

Accommodating a different point of view

**A Storyteller's Advice to his audience
(Extracted from Kalila Wa Dimna Vol.1 – Ramsay Wood)**

I must emphasize this point: my stories require, at this stage, no extra commentary, imaginings, or guesswork by you, me, or anyone else. The very worst would be that of moralizing away the effective substance. Thus the urge to tag tidy little rationalizations, persuasive formulas, intellectual summaries, symbolical labels, or any other convenient pigeon-holing device, must be steadfastly resisted. Mental encapsulation perverts the medicine, rendering it impotent. It amounts to a bypass around the story's true destination; to explain away is to forget. Thus, let the stories which you can remember do their own work by their very diversity. Familiarize yourself with them.

Accommodating a different point of view

Nasrudin used to take his donkey across a frontier every day, with the panniers loaded with straw. Since he admitted to being a smuggler when he trudged home every night, the frontier guards searched him again and again. They searched his person, sifted the straw, steeped it in water, and even burned it from time to time. Meanwhile he was becoming visibly more and more prosperous.

Then he retired and went to live in another country.

Here one of the customs officers met him, years later.

"You can tell me now, Nasrudin," he said. "Whatever was it that you were smuggling, when we could never catch you out?"

"Donkeys," said Nasrudin.

Stories from 'The Subtleties of Mulla Nasrudin' compiled by Idries Shah

SAMBODHAN (Together Towards Awareness)

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Because the average person thinks in patterns and cannot accommodate to a really different point of view, the person loses a great deal of the meaning of life. He may live, even progress, but he cannot understand all that is going on.

Excerpt from 'The Subtleties of Mulla Nasrudin' compiled by Idries Shah