

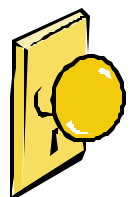
Scripted for 4  
Voices:  
2 Narrators, Man,  
Woman

## Who will Shut the Door?

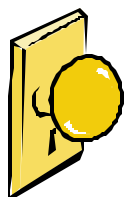
A tale from Pakistan

*Adapted by Helen K. Raczuk*

- Narrator 1** Once upon a time a poor farmer and his wife were just completing the last of their frugal supper when a sudden gust of wind blew the door open, threatening the last of their fire.
- Man** "Wife, shut the door!"
- Woman** "Husband, shut it yourself!"
- Man** "I will not! You shut the door!"
- Woman** "NO. Shut it yourself!"
- Narrator 2** The argument continued, back and forth, until finally the man said,
- Man** "I will not shut it, and you shall not shut it, but let us agree that the one who utters the first word will be the one to shut the door."
- Narrator 1** Perhaps it was hunger, or perhaps it was plain foolishness, but the foolish proposal seemed to appeal to the woman. So, in silence, the couple retired to bed – leaving ...
- ALL** the door OPEN!



- Narrator 2** They were awakened by noises from the kitchen, and peering through the door, saw a wild dog sniffing about the remainder of their supper. Helping itself to whatever he could find, the dog ignored the couple, then finding no more to eat, left through the open door.
- Narrator 2** Would either of these foolish people utter a single word? Absolutely not. They simply watched in silence, and then returned to bed.
- Narrator 1** The following morning the woman took some grain to a neighbor to have it ground into flour. While she was gone, the barber came to their home, at his regularly appointed time.
- Narrator 2** "How is it you are sitting here all alone?" he inquired of the man.
- Narrator 1** The man did not speak.
- Narrator 2** The barber proceeded to shave the farmer's head.
- Narrator 1** The man did not speak.
- Narrator 2** The barber proceeded to shave half the farmer's moustache.



- Narrator 1**      The man did not speak.
- Narrator 2**      The barber, seeing a lamp on the table, covered with black soot, proceeded to smear a hideous coating of lampblack all over the farmer's head and face.
- Narrator 1**      Still, the man did not speak.
- Narrator 2**      "The man is bewitched!" cried the barber, and he hastily fled through the open door.
- Narrator 1**      No sooner had the barber gone, than the wife returned from the mill. Seeing her husband in such a ghastly state, she became frightened, and gasped:
- Woman**      "Ah! What has been happening here?"
- Man**      "Hah! You have spoken the first word - so YOU shall close the door!"

