

#11 Ali -- Caliph

Caliph Ali and the Three Sons' Inheritance

#11 Three sons

#11 Sons -- three

A man died and left his three sons much property, including seventeen camels. In his will he stated that his oldest son should have half of his estate, the second son one third of his estate, and his youngest son, one ninth of it. Most of the properties were easily divided according to the provisions of the will, but the sons could find no way of dividing the seventeen camels into three parts, one of which would be one half, one of which would be one third, and the remaining part one ninth.

They went to wise man after wise man to ask for advice about how to accomplish this division. Finally they went to the Caliph Ali, the wisest of all men alive. He said, "This is very simple. Here is the way to do it," and he proceeded to explain his plan to them. "I shall give you a camel for one day. Then you will have eighteen camels. The oldest son will now get nine camels, one half of this number; the second son will receive six camels, one third of this number; and the youngest son will receive two camels, one ninth of this number. This will total seventeen camels, the number your father left to you. Then you will bring me back my camel, and we shall all be satisfied, including your father."

#11 Inheritance -- division of