

The Judgment of King Solomon

1.

Long ago, two women were having an argument. They came before King Solomon, bringing with them a single baby boy. Each woman told the same story...

2.

The story was this: they both lived together, both had given birth to a child, but one child was dead in the morning, and each woman thought the living child belonged to her.

3.

One woman accused the other of discovering that her child had died during the night, its mother had stolen the other mother's live baby and replaced it with the dead child.

In a dispute such as this, where there is no evidence or witness, King Solomon's solution is fascinating.

4.

After some deliberation, he called for a sword to be brought before him. He declared that there was only one fair solution, namely, that the live child should be split in two, each woman receiving half of the child.

5.

Upon hearing this terrible verdict, one woman cried out in horror and anguish, "Please, My Lord, give her the live child - do not kill him!" The other woman exclaimed, "It shall be neither mine nor yours - divide it!"

6.

Realizing that a true mother's instincts are to protect her child, Solomon instantly gave the baby to the real mother, who was willing to sacrifice her baby in order to save its life.