



Islamic Moral Stories

Personal Project 2017-18

ABSTRACT

Understand to preserve national heritage through moral stories and learn to practice the ethics among different cultures

Nasser Essa

MYP Personal Project

Table of Contents

Lessons of life.....	2
Story of two frogs.....	3
<i>The man who made a promise to tell the truth</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>The power of "Istighfar"</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>The mice and elephant</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Honest woodcutter</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Lion and the slave</i>	<i>8</i>

Lesson on life

A man had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge anything too quickly. So he sent them each on a mission, in turns to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter season

The second in the spring season

The third in the summer season

And the youngest in the fall time.

When they had all visited and returned back, the man asked his sons to describe the pear tree.

The first son said 'the tree was ugly, bent and twisted

The second son said 'no, it was covered with green buds and full of promise

The third son disagreed on his brothers and said' it was laden with blossoms with sweet smell and looked so beautiful'

The last one the youngest son disagreed with all of them and said, 'the tree was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfilment

The man then told his sons that they were all right, because each one saw the tree in one season only. He told them that they cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season. The essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy and love that come from the life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

If you give up with one season, you will miss the promise of spring, the beauty of summer and fulfilment of your fall. He told them not to let pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest.

Moral: Don't judge life by one difficult season, endure through difficult patches and better times are sure to come later.



Tale of two frogs



A group of frogs were hopping happily through the woods, when two of them fell into a deep pit. All of the other frogs gathered around the pit to see what could be done to help their buddies. When they saw how deep the pit was, the rest of the group agreed that it was hopeless to try and told the two frogs in the pit that they should be ready for their fate, because they were as good as dead.

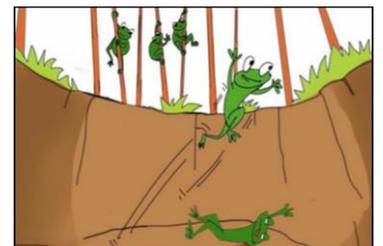
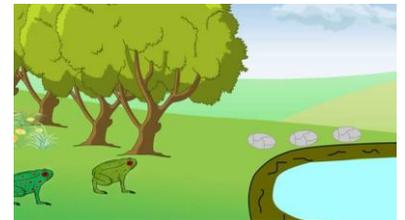
Unwilling to accept this terrible fate, the two frogs began to jump with all of their might. Some of the frogs shouted into the pit that it was hopeless, and that the two frogs wouldn't be in that situation if they had been more careful, and more responsible, few frogs shouted that they should save their energy and give up but the two frogs continued jumping as hard as they could for several hours.

The two frogs became weary and tired of unsuccessful attempts, finally one of the frogs agreed with his buddies, disheartened quietly accepted the fate, went down at the bottom of the pit and died. The other frog continued to jump with all the energy he had, although he was exhausted and his body ached.

His buddies began yelling to accept his fate, but the tired frog jumped harder and harder and wonder of wonders! Finally leapt so high that he sprang from the pit. Amazed, the other frogs his buddies gathered around him and asked, "Why did you continue to jump when we said it is impossible? Reading from their lips, the surprised frog told them that he was deaf, and when he saw their gestures, he thought they were cheering him on. So he though they were encouraging him to try harder and to succeed against all difficulties.



Moral: Encouraging words can lift someone up and help make it through, destructive words can cause deep wounds.



The man who made a promise to tell the truth

Once there was a man he had a habit of doing bad things. He was a liar, thief and disobedient person. Nothing good was happening in his life. He got sad, so he decided to become a better person.

He went to Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) and asked that "Oh prophet of Allah, I have lots of bad habits. Which one of them should I give up first?" Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said don't be upset. Just try to avoid lying and always speak the truth. He promised to tell truth afterwards and went home.

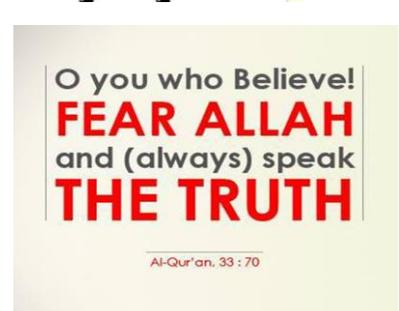
At night, he was planning to go out to steal. Suddenly, he remembered the promise he had made with the Prophet of Allah about speaking truth. He thought, if tomorrow he will ask me how did you spend your day? Shall I say I went out for stealing? It will make a bad impression on him. So thinking this he decided to stay home. He gave up this bad practise.

