

صَدِيقَتِي مِنَ الْفَضَاءِ

My Friend from Outer Space



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One day on the weekend, the weather was brilliant and wonderful. I went for a morning walk in the enchanting woods with my little cat, Fifi.

We began to run and play among the beautiful flowers, the butterflies and the tall trees. Suddenly, I saw an amazing spaceship between the thick trees and wondered what it was doing there.

At first, I was very scared and sat down on the soft grass to think and contemplate the matter. After a short time, thick smoke emerged from the spaceship and the front hatch opened; out of it came a strange space creature. He was very short, and he was green. He looked really terrifying. I was very scared and hid behind a giant tree, watching him from a distance.

The space creature appeared confused and seemed very sad. I was surprised but also feeling much braver. I moved closer and closer to him and asked: "Why are you sad?"

في يومٍ من أيامِ العطلةِ ، كان الجوُّ بديعًا ورائعًا ، خرجتُ في نزهةٍ صباحيّةٍ إلى الغابةِ العجيبةِ مع قطّيتي الصغيرةِ «فِيفِي».

بدأنا باللّعبِ والرّكضِ بينَ الأزهارِ الجميلةِ والفراشاتِ والأشجارِ العاليةِ، فجأةً رأيتُ مركبةً فضائيّةً عجيبةً بينَ الأشجارِ الكثيفةِ ، حينها تساءلتُ عن سببِ وجودها هنا ؟

خِفْتُ كثيرًا في البداية وجلستُ على العُشبِ النَّاعمِ لأفكّرَ أكثرَ وأكتشِفَ الأمرَ. بعد وقتٍ قصيرٍ، خرَجَ دُخانٌ كثيفٌ منَ المركبةِ وفتِحَ البابُ الأماميُّ ليُخرجَ مِنهُ كائنٌ فضائيٌّ غريبٌ لونه أخضرٌ، قصيرُ القامةِ. كان مَشْهُدًا مُرْعَبًا. خِفْتُ كثيرًا واختبأتُ وراءَ شجرةٍ ضخمةٍ وراقبتُها مِن بعيدٍ.

كانتِ الكائنَةُ الفَضائيّةُ مُرتَبِكَةً وحزينةً جدًّا. تَشَجَّعتُ حينها وأخذتُ أقترِبُ مِنها شيئًا فشيئًا وسألتُها: لماذا أنتِ حزينةٌ؟



But he didn't understand my question. From behind his back, he brought out a small device that translated what I had said. He brought the device near his mouth and said something I couldn't understand. Then the device translated his words, which were that his spaceship had crashed and that he couldn't go back to his planet.

I said to him: "Don't worry, we'll find a solution."

I asked him his name so that we could get acquainted. He replied: "Star."

I knew then that the space creature was a female. I asked her not to be scared, and that I'd ask for help from my neighbour, Mr Hussein. He was a mechanical engineer and his job was fixing airplanes. Leaving Star in the woods, I took my cat and flew like an arrow to Mr Hussein's house, and asked him to help us.

He came with me to the woods, where he examined the spaceship for a while. Then he said: "I'm sorry. I can't fix it now because it will take three days."

لَكُنْهَا لَمْ تَفْهَمْ سُؤَالِي، ثُمَّ أَخْرَجَتْ مِنْ وَرَاءِ ظَهْرِهَا آلَةً صَغِيرَةً لِتُتَرْجِمَ مَا أَقُولُ، وَضَعَتْ
الْآلَةَ قُرْبَ فَمِهَا وَقَالَتْ كَلَامًا غَيْرَ مَفْهُومٍ لَا أَعْرِفُهُ. لَكِنَّ الْآلَةَ تَرْجَمَتْ كَلَامَهَا وَقَالَتْ إِنَّ
مَرْكَبَتَهَا الْفَضَائِيَّةَ وَقَعَتْ وَلَا تَسْتَطِيعُ الْعُودَةَ إِلَى كَوْكَبِهَا.

قُلْتُ لَهَا: لَا تَخَافِي سَوْفَ نَجِدُ حَلًّا مَنَاسِبًا، سَأَلْتُهَا عَنْ اسْمِهَا لِتُعَارَفَ.

فَأَجَابَتْ: نَجْمَةٌ.

