

The Glass Bottle

Hassan and Walid were brothers. They lived in a small house in the desert, near the mountains, a long way from a town or village. They were very poor. They didn't have money, and they didn't have animals. Their house only had two rooms. Every day was the same. They got up, and they had sweet black coffee for breakfast. Then, Hassan worked in the fields. But Walid just sat and looked at the hot, empty desert and the hot, empty sky.

They lived with their mother. She looked after them, but she was old and tired. One day she said, -"We're poor and hungry. Why don't you leave here and find work? We need money for food and clothes."

-“ If you want some money, you have your silver ring. You can sell that”, answered Walid.

-“I can't sell it”, she said. “It's your father's. Every night I look at it and remember him”.

Hassan wanted to help his mother, and he decided to leave home. His mother gave him bread and water in a glass bottle. He kissed her, and he walked towards the mountains.

Hassan walked for five days through the mountains. It was hot during the day. At night it was very cold.

Then, one evening, he arrived at a rich and beautiful palace. The prince in the palace welcomed him. He gave him food and drink. Hassan slept in a comfortable bed. There was one strange thing. The windows didn't have glass.

The next day, Hassan said goodbye. He wanted to thank the prince and gave him something. But he only had his empty water bottle. He gave it to him. The prince was very surprised. -“What's this?”, he said. “I can see through it. It's beautiful. It's wonderful.”

He was very happy. And in return, he gave Hassan a box. “Don't open it until you get home”, he said. -“And be careful with it. It's very valuable”. Hassan walked through the mountains again. After five days, he arrived home. Walid and their mother watched him open the box. He found one hundred gold coins inside. His mother was very happy. -“Hassan, you clever boy”, she said. -“Now we can buy food and clothes”.

The next night, Walid made a plan. One hundred gold coins in return for a glass bottle, he thought. “If I give the prince my mother's silver ring, perhaps I can get one thousand gold coins”. So, Walid got up, went very quietly into his mother's room, and took her ring from a box under her bed. The next morning, he asked his brother where the palace was. And he left.

Walid walked for five days through the mountains. Then, one evening, he found the palace. The prince welcomed him and gave him food, drink and a comfortable bed. But Walid couldn't sleep. He thought about the one thousand coins. The next morning, he said to the Prince “I want to say thank you, please have this silver ring, it's my mother's”. The prince was very happy. “This is a beautiful ring”, he said “Thank you. let me give you something in return” He gave Walid a box. “Don't open this until you get home, be careful with it. It's very, very valuable” Walid run through the mountains and after three days, he arrived home.

-“Where's my silver ring?”, shouted his mother.

-“Don't worry about your ring”, said Walid “Look at this!” Hassan and their mother watched as he opened the box. Inside, he found ... the glass bottle.