

# MORAL STORIES FOR YOUNG MUSLIMS

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**14 Inspiring stories**

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**VOLUME 1**



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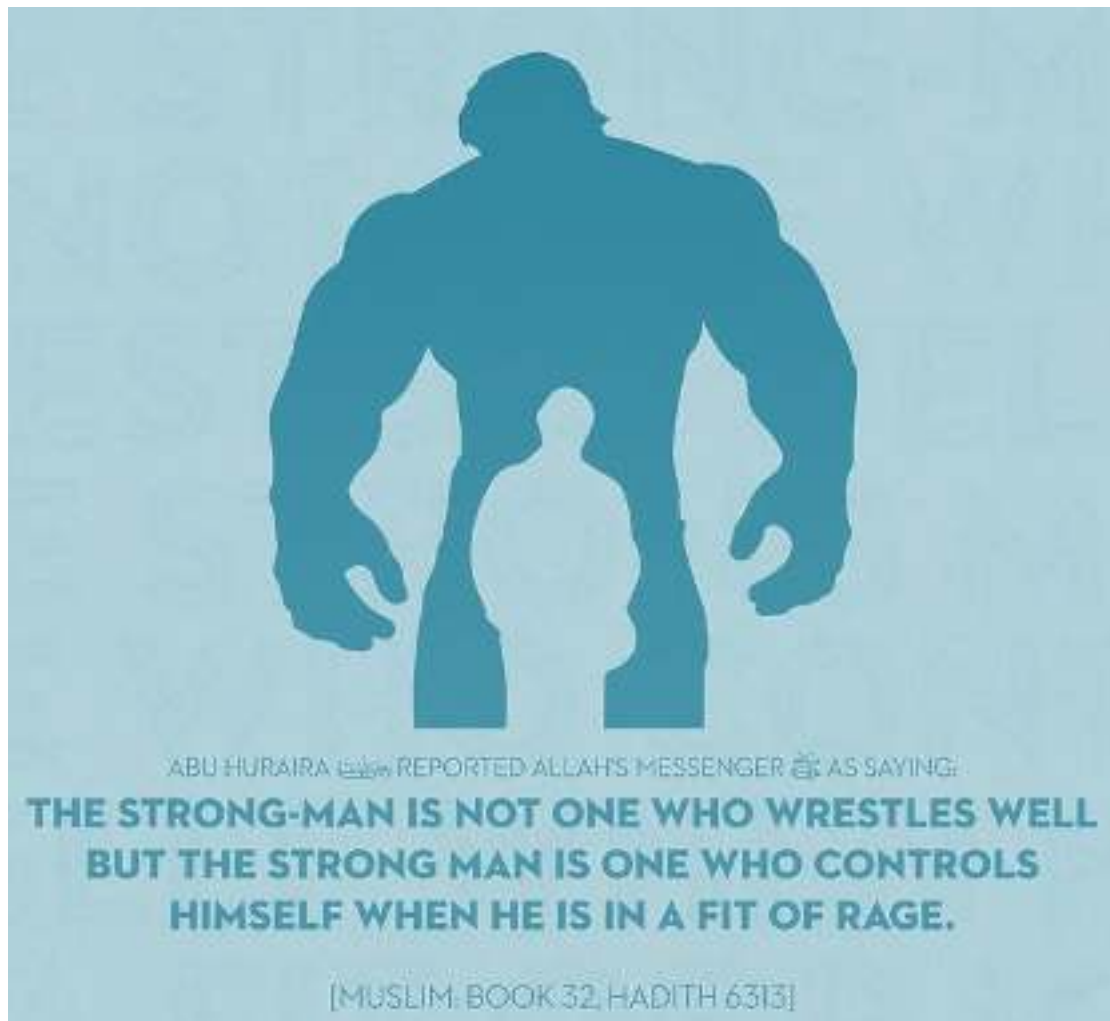
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## RESPOND EVIL WITH GOOD

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Mahmud was a very pious man, but he was not very attractive looking. One day, he was walking along the road, minding his own business, when a young man came up to him, and started abusing and calling him names. This man kept saying all kinds of nasty things, and Mahmud just listened to him patiently. Finally, when he was finished calling him names and abusing, Mahmud just greeted him, smiled, and said: "And a nice day to you!"

