



Shihan Molly's Parable About Honesty

30 Gold Coins

There once was a very selfish man. He liked everything to be his own. He would not share his things with anyone, not even his friends. One day, the man lost thirty gold coins. He went to his friend's house and told him how he lost his gold coins. His friend was a very kind man.

When the kind man's daughter was coming home from an errand, she found thirty gold coins on the road! When she arrived home, she told her father what she had found. The girl's father told her that he knew who the coins belonged and called the selfish man to come get his coins. After counting the gold coins, the selfish man said that ten of the coins were missing and they had been taken by the girl! The selfish man insisted he lost forty gold coins, not thirty coins! He ordered the kind man to give him 10 more coins! But the father refused. The kind man knew his daughter always told the truth.

The selfish man went to court to tell the judge what had taken place. He said his friend's daughter had stolen 10 of his coins. The judge sent for the girl and her father to come to court, and when they arrived, the judge asked the girl how many gold coins she had found. She said she found thirty gold coins. The judge then asked the selfish man how many gold coins he had lost and the man answered, "forty gold coins." The judge then told the selfish man that these gold coins must belong to someone else because the girl found thirty coins, not forty coins. The judge then told the girl to take the 30 gold coins home and that if the judge learned of anybody looking for 30 gold coins, he will call her and ask her to bring them back to return them to the rightful owner. The judge told the selfish man to go home and told him that if anybody reports that they have found forty gold coins he will send for him.

It was then that the selfish man confessed that he lied to the judge and that he had actually lost thirty gold coins and he wanted them back. But the judge said, "You lied to me the first time so why should I believe you now?" Go home and learn to be honest.