

kCl »F í ' ' DĀ p Í BĪèF
(éŪî×Dµ ŪDovĀk)

Bahlul and the Judge of Baghdad

Folk Story

ōwīÆ pk .I ìvo kCl »F pèz éf ælo pv ok .P¾óí × éÇ× éf Modèq êĀF í ŪvĀph êkp×
éĪĀF p PzĀkpf ælo Uph êĀF lo DçéÇv qĀ êoCl Ā× .PzĀk æpØÇ éf oq êDçéÇv qĀpJ
.koĀk éËŪ pĀ êĀF PŪ×C ŪŪµ éf DN kpKv kCl »F í ' ' DĀ éf lo

A man from Khorassan was traveling to Mecca for hajj. He arrived at the doorstep of Baghdad. He had two bags full of gold coins. He took some of the gold to pay his travel expenses and entrusted the rest to the Judge of Baghdad to keep safe.

p P¾o kCl »F í ' ' DĀ ōŪh éf p Pĵ É qĀF kCl »F éf ,Cl h ōŪh éf Modèq qĀ × J kp× ŪA
éf éwīÆ pk pç éÆ I êk kpÆ qĀF lo DçéwīÆ ok p I ×A ŪppĪF í OĀp .P¾É × J lo DçéwīÆ
:PĵÉ p Pĵ É pf í ' ' DĀ ōŪh éf êoB¾ŪÇ pĀ!PvĀ Èĵ h êD×ph qĀpJ ,oq ōÇv êDV
êD×ph qĀpJ ōwīÆ pk BN D×C ŌkĀk BN éf oq êDçéÇv qĀpJ ōwīÆ pk Ý× !í ' ' DĀ êĀ
!êĀel ŪkpĒpf Ý× éf Èĵ h

After his pilgrimage to the house of God, the man returned to Baghdad and he went to the Judge of Baghdad's house and got his two bags back. When he went outside and opened the bags, he saw that both bags were full of dried dates instead of gold coins! He immediately returned to the Judge's house and said, "Ay Judge! I gave you two bags filled with gold coins, but you returned to me two bags filled with dried dates!"

ækopa Pvk éf pĒĒk I F êDèçlo p êkqk ælo qĀ lo DçéÇv BN ŪŪÆí × pç¾Ā :PĵÉ í ' ' DĀ
D×ph éf ðĒl GN lo PèDçéÇv ,æI z ÝĪÈØĵ h BN Pvk qĀCl h PèV ÝĒ éf p êkBF
!PvĀækpÆ

The Judge said, "I think that you stole the coins or got them from other devious means and for this reason God has changed them into dried dates!"

DN kCk oBovk y oDÆBÛ éF Ûç í ' 'DÂ Þ kpçÛ êcæI æD¾kpÆ oQpæC éZ pç í ÛvQph kp×
.PhCl ÛC ÛpPîF éÛh qC Co ÞC

However much the man (from Khorassan) insisted, it was of no use and the Judge had his servant toss him from the house.

Pîµ Þ I êk Co ÞC Í BîèF éÆ P¾óí × æCo onÊ ÚA ok ÚÓDÛ Þ PdCoDÛ í ÛvQph kp×
.kpÆ Àèp· N Í BîèF êQpF Co QpVÐ× òØç Ûç kp× ÚA Þ I ìvpJ ÞC qC Co y Cí OdcCoDÛ

Upset and crying, the man was wandering the area when Bahlul saw him and asked why he was so upset. The man explained all to Bahlul.

PæQpF ÛÛC3Ní × êoDÆ éZ ÛÛîGF DN DîF Ý× òÛh éF êqpo I ÛZ BNJ :P¿Ê ÞC éF Í BîèF
òÛh éF Þ I ìzBJ DGèq Þ BÛ Ç DGÎ Þ kopa ok Co y cæÛèÆ êDèvDGÎ , Í BîèF I · F qpo .ÛÛçF
éF éOwfQp kQp¾æ òØç Þ ÚCoKpv Þ pèqÞ Þ I ìzpÎÚpOðç ÐS× éÆ í ' 'DÂ .P¾ó í ' 'DÂ
æDËÛ Co Í BîèF HW· N DF PzCk êpJ Í k Í BîèF êDçpi wØN Þ DèÛFqÛhq qC , P×Bçd
!í ' 'DÂ] :P¿Ê êcæÛFkß× ÝeÎ DF Í BîèF .kBF æI èI ÛBÛ Ç DGÎ DF Co Í BîèF rÊpç ÞC .kpÆ
!ÛÛÆ ækD¿OvC DØZ òÛi FDOÆ qC ÛçQ3h í × Þ ÖcæI z ÐÂDµ pËèk Ý×