Saying this, Mahmud continued on his way.

Why did Mahmud, the pious man, behave this way?

It is because he knew that everything that young man said was just a reflection of his own inner self. The best way to deal with such people is to ignore them as there is no benefit in arguing with the unmannered.

If you also start using bad words in return, the conflict would only increase, you will develop stress and your whole day would get ruined.





## REMEMBER

“

**AND THE SERVANTS OF (ALLAH)  
MOST GRACIOUS ARE THOSE WHO  
WALK ON THE EARTH IN HUMILITY,  
AND WHEN THE IGNORANT ADDRESS  
THEM, THEY SAY, "PEACE!"**

(Quran – 25:63)

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## THE SHEPHERD

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Once upon a time, there lived in Basra an old man. He spent all his life taking care of his child till he became a strong young boy. The old man gathered all his money and decided to spend it on his son's education. The young boy went to a university to study under great scholars of that time and gain a qualification.

The day had finally arrived for the son to return from his studies. The old man put a chair in front of house and started to wait.



When the son came and met his father, the old man looked into his eyes and found an arrogance and proud person in him.

"What have you learnt my son?" he asked.

"I have learnt everything that was there to be learnt, father", he said.

"But have you learnt what cannot be taught?" asked the father. "Go, my son and learn what cannot be taught", said the old man.

The young man asked his father about how to learn what cannot be taught.

"Go away to the mountains with these four hundred sheep and come back when they are one thousand", said the father.

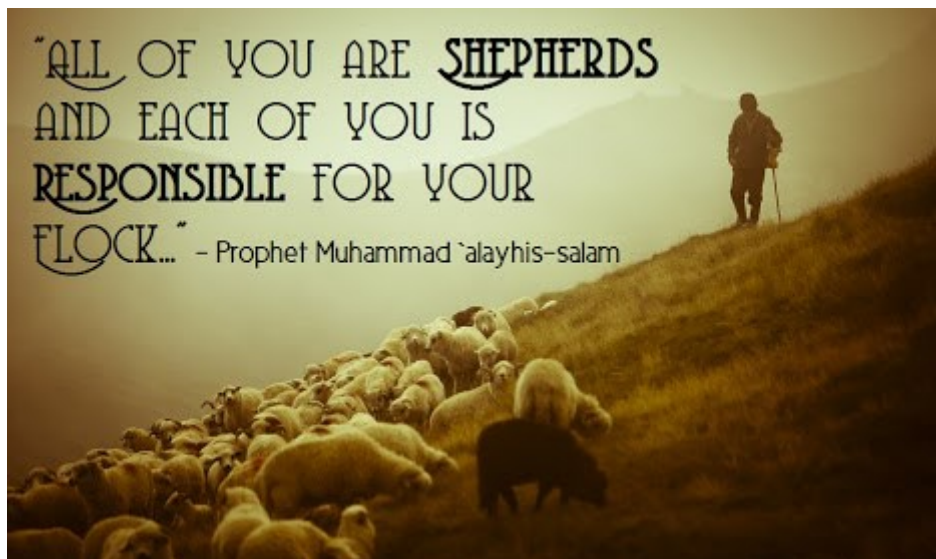
The young man went to the mountains and became a shepherd. This was for the first time that he encountered a silence. He had no one to talk to. The sheep did not understand his language. In his desperation, he would talk to them but they would not respond. Slowly he began to forget all his worldly knowledge, his ego and his pride.

He developed a habit of taking care of his sheep. He used to locate good pastures for them and take them there to feed. When some sheep tried to go astray, he used to bring them back to herd. He tried his best to protect his herd from dangers and kept them away from locations where lions could attack them.



Gradually, he became quite like the sheep. This allowed him more time to think and observe the beautiful world built around him. With this observation and deep thought, great wisdom and humility came to him.

At the end of two years when the number of sheep had grown to one thousand, he returned to his father and fell on his feet. Father could see humility and humbleness in his eyes. "Now you have learnt what cannot be taught," said the old man.





