

Story 6: Dieterli: The Man on the Moon



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Representing: *Non-Muslim Community*

The Story:

On a bright night when the moon was huge and shining, a father and his son were in their home chatting. The moon attracted the boy's attention and he asked his father:

“I wonder what is there?”

The man replied:

“Oh, didn't you see that man over there?”

“Of course I saw him,” replied the boy, unperturbed. “And what is he doing there?” he continued.



Since they live in an area full of forests, “he cuts down trees like us and turns them into firewood all night long,” the man replied.

“But why is he doing it there?” the boy asked, “If it were me, I would do it here, without leaving our village. Where is he from, is he from our village too?”

The father realized that he had a chance to teach his son a valuable lesson, when the boy continued his questions with curiosity. “Do you think he does this on purpose?” he said. “He is there as a result of what he has done all his life”. And he began to tell the story of the man on the moon:

“He drank too much. He was imprisoned on the moon and forced to do this day and night.”

“But why?” asked the boy, “What did he do to get such a punishment and who sent him there?”

The man continued:

“His name was Dieterli. He was a lazy, mischievous man. He was always drinking and wandering around. He never prayed or worshiped. He had no time or intention to work. Because he never worked and always wanted to drink, he turned to wrong ways. He used to steal and spent some time in prison. But then he escaped from prison and went to another town and continued his same life.

One Sunday, when all the townspeople were in church, he took his axe and went into the forbidden forest and cut down the most beautiful trees there. But the trees for firewood were different, and it was strictly forbidden to cut down the trees in this forest. But he didn't care, he cut them down and tried to sell them without anyone seeing.

But just as Dieterli was returning home, he heard a voice. This voice said to him very sternly:

“Dieterli, stop! You have always gone the wrong way! But you will not go that way anymore and you will come with me!”

After that, Dieterli suddenly disappeared. When the townspeople realized that trees had been cut down in the forbidden forest, they looked for him everywhere, but he was nowhere to be found. And one day they realized that he is now the moon and he has to stay there by himself, all alone. Now he just works all day and all night long. And he can't drink at all because there is no liquor on the moon!

He is paying for his choices and actions with this punishment.”

Horrified by what he heard, the boy cried out:

“No, I don't want such a punishment in my life!”

The man replied in a calm tone:

“Then you know the path you must take for yourself. You will work hard, pray and do not go astray. If you do these things, you will not need such a punishment.”

Story Moral: *People bear the outcomes of their choices and actions in life. If they make good choices, work hard and act doing good deeds, their lives will turn out OK. If they make bad choices, be lazy and irresponsible, they will suffer the consequences.*





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