

# THE ROAD

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## **Setting:**

The season is summer. There is a long road. The road has a fork and there is a big mountain between the separate roads. All of the scenes go through nature. There are lots of trees around and their leaves are fresh and green.

## **Characters:**

BAHTIYAR: 21 years old, brown hair, fit, wears eyeglasses, soldier, Turkish, well-behaved, relaxed

SUFFIAN: 20 years old, dark brown hair, fit, has a scar on his face, soldier, Turkish, anxious

THE OLD MAN: In his 60's, long white beard, wears a long white robe, has a fat belly, Turkish, wise, experienced

## **SCENE 1**

*(BAHTIYAR and SUFFIAN are soldiers assigned to military duty.*

*BAHTIYAR is so excited and proud of the duty, while SUFFIAN wants to run away from the military. And they are talking while walking on the road. They are on the road because they are charged with going to another city by the military. There are few trees around and a river runs near to the road. The weather is sunny and dry.)*

BAHTIYAR: You know what, Suffian? I am really proud of myself for serving in the military. I've always fulfilled my responsibilities and I feel that I really deserve my salary.

SUFFIAN: Don't be ridiculous, Bahtiyar. You don't need to work so hard to earn money. Nobody even checks you, if you are doing your job or not.

BAHTIYAR: Actually, they do. The commander has soldiers who are responsible for taking notes about the other soldiers' behaviors. They don't give any punishment to the ones who don't work well, but one day we will retire. When we retire, all things we have done in the military will be shown.

SUFFIAN: The supervisor soldiers? Where are they? Why can't we see them?

BAHTIYAR: They are invisible because you should be doing your tasks with an internal motivation, not for show.

SUFFIAN: *(shocked and confused)* That makes no sense! Is the commander tracking us? What is his aim?

BAHTIYAR: The Commander wants his soldiers to work hard consciously, not with any kind of fear.

SUFFIAN: But...

*(SUFFIAN doesn't finish his sentence. They come across a wise old man they didn't expect to see there. There is an old book in his right hand. He stands on the road and there is a fork in the road, behind him.)*

THE OLD MAN: Wellcome, young men! *(takes a strong breath)* Here is the right path and the left path. You should choose one and then you will go on. Right path has no difficulty at all and nine out of ten of those who choose it receive a high profit. While the left path provides no advantages. Also nine out of ten of those who choose the left path make a loss. And they are the same as regards distance.

SUFFIAN: *(stubbornly)* Who would choose the left path!?

THE OLD MAN: *(smiles)* But! You have to carry a huge bag and a knife with you on the right path. Maybe it looks hard but you will need them when you are walking. This is why most of the guys choose the other path. They don't want to deal with the difficulty which is an actual precaution.

BAHTIYAR: The left path looks too dangerous. I will take the right one, which is more safe. Carrying the stuff looks hard, by the way. But I have a feeling I will need it.

SUFFIAN: You are being ridiculous again, Bahtiyar! Why should I carry the stuff? I am strong enough, I will take care of myself.

*(SUFFIAN and BAHTIYAR make their decisions and start to go on the paths that they've just chosen)*

THE OLD MAN: *(waves goodbye)* I'll pray for you both!

## **SCENE 2**

*(BAHTIYAR walks alone on the right path. He carries a huge bag THE OLD MAN gave him and is holding a knife. He walks while thinking about THE OLD MAN's words.)*

BAHTIYAR: I'm very excited about the road. I'm sure that I'll be safe here since the commander is watching over me. Also, I have my knife and bag with me. If someone attacks me, I could defend myself with the knife. Opps!.. What is it?

*(BAHTIYAR spots a letter pinned to a tree. 'From The Commander' is written on the letter. He takes it and reads.)*

BAHTIYAR: 'My bold soldier! You are doing so well about your duty. You should know that you will get an award when you have done your duty and come back here.' Oh my dear commander!

*(A snake approaches BAHTIYAR.)*

THE SNAKE: What are you reading silently there?

BAHTIYAR: Eh... It is a letter from my commander. B- -But who are you!?

THE SNAKE: Give it up, come let's just have fun.

BAHTIYAR: NO! I have a duty.

