



Reem and Her Grandfather Radwan

The Story of Water

Written by: Intisar Abel Moneim Illustrator: Ahmed Geassa



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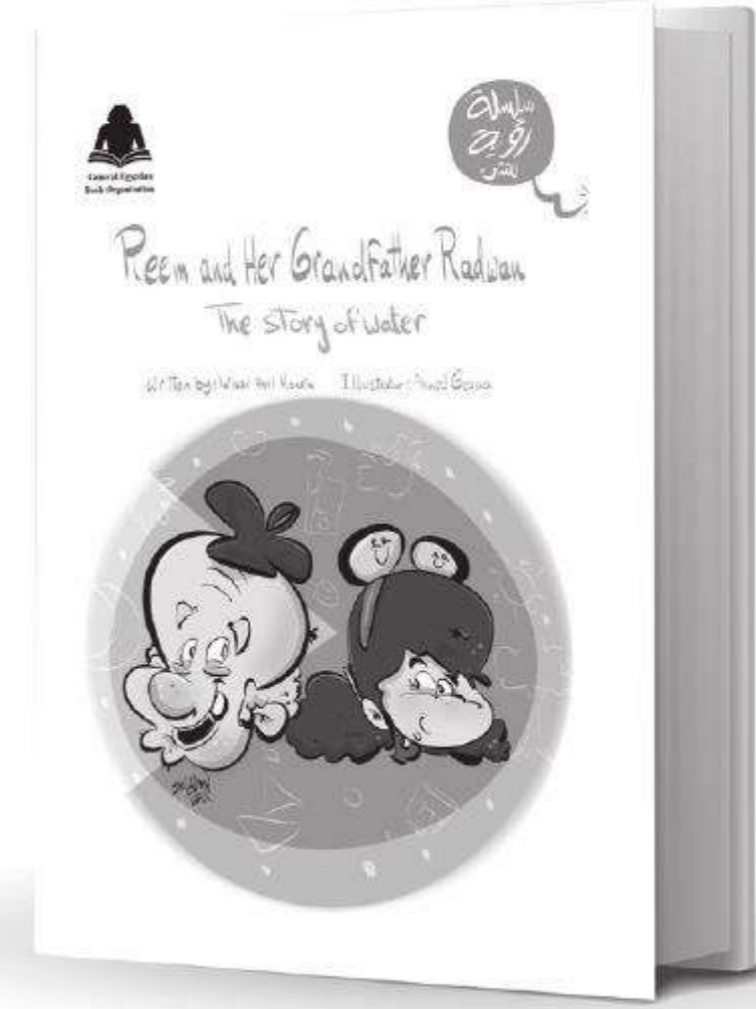
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“Ro’aya for the Young” Series

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Reem and Her Grandfather Radwan

The story of water

Foreword

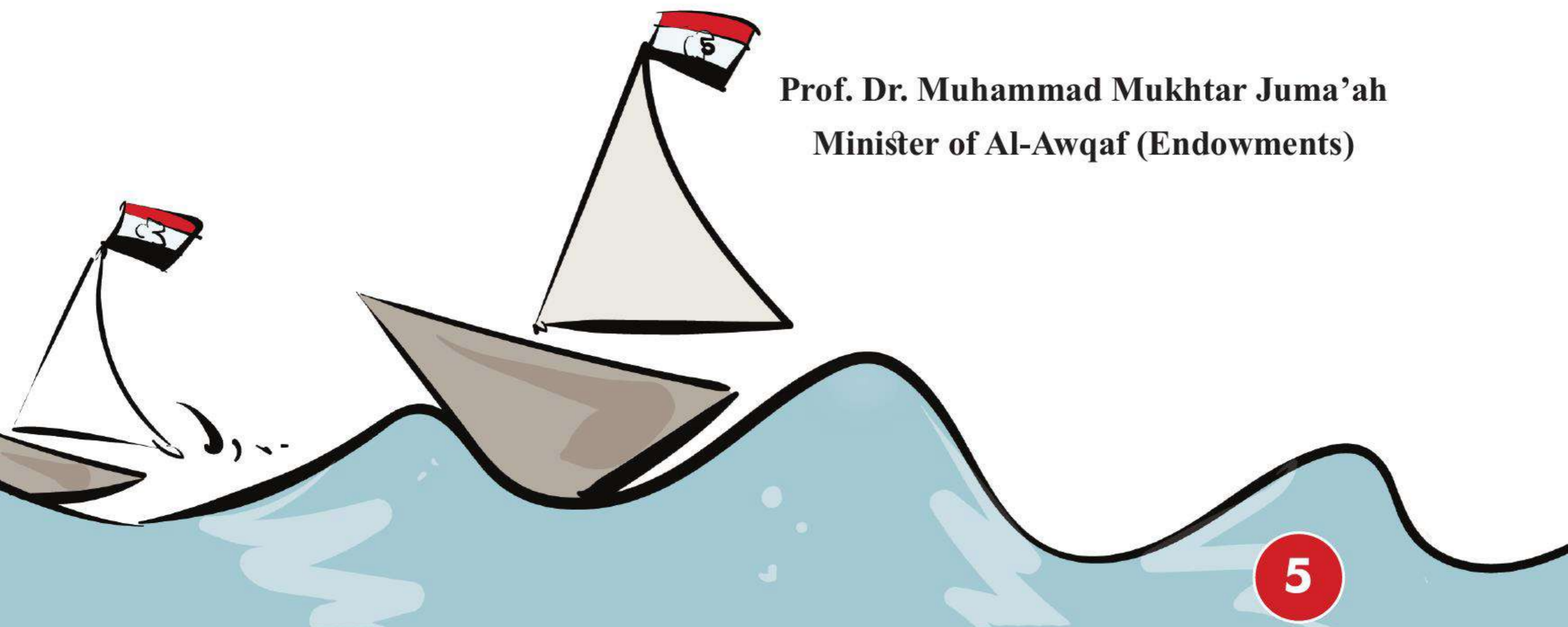
All Praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds. May Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon our Master Prophet Muhammad Ibn ‘Abdullah, the Last of Prophets and Messengers, and upon his Household and Companions.