## ALL PROPHETS WERE SHEPHERDS

NARRATED BY AMER BIN ABDULLAH

WE WERE WITH ALLAH' S APOSTLE PICKING THE FRUITS OF  
THE ARAK TREES, AND ALLAH' S APOSTLE - PEACE AND  
BLESSINGS OF ALLAH BE TO HIM - SAID, "PICK THE BLACK  
LEAF, FOR IT IS THE BEST." THE COMPANIONS ASKED,  
"WERE YOU A SHEPHERD?" HE REPLIED, "THERE WERE NO  
PROPHET WHO WERE NOT A SHEPHERD"

(*Sahih Bukhari*, Chapter 'Prophets', Volume 4, Book 55,  
Hadith 618)

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## WHY DO WE SEE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES?

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A man was gardening his lawn when he found a cocoon of a butterfly. He used to look at it every day and look for any changes. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then suddenly it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further.

So the man decided to help the poor butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small shrivelled wings.



The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge

and expand to be able to support the body (which was expected to contract over time).

Neither of this happened!

In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shrivelled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man did not understand , in his kindness and haste, was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were Allah's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.



**DON'T FORGET!**

Next time when you face a problem or a difficulty, remember...

*Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives!*

If Allah allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never "fly"!

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I asked for Strength...

*And Allah gave me Difficulties to make me strong.*

I asked for Wisdom...

*And Allah gave me Problems to solve.*

I asked for Prosperity...

*And Allah gave me Brain and Brawn to work.*

I asked for Courage...

*And Allah gave me Danger to overcome.*

I asked for Love...

*And Allah gave me troubled people to help.*

I asked for Favours...

*And Allah gave me Opportunities.*

I received nothing I wanted ...

*I received everything I needed!*

All that comes our way is for a reason.

"So blessed be Allah, the best of creators!"



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## A 10-YEAR OLD SCHOLAR

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*(This is a true story presented with slight adjustments)*

There was once a man who was an enemy to Islam. He had three famous questions that no person could answer. No Islamic scholar in Baghdad could answer his three questions and thus he made fun of Islam in public, constantly ridiculing Islam and the Muslims.

One day a small boy, who's age was around 10, came along and heard the man yelling and screaming at Muslims in the street. He was challenging people openly to answer his three questions.

The boy stood quietly and watched. He then decided that he would challenge the man. He walked up and told the man, "I will accept your challenge".



The man laughed at the boy and ridiculed the Muslims even more by saying, "A ten year old boy challenges me. Is this all you people have to offer!"

But the boy patiently reiterated his stance. He

would challenge the man, and with Allah's help and guidance, he would put this to an end. The man finally accepted.

The entire city gathered around a small "hill" where open addresses were usually made. The man climbed to the top, and in a loud voice asked his first question.

"What is your God doing right now?"

The small boy thought for a little while and then told the man to climb down the hill and to allow him to go up in order to address the question.

The man says "What? You want me to come down?"

The boy says, "Yes. I need to reply, right?"

The man made his way down and the small boy, age 10, with his little feet made his way up.

This small child's reply was "Oh Allah Almighty! You be my witness in front of all these people. You have just willed that a Kafir be brought down to a low level, and that a Muslim be brought to a high level!"

The crowd cheered and screamed "Takbir"...."Allah-hu-akbar!!!"

The man was humiliated, but he boldly asked his Second question... "What existed before your God?"

The small child thought and thought.

Then he asked the man to count backwards. "Count from 10 backwards."

The man counted..."10, 9 ,8 , 7 , 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1,0"

The boy asked, "What comes before 1 ?"

The man: "Zero.. There is nothing before 1"

The boy: "Exactly. There is nothing before Al-Wahid – ONE true God."

The crowd cheered again...."Takbir!"...."Allah-hu-akbar!!!!"



The man, now completely frustrated, asked his final question. "In which direction is your Allah facing?"

The boy thought and thought.

He then asked for a candle. A candle was brought to him.

The blessed child handed it to the man and asked him to light it.

The man did so and remarked, "What is this supposed to prove?"



