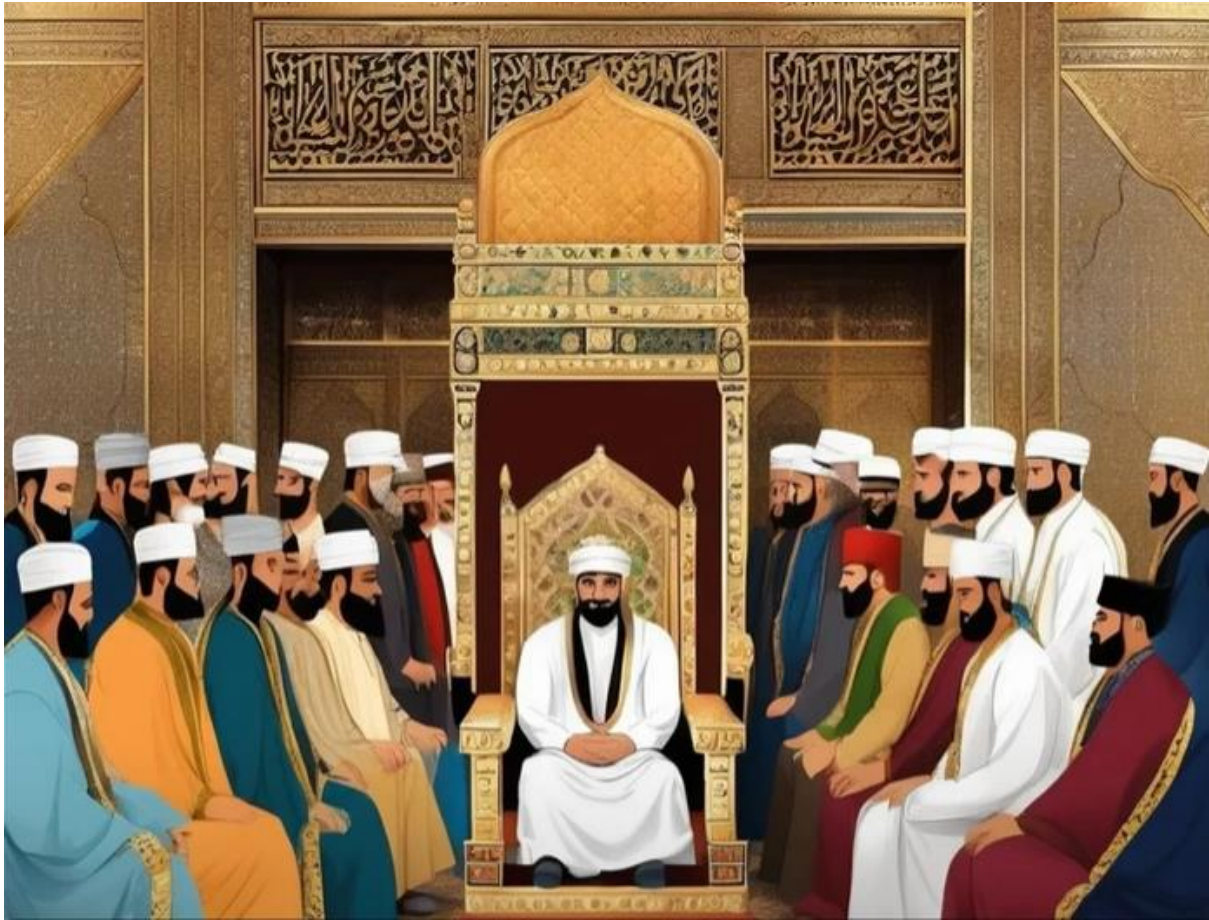


## Story 1: All this will surely pass



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Representing: *Refugees (Iraqi)*

### The Story:

It is said that one day the king gathered all the wise men of his kingdom and asked them to come up with a sentence to write above the throne. It had to be such a sentence that it would contain a life lesson that would apply to everyone, from the king himself to the poorest person in the kingdom. On the one hand, it should inspire people to do the right thing and be just, and on the other, it should instill optimism and hope in the darkest and most difficult moments. The king promised a great reward to the person who could find the sentence that would carry all these meanings in itself.

Wise people all over the country started thinking and discussing among themselves. How could there be a sentence that would be suitable for every situation, for every difficulty, for every person, that would express happiness and joy on the one hand and resilience against difficulties on the other? How can a single sentence convey optimism and hope on the one hand, and on the other not to get intoxicated by the riches and happiness that one possesses? Wise people have thought and thought and thought.



After a while, people returned to the palace with their suggestions. They took turns to tell the king their suggestions. Many of them said things about how strong, clever and great a leader their king was. But the king saw them as useless flattery.

Some spoke of the beauty of life, others of the difficulties of living. The king did not like any of them.

Then it was the turn of one of the wise men sitting in the back. And he said this sentence to the king:

“All this will surely pass.”

The king was intrigued by this sentence. He looked at the wise man's face, waiting for him to explain why he had suggested this sentence. The man said:

“The world will never remain the same, my king. Neither the best things nor the worst things last forever. The worst troubles, sorrows and defeats will pass and end in time. These dark days will be followed by good days, when glory will knock on the door of your kingdom, when everyone will speak of you with great praise. However, these good days will also pass and end.

What you need to do is to remember that nothing in this world lasts forever. We should not panic and despair in times of pain and calamity, and we should not be drunk with triumph in times of happiness and success. For all this will surely pass.”

The king smiled happily at the wise man and ordered this sentence to be written above the throne and all over his kingdom.

**Story Moral:** *Nothing in this world lasts forever. We should not panic and despair in times of pain and calamity, and we should not be drunk with triumph in times of happiness and success. For all this will surely pass.*