Undoubtedly, the issue of water is one of the most critical contemporary challenges, especially in light of the fact that climatic changes may increase the problems of many regions of the world. This requires national, regional and international awareness of water issues. Even if there is water abundance, saving water and rationalizing its use is a necessity. When the Prophet (PBUH) passed by Saad Ibn Abu Waqqas when he was performing ablution, he (PBUH) asked, “What is this extravagance, Saad?” He replied, “Is there extravagance in ablution?” the Prophet (PBUH) replied, “Yes, even if you were on the banks of a flowing river.”

There is no doubt that educating our sons and daughters about the importance of water, its rational use, its preservation, and avoiding extravagance in using it, is very critical in dealing with water, as the child grows up aware of the importance of this grace and of the ways to preserve it.

The writer did her best to bring out these issues in an interesting narrative way that fits the target age of our beloved children, which requires appreciation for the writer, the Graphics designer, and everyone who contributed to this work of the series, which is rich with thought or effort.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar Juma’ah
Minister of Al-Awqaf (Endowments)



Introduction

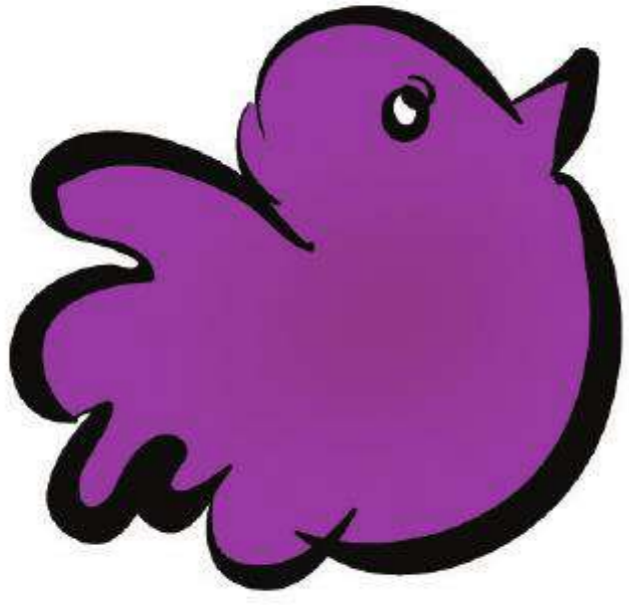
Water is a great blessing that we should preserve it and avoid extravagance in using it or polluting its sources. It is important that these concepts be implanted in the children's minds at an early age in order to increase their awareness on the importance of preserving water resources in their homeland, Egypt. They should realize the danger that threatens life when we carelessly use water. Consequently, this collection of short stories that are based on a dialogue between a grandfather "Radwan" and his granddaughter "Reem" comes to explain to children the importance of water for all living creatures, that it is the basis of civilizations, and that it faces the threat of pollution, which harms all forms of life on earth.

This information in the stories is presented in a simple dialogue that gathers information, enjoyable narration, and raise more questions, in order to encourage young people to search for more information, whether in books or on the internet, and all this is accompanied by evidence from the Glorious Qur'an and the noble Sunnah of the Prophet, so that the pleasure of reading is accompanied by knowledge and the ability to infer.

We hope that these stories and ideas contained in them will stir the reader's mind regarding the positions that Reem faces, and what he can do if he was in her place, so that our children develop a critical sense, have the ability to self-criticism, and adopt a constructive positive attitude towards society's problems later.

Intisar Abdel Moneim





(1)

A Story of a Martyr

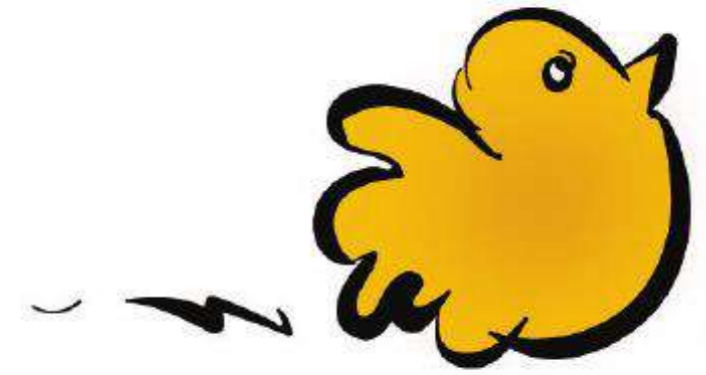
It was the end of the school year for Reem, who began her vacation a week before her brother Khalid. The grandfather "Radwan" came and took Reem to spend the vacation with him in his big house in Aswan, as the family would join her when Khaled finishes his studies.

After dinner, the grandfather told Reem, "After you brush your teeth, bring the book we read yesterday so that we can continue it before bedtime."

Reem entered the bathroom, turned on all the lights in the ceiling and on the walls, and turned on the water tap. She put toothpaste on the brush, and began to brush her teeth in front of the mirror, the basin was filled with water while Reem did not turn off the tap.

Reem took a long time and did not bring the book. The grandfather went to check on her, and watched what she did.

The grandfather asked: Why do you turn on all these lights, Reem? The lamp in the ceil is enough. It lights up the whole place!



