

Ugly and beautiful

It is a story which parents tell their children

Many years ago, there was a family lived in Iran. They had three daughters. The youngest daughter was very ugly and very miserable. She thought everyone hated her because she was ugly.

At last she ran away and went to live in the mountains. One day she met an old woman, and she helped this old woman in many ways. After a while, the old woman said to the girl could have anything she wanted. All she had to do was make a wish. The girl said she wished first to be beautiful and secondly to be happy. "Go home," said the old woman, "and go to sleep. In the morning everything will be different."

The girl went home. Her parents and sisters were very pleased to see her again. In the morning she was beautiful, but her mother and father did not recognise her and told her to go away. She went back to the mountains and found the old woman again. "Please can I be as I was". The old woman agreed but said, "Go to sleep. In the morning everything will be different. But remember – it is more important to be loved and to be happy than to be beautiful".

The girl went to sleep and in the morning she was her old self again. She went home and again her parents and sisters were overjoyed to see her. She knew then that she had the love of her family and never wished to be beautiful again.

Iranian Story