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Story book

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THE TREASURE THAT TRAVELED BY SEA

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Reference:

Sahih Bukhari, Book 37,
Hadith 488

In days gone by, there was a man from the Children of Israel who needed to borrow some money. He went to a man who he thought might help him.



“Brother, I need to borrow a thousand dinars. Can you please lend them to me?”



“That’s a lot of money! Bring someone to witness this deal and I’ll give you the loan.”

The man did not have anyone to bring as a witness.

“Allah is enough of a witness for me.”

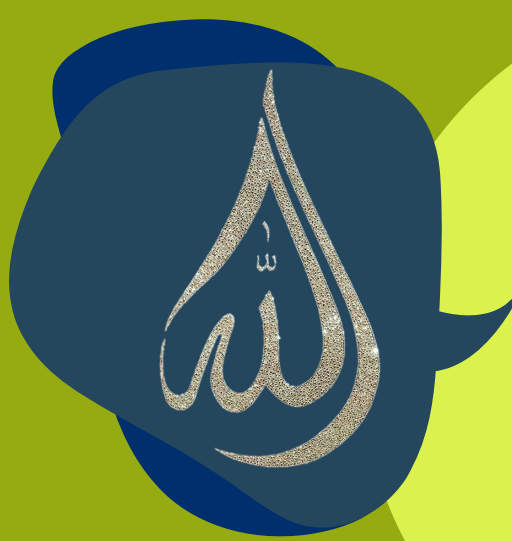
“Alright! Then bring me someone who can guarantee that you will repay the money.”

The man did not have anyone who could guarantee his trustworthiness.

“Allah’s guarantee is enough for me.”

“You are right.” replied the man.

So, he decided to lend him the thousand dinars.



The two men discussed when the money would be repaid and went their separate ways.

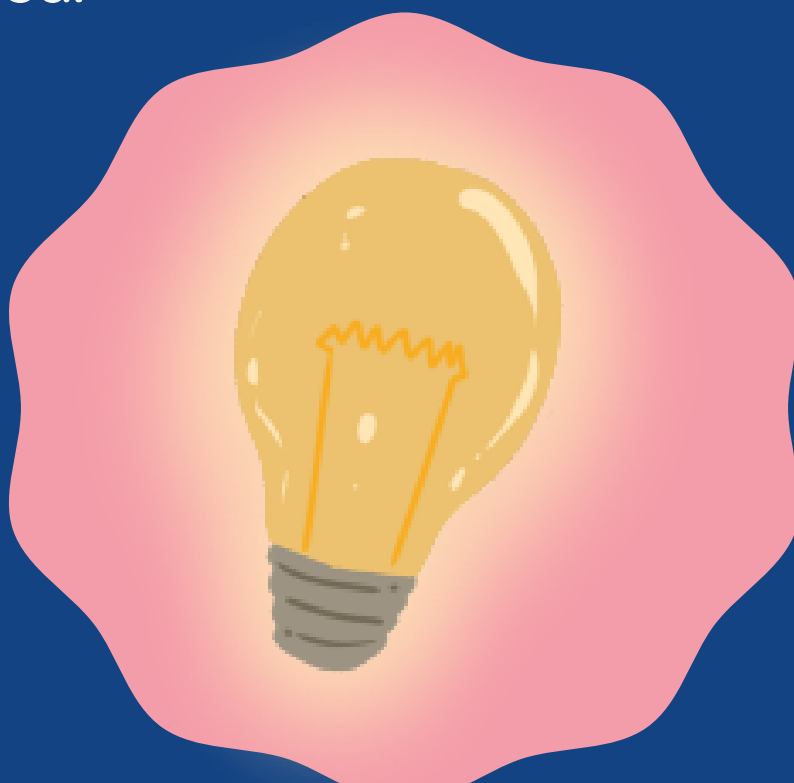
The man who had borrowed the money went on a voyage across the sea.

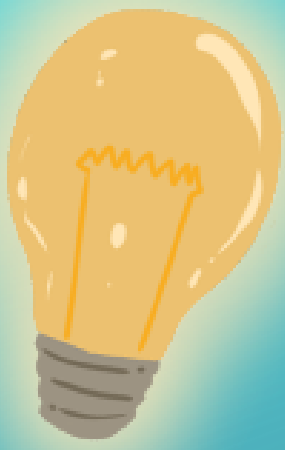


When the time to return the loan was near, he went to a port looking for a boat so he could go and return the money. However, there was no boat, big or small, on the port that day.

The man wondered what he should do. He really wanted to fulfill his promise and return the money he had borrowed.

The man thought and thought and then he had an idea!



