

Rabia's Eid



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Rabia's Eid

Rabia was a bright and cheerful little girl but as Eid drew closer, she seemed very sad.

One warm afternoon, as she sat playing with her doll she said,

'Do you know Dolly, Natasha has got a dress with golden stripes for Eid?



She showed it to me when I went to see her yesterday. It was so pretty, and her Mum has bought her matching shoes and bangles too! And do you know Samia's dress is even prettier than Natasha's!

Its turquoise with golden embroidery.

She tried it on for me and looked like a princess. My

friend Tooba has got a pink dress with white sequins; her Mum bought her shiny sandals to go with it and a matching white necklace. Samia's dress is like the clothes princesses wear in the stories Grandmother reads to us!

Do you know what sort of clothes Naila will wear on Eid?

Her dress is also very pretty with golden braids on it. Do you know Dolly, Mum has not bought me any clothes for Eid this time.' Saying this Rabia sounded very sad.

She then said, 'I heard Mum say to Dad that we will not have new clothes for this Eid because we cannot afford them.'



Do you know Dolly, why that is?

Mum and Dad have done something very good. They have paid for new clothes and jewellery for Sister Saira, who lives on our road and teaches us to read the Holy Qur'an. Do you remember Dolly, that Sister Saira does not have a Dad which is why Mum and Dad paid for everything for

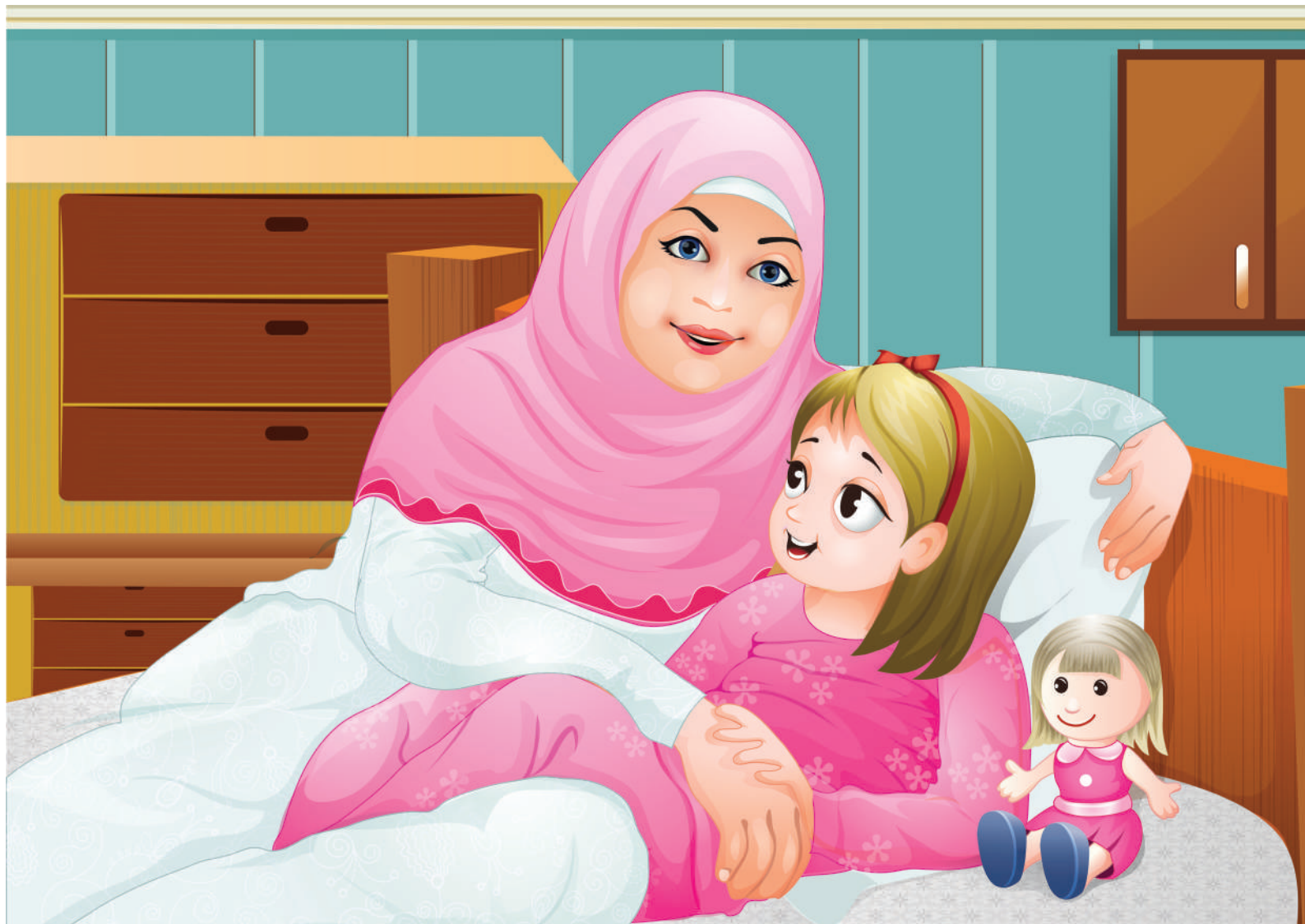
her wedding.

