

My Mother-in-Law Is a Trouble Maker



This play was created and performed by Nour Salam, Amani al Buhaisi, Nagham Abu Rabee, Shahd Abu Amra, and Manar Abu Zeita from Deir al Balah Prep [A] girls UNRWA school, Gaza with the support of their teacher Camellia H Salem. A recording of the play performed by the actors is available here..



<https://youtu.be/0R-pPzK4Q8U>

Narrator: One morning the mother-in-law asked her daughter-in-law to prepare tea.

Mother-in-law: Idiot!

Daughter-in-law: What did you say?

Mother-in-law: Oh, my sweet daughter-in-law.

Daughter-in-law: Yes, mother-in-law

Mother-in-law: Is the tea ready?

Daughter-in-law: Five more minutes

Mother-in-law: Oh, such a lazy person she is!

Daughter-in-law: *[aside]* I hope you burn in hell.

Narrator: An hour later the daughter-in-law is sweeping the floor.

Mother-in-law: Clean this place better, clean it well.

Daughter-in-law: I did clean it. Are you blind? Can't you see? I just cleaned it! I cleaned it lots of time, can't you see?

Mother-in-law: You are blind, look it's not clean!

Daughter-in-law: I am blind that I came to this house!

Mother-in-law: I'm blind that I let you into this house!

Daughter-in-law: Are you disabled, that you are making me clean. Can't you do it yourself?

Mother-in-law: Don't talk back!

Daughter-in-law: I learned it from you

In the afternoon

Mother-in-law: Where is the food? You are very lazy.

Daughter-in-law: Here you are.

Mother-in-law: Why are you so late with the food?

Daughter-in-law: I was making the food for you. That's why I'm late

Mother-in-law: Let me taste it. What's this? What kind of food is this?

Daughter-in-law: I learned it from you.

Mother-in-law: I cook this bad food, huh?

Daughter-in-law: Yeah! You showed me how to cook this food.

Mother-in-law: I cook like this? You are such an idiot!

Daughter-in-law: I learned it from you as well. If you don't like it, don't eat it. I will take it. Go cook for yourself.

Mother-in-law: Just wait until my son comes home!

Daughter-in-law: I will let him know too!

Narrator: There is a knock at the door

Daughter-in-law: Welcome my friend. Come in.

The guest: How are you darling?

Daughter-in-law: Actually, I'm so sad

The guest: Why?

Daughter-in-law: My mother-in-law always drives me crazy.

The guest: I'll take you to a wise man who can help you.

Narrator: The two ladies leave the house.

Daughter-in-law: Good evening, sir. I love my mother-in-law but she hates me.

The wise man: Take this bottle of poison. Add 3 drops in her tea every day. In a month she will die secretly. But remember, you will do the mission yourself.

Narrator: Next morning...

Daughter-in-law: Good morning mum. I got up early to prepare your tea on time.

Mother-in-law: God bless you daughter!

Narrator: Day by day things became better between them. Love and warmth strengthened the relationship. The guest visited her again on the last day

Daughter-in-law: *[crying]* I love her please help me I don't want her to die!

Narrator: They go back to the wise man.

Daughter-in-law: I want her alive please help me ..I love her ..I can't live without her!

The wise man: Dear! Listen... I gave you a bottle of water!

Mother-in-law: Oh, thank God!



Camellia says...

"In Palestine we have lots of proverbs related to our mothers-in-law and most of them aren't positive! Some examples are 'A boat full of sisters-in-law can go quickly but a boat full of mothers-in-law won't move at all' and 'On the gates of Paradise it is written that a mother-in-law will never love her daughter-in-law' and 'Satan will enter Paradise before a mother-in-law loves her daughter-in-law' We accepted the challenge to write a play for the Hands Up Project playwriting competition but wanted to create something using a story that is much more positive than these proverbs. I helped my students write the scenario and then they started to work on the characters and the performance. In this play we found a way to mend the relationship between them by building friendship. The message here is that we might only realise that we care about somebody when we think we are going to lose them."