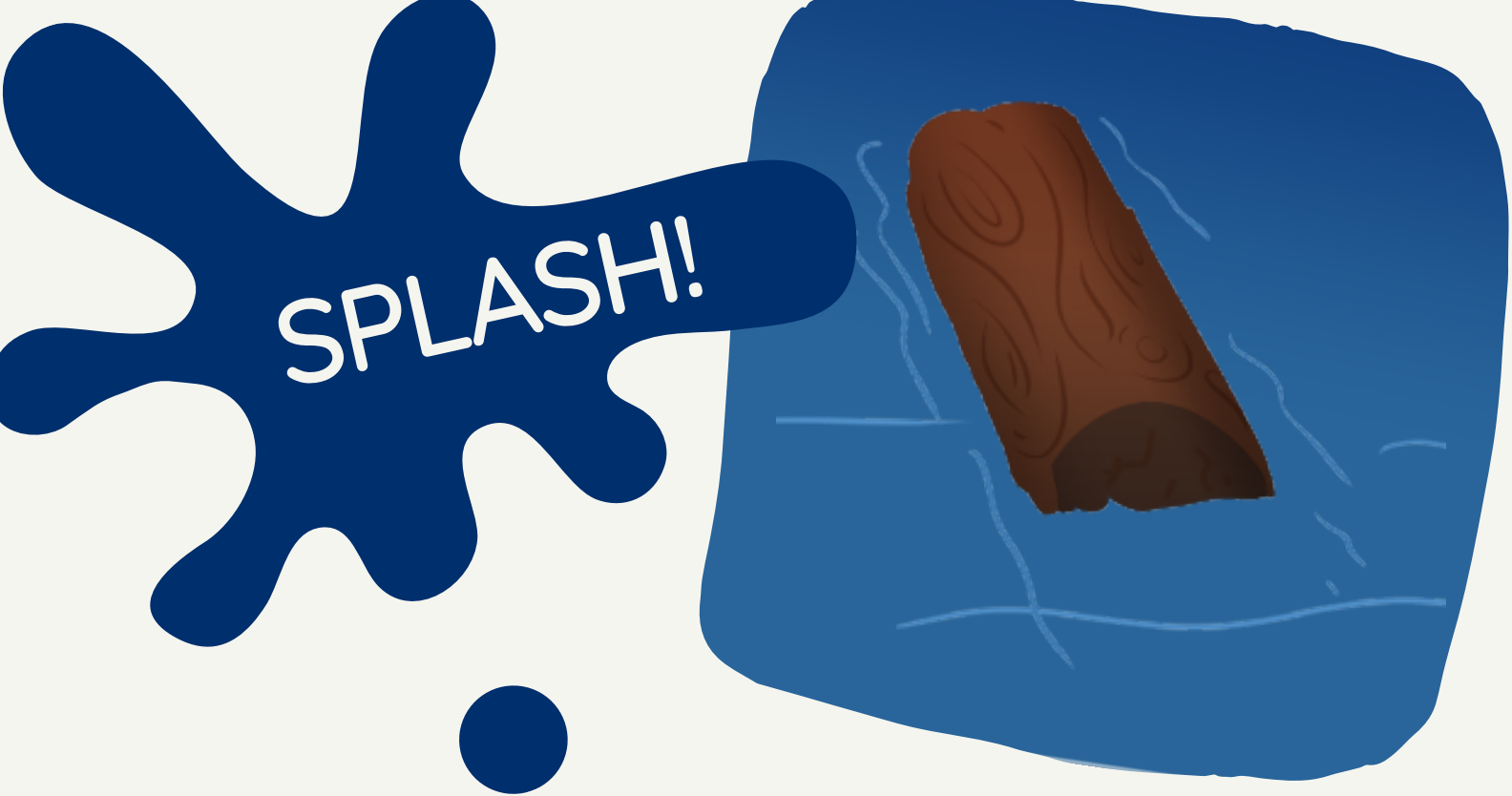


He searched for a hollow piece of wood, and cut a hole in it.

Then, he slipped the thousand dinars inside the wood with a letter for the lender, explaining everything to him. He sealed the hole carefully and went to the sea.



“O Allah!
You know well that I borrowed one thousand dinars from a brother. He asked for a guarantee and a witness, and I told him that you were sufficient as my guarantee and witness. I tried hard to find a boat so that I could pay back his money, but could not find any.
So, now I am handing this money over to You.”



The man threw the piece of wood into the water and watched as the waves carried it far out into the raging sea. As he turned to go back home, he wondered whether Allah had heard his prayers.

The man was still worried about upholding his honor. Everyday, he would come and look for boats to carry him across the sea to where the other man lived.

On the agreed-upon day, the man who had lended the money went to the port to see if any boat had come along with his money, but there was no boat to be seen!

He was very disappointed.