*(THE SNAKE attacks BAHTIYAR. BAHTIYAR defends himself with the knife and goes back on his way.)*

BAHTIYAR: Now I am sure that my choice is the correct one. I hope SUFFAIN is okay now! I will go on. Maybe, we will meet again.

### **SCENE 3**

*(SUFFIAN walks alone on the left road. He hears strange and frightening voices. He walks cautiously because he is afraid of the voices. Even though he is really nervous, he thinks his choice is true.)*

SUFFIAN: I feel free because I'm not carrying that useless heavy bag with me. *(shows his biceps)* Plus, I am so powerful. I can defend myself. Who needs a knife, so ridiculous...

*(He hears a voice which comes from the bush. Also a huge brown bear appears behind the bush.)*

SUFFIAN: *(speaks silently)* I... I don't know what to do right now. Will it attack me? I... I said I was powerful but do I have enough power?

THE BEAR: Are you afraid of me? You seem like you rejected THE OLD MAN's offer. There is neither a knife nor a bag with you. I wonder how you will defend yourself.

*(SUFFIAN stays silent.)*

THE BEAR: *(speaks loudly)* WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, SUFFIAN?!

*(SUFFIAN starts running. While he is running, he sees a dark and dirty cave and hides himself there. There is a letter in the cave. SUFFIAN takes it but he doesn't read it. As soon as he is sure that THE BEAR is gone, he gets out of the cave.)*

SUFFIAN: What am I going to do, how could I escape here? I need to find BAHTIYAR. I really wish I had chosen the right way. I am going to keep walking, maybe we can come together again.

*(SUFFIAN keeps walking )*

#### **SCENE 4**

*(Two forks in the road finally come together. BAHTIYAR and SUFFIAN meet again. The weather is sunny. There are more trees on the rest of the road. BAHTIYAR and SUFFIAN both are really excited to see each other. They want to speak about their experiences. They start to walk and speak at the same time again.)*

BAHTIYAR: *(sees SUFFIAN, waves his hand)* Hey SUFFIAN!

SUFFIAN: Hey BAHTIYAR! I'm so happy to see you.

BAHTIYAR: Me too! It was an exciting trip for me. I hope you are okay.

SUFFIAN: I am okay, right now but I was really frightened when I was on the road. I need to tell you about it.

BAHTIYAR: Yeah, please tell me what happened.

SUFFIAN: It was all good until I came across a giant bear. I don't know how but it talked to me.

BAHTIYAR: *(shocked)* Really? Also a snake approached me. But I defended myself with the knife that THE OLD MAN gave me and the bag helped me the whole way.

SUFFIAN: I wish I would have chosen the other way and had the stuff with me. THE OLD MAN was right. The left way seemed comfortable but when I am not able to defend myself, comfort means nothing.

*(BAHTIYAR and SUFFIAN come across THE OLD MAN again. THE OLD MAN looks at them while smiling. SUFFIAN and BAHTIYAR are happy to see THE OLD MAN. They really want to talk to him about the roads. Also BAHTIYAR wants to thank THE OLD MAN.)*

THE OLD MAN: *(keeps smiling)* It is nice to see you two again.

BAHTIYAR: You too! I really thank you. The stuff was really helpful. They were with me when I really needed them .

SUFFIAN: *(speaks silently)* I... I am really regretful. I really learnt what a bad choice the left way was .

THE OLD MAN: I am really sorry about what you experienced on the road, but I am really happy about what you learned there. The roads... We always have to choose one of them in our daily life. The right way's true meaning is that you trust your own Sustainer. There is no creator and provider but him. Harm and benefit are in his hand. He is both all-wise and all-compassionate. He does nothing in vain and his bounty and mercy are abundant.

BAHTIYAR: When I was in trouble with the snake, I comprehended that everything was subjugated to the command of my Sustainer. Then I took refuge in him.

SUFFIAN: I won't be walking the left way for the rest of my life. Thank you BAHTIYAR and thank you THE OLD MAN. Sir, what is your name ,by the way.

THE OLD MAN: They call me THANKFUL MAN, I don't need another name.

BAHTIYAR & SUFFIAN: *(wave their hands)* Goodbye *THANKFUL MAN!*

*(THANKFUL MAN walks away and the curtain closes)*

**THE END**