

The Clever Lady and the Judge

Warm-up Session

Rabia felt pity for the street sweeper and decided to help him. At the same time, she wanted to teach the greedy and dishonest Quazi a lesson. How did she do that? Let's read the lesson and learn.

Long ago, there lived a wealthy merchant in Istanbul. He had a big business spread over many countries. Quite often, he left his home for business trips leaving his family at home. His wife, Rabia was very clever and intelligent. She was very compassionate as well. She cared for everyone. Some days she baked sweet cakes and offered them to the poor workers whose hungry faces made her sad and always stood by their side in the hour of need. The merchant often bragged that she was the most compassionate woman in the world.



Rabia often noticed one young man, named Enes, the sweeper of the town. He was a quiet fellow, always busy in his work. One day, she was sitting in the drawing room when, through the window, her eyes fell on Enes cleaning the streets and she noticed drops of tear falling from his eyes. Naturally she felt pity for him, and so she stepped outside and called to him.

“Enes, why do you look so sad? Is there any problem?”

Startled, Enes looked up. Merchants and *pashas* never spoke to him. He looked down and blushed, but Rabia called again. “Tell me, please, what is your problem? Why are there tears in your eyes?”

Enes stepped forward shyly and shook his head. “There’s nothing anyone can do. Our Quazi, the judge, robbed me of all my money. But who would believe someone like me?”

However, Rabia was no fool. She had heard that the Quazi of Istanbul was a greedy man. And so she looked with kindness at Enes and said, "Tell me your side of the story. Let me see if I can do anything for you."

So Enes told Rabia his tales of woe. For two long years, he explained, he had worked to save 500 Liras. He hoped, with the help of Allah, to save more money, enough to travel home and take good care of his family.

Rabia listened closely. She knew he was a hard worker, and so she wondered what made him sad. "And what happened to upset your plans?" she asked in a soothing voice.

Enes went on with his story. Each night he lay awake all night, fearing someone might pick his pockets. He knew if he left his coins in his tumble down hut, someone would surely steal them. And so day and night he worried about how to protect his savings.

But one day, Enes told Rabia, he overheard the merchant, her own husband, speaking of the wise Quazi of Istanbul.

Rabia smiled at this and said, "You heard my husband, and you thought you could trust the Quazi?"

"Yes!" Enes said. "I visited the Quazi. My sandals and my tattered clothes embarrassed me in the presence of such a great man. But I bowed respectfully, and then I asked him to hold my 500 Liras until I could save enough to travel home to my village."

"And what did the Quazi say to you?" Rabia asked. She thought she was beginning to understand.

"He told me I could trust him with my savings. He instructed me to return when I was ready for my money, and he promised not a single coin would go missing."

"And so you left your savings with him, did you?" Rabia asked.

Enes nodded, "Yes, and I happily returned to my work, but the very next day I met two old friends from my village. They were planning to travel home next week, and they offered to pay for my travels if I wished to join them."

Rabia's heart swelled with compassion, and she said softly, "Naturally, you miss your family."

Enes nodded again, "Yes, I do. I must go home, and so the very next day, I returned to the Quazi, but this time..."



“This time he was not so kind?” Rabia asked.

“He was very cruel instead. He shouted so that everyone could hear. He said he had never seen me and yelled that I must leave his home at once or he would have me arrested. His servants dragged me away.”

Rabia nearly wept as he spoke.

“Madam, my heart is broken, but I am far from home, and I have no witness, so there is nothing to be done. I’ve lost everything.”

Now Rabia was not only kind, she also was terribly clever. The moment Enes finished his story, she concocted a brilliant plan. She looked intently at Enes. “I can help you but you have to do exactly as I say.”

“I am ready to do everything to get back my money,” Enes said.

And so Rabia explained. “This afternoon I shall visit the Quazi myself. After I have been inside for ten minutes, you must rush in and ask for your money as if you had never asked before.”

