



Honesty is the best policy

Sheikh Abu Yaqub was an honest man who belonged to a very rich and noble family. He was so honest that he was well-known for his truthfulness than his nobility. But despite his nobility he lived a very simple life and was not arrogant or proud. He earned his meager livings by making simple beds and other things for people to use in their daily lives.

One day he set off for Damascus and found a job there as a caretaker for a garden that belonged to the king – Sultan Nooruddin. Sheikh Yaqub spent 6 months working hard in that garden.

One day Sultan Nooruddin came to the garden accompanied by his escort. The escort asked Sheikh Yaqub to get the best pomegranate in the garden for the Sultan. Sheikh Yaqub plucked a few pomegranates from the pomegranate tree and served them to the king. But alas, when the king tasted them they were sour! The escort told Sheikh Yaqub to get some more pomegranates. Sheikh Yaqub once again got a few pomegranates and served them to the king. These too turned out to be extremely sour. At this the escort got very annoyed and scolded Sheikh Yaqub.

“You have been working in this garden for 6 months and you still can not tell the difference between a sweet and a sour pomegranate?” he yelled.

At the Sheikh Yaqub humbly answered, “I have been working here for 6 months as a caretaker, not a gardener. My job is to take care of the plants and the trees, not to pluck and eat the fruits to check if they are sour or sweet.”

The Sultan was very impressed at this honest and humble reply. The Sultan invited Sheikh Yaqub to sit with him in his palace to talk to him as the Sultan immensely enjoyed the company of people who were honest and forthright. For that reason, children always remember to tell the truth and always remember to live with integrity and honor.

