

A Mercy to Animals

Zineb Sarah Messaoui

“Wake up, Fatima! Remember, we’re going to visit the zoo today!” Hamza said.

At this, Fatima’s eyes fluttered open. Instead of groaning as usual, she happily jumped out of bed remembering the zoo. A’isha did not like animals but Hamza, on the other hand, enjoyed teasing them. Then there was little Ali, who like Fatima, was fascinated by all animals.

Soon, everyone jumped into the car and arrived at the zoo. The children started fighting over which

animal to visit first, so the parents chose the

elephant. Ali was amazed by the size and strength of the creature, and

Hamza and Fatima expressed how they’d love to ride one. “Is it true that the elephant’s skin is very tough?” asked A’isha. Dad was about to

answer when Hamza cut in. “Want to see? I’ll show you.” And with that,

he threw a pebble at

the elephant. Mum stopped him at once

and made him

apologise for such

cruelty. Hamza

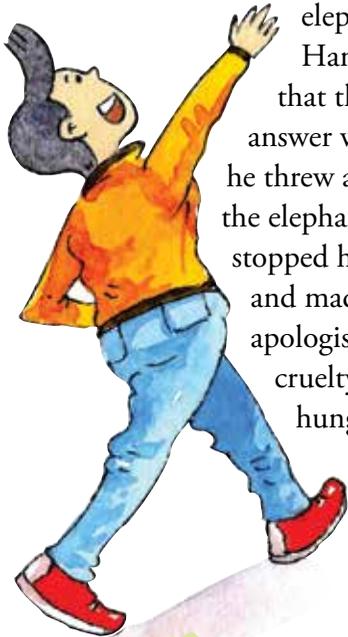
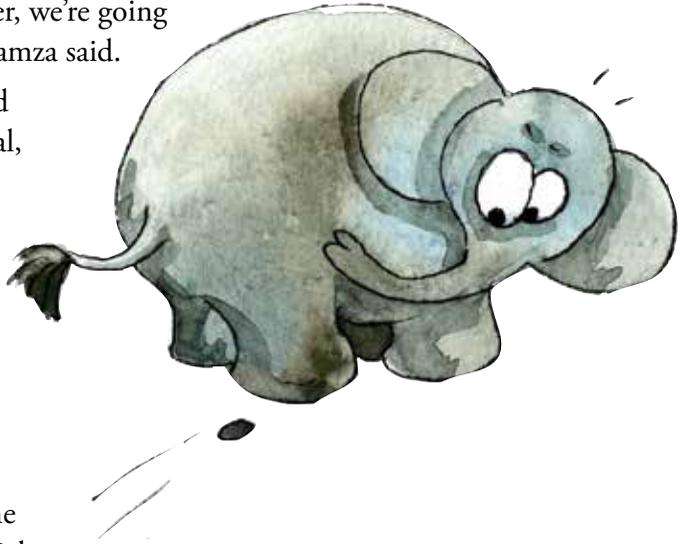
hung his head

and

grumbled.

“It’s just

an animal.”



Abu Hurairah

Abu Hurairah is a famous companion and has narrated the most of the hadiths. He was given the name “Abu Hurayrah” meaning, “Father of kittens”, because in his childhood he had a cat and loved playing with cats. Abu Hurairah loved knowledge just as he loved the Prophet. He devoted his life memorising the sayings and instructions of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

A Wise Youth

Ameena Golding

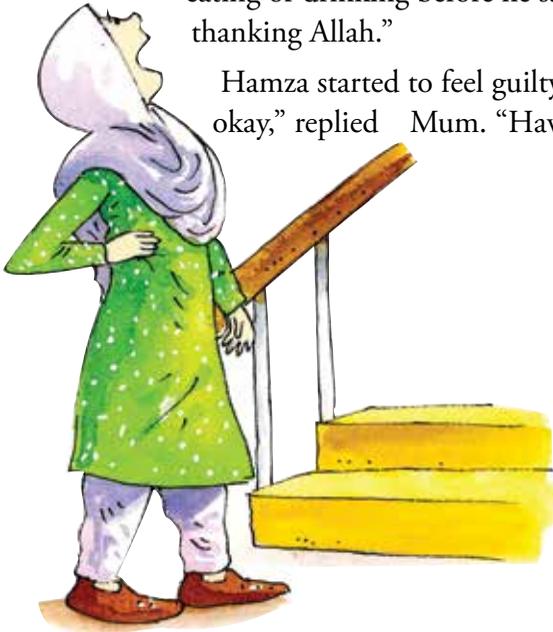
Hamza had finally convinced his parents to buy him a game console, but now he spent all his spare time playing his new game, “Super-Car Racer 2000”. He was trying for the gold trophy, but so far he had been unsuccessful.