Enes was puzzled, but he trusted this lady, and so he agreed.

Next Rabia called her daughter and whispered the plan to her as well. “Wait outside the Quazi’s home and when Enes leaves, run in the front door and say, ‘Mother dear, Father has returned from Egypt and awaits you at home!’”

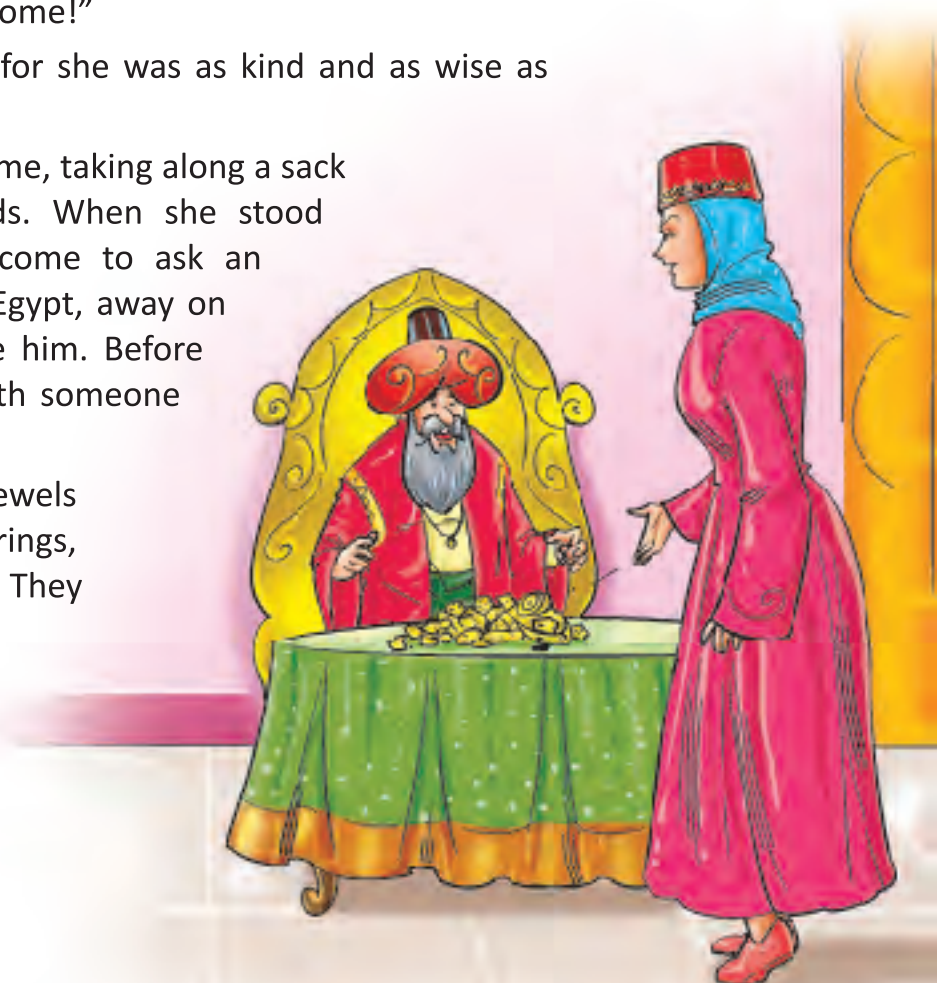
Naturally, Rabia’s daughter agreed, for she was as kind and as wise as her mother.

And so Rabia went to the Quazi’s home, taking along a sack of rubies and diamonds and emeralds. When she stood before the Quazi, she said, “I have come to ask an important question. My husband is in Egypt, away on business tour. I must go there and see him. Before leaving, I wish to keep all my jewels with someone trustworthy.”

With those words, she poured the jewels onto the table. There were expensive rings, pendants, bracelets, and necklaces. They glittered and gleamed in the light.