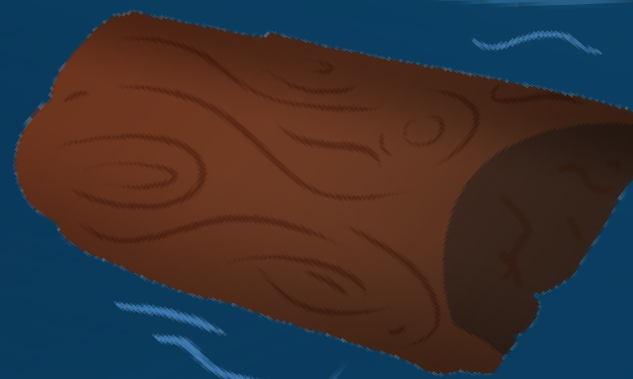
Suddenly, he caught sight of a large piece of wood floating near him.



“What fine wood! This will come in handy for a fire!”

So, the man decided to take the wood home and cut it into small pieces.

As he was cutting, the man noticed something strange.



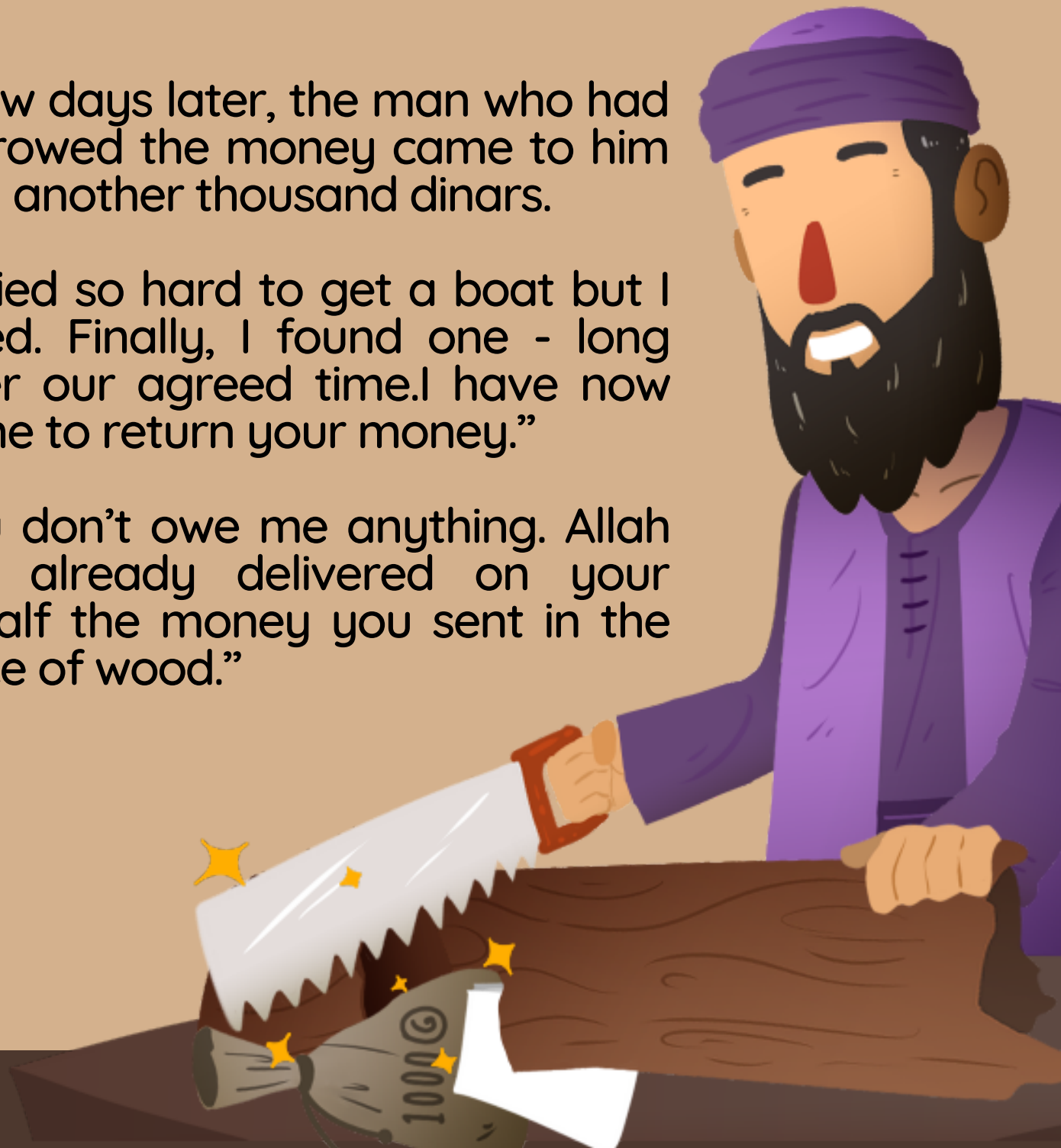
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The man said, surprised. He had found his money and the letter inside the wood!

A few days later, the man who had borrowed the money came to him with another thousand dinars.

“I tried so hard to get a boat but I failed. Finally, I found one - long after our agreed time. I have now come to return your money.”

‘You don’t owe me anything. Allah has already delivered on your behalf the money you sent in the piece of wood.’”



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