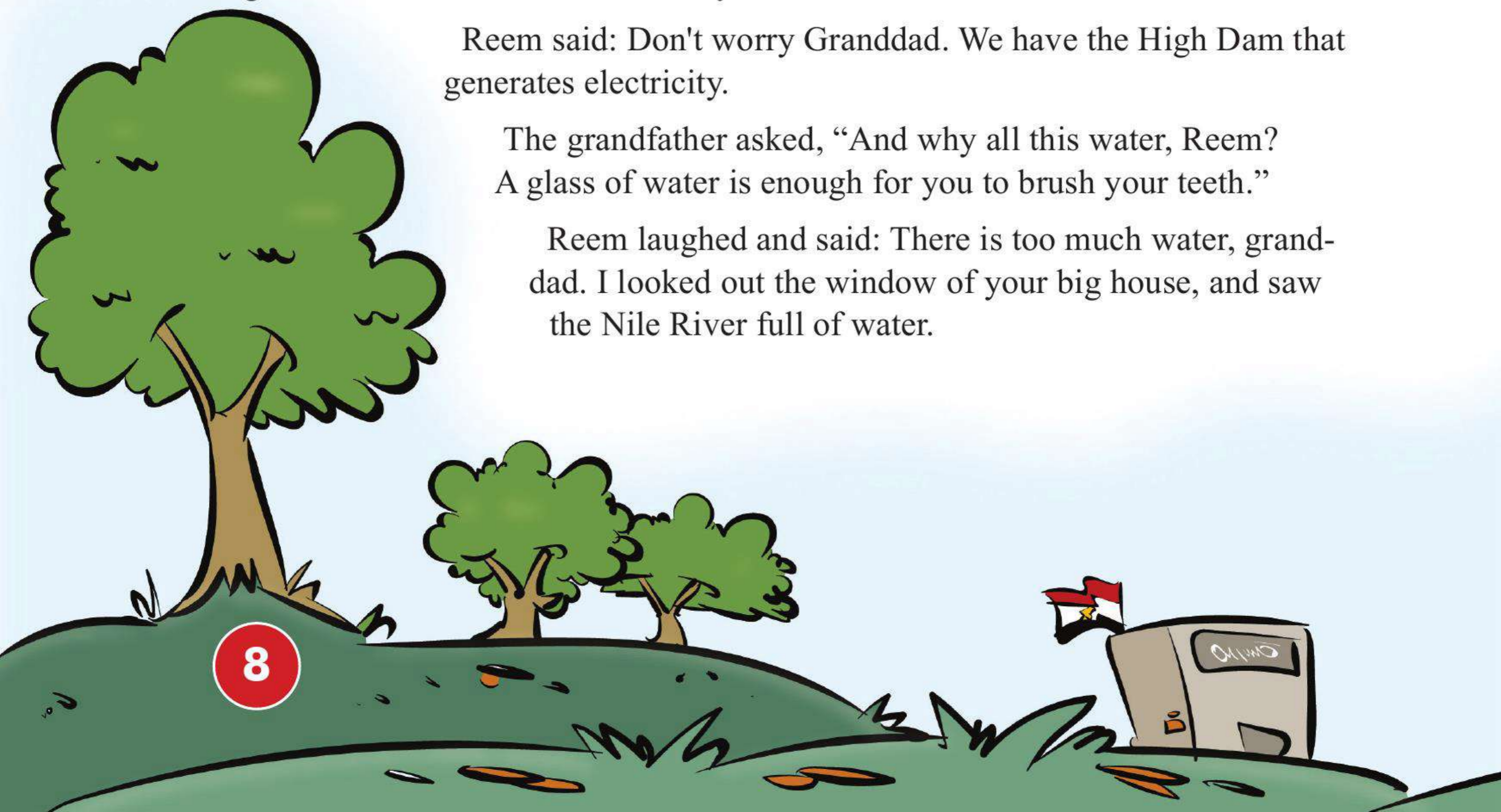
Reem said: I love the bright light, granddad.

Her grandfather asked: If the electricity cuts off, we will live in darkness.

Reem said: Don't worry Granddad. We have the High Dam that generates electricity.

The grandfather asked, "And why all this water, Reem? A glass of water is enough for you to brush your teeth."

Reem laughed and said: There is too much water, granddad. I looked out the window of your big house, and saw the Nile River full of water.



The grandfather said: Your behavior is wasteful, Reem, and our Messenger (PBUH) taught us not to waste water even if we are near a river. Once the Messenger (PBUH) passed by Sa'd Ibn Abu Waqas when he was performing ablution and asked, "What is this extravagance, Sa'd?" He replied, "Is there extravagance in ablution?" He said, "Yes, even if you are beside a flowing river"⁽¹⁾.

This is not only with ablution, but with everything for which we use water; we must take only an amount that is sufficient for us, no more.

