

BLAH

Folk Game

Text and pictures by: Alia Al-Numani

Game Bone

Where is the bone?

A game of three or more players.

One of the players draws a circle on the floor, and throws away a bone to a distant place while the other players are closing their eyes. Then the first player gives them a hint, and they start searching around. When one of them finds the bone he runs back to bring it to the centre and becomes the main player, then throws it for the others to search.

This game is more popular in Asharqia governorate. Boys in rural areas play it in lanar nights.



Text and pictures by: Ahmed Al-Blushi



Addwabi or Al Jarjoor (Metal Fishing Net)

Omani fishermen use addawabi or al jajoor for fishing for long time, and are still using it. It is a semi-circular metal-framed fishing net made up of flexible metal wires. It's height is about one and a quarter metre. The opening is in the middle of al jarjoor and it extends conically inside al jarjoor to trap the fish inside. Al jarjoor varies in size according to the fishing ground.



A heavy body is tied to the bottom of al jarjoor to keep it stabilized and well anchored in the bottom of the sea. It is kept there for about 10 - 20 days for seaweeds to build up on the wires to attract a big number of fish to the net. Then al jarjoor is taken out and placed again in a fishing ground. After one week al jarjoor is lifted up to the surface, and the fish is picked out.



Then the weeds are removed from al jarjoor and it is placed again into the sea.

When the prince returned asked where his wife was. The women told him that she had died, and led him to a grave in which they buried a sheep they had already slaughtered for this purpose. The prince believed the story and accepted it as judgment of Allah.

Days and months passed, and the eid came. People decided to slaughter the Sheep. Every time they prepared themselves and their tools for slaughtering him he ran away and went to the well where his sister was staying. The prince noticed this, and one day he went behind the Sheep to investigate. When he looked into the well he found his wife sitting there with two infants. He immediately ordered his soldiers to bring *100* sacks of ashes and *100* sacks of fertilizer to pour them on the snakes in order to help taking his wife out safely.

She came out carrying her twin sons in both her arms. The prince asked her what had happened. She told him the story of the women, and told him that the Sheep was in fact her brother who had been changed by the cattle shepherd.

The prince called all the witches in the town to come for a best witch contest. When they came his wife recognized the one who bewitched her brother. The prince asked the witch what was the best magic she made. She told him the story of the girl and her Sheep brother. The prince asked her whether she can return him a human being. She said it was possible by a certain magic mixture of substances.

At the prince's request she made magic mixture. When the Sheep drank it he became a human being again. The prince made a big feast at his palace, and sent the wicked women to prison, but his wife forgave them, and they all lived happily.

Source: "Folktales in Dhofar"

by Mohammed bin Musallam Al Mahri





My
Grandma's
Tales

The Girl and the Sheep

Illustrations by Corporal: Rawya Al Khalili

There was a young girl walking with her brother on a long road. After some time they felt thirsty, and asked passersby about a place to get water, but nobody answered them. They continued walking until they met a witch shepherding cows. They asked her if she had some water.

The witch said that she had only the cow urine, but there was a nearby water pond, and whoever drank much from until they quench their thirst would become a sheep. They drank little and continued their walk.

In the middle of the road the girl told her brother that she had forgot her comb at the place of the shepherd, and had to go back to bring it. The brother said that he would go. When he reached there he was very thirsty.

He drank too much water from the pond, and immediately became a sheep. When he came back to his sister carrying the comb she was very sad for what happened to him. She climbed a big tree and sat on a branch weeping.

While she was up there, a prince came with his men on their way from a battle with an enemy and sat for rest under the shadow of the tree. Then the prince felt a tear dropped on his head. When he looked up he saw the beautiful girl sitting on the branch. He loved her, and decided to marry her. They married and lived together in the prince's palace, and the Sheep also stayed there. The prince did not know the secret of the Sheep and thought it was just an animal belonging to his wife.

After some time the prince went away in a mission leaving his pregnant wife behind. During his absence some wicked women in the palace intrigued her, and threw her in an abandoned well infected with big, dangerous snakes. Inside the well she stayed in a safe shelf away from the snakes.





حماة الحق حراس المبادئ