**The sweetest lie – a Pakistani tale**

Once upon a time, there lived a young king who was generous and wise.

The king often wandered in the streets in disguise for the loved to listen to the conversations.

One evening, the king overheard four women whispering.

The first young woman said ‘ I think meat must be the sweetest thing in the world’.

The second girl laughed and said ‘meat cannot compare to wine. Wine must be the sweetest thing’.

‘Nonsense’ said the third girl ‘love is the sweetest thing’.

The fourth woman said ‘nothing in the world is as sweet as telling a lie’.

The king was surprised. One of the women said ‘Look how late it is , we must go home’.

The king secretly followed them. The next morning he sent his minister to go and bring the women to the palace.

The king asked Khalida ‘Why do you think that telling a lie is the sweetest thing in the world’?

4Everyone lies’, she said. ‘Even you will lie one day. Majesty if you give me one thousand rupees and six months I will prove it to you’.

The king could not resist and so he gave Khalida the money.

Six month later she sent a letter to the king to visit a beautiful house. The king took two ministers with him.

Khalida said ‘This is the house of God, but he reveals himself only to one person at a time and second, he reveals himself only to a person with a pure heart’.

The king sent his first minister inside, he waited but he did not see God. The first minister went outside and said ‘Yes, I saw God’.

Now the second minister entered and he too saw nothing. Outside he said ‘Yes, I saw God’

Now the king entered but when he looked around he saw no one.

‘Have you seen God?’ Khalida asked. Yes, said the king. She asked three times and each time the king answered ‘yes’. Khalida laughed and said ‘ But Sir, God is a spirit. No one can see him’. The king admitted ‘I lied’, the two ministers confessed too.

Now, the king fell in love and asked Khalida to marry him. That is how she became a queen.

**The End**