Bahlul said to him, "Come to my house for a few days to see what I can do for you. The next day Bahlul changed his old clothes for new, beautiful clothes (robes), and went to the Judge's house. The Judge, *[like most fair and just rulers, ambassadors, and gentlemen of the day, felt sorry for Bahlul's "teasing" and]* looked at Bahlul with surprise. He had never seen Bahlul with new clothes! With a respectable, polite voice Bahlul said, "Judge, I have become wise and I would like to use your library!"

í ìh kpÆ I çŒBi Ûôpi w× Œo pçpËæk þ Pvcæl z ÐÂÐµ Í Bìèf éÆ Ýèçqç í ``DÂ
ÝØ`` ok ,PvcDØz oðìohçok Ý× òŒi GOÆ ,Í Bìèf EDÜV I zDF] :PçÊ þ I z Í DezBh
.Üovpçf DØz Ç ÌJ Ðì¥eN êçpf Œo ÖpwJ þk ÛçŒBhí × Ý× I èçæl z ÐÂÐµ DØz éÆ Óðd

Because Bahlul had become wise [and because he would no longer be bothered by him], the Judge became very happy and said, "Of course Master Bahlul, my library is at your service! By the way, now that you have become wise, I would like to send my two sons to you to teach!"

þçþ I ÜÖ¼í × Í Bìèf òŒh éf í ``DÂ òìdv æk þ Pç ç pwJ þk ,qpo ÚA qçþ P¾penJ Í Bìèf
qç í aÈ òŒwW× Èè y çéŒh êoDçç ok Í Bìèf Dçqpo ÝìØç ok .kçkí × U ok DèŒA
þk I .F .PzçhÉí × í ``DÂ éŒwW× Ð»f ok Ðwµ qçþ] évdÆ þk qpo pç þ Phdv í ``DÂ
ok þ I ÜÖ¼í × í ``DÂ òŒwW× PØv éf þk ÚA þ kpÆí × êoDçç koŒ Œo U ph òaf
êDçéaf éÆ pè± qç I .F qpo Èè .I ŒkoBhí × Mní DF Œo Ðwµ þ I ÜÖwç; Úí × þç y B°ç
ok Œo þk pç þ P¾pÈ Œo DèŒA BìV Í Bìèf ,I Œþpf éŒh éf I ÜÖvŒBhí × qpo pç ÐS× í ``DÂ
.kpÆ í Œci Œq Ýì×q pèq

Bahlul agreed and from that day on, the two sons of the Judge, 8 and 10 years old, would go to Bahlul's house and he would teach them. At the same time, Bahlul built a plaster statue of the judge in his spare room and every day would place two bowls of honey next to it. Bahlul would have two baby bears enter the room and they would go to the statue of the Judge and sit next to him and eat the honey with joy. One day after lunch when the children wanted to go home as usual, Bahlul (lit. "got the front of them") grabbed them and (lit. "imprisoned") held them in his basement.

Í Bìèf òŒh éf Œo y pÆBÜ kBF æl z ÚçpËÜ Ç Œci Œq¾¼ÝØ; ÈqDF qç éÆ í ``DÂ þ I z Eþp°
òaf þk !ÝìGF] :PçÊ þç éf þ kçk ÚD; ŒpÆBÜ éf Œo DçU ph òaf Ûç Í Bìèf þ kDovp¾¼
éŒh éf þ æl z ÖDØN U ok ÛèBÈí × DèŒA éf éZ pç þ I ÜÖwç y BÈèqDF í ìh í ``DÂ
!! Œçkí ØÛ y BÈ I èkpËpf

The sun set and the Judge had become worried that his children had not returned. He sent his servant to Bahlul's house and Bahlul showed him the two little bears and said, "Look, the Judge's two sons are very mischievous and however much I tell them the lesson is done and they must return home, they don't listen!"

