

## Story 19: The Blind, Deaf and Mute Bride

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Representing: *Refugees (Iraqi)*

### The Story:

Once upon a time, there lived a pure and pious young man. One day, when he was very hungry, he was passing by a road with many orchards full of apple trees. The branches of the apple trees were hanging over the street. Thinking, "If I eat one apple, there will not be much missing from the whole orchard," he plucked an apple from one of the trees to satisfy his hunger and ate it.

But when he returned home, he regretted it very much. "How could I eat an apple that did not belong to me without the permission and approval of its owner?" he lamented. Increasingly remorseful, the young man set out to find the owner of the apple tree and ask for forgiveness. When he went to the garden where the apple tree was located, he saw an old man there. He went up to the man and told him that he had plucked an apple from his garden, that he regretted not asking his permission to do so, and asked for forgiveness.

However, the owner of the garden was very harsh with the young man and said: "You ate my apple without my permission, and I will not forgive you until the Day of Judgment, and I will complain against you before Allah."

The young man then began to beg the man to forgive him. He said he was ready to do whatever it took to get him to forgive him. However, the man turned his back on the young man and entered his house. The young man was determined not to leave until he forgave him and waited for hours for the man to come out again. Finally, when the man came out again, he saw the young man waiting for him and approached him. The young man continued to beg and plead: "Uncle, please forgive me. I am willing to work in your garden for the rest of my life without asking for any wages to compensate you for your loss!"

Saddened by the young man's plight, the old man began to soften. He thought for a while and said: "My son, I am now ready to forgive you, but on one condition."

The young man was delighted, his face lit up with happiness and he said: "I accept whatever your condition is, just forgive me."

So the man said: "My condition is that you marry my daughter."

The young man was very surprised. For someone who is young and single like him, this was not a terrible condition.

"But," the old man continued, "you should know that my daughter is blind, deaf and mute. And I am looking for a trustworthy person who will accept her as she is."

The young man agreed without hesitation. The old man then invited the young man to his house on the following Friday for the wedding. When the wedding day arrived, the young man came home. After the wedding ceremony, the young man and his wife went into their room together. When the



young man lifted the veil of the wedding dress and saw his wife for the first time, he could not believe his eyes. She was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. When she greeted her husband, he was even more astonished.

Realizing the young man's astonishment, the girl asked him why. The young man replied that his father had said that his daughter was blind, deaf and mute, and that he was surprised to see that she was not. The girl replied to her husband as follows:

“I am blind to forbidden and evil things, I do not see them. I am mute to gossip and evil talk, I do not speak them. And I am deaf to forbidden and evil words, I do not hear them. After my mother died, my father raised me alone and wanted a husband to entrust me to. He said to me, 'He who fears the sin of a single apple that is not lawful for him would be very afraid of upsetting and wronging my daughter. That is why he allowed me to marry you.’”

**Story Moral:** *One should never take something that is not his/her without the permission of its owner. If someone makes a mistake, they should do whatever is necessary to fix their mistake.*

