



Tuncer at the Cheese Shop
by
Ali Michael Taciroglu Sr.
- Inspired by a true story -

Once upon a time in Istanbul, there was a 13-year-old boy named Tuncer who loved cheese. His dad, Bahattin, owned a cheese shop where Tuncer helped out. Tuncer was smart and cute, and customers liked him a lot.

One day, Tuncer sold 23 bins of cheese before 1 pm out of the 40 bins they had in total. He felt really proud and excited, so he rushed to tell his dad the good news.

Dad was happy for Tuncer but surprised him with an odd request. He asked Tuncer to go to the cheese shop down the street, owned by Yorgos, and find out how many bins they sold that day. Tuncer was confused because the other shop was their competition.

Reluctantly, Tuncer went to Yorgos's shop and asked about their sales. Yorgos said they only sold 4 bins out of 60, and it was a slow day.

Excited to share this information with his dad, Tuncer hurried back. However, his dad shocked him by asking him to send customers to the other shop, saying they had more cheese.

Confused and unhappy, Tuncer questioned his dad's decision, but his dad insisted it was important. Following his dad's instructions, Tuncer sent customers to Yorgos's shop, making their own shop quiet with no sales.

Feeling sad and disappointed, Tuncer wondered if his dad had made a mistake. At the end of the day, they closed their shop, having sold only 25 bins.

But then they met Yorgos, who thanked them for helping him sell all his cheese. He explained that he was worried the cheese would go bad, and Tuncer's dad had saved him from that. Yorgos gave them a box of luxury chocolates as a thank-you gift.

Curious, Tuncer asked Yorgos why his dad made that decision. Yorgos explained that true merchants don't see each other as enemies. They are friends and partners who support and help each other. Tuncer and his dad realized they had done something good by helping their neighbor.

Grateful for the lesson, they thanked Yorgos and invited him for dinner. As they walked home together, Tuncer felt happy again, understanding his dad's decision and learning about the importance of kindness, generosity, and friendship in business. Plus, they got to enjoy the best chocolate ever!