The young boy asked, "In which direction is light from the candle going?"

The man responded, "It is going in all directions."

The boy: "You have answered your own question. Allah`s light (noor) goes in all directions. He is everywhere. There is nowhere that He cannot be found.

"The crowd cheered again...."Takbir!"...."Allah-hu-akbar!!!"

The man was so impressed and so moved by the boy`s knowledge and spirituality, that he embraced Islam and became a student of the young boy.

So this ended the debate.

Who was the young boy?

The young boy was one of the great Muslim scholars of all time - Imam Abu Hanîfa (May Allah bless him).

# MY PRAYERS ARE NOT ANSWERED!





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## IBRAHIM IBN ADHAM (RA) GIVING ADVICE AGAINST DISOBEDIENCE

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A man used to sin a lot, once came to the righteous Imam, Ibrahim bin Adham, may Allah be pleased with him, and said, "O Abu Ishaq, I am unable to control myself (from sinning). Please give me something to help me with it"



"If you accept five conditions," said the noble Imam Ibrahim, "and are able to put them into practice, your disobedience will not cause you any problem."

"Just tell me what they are, Abu Ishaq!" the man said.

"The first is that:

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WHEN YOU WANT TO DISOBEY  
ALLAH YOU DO NOT EAT  
ANYTHING HE PROVIDES."

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"Then how will I get anything to eat? Everything on the earth is from Him!" "Is it right to eat from His provision and disobey Him at the same time?" replied Ibrahim.



"No, it is not. What is the second condition?"

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"WHEN YOU WANT TO DISOBEY  
HIM, MOVE OFF HIS LAND."

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"That is even more difficult! Exclaimed the man. "In that case where will I live?"

"Is it right to eat his provision and live on His land and then to disobey Him?" asked Ibrahim.



"No, it is not."

"What is the third condition?"

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"WHEN YOU WANT TO DISOBEY HIM IN SPITE OF EATING HIS PROVISION AND LIVING ON HIS LAND, FIND A PLACE WHERE HE WILL NOT SEE YOU AND DISOBEY HIM THERE."

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"What do you mean, Ibrahim? He knows everything that happens even in the most hidden places!"

"So is it right to disobey Him when you eat His provision and live on His land and when you know that He can see everything you do?"



"It certainly is not!" the man replied.

"Tell me the fourth condition."

"That when the Angel of Death arrives to take your soul, you say to him, 'Give me a reprieve so that I can repent and act righteously for Allah.'"

4<sup>th</sup> Advice :



"But he won't listen to me!" "Then if you cannot ward off death long enough to give yourself time to repent, and you know that when it comes there will be no reprieve, how can you hope to be saved?"

"What is the fifth?" "That when the angels of the Fire come to you to take you to the Fire, you do not go with them." "They will take me whether I like it or not!" exclaimed the man.



