

Bahlul and the Hunting Dog

Persian Folk Story

One day Bahlul saw one of the Sultan's men. The man looked at Bahlul sarcastically and said, "Bahlul my dear, I have heard that you are acquainted with all types of dogs." Bahlul answered with a serious voice, "Yes, you have heard correctly. What do you command?" The man said, "I am very interested in hunting. Find me a nice hunting dog and bring it to me and I will give you a small tip." Bahlul said, "Of course sir."

The next day, Bahlul brought a large, fat dog to the man's house. The man was very surprised as he looked at the shape of the fat dog and he said to Bahlul, "What a strange dog you have brought me. I wanted a hunting dog and hunting dogs must be thin and fast, not fat and slow!" Bahlul answered calmly, "But sir, I am sure that a dog that lives in the house of a selfish man like you will be thin after just a few days!"

Translation by Larry Klein