



Arwa's Realization

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There were two girls.
They were the best of
friends since they were
babies. Their names
were Arwa and Maya.

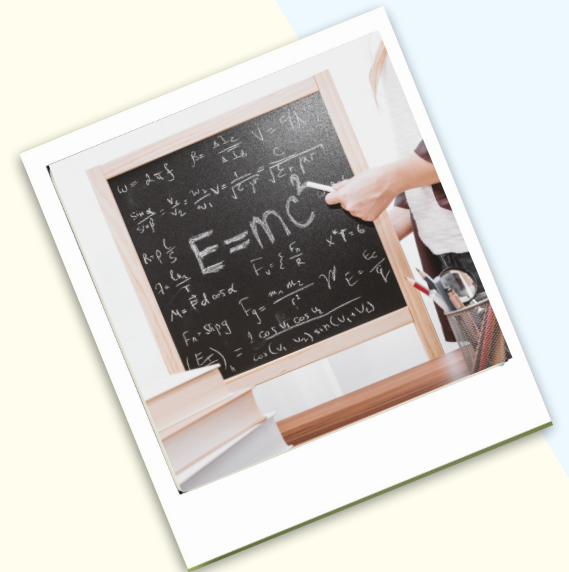


They travelled around the world together. They went to France, Germany, Mexico and Himalaya. They went to the same school and class.



One day, as they were having their least favorite subject which is Math, a new student came to their class.

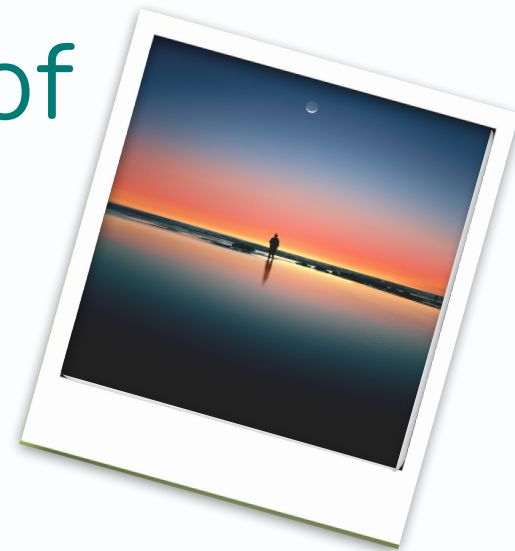
Her name was Siri.



She sat next to Maya and they ended up talking a lot. "Hey what's your name, mine is Siri, I know it is kind of a funny name." said Siri excitedly.

"Hello, I can tell you're a bit excited, so my name is Maya and I am one of the smartest students here."

Maya replied in a very calm voice.



Arwa saw and felt left out so she didn't like Siri. She started talking to herself. "Is Maya talking to that girl, ugh!" said Arwa coolly.

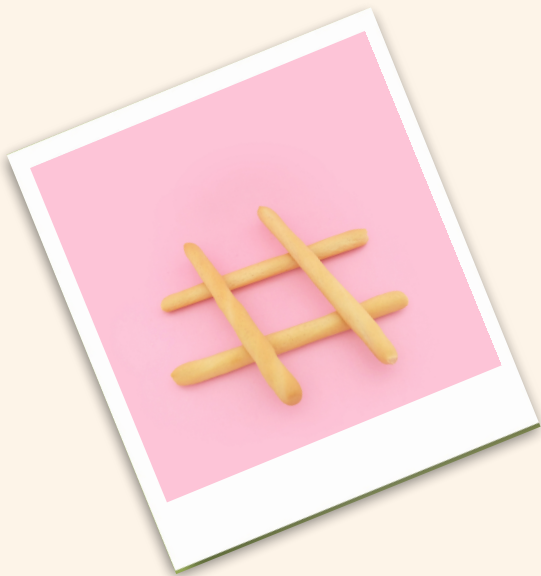


As the days went by, Maya and Siri became closer to each other and this made Arwa more upset.

One day when Arwa got home she went to her room to make a private account on Instagram. She got pictures of Siri that she secretly took at school, and photoshopped them to make her look ugly.



