

The Humble King's Test

Once upon a time in a kingdom far away, there was a wise and humble king named Arthur. He was known for his kind heart and his love for his people. One day, a traveler came to the king's court and challenged his wisdom. The traveler was arrogant and believed that he was smarter than anyone else in the kingdom.

The king listened calmly to the traveler's boastful words and smiled. Instead of getting angry, he decided to teach the traveler a lesson about humility. King Arthur proposed a test. He said, "I will ask you three riddles, and if you can answer them correctly, I will reward you with a bag of gold. However, if you fail to answer them, you must promise to treat everyone with respect and never boast about your intelligence again."

The traveler agreed, thinking that the riddles would be easy to solve. He was eager to prove himself superior. The king began with the first riddle: "What has a heart that doesn't beat?"

The traveler thought for a moment and then confidently answered, "A heart-shaped stone."

The king nodded and said, "Correct, you have answered the first riddle. Now, here's the second one: What is full of holes but still holds water?"

The traveler pondered the question for a while, but he couldn't come up with an answer. He was used to being praised for his intelligence, and this made him feel uneasy. Finally, he admitted defeat and said, "I don't know the answer."

The wise king smiled kindly and replied, "The answer is a sponge. It may have holes, but it can still hold water."

The traveler was now more determined to answer the last riddle. He didn't want to be seen as a failure in front of the king and his court. King Arthur presented the final riddle: "What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?"

The traveler furrowed his brow, trying to solve the riddle. He thought and thought, but no solution came to his mind. Feeling frustrated, he admitted defeat once again.

The king then said, "The answer to the riddle is the letter 'M.' It appears once in the word 'minute,' twice in the word 'moment,' but it never appears in the phrase 'a thousand years.'"

The traveler was humbled by his inability to answer the riddles. He realized that intelligence alone doesn't make a person wise. It is essential to remain humble and respectful to truly understand the world around us. King Arthur's kindness and wisdom had taught him a valuable lesson.

From that day forward, the traveler changed his ways. He treated everyone with respect and no longer boasted about his intelligence. He learned that true wisdom comes from acknowledging one's limitations and being open to learning from others.

The people of the kingdom admired King Arthur even more after witnessing his display of wisdom and humility. He showed them that a leader should be someone who not only possesses intelligence but also uses it to bring goodness and harmony to the kingdom.

And so, the humble king's story spread throughout the land, inspiring many to embrace humility and kindness.