

## Précis 01

There was once a grocer who owned a handsome green parrot who sang sublimely and spoke most eloquently. The parrot was not only an ideal companion but also the perfect guard for the grocer's shop. He kept watch all hours of the day and spoke amiably with the customers, entertaining them and thus increasing the grocer's sales. One day when the grocer left the shop in the parrot's care, having gone home for lunch, a cat suddenly ran into the shop chasing a mouse, frightening the bird. As the parrot flew about in his effort to save himself, he knocked a few bottles of almond oil off the shelves, breaking them and covering himself and the shop floor in oil. Not long afterward, the grocer returned and found the place in disarray, the floor slippery with oil and the parrot perching guiltily in a corner. In the wink of an eye, the grocer lost his temper and hit the bird on the head with all his might. The poor bird, who was already feeling guilty and downtrodden about his clumsiness, could not bear the shame, not to mention the pain from the blow, and he instantly shed all the feathers on his head. Soon after the almond oil incident, the parrot completely stopped speaking and singing. The grocer realized how grave his mistake had been in striking the bird; not only had he lost his jolly companion but he had also curtailed his thriving business. Having no one but himself to blame, he now felt dumb-founded that he had singlehandedly threatened his very livelihood. "I wish I'd broken my hand!" he lamented. "How could I have struck my sweet-voiced bird like that? How could I have behaved so monstrously?"

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The grocer began to give alms to each and every poor dervish who passed by his shop, hoping that by doing good deeds he might be forgiven, and his bird might again start to exercise his mesmerizing voice. After three days and nights of remorse and suffering the parrot's silence, the grocer came into luck. A bald dervish walked into the shop, and instantly the parrot began to speak: "Did you spill bottles of almond oil, too?" <sup>as well</sup> "The handful of customers in the shop were amused and smiled at the parrot, who had innocently thought that the bald man had suffered the same fate as himself! "Darling little parrot," said one of the customers compassionately, "never equate one action with another. One must never compare oneself to others, even though they may appear to be the same on the surface; truly nothing is <sup>it</sup> as it seems." (RUMI)

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## ⊕ Never Judge A Book By its Cover

Once, a grocer had a parrot, who sang and spoke. One day in grocer's absence, a cat entered his shop while chasing a mouse. The parrot flew with fear to save itself. Accidentally, it hit the almond oil's bottles. The oil spilled on the floor, covering the bird. At that moment, grocer returned. He hit the bird's head angrily, resulting in the shedding of its head feathers. The bird stopped speaking and singing, which affected the grocer's business. He regretted his action and to recompense his mistake, he started giving alms to dervishes who passed by his shop. Fortunately, after three days a bald dervish entered the shop and parrot asked him, if he had also spilled the almond oil. The customers were amused, and one of them advised the parrot, not to compare one action with another despite their resemblance.

Passage Words Approx = 387

Precis words = 135