

### **The King's Daughter's Earring**

Storyteller: Saada Shaarani, 72 years

City: Al Soueida, currently residing in Al Door(παπατομή 29)

Once upon a time there was a jeweller who had a shop in the jewellers' market. One day the king's daughter came to him to fix her earring; a 2 karat diamond had fallen off the earring and she wanted the jeweller to put it back on, so she left it at the jeweller's shop. This particular jeweller was a firm believer and always said out loud:

*-God's will is great... wise and judicious.*

His neighbour would hear him say this and wonder at the reasons why he kept repeating it, and so, wanting to test the jeweller's faith, he took the earring while the jeweller was looking the other way and threw it in the sea. Because God's will is great, a fish swallowed the earring. And because God's will is great a fisherman from that city caught the fish and took it to the fish market to sell it. The jeweller's wife was at the market, looking to buy a fish, and, lo and behold, she bought that very same fish and took it home to prepare it for the evening meal. As she was cleaning the fish, she found the golden earring and put it aside. She continued dressing the fish and frying it while she prepared the tasty sauce with hot chili, garlic, walnuts, lemon, tahini, and crunchy bread. In the evening her husband returned and she prepared the table, but the jeweller was sad and couldn't eat. When she asked him why, since she had made a special effort that day to go to the market and buy fish and clean and cook it, he told her that he had lost the king's daughter's earring and that he feared a great punishment which would be no less than decapitation! She tried to calm him down and asked for a description of the earring. When he told her that the name of the king and his daughter were engraved on it, she said:

*-You can eat now, my dear husband, and, by God's will, a miracle will happen and your grief will disappear.*

He ate, but without any appetite, and when it was time for tea she placed the earring in the sugar bowl. When the jeweller reached out his hand to take a piece of sugar, to his great surprise he found the earring, and his wife told him how she had found it in the fish's belly. The man became joyful again and drank his tea with gratitude and the next morning he opened his shop, saying:

*-God's will is great*

*God's will is great...*

*In the deep sea it drowned...*

*And he brought it back to my plate...*

29. Al Door is a village in Soueida in southern Syria known for its Roman ruins and abundance of wells and agricultural lands.