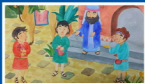


The Parable of the Talents

—10th Story—



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Narration A long time ago a man decided to go on a journey to a far-away land. Before he left, he called three of his servants and entrusted his property to them.

M a s t e r I will give each of you a share of my property; go and deal with the property while I am away.

Narration To one servant the master gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent.

M a s t e r There, I have provided you with talents based on your gifts and strengths. Now go and do your best.

Narration The master said goodbye to his servants and left on his journey.



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Narration When the master left, the first and second servants went at once and put their money to work. They both believed that if they worked hard, their master would be happy.

The first servant who had received five talents went at once and put his money to work at a crop field. He worked very hard.

The second servant likewise worked hard. One day, two days, one month, two months... as time passed, he reaped the rewards of his hard work.

The first servant who had received five talents gained five more, the second servant who had received two talents gained two more. But what about the third?



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Narration A few months later, the master finally returned from his long journey. The three servants came to the master and told him of what had happened while he had been away. The master spoke to the first servant who had doubled his original number of talents.

M a s t e r Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!



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- Narration** The master praised the second servant as well.
- M a s t e r** Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!
- Narration** The master was very pleased with the achievements of the first and second servants and he promised he would put them in charge of many more things.
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- Narration** Finally the third servant came to the master and spoke to him.
- Servant 3** Master, I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.

- Narration** The master was angered by this.
- M a s t e r** WHAT?! You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I was a hard man? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bank so that when I returned I would have at least received it back with interest!
- Take the talent from him and given it to the one who has ten talents! And throw that worthless servant outside into the darkness!
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- Narration** The servants who had used their gifts and worked hard rejoiced and shared in their master's happiness; but the lazy servant who did not even try was thrown out crying.



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