

Context Clues in "The Dishonest Merchant"

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Context Clues in "The Dishonest Merchant"

1 Once upon a time, a prince known for his intolerance of dishonesty ruled in Romania. During his reign, a

Adjective merchant

from another country traveled through the land.

2 During one Noun, the merchant lost a bag containing one thousand Romanian coins called lei. Each time the merchant came to a crossroads, he told everyone that he would give one hundred lei to anyone who found the money.

3 Not long afterward, a peasant found the bag. He was an honest man, and he Verb Past Tense to find the merchant.

4 "I found this bag behind the fish market at the crossroads near my home," the peasant said to the merchant. The merchant trusted no one, so he went aside to count the money. To his surprise, all one thousand coins were still in the bag.

He was happy to have his money back, but he was also saddened by the thought of giving some of it away. He wondered how he could get out of his promise and still appear to be fair.

6 At last he went back to the peasant. "I thank you for returning my money," he said. "I notice that you have already taken your reward, for there were only nine hundred coins in the bag."

7 The peasant Verb Past Tense. "But I did not even open the bag before I gave

it to you!"

8 The merchant ignored the peasant's words. "I hope you enjoy your reward," he said. "Thank you again and good-bye." He quickly

Verb Past Tense

9 The peasant was upset--not just because he had received no reward but because he had been accused of taking money without permission. He hurried to the palace and requested to see the prince. He told his sad story, and the prince promised that he would uncover the truth.

10 The prince sent word for the merchant and the peasant to appear before him on a certain day. He told the merchant to bring the bag of

Noun

11 When the day arrived, the merchant told his side of the story and the peasant told his. As the prince listened, it became obvious to him that the peasant was telling the truth.

12 When they had finished, the prince said to the merchant, "You lost a bag with one thousand coins. Is that correct?"

13 "Yes," said the merchant.

14 The prince took the money bag, which now held only nine hundred

lei. "And when you were handed this bag, it contained only

nine hundred coins?"

15 "That is true," said the merchant, trying to look _____ Adjective.

16 "I am sure that you are telling the truth," said the prince, "for

nothing is punished so _____ Adverb in this court as dishonesty. However,

these facts present me with a problem."

17 The prince held up the bag for all to see. It was an _____ Adjective

leather bag, like thousands of others. He asked the merchant, "If

your bag contained one thousand coins and this bag has only nine

hundred, then how do you know this is your bag?"

18 The merchant had trouble speaking. "I . . . I," he _____ Verb Past Tense.

Then he was silent.

19 The prince continued. "It is obvious that this is not your bag. My

verdict therefore is that you should continue to inquire at crossroads

until you find your bag with one thousand lei. I wish you well in your

_____ Noun."

20 The prince turned to the peasant. "And I _____ Verb Base Form that you take

care of this bag of nine hundred coins until the rightful owner comes

forth. If we do not find the owner within three months, then the

money

will be yours as a reward for your honesty."

21 There was nothing more to say, since there could be no _____ Noun _____

regarding the prince's verdict. The dishonest merchant and the

honest peasant left the prince's chamber, the first very _____ Adjective _____ and the

other very _____ Adjective _____.

22 Thus was dishonesty treated in the days of the prince.