Rabia leaned close to the Quazi. “You see, I need someone I can trust absolutely with these priceless things.”

Just at that moment Enes rushed into the Quazi’s court and breathlessly cried, “Sir, I have come to claim my 500 Liras.”



The Quazi barely heard Enes, for the sight of those jewels captivated him. Distracted, he looked up and said to him, "Yes, of course, you can have them." Then he turned to one of his servants and said, "Bring this man's 500 Liras from my trunk and send him away with them."



As the servant rushed to do as he was told, the Quazi smiled at Rabia. "You see, dear lady, even this poor man's coins were safe with me. I do not care if a man is rich or poor, I help everyone. Everyone can trust the Quazi of Istanbul!"

Rabia nodded, "Yes, I see that."

When Enes was gone, Rabia's daughter rushed in and said to her mother, "Father has returned from Egypt and awaits you at home!"

Rabia clapped her hands together and cried, "Wonderful, I shall not have to travel at all!"

Then she scooped her jewels into the bag and turned to face the Quazi.

"You are truly a rare and just man, and I thank you for your time, but as you see, I no longer need your services. Good day!"

When Rabia was gone, the Quazi shook his head in wonder. For 40 long years he had served as Quazi of Istanbul, and in all those years, no one had outsmarted him.

But now someone had.

—A Turkish Folktale Constantinople (Istanbul)

Words to know

compassionate = sympathetic, kind-hearted; **bragged** = boasted; **blushed** = felt ashamed; **Lira** = coin of Turkey; **soothing** = comforting; **overheard** = overhear; **embarrassed** = uncomfortable; **swelled** = filled; **concocted** = invented; **intently** = closely; **sack** = bag; **trustworthy** = dependable, reliable; **glittered** = sparkled; **leaned** = bent; **barely** = hardly; **captivated** = enthralled, fascinated; **distracted** = diverted; **scooped** = gathered; **outsmarted** = outwitted.

EXERCISE ZONE

Lesson Insight

Test Your Comprehension Skill

A. Answer the following questions briefly:

1. What did the merchant often brag?
2. What was the reason of Enes' grief?
3. Whose help did Rabia take in her mission?

B. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ'S)

Tick (✓) the correct options:

1. The wealthy merchant lived in _____.
(a) Bagdad (b) Istanbul (c) Cairo
2. Enes stepped forward _____ and shook his head.
(a) shyly (b) gladly (c) sadly
3. For two long years, Enes had worked to save 500 _____.
(a) Dollars (b) Pounds (c) Liras
4. The moment Enes finished his story, Rabia _____ a brilliant plan.
(a) thought of (b) concocted (c) made
5. Then she _____ her jewels into the bag and turned to face the Quazi.
(a) scooped (b) put (c) kept

C. Answer the following questions:

1. Who was Enes? What was his problem?
2. Why was Enes embarrassed when he went to the Quazi?
3. How did the Quazi react when Enes requested him to return his money?
4. Why did Rabia go to the Quazi's home with a sack of precious jewels?
5. How did the Quazi feel after Rabia had left?

D. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. Enes was a street sweeper.
2. He had heard about the Quazi from Rabia's husband.
3. The Quazi was a very kind, honest and gentle man.
4. Rabia kept her precious jewels with the Quazi before going to Egypt.
5. Rabia had outsmarted the Quazi.

E. Fill in the blanks choosing suitable words from the lesson:

1. Enes was a _____ fellow, always busy in his work.
2. Rabia had heard that the Quazi of Istanbul was a _____ man.

3. Enes was puzzled, but he _____ this lady, and so he agreed.
4. With those words, she _____ the jewels onto the table.
5. When Rabia was gone, the Quazi shook his head in _____.

