

## POMEGRANATE

### A Sufi tale

1) What are pomegranates? \_\_\_\_\_

2) What is "Sufism"? \_\_\_\_\_

There was once a young man who was studying medicine with a Sufi master, who was also a doctor. After a few years under his tutelage, he asked him: "Master, when the next patient comes, let me, I beg you, take care of him. I want to prove myself! "

- I do not think you are ready yet, replied the master, but let us make an experiment. I shall let you handle the next patient, and see what happens.

Shortly after, they were sitting at home, when a man arrived. The teacher immediately said to the disciple:

- This man is visibly ill.

The student looked at his master in astonishment.

- How do you know?

- Look at his face and the color of his skin, continued the master, he needs a diet of pomegranates.

When the man was near them, the student stood up and approached him with these words: "You're sick! "

- Eh yes! replied the other. I already knew this! Why do you think I came to see the doctor?

- You need to eat pomegranates, ordered the young man.

The man expressed surprise.

- Pomegranates! And why pomegranates? That's all? For weeks, I have not been feeling good!

And he went away disappointed.

The young man turned to the master:

- But what is wrong? What have I done wrong?

The master smiled softly.

- Wait for a similar situation and I will show you.

The next day, they were both sitting on the doorstep when another man came towards them.

- Let me handle it. You will understand the problem, said the master, because this man as well needs pomegranates.

The doctor invited the sick man to enter and sat him down. He ordered him to undress and observed him lengthily. Then he asked him various questions, of rather incidental nature.

- Oh, I see ... Your case is very interesting, and rare indeed! And I see that you suffer. Wait a minute, let me think ... What is recommended in such a case, is of course a natural remedy. Hold on! A fruit, perhaps ... With many seeds ... Lemon? No, it may be too acidic for you, and bad for your stomach. Let's see ... Ah! I know! Pomegranates. This is exactly what you need! Pomegranates...

The doctor watched at the same time his client intensively, as if he had made a great discovery. The patient, reassured, expressed his gratitude, paid the doctor, and returned home very happy. The young man, annoyed, said:

- I don't understand! I see no difference. This is exactly what I said yesterday to another patient: you need pomegranates!

- That is true. But you see, these two men, even more than pomegranates, needed time.

---

## QUESTIONS TO DEEPEN UNDERSTANDING AND REFLECTION

Write three answers for each one

### Comprehension

- Why does the young man want to prove himself?
- How does the doctor know that his student is not ready?
- What is the main error of the young man?
- Why is the first patient disappointed?
- Why is the second patient satisfied?
- Why is the student annoyed?
- Why does the student have difficulty understanding what happened?
- What does the "need for time" signify?
- Is the doctor a manipulator?
- What does the doctor know that his student does not know?

### Reflection

- Why is patience important?
  - Must we lie to pass the truth?
  - Why does truth need time?
  - Do we all need to believe that we are special?
  - Are we all in the quest of an identity?
  - Why do we want to show our knowledge?
  - Is knowledge a form of power?
  - Does the end justify the means?
  - Is it moral to lie in order to get what you want?
  - Is manipulation a good thing?
  - Is it always good to be sincere?
-