

Traditional Game

The Mother and the Wolf

Number of Players: 5

How is it played?

One of the girls is selected to act as the 'mother'. Other girls play the role of 'her children'.

Another girl is selected to play as the 'wolf', who tries to attack the mother's house howling 'I am the wolf and I shall eat you'.

The mother replies: "I am the mother, I will not let you do so."

The wolf points his finger at one girl and says 'I want that particular girl'.

The mother replies : "go away, go away."

Then, the wolf chases that girl , and if he catches her, she is a loser; if she escapes, she is a winner.



AL SABLAH

Script and pictures by: Alaia Al-Numani

Omani Craft

Al Bastah

Omani women are distinguished by their eye-catching national costumes, with distinct regional variations.

Women of Sharqia Governorate are famous for embroidering the «Naqsha» design that is worn by females in special occasions such as eids and weddings.

These designs come in different colours and shapes such as triangles and diamonds. The embroidering is done in three stages; starting with stitching white and black lining, and silver threads are fixed. After that, different designs are embroidered using the needle and glossy threads. Finally, these designs are stitched into a piece of colourful cloth called 'Al Bastah', which is worn by women to cover their heads, especially in the Wilayat of Bediyah.



By coincidence, the woman visited the girls' house on the same day when their mother was out. The woman knocked the door, and the girls let her in without saying a word. The girls' behaviour surprised the woman as the three girls were silent and staring at each others. The lady did not ask them why they were behaving like that. Suddenly, one of the girls dropped her loom and shouted, "the thread is cut". The other sister screamed out: "remember our mother's advice, we should not talk in front of strangers". The youngest sister replied with anger, "we are grown up girls, and if God will, we will get married whether we speak or not.

The woman realized the truth of the girls, and ran to inform the king about them thinking that he would not be interested in any one of them. But after he listened to the story, the king liked the youngest sister's courage and decided to marry her as he felt happy to have such a wise and faithful wife.

Source: «Folktales in Dhofar»

By Mohammed bin Musallam

Al Mahri





My Grandma's Tales

Good Luck

Once upon a time, a woman lived with her three pretty daughters. However, nobody was interested to marry any of those pretty girls because they were having speech difficulties. Their mother was very concerned and always advised them to remain silent in front of guests and strangers. She thought that if people discover her daughter's speech problem, the girls would never get married.

One day, the mother wanted to go out to get some things for the house. As usual, she told them to stay silent in front of others. Since their childhood, the mother programmed her daughters to pretend to be busy with their loom if anyone came into the house.

Meanwhile, the king had asked a woman from his entourage to look for a beautiful wife for him. She searched every house in the villages but she forgot to visit the three girls' house. She went back to the king and told him that she could not find any suitable girl for him. The king asked her if she had visited all the houses in the nearby villages. She said «yes, except those three girls' house.» The king ordered her to go back and check that house.

