



Educational stories for children

THE SWINDLER'S END



By

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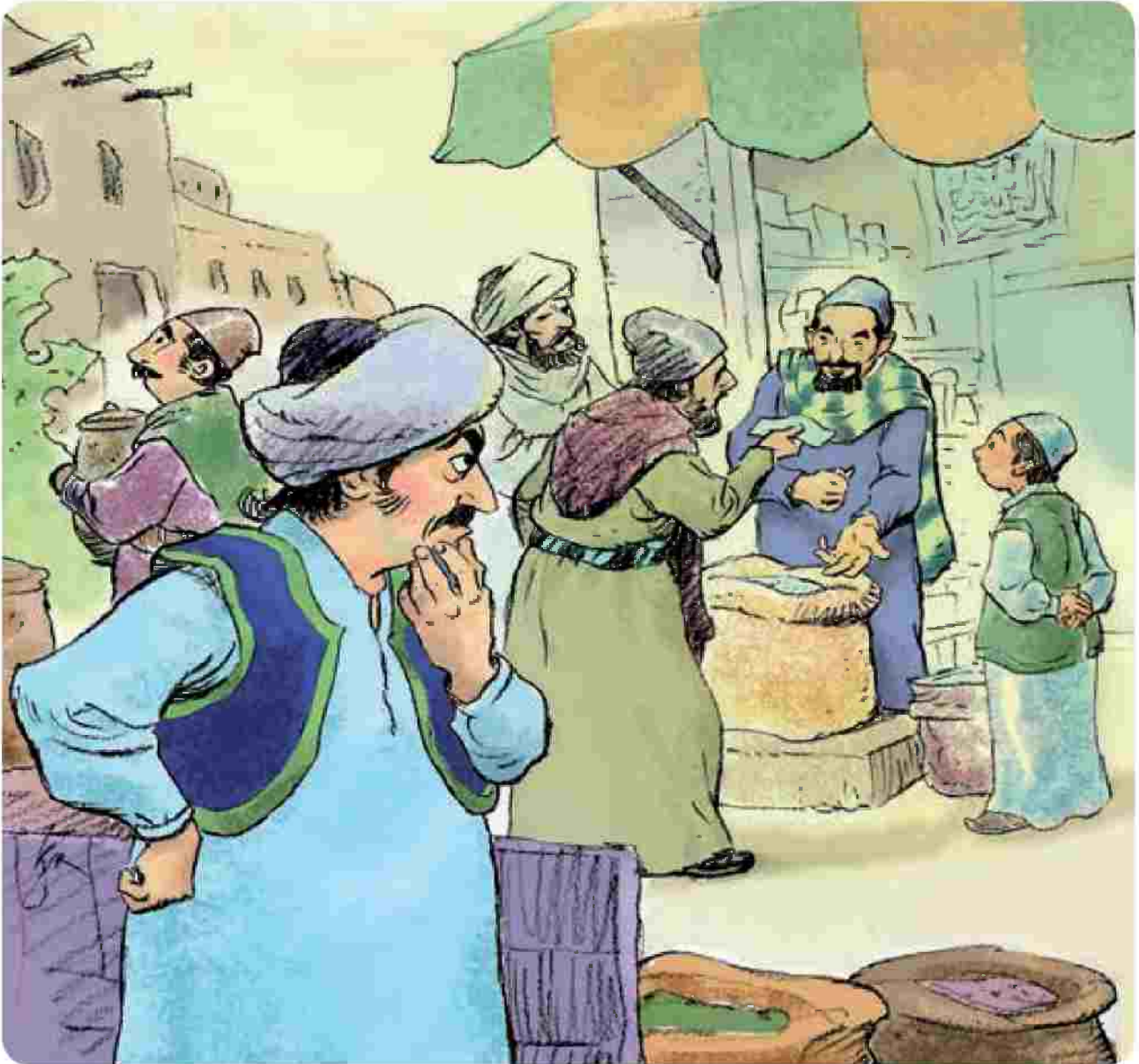
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Alaa Al-Din was a trusted merchant. His neighbor in the market, however, was a swindler called Ayaash. People used to buy from Alaa Al-Din and avoid Ayaash, and as a result, Ayaash envied Alaa Al-Din.



