




The Man and The Fish


HIKAYAT FROM THE RASA'IL IKHWANUS SAFA






A man came by a road through which passed a gushing river that fell down from the mountains. While he was there, he saw a big fish of the best kind, so he said to himself,

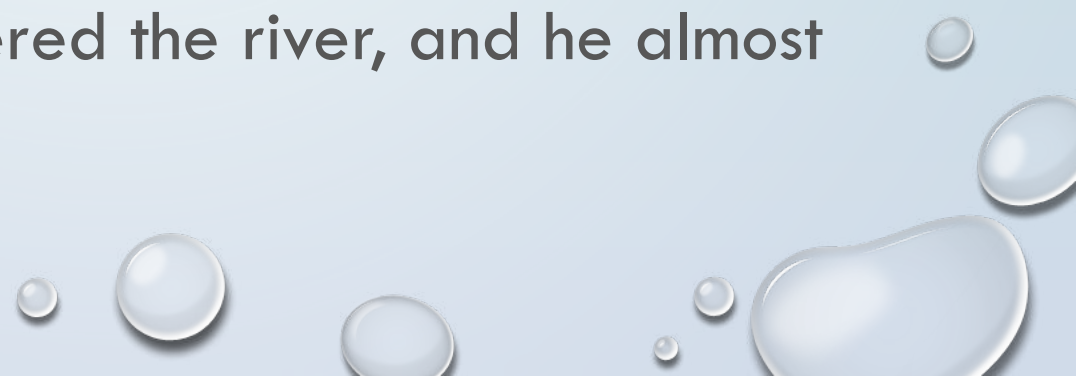
“I won’t catch a better fish today, so I’ll take this one and grill it, bring together my family and children, and have a good meal out of it. But I’m afraid of the rushing water, that it would stand between me and the fish.”






His craving became more powerful and he stood where he could see the fish. His resolve to catch it became stronger, so he took off his clothes and threw himself into the river.

He looked at the fish until he grabbed it with one hand, and was delighted when he caught it. He was so afraid the fish would get away from him that he forgot to swim, and the strong current overcame him and moved him away from the spot where he entered the river, and he almost died.









He did not want to let go of the fish to save himself, so he remained there trying to save himself with the fish, until the water took him to a great current that poured into a waterfall under the earth, and he fell deep into it.

So the one who lives in the river came to him and said, “What are you doing in this place that no one falls into except he who has drowned and died?”



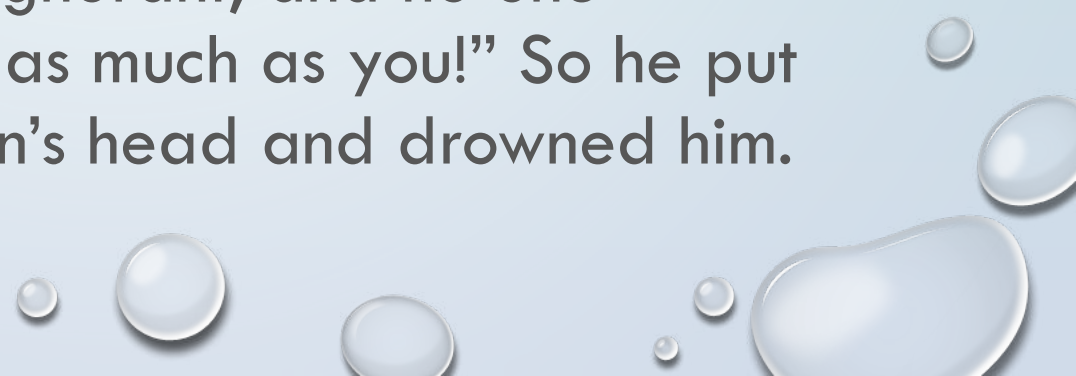


He said, “I am the one who left the clear path in which there is safety, and fell into destruction for the sake of a simple and base pleasure.”

He said to him, “Leave what is in your hand and save yourself!”

The man responded, “I want both safety and to win what I promised myself.”

He said, “You are ignorant, and no one deserves to drown as much as you!” So he put his hand on the man’s head and drowned him.





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