



My Grandma's Tales

Said and Saida

Illustrations by Ali al Harasy

Once upon a time, a king was too sick. He had a little child whose name was Said. When the king was sure that he would die, he called his brother and said to him.

"Dear brother, if I die and you become the king, please take care of my son. When he grows up let him marry a girl he selects by himself. Don't force him to marry any girl that he doesn't like even if she is your beloved daughter Saida".

Then the king died, and his brother became the king. When Said grew up, he told his uncle that he wanted to get married. The king, who knew that his daughter loved her cousin was very happy, and told him to marry Saida. But Said apologized and told his uncle that he would marry the daughter of the neighbouring Bamboo land's king. The uncle said "You are free my dear".



They went to visit the king of the Bamboo Land to ask for his daughter's hand. Her father agreed, but Said's uncle told his nephew that if a man gets married in their family, he has to carry or remove the stone lying in front of the palace even for a half meter as a traditional condition to get married. "If you can't do so, you can't marry. It is an evidence of your competence", the uncle told his nephew.



Said told his fiancée of the condition, and she told him that he must try.

The following morning Said went to remove the stone. His family, relatives, his fiancée and her court gathered at the place to see. He tried very hard many times but he failed to carry or remove the stone. The fiancée and her court made fun of him. He was ashamed of himself, and gave up the idea of marrying that girl.

After some time he thought of marrying another girl without thinking of his cousin. Again his uncle repeated the same condition, and the fiancée told him to do so, and for the second time he failed to carry or remove the stone and could not marry the girl.

At last he told his uncle that he wanted to marry his cousin Saida.

The uncle said, "Let us ask her first"

The daughter agreed, but his uncle reminded him of the traditional condition of removing the stone. He was very sad and worried, but Saida who noticed his sadness told him not to worry, "I'll not abandon you and you shall not fail this time", Saida said.

At the time of removing the stone Saida told her father that her cousin had selected her to be his wife and partner for life. The stone cannot be removed by one person. Therefore, she has to act from the beginning as his partner and help him to remove the stone. Her father admired her stand. Said felt sorry because he did not know that his cousin had loved him so much. Her love and passion helped him to do the task.



His uncle said to him, "This is the wife who suites you regardless of being my daughter or not and the most important thing is that she really loves you and will help you to overcome life difficulties".

This story teaches us that good selection leads to success.

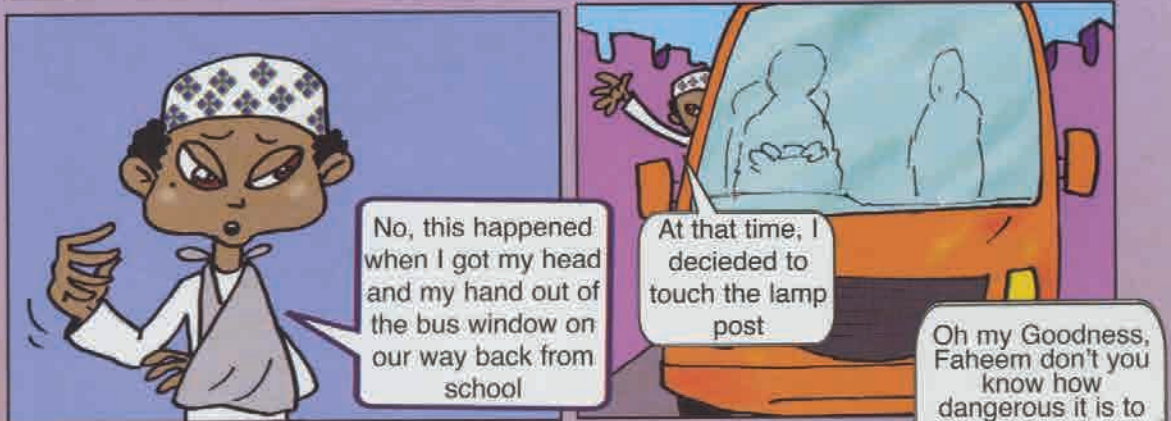


Faheem and Smarty



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انتبه!
Pay attention!



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