

The Porter and the Saddle

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Town: Al Soueida

Once upon a time there was a porter who carried people's luggage on his donkey. He used to spend part of his earnings and hide the other part inside the donkey's saddle. This porter had an only son who was living with him. One day, the porter went to visit his neighbour and asked his boy to pay attention to the saddle more than anything else in the house, and left.

While the boy was playing in front of the house with the door open, a Bedouin passed by and saw the saddle through the open door. He called on the boy and asked him if he could buy the saddle, especially since it was old and worn out. But the boy refused. The Bedouin kept insisting and implying that his father would be proud of him if he managed to sell a torn saddle. So, finally, the boy agreed and took the few piastres that the man gave him. When the father returned he found the saddle was gone and asked his son about it, so the boy gave him the few piastres and told him about the deal he had made with the Bedouin. The father went mad, but there was nothing to be done - the sword of fate is swifter than any man's doing! Because he no longer had a saddle, he couldn't use his donkey for his business, so he started working in the market as a saddle-mender. He could not overcome his sadness over the loss of his life savings but he had to work to make a living, so he kept saying to himself:

-You may take a break but you cannot rest, for what's gone is gone!

Passers-by were surprised at his words and couldn't understand what he meant by them. One day, a Bedouin came to his shop carrying a torn saddle that he wanted mended, and for free, because he was poor! The man looked at the saddle and immediately recognized it, so he said to the Bedouin:

-Sure, no problem, I will repair it for you. Come back tomorrow and it will be ready!

After the Bedouin left, he tore open the secret pocket and found all his savings, not a penny less. He started calling:

-Your possessions will never disperse, what's yours will always be yours!