



STORY: FILLING THE MOAT, AN EASTERN JEWISH TALE

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There was once a king who had a beautiful castle. Around this castle was a moat. Over the years, the water supply to the moat had run dry. The king said, “A king cannot have a castle without a moat. I must do something about this!”

So he sent a message to all the subjects in his kingdom. They were invited to a feast at the king’s castle. In return for entrance to the feast, each person had to bring a container filled with water. Some brought big wagons filled with water. Some brought large buckets filled with water. Still others brought tiny little thimbles filled with water. But no matter the container, everyone was admitted to the royal feast.

The people feasted, sang, danced and listened to stories. When they were finished, they went to the moat and ceremoniously poured their water into the moat. Slowly, the water level began to rise until the moat was filled to the top.

The king was overjoyed. He said, “Look at what we have accomplished together! This feast was not your only reward, for everyone who brought a container shall be admitted to the royal treasure room and shall fill their containers with gold dust.”

Those that brought big wagons, they filled their wagons with gold dust. Those that brought large buckets, they filled their buckets with gold dust. And those that brought tiny little thimbles, they weren’t too happy but they filled their thimbles with gold dust.

You see, kindness cannot be measured. But it is often repaid in kind.