Next day, he felt like drinking wine, when he was about to go he thought, if Prophet (P.B.U.H) ask him what did you do the whole day? Shall I say I went to drink wine? Being a Muslim, it is not allowed for me to taste wine. He also could not lie to Prophet of Allah because he had made a promise. So, he quit the habit of drinking wine.

That way, whenever he had a thought of doing something bad he recalled the promise given to Prophet (P.B.U.H) that always speak the truth. In this way gradually, he stopped all the bad habits and became a good person.

Moral:

If you always speak the truth, you can be a good person, a good Muslim whom Allah likes and favours.



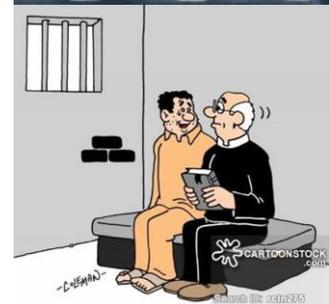
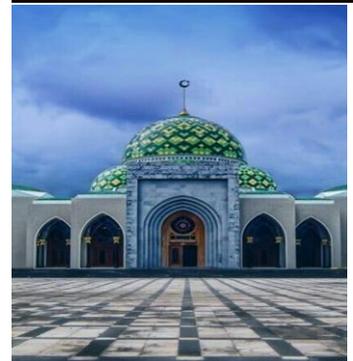
The power of "Istighfar"

Imam Ahmed Bin Hanbal is considered as one of the famous scholars of Islam. Once he was travelling somewhere. On the way, it got dark, so he decided to stop for rest there. Nearby, there was a mosque. He entered the mosque, offered prayer. He was supposed to stay in the mosque yard because he didn't know anyone in the town. He neither introduced himself to anyone in the town because he thought if he does, he would be welcomed by many people.

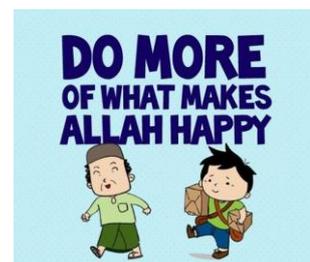
After a while, care taker of the mosque came, and he refused to let him stay in the mosque. He didn't even recognize, Imam Ahmed Bin Hambal. As Imam Ahmed was quite old, the caretaker had to drag him out of the mosque. On seeing this, a baker from a nearby place felt pity for this man (Imam Ahmed) and offered him to stay at his house for one night. Imam accepted this offer. He took the Imam to his home. During his stay the Imam observed that baker has a habit of reciting Istighfar (seek forgiveness from Allah). Rather than talking uselessly he kept on reciting Istighfar. At last Imam Ahmad Bin Hambal asked the baker if the constant practice of saying Istighfar had any effect on him? The baker smiled and replied with the power of Istagfaar all his Prayers has been accepted except one. Imam asked curiously, and what is that Prayer that is not accepted? He responded that he had been requesting Allah to provide him the honour to meet the renowned scholar Imam Ahmed bin Hanbal.

On this Imam Ahmed replied that Allah has not only listened your Dua but also made a consequence for me to come to your (bakers) doorstep.

Moral: Istaghfaar opens the door of mercy.



"NO, I DIDN'T GET A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON, BUT I GOT SOMETHING BETTER. GOD HAS FORGIVEN ME!"



The Mice and the Elephant

Once upon a time there was a colony of mice. They always afraid of the elephants because whenever the elephants walk through the mice's land with their huge feet many mice were harmed.

One day mice king got an idea and he went to the elephant king and requested, 'if you spare our lives then we will help you in the time of need. The elephant king put mercy on them and he agreed. He ordered the elephant to be careful and never step on a single mouse.'

