

Once upon a time, there was a man called Mamad. He was very popular, because he was honest and wise. All the people in the nearby towns knew about him.

The King heard about Mamad and wanted to meet him. He looked at the wise man and asked:

"Mamad, are you sure you will never lie in your life?"

Mamad said, "Yes, I'm sure of that."

"Excellent. But be careful! Lies are cunning and roll off your tongue easily," the King warned Mamad.

Several days later, the King called Mamad once again. The King held his horse. It looked like he was about to go hunting. He ordered Mamad:

"Go to my summer palace and tell the Queen I will go hunting and come back for lunch tomorrow. Tell her to prepare a big feast."

Mamad bowed and went to the queen.

The King wanted to make Mamad tell a lie, so he said to his ministers, "We won't actually go hunting and now Mamad will lie to the Queen. Tomorrow we will laugh at him."

But the wise Mamad went to the palace and said:

"Maybe you should prepare a big feast for lunch tomorrow, and maybe you shouldn't. Maybe the king will come by noon, and maybe he won't."

"Please just tell me – will the king come to lunch or not?" asked the Queen.

"I don't know. I only saw him holding a horse. "

Everybody waited for the King. He came the next day and said to the Queen:

"The wise Mamad, who never lies, lied to you yesterday."

But the Queen told him what Mamad had actually said. The King was surprised, and realized that a wise man only says what he sees with his own eyes.