

After The Sinistral Comes The Affluence

It was a beautiful modern villa. The door was decorated with an Islamic design. It was coloured brown, and had a golden handle. In the front of the house, there was a garden full of roses — pink, red and white roses. The scent was lovely, a natural perfume, that makes you want to stay there forever.

Inside the house, there was a passage painted bright brown. When you walked down the big passage, you could see some of the valuable Egyptian figurines. They were expensive and the work of professionals. You could not walk down the passage without seeing the two big bedrooms. One was red and was for Noor. The other was red too and was for Noor's parents. They looked the same, but her parent's one had a double bed. The house also had a bathroom attached to each bedroom.

Noor's family was rich. They had a lot of money, but they never let anybody work for them. Her mother cooked and cleaned the whole house, the passage, the big kitchen and the bedrooms. Her mother was a good cook, and the dishes she cooked were delicious. One Thursday night, her mother cooked them a delicious dinner.

Her father had been upset during the week. He decided to tell his family the truth that night. He said, "I am very unhappy. My conscience is bothering me." Noor's mother said, "What's the matter?" He began to cry and said, "Everyday in the market I cheat people. I sell them things that are spoilt. I have had enough. I do not want this money anymore." Noor's mother said, "You can give the money back. Then God will forgive you." He said, "I do not have the money, I am bankrupt and that is what is bothering me so much." Noor said, "You can sell this house and then you could give your customers their money back." Her mother said, "Yes, you could do that."

The next morning, he put a board up in the beautiful garden. The board said 'FOR SALE'. A man came by to look at the house. He was pleased with it and said his wife would like it too. He bought it



for 300,000 dirhams. Noor's family vacated the house. They went to live with her grand mom.

The new family moved into Noor's old house. They had one son. His name was Saeed. They did not change anything in the house. The son took Noor's old bedroom and his parents took the other one. They were also rich, but did the work themselves. Saeed's mother was also a good cook.

One Friday night she made some cookies and candies. She put the food on the table and called Saeed and his father. When they started to eat, they got a smell of gas. Saeed's mother went to the kitchen to check that she had turned off the gas. When she entered the kitchen, there was a great explosion.

Saeed and his father hurried to the kitchen. They found it in flames. They saw Saeed's mother lying dead on the floor. Saeed's father said to his son, "Let's get out of here." Saeed was crying. He did not want to leave his mother's body. His father pulled him away and they both jumped out of the window. They were safe. They cried for help, but no one heard. The neighbours were not at home. All of them were on holiday abroad.

Saeed and his father never slept that night. They watched their house burn down, with tears falling from their eyes. The next morning there was no house. It had burnt to ashes. He and his father went to his uncle's house. They told him about the accident. All the family members came. They had a wake for Saeed's

mother for three days.

After three days, Saeed and his father went back to where their house had once stood. They wanted to build a new house themselves. They started digging. Saeed's mattock hit something hard. He dug around it and discovered it was a pot. He threw it down and it smashed open. Hundreds of golden coins scattered. He called out to his father. When his father saw the coins, he said, "This isn't our money. We should give it back to the real owner."

Who is the real owner of the coins? They decided to ask the previous owners of the house. They went to meet them and asked them about the gold coins. They replied that the coins were not theirs. In fact, they knew nothing about them. Saeed's father then suggested that they go to the judge and let him decide what is to be done with the coins.

After the judge heard the story, he thought for a while. Then he said to the first owner, "Do you have a young daughter?" He answered, "Yes, I have." The judge then told Saeed's father, "You should let your son marry his daughter. Both the fathers agreed. Noor was beautiful and Saeed was happy. They got married. They used the money to build a new house. Noor's family moved in with them. They all lived happily. Two years later, Noor and Saeed had a baby girl. They named her as "Afifa", after Saeed's mother.

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Idioms at YO!

For this issue, the YO Team looked at some simple words in English with a connection to the environment. Would you believe there are sayings and idioms in English which use these words — clean, dirty, plastic and rubbish.

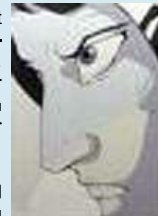
Here's the first word — **clean**. The two sayings are 'clean as a whistle' and 'clean up your act'. In order to make clear and pure sounds a whistle has to be absolutely clean. Anything or anyone as clean as a whistle has been judged to be guiltless, or flawless, and not involved in anything illegal.



'He hasn't got a criminal record, he's as clean as a whistle.'

The second saying is 'clean up your act'. If someone tells you to 'clean up your act' they are asking you to stop doing something other people do not approve of and start behaving in a more acceptable way.

'The organisation wasn't telling the truth about their involvement in illegal dumping. It's time they cleaned up their act otherwise problems such as all the fish dying may occur in the future.'



Here's the second word — **dirty**. If someone gives you a dirty look then perhaps be careful! It means they are looking at you in an angry or disapproving way.

'I don't know what I said to annoy her but she really gave me a dirty look.'

Plastic is the third word. We all use plastic bags but did you know plastic money is becoming more popular?

'I like to use plastic when I travel. I don't feel safe using cash.'

This of course refers to plastic credit cards — plastic money. I don't know of any country that uses plastic bags as currency! Do you? WE HOPE NOT!

'What a load of rubbish!'

Has anyone ever said that to you? I hope not! It usually means they don't believe what you or someone else has told them. Maybe they have been reading an article in the newspaper or heard something on the news that they don't believe.

'Have you read the article about what that company is doing to reduce greenhouse gases? What a load of rubbish! I just don't believe that is true.'