

A Lion in His Own House

Storyteller: Marwan Shaarani, 58 years (heard it from his mother)

Town: Al Soueida

Once upon a time there was a husband who was not the man of the house - his wife was very cruel and strict and kept ordering him around. This was something which exhausted him and kept him awake at night. One day he told his story to a wise man and asked him for his opinion on what to do with this domineering wife, and on how he might get rid of her.

The wise man answered:

-That's easy! I know some thugs who can come to your house at night and take her away. This way you will be rid of her!

At home, after he and his wife had gone to bed, and after the usual daily row, the man couldn't sleep in anticipation of what was about to happen. As soon as it was pitch dark he heard the sound of footsteps on the roof - as did his wife. She whispered in a tone unusual for her:

-I hear footsteps on the roof!

And he answered:

-Don't worry, sleep tight, you're sleeping next to a fearless lion!

After a while, they could hear the sound of footsteps on the stairs, and the woman exclaimed:

-The thieves are coming down the stairs!

The man answered:

-Go back to sleep, you're sleeping next to a fearless lion!

Then she heard someone tampering with the lock on the door and she screamed louder than before:

-Look, man: the door, the door!

He pretended to be snoring, and when the thieves came in and carried her out by her arms and legs, she screamed:

-Husband, the thieves are taking me away!

And then he exclaimed with joy:

-Good bye, my dear, good bye. Go safely... you leave behind you a fearless lion like no other!