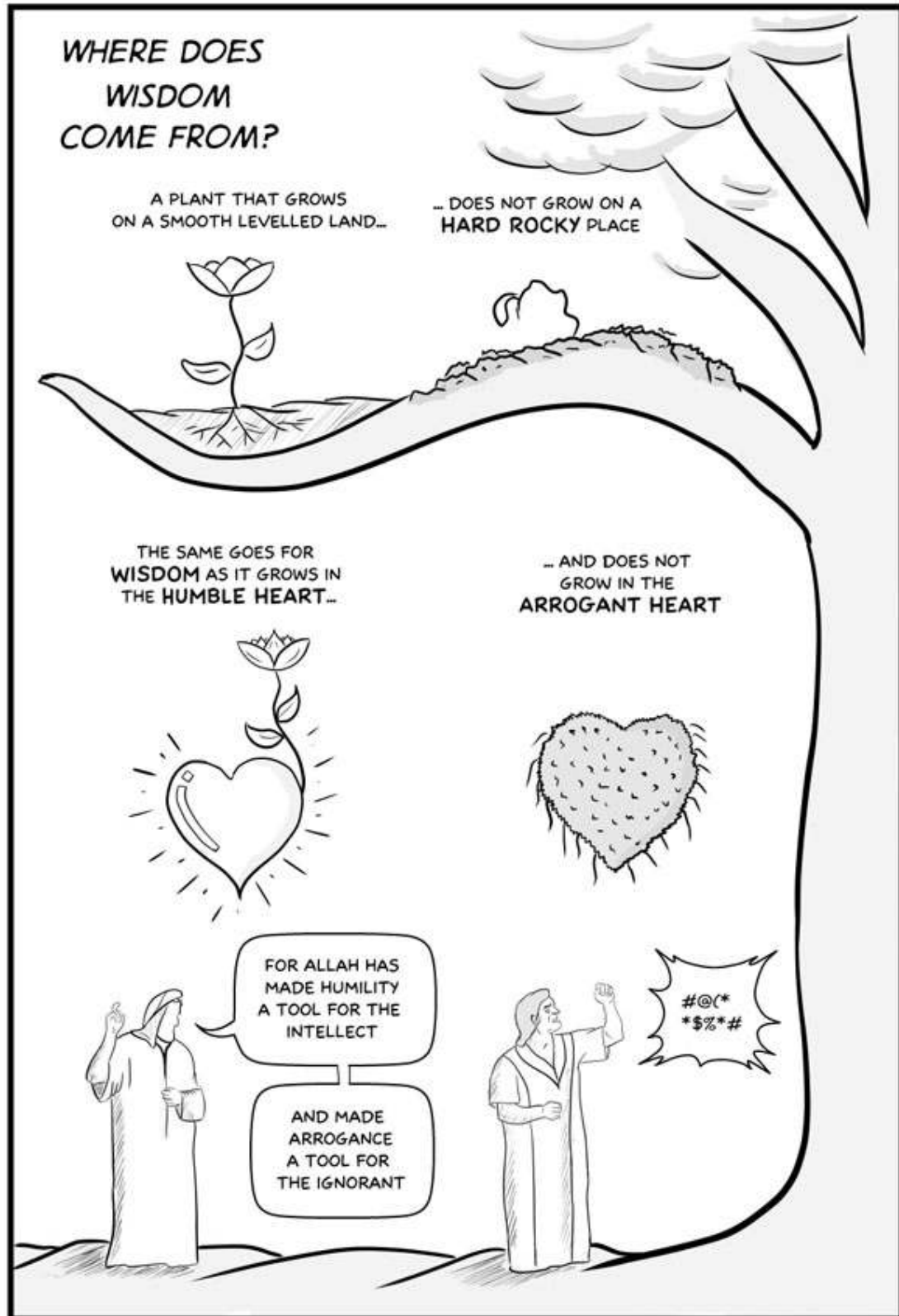
"So how can you hope to be saved?"

"Enough, enough, Ibrahim! I ask Allah's forgiveness and I turn to Him!"

The man's repentance was sincere and from that time on he was assiduous in his worship and avoided acts of disobedience until the day he died.



# WHERE DOES HUMILITY COME FROM



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## THE STORY OF ABU HANIFA (RADI ALLAHU 'ANHU), AND HIS NEIGHBOR

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It is well known that Imam Abu Hanifa, may Allah be pleased with him, offered tahajjut (night prayer) every night. He would spend most of his night reciting the Quran. He had a neighbour who was an alcoholic and used to drink a lot and sing romantic poems. This used to bother the imam.

