

The Gifts of Wali Dad

A Tale of India and Pakistan

In a mud hut far from town lived an old grasscutter named Wali Dad. Each day, he earned thirty paisa. Ten of the small coins went for food. Ten went for clothes and other needs. And ten he saved in a clay pot under his bed.



One evening, Wali Dad dragged out the pot to see how much money it held. He was amazed to find that his coins had filled it to the brim. The next day, Wali Dad loaded the money into a sack and carried it to a jeweler in the marketplace. He exchanged all his coins for a lovely gold bracelet.



The king sent back twenty camels with golden anklets, twenty horses with golden bridles and stirrups, twenty elephants with golden seats mounted on their backs, and twenty liveried servants to care for them all.



Wali Dad
looked behind
him. Where his
hut had stood,
a splendid
palace
sparkled in the
rising sun.



And so the king of Nekabad met the queen of Khaistan, and the two fell instantly in love. A few days later their marriage took place in the palace of Wali Dad. And the celebration went on for many days.