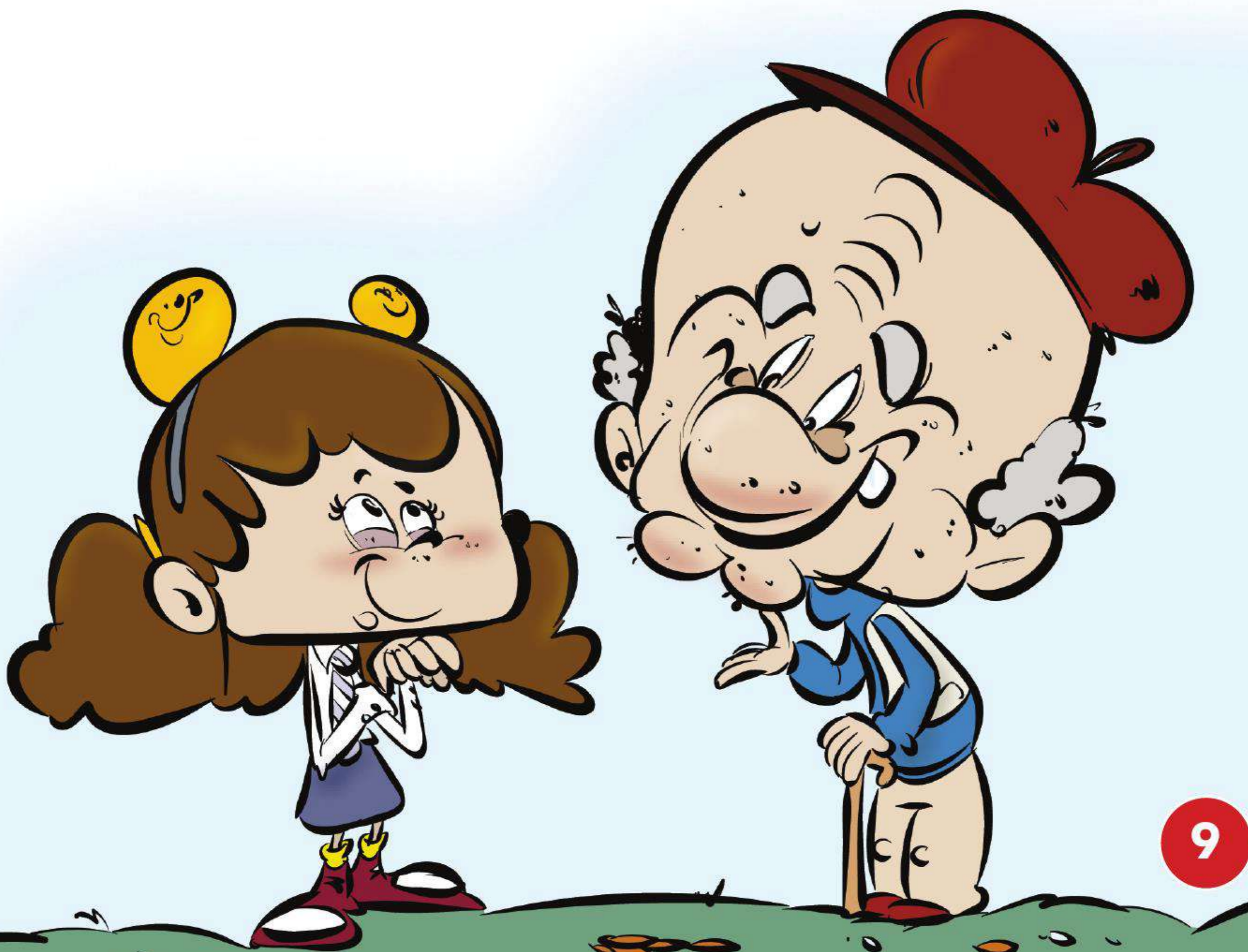
Reem said: I love the sound of water flowing from the tap.

