

The Clay Plate



There lived an old woman. She had brought up her son with great care even though she was poor. One day she got her son married. What she did not know was that her daughter-in-law was a very selfish and unkind.



At home, the daughter-in-law used to treat her mother-in-law badly. She would give the worst food to eat. Though she had very nice plates at home, her mother-in-law was given food on a very ordinary plate made from clay. The poor lady never said anything nor used angry words. Instead, she washed her plate every day and kept it safe.



The grandchildren used to love the old lady. They used to treat her with respect. The eldest grandson noticed that his mother was cruel to his grandmother, and he did not like it.



One day, the old lady went to clean her plate as usual, and suddenly it fell from her hands. Her daughter-in-law saw this and screamed at her. Her son asked her,

His mother
shouted back,

"Why should I? They are
all mine. She will only
destroy them."

"Why are you shouting at my
grandmother. Give her one of
the nicer plates we have."



After hearing this, the son went to the market. He bought two ordinary clay plates and came home. His wife asked him,

"Your mother needs only one plate. Why did you buy two?"

He answered,

"One is for my mother, and one is for you when you grow old!"



His wife suddenly understood that her children would not treat her with respect because that was what they were learning. She said sorry to her children and mother-in-law and started taking care of her very nicely.



**We must treat our
elders with respect**

