Was Dimitri right to apologize to his neighbour?

Why not?

Mary and her husband Dimitri lived in the tiny village of Perachora in southern Greece.

One of Mary's prize possessions was a little white lamb which her husband had given her.

She kept it tied to a tree in a field during the day and went to fetch it every evening.

One evening, however, the lamb was missing.

The rope had been cut, so it was obvious that the lamb had been stolen.

When Dimitri came in from the fields, his wife told him what had happened.

Dimitri at once set out to find the thief.

He knew it would not prove difficult in such a small village.

After telling several of his friends about the theft, Dimitri found out that his neighbour, Aleko, had suddenly acquired a new lamb.

Dimitri immediately went to Aleko's house and angrily accused him of stealing the lamb.

He told him he had better return it or he would call the police.

Aleko denied taking it and led Dimitri into his backyard.

It was true that he had just bought a lamb, he explained, but his lamb was black.

Ashamed of having acted so rashly, Dimitri apologized to Aleko for having accused him.

While they were talking, it began to rain and Dimitri stayed in Aleko's house until the rain stopped.

When he went outside half an hour later, he was astonished to find that the little black lamb was almost white.

Its wool, which had been dyed black, had been washed clean by the rain!

When Dimitri came home, Mary told him that her white lamb had been stolen.

On learning that his neighbour, Aleko, had acquired a lamb, Dimitri went to Aleko's house and accused him of stealing it.

When Aleko showed his lamb, Dimitri saw it was black, so he apologized.

After staying in Aleko's house for a while because it had begun to rain, Dimitri got a surprise outside when he found the lamb was almost white.

It had been dyed black!

Dimitri was surprised to find that the lamb had turned white.

He took a close look at it and recognized it as his own.

This discovery immediately led to an angry scene between Dimitri and Aleko.

Dimitri repeated his accusation that Aleko had stolen the lamb, but Aleko still denied any theft.

During the violent argument, Dimitri said the rain had proved that the lamb had been dyed black and he recognized it immediately as the one he had given to his wife.

When Aleko finally admitted he had stolen the lamb, Dimitri called the police.

Aleko was arrested and Dimitri took his lamb home.

The story caused a lot of excitement in the village.

The villagers didn't often have the opportunity to talk about such an important event and they were greatly amused by what had happened.

Some thought Aleko had been very clever.

Others thought he had been extremely stupid.

Others said God had sent the rain to punish Aleko for his crime and to prove he was a thief. They discussed the event at great length for a long time, as there wasn't much else to talk about in a village where nothing much ever happened.

We continued to ask questions about what had happened.

We continued asking questions about what had happened.

Let's go swimming this afternoon.

This shirt needs ironing.

Excuse my asking, but how much did you pay for those shoes?

It would be advisable for you to leave now.

You had better leave now.

It would not be advisable for you to telephone him.

You had better not telephone him.

It would be advisable for us to have lunch.

It would be advisable for her to renew her passport.

It would not be advisable for you to ask so many questions.

It would not be advisable for us to stay any longer.

It would be advisable for the children to get an early night.

It would be advisable for me to consult my solicitor.

We'd better have lunch.

She'd better renew her passport.

You'd better not ask so many questions.

We'd better not stay any longer.

The children had better get an early night.

I'd better consult my solicitor.

Every evening, Mary used to go and bring her lamb back home for the night.

It would not be difficult to find the thief because news travels fast in a small community.

When Aleko first showed Dimitri the lamb in his backyard, Dimitri admitted that the lamb could not be his wife's.

Mary and her husband Dimitri lived in Perachora, a tiny village in southern Greece.

On her husband's return, Mary told him what had happened.

It would not prove difficult in a village of so small a size.

He told him if he did not return it, he would call the police.

During their conversation, it began to rain.