طَلَبْتُ مِنْهَا بَأْنَ لَا تَخَفْ، سَوْفَ أَطْلُبُ مُسَاعَدَةَ جَارِنَا السَّيِّدِ حُسَيْنٍ فَهُوَ يَعْمَلُ
مُهَنْدِسَ مِيكَانِيكِي فِي إِصْلَاحِ الطَّائِرَاتِ. تَرَكْتُهَا فِي الْغَابَةِ وَأَخَذْتُ قَطِيعِي مَعِي
وَرَكَبْتُ كَالسَّهْمِ إِلَى بَيْتِ السَّيِّدِ حُسَيْنٍ وَطَلَبْتُ مِنْهُ مُسَاعَدَتَنَا.

ذَهَبَ مَعِي إِلَى الْغَابَةِ وَفَحَصَ الْمَرْكَبَةَ وَقَالَ لَنَا: «أَنَا آسَفٌ، لَا أَسْتَطِيعُ إِصْلَاحَهَا الْآنَ،
سَيَحْتَاجُ الْأَمْرُ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ».



I explained the situation to my friend Star and reassured her. I was able to calm her anxiety. "It's okay," I said to her. I decided to take her home. She would stay with me and I would show her a lot of new places.

Mr Hussein said: "All right. Let's get down to work." Mr Hussein began working to fix the spaceship. As for me, I took my new friend Star home to introduce her to my small family. My dad greeted her and said: "Welcome to our home." As for my mum, she was startled by my strange friend, but I quickly interrupted and told her the story. Then, she welcomed her saying, "Welcome to our home. My name is Iman and this is Wadie, Loujain's father." Mum led us to my room. "You'll sleep here in Loujain's room," she said to Star. Star was very happy and felt safe among us.

I sat with my friend in my room playing and having fun. We started playing with my watercolours and painting pictures, but Star spilled the paint on her clothes and got them dirty. I took her to the bathroom and cleaned her off with a dry tissue. She didn't like to touch water because it ruined her electronic devices. Then, I gave her one of my pretty dresses to wear and we watched the kids' channel on TV.

شَرَحْتُ الأَمْرَ لصديقتي نَجْمَةَ وطمأنيتها قليلاً وهدأتُ مِنْ تَوَثُّرِهَا وَقُلْتُ لَهَا: لَأَبَاسَ بِذَلِكَ، وَقَرَّرْتُ أَنْ أَخْذَهَا مَعِيَ إِلَى بَيْتِنَا لِتَجْلِسَ مَعِيَ هُنَاكَ وَأَعْرِفُهَا عَلَى أَمَاكُنْ جَدِيدَةٍ.

قال لنا السيد حسين: «حسنًا، لنبدأ العمل فورًا». بدأ السيد حسين في إصلاح المركبة الفضائية، أمّا أنا فقد أخذتُ صديقتي الجديدة نَجْمَةَ إلى بيتنا لتتعرّف عن عائلتي الصغيرة، رَحَّبَ بها أبي قائلاً: «أهلاً وسهلاً بك في بيتنا». أمّا أمّي فقد تَفَاجَأَتْ بصديقتي الغريبة، لكنني تدخلتُ سريعاً وأخبرتها بالقصة. حينها، رَحَّبَتْ بها أمّي وقالت لها: «أهلاً بك بيننا» أنا اسمي إيمان، وهذا وديع أب لجين. أخذتنا مامّا إلى غرفتي وقالت لنَجْمَةَ: «سوف تنامين هنا في غرفة لجين». فَرِحَتْ نَجْمَةُ كثيراً وشَعُرَتْ بالأمان في بَيْتِنَا.

جلسْتُ أنا وصديقتي في غرفتي نلعبُ ونمرحُ، أخذنا نلعبُ بالألوان المائية ونلوّن بعضَ الصور لكن نجمة قامت بوضع الألوان على ملابسها فانسخت، أخذتها إلى الحمام وقممتُ بتنظيف ملابسها بمنديلي ناشفٍ لأنها لا تحبُّ لمَسَ الماءِ فهو يُخَرِّبُ أجهزتها الكهربائية، ثم ألبستها فستاناً جميلاً من ملابسني وجلستنا نشاهدُ قناةَ برامج الأطفال.



After that, I kissed and hugged my mum and dad before going to bed. Star asked me about that and I replied: "These are our family values. It's one of the things I love to do most every morning and every night." Star was surprised by this behaviour and said: "How lovely!" Then we went to bed.

