

Pedro and Inês: a story of love and sorrow

*(An easy language adaptation inspired
by The Lusiads, by Luís Vaz de Camões)*

I am the narrator of this story.

I am going to tell an old story from Portugal.

This story is about love.

This story is also about sorrow.

There are only a few main characters: Pedro, Inês, King Afonso IV, and the king's advisers.

Pedro was a prince.

A prince is the son of a king.

Pedro's father was King Afonso IV.

King Afonso IV ruled Portugal.

Pedro was a young man.

Pedro lived in the king's palace.

Pedro was married to a princess called Constança.

Constança was a princess from Castile.

Castile was a kingdom near Portugal.

Constança came to live in Portugal.

Constança brought several ladies-in-waiting with her.

A lady-in-waiting is someone who helps the princess in daily life.

One of these ladies was called Inês de Castro.

Inês was young.

Inês was very beautiful.

Inês spoke in a calm voice.

Pedro saw Inês for the first time in the palace.

Pedro looked at Inês.

Pedro felt something very strong.

This feeling is called love.

Love is a very strong feeling for another person.

Pedro began to think about Inês all the time.

Pedro wanted to speak to Inês.

Inês also noticed Pedro.

Inês knew that Pedro was the prince.

One day, Pedro spoke to Inês.

Pedro said to her:

— Hello, Inês.

Inês replied:

— Hello, my prince.

Pedro smiled.

Inês smiled too.

Pedro and Inês began to talk more often.

They talked in the palace garden.

They talked beside a fountain.

Pedro liked being with Inês very much.

Inês also liked being with Pedro.

As time passed, their love grew stronger.

But there was a problem.

Pedro was married to Constança.

Pedro could not love another woman.

King Afonso IV began to hear rumours.

Rumours are stories that pass from person to person.

People said:

— Prince Pedro loves Inês de Castro.

The king became worried.

The king thought:

“Pedro is the future king of Portugal.”

The king also thought:

“Inês comes from a powerful family in Castile.”

The king became afraid.

The king feared that Inês’s family might gain too much power in Portugal.

The king spoke with his advisers.

Advisers help the king make decisions.

One adviser said:

— Your Majesty, this relationship is dangerous.

Another adviser said:

— Your Majesty, Pedro may place the kingdom in danger.

The king became even more worried.

Meanwhile, Princess Constança died.

Constança died shortly after giving birth to a son.

Pedro became a widower.

A widower is a person whose husband or wife has died.

After Constança’s death, Pedro became even closer to Inês.

Pedro decided to live with Inês.

Pedro took Inês to live in Coimbra.

Coimbra was an important city in Portugal.

Pedro and Inês lived together for several years.

They had children.

Pedro loved the children very much.

Inês took very good care of them.

Pedro often said:

— Inês is the woman I love.

Some people said that Pedro had secretly married Inês.

But not everyone believed this.

King Afonso IV remained worried.

The king often thought:
“Inês and her family may control the kingdom.”
The king met again with his advisers.
One adviser said:
— Your Majesty, we must end this situation.
Another adviser said:
— The solution is to remove Inês.
The king remained silent for some time.
Then the king made a very harsh decision.
The king decided to order the death of Inês.
This decision was very cruel.
Cruel means very unfair and very violent.
Pedro was not in Coimbra that day.
Pedro was outside the city.
Inês stayed in the palace with the children.
The king’s advisers went to the palace.
They carried swords.
Inês realised that something was wrong.
Inês saw the men enter the palace.
Inês became frightened.
Inês ran to her children.
Inês held her children tightly.
Inês said:
— Do not hurt my children.
The men replied:
— We did not come because of the children.
Inês knelt down.
Inês begged:
— Please let me live.
Inês also said:
— I love Pedro.



But the men had orders from the king.

They killed Inês.

Inês died there.

The children began to cry.

Sometime later, Pedro returned to Coimbra.

Pedro entered the palace.

Pedro saw that everyone was very sad.

Pedro asked:

— What happened?

One person answered:

— My prince, Inês is dead.

Pedro was in shock.

Shock is a feeling of great pain and surprise.

Pedro asked:

— Who did this?

People answered:

— Men sent by the king did it.

Pedro became very angry.

Pedro also became deeply sad.

Pedro cried a great deal.

Pedro said:

— Inês was my great love.

Pedro carried this pain in his heart.

Some years later, King Afonso IV died.

Pedro became king of Portugal.

Pedro became known as King Pedro I.

When Pedro became king, he decided.

Pedro wanted justice.

Justice means punishing people who have done something very wrong.

Pedro ordered his men to search for the people who had killed Inês.

Some of those men were found.

They were brought before the king.

Pedro said:

— You killed Inês.

The men became afraid.

Pedro punished those men.

The punishment was very severe.

Pedro also made another decision.

Pedro declared in public:

— I married Inês.

Pedro said that Inês was his true queen.

Pedro ordered a very beautiful tomb to be built for Inês.

A tomb is a place where the body of a dead person is buried.

This tomb was placed in the Monastery of Alcobaça.

The Monastery of Alcobaça is a very important religious building.

Pedro also ordered the building of his own tomb.

Pedro's tomb was placed opposite Inês's tomb.

Pedro explained why.

Pedro said:

— When we rise again on Judgment Day, I want to see Inês first.

Judgment Day is a religious belief.

It is the moment when all people return to life to be judged by God.

So, the two tombs were placed facing one another.

Pedro lived for many more years.

But Pedro never forgot Inês.

The story of the love between Pedro and Inês became very famous in Portugal.

The poet Luís Vaz de Camões told this story in the book *The Lusíads*.

Camões wrote this episode to show the power of love: the love between Pedro and Inês.
But this story also shows something very sad.

This story shows that unfair decisions can cause great suffering.
Today, many people still visit the tombs of Pedro and Inês in Alcobaça.
People look at the tombs.
People remember this story.

This is the story of Pedro and Inês.
A story of love.
A story of sorrow.
A story that remained forever in the memory of Portugal.

(adapted to)
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