

Fatemi Dawat Hikayaat Series

The Blind Man and the Lame

There is an Indian parable about two men in India: a blind man and a paralyzed man. They were travel companions, and they passed by a farm, which drew them. The owner of the farm saw them, and noticed their poverty and misery, so he had mercy on them and said to them: What do you say that I bring you into my farm, so you may take shelter in it and eat from it what you need and what satiates you of what I give you, so that you do not lust after the fruits and destroy them.

They said, “How would we hurt your farm when we have these chronic illnesses and our condition is so bad. One of us is blind and the other is paralyzed! And how would we eat the fruits when they are at the top of the trees?”

The owner of the farm said to them, “Enter the place and take a seat.” He asked the caretaker of the farm to take care of them, and said to him, “Protect them, treat them well, and bring them something from the fruits of the farm that would be good for them.”

He said, “I have heard and will obey.”

The owner of the farm went on his way, and the two men remained there for a while with the caretaker giving them what they need. The fruits ripened, and became plentiful and beautiful, so the paralyzed man said to the blind man one day, “Alas! Your legs are healthy, and there are in the trees in this farm with many kinds of fruits and all types of edibles, and the caretaker doesn’t bring us any of the good stuff, so what should we do about that?”

The blind man said, “Because of you I now really want these fruits that you can see. So what should we do?”



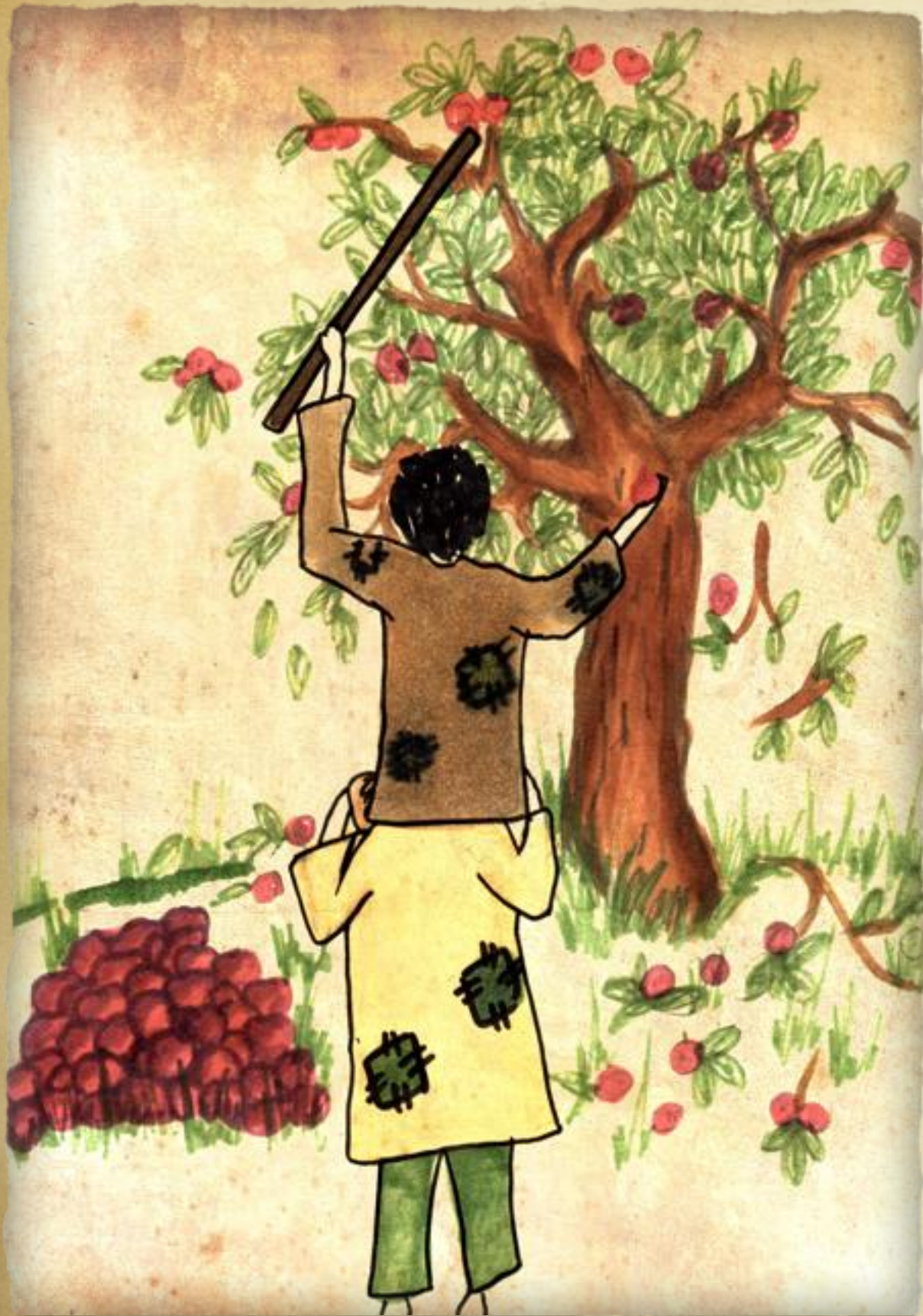
They thought and thought until the paralyzed man said to the blind man, "Look. My eyesight is fine and I can see what you can't, so carry me on your shoulders and I'll take you around the farm. Whenever I see a beautiful ripe fruit I would tell you: go right and left, higher or lower, so I can pick it, eat from it and feed you, and what I can't reach with my hand I'll hit until it falls, so that you can pick it, eat from it. and feed it to me. Whatever my hands can't reach, I'll hit with your cane until it falls and you can pick it up. We'll do that when the caretaker is distracted."

