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#### Nothing Can Spoil My Morals

Forklifts and dolly carts have been my playful means of “adventure” for as long as I can remember. With my family’s wholesale produce business being the backdrop of my childhood, the warehouse naturally became my entertainment grounds and I regularly explored this unique playground, always with caution, of course.

This particular day was no different. I propelled myself forward on my favorite yellow cart and felt the cool air brush against my cheek as I dollied around. I had just finished circling the warehouse, when a familiar woman walked in. She was a long-time customer who owned a small restaurant and frequented our store to buy plantains. The manager greeted her with a chirpy “Hola!” and after exchanging a few greetings, the woman requested, “Two boxes please,” in rapid Spanish. I quickly hopped off the cart to make room for the boxes.

Just as one of the workers finished loading the boxes in her truck, I took one last glance at the plantains to make sure they were secured safely. However, I then noticed through a crack that there lay several brown, spoiled plantains on the bottom layer. An unsettling feeling crept up within me, and at that moment, I faced a dilemma. Should I choose to turn a blind eye? After all, the worker had just finished loading the heavy boxes, and prioritizing financial gains seemed tempting. Or, should I remain true to my morals and speak up about the spoiled plantains, despite the fact that it would involve extra work and costs to replace the spoiled fruit?

Ultimately, I chose the path of honesty. I could not let split-second temptations fail me or my family, especially facing a loyal customer who had continuously trusted our business. I knew that I



needed to uphold my family’s morals that had been instilled in me since I was a child, and I believed that maintaining long-term valuable customer relationships and upholding our reputation as an ethical business would far outweigh any short-term financial gains.

After her initial surprise, the customer turned to my mom and said, “You raised a good one,” a simple yet heartfelt compliment that made me prouder than ever to have represented my family’s righteous principles. My mom, with a smile that mirrored her relief and gratitude, admitted that she had unknowingly chosen a faulty box of plantains. She expressed that she felt relieved we had corrected the mistake before the customer discovered it later, sparing them any disappointment and upholding our commitment to quality produce.

This experience reaffirmed my beliefs that the long-term benefits of doing the right thing far outweigh the potential short-term benefits of deceiving others. As I continue my journey of life, I know that I will face many more conflicting situations, those far more challenging than a simple dilemma over spoiled plantains. However, I am determined to always make the right choice, no matter how difficult it may be, and this experience will serve as a reminder to never betray my morals.