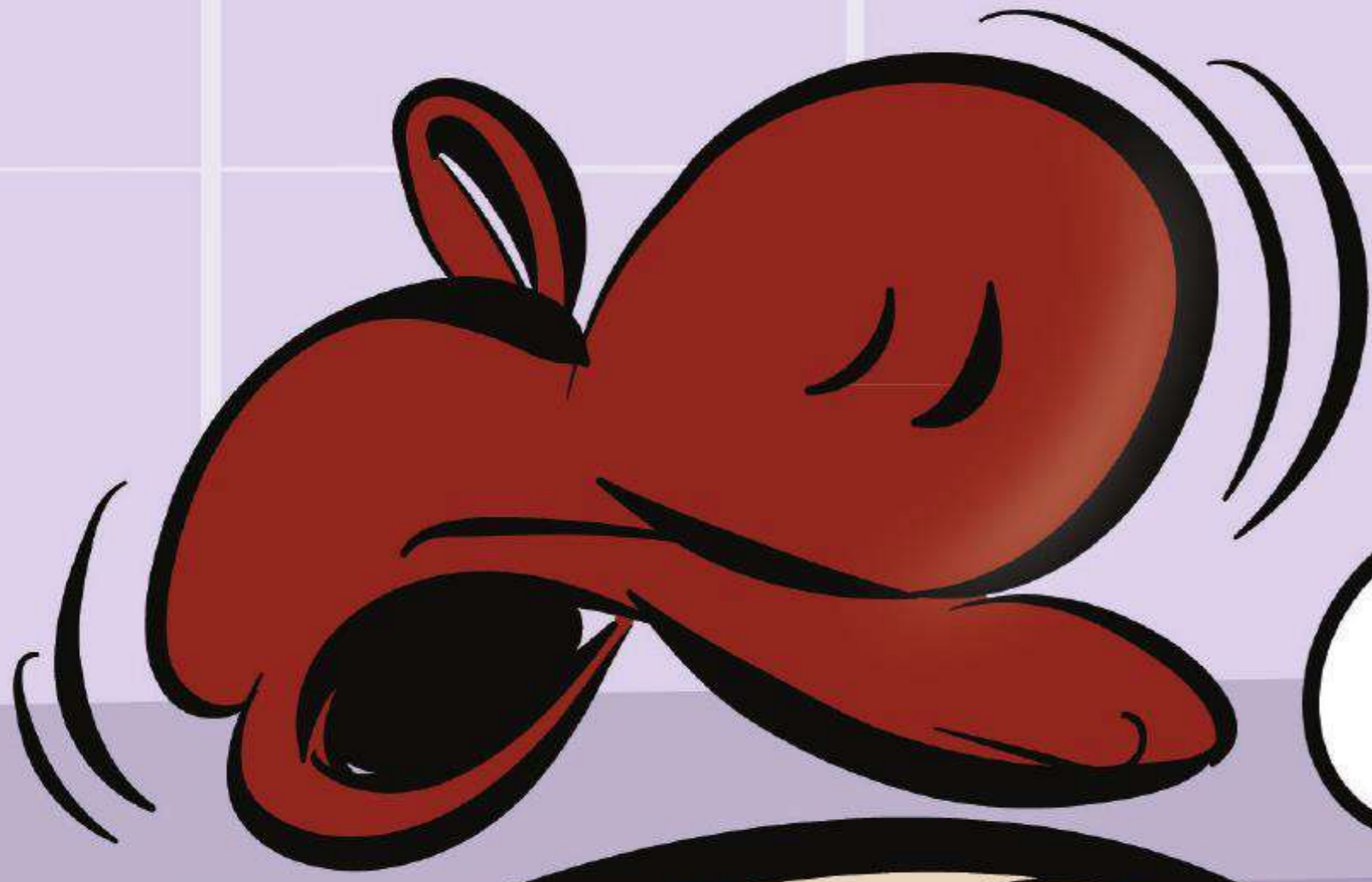
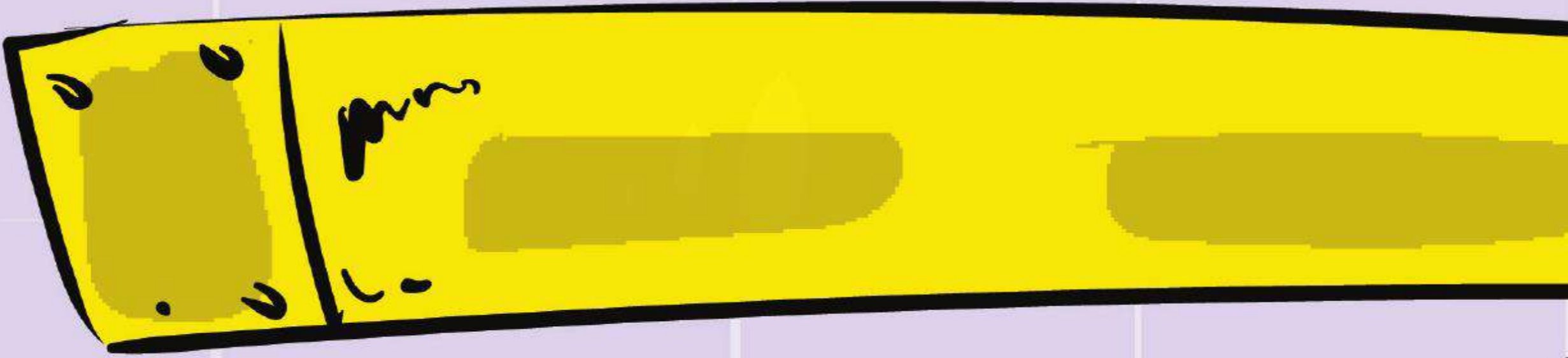
Her grandfather asked: What if you open the tap one day and you find no water!?

Reem was astonished, "really? How is that while the Nile River runs in front of your house, granddad?"

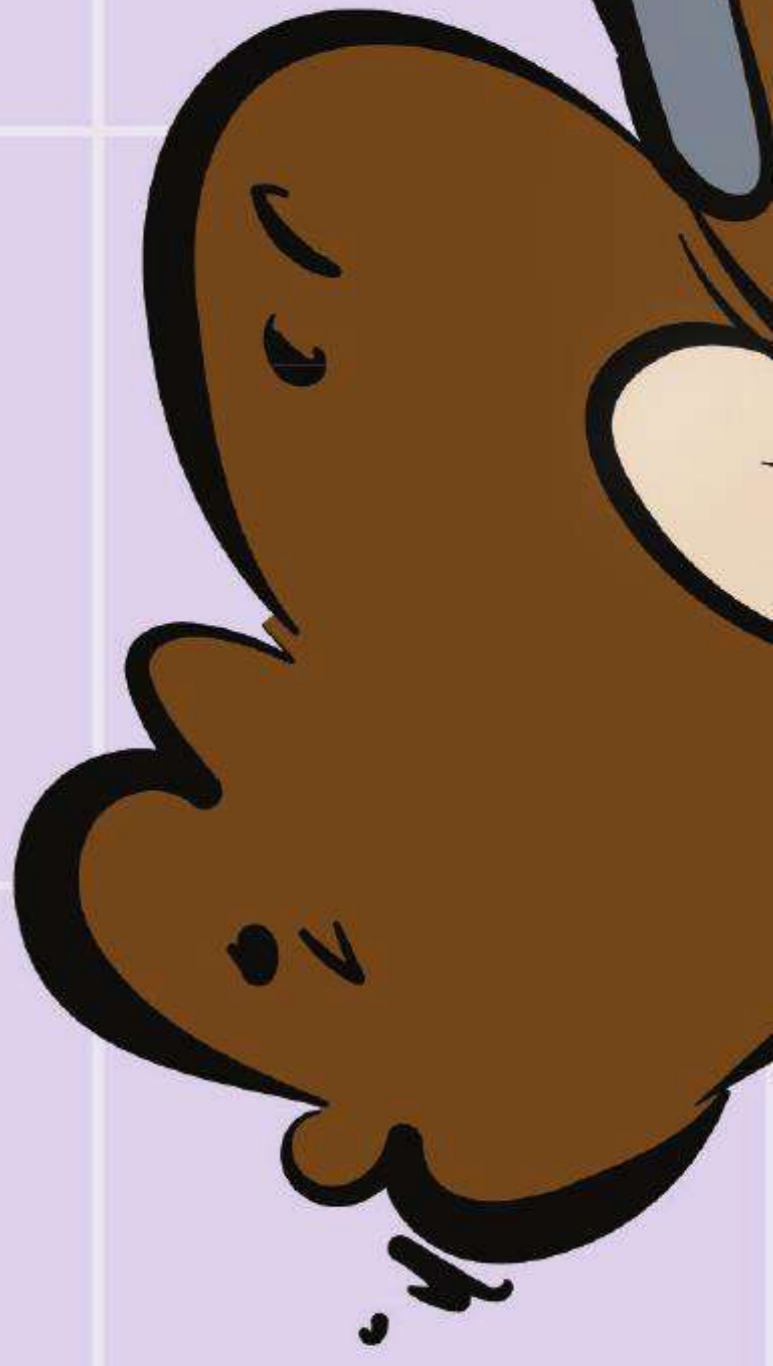
The grandfather said: We are commanded to save water and rationalize its use, even if we are living in front of a running river.

