

Once there was a dervish who wandered into wild country far from the safety of the town, where he was beset by robbers. Finding that he had no money the bandit's leader ordered his men to slay the dervish.

'Wait!' cried the dervish, 'If you wish to kill me, first give me a sword that I may kill one of your men!'

Amazed at such a seemingly absurd request, the leader asked the dervish why he imagined that he should grant his wish.

'For the sake of your honour' said the dervish.

'For the sake of my honour' repeated the, by now, befuddled bandit.

'Yes, so that you should not incur the shame of killing an innocent and unarmed man'.