

The Little Snowman

Once upon a time in the far lands of Mount Everest, there lived a poor woodcutter named Fred. He lived all alone in a wooden house with no pipes and electricity. He loved making snowmen in the winter although he was not very good.

One day, Fred made a little snowman. He named it Tomba. It was a dear little snowman with a hat and a scarf. It also had some cute buttons and beautiful eyes. But then, a terrible thing happened. Tomba's body fell off! The woodcutter picked up Tomba's body and chucked him up across the mountain.

The next day, Fred woke up by a startling knock on his door then a cough. He leapt to his feet. Slowly, he opened the door. A tiny person stepped in. Surprisingly, it was Tomba! But Tomba's body was not to be seen. "Good morning sir," he sniffed. "But not to me. As you can see, some gentleman picked up my gorgeous body and threw it across the snow! Do you know who did it?" Fred shuffled his feet nervously. He had a bad feeling that Tomba would think it was him.

"But you are the only man living on this mountain," Tomba went on. "So it must be you!" "I'm very sorry that I threw away your gorgeous body but now I am busy" Fred roared. Tomba snivelled cowardly. "Please can you help me find them?" "What do you think I am? Crazy!" Fred thundered. "Oh, I thought you would do it for one hundred wishes." Tomba squeaked.

"Well ...ok." Fred answered wickedly. He was planning that he helps this snowman, get his hundred wishes and Kill the snowman! They set off down the mountain. It was a long, long, long way down.

Suddenly, an eagle flew past Fred and Tomba and began to squawk. "RUMBLE, BOOM, BOOM! The mountain bellowed. Then it started to shake. It was an avalanche! The snow pushed Fred, [who was holding Tomba's head] to his feet and blew him down the mountain. Finally, the avalanche stopped. Fred looked down. There was the bottom of the mountain. "Mount Everest is high!" puffed Tomba who was blowing madly like a rhino.

Then Fred looked more carefully. He saw a pair of buttons, then a scarf and a lump of snow. Tomba's body was found! "Here's your body, Tomba." said Fred grimly. Tomba bounced happily around him as he attached them on him. "Can I have my one hundred wishes now please?" snarled Fred viciously. "Well, no!" said Tomba, laughing like a maniac. Fred lunged at him but Tomba was too quick. He had disappeared in a puff of smoke. "That magic snowman," grumbled Fred, struggling to get back up the mountain. It certainly wasn't his best day!

THE END! *Mustafa A Halimah (2012)*

(قِصَّةُ أَصْحَابِ الْغَارِ الثَّلَاثَةِ)

، قَالَ: «عَنِ ابْنِ عُمَرَ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ "خَرَجَ ثَلَاثَةٌ يَمْشُونَ فَأَصَابَهُمُ الْمَطَرُ، فَدَخَلُوا فِي غَارٍ فِي جَبَلٍ، فَأَنْحَطَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ صَخْرَةٌ، قَالَ: فَقَالَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ: ادْعُوا اللَّهَ بِأَفْضَلِ عَمَلٍ عَمِلْتُمُوهُ. فَقَالَ أَحَدُهُم: اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي كَانَ لِي أَبَوَانِ شَيْخَانِ كَبِيرَانِ، فَكُنْتُ أَخْرُجُ فَأَرْعَى، ثُمَّ أَجِيءُ فَأَحْلِبُ فَأَجِيءُ بِالْحِلَابِ، فَأَتِي بِهِ أَبَوَيَّ فَيَشْرَبَانِ، ثُمَّ أَسْقِي الصَّبِيَّةَ وَأَهْلِي وَامْرَأَتِي، فَاحْتَبَسْتُ لَيْلَةً، فَجِئْتُ فَإِذَا هُمَا نَائِمَانِ، قَالَ: فَكْرِهْتُ أَنْ أَوْقِظَهُمَا، وَالصَّبِيَّةُ يَتَضَاعُونَ عِنْدَ رَجُلِي، فَلَمْ يَزَلْ ذَلِكَ دَأْبِي وَدَأْبَهُمَا حَتَّى طَلَعَ الْفَجْرُ، اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي فَعَلْتُ ذَلِكَ ابْتِغَاءً وَجْهَكَ، فَافْرُجْ عَنَّا فُرْجَةً نَرَى مِنْهَا السَّمَاءَ، قَالَ: فَفَرَّجَ عَنْهُمْ.»

وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَحِبُّ امْرَأَةً مِنْ بَنَاتِ عَمِّي كَأَشَدِّ مَا يُحِبُّ الرَّجُلُ النِّسَاءَ، فَقَالَتْ: لَا تَنَالَ ذَلِكَ مِنْهَا حَتَّى تُعْطِيَهَا مِائَةَ دِينَارٍ، فَسَعَيْتُ فِيهَا حَتَّى جَمَعْتُهَا، فَلَمَّا فَعَدْتُ بَيْنَ رَجُلَيْهَا قَالَتْ: اتَّقِ اللَّهَ وَلَا تَفُضِّ خَاتَمَ الْإِبْحَاقِ، فَفَقِمْتُ وَتَرَكْتُهَا، فَإِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي فَعَلْتُ ذَلِكَ ابْتِغَاءً وَجْهَكَ، فَافْرُجْ عَنَّا فُرْجَةً، قَالَ: فَفَرَّجَ عَنْهُمْ الثَّلَاثِينَ.

وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي اسْتَأْجَرْتُ أُجِيرًا بَفَرَقٍ مِنْ ذُرَّةٍ فَأَعْطَيْتُهُ، وَأَبَى ذَلِكَ أَنْ يَأْخُذَ، فَعَمِدْتُ إِلَى ذَلِكَ الْفَرَقِ فَرَزَعْتُهُ، حَتَّى اسْتَرَيْتُ مِنْهُ بَقْرًا وَرَاعِيَهَا، ثُمَّ جَاءَ فَقَالَ: يَا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ أَعْطِنِي حَقِّي، فَقُلْتُ: انْطَلِقْ إِلَى تِلْكَ الْبَقْرِ وَرَاعِيَهَا فَإِنَّهَا لَكَ، فَقَالَ: أَسْتَهْزِئُ بِكَ؟ فَقُلْتُ: مَا أَسْتَهْزِئُ بِكَ وَلَكِنَّهَا لَكَ، اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي فَعَلْتُ ذَلِكَ ابْتِغَاءً وَجْهَكَ فَافْرُجْ عَنَّا، فَكَشِفَ عَنْهُمْ." (رَوَاهُ الشَّيْخَانُ)

"Three men, amongst those who came before you, set out until night came and they reached a cave, so they entered it. A rock fell down from the mountain and blocked the entrance of the cave. They said: `Nothing will save you from this unless you supplicate to Allah by virtue of a righteous deed you have done.' Thereupon, one of them said: `O Allah! I had parents who were old, and I used to offer them milk before any of my children or slaves. One day, I went far away in search of grazing and could not come back until they had slept. When I milked as usual and brought the drink I found them both asleep. I hated to disturb them and also disliked to give milk to my children before them. My children were crying out of hunger at my feet but I awaited with the bowl in my hand for them to wake up. When they awoke at dawn, they drank milk. O Allah! If I did so to seek Your Pleasure, then deliver us from the distress caused by the rock'. The rock moved slightly but they were unable to escape. The next said: `O Allah! I had a cousin whom I loved more than any one else (in another version he said: as a man can love a woman). I wanted to have sexual intercourse with her but she refused. Hard pressed in a year of famine, she approached me. I gave her one hundred and twenty dinars on condition that she would yield herself to me. She agreed and when we got together (for sexual intercourse), she said: Fear Allah and do not break the seal unlawfully. I moved away from her in spite of the fact that I loved her most passionately; and I let her keep the money I

had given her. O Allah! If I did that to seek Your Pleasure, then, remove the distress in which we are.' The rock moved aside a bit further but they were still unable to get out. The third one said: `O Allah! I hired some labourers and paid them their wages except one of them departed without taking his due. I invested his money in business and the business prospered greatly. After a long time, he came to me and said: O slave of Allah! Pay me my dues. I said: All that you see is yours - camels, cattle, goats and slaves. He said: O slave of Allah! Do not mock at me. I assured him that I was not joking. So he took all the things and went away. He spared nothing. O Allah! If I did so seeking Your Pleasure, then relieve us of our distress.' The rock slipped aside and they got out walking freely