(1) Sunan Ibn Majah, Hadith No. 425; Musna Ahmad, Hadith No. 7065.





Don't be extravagant in using water, Reem.





(2)

Sea Water

Reem was sitting with her grandfather in his large library which is full of books on various sciences and in different languages. The grandfather brought a map of Egypt and pointed to the Red Sea in the east, and the Mediterranean in the north, and asked Reem: Can you drink sea water, Reem?

Reem said: no granddad. The teacher of science at the school told us that sea water is salty and undrinkable, and it is river water which is sweet and therefore we use it for drinking and watering the crops.

However, as long as we do not drink from sea water, is there any benefit in the presence of seas granddad?

The grandfather said: Of course, Reem, everything that Allah creates has a benefit and a role in life. Huge ships go through seas, carrying goods and people from one country to another, and from one continent to another. The Almighty Allah says, “To Him belong the ships with raised sails, sailing through the seas like mountains.”⁽¹⁾ Also, we have the Suez Canal linking the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, and the Suez Canal has great importance in the movement of global trade, as it is the fastest route between the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean, and it is the shortest route linking the East and the West. It enables the merchants to transport and ship goods by the sea between the countries of Asia, Europe, Africa, the Far East, and the Middle East.

The Almighty Allah says, “And the two seas are not alike: this is sweet, thirst-quenching, pleasant to drink; and that is saltish and bitter. And yet from each ye eat flesh fresh and bring forth the ornaments that ye wear. And you see therein ships cleaving the water, that ye may seek of His grace, and that haply you may give thanks”⁽²⁾.

Reem said: Is there fish in the seas like rivers, granddad?

Grandfather “Radwan” answered: Yes, and this is the meaning of “flesh fresh” in the previous verse of Surat Fatir.

Reem, in the sea there are fish of different types, sizes and colors. There are huge whales and sharks that cannot live in rivers, but they live in large and deep seas and oceans. There are also pearls that we extract from inside a certain type of shells, and there

(1) Al-Rahman: 24.

(2) Fatir: 12.

are brightly colored coral reefs such as those found in Ras Muhammed Reserve in South Sinai. Seas are a large world full of diverse creatures that we must conserve, and therefore we have to protect its water from pollution.

Reem asked: Are fish in large seas affected by pollution as well?

The grandfather said: Yes. Plastic bags can kill huge fish when they wrap around their body causing them to bleed to death, and when they try to swallow them, they make them suffocate.