ÚcoBxDx I . F í OmDv . P;Ê pC éf Co 'B''Bx p P; Êpf í ''DÂ oŰh éf Mpìd DF pÆBŰ
qC í ''DÂ ÚBZ , I ÚkpF I ìzplŰpDç gDÆ éf p I ŰO³pÊ Co pC p I ŰI xA Í BÏèf oŰh éf í ''DÂ
Ű Oi N êpo éÆ í ÎDd ok I ìzplŰpDç . kBF ækpÆ PèDÇz ÚpDç éf Í BÏèf Pvk
? I ŰOwç DWÆ í ''DÂ êDçéaf : I ìvpj Í BÏèf qC kBF éow; Ű

Astonished, the servant returned to the Judge's house and he told him what had happened. The Judges officials went to Bahlul's house, grabbed him, and because the Judge had complained, they took him to the King. The King sat on his throne and asked Bahlul, "Where are the Judge's children?"

oBovk ŰDŰcoBxDx éf I ìŰÆí ŰŰ opDF pÊC , I ŰæI z DèI GN Ű ph ōaf pk éf DèŰ : kCk j vDj Í BÏèf
p I ŰvDŰ; F Co pC , ŰDzoi J ŰI êk DF DèŰ Űçkí x Í BÂ , I ŰopDIF Co Dç Ű ph ōaf p I Űppf I ìç I F
!! Űppf pC êBvéf

Bahlul answered, "They have changed into two baby bears! If you don't believe it, order your guards to bring them here. I promise that when they see their father, they will recognize him and go to him!"

ÚpDç gDÆ éf Dç Ű ph éaf p I ŰO%o Í BÏèf oŰh éf ÚcoBxDx p I ÚkpÆ Mpìd í ìh éØç
Èè I ŰŰÇF gDÆ ok Úq''Dd éØç ŰA éf í èVBN éÇŰèC ŰpI F Ű ph éaf pk . I Úkopa
éÆ Co í ''DÂ oŰwWx qpo pç ÚBZ !! ŰOw; Ű pC y Bª ok p I ŰI êpk í ''DÂ êBvéf Pvk
í ''DÂ . I ŰohDŰzÍ x í FBhéf Co í ''DÂ ôpèZ p I ŰI êkí x kBF pC y Bª ok Dwp ōvDÆ pk
éaf pk éf Űka ōaf pk Pvc YÇØx oB- éZ : kq kCk p kpÆ Í BÏèf éf po æI z YîÈŰ; h
? I ŰBz DèI GN Ű ph

Everyone was amazed. The guards went to Bahlul's house and brought the

bears to the King's castle. Without any awareness of the others in the castle, they ran right to the Judge (and very well recognized his face). The Judge became angry, turned to face Bahlul and yelled, "How is it possible that two children can change into two baby bears?"

ÚDèÊDÛ í ÚvÇph êkp× oq qÇpj òwìÆ pk éÆ êpèz ok :kÇk j vDj Ì Úokí F Í BìèF
Uph éaf pkéf í ÚvA éf Úç Öka éaf pk kBj F È j h êD×ph òwìÆ pk éf Ðèl GN
!! Úçkí × ÐÇz pìì»N

Bahlul answered without delay, "In a city where two bags filled with gold belonging to a man from Khorassan can suddenly change into two bags of dried dates, two children can with ease turn into the shape of two bears!"

í ``DÂ PÙih þ êkqk éVBO× Úç ÚÇp``Dd òØç þ I ìØè¾Ç ÷ B``B× ÚDèÊDÛ í ``DÂ
.I ÒI z

The Judge suddenly realized the situation (lit.) and all the spectators understood the thievery and crime of the Judge.

kp×éf !Í BìèF êkpÆ æoDaìf Çp× :kq kÇk Pvcæl z Çvvo pÈèk I ìØè¾Æ í ``DÂ
.kpìÈF Ç ÎD× þ I èDìF BÈF í ÚvÇph

The Judge realized he had been disgraced and yelled, "You got me Bahlul! Tell the man from Khorassan to come and get his coins back!"

oB· zDf þ ÐÂDµ í Ììh BN!Í BìèF Ýèp¾A :PjÊ êl Òi Gî Df þ kpÆ Í BìèFéf þo Úç ÚÇpDç
!Í Owç

The King turned to Bahlul and said with a smile, "Well done Bahlul, you are very wise and intelligent!"