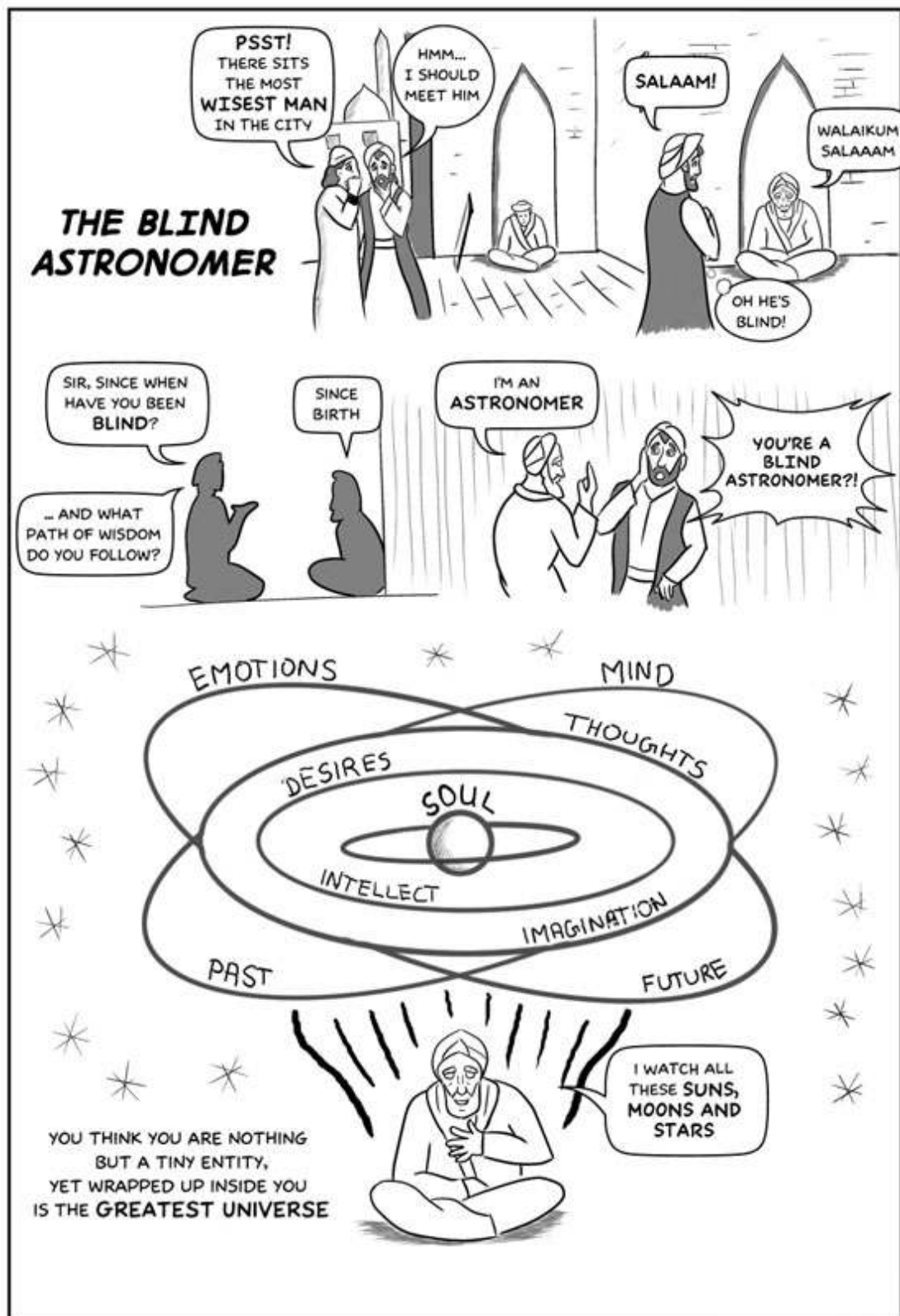
One day, the imam did not hear this man's revelry (partying), so he went and asked about him. People told the noble Imam that the man had been put in jail. So, the very well respected imam went to the jail. He was the most respected imam and Qadhi (judge) at the time. When the ruler found out the imam went to the jail himself, he asked for the reason and was told that the imam was concerned about his neighbour who had been arrested. So, the ruler said to release the man.

The neighbour, now released, asked Abu Hanifa why he did that. He replied, "Because you have a right upon me as a neighbour, and I have not been neglectful of that."

The man impressed by the high nobility and character of respected Imam repented to Allah and decided to change his life.

It is our responsibility to take good care of our neighbours even if we do not like them for any reason.