F. Who said the following statements and to whom:

Statement	Said by	said to
1. "Is there any problem?"	_____	_____
2. "But who would believe someone like me?"	_____	_____
3. "He was very cruel instead."	_____	_____
4. "Yes, of course, you can have them."	_____	_____
5. "You are truly a rare and just man."	_____	_____

G. HOTS Questions (Think and Answer):

1. Enes had kept his money with the Quazi for safe custody. Then why did he ask for it the very next day? Explain briefly.
2. 'Rabia was a true match for the dishonest Quazi.' Elaborate.

Sharpen Your Vocabulary

A. Find one word from the lesson for each of the following expressions. Follow the example:

A famous town of Turkey:

Istanbul

1. title of a Turkish military commander, governor etc.: _____
2. chief monetary unit of Turkey: _____
3. hear unintentionally or without the knowledge of the speaker: _____
4. loud sharp cry or shout: _____
5. ornamental band or chain worn on the wrist or arm: _____

B. Write the opposites for each of the following words:

Column 'A'

Column 'B'

- | | |
|---------------|-------|
| 1. quiet | _____ |
| 2. soothing | _____ |
| 3. concocted | _____ |
| 4. barely | _____ |
| 5. distracted | _____ |

C. Use the following words and make meaningful sentences of your own:

1. wealthy : _____.
2. compassionate : _____.
3. trust : _____.

4. tattered : _____.
5. outsmarted : _____.

Improve Your Speaking Skills

- ❖ The Quazi of Istanbul had cheated Enes, a poor sweeper of the town. Rabia, who was the wife of a rich merchant and a very kind lady, helped him. Imagine that she had later told the whole incident to the merchant. Take hints from the lesson and complete the conversation that might have taken place between the two:

Rabia : A very _____ today.

Merchant : What was that?

Rabia : You _____ seen Enes, the sweeper of our town.

Merchant : Yes, but....

Rabia : The Quazi _____ him.

Merchant : How did _____ about it?

Rabia : He was _____. When I _____ him, he told everything.

Merchant : What _____ then?

Rabia : I went _____ .

Merchant : You're really very intelligent. I'm proud of you.

Rabia : Thanks for the compliment.

Listening Skills

- ❖ *Your teacher will read out a small paragraph in the class. Listen to him/her carefully and answer the questions set below:*

1. Who was King Solomon? What was he famous for?
2. Why did people from far and near visit him everyday?
3. Who came to King Solomon's court for justice? What was their dispute?
4. Why was King Solomon in a great fix? Who did he ask to call?
5. Give synonyms of the following words:
 - (i) judgement' _____
 - (ii) executioner _____

Improve Your Writing Skills

- ❖ *'The merchant often bragged that Rabia was the most compassionate woman in the world.' Was he justified in his judgement? Cite an example from the lesson to prove it.*

Improve Your Grammar

Removal of too to

Read the following sentence:

- The old man is too weak to walk.
- The old man is so weak that he cannot walk.
- She is too busy to meet you.
- She is so busy that she cannot meet you.

Remember:

1. Always use 'so' in place of 'too'.
2. Use 'that + he/she/it (suitable pronoun for the subject)+ cannot' in place of 'to'.

A. Now change the following sentences as shown in the examples above:

1. Rehana is too busy to accompany you.

2. The boy is too poor to buy an umbrella.

3. The lion is too old to hunt.

4. Ramesh is too tired to talk.

5. You are too slow to win the race.

6. The team is too novice to win the match.

7. You are too lucky to win the first prize.

8. The teacher is too old to teach.

9. They are too poor to afford a car.

10. The boy is too interested to learn.

Homophones

Homophones are words that are pronounced the same as another word but differ in meanings and may differ in spellings also.

Read the following examples:

here : You can sit here and take rest for some time.

heir : Manish is the only heir to his father's property.

B. Use the following homophones in sentences of your own to make their meanings clear.

1. by : _____

buy : _____

2. sell : _____

sail : _____

3. deer : _____

dear : _____

4. in : _____

inn : _____

5. our : _____

our : _____

Time for Activities

❖ *Have you ever faced any situation when someone had tried to cheat you? Tell about the incident in the class.*