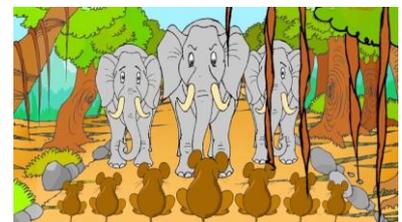
From that day, elephant started paying attention whenever they had to pass from the mice land. They lifted their huge legs carefully and always tried not to harm the tiny friends. They announced a warning while walking that 'we are walking, we are walking'.

One day, elephant trappers came into the forest. They were searching many elephants for the human's king soldier to ride into a battle. Day by day more elephants were trapped in their rope.

The elephant king was very sad. Then he remembered the promise of the mice. He went to his little friend mice king and told him the whole story. Mice king went back to his land and gathered all the mice. Thousands and thousands of mice collected and decided to help their elephant friends.

The mice formed into little groups. Each group gnawed the ropes of a single trap with their sharp tiny teeth. By next morning, all the elephants were free. By seeing this, angry trappers left the forest.

Moral: If you help others, then they will also help you.





once a poor wood cutter was working on the tree along with with riverside. Accidentally dropped his axe into the river. He was very upset, as he had no money to buy another axe. Just then a fairy appeared in the river holding out a golden axe to him. "I found this axe in the river. Is this yours?"

Woodcutter replied, No this is not mine. He did not lie to the fairy. The fairy then found out a silver axe from the river. The woodcutter denied this one too. Finally, the fairy again jumped into the water and after searching picked out a wooden axe.

When wood cutter saw his axe. He smiled with happiness. Yes, yes that's mine Thank you very much."

The fairy felt very happy seeing his honesty and said, you are such an honest man. And you should get some reward for this goodness. She gave the poor man all the three axes and disappeared.

Moral: Honesty is the best policy. Always be honest.



Lion and the Slave

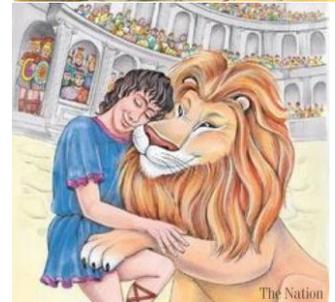
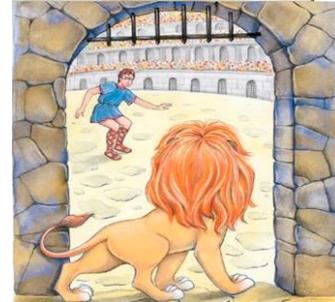
Once upon a time a very cruel King ruled Greece. Many people attended him as slaves. The King did not treat them well. There was a slave lived in the kingdom. He was treated very badly by his ruler. He got tired of his rules. So he ran away from the kingdom. He went to a forest to find out escape way.

He took shelter in a cave. There he saw a lion crying in pain. There was a thorn in his right paw. Confidently, the slave moved towards the lion. He removed the thorn from lion's paw. The lion felt relieved and stop crying. In the meanwhile, the king's men were searching everywhere for the slave. Shortly they caught him live.

The king ordered to throw him before a hungry lion in front of the public. This was a punishment for running away from his kingdom. He felt helpless when he was along inside the cage. People watched him from a distance.

When the door of the cage was open the lion ran out roaring. But everyone got surprised when the lion licked the hands of the slave in thankful manner. The king wanted to know the reason of the lion's strange behaviour towards the slave. The happy slave described his story. The king was very happy with his slave now and He set the slave and the lion free. There were no more slaves in Greece after this incident and everyone lived happily.

Moral: Kindness never goes unrewarded.



Bibliography:

<http://www.islamcan.com/islamic-stories/lessons-on-life.shtml>

<http://www.islamcan.com/islamic-stories/the-tale-of-two-frogs.shtml>

<http://www.islamcan.com/islamic-stories/the-power-of-istighfar.shtml>

<http://www.islamcan.com/islamic-stories/did-you-thank-allah-for-your-eyesight.shtml>

References from Holy Quran

Acknowledgments:

I acknowledge my sincere thanks to each and every reader of this story book. I specially thank my parents who have been a bundle of support to help me in completing the book. I also thank my supervisor, coordinator for their valuable suggestions and inputs while designing my book. My special thanks to our school leaders for giving me permission to post it on the school portal. I would also thank our school IT department in helping me to create a link and upload my digital Islamic moral stories booklet.