

## **Obedience has a Reward**

**Translated by Sara, Sania**

Once upon a time, two families resided in a village. They were very poor. Fed up with their poverty, one family decided to migrate to the jungle. In the jungle, the mother of the family set up a simple stove and placed an empty pot atop it. She instructed one of her children to fetch water, and without hesitation, the child promptly obeyed. Then, she asked the other child to gather wood for the fire, and he too willingly followed her instructions. Each task she entrusted to her children was met with unwavering obedience. The mother, though lacking any provisions, began to symbolically cook. It was then that a bird, sitting on the branch of the tree under which she had set her stove, inquired the mother what will she cook for her children as she has put nothing in the stove. The mother explained that due to their poverty, she had placed the pot with a hope that God will help them. Hearing this, the bird advised her to dig the ground beneath the stove, for it concealed a hidden treasure. Delighted by this revelation, the mother waited for her children to return from the forest, where they had gone to gather supplies on her request. Once they were back, they began to dig excitedly and soon unearthed a bountiful treasure. With newfound wealth and happiness, they returned to their village.

Now, when the other very poor family saw that their relatives had migrated and returned wealthy, they wanted to follow in their footsteps. They inquired about their wealth, and the fortunate family recounted the tale of the bird's revelation, leading to the discovery of the treasure.

Encouraged by this account, this other family set out to the jungle. The mother constructed a stove at the same spot, and just as she had heard, she instructed her children step by step. She asked one child to go fetch water. The child, complaining to be fatigued from walking alongside the mother, refused his mother. The other child also defied the mother's request to gather wood. She asked another child to gather wood in the jungle, but that child also refused his mother. These children were disobedient to their mother. Nonetheless, she built the stove under the same tree and placed an empty pot over it. The bird approached her, questioning why she had put an empty pot and what did she intended to cook. The mother responded that she would cook the bird in the pot. To this, the bird replied that those who intended to cook it were gone, and they would find no treasure there. Disappointed, they returned home empty-handed.

The moral of the story is that obedience is rewarded, while disobedience leads to deprivation in the household.