The next morning, my dad accompanied us for a walk in the woods. It was weird because everyone who saw my friend Star was surprised and stared at her in astonishment. She was exploring our strange world as well, but little by little, she was getting used to it.

On the third day, our doorbell rang. It was Mr Hussein, who'd come to tell us that he'd fixed the spaceship. Star was very happy to hear the news and quickly thanked Mr Hussein for his effort. Then we ran to the woods.

ثم قُمْتُ وقبِلْتُ أُمِّي وأبِي قبل النوم وَخَصْنَهُمَا ... تَسَاءَلْتُ نَجْمَةَ عَنْ ذَلِكَ فَقُلْتُ لَهَا: تِلْكَ هِيَ قِيَمُنَا الْأُسْرِيَّةِ فِي الْبَيْتِ وَهُوَ أَحَبُّ الْأُمُورِ الَّتِي أَقُومُ بِهَا صَبَاحًا وَمَسَاءً. اسْتَغْرَبْتُ نَجْمَةَ مِنْ هَذَا التَّصَرُّفِ وَقَالَتْ: «كَمْ هَذَا جَمِيلٌ!»
ثم ذهبنا للنوم.

فِي الصَّبَاحِ ، أَخَذَنَا وَالِدِي فِي نَزْهَةٍ بِالْمَدِينَةِ وَكَانَ الْأَمْرُ غَرِيبًا. فَكُلُّ مَنْ يُشَاهِدُ صَدِيقَتِي نَجْمَةَ يَنْدَهِشُ وَيَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهَا بِاسْتِغْرَابٍ ، حَتَّى هِيَ كَانَتْ تَسْتَكْشِفُ عَالَمَنَا الْغَرِيبَ عَنْهَا، وَلَكِنَّهَا تَعَوَّدَتْ شَيْئًا فَشِئًا.

فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ، رَنَّ جَرَسُ بَابِ بَيْتِنَا فَإِذَا بِالسَّيِّدِ حُسَيْنٍ أَتَى لِيُعْلِمَنَا بِأَنَّهُ أَصْلَحَ الْمَرْكَبَةَ الْفَضَائِيَّةَ، فَرَحَّبْتُ صَدِيقَتِي نَجْمَةَ كَثِيرًا بِهَذَا الْخَبَرِ وَشَكَرْنَا السَّيِّدَ حُسَيْنَ عَلَى مَجْهُودَاتِهِ وَأَسْرَعْنَا إِلَى الْغَابَةِ.



My friend Star went into the spaceship and turned on the engines. Sadly, it was time to say goodbye!

Star gave me a small communication device and I gave her a friendship necklace. She took the half that had my name on it and I put on the other half, which had her name on it. It was a difficult and emotional goodbye ...

The spaceship flew away into space, taking Star back to her unknown planet. As for me, I wondered, will the day ever come when I'll fly high into space to visit Star on her strange planet and explore her unknown world?

صَعِدَت صَدِيقَتِي نَجْمَةٌ وَشَغَلَتْ مَحْرَكَاتِ مَرْكَبَتِهَا، لِلْأَسَفِ، حَانَ وَقْتُ الْوَدَاعِ.

أَهْدَيْتَنِي نَجْمَةٌ جِهَازَ تَوَاصُلٍ صَغِيرٍ، وَأَهْدَيْتُهَا سِلْسَالَ الصَّدَاقَةِ، أَخَذْتُ هِيَ الشَّطْرَ الْأَوَّلَ الَّذِي فِيهِ اسْمِي، وَلَبِسْتُ الشَّطْرَ الثَّانِيَ فِيهِ اسْمُهَا، كَانَ وَدَاعًا صَعْبًا وَمُؤَثِّرًا. طَارَتِ الْمَرْكَبَةُ الْفَضَائِيَّةُ مُجَدِّدًا إِلَى الْفَضَاءِ وَعَادَتِ نَجْمَةٌ إِلَى كَوْكَبِهَا الْمَجْهُولِ .

أَمَا أَنَا فَبَقِيتُ أَتَسْأَلُ: هَلْ سَيَأْتِي يَوْمٌ مِنَ الْأَيَّامِ لِأَطِيرَ عَالِيًا فِي الْفَضَاءِ وَأُزُورَ نَجْمَةً فِي كَوْكَبِهَا الْغَرِيبِ وَأُكْتَشِفَ عَالَمُهُمُ الْمَجْهُولُ؟!!!

