

THE WISE JUDGE

Bauakas, who was the king of Algeria, heard that in one of the cities in his kingdom there was a righteous judge, whom no one could deceive with false evidences, for he always came to know who was right and who was wrong.

Bauakas became interested with that news so much, that he decided to go to visit that judge himself and find out whether everything people were saying about that man was true. He clad himself as a merchant and went to that city. At the city gates some lame beggar asked him for alms. Bauakas gave him his alms and wanted to move forward, but beggar grabbed the tail of his clothes and would not let him go.

“Haven’t I given you enough alms? What else do you need from me?” asked Bauakas.

“It’s true, you have,” the beggar said. “But do one more good thing for me. Take me to your horse and bring me to the square for I am afraid to be override by a horse or camel at bazaar.”

Bauakas took the beggar to his horse, brought him to the centre of the city, stopped where he was told to and asked the beggar to get off the horse. But the beggar didn’t. Then Bauakas turned his face to him and said, “Why are you still here? Get off, we are the square already.”

“Why should I get off?” the beggar cried out, “This horse is mine, and if you think it is yours, let’s go to the kazy!”

The people gathered around them for they heard the fight between two men. Everybody said, “Go to kazy, he will tell which of you two is right and which is wrong.”

So Bauakas and beggar went to the kazy... There they saw lot of other litigants. Kazy called them all in turn and questioned. They saw he called a scientist and a peasant. Those two sued for a wife. The scientist said it was his wife, and the peasant said that his. Kazy listened to them and said, “Leave this woman here and come back tomorrow.”

After them came the turn for a butcher and an oiler. All butcher’s clothing was stained with blood, and oiler’s — with oil. The butcher hold money in one his hand and oiler hold butcher’s hand with money. When kazy questioned them, the butcher answered, “I was buying some oil from that oiler and when I pulled out my money to pay him, he grabbed my hand intending to get all my money from me. But when he saw that he couldn’t do it by force, he kept holding my hand and brought me here. He said that he would lie, but he would get my money.”

To that the oiler replied, “It is not true, kazy. The butcher came to me to by some oil and I poured him a cup. Than he asked me to change a gold coin. I wanted to change it, took out my wallet and put it onto the counter. At the very same moment, butcher grabbed my wallet and wanted to run away, but I managed to catch him by his hand. I didn’t let him go and brought him to you.

Kazy listened to them both and said, “Leave the money here and come tomorrow”.

Then came the turn for Bauakas and the beggar. Bauakas told kazy his story and the beggar begun crying, “He lies! I was entering the city on the back of my horse. This merchant was sitting on the ground and asked me to give him a ride. I took him to my horse, brought him into the city and then told him to get off. But he didn’t want to get off and said the horse was his.”

Kazy thought for a moment and said, “Leave the horse here and come back tomorrow”.

The following day lot of people gathered to listen to kazy’s verdicts. The firs were the scientist and the peasant. Kazy then said, “This is the wife of scientist and he may take her home. And the peasant is sentenced to fifty blows with rods.”

His command was fulfilled immediately. The wife was returned to scientist and the peasant was took away to bear his sentence.

The second in turn were the oiler and the butcher.

“Butcher, the money is yours,” kazy said, “and the oiler is sentenced to fifty blows with rods.”

Then came the turn for Bauakas and the beggar.

Kazy asked Bauakas, “would you recognize your horse among twenty other horses?”

“I would,” answered Bauakas.

“And would you?” kazy addressed to the beggar.

“I would”, the beggar answered as well.

After that kazy commanded them both to follow him and brought them to the stable. First he let Bauakas in. Bauakas recognized his horse among many other horses, approached him directly and grabbed his reins. Then the beggar was allowed to enter and he approached the same horse.

After that kazy returned to his seat and announced his verdict, “Merchant, that horse is yours, and beggar is sentenced to fifty blows with rods.”

After all the verdicts were announced, kazy went home. Bauakas followed him.

“Why are you following me?” kazy asked, “Aren’t you satisfied with my decision?”

“Not at all,” Bauakas replied, “I am satisfied with your decision, but I would like to know, how did you find out that the woman was the wife of scientist, the money belonged to the butcher and the horse was mine?”

Then kazy explained him everything, “This is how I knew that the woman was the wife of scientist. Early in the morning I called her and asked her to pour some ink into my inkpot. The woman washed the inkpot quickly and filled it with ink. She was so dexterous and prompt in doing so, that I understood it was not the first time she was filling the inkpot. If she was the wife of peasant she wouldn’t manage to do it so fast and neatly. So I came to conclusion that scientist was right.