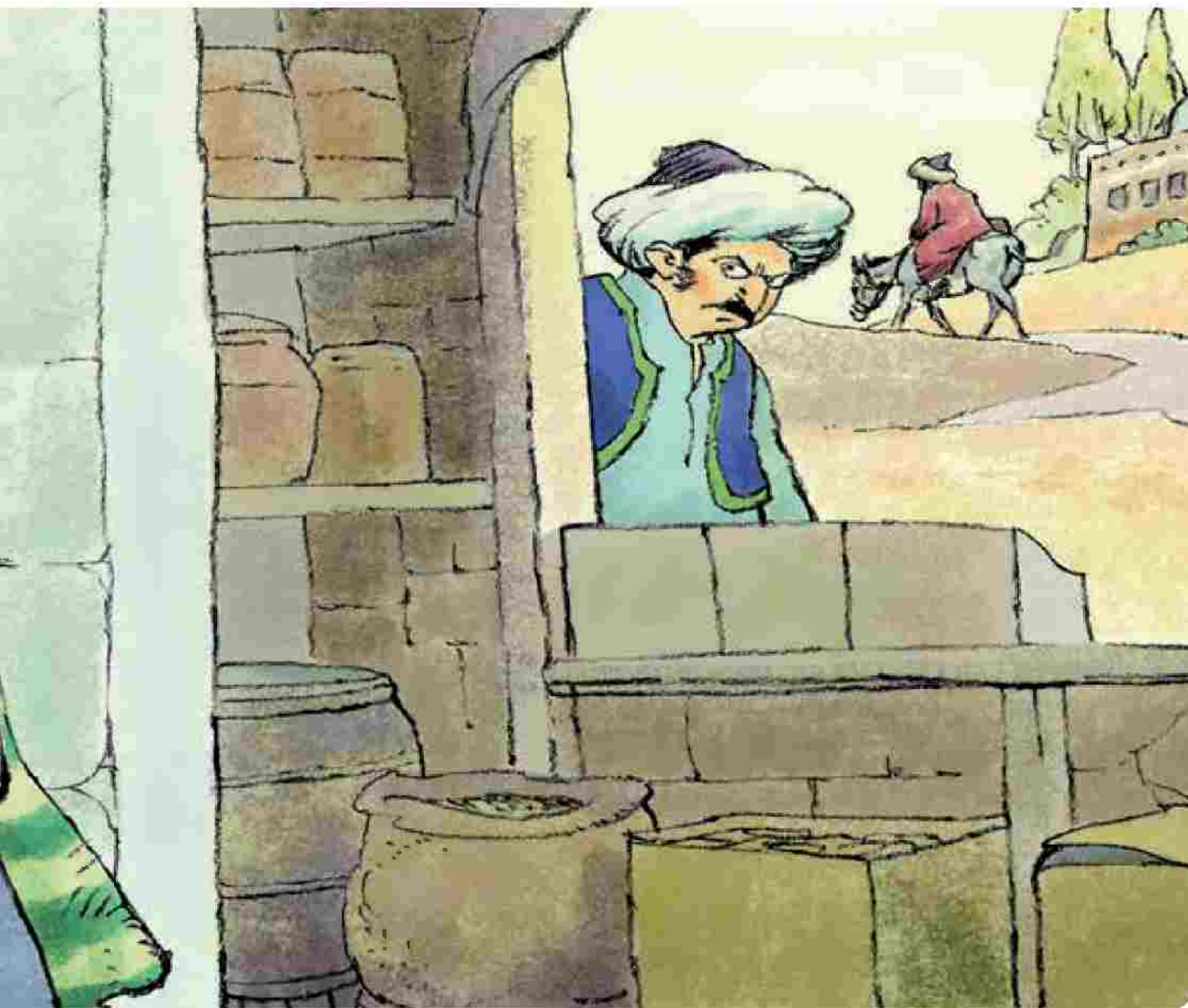
One day, a traveling caravan came to the market, and with it a merchant who displayed his wares. Alaa Al-Din welcomed him graciously, and purchased from him a necklace for 100 gold pieces.



At this very moment, Ayaash drew close and said to the merchant, "You're a swindler! This necklace isn't worth more than 50." The merchant was angered, and cried, "I'm not a swindler!"



Alaa Al-Din apologized to the merchant and paid him the money. He took the necklace from him and the merchant left to catch up with the traveling caravan. Ayaash picked the necklace up to look at it, and carefully examined its every piece, counting each segment.



Alaa Al-Din never doubted him or even considered that his neighbor might be planning to swindle him! Alaa Al-Din took the necklace from Ayaash and placed it in the safe in his shop, locking it up with a key.



Ayaash waited until the caravan left town and then rushed off to the judge and stood before him sobbing. “I bought a necklace from one of the caravan’s merchants for 100 gold pieces, and I was afraid that



a thief might steal it so I asked my neighbor Alaa Al-Din to keep it in his shop's safe. Then when I asked him for it, he said that it was his, and that he had bought it with his money!"



The judge asked him, "Do you have witnesses?" "No, your Honor," said Ayaash. So the judge asked him to describe the necklace and he described it in minute detail. The judge ordered his soldiers to arrest Alaa Al-Din and seize the necklace.



Alaa Al-Din was unable to defend himself, for he didn't know the details of the necklace as Ayaash did. And the merchant he had purchased it from had left with the caravan!



The city's residents gathered at the court, and some of them bore witness before the judge, declaring that Alaa Al-Din is a trusted merchant. But there was no evidence, and therefore the judge decided to give the necklace to Ayaash and to punish Alaa Al-Din for betraying his trust.



Just before the judge announced his ruling, however, a man ran into the court crying, “Your Honor, wait!”



Panting, the man said, "I'm sorry, your Honor, but I made a mistake and sold an imitation copy of this necklace to Mr. Alaa Al-Din. I came back to give him the original.



We hide the originals and display imitations so as to trick thieves who might attack us. When I discovered my mistake, I returned to give this kind man his rightful property.”



Ayaash broke down and collapsed on the floor sobbing. The soldiers opened the detention cage and took him in. They brought Alaa Al-Din out, and the people were delighted that he had been proven innocent. They accompanied him all the way home.