

DARIJA GRADED READERS

حْكَايَاتْ جْحَا

THE TALES OF JHA

24 short tales in easy Moroccan Arabic

LEVEL A1–A2

Learning Darija الدارجة

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A street in Tangier Tomás Campuzano, Bernardo Rico, La Ilustración Española y Americana, 8-I-1894

01

جْحَا كَيْحْسْبْ الْحْمِيرْ

Jha kay7seb l-7mir

JHA COUNTS HIS DONKEYS

جْحَا كَيْمْشِي لْلسُّوقْ فْ الصَّبَاحْ. كَيْشْرِي عْشْرَة دْ الْحْمِيرْ. كَيْرْكْبْ عْلَى **حْمَارْ** وَاحْدْ وْ كَيْرْجْعْ لْلدَّارْ. فْ الطْرِيقْ كَيْحْسْبْ الْحْمِيرْ. «تْسْعَة دْ الْحْمِيرْ؟» كَيْقُولْ جْحَا.

Jha kaymshi l s-suq f s-sba7. Kayshri 3shra d l-7mir. Kayrkeb 3la 7mar wa7ed w kayrje3 l d-dar. F t-triq kay7seb l-7mir. «Tes3a d l-7mir?» kayqul Jha.

In the morning Jha goes to the market. He buys ten donkeys. He rides one of them and heads home. On the way he counts the donkeys. "Nine donkeys?" says Jha.

كَيْنْزْلْ مْنْ **الْحْمَارْ** وْ كَيْعَاوْدْ يْحْسْبْ. وَاحْدْ، جُوجْ، تْلَاتَة... عْشْرَة. «مْزْيَانْ، الْحْمِيرْ كَامْلِينْ.» كَيْطْلْعْ عْلَى **الْحْمَارْ** وْ كَيْحْسْبْ عَاوْدْ. كَيْلْقَى غِيرْ تْسْعَة عَاوْدْ. جْحَا مَا كَيْفْهْمْ وَالُو.

Kaynzel mn l-7mar w kay3awed y7seb. Wa7ed, juj, tlata... 3shra. «Mzyan, l-7mir kamlin.» Kaytle3 3la l-7mar w kay7seb 3awed. Kaylqa ghir tes3a 3awed. Jha ma kayfhem walu.

He gets off the donkey and counts again. One, two, three... ten. "Good, they're all here." He climbs back on and counts once more. Again he finds only nine. Jha can't make sense of it.

كَيْحُكّْ رَاسُو وْ كَيْفَكّْرْ شْوِيَّة. «مْلِّي كَنْمْشِي عْلَى رْجْلِيَّا، عَنْدِي عْشْرَة.» «مْلِّي كَنْرْكْبْ، عَنْدِي تْسْعَة.» «مْشِي عْلَى رْجْلِيكْ يَا جْحَا، وْ رْبْحْ **حْمَارْ.**» جْحَا كَيْمْشِي حْدَا الْحْمِيرْ، **فَرْحَانْ.**

Kay7ekk rasu w kayfekker shwiya. «Melli kanmshi 3la rjliya, 3ndi 3shra.» «Melli kanrkeb, 3ndi tes3a.» «Mshi 3la rjlik ya Jha, w rbe7 7mar.» Jha kaymshi 7da l-7mir, fer7an.

He scratches his head and thinks for a moment. "When I walk, I have ten. When I ride, I have nine. Walk, Jha, and you gain a donkey." And Jha walks beside his donkeys, very pleased.

WORDS

حْمَارْ	*7mar*	donkey (plural 7 ,حْمِيرْmir)
حْسْبْ	*7seb*	to count
رْكْبْ	*rkeb*	to ride, to get on
نْزْلْ	*nzel*	to get off, to go down
عْلَى رْجْلِيهْ	*3la rjlih*	on foot
فَرْحَانْ	*fer7an*	happy, pleased

NOTE

From three to ten, the number takes دْ and the article before the noun: عْشْرَة دْ الْحْمِيرْ, literally "ten of the donkeys". English has nothing like it, so you will be tempted to say عْشْرَة حْمِيرْ. A Moroccan says d l- every time.

QUESTIONS

1. How many donkeys does Jha buy?
2. How many does he count when he is riding?
3. What does Jha decide in the end?