

Chapter 15: Ali Cogia and the Thousand Pieces of Gold

Fill in the blanks

1. Ali Cogia was a merchant from _____.
2. Ali Cogia saved _____ pieces of gold over the years.
3. He hid his gold in a _____ filled with olives.
4. The jar was sealed with a _____.
5. Ali Cogia entrusted the jar to his _____ friend.
6. The merchant friend had a shop and a _____ behind it.
7. Ali Cogia left to join a _____ caravan.
8. He was away for _____ years.
9. One evening, the merchant's wife wanted some _____ with their meal.
10. The merchant broke the _____ of Ali Cogia's jar.
11. When opened, the olives were _____ and moldy.
12. The merchant found _____ pieces in the jar.
13. He replaced the old olives with _____ olives.
14. When Ali Cogia returned, he found his _____ missing.
15. The merchant claimed Ali Cogia only left _____ in the jar.
16. The first judge ruled in favour of the _____.
17. Ali Cogia wrote a letter to the _____ for justice.
18. The Caliph often walked around Baghdad in _____.

19. Children were playing the case in the _____ near the market.
20. The boy judge asked to see the imaginary _____.
21. The pretend olive merchants said the olives were _____.
22. The boy judge concluded the olives couldn't be _____ years old.
23. The Caliph ordered the real _____ to attend court.
24. Two actual _____ merchants were summoned.
25. In court, the boy judge had the real olives _____.
26. The fresh olives proved the merchant had _____ the jar.
27. The merchant finally _____ to his crime.
28. The Caliph sentenced the merchant to _____.
29. The boy judge received _____ pieces of gold as reward.
30. The original judge was told to never judge in _____.

Multiple choice questions

1. What was Ali Cogia's primary reason for leaving his jar with the merchant?

(a) He feared thieves in his own home

- (b) He wanted to test his friend's honesty
 - (c) He was giving the merchant a gift
 - (d) He needed temporary storage while traveling
2. Why did the merchant's initial defence seem plausible to the first judge?
- (a) The merchant produced fake documents
 - (b) Ali Cogia had only mentioned olives, not gold
 - (c) The merchant bribed the judge
 - (d) The jar appeared undisturbed
3. The children's play revealed the truth because:
- (a) They accidentally found the real gold
 - (b) One child confessed to seeing the theft
 - (c) Their game demonstrated logical inconsistency
 - (d) They re-enacted the crime exactly
4. What was the most significant evidence in the boy judge's real court case?
- (a) The merchant's nervous behaviour
 - (b) The testimony of olive merchants
 - (c) The broken seal on the jar
 - (d) The Caliph's intuition
5. The Caliph's night-time walks demonstrate his:

- (a) Distrust of his officials
 - (b) Desire for entertainment
 - (c) Commitment to first-hand justice
 - (d) Loneliness as a ruler
6. The merchant's wife opposed opening the jar because:
- (a) She valued keeping promises
 - (b) She knew about the gold
 - (c) She disliked olives
 - (d) She suspected her husband would steal
7. The boy judge's methodology in solving the case demonstrates:
- (a) His understanding of food preservation principles
 - (b) His ability to recreate crime scenarios through play
 - (c) His knowledge that olive quality degrades over time
 - (d) All of the above
8. The original judge's failure highlights:
- (a) Class bias favouring wealthy merchants
 - (b) Lack of proper investigative procedures
 - (c) Over reliance on witness appearances
 - (d) All of the above
9. What lesson does the Caliph emphasize through his final actions?

- (a) Wealth corrupts people
- (b) Wisdom can come from unexpected sources
- (c) Children make better judges
- (d) All merchants are dishonest

10. The central theme of the story is:

- (a) The importance of careful investigation
- (b) The dangers of travel
- (c) The value of gold
- (d) The corruption of judges