

Al Mizrasah Game

This is a long-time children game popular in Omani. It's a game played by a single child a boy or a girl. A child picks a green unripe date fruit and a thorn from the date palm tree. They stick the thorn into one end of the green date to make a *mizrasah*, put it on the floor and spin the thorn by the fingers. The *mizrasah* spins and keeps moving around like a bird. Usually two or more children compete by spinning their *mizrasahs*, and whose *mizrasah* keeps spinning longer is the winner.



Textile

Wizar Weaving

The *wizar* is the piece of cloth worn by male Omanis around the lower part of the body under the dishdasha. The *wizar* weaving is a traditional craft practiced by the Omani forefathers. It starts with yarns (tiny cotton threads) immersed in water for half a day. A mixture of flour and water is boiled until it becomes viscous. The yarns are soaked in this mixture, rubbed by hands, then separated to individual threads. The yarns are wound around a wooden shaft known as the *digal*, then fixed in four small revolving disks (spinning wheels) and left out to dry under the sun. One thread is taken from each wheel and connected to bigger wheels from which the threads are inserted into the wooden weaving loom, locally known as *karja*. Two *wizars* are woven per day.



The fox told the boy: “go to my house, hide there, and I’ll talk to the hyena.” When the hyena came the fox cunningly asked her why she was in a hurry? She told him her story with children. The fox told her that he would manage the matter. “You go to take rest, and I have a good surprise for you.” She asked what was the surprise? He told her that there was a pond of very clear, fresh and sweet water, and asked her to go with him to eat small animals and drink from the pond. The hyena agreed and they went together. After eating the hyena started to drink very much water. But the fox, without being seen by the hyena, was drinking very little water and powering it from his mouth on a slippery flat place on the side of the pond.

The hyena’s stomach became very big, full of water that she could hardly move. Here, the clever fox thought it was a good time to get rid of her, and he said to her: “hurry up, there are thirsty camels coming to drink, run away.”

As the heavy hyena tried to run, it slipped on the flat wet place, fell, her stomach pierced and she died. The girl came out of the stomach alive and safe. The clever fox took the girl to her brother. They thanked the clever fox and returned home.

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



The Clever Fox



Illustrations by Corporal: Rawya Al Khalili



My Grandma's Tales

There were two children living with their father and mother. One day they went out to a nearby forest for a walk to see the beautiful trees, plants, small animals and birds. While they were walking they entered a place where they found some food, and because they were very hungry, they took that food and continued their tour in the forest. They didn't know that it was a she-hyena's food. When the hyena came to her den she didn't find the food. She asked the nearby animals who had taken her food. They told her that they saw two children entering her den. The hyena was very angry and tracked the children in the forest. They were eating the food while walking when a bird told them that the hyena was looking for them to revenge. They started running fearfully and hiding from one place to another in the forest until they came to a wide open area outside the forest. But the faster hyena saw them and followed them closely. Suddenly the girl fell down when a thorn pricked her foot. The hyena caught the girl and swallowed her wholly, but the brother ran away, and the hyena chased him.

A fox met the boy and asked him why he was running. The boy told him that he was afraid of the she-hyena who swallowed his sister. The fox asked him why she was chasing him. The boy said, "because we took her food in the forest and ate it without knowing that it was hers'."