The blind man said, "That's a good idea. Let's do that tomorrow."

The next day the caretaker went to run some errands and locked the gates of the farm, so the paralyzed man rode on the shoulders of the blind man, who took him around the farm. On that day they ruined what they could, everything that the paralyzed man could reach. Then they went back to their place and slept. When the caretaker came, he saw the ruined fruits and that the fruits that he had planned to give to some of the dignitaries of the region were missing. So he came to them and asked them, "Did someone enter the farm in my absence?"

They said to him, "We don't know." The blind man said, "As you can see I'm blind." And the paralyzed one said "I was sleeping."

The caretaker believed them. The next day the caretaker went out as usual, so they got up and did worse than they did before. The caretaker returned and saw that the destruction had doubled from the previous day, and he worried that he would be blamed by the owner of the farm, and that he would say, "Perhaps you are selling my fruits or you don't take care of them." So he said, "What should I do so that I know what happened to the farm, and who does that in the farm?"



The next day he pretended to leave as usual, and hid behind some walls in the farm, so they got up and did what they had resolved to do of destruction and forbidden things. When the caretaker saw them he knew that they had caused the destruction in the farm. He was a merciful gentle man, so he let them be when he saw what they were doing, the ugly things they did, until they returned to their place, so he came to them and said, “Hey, what did the owner of the farm do to deserve what you did, destroying the farm like that?”

Their faces paled so the caretaker said, “I saw you, when you, paralyzed man, got up on the shoulders of the blind man and he walked with you under the tree, and when you reached it you took it in your hand and what you couldn’t reach with your hand you hit with your cane.”

When they heard him say that they knew that he had seen them, so they said to him, “We did that, so don’t tell the owner of the farm, for we repent and won’t repeat it.”

The caretaker accepted that from them and gave them some advice: “I’ll bring you all the fruits you want, so that the owner of the farm and I are not hurt, and so that I follow his orders that you don’t eat anything except the best.”

They said: “We have heard and will obey.” But when he went away, they returned to doing what they had done before, only worse. The caretaker came back and saw the destruction they had caused, so he advised them again and reminded them to fear God, but they did not accept and did what he forbade them from doing.

By coincidence the owner of the farm came by one day and the caretaker had no choice but to tell him what happened. The owner of the farm said, "I had predicted that the paralyzed man would ride the shoulders of the blind man, who would carry him around the farm, and they would make my life a living hell."

So the caretaker said to him, "They did this after you told them not to, and they did not refrain."

So the owner of the farm said, "They deserve punishment because of their ugly deeds."

Then he ordered his slaves and helpers to punish the lame and the blind with the most severe punishment, and to throw them out into the wilderness where they would find no shelter or refuge, until they are eaten by beasts and perish from hunger and thirst. This was done to them, and they were taken out of the farm, and thrown into the wilderness, as was done to Adam and Eve, may peace be upon them, when they tasted the tree.

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