

Pleasant Stories & Anecdotes

Narrated by

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The Promised Messiah & Mahdi, peace be upon him

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ISLAM INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS LTD.

requested his mother to give him some advice. ‘Do not ever lie my son’, she said, ‘This will bring with it immense blessing.’

With this advice, he embarked on his quest. It so happened that there were some robbers and pillagers who lived in the jungle that he passed through, who would loot travellers. These robbers spotted ‘Abdul-Qādir Jīlāni^{rtā} from afar and when they came close, they found a simple ascetic.

One of them mockingly inquired: ‘Do you have anything in your possession?’ A short time ago, ‘Abdul-Qādir had heard the advice to not speak falsehood, and so he immediately said: ‘Yes, there are forty coins in my underarm, which my mother has sewn to my shirt as a pouch.’ The first robber thought that he was only retorting sarcastically. But when the second robber inquired the same, he gave the same response. Hence, ‘Abdul-Qādir Jīlāni^{rtā} responded to every robber in the same manner, who were astonished that we have never seen such a truthful person. They, then, took him to their leader and narrated all the account.

When the leader questioned him, he got the same response. Upon this, he ordered to search his clothes. When they searched him, the robbers found forty coins. They were astonished that this was some strange person, and that they had never seen such an individual before. The leader inquired: ‘What is the reason behind you revealing the whereabouts of your wealth?’

‘I have set out to seek religious knowledge,’ said ‘Abdul-Qādir Jīlāni^{rtā}, ‘and my mother advised me to never speak falsehood; this was my first test, so why would I lie? I would have achieved nothing if I had lied at my first stop, and therefore, I did not leave the truthfulness.’

Upon hearing this, the leader of the robbers began to weep and

said: 'Alas! I did not obey God even once.' The leader addressed the other thieves and said: 'These words and the steadfastness of this person have transformed me. I cannot be a part of you. I repent.' At this, the other robbers repented as well.

I believe that the legendary 'making saints out of thieves' refers to this very incident. Hence, Syed 'Abdul-Qādir Jīlānī¹ states that the first people who repented on his hand were thieves.

(Malfūzāt, vol. 1, p. 79–80; see also Malfūzāt p. 369–370)¹

1. This narration is given in two places in Malfūzāt vol. I with varying details. These narrations have been combined here. [Publisher]