

The Richest Man



Many years ago, there lived a merchant named Halvor. Halvor had a beautiful daughter, and when the time came for her to marry, three brothers arrived at his door.

“I am Jalil,” the oldest brother said. “And I am the strongest of my brothers. I will protect your daughter with all my strength.”

Halvor **surveyed** the first brother, **smirked**, and then turned to the next.

“I am Jossel,” greeted the second brother. “I am the smartest in my family, and I shall outwit anyone who dares to fool your daughter.”

Halvor was truly impressed, yet he remained **skeptical**. He then turned to the third man that stood upon his doorstep.

“I am Janus,” said the youngest brother. “As the kindest of my brothers, I will always place the wishes of your daughter ahead of my own.”

Halvor rubbed his stubbled chin for a long minute. Each of the brothers would make a **suitable** husband for his precious Larissa; that much was certain. Not knowing whom to select, he retrieved three gemstones from a chest and handed one to each brother.

“Each of you now holds a Moonlight Gemstone,” Halvor began. “And each stone is worth a small fortune. I have been saving them for my daughter’s **dowry**.”

All three brothers became **momentarily** lost in the glint of his own gem.

“I offer a test,” the merchant continued. “The one who can use his gemstone in such a way as to enrich his life the most shall win the hand of my daughter.”

And with that Halvor shut his door, sending the brothers away.

A week later all three returned, each having spent their gemstone.

Jalil spoke first. “I have peddled my gemstone for a hefty five hundred pieces of gold.” He puffed out his chest, boasting, “I believe that makes me the riches of my brothers.”

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Jossel stepped in front of his proud brother and said, “I have traded my gemstone for a two-story cabin amid seventeen acres of rich farmland.” He **sneered** back at Jalil. “I can feed your daughter for life.”

Halvor nodded his approval and then beheld Janus. “What about you?” he asked. “What have you done with the gemstone I provided?”



Janus dipped his head in respect before he spoke. “I did the only thing that brings me happiness. I offered it as a gift to your daughter. Seeing the pure joy in her smile enriches my life more than anything else I could ever imagine.”

Halvor, knowing full well that Janus had passed his test, laughed a hearty chuckle.

“You truly are a wise young man,” he proclaimed. “You have outfoxed even me, for true **prosperity** lies not in what you get, but in how willing you are to give.”