“Hamza!” called Mum, “Dinner is ready.”

“Wait a second, Mum, I’m trying to get my highest score,” he replied, starting another race.

“Hamza, please come down. Your dinner is getting cold,” Mum called him, up the stairs. “But Mum,” Hamza whined, “I was so close, I think I can do it this time.” “Hamza, come down now!” Mum’s tone had turned serious. “Yes Mum,” grumbled Hamza, making his way down the stairs. Still thinking about the games, Hamza completely forgot to start eating the food with the name of Allah. “Hamza,” said Mum sternly, “have you forgotten to say something?” Suddenly, Hamza remembered. “Oh, I forgot to say Bismillah (In the name of Allah!)” “Don’t worry,” replied Mum, “Allah will forgive you because you forgot. But try not to forget it again. You know the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ would not start eating or drinking before he said ‘Bismillah’. He would also end his meal by thanking Allah.”

Hamza started to feel guilty. “I’m sorry. I will really try from now on.” “It’s okay,” replied Mum. “Have you done your homework?” Hamza had been



Trading Goods

Khadijah, a rich Makkan merchant, employed the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to sell her goods. She sent her servant Maysarah with the prophet as an escort. The Prophet worked honestly and returned to Makkah with a good profit. Which country did the Prophet and Maysarah go to?

- Yemen
- Syria
- Egypt

Answer: b



God has in all truth shown His Messenger a true vision in which He said, ‘God willing, you will most certainly enter the Sacred Mosque in safety and without fear, shaven-headed or with hair cut short’—God knew what you did not; and has given you a victory beforehand.

Al- Fath 48:27

would be victorious.” Dad added.

“You know, children, just one year later, due to this peace treaty, the Muslims got a chance to concentrate on spreading the peaceful teachings of Islam around Arabia and the number of Muslims grew from 1000 to 10,000. The following year, Makkah was conquered without any bloodshed. Do you know what the Prophet did when he entered Makkah, where he and his companions had been persecuted and driven out? He declared peace and forgave all.” finished Dad, looking at his children.

“Now who will suggest the solution to your problem?” asked Dad.

“Maybe Fatima and I can hold the rope and make A’isha and Ali jump,” suggested Hamza with his eyes lowered.

“Yes! Then we can switch.” said Fatima happily. Dad knew that it was difficult for them to say this. “Later we can all try the hula hoop and see who can keep it longest!” declared A’isha, delighted.

“I am so pleased with my little peacemakers.” Dad said with a wink.





Hadith

Give
the worker
his wages before his
sweat dries.


Ibn Majah

go on too! We can save enough money for our tickets by selling things,” Hamza continued enthusiastically.

“I saw some old toys in the attic that Uncle Ridhwan intended to throw out. He has allowed us to use them.” Fatima explained.

“Can we please go as soon as we’ve saved enough money?” Ali asked.

Mum smiled, “Hmm, that’s an excellent idea, however, this will be have to be your project, without any help from adults.”

The kids agreed and went straight to work. After a laborious week, it was time for the stall to be opened. Everyone tried their hardest to make the toys look better than they really were by wrapping the toys in colourful boxes with false labels.

The first customer was Mrs Alam, their neighbour.

She decided to buy a Barbie doll for \$20, in a colourful box labeled “Talking doll”, though in reality, the speaker was broken. Mrs. Alam also bought a package labeled ‘badminton set with two rackets and 3 shuttlecocks’ (also untrue) for \$23. The Hussein kids made \$43 from their first customer!





Believers, give charitably from the good things which you have earned and what We produce for you from the earth; not worthless things which you yourselves would only reluctantly accept. Know that God is self-sufficient and praiseworthy.

Al- Baqarah 2:267

And now he has thirty pounds!” Hamza’s eyes grew wide in admiration. “So I have decided to also save my money,” he announced. Hamza’s parents raised their eyebrows, but did not say anything as they walked into the shop.

One of their close friends, ‘Aunty Sarah’ was working in the toyshop. Aunty Sarah was not really their Aunt, but the children loved her so much, they called her that. Hamza was the first one to spot Aunty Sarah at the counter. He ran up to her. “Assalamu Alaykum Aunty Sarah!” he exclaimed happily.

“Wa Alaykumus-Salam Hamza! How are you?” she replied.

