sick woman." He did not eat the food either. Then the younger brother said:

"Brothers, the most troubling thing is that this kadi we have come to is not the son of the person he knows as his own father." Hearing this, the kadi could not stand it any longer and went inside. He turned to the brothers and said:

"What kind of people are you? You were guests at my table, and one of you said that the meat I served was not mutton but dog meat. Another one of you claimed that the woman who cooked the meal was sick. The youngest of you said that I was not the son of the person I knew as my father. These are very shameful and heavy accusations. Either you prove these allegations or I will have you all beheaded."



“Okay,” said the elder brother. “Go and question the butler who slaughtered this animal, you will see that what I say is true.”

Kadi sent for the butler and said “I told you to go and bring mutton for my guests, but which animal's meat did you bring to the kitchen?” At first the butler was scared and denied it, but then he told the truth:

“By God, sir, I was too tired to go to the flock and slaughter a sheep. I slaughtered one of the dogs in front of the door and delivered it to the kitchen.”

Then, to investigate the middle brother's claim, he went to the woman who cooked the food and questioned her. She replied, “Yes, sir, I am sick.”

Finally, the kadi went to his mother to investigate the younger brother's claim. Although his mother did not agree at first, she finally said, “Yes, my son, the person you think is your father is not your real father”. “Because your father was a respected agha, we had to hide this fact, and we didn't tell you,” she continued.

When all the allegations proved to be true, the kadi went back to his guests and asked them one by one to explain how they had understood what they had said.

The elder brother said:

“Unlike mutton, dog meat is not meant to be fried, it changes color when fried. That is how I understood it.”

The middle brother said:

“I didn't see love in the food. A person who makes a dish puts love into it, but a person who is sick cannot put love into it. That's how I understood it.”

The judge turned to the younger brother: “Yours is the most troublesome. How did you know that I was not the son of the person I knew as my father?”

“Mr. Kadi, our culture teaches that a man who does not sit at the table with his guests cannot be the son of an agha. You didn't share your table with us, that's how I knew.”

After listening to all this, the kadi said to the brothers:

“All right, misters. You have come this far and made conclusions based on your observations. Now I will do what you want and divide your father's property between you. All the property and land on the upper side of the stream belongs to the elder brother. The property and land below the stream belongs to the middle brother.”

The brothers were very surprised because they had not told the kadi about the location of the properties before. But in fact, the kadi already knew the brothers' father and knew where the everything were. The younger brother was very surprised and angry:

“You divided all the property among my brothers. What about me?”

“Don't say anything,” said the kadi. “If you had accepted your rightful share from the beginning, you wouldn't even need to come here to me. But you were greedy, you thought you were smarter than



your brothers, so you tried to get more than your share. That is the outcome of greed and arrogance. So get up and go your way.”

Story Moral: *Greed and arrogance are harmful vices. People should be fair and humble, especially to the people they love.*