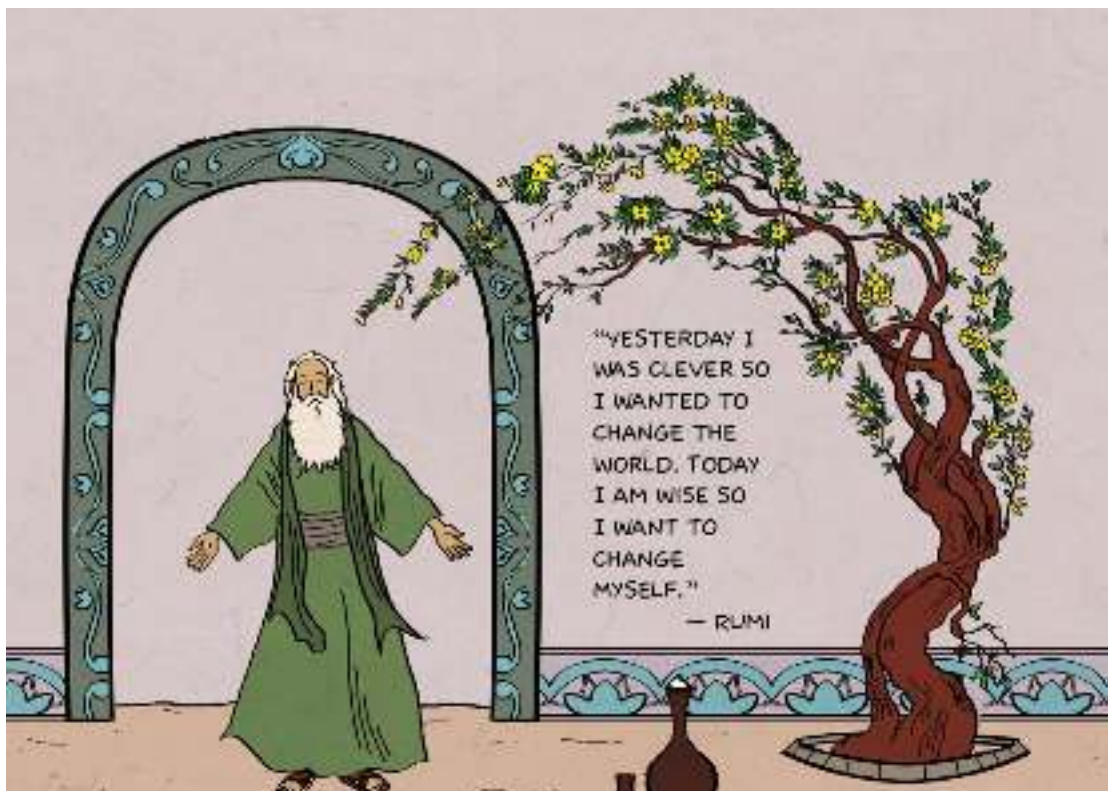
# THE BLIND ASTRONOMER



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## RUMI SAYS...

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## THE LOST RING

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Once, a young man lost his ring. So he set out to search for it under the street light.

Others came to help and joined him in his search.

Finally when asked if he was certain he had dropped it in this spot, he said,

"No, I lost it there," and pointed to his house.

The others asked incredulously:

"Then why are you looking for it here?"

Young man said, while trying to look clever:

"Because it is dark where I lost it, and it is light out here!"

One of the persons that joined him in search exclaimed: "If your ring is not here then why are you trying to find it here. Go and find it where it really is".

A sheikh looking at all this activity addressed the crowd and said:

"Our success lies in the hereafter. It is not in the worldly matters where you are searching it. Focus yourself on the here-after! That is where you can find it. Otherwise, you will spend your lives searching for it in dunya and leave empty handed!"



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## THE TRIPLE FILTER TEST

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During the golden Abbasid period, one of the scholars in Baghdad, the capital of Muslim caliphate at that time, was reputed to hold knowledge in high esteem.

One day an acquaintance met the great scholar and said, "Do you know what I just heard about your friend?"



"Hold on a minute," the scholar replied. "Before telling me anything I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."

"Triple filter?"

"That's right," the scholar continued. "Before you talk to me about my friend it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you're going to say."

That's why I call it the triple filter test.

The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it and.."

"All right," said the scholar. "So you don't really know if it's true or not."

Now let's try the second filter, the filter of goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good?"

"No, on the contrary..."

