

DARIJA GRADED READERS

عْلِي بَابَا وْ الرّْبْعِينْ شَفَّارْ

ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES

A classic in Moroccan Arabic, in 16 chapters

LEVEL B1

Learning Darija الدارجة

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Horseshoe arches David Roberts, Picturesque Views in Spain and Morocco (London, 1838)

01

جُوجْ دْ الْخُوتْ

juj d l-khut

TWO BROTHERS

فْ وَاحْدْ الْمْدِينَة قْدِيمَة، كَانُو عَايْشِينْ جُوجْ دْ الْخُوتْ. الْكْبِيرْ سْمِيتُو قَاسَمْ، وْ الصْغِيرْ سْمِيتُو عْلِي بَابَا. بَّاهُومْ مَاتْ وْ خْلَّى لِيهُومْ غِيرْ شْوِيَّة دْ الْفْلُوسْ. قْسْمُوهُمْ بِينَاتْهُومْ بْالنُّصْ، وْ كُلّْ وَاحْدْ مْشَى فْ طْرِيقُّو.

f wa7ed l-mdina qdima, kanu 3ayshin juj d l-khut. l-kbir smitu Qasem, w s-sghir smitu 3li Baba. bbahum mat w khella lihum ghir shwiya d l-flus. qesmuhum binathum b n-ness, w kull wa7ed msha f triqu.

In an old city there once lived two brothers. The elder was called Qasem and the younger was called Ali Baba. Their father died and left them only a little money. They split it down the middle, and each went his own way.

قَاسَمْ تْزَوَّجْ بْمْرَا غْنِيَّة، بَنْتْ وَاحْدْ التَّاجْرْ كْبِيرْ. مْنْ بَعْدْ الْعْرْسْ، حَلّْ حَانُوتْ كْبِيرَة فْ وْسْطْ السُّوقْ. كَانْ كَيْبِيعْ الثُّوبْ وْ الْحْرِيرْ، وْ النَّاسْ كَيْجِيوْ عَنْدُو مْنْ كُلّْ بْلَاصَة. وَلَّى رَاجْلْ غْنِي، كَيْلْبَسْ مْزْيَانْ وْ كَيَاكُلْ مْزْيَانْ. النَّاسْ كَانُو كَيْقُولُو عْلِيهْ: «قَاسَمْ عَنْدُو الزْهَرْ.» وْ مْرَاتُو كَانَتْ كَتْحْسَبْ كُلّْ دْرْهَمْ.

Qasem tzewwej b mra ghniya, bent wa7ed t-tajer kbir. mn be3d l-3ers, 7ell 7anut kbira f west s-suq. kan kaybi3 t-tub w l-7rir, w n-nas kayjiw 3ndu mn kull blasa. wella rajel ghni, kaylbes mzyan w kayakul mzyan. n-nas kanu kayqulu 3lih: «Qasem 3ndu z-zher.» w mratu kanet kat7seb kull derhem.

Qasem married a rich woman, the daughter of a big merchant. After the wedding he opened a large shop in the middle of the market. He sold cloth and silk, and people came to him from everywhere. He became a rich man who dressed well and ate well. People used to say of him, "Qasem has luck." And his wife kept count of every dirham.

عْلِي بَابَا تْزَوَّجْ بْزَهْرَة، بَنْتْ دْ الْحُومَة، فْقِيرَة بْحَالُو. زَهْرَة كَانَتْ مْرَا مْعْقُولَة، وْ كَتْعْرَفْ تْدَبَّرْ عْلَى الدَّارْ. مَا كَانْ عَنْدُو لَا حَانُوتْ لَا أَرْضْ لَا فْلُوسْ. كَانْ عَنْدُو غِيرْ تْلَاتَة دْ الْحْمِيرْ وْ وَاحْدْ الشَّاقُورْ قْدِيمْ. عْلِي بَابَا كَانْ حَطَّابْ.

3li Baba tzewwej b Zahra, bent d l-7uma, fqira b7alu. Zahra kanet mra m3qula, w kat3ref tdebber 3la d-dar. ma kan 3ndu la 7anut la ard la flus. kan 3ndu ghir tlata d l-7mir w wa7ed sh-shaqur qdim. 3li Baba kan 7ettab.

Ali Baba married Zahra, a girl from the neighbourhood, as poor as he was. Zahra was a sensible woman who knew how to run a house. He had no shop, no land and no money. All he had were three donkeys and an old axe. Ali Baba was a woodcutter.

