

Story #560 (not taped; dictated)

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The Son Who Would Not Become Adam¹

Once there was a man who had one son. This son always did the opposite of what his father asked him to do. He was very lazy, and he cared about nothing at all. His father used to say to him, "You will never become a decent individual [adam]." Still, the son did not change his careless and obstinate ways.

Time passed, and the son left his father's house. He began to work here and there. At last, he became the vizier of the country. When he had achieved that position, he remembered his father's words: "You will never become a decent individual." So he sent servants to his father's house and invited him to come to the palace

The father went to see his son. When the vizier saw his father, he began to laugh. "Father," he said, "you always used to say that I would never become a decent individual. Now, look and see. I have become a vizier, thank God. You were wrong to think the way you did."

The father smiled. "My son," he said, "I did not say that you could never become a vizier. I said you would not become a decent individual and I still say the same thing."

"Why, Father?" asked the son.

"Well, after you had become the vizier, you ordered your father to come to your feet. You are my son, and I am your father, even though you are the vizier. Would a decent individual treat his father the way you treated me by making me come to you?"

¹The term adam means "individual." Actually, it also means "man," but in a broader sense--the sense in which it is used here--sex makes no difference. It means a good, kind, decent human being.