"So," the scholar continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him, but you're not certain it's true. You may still pass the test though, because there's one filter left: the filter of usefulness.

Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really."

"Well," concluded the scholar, "if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?"

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"O YE WHO BELIEVE! LET NOT  
SOME MEN AMONG YOU LAUGH  
AT OTHERS: IT MAY BE THAT  
THE (LATTER) ARE BETTER THAN  
THE (FORMER)" ... (TO END OF  
SURAH) HAJURAT 49.12

"AND SPY NOT ON EACH OTHER  
BEHIND THEIR BACKS..." (TO END  
OF SURAH) HAJURAT 49.13

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Praise be to Allah that we are Muslims!

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## EIGHT THINGS TO LEARN

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One time a scholar asked one of his students, "You have spent a long time with me, what have you learned?"

He said I learned eight things:

First, I looked to the creation. Everyone has a loved one. When he goes to the grave, he leaves his loved one. Therefore, I made my loved one my good deeds; that way, they will be with me in the grave.



Second, I looked to the verse, "But as for him who feared to stand before his Lord and restrained his soul from lust," therefore, I struggled against my desires so I could stay obeying Allah.

Third, I saw that if anyone has something with him that is worth something, he will protect it. Then I thought about the verse, "That which you have is wasted away; and that which is with Allah remains," therefore, everything worth something with me I devoted to Him so it would be with Him for me.

Fourth, I saw the people seeking wealth, honor and positions and it was not worth anything to me. Then I thought about Allah's words, "Lo, the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most aware of Allah, so I did my best to become aware of Allah in order to gain nobility in his sight.

Fifth, I saw the people being jealous towards each other and I looked at the verse, "We have apportioned among them their livelihood in the life of the world", so I left jealousy.

Sixth, I saw the people having enmity and I thought about the verse, "Lo, the devil is an enemy for you, so take him as an enemy", so I left enmity and I took the Satan as my only enemy.

Seventh, I saw them debasing themselves in search of sustenance and I thought about the verse, "And there is not a beast in the earth but the sustenance thereof depends on Allah", so I kept myself busy with my responsibilities toward Him and I left my property with Him.

Eighth, I found them relying on their business, buildings and health and I thought about the verse, "And whosoever puts his trust in Allah, He will suffice him", therefore, I put my trust only on Allah.

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## SHARPEN THE SAW

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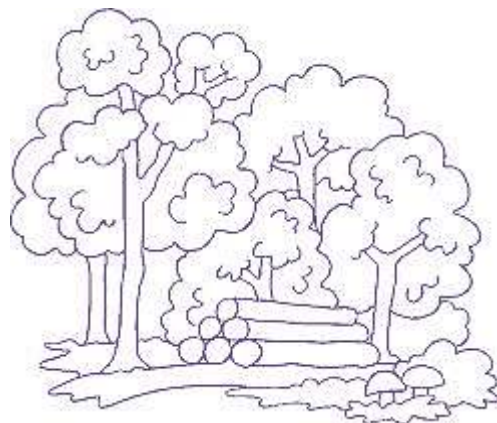
Once upon a time a very strong woodcutter asked for a job in a timber merchant, and he got it. The pay was really good and so were the work conditions. For those reasons, the woodcutter was determined to do his best.

His boss gave him an axe and showed him the area where he was supposed to work. The first day, the woodcutter brought back 18 trees.



“Congratulations,” the boss said. “Go on that way!”

Very motivated for the boss’ words, the woodcutter would try harder the next day, but he only could bring 15 trees back. The third day, he tried even harder, but he only could bring 10 trees.



With every passing day, he was bringing less and less trees.

“I must be losing my strength”, the woodcutter thought. He went to the boss and apologized, saying that he could not understand what was going on.

“When was the last time you sharpened your axe?” the boss asked.

“Sharpen? I had no time to sharpen my axe. I have been very busy trying to cut trees.”

Our lives are like that. axeWe sometimes get so busy that we don't take time to sharpen the axe i.e. our skills. With the passage of time, our skills start to fade and we are no longer able to deliver same results.

We should therefore continue to learn more and more new things and find ways to effectively persist with our good habits.