Mum said that it is a good deed if we can cut down our own spending to help others.'

Unknown to Rabia, her mother was listening to her

conversation with her doll in the next room.

Rabia was the apple of her parents' eyes, yet inspite of receiving so much love and affection, Rabia was not spoilt and Rabia's mother was a very wise lady. That night at bedtime, when her mother was tucking her in, Rabia asked,



'Mum, which of my clothes will I wear on Eid?'

Her mother replied,

'My dear, the real beauty of good children is their good manners, no matter which clothes they wear.'

Now, tell me, what is the name of this Eid of ours?

'Eid-ul-Adha', Rabia replied promptly, 'and it is also called the Eid of sacrifice.'

'Well done', said Mum, 'OK, why is it called the Eid of sacrifice and whose sacrifice is commemorated at this Eid?'

Rabia responded, 'This Eid is celebrated in memory of Hazrat Ibrahim's (peace be on him) sacrifice who was willing to sacrifice his son, Hazrat Ismael (peace be on him) at the commandment of Allah the Exalted.'

Rabia remembered this from her Nasirat Class. Her mother told her that Allah had put Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be on him) through another test. Rabia was keen

to know more. Her mother began, 'Allah the Exalted asked Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be on him) to leave his wife and child in the wilderness. He left them in the desert without any water, where no one could be seen for miles. His pious wife, Hazrat Hajira was a patient and grateful lady who showed her obedience to the command of Allah the Exalted.

Allah the Exalted liked these sacrifices very much and it is to remember these sacrifices that Eid-ul-Adha is

celebrated every year. Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be on him) was given the title of Khalil Ullah, that means, friend of Allah. He passed each test Allah put him through and showed patience and steadfastness and never complained. He did not worry about leaving his innocent child and wife in the wilderness without any food or water as he knew that this was only a test from Allah the Exalted. It was Allah's will to set an example for His obedient and grateful people for whom He has promised blessings.

He made this sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be on him) as a guiding light for people to follow till the Day of Judgement.

Those of us who remain patient and grateful through tests and trials from Allah the Exalted are blessed in many ways in this world and in the Hereafter.

They have been given the glad tidings of paradise by Allah. How great were Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be on him) and his son!

Rabia listened most intently. Her mother remarked, 'Allah the Exalted has not closed the ways to find these blessings, in fact He has taught us this prayer to read in our Salat five times a day:

'Guide us on the right path, the path of those on whom Thou hast bestowed *Thy* blessings...'
(1:6-7).

The blessings mentioned in this verse are the blessings God granted the Prophets and we can receive these blessings even today by following the footsteps of these Prophets of God (peace be on all of them).

Among the martyrs (a person who gives his life in the way of Allah), Hazrat Imam Hussein (May Allah be pleased with him) is a shining example before us.

How bravely he accepted to be martyred but did not let any harm come to Islam. Likewise, among the Ahmadi Muslims we have the great example of Hazrat Sahibzada Abdul Lateef Sahib (May Allah be pleased with him) after he had taken the Bai'at (pledge of initiation) of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him),

the King of Afghanistan had him killed mercilessly.'

