

### The Burning house

#### How to play the game:

A number of girls, each of them draws a circle on the floor around her. The circle is the girl's house. One circle is in the middle of the others, and the girl in that circle repeats: "Sarraf's house is burning".

They start to run away from Sarraf's house, which is burning and try to enter a safe house. The girl who stays in the burning house is checkmated and kicked out, and the game goes on until the last girl remains in the last unburnt house, and she is the winner.



## Omani vinegar

Vinegar is a traditional homemade sauce that is added to meat in Eids. Omani women prepare vinegar about a month before the event or before it is used. The ingredients of vinegar are: Al Fardh dates, pepper, salt, garlic and water. These are put together in a tightly closed vessel, and kept for about a month to mix.

When it is ready, vinegar is added to meat before grilling to make it tender, easy to cook and to add a good taste. vinegar is also taken in a small quantity by itself after eating grilled meat in order to reduce the fats in the body. Normally Omani families prepare vinegar for the eids.





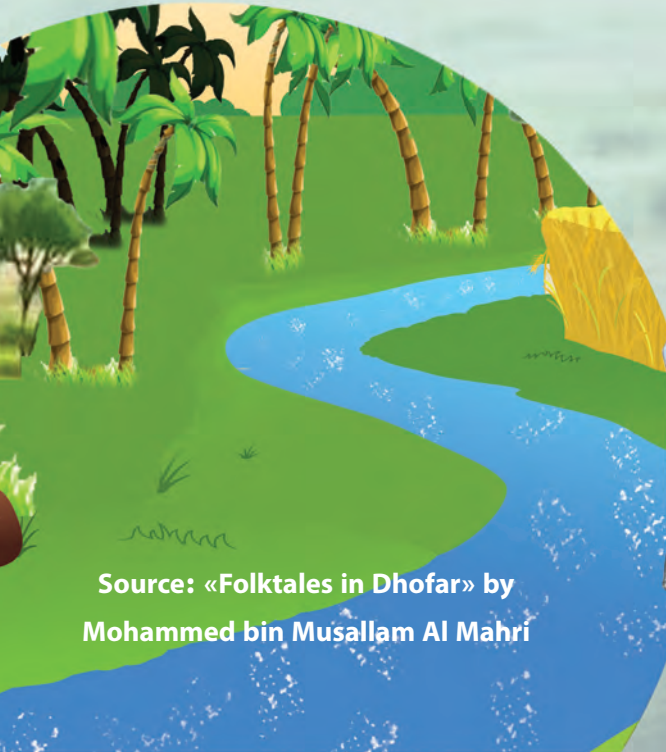
When the servant came back, the youngest girl called her sisters and asked the servant in front of them how was the man?

He answered: "The man was fine. He thanked you, and asked me to tell you these words: "The sea was dry, the moon eclipsed, the planets were six, and I was spring after drought».

The girl asked him angrily: "Did you eat one egg, part of the bread and drink some of the milk?" The servant was afraid, and he denied in the beginning, but admitted when he was pressed. He wondered how the girl came to know what he had done.

She told the servant that the answer was in the man's words, the sea was the can of milk, the moon was the bread and the six planets were the eggs. The girls realized that their youngest sister was really intuitive, and that the man was wise. The man's earlier question about whether the buried man was dead or alive, he meant whether he had children, the farm and the crop meant that if the man had debt, the crop would pay it off, and the big house meant the mosque.

The wise man came to know of the youngest sister's wisdom and decided to marry her.



Source: «Folktales in Dhofar» by  
Mohammed bin Musallam Al Mahri



A story told that there was a man who used to travel from one place to another. One day he came to a town where he saw some people burying a dead man. On his way along he met a girl, and he asked her whether that man was dead or alive. She answered with irony, "do people burry persons alive?" Then he asked her, had he harvested his farm. The farm was nearby and was unharvested. Then he shot his third question: where was the big house. The girl immediately left him before he continued his insane questions.

When the girl came home, she gathered her sisters and told them the story of the man she met on the road and his puzzling questions. The sisters adopted the same impression about the man, but the youngest one had a different opinion as she thought that the man was very clever. She wanted to check her knowledge of people who were as wise as she was.

The youngest sister sent a servant to the man with seven eggs, a can of milk and a piece of bread. On his way to the man the servant acted deceitfully and ate one egg, part of the bread and drank some of the milk. When he reached, the man thanked him for having trouble to bring the food to him, and asked the servant to thank his mistress and tell her this:

"The sea was dry, the moon eclipsed, the planets were six, and I was spring after drought."

