

The Princess in Disguise

Translated by Anosh, Amal and Warda

Once there was a princess whose mother was very sick. Someone told her that she can be cured by taking a bath in the water extracted from the pearl stones. The queen didn't have a son, but the princess assured her mother that she was as good as a son, and that she would bring these pearl stones. However, filled with worry, the mother said that these pearl stones were only found in the country where the princess' fiancé ruled, and she could not go there. The princess said that she will go in the guise of a man. Therefore, she left her home country to bring pearl stones. When the princess reached this other country, she met her fiancé, who didn't recognize her. She introduced herself as a prince of some country and told him that she is tired and needed some rest. However, the host prince suggested that they should have some food and take a rest later, as the princess wanted to walk in the garden. The prince suspected the princess' appearance and talked to his mother about it. He said that our guest's hands and feet are too feminine, and she could be a woman. His mother suggested that she will put more spices in the curry and if she reacted to it, she will be a woman in the guise of a man. So, they prepared spicy food about which the princess's parrot had already told her. Being prepared, the princess mocked the prince for being bitter about chillies. However, the prince was still not satisfied; with his mother he decided to test her again by suggesting the princess to take a bath with him at a canal. The parrot exposed the plan again, and the princess smartly unhooked the prince's horse so he could go after it. In his absence, the princess took a shower and wore her clothes. The prince went to his mother again and asked her to suggest something else to know the reality of the princess. The mother suggested him to take the guest to the garden; if she were a woman, she would like to pluck flowers and in this way the prince would know her reality. Once again, the parrot revealed the plan, and the princess showed no interest in flowers. However, she smartly collected a bunch of pearl stones.