Rabia asked, 'But Mum, Hazrat Imam Hussein (May Allah be pleased with him) and Sahibzada Abdul Lateef Sahib (May Allah be pleased with him) were not Prophets of God.'

Her mother answered, 'You're right Rabia, they were not Prophets of God, but they were the followers of

Prophets and this is why they showed perfect examples of obedience. Allah the Exalted had examples of many kinds set by Prophets.

More than the others, the chief of all the Prophets, our beloved Holy Prophet (May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was the most excellent model

of patience and gratefulness. So much so that a time came when the Prophet (May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) along with his family and friends took refuge in a mountain pass known as Shaib Abi Talib for more than two years. They endured great hardships there including severe hunger yet remained steadfast. Even today, Allah the Exalted continues

to put the people of the Holy Prophet (May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), known as his Ummah, through tests.

Today, He has tested us. How do you think that is,

Rabia? From where do you get new clothes and shoes and wonderful food on each Eid? Does it not all come from Allah? It does not matter if this Eid we cannot have new clothes! We made the little sacrifice of not having new clothes to please Allah. We hope He accepts the other good thing we did to earn His pleasure. Such small sacrifices remind us of our less fortunate sisters and brothers who spend many Eids in this way.'

Rabia asked, 'Is this what trials and tests are, Mum?'

'Yes, Rabia, this is the first Eid on which you will not have new clothes. Just compare this sacrifice to the hardship of Hazrat Hajira and her little son and you will realise that this is nothing. Dark nights, scorching hot desert, helpless mother and son all by themselves; whereas you have a home, Mum, Dad and a brother, you are so blessed.'



'Yes, Mum. You are right', said Rabia a little sheepishly.

'Rabia, have you heard of the story of the king who had a very loyal servant? One day the king cut up a bitter tasting melon and had it served to all his courtiers (a person who attends a royal court as a companion or advisor to the king or queen). They all pulled faces but the loyal servant ate it with pleasure, as if he were eating something delicious. The other

courtiers were amazed at how he could eat such a bitter fruit. Do you know what the servant said when the king asked him the reason for this? He said, 'My lord, I have had many blessings from you. Why be ungrateful if today the fruit you gave me is a little bitter?'

See, Rabia, he was only a servant of his king whereas the relationship between us and Allah requires so much more loyalty. Allah gives us so many blessings without us even asking for them and for which we

are not even worthy. It is nothing if today God has placed us in a little difficulty. He is Most Loving and He will certainly give us more.'

'You are right, Mum' replied Rabia. 'So what if I cannot have new clothes for this Eid? Arranging Sister Saira's wedding is very important and God has given you and Dad the chance to help her. I shall wear the lovely clothes I had for last Eid, they are as good as new.'

Rabia was a Waqfe Nau girl (a child dedicated to the

cause of God before his/her birth) and very good natured. What her mother told her had a huge effect on her. She hugged her mother and said, '**I will never cry over such small matters now.**' She immediately thought of her school friend Farhat who only ever had one or two new clothes during the year, yet it did not bother Farhat. She was very good at her school work and always came top in class. Before Rabia fell asleep that night she thought how her parents had always taught her to pray to Allah whenever she wished for something



and that she had never actually prayed for a pretty, new dress. She realised this and she prayed and soon after dozed off.

The very next day Rabia's mother bought her some beautiful bangles. In the evening as she sat putting henna (a dye used to make patterns) on her hands, her brother Waqas came running in excitedly, saying, 'Uncle is here! Uncle is here!' All the children screamed with joy. It was a wonderful surprise for their Uncle to come on the eve of Eid. Everyone was delighted, especially as their Uncle had come from abroad.



Uncle opened his bags and began handing out gifts he had brought for the children. As he gave Rabia the gift her eyes shone with happiness; he had brought her a lovely dress with a beautiful matching brooch. **'Is it a dream?'** Rabia thought as she looked at the dress. Her



happiness knew no bounds. She was extremely grateful to God and quite amazed that He had listened to her prayer so quickly.

At last Eid day finally arrived. Rabia wore her new dress to the mosque for Eid Salat. She had a super day playing with her friends wearing her beautiful new clothes. She was very grateful to God for His blessings. And look how

God rewarded her for being good!





