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Solomon

Narration Like King David, Israel's king, Solomon, loved God very much. Even after many years, a temple for God had not been rebuilt in Israel. So, the people worshipped God at a high place (a high place with an altar). One day, King Solomon went to Gibeon to worship God. There was a big high place there. At the altar, King Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings. God was pleased with Solomon's offering. One day, God came to King Solomon in a dream.

God Solomon, ask for whatever you want me to give you.
Solomon Give me wisdom and knowledge so that I may lead the people.

Narration God was pleased with Solomon's response.

God Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth or long life but for wisdom and knowledge, wisdom and knowledge shall be given to you. There has been no king like you and there will never be another king like you.



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Narration Solomon resolved many problems of the people.

One day, two women holding one baby came to King Solomon.

Woman 1 We live in the same house. But one night that woman's child suddenly died.

Narration The woman sobbed and began speaking again.

Woman 1 Then, while I was sleeping, she switched her dead child with my baby. Please, let me have my baby back!

Narration This time, the second woman, who had been listening, spoke.

Woman 2 That is not true. Everything that woman has said is a lie. That woman rolled over on top of her own baby and killed him. Then she tried to take my baby because she was jealous of me and my living baby.

Narration The two women argued that the baby was her own.

Narration Solomon took some time to think and then with the wisdom of God he came to a surprising decision.

Solomon Someone bring me a sword!

Servant Here you are, my lord.



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Narration The servant brought King Solomon a sword as quickly as possible. Solomon instructed the servant.

Solomon Take the sword and cut that baby in half. Give one half to that woman and the other half to the other woman.

Narration Everyone was surprised. Then one of the women started sobbing.

Woman 1 Please! Don't kill my baby! Just give him to her.

Narration But the other woman rolled her eyes and said.

Woman 2 Go ahead and cut him in half. Then neither of us will have the baby.

Narration After a while, the wise King Solomon came to a decision.

Solomon Give the baby to the woman who asked for the baby to be kept alive. She is his real mother.

Narration And so, the baby was placed in the arms of his real mother. Everyone was amazed by King Solomon's wisdom. In this way, King Solomon was able to judge rightly, using the wisdom of God.

Narration Thanks to King Solomon's wise governance of the people, Israel was peaceful. The news of Israel's peace reached its neighboring countries and many were jealous of King Solomon's wisdom. And so, many people came to meet King Solomon. Even the Queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon with camels laden with gold, silver, jewels and spices. The Queen of Sheba who had travelled far to visit King Solomon in search for wisdom, asked him:

Queen What do you think is the most important thing in this world?

Narration Solomon responded without any hesitation.

Solomon The most important thing in this world is wisdom.

Narration The Queen of Sheba continued to ask questions and King Solomon answered every single one, no matter how difficult. The Queen was amazed as Solomon's wisdom and praised the Lord who had given him such wisdom. Then she gave King Solomon the gifts she had brought with her.

Narration This time, King Solomon resolved to build God's temple. He brought over some good wood from Lebanon.



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He had the people refine the stones and wood.

And so, the Israelites devoted seven years to building God's temple and when it was finally built, King Solomon and the Israelites gathered in it to worship God.

Solomon O! Lord! We thank you for your grace. We praise you Lord.

Narration And King Solomon prayed to God like this.

Solomon Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below. Give attention to your servant's prayer. Hear the cry and the prayer of your servant and your people. May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day. And if anyone wrongs anyone else and prays to you in this place, hear from heaven and forgive the sins of your servant, your people Israel!

Narration King Solomon lifted his two hands up to the heavens and blessed the people of Israel.