
Zubair looks after Zahra

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Based on a true story, with some modifications

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The clock struck 3.30 pm. Home time!

“Make sure you all do your homework” Mrs. Husna called out trying to be heard amongst the excited voices of Class Hamza “Assalamualaikum children have a nice weekend”.

The children all rushed out of the room, some dropping their bags and coats accidentally. They were all excited about the beautiful spring weekend.

Fatimah told her friends that her dad would take her to the Science Museum to see the new Islamic exhibition “I am really looking forward to it”.

“Daddy said he will show me how to fly his remote control plane” announced Jafar. His friends looked at him eagerly. They knew Jafar’s dad’s plane, which would often fly around Forest Ville “You can all have a turn inshaAllah”. All the children went to hug their parents who were waiting at The Abu Bakr school gates.

Zubair was looking out for his mum. She usually came to pick him up and wasn’t late. Today he couldn't see her. Where was she? He thought to himself.

“Zubair” somebody called. Zubair looked round only to see it was Mrs. Husna.

“Zubair dear, your mummy will not be able to come to pick you up today” she said “She is looking after your sister Zahra that's why I will take you home”

‘Why is mummy looking after Zahra?’ thought Zubair as he got into Mrs. Husna’s car.

They came in front of Zubair’s house. Mrs. Husna said goodbye to him as he went into the house, which was opened by the housemaid, Jenny. It was quite dark in the hallway and very quiet. Zubair looked into the kitchen, it was empty. He looked into the living room, expecting to see his mummy writing in her desk. But that was empty too. Where is everybody?

“You better go upstairs” said Jenny who went to tidy up the study room. Zubair climbed up the stairs. He saw his daddy coming out from Zahra’s room with a bowl of water.

“Assalamualaikum” greeted Zubair very quietly.

“Wa'alikumussalam Zubair” replied his dad, hugging him “Zubair, your sister is ill at the moment; I want you to be a good boy, ok?” Zubair nodded. Zahra is ill! He heard Zahra coughing in her room.

“But who will play with me now?” Zubair asked

“You can play in the study by yourself today” replied his dad “Zahra can’t come out of bed. The doctor will be here very soon”.

The doctor did arrive. It was Dr. Ronald Bastian. He was a very kind old man. Dr. Bastian did some checks on Zahra. Zubair was looking from the door. He saw the doctor put a thermometer in her mouth.

“Zahra has a high temperature” announced Dr. Bastian “It would be good for her to have a rest for couple of days”. He said for her to have cool fluids, keep the room well aired and open the window if necessary.

“I am sure Zahra will like the beautiful view she has looking out of the window” smiled Dr. Bastian. Outside Zahra’s room was a beautiful green field with trees and different plants. There were horses chewing on the green juicy grass. Zahra loved horses and her daddy bought her a pony named Trotter. Zubair also had a pony which he called Speedy.

Zubair saw his sister lying in her bed. She was sleeping.

“Mummy will Zahra ever get better?” Zubair asked

“Yes inshaAllah” replied his mum cuddling Zubair “Make dua to Allah that she gets well soon”.

In the playroom, Zubair played with his toy castle. Usually he would go out riding with Zahra but today she was too ill. Tears began to roll down Zubair's cheeks. He had never seen Zahra so ill before. He really missed his little sister. Just then his daddy called him.

"Zubair can you come and help me take the ponies into their stables" he called from the bottom of the stairs

"Coming daddy" replied Zubair as he quickly dried up the tears. He happily went down the stairs into the big horse field.

That night Zubair lay awake, thinking of the games he would have played with Zahra. He got up from his bed and crept into Zahra's room, very quietly. Zubair sat down on the floor as he heard Zahra breathing very softly. The moon was shining brightly in the sky. Just then Zahra woke up.

"Mummy, I want water" she called out in a croaky voice. Her mummy was sleeping in the room next door.

"I'll get it for you" said Zubair getting up. Zahra was surprised to see him in the room. But she knew her brother was always kind to her.

Zubair went down the stairs into the dark kitchen. He was a little scared, but knew that Allah is always with him and he had to take the water for his sister. He poured some water into a glass and took it to Zahra.

"JazakAllah Zubair" thanked Zahra sipping the water

"Are you feeling better?" Zubair asked

"Alhamdulillah, a little" replied Zahra. She then turned to the right and fell asleep. Zubair decided to stay awake the whole night, but very soon his eyelids became too heavy and he too fell asleep.

In the morning Zubair's mummy was woke him up. She was surprised to see him there. Zahra had told her how Zubair stayed in her room to look after her.

"Zubair you have been very kind to your sister" said his dad. Zahra was feeling much better now. She was still in bed but she could sit up and play board games with Zubair!