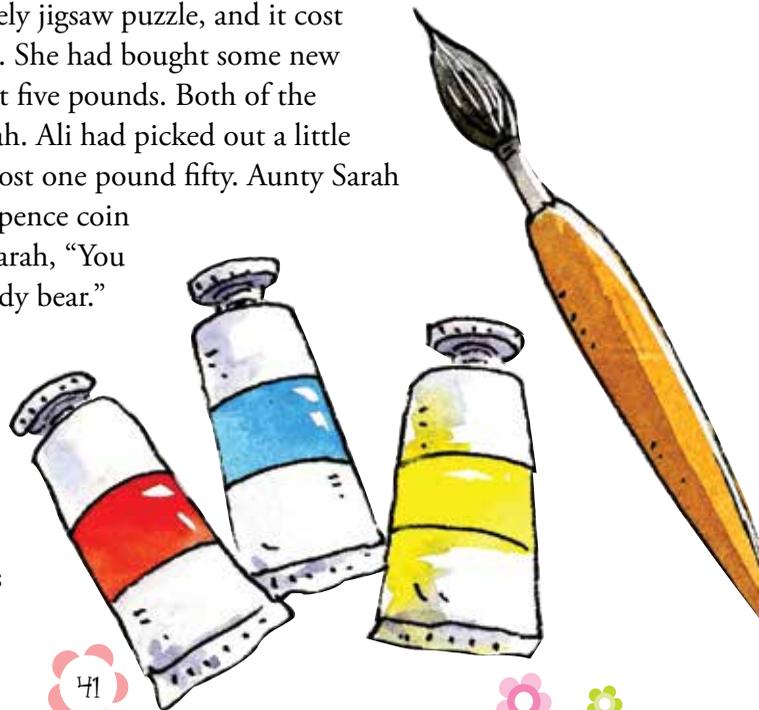
“I am fine, *Alhamdulillah*. Aunty, have you seen A’isha, Fatima and Ali yet?” Aunty Sarah shook her head. “No, I haven’t, but I’m sure I will see them in a while when they come to pay for their toys.” Hamza nodded and then ran off to find his family. Half an hour later, the Hussein family gathered around the tills to pay for everything.

A’isha went first. She had bought a lovely jigsaw puzzle, and it cost exactly five pounds. Next came Fatima. She had bought some new paints and a paintbrush which also cost five pounds. Both of the sisters were delighted to see Aunty Sarah. Ali had picked out a little deep blue teddy bear. The teddy bear cost one pound fifty. Aunty Sarah scanned the bear and Ali gave his fifty pence coin to Aunty Sarah.

“But Ali,” said Aunt Sarah, “You do not have enough money for the teddy bear.”

“Oh...” Said Ali, “The toyshop owner won’t mind. He is a very rich man!”

Aunt Sarah smiled kindly, “How do you know he is a rich man, Ali?” she asked. “Well, A’isha gave him five pounds and Fatima gave him five pounds and I gave him fifty! That’s



Hadith

The strong man is not the one who is good at wrestling, but the one who controls himself in a fit of rage.

Bukhari & Muslim

SISTER!” shouted Fatima, banging the door shut. She retreated to her own room and suddenly felt guilty for shouting at her younger sister.

“Fatima?” called Dad, knocking at the bedroom door. “Fatima dear, what’s going on?” Fatima opened the door and explained how A’isha had been neglecting her prayers and Quran studies, because she was too busy spending time on clothes and other material things.

“Dear, I can see you are concerned. So am I, but shouting doesn’t resolve anything,” said Dad, calming Fatima down.

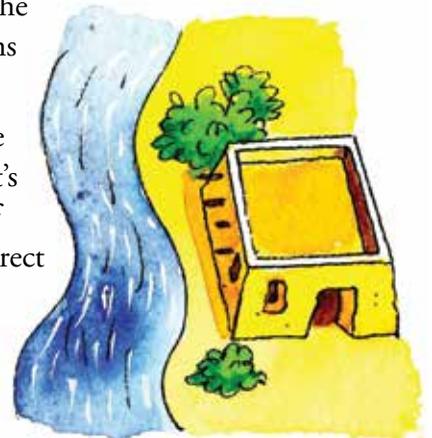
“I know, I shouldn’t have shouted. I let my anger get the better of me,” said Fatima.

“You know, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was a teacher, ” said Dad. “Really?” replied Fatima, surprised. “Yes! Didn’t he teach people about Islam throughout his life?” said Dad.

