Be Merciful

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Once upon a time, there was a family that lived in the countryside far from the town. The family consisted of two parents and three children, including one girl.

The children were students, and their parents paid a lot for their school fees, school materials, uniforms, etc. The first two boys walked to school. After finishing primary school, they went to secondary school and after that, to a university.

The parents were not rich enough to feed them well or to satisfy all of their needs, but they made an effort according to their ability.

A few years later, the sons got good jobs that made them more respected and honored by everybody. They went to live in town and became very rich. They had lots of cars, wonderful houses, and became famous in the town. The two great men bought houses in

different towns. The private cars in which they traveled were different from the public busses for passengers. They lived a good life with their new families.

Unfortunately, they forgot their family that remained in the countryside because of their poverty. They neither helped nor visited their parents. Their parents were extremely poor due to paying for their children's education. When the parents sent the daughter to ask her siblings for clothes or food, she did not get anything and returned home empty-handed.

"Listen to me," said the man to his wife. "I am going to pretend to be dead and after my death, you will tell them that I died. I am sure that they will come here to bury me after being informed about what happened to me."

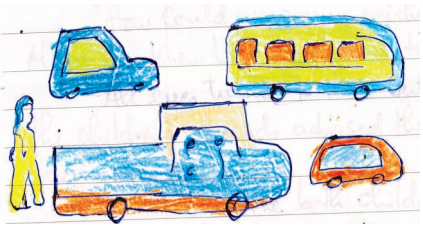
"After that, what will happen?" asked the children's mother.

"It is certain that they will bring a coffin and burial clothes," said the man. "Now, when you and the children are getting ready to put me in my casket, I will sneeze, then rise and get up. We will start to mock them along with all the people who

are in great sadness because of my death."

"You are tactful, and your objective will be reached without a doubt," said his wife.

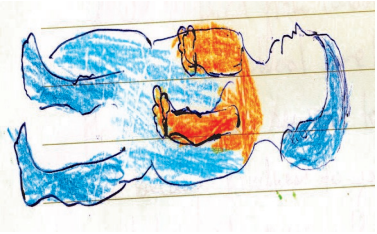
At once, they gave the announcement to the radio and sent word to their sons. Immediately after



hearing the awful news, the two sons with their families, accompanied by all their friends, soon arrived to bury their father. All kinds of cars were parked in the village where the burial would take place. There was a crowd of people, both rich and poor, gathered there in sadness mixed with surprise. The rich people were looking at the thatched house very critically asking themselves if this was the old house of these two rich brothers. The great men were surprised and ashamed. All the townspeople looked at them. The sons had become extremely rich during the time that the townspeople had not seen them. Their faces had changed and were as smooth and bright as faces of white men. It was obvious that the rich sons had a balanced diet and did not have any diseases. They entered the house and when the sons were

getting ready to put their father into his casket, he sneezed. All eyes turned on him.

They all exclaimed, surprised at what had happened, “The dead is raised! God be praised!”



At once, the children’s father scolded his sons, “You ungrateful children, what did I do wrong to you? We suffered from labor in order to feed you well, we paid your school fees, and we lived in bad conditions so you did not have to, and now your reward to us is this ungratefulness. We were kind to you, but after you both became rich, you dishonored us with your ignorance. You rejected us all as your enemies. Give us the reason of your behavior,” said the parents and all the townspeople to the rich sons. “We cannot curse you. However, you have become parents, and I wish that your sons and daughters do the same to you as you did to me. Now get out of my sight. How could we see you without a trick like this?”

All the townspeople knew what had happened to the rich sons. All eyes turned on

them, but during the chaos, the friends of the rich men advised them to apologize for their ungratefulness.

The two sons apologized for their ungrateful behavior. Their parents and the townspeople forgave them and told them, “Never again, never again.”

Since that day, the families lived on good terms. The men built a good house for their parents, then gave them food and clothes and promised to visit them three times a month.

God made you rich to help the poor, so don’t repay kindness with ungratefulness. If someone apologizes, be merciful.