

## Story 9: Oil Merchant and Soap-maker



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Representing: *Refugees (Syrian)*

### The Story:

Once upon a time, there was an oil merchant who lived in a remote village. This man was very greedy and what he wanted most was to be rich. So he used to cheat to sell more oil. He would mix cheap and bad oils with good oils so that he could sell cheaper than other oil merchants. Since the people in the village were poor, they would buy from him the most because he sold the cheapest oils.

Time after time, a soap-maker came to the village. He needed to buy oils to make soap. He came to this man's shop and said he wanted to buy the best quality oil. But the oil merchant gave him some of his fraudulent oils again. So he asked for a cheap price. After a few days, the soap-maker gave the oil merchant some soap as a gift because he had made a large profit.

When the oil merchant used these soaps for a while, he started to develop severe itching and skin diseases. When he went to the doctor, he found out that these problems were caused by the soap he had used. Then the oil merchant said to himself:

“Woe to the dishonest man who gave me bad soap! I will report him to the Kadi (Judge)! He will see the day!”

The oil merchant went to the Kadi, explained the situation and complained against the soap-maker. The Kadi then ordered all the soap-maker's goods to be collected and examined by experts. He said that whoever disregarded people's health would not go unpunished.



The soap maker's products were collected, examined and the result was conveyed to the Kadi. The day of the court came. The Kadi first looked at the document in his hand, then at the oil merchant and the soap-maker standing in front of him. Then he said:

“It is understood. The health of innocent people has been harmed by the use of fraudulent products. The person who did this will be punished immediately and banned from trading again!”

The soap-maker was very ashamed and embarrassed about what had happened. The oil merchant, on the other hand, was listening to the Kadi with a triumphant smile on his face, thinking that he had made the soap-maker punished. The judge continued his words:

“Immediately this oil merchant will be thrown into prison, all his goods will be confiscated and he will be forbidden to trade again! As for the soap-maker, he is free to go.”

The oil merchant was shocked by what he heard.

“But how can that be, sir? I am the one who has been victimized here, who has lost his health. He is the one who produced the product!”

“Yes, but you are the one who produced the fraudulent product, the oil that was put in the soap!” said the Kadi. Upon further investigation, it was found that only the soaps made with the oil bought from the oil seller were defective, and that the problem lay with the oil.

The oil seller, who thought he could get away with his greed and immorality, realized that he was wrong. He lost his health, his freedom, and his property. The soap-maker, who had always been honest, once again learned from this incident and continued on his way.

**Story Moral:** *Honesty is a very important virtue, both in personal life and professional life. Greed and dishonesty may bring short-term gains to someone, but in the long-run greedy and dishonest people will never get away with it and pay a hefty price.*