Arwa told all her friends except Maya to follow the account. She started posting all the pictures of Siri and people started posting nasty comments about the pictures.





Meanwhile Siri was eating lunch when she started getting a bunch of notifications on her phone. After she went upstairs to her room to check her phone, she saw that she was getting tagged in a lot of posts.

The posts she saw were nasty things about her. While seeing these posts, Siri started having an emotional breakdown. Siri asked who had started the account and everyone told her it was Arwa.



Back at school Siri confronted Arwa. Siri sadly asked Arwa, “are you really the one that started that hate page?”

“Yeah, do you have a problem with that?!” she replied sarcastically.

Siri angrily replied, “OF COURSE I DO! What did I do to deserve this?”

“If you really want me to stop, just stay away from Maya,” Arwa replied while rolling her eyes and walking away.



Siri cried all day, not knowing what to do. She wouldn't eat her food and started distancing herself from everybody.

Siri is kind so she didn't want Maya to know her best friend Arwa is bullying her.



Siri kept on checking her Instagram to see if anyone apologized to her. She didn't want to go to school so she would make excuses to stay at home.



She remembered her mother's advice,
“Siri, anytime you feel lost, and don't
know what to do, go to the Qur'an
and Allah will help you”.

She picked up the Qur'an and started
reciting. She came across an ayah
that said:

“...have patience. Allah does not deny the
reward of the righteous.” (11:115).

Lexi found out about the hate page. She told Maya that Arwa made a hate page about Siri. Maya did not believe her so she made a private account and followed Arwa's private account. She was shocked when she saw the mean things Arwa posted about Siri.



Maya told Lexi: The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

"مَنْ رَأَى مِنْكُمْ مُنْكَرًا فَلْيُغَيِّرْهُ بِيَدِهِ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ
فَبِلِسَانِهِ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَبِقَلْبِهِ، وَذَلِكَ أَضْعَفُ الْإِيمَانِ".

“Whosoever of you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand; and if he is not able to do so, then [let him change it] with his tongue; and if he is not able to do so, then with his heart — and that is the weakest of faith.” (40 Hadith Nawawi 34)

They immediately went to meet
Siri to console her. Maya told Siri:

O you who believe! Seek help in patience and
As-Salat (the prayer). Truly! Allah is with
As-Sabirin (the patient ones, etc.). (Surah Al
Baqarah 2:153)



The next day at school Maya talked to Arwa and explained to her how painful bullying is and how hurt Siri felt by her actions. Maya also showed Arwa a video of how victims feel when they are bullied.



Maya told Arwa:
The Prophet (ﷺ) said:



“لَا ضَرَرَ وَلَا ضِرَارَ” .

There should be neither harming (darar) nor reciprocating harm (dirar).” (40 Hadith Nawawi 32).

Maya spoke to her about how bullying is a horrible thing to do to someone and Arwa started feeling bad. She wanted to apologize to Siri but felt like she had to go that extra mile to show Siri how sorry she was, and how bad she felt for doing that to her.

The next morning Arwa walked to her local Starbucks and asked to buy a gift card; she also bought herself a drink. On her way to school she was thinking about how to apologize to Siri.



When she reached, she decided to just say it and not over think it. She saw Siri and ran up to her, but Siri had a worried look on her face and started to rush off.

Arwa finally caught up to her and said, “Siri! I want to talk to you.”

“Yes,” Siri replied hesitantly.

“I just wanted to say I’m really sorry for what I did to you. You didn’t deserve it. I only bullied you because I was afraid you’d steal my best friend away from me, and I know it’s not the case. I’m really sorry. I hope you can forgive me.”

In a relieved tone Siri replied, “it’s okay Arwa, I understand.”

“Ow, before I forget! ” Arwa exclaimed before handing Siri her gift.

“THANK YOU! You really didn’t have too,” Siri yelled while jumping in for a hug.

Before you knew it, Arwa, Maya and Siri started hanging out with each other and became best friends.

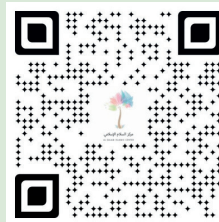




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