As for the money, this is how I came to know. Yesterday I put it into the cup with water. Today’s morning, I studied the cup and there was no oil on the top of the water. Now it was clear to me, that the butcher was saying truth. If you do not understand, let me explain. If that money had belonged to oiler, they would have got stained with oil anyway, and the oil would have floated on the top of water in the cup.

Regarding the horse, it was much more difficult to find out, who was its master. Both you and the beggar recognized the same horse. However, I did not bring you to the stable for you to recognize the horse, but for horse to recognize you.

When you approached the horse, it gave a neigh and turned the head to you. And when the beggar came, it pressed down the ears and lifted one his leg. Thus I came to know, that horse was yours,” kazy ended his story.

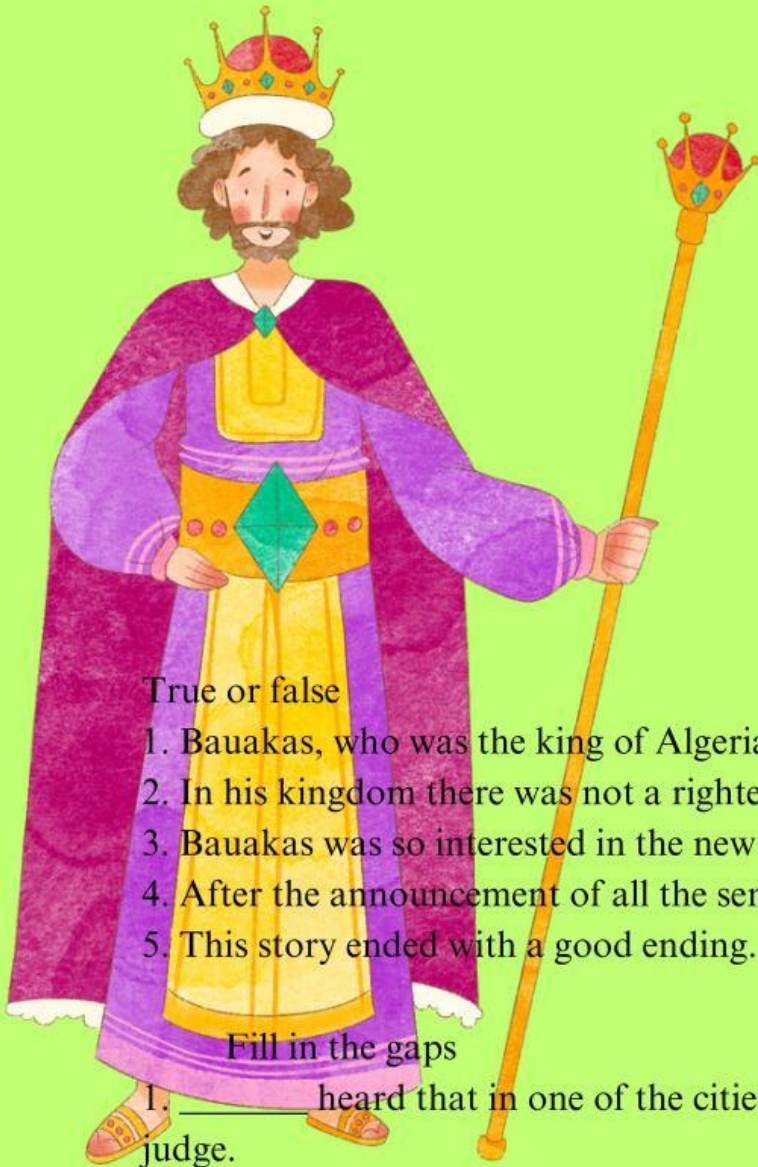
Then Bauakas told him, “I am not the merchant, but the king Bauakas. I came to find out whether everything people told about your wisdom was truth. Now I know it is, and you may ask for whatever you want from me.”

“I do not need anything,” kazy replied, “The words you said are the best reward for me.”

Questions

1. Who is Bauakas?
2. Why did Bauakas decide to go to the judge himself and check?
3. Why was there a fight between two men?
4. What is the conflict between a butcher and an oilcan?
5. At the end of the story, was Bauakas right or wrong?





True or false

1. Bauakas, who was the king of Algeria.
2. In his kingdom there was not a righteous judge.
3. Bauakas was so interested in the new news that he decided to visit himself.
4. After the announcement of all the sentences, Kazy set off, but not home.
5. This story ended with a good ending.

Fill in the gaps

1. _____ heard that in one of the cities in his kingdom there was a righteous judge.
2. Bauakas became _____ with that news so much.
3. The _____ washed the inkpot quickly and filled it with ink.
4. Yesterday I put it into the cup with water. Today's _____, I studied the cup and there was no oil on the top of the water.
5. Now I know it is, and you may ask _____ you want from me

