

Introduction

The goal of this lesson is to help you tell a simple parable, the Parable of the Hidden Treasure in Matthew 13:44: “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.” This is a simple, non-confrontational parable that can evoke a strong emotional response. It suggests the joy of discovery, the fear of being discovered, the urgency of buying the field, the imperative of giving up everything, and the joy of having succeeded.

Process

1. Read the parable
2. Check that you understand the words and grammar
3. Retell the parable to your partner
4. Retell the parable to your partner—with additions!

The last step is the most important. If you’re telling somebody a story, make it a good one! Use your imagination to fill in the gaps. For instance, what did you think the man’s wife thought of his selling all their goods?

If you’re able to read Dari, or learning to read Dari, you can work from the Dari alphabet version. The back side of this sheet has an interlinear version, with pronunciations and glosses. Otherwise, there is a phonetic transcription of the parable below. The phonetic version aims for a more spoken pronunciation.

The text

مَثَلِ گَنْجِ پَنهَانِ شَدِه

پادشاهی آسمانی مانند گنجی است که در مزرعه‌ای پنهان شده باشد و شخصی تصادفاً آن را پیدا کند. او دوباره آن را پنهان می‌کند و از خوشحالی می‌رود، تمام اموال خود را می‌فروشد و برگشته آن مزرعه را می‌خرد.

masale gandze penhan şoda

paɖʃaʒi ʌsmʌni mesle gandz-e as ke dar zamin-e penhan şoda baʃa, wa ʃaxs-e tasʌɖufan u-ra pajɖʌ kuna. u dubʌra u gandz-a penhan mekuna wa az xušhali mera, wa tamam-e mal-e xuda meforuʃa wa pas mijʌja wa u zamin-a mexara.

Interlinear Text

(1) مَثَل گنج پنهان شده
 masal-e gandz-e penhan šud-a
 example-EZ treasure-EZ hidden become.PST-PART

Comment on line 1

مَثَل The same word is used for a parable, a proverb, or an example.

Interlinear Text

(2) پادشاهی آسمانی مانند گنجی است که در مزرعه‌ای پنهان
 padšahi-i-je āsmān-i mānand-e gandz-e ast ke dar mazraʔa-je penhan
 king-NOM-EZ heaven-ADJ like-EZ treasure-REL in that is field-INDEF hidden
 شده باشد و شخصی تصادفاً آن را پیدا کند.
 šud-a bašd wa šaxs-e tašaduf-an ān ra pida kund.
 become.PST-PART and person-INDEF accident-ADV that found DEF

Comment on line 2

باشد Why is the subjunctive used here? Perhaps because Jesus is introducing a idea, not a real life situation.

Interlinear Text

(3) او دوباره آن را پنهان می‌کند و از خوشحالی می‌رود، تمام اموال
 ō dubāra ān ra penhan mi-kund va az xušhāl-i mi-rad tamam amwāl-e
 he again 3S hidden DEF that MI-do-3S joyful-NOM from and MI-go-3S all-EZ goods-EZ
 خود را می‌فروشد و برگشته
 xud ra mi-furušd va bargšte
 MI-sell-3S DEF own and again-become.PST-PART
 آن مزرعه را می‌خرد.
 ān mazraʔa ra mi-xard.
 field that again-become.PST-PART MI-buy-3S DEF

Comments on line 3

می‌کند This verb is regular present tense. Once the “unreal” world of the parable is created, you can talk about it without the subjunctive.

برگشته This is a participle. When a participle becomes the main verb (here, “buys”), it means that the participle action happened first and then the main verb action happened.