

Inner Call Podcast #102 – March 15, 2021

Audio Tale : Stick to the Rules

Once upon a time Mullah Nasruddin found himself urgently summoned to the governor's palace. When he got there, the chief minister took him aside and said to him very seriously, "Mullah, there is a travelling scholar who has come. He challenges the governor to put up our wisest person for a contest of wits. He heaps scorn on the learning of our province, and he says whoever it is, he is sure he can defeat them. I hope you can uphold our honour, Mullah. If you let us down, be sure the Governor will remember it for a long time."

The Governor and the scholar were waiting in the audience hall. As Nasruddin entered, the Governor gave him a stern and meaningful look. Meanwhile the scholar, after glancing at the Mullah, said in a very superior way, "Is this your best, Governor? Very well. Mullah, I will ask you either a hundred simple questions or one very difficult question. Which is it to be?" To Nasruddin, even a hundred easy questions sounded like a lot of work. "One difficult question," he said.

"Then answer this," said the scholar. "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?"

Promptly Nasruddin replied, "The chicken."

The scholar shook his head sadly and smiled in a pitying way. "And how do you know that?" he demanded.

"Do you see, your excellency?" said Nasruddin to the governor, "This scholar cannot follow his own rules. He said, one question – and I've answered that. You may declare me the winner."