

قَالَتْ شَهْرَزَادُ: بَلَّغْنِي أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ السَّعِيدُ أَنَّ سِنُورًا خَرَجَ فِي لَيْلَةٍ بَارِدَةٍ، يَبْحَثُ عَنِ طَعَامٍ، فَبَيْنَمَا هُوَ كَذَلِكَ إِذْ رَأَى وَكْرًا فِي أَسْفَلِ شَجَرَةٍ، وَكَانَ فِي الْوَكْرِ فَأُرٌّ، فَهَمَّ السِّنُورُ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ الْوَكْرَ، فَقَامَ الْفَأْرُ وَسَدَّ بَابَ الْوَكْرِ.

فَقَالَ السِّنُورُ: لِمَ تُعْلِقُ بَابَكَ دُونِي؟ أَنَا شَيْخٌ غَرِيبٌ قَدْ ذَهَبَتْ قُوَّتِي، وَأَصَابَنِي مَا تَرَى مِنْ الْجُوعِ وَالْبُرْدِ، وَقَدْ التَّجَأْتُ إِلَيْكَ فِي هَذِهِ اللَّيْلَةِ الْبَارِدَةِ!

فَضَحِكَ الْفَأْرُ وَقَالَ: مَا رَأَيْتُ أَعْجَبَ مِنْ هَذَا؛ أَنْتَ عَدُوِّي بِالطَّبْعِ وَالْعَادَةِ، وَبَيْنَنَا مِنَ الْعَدَاوَةِ مَا تُضْرِبُ بِهِ الْأَمْثَالَ، وَتُرِيدُنِي أَنْ أُوِيكَ؟!

فَأَجَابَ السِّنُورُ بِصَوْتٍ ضَعِيفٍ: إِنَّ الَّذِي قُلْتَهُ حَقٌّ، أَيُّهَا الْفَأْرُ الْكَرِيمُ! وَلَكِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الصَّنْفَحَ عَمَّا مَضَى، وَأُعْطِيكَ عَهْدَ اللَّهِ وَمِيثَاقَهُ أَنْ لَا تَرَى مِنِّي شَرًّا أَبَدَ الدَّهْرِ!

فَقَالَ الْفَأْرُ: كَيْفَ أَقْبَلُ عَهْدَكَ، وَعَادَتُكَ الْعَدْرُ وَالْخِيَانَةُ؟

فَقَالَ السِّنُورُ: لَقَدْ ضَاقَ صَدْرِي وَأَشْتَدَّ كَرْبِي، وَسَوْفَ أَمُوتُ عَلَى بَابِكَ، وَيَكُونُ إِنَّمِي عَلَيْكَ، وَهَذَا آخِرُ كَلَامِي إِلَيْكَ!

فَحَصَلَ لِلْفَأْرِ خَوْفٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى، وَنَزَلَتْ فِي قَلْبِهِ الرَّحْمَةُ، فَفَتَحَ بَابَ الْوَكْرِ وَأَدْخَلَ السِّنُورَ مَعَهُ، فَأَقَامَ عِنْدَهُ حَتَّى اسْتَرَاحَ وَتَعَافَى!

وَفِي يَوْمٍ مِنَ الْأَيَّامِ أَعْلَقَ السِّنُورُ بَابَ الْوَكْرِ وَقَبَضَ عَلَى الْفَأْرِ وَأَخَذَ يُعَذِّبُهُ، وَجَعَلَ الْفَأْرُ يَصْرُخُ وَيَسْتَعِيثُ!

فَمَرَّ بِهِمَا كَلْبٌ فَظَنَّ أَنَّ فِي الْوَكْرِ ثَعْلَبًا يَفْتَرِسُ شَيْئًا فَأَقْتَحَمَ الْوَكْرَ وَقَتَلَ السِّنُورَ، فَخَرَجَ الْفَأْرُ سَالِمًا مُعَافَى.

وَأَدْرَكَ شَهْرَزَادُ الصَّبَاحُ فَسَكَتَتْ عَنِ الْكَلَامِ الْمُبَاحِ!

Shahrazaad said: It has reached me, O happy king, that a cat left one cold night searching for food and while doing so he saw a den underneath a tree. In the den there was a mouse. The cat planned to enter the den so the mouse got up and sealed off the den door.

Then the cat said: Why do you close your door on me, an elderly stranger? My strength has already declined and the hunger and cold that you see has afflicted me. Indeed, I am seeking refuge with you during this cold night!

The mouse laughed and said: I have seen nothing stranger than this; you are my enemy by nature and custom. There is between us such hostility of which proverbs are spoken about and you want me to give you shelter!?

The cat answered with a frail voice: Indeed, what you say is true, O generous mouse! However, I am asking you to overlook what has passed, and I give you Allah's covenant and pact that you will not see harm from me ever in a lifetime.

So the mouse said: How can I accept your covenant while treachery and betrayal are in your nature? The cat said: My chest has tightened and my stress increased, and I will die on your doorstep and it will be all your fault! These are my last words to you!

Then the fear of Allah (ta'la) overtook the mouse and mercy entered his heart. He opened the door of the den and allowed the cat in with him. So he stayed with him until he was well rested and recovered.

One day the cat closed the door of the den, grabbed the mouse and started tormenting him, and the mouse began to scream and call out for help!

Then a dog passed by them and thought that a fox was devouring something in the den. So it burst into the den and killed the cat, then the mouse emerged safe and sound.

And the morning came upon Shahrazaad, so she stopped speaking.