كُلّ صْبَاحْ كَانْ كَيْنُوضْ بْكْرِي قْبَلْ الشّْمْشْ. كَانْ كَيْدّي الْحْمِيرْ **لْلْغَابَة** وْ كَيْقْطَعْ **الْحْطَبْ** نْهَارْ كَامْلْ. فْ الْعْشِيَّة كَانْ كَيْرْجَعْ لْلْمْدِينَة وْ كَيْبِيعْ **الْحْطَبْ** فْ السُّوقْ. بْدَاكْ الشِّي اللِّي كَيْرْبَحْ، كَيْشْرِي الْخُبْزْ وْ شْوِيَّة دْ الزّيتْ. عْلِي بَابَا بْقَا فْقِيرْ، وَلَكِنْ كَانْ فَرْحَانْ.

kull sba7 kan kaynud bekri qbel sh-shemsh. kan kayddi l-7mir l l-ghaba w kayqte3 l-7teb nhar kamel. f l-3shiya kan kayrje3 l l-mdina w kaybi3 l-7teb f s-suq. b dak sh-shi lli kayrbe7, kayshri l-khubz w shwiya d z-zit. 3li Baba bqa fqir, walakin kan fer7an.

Every morning he got up early, before sunrise. He took the donkeys to the forest and cut wood all day long. In the late afternoon he went back to the city and sold the wood in the market. With what he earned he bought bread and a little oil. Ali Baba stayed poor, but he was happy.

وَاحْدْ النّْهَارْ، زَهْرَة قَالَتْ لِيهْ: «حْتَّى لِيمْتَى غَادِي نْبْقَاوْ هَكّا؟» «خُوكْ عَايْشْ فْ الْخِيرْ، وْ حْنَا مَا عَنْدْنَا وَالُو.» عْلِي بَابَا ضْحَكْ وْ قَالْ: «**الرّْزْقْ** عْلَى اللّٰهْ، أَ زَهْرَة. خَصّْنِي غِيرْ الصّْحَّة.» «إِلَا خْدَمْتْ مْزْيَانْ، اللّٰهْ غَادِي يْعْطِينَا.»

wa7ed n-nhar, Zahra qalet lih: «7tta limta ghadi nebqaw hakka?» «khuk 3aysh f l-khir, w 7na ma 3ndna walu.» 3li Baba d7ek w qal: «r-rzq 3la llah, a Zahra. khessni ghir s-se77a.» «ila khdemt mzyan, llah ghadi y3tina.»

One day Zahra said to him, "How long are we going to live like this? Your brother lives in plenty, and we have nothing." Ali Baba laughed and said, "Our daily bread is in God's hands, Zahra. All I need is my health. If I work hard, God will provide."

وَاحْدْ الصّْبَاحْ، عْلِي بَابَا نَاضْ بْكْرِي بْحَالْ الْعَادَة. شْرَبْ كَاسْ دْ أَتَايْ، وْ شَدّْ **الشّْاقُوزْ** دْيَالُو. حَطّْ الْحْبَالْ عْلَى الْحْمِيرْ وْ خْرَجْ مْنْ بَابْ الْمْدِينَة. الْجّْوّْ

كَانْ زْوِينْ، وْ الطْرِيقْ لْلْغَابَة كَانْ خَاوِي. مَا كَانْ كَيْعْرَفْ بْلِّي هَادَاكْ النْهَارْ غَادِي يْبَدْلْ حْيَاتُو.

wa7ed s-sba7, 3li Baba nad bekri b7al l-3ada. shreb kas d atay, w shedd sh-shaqur dyalu. 7ett l-7bal 3la l-7mir w khrej mn bab l-mdina. j-jeww kan zwin, w t-triq l l-ghaba kan khawi. ma kan kay3ref belli hadak n-nhar ghadi ybeddel 7yatu.

One morning Ali Baba got up early, as usual. He drank a glass of tea and picked up his axe. He put the ropes on the donkeys and left through the city gate. The weather was fine, and the road to the forest was empty. He had no idea that this day would change his life.

WORDS

حَطَّابْ	*7ettab*	woodcutter
الْحْطَبْ	*l-7teb*	firewood
الشَّاقُورْ	*sh-shaqur*	the axe
الْغَابَة	*l-ghaba*	the forest
تْزَوَّجْ بْ	*tzewwej b*	to marry (someone)
حَانُوتْ	*7anut*	shop
رْبَحْ	*rbe7*	to earn, to make a profit
الرِّزْقْ	*r-rzq*	one's livelihood, what God provides

NOTE

Look at kan kaynud, kan kaybi3, kan kayrje3. Kan plus a present verb is how darija says "used to" or the English habitual "would". Every morning he would get up, he would cut wood. A single action in the past, like nad (he got up) in the last paragraph, takes the plain past instead.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Qasem sell in his shop?
2. How did Ali Baba earn his living?
3. What did Zahra complain about?