

The minister went to see the king in private and told him,

“My lord, Nabhan has spread a word that you have bad breath. Thus, he turns away his face to avoid”. The king observed Nabhan and realized that the minister said nothing but the truth. The king became very angry and decided to get rid of Nabhan. So he gave him a sealed letter and asked him to delivered to one of the remote towns. Nabhan obeyed the king’s orders, rode his horse, and went on his way. The minister had a son called Khalfan who was a good friend of Nabhan. When Khalfan heard about Nabhan’s mission, he thought the letter might be an order from the King to grant Nabhan a big reward. Out of greed, he decided to follow him. As for Nabhan he arrived in one of the villages on his way to the remote town. The people there recognized him and invited him to have some food with them. While they were eating, Khalfan arrived.

“Where are you here?”, Khalfan asked.

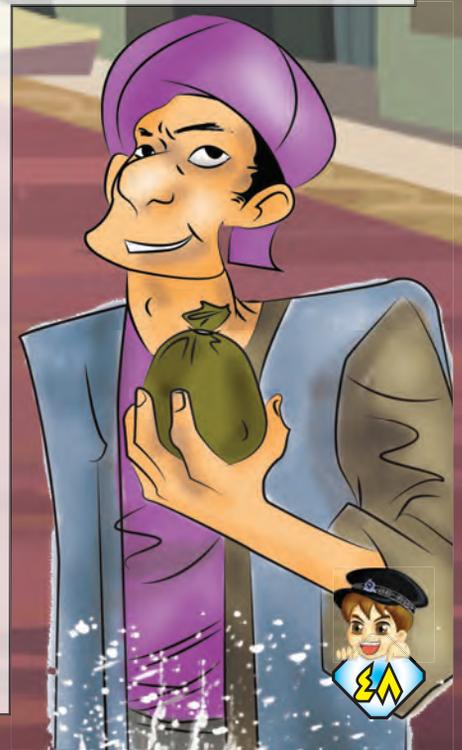
“The King asked me to deliver a letter for him. I agreed because I had to keep the word I had inherited from my father”, Nabhan replied.

Nabhan also told him about how his father divided his wealth between his sons and that chose the single word.

“My dear friend, how about I take the letter and save you the trouble of travelling to the remote town?”, Khalfan suggested. Nabhan agreed because he honoured his father’s word. Besides, he trusted his friend. Khalfan arrived very fast in the remote town.

When the guards opened the letter, they found a note saying, “Kill the letter’s messenger”, without mentioning a specific name. When Nabhan returned back, the King was surprised to see him alive. Nabhan related to the King his entire story from the moment he inherited the word from his father until his friend Khalfan offered to deliver the letter.

As the King realized that his minister was a traitor, he killed him. As for Nabhan, he stopped eating garlic and regained his position next to the King.





Khalfan & Nabhan

Once, there lived a rich man who had three sons. When he became very old he wanted to make sure that his wealth would be distributed equally among his sons after his death. Thus, he gathered them and said,

“You all aware that I have some palm trees, some cattle and a single word. Each one of you has to choose one of these three things”.

The eldest son chose the palm trees, while the middle son chose the cattle and the youngest son chose the word. The father approved of their choices and told his youngest son, Nabhan that the word was “Whoever asks you for anything give it to him”.

After the father's death, the eldest and middle sons inherited their shares, whereas the youngest son found a job at the King's palace. He worked very hard until he became his first adviser. However, one of the ministers became very jealous of Nabhan and decided to make the King hate him. One day as Nabhan was sick the minister went to visit him and said,

“If you want to recover from this illness forever you have to eat garlic every day”. Nabhan had to obey the word he inherited from his father. So he followed the minister's advice and started to eat garlic every day until he developed bad breath. So whenever he sat next to the King, he would turn his face away.



BLAH



**Traditional
Game**

Script and pictures by: Alaia Al-Numani



Lumah

Number of players: Unidentified

The players form a big circle. Then, they choose one player by casting lots. This player will chase other players while they have to stand on one foot. The player who gets touched or leaves the circle or whose leg touches the ground will be removed from the game. The last remaining player will be the winner.



Omani Craft



AL SAI

Script and pictures by: 1st sergeant/ Salim Al-Shahi

Shipbuilding in Oman

In the beginning, the craftsman builds the base of the ship, after which he moves to the bow and stern. Then, he fixes both sides of the ship with nails. After that, he brings a plank of 'Sai' wood and installs it on the base of the ship. Finally, he builds the cockpit. Once the entire structure of the ship is complete, he adds a material extracted from animal facts and mixed with white cement in order to prevent any leakage into the cockpit and protect the ship from sinking. There are different types of ships such as Al Boom, Al Khunjh, and Al Budn. The shipbuilding process usually takes from 6 months to a year.

