

## Eighty pounds fine

*Written by: Ehsan.*

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It was around 1700's, the place was Kalahari. Kalahari was a town known for its ports and sea trade. There lived a man named Aslam. He was kind and generous. He wasn't poor but not that rich too. In that town there was another man whom people called Donor. He was rich and used to lend loans to people. He was a cruel man who charged 30% interest, and before lending loan he would make the borrower sign documents for their property and if anyone failed to return he wouldn't spare. Still people had no other choice. One day Aslam thought of doing something about it. There was nothing he could do except starting lending loans to people himself with divine intentions. He started lending loans at 2% interest but he wasn't rich like Donor, so he couldn't lend a lot. This news spread like wildfire. He had made a lot of powerful and rich enemies. He was worried but it didn't stop him. One day his own friend Daniel came to him and asked for help. Daniel wanted to marry a girl (Sadiah) whom he liked a lot but his financial situation was tight, and the girl's parents were thinking of marrying her in a rich family and so there was not much time left. Sadiah was studying law at the time. Aslam at the time had not enough money to lend him, but he wanted to help his friend at any cost. So without letting Daniel know, he went to his enemy and opponent Donor to get a loan. Donor was happy as his only enemy in the town needed his help. He put forward some conditions to Aslam. First was that he would charge him 50% interest annually. The second was that he had to sign a paper in which it was clearly written that if he failed to pay off his debt in two years, Aslam had to give his heart to Donor. Aslam having no other choice accepted it. After that every month Aslam would send some money to Donor, and after two years when Aslam had finished sending all the money. Aslam received a notice from Kalahari court claiming that he had not sent any of the money to Donor. Donor had deceived him, he wanted to kill Aslam. Aslam was shocked and broke into tears after reading the notice. He was crying the whole day. In the evening somebody knocked at his door, it was Sadiah with a good news that she had been qualified as a lawyer. It had been around two years since she had married Daniel. She felt something was wrong as Aslam was not happy after hearing the good news. Aslam welcomed her, and went to wash his face. When Sadiah came inside, on the table was the notice from the court, she read it and when Aslam came back, she asked him about it. Aslam told her the truth. She went to Daniel and told him everything. They both went to Aslam's house, and the next day, they received another notice from the court telling Aslam to attend the court the next day. Sadiah being in the law agreed to be his lawyer. It was the trial date Aslam was presented in the court and in opposition was Donor, with his cruel smiling face. The trial began and Donor's lawyer showed the court the document signed by Aslam. The case was going in their favor as Aslam's lawyer Sadiah couldn't present proof of him paying back. Finally it was Sadiah's turn to speak. She said, "Your honor, Aslam didn't pay back", everyone was shocked even Donor. "And Donor has the right to get Aslam's heart", proceeded Sadiah. "But there is nowhere written in the document that he can cut his skin or waste a drop of his blood. If he can get his heart without this he can have it." Everyone was happy and smiling

and Donor's face instantly went from smiling to shocked. Then she spoke, as it is clearly written in the contract, that if Aslam will not pay the money, Donor will have his heart. And if Donor will take his heart, it will mean that he is breaking the contract. So your honor we are demanding 80 pounds of fish from Mr. Donor. Then the judge spoke to Donor, will you take his heart or pay 80 pounds of fish.