

Damon and Pythias (TWO VERSIONS)

1. AS A SKIT

There is a well-known legend of two friends, Damon and Pythias, that has come to symbolize trust and loyalty in friendship. It is suggested that you tell the story to the children today, explaining that it is a very old tale from the early history of humanity. WRITTEN AS A SCRIPT BELOW

CAST

- Narrator
- King Dionysius:
- Pythias:
- Damon

There is a well-known legend of two friends, Damon and Pythias, that has come to symbolize trust and loyalty in friendship. It is suggested that you tell the story to the children today, explaining that it is a very old tale from the early history of humanity.

Narrator: Ever since they were children, Damon and Pythias had been friends. They played together studied together and shared many of their thoughts with each other. They were so close that they trusted each other completely. Theirs was a true friendship; they would do anything to help each other.

Now, Damon and Pythias traveled to a city called Syracuse, which had a powerful king named Dionysius. There Pythias began giving public speeches that called into question the king's unlimited power. Any king who took power without the permission of the people was an unjust tyrant, he told the crowds that stopped to listen. When he learned of Pythias' growing influence among his people, Dionysius became convinced that he was trying to overthrow him. Angry and fearful, the king had Pythias and his friend Damon brought before him.

Dionysius: *questioning Pythias says:* "Why are you causing unrest among the people?"

Pythias: "There is nothing wrong in what I do, "I speak only the truth. "

Dionysius: "I do not believe you. You are trying to overthrow me. Tell the people you were not speaking the truth."

Pythias: "I will not.

Dionysius: "Then you must die. What is your last request?"

Pythias: I would like to be allowed to return to my family to say goodbye and put my things in order.

Dionysius scoffed at him: "I would be a fool to let you leave Syracuse and expect you to return.

Pythias: I give you my word that I will return.

Narrator: But the king would not hear of it.

Just then Damon breaks in

Damon: "Pythias will return if you keep me as your prisoner while he is away, and if he breaks his promise, you may kill me instead. Surely you have heard of our friendship. You must believe, as I do, that Pythias would never allow his friend to be executed in his place."

Dionysius: Hmmm. Let me think about this. Ok. I accept this unusual proposal, but I give you a warning. Pythias must return by a week from tomorrow; otherwise, Damon will be killed.

Narrator: As the days passed and Pythias did not return, the king was sure that Damon would regret his selfless act. He decided to visit Damon in jail to see whether he thought himself a fool for trusting Pythias.

Dionysius: How are you feeling Damon? Pythias has not come back yet.

Damon: (said confidently) "Pythias must be delayed. He will return. "

Dionysius: *laughing scornfully*, "We shall see."

Narrator: On the appointed day, Pythias still had not returned. The king had Damon brought before the executioner.

Dionysius: "The time has arrived, and yet your friend has not come for you. What do you say now? "

Damon calmly replied, "I trust my friend completely. "

At that very moment, the doors opened and a bruised and breathless Pythias staggered into the room towards Damon's open arms.

Pythias: "Thank God, you are still alive! I was afraid I would not reach here in time. My ship was wrecked in a storm and bandits attacked me on the road, but still, I could not give up hope that I would make it. " *Turning to the king*, I am ready to die.

Narrator: The king was so astonished by the fidelity and steadfast trust of the two friends that he could not bring himself to carry out the unjust execution.

Dionysius: "Never in my life have I seen such devotion and faith in friendship. Because you have shown me that I was wrong to have doubted you, I have decided to pardon you Pythias-on one condition. "

Pythias and Damon say together: "What is that?"

Dionysius: "That you teach me how to be such a friend."

From "Stories About 'Abdu'l-Bahá" by Gloria Faizi.

One day a woman came to 'Abdu'l-Bahá with her sorrows. As she told her story, 'Abdu'l-Bahá tried to calm her and said, "Don't be sad now, don't be sad."

The Woman said, "My brother has been in prison for three years. He should not have been imprisoned because it was not his fault. He was weak and followed others. He will be in prison for four more years. My mother and father are full of sorrow all the time. My brother-in-law used to take care of us, but he has just died."

The Master could see the whole human story. Here was a family that was experiencing every form of misery-they were poor, they were weak, they were sad, disgraced, and without any hope whatsoever.

'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "You must trust in God."

"But," the woman cried, "the more I trust, the worse things become!"

"You have never trusted," said 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

"But my mother is reading the Bible all of the time," she said. "She does not deserve that God should leave her so helpless! I read the Bible myself; I say the 91st Psalm and the 23rd Psalm every night before I go to bed. I pray too."

'Abdu'l-Bahá looked at her lovingly and said, "To pray is not to read the Bible. To pray is to trust in God and accept His Will. You must be patient and accept the Will of God, then things will change for you. Put your family in God's hands. Trust in God and love His Will. Strong ships are not conquered by the sea; they ride the waves! Now be a strong ship, not a battered one."

2. ORIGINAL RUHI BOOK 3

Ever since they were children, Damon and Pythias had been friends. They played together and studied together and shared many of their thoughts with each other. They were so close that they trusted each other completely. Theirs was a true friendship; they would do anything to help each other. Now, Damon and Pythias traveled to a city called Syracuse, which had a powerful king named Dionysius. There Pythias began giving public speeches that called into question the king's unlimited power. Any king who took power without the permission of the people was an unjust tyrant, he told the crowds that stopped to listen. When he learned of Pythias' growing influence among his people, Dionysius became convinced that he was trying to overthrow him.

Angry and fearful, the king had Pythias and his friend Damon brought before him. "Why are you causing unrest among the people?" Dionysius questioned Pythias. "There is nothing wrong in what I do," answered Pythias, "I speak only the truth." "I do not believe you. You are trying to overthrow me. Tell the people you were not speaking the truth," demanded the king. "I will not," was Pythias' reply. "Then you must die," pronounced Dionysius. "What is your last request?" Pythias asked that he be allowed to return to his family to say good-bye and put his things in order. Dionysius scoffed at him, saying he would be a fool to let Pythias leave Syracuse and expect him to return. Pythias pledged to return, but the king would not hear of it. Just then Damon suddenly broke in. "Pythias will return if you keep me as your prisoner while he is away," Damon suggested. "And if he breaks his promise, you may kill me instead. Surely you have heard of our friendship. You must believe, as I do, that Pythias would never allow his friend to be executed in his place." Dionysius thought about this unusual proposal and decided to accept it. But he gave a warning. Pythias must return by a set day; otherwise Damon would be killed. As the days passed and Pythias did not return, the king was sure that Damon would regret his selfless act. He decided to visit Damon in jail to see whether he thought himself a fool for trusting Pythias. But Damon confidently replied, "Pythias must be delayed. He will return." The king laughed scornfully, "We shall see." On the appointed day, Pythias still had not returned. The king had Damon brought before the executioner. Smugly, Dionysius said to Damon, "The time has arrived, and yet your friend has not come for you. What do you say now?" Damon calmly replied, "I trust my friend completely." At that very moment, the doors opened and a bruised and breathless Pythias staggered into the room towards Damon's open arms. "Thank God, you are still alive! I was afraid I would not reach here in time. My ship was wrecked in a storm and bandits attacked me on the road, but still I could not give up hope that I would make it." Turning to the king, Pythias said that he was ready to die. The king was so astonished by the fidelity and steadfast trust of the two friends that he could not bring himself to carry out the unjust execution. "Never in my life have I seen such devotion and faith in friendship. Because you have shown me that I was wrong to have doubted you, I have decided to pardon you Pythias—on one condition." "What is that?" asked the two friends in unison. "That you teach me how to be such a friend."