“Oh yeah, of course!” exclaimed Fatima. Dad continued: “You know, Fatima in teachers’ training courses we were taught to be clear and direct with our students, to add humour and use parables. Children understand more if they know how to apply the knowledge they acquire,” said Dad. “The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was always direct and clear in his teachings. He explained things very clearly to his companions: ‘Every religion has a distinctive quality and the distinctive quality of Islam is modesty.’ Similarly, about manners, he said, ‘The best of you are those who possess the best of manners.’ He used to ask his companions questions and sometime used parables to explain the teachings of Islam, e.g. when he was teaching some companions about the virtues of Wudu, the Prophet asked them, “Do you think any dirt will remain on a person if he has a river by his house and he washes himself in it five times a day?”, and the companions replied, “No.” He then said “This is what happens when you perform wudu five times a day and pray.”

“That’s a nice way Dad! We always enjoy the classes where teachers are relaxed and humorous. I can see how the Prophet’s way of teaching transformed the worst nation into the best of the nations. Thanks Dad for showing me the right way to correct my sister.” Dad smiled, “You are most welcome, Fatima.”

It was Friday morning, and the girls were getting ready for school. A’isha stared into her bowl of cornflakes, stirring the milk slowly and aimlessly.





Greed for more and more distracted you [from God] till you reached the grave. But you will soon come to know. But you will soon come to know. Indeed, were you to know the truth with certainty, you would see the fire of Hell. You would see it with the eye of certainty. Then on that Day you shall be questioned about your worldly favours.

Al- Takathur 102:1-8

about this and Fatima said, “I am ready to dispense with it as he suggests.” The Prophet suggested we should give it in charity to needy people.” And Fatima did so.” A’isha listened intently. “So you see A’isha, we shouldn’t get too attached to material things... like designer handbags. We should focus on doing good and look forward to the pleasures of the next life,” ended Fatima.

“Wow, I didn’t know that. Sorry Fatima, I really should have listened to you,” said A’isha in an apologetic tone.

“It’s okay to wear a bit of makeup, or to carry a nice bag, but don’t waste your time and money on it so much that you forget what really matters in life, like being a good person and a better Muslim,” said Fatima. “Yeah, you’re right, thanks,” agreed A’isha.

The two girls smiled. “Now are you ready to go to school?” asked Fatima. “Wait, there’s just one quick thing I have to do,” said A’isha, running upstairs. Five minutes later, she came downstairs carrying a sack full of bags. She had also removed some of her make-up.

“Um A’isha, the point of that story was that you would carry fewer bags, not more,” said Fatima, desperately trying not to raise her voice. “Oh no, Fatima, these bags aren’t for me. I’m taking them to the charity shop on the way to school,” said A’isha. Fatima looked surprised.

“Oh, well done!” she said, as she smiled at her younger sister.

A’isha walked into the cafeteria. She could see her friends, Lamiya and Ruhina sitting at the table by





The Last Messenger

Umema Imran



One Saturday afternoon, Fatima was busy helping her Mum cook lunch. Mum would ask her to stir the pot, or peel some cucumbers, while she took care of the harder tasks. A'isha and Hamza were upstairs playing, and Ali was with them as well. Dad was out. Fatima was just taking out the dishes when Ali's cries rang through the house. Startled, Fatima put the dishes on the counter and ran upstairs to check on her baby brother. When she got there, she found him sitting near the bookshelves with books piled on top of him. A'isha and Hamza were trying to get him to stop crying. "What happened?" Fatima asked, lifting Ali in her arms and trying to console him.

"Well... we were playing catch," Hamza said hesitantly, "and I accidently threw the ball on to the book shelf and Ali was standing next to it and the books fell on him. I'm sorry."

"Okay, but be careful around Ali. He's just a baby." Fatima told him and attempted to calm Ali, but he went on bawling. Fatima was really glad when Mum came up and took her little brother from her; Ali stopped sobbing once in Mums' arm.

Ali became more relaxed as Mum rocked him and Fatima and Hamza played with him to distract him. A'isha came into the room slowly, an open book in her hands. "Hey Mum," said Fatima thoughtfully, "What's the Last Sermon?"

"The Last Sermon?" asked Mum, wondering why A'isha was asking her this question out of the blue.

"Yeah. This book fell and opened, and the title of the page said the 'Last Sermon', so I wondered." A'isha showed her Mum the book in her hands. "Hmm..." Mum said, thinking carefully, "The Last Sermon was a speech, given by the Prophet in 10 A.H. The Prophet went on a Hajj called the

The Last Sermon



In the 10th Hijri the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ went on the Hajj pilgrimage, which is known as the Farewell Hajj. He stood on a mountain to deliver his sermon then the very last verse of the Quran was revealed. Which mountain was this?

- Arafat
- Tur
- Sinai

Answer: a