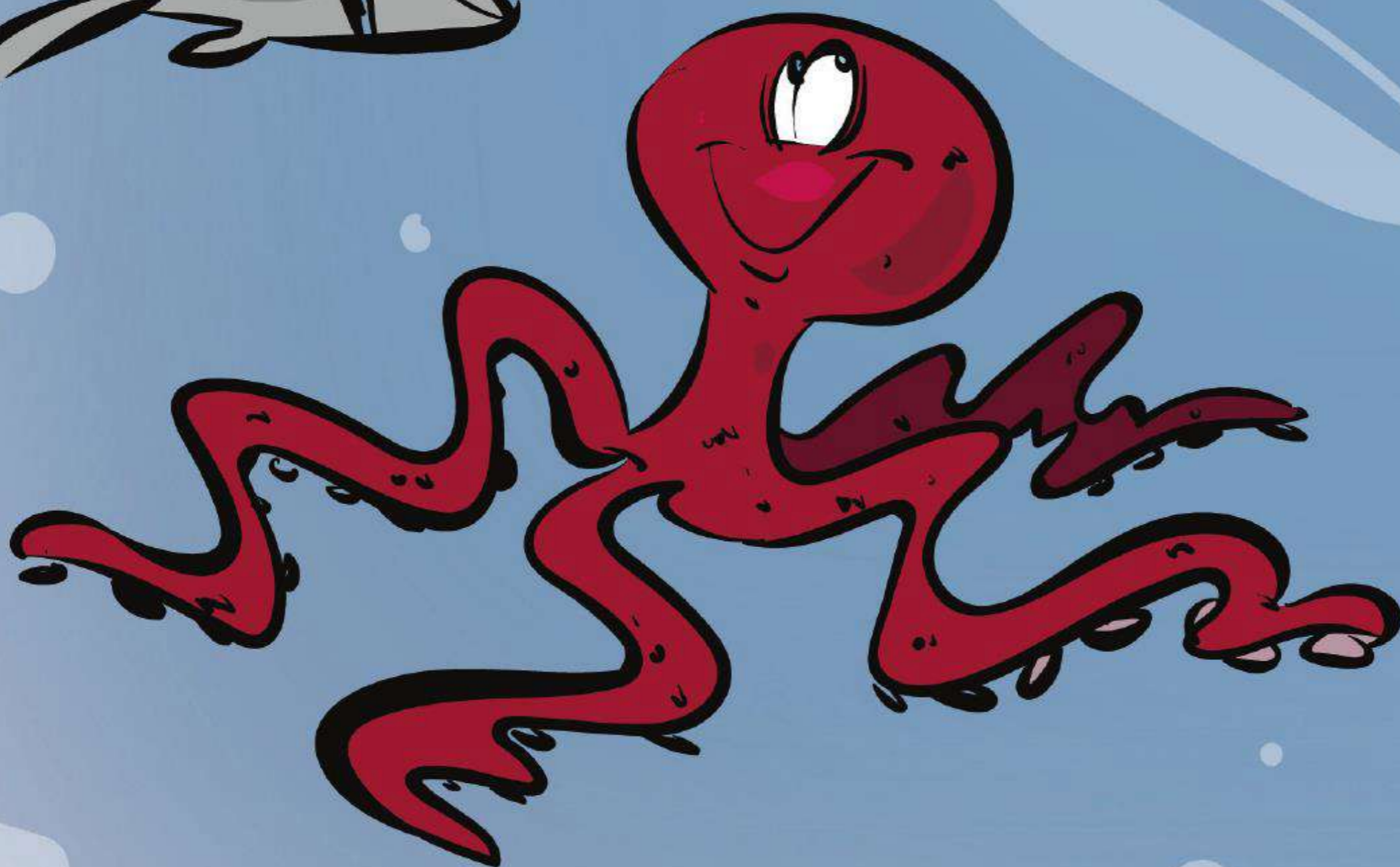
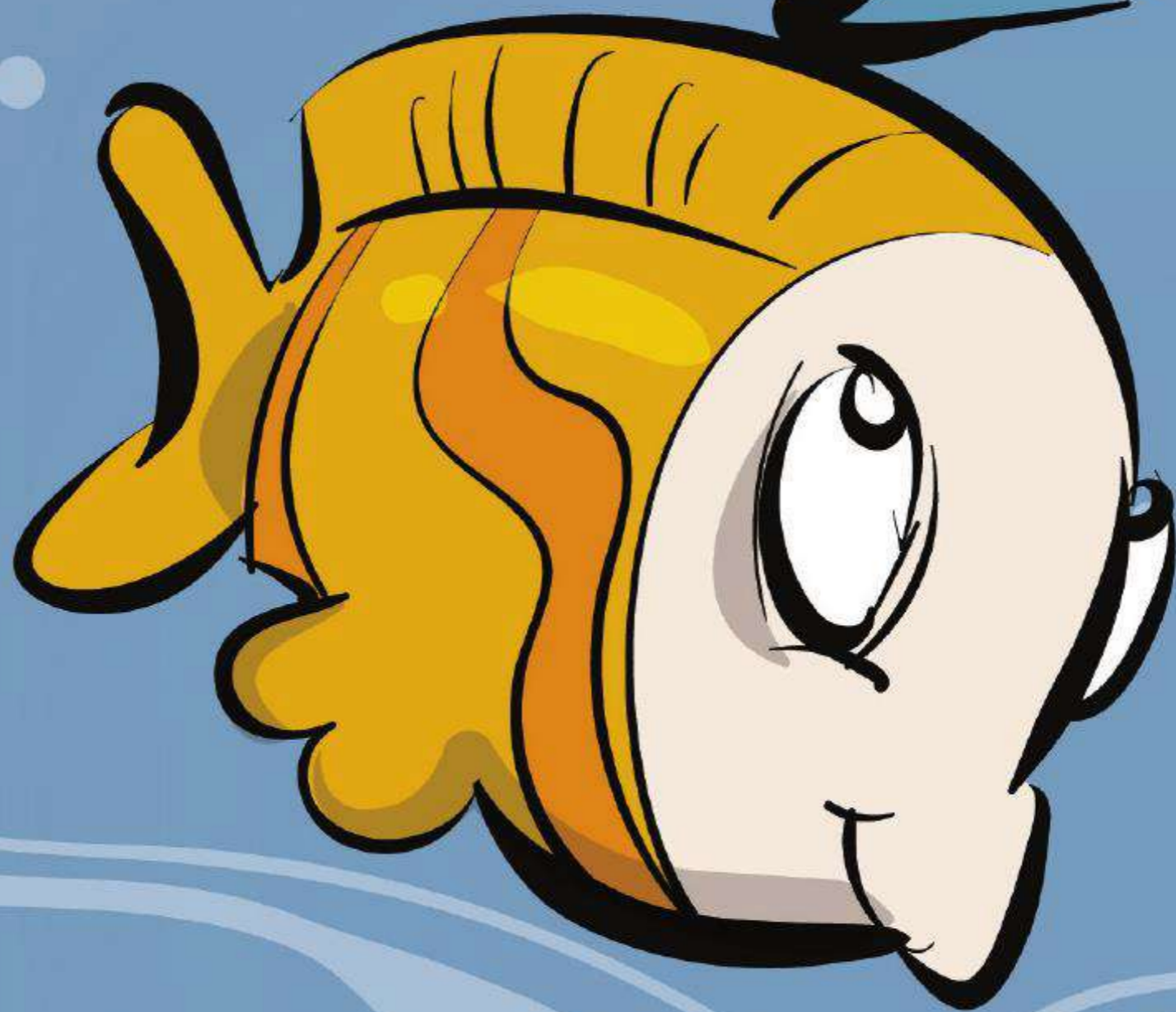
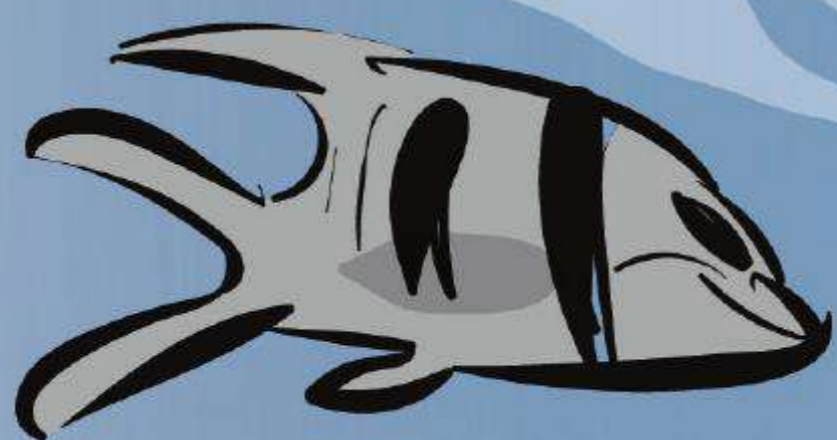
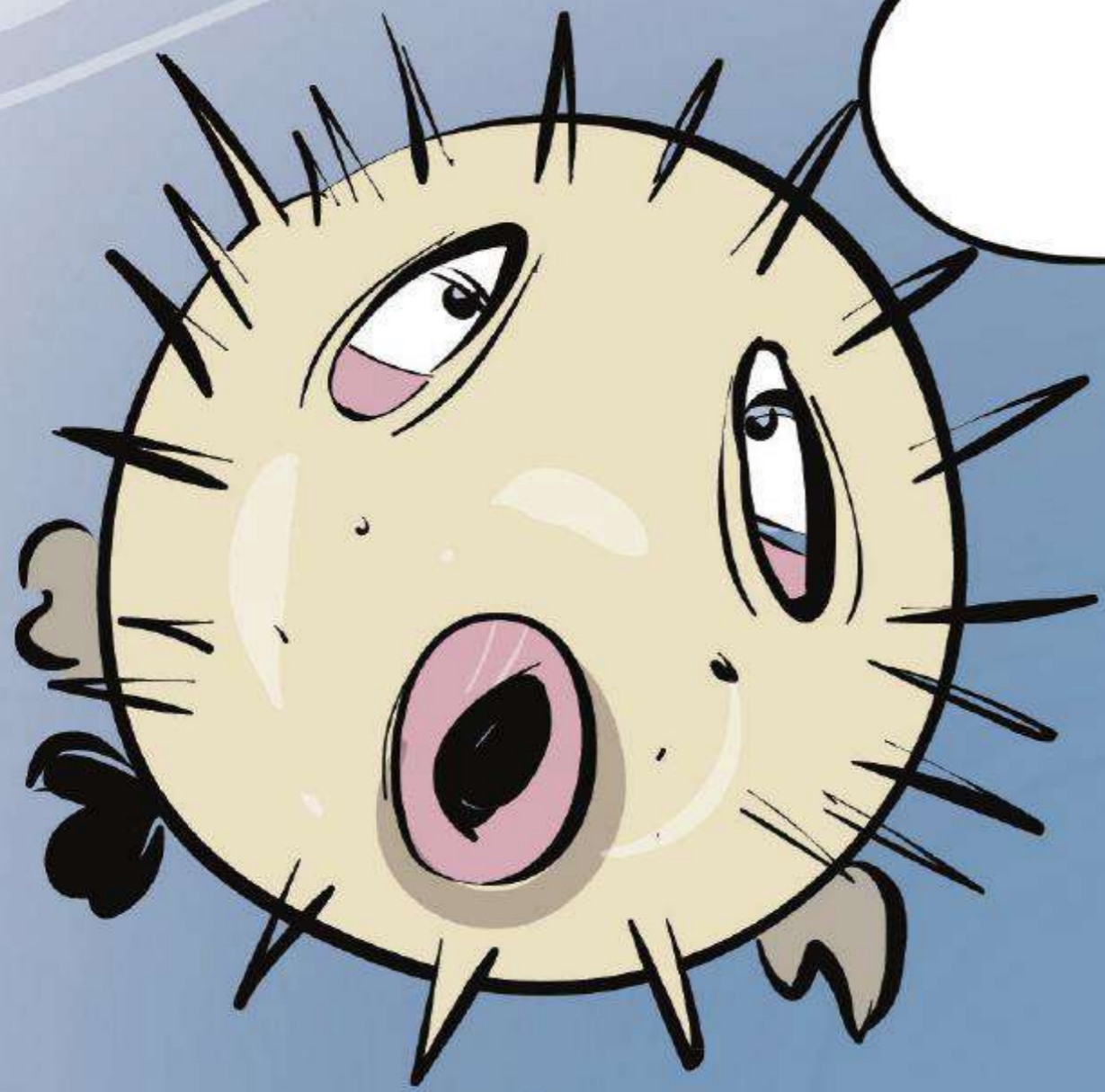
Reem, let's open the computer and watch an international documentary about the attempts of the marine rescue team to rescue a dolphin that appeared near the shore, suffocating from the plastic bags wrapped around its head, and it could not get rid of it.

I also have some pictures of dolphins and large fish that were suffocated because they could not breathe after a giant ship emptied its waste oil and grease into the water. Unfortunately, all of these are damages caused by humans, though our noble Prophet (PBUH) said, "There should be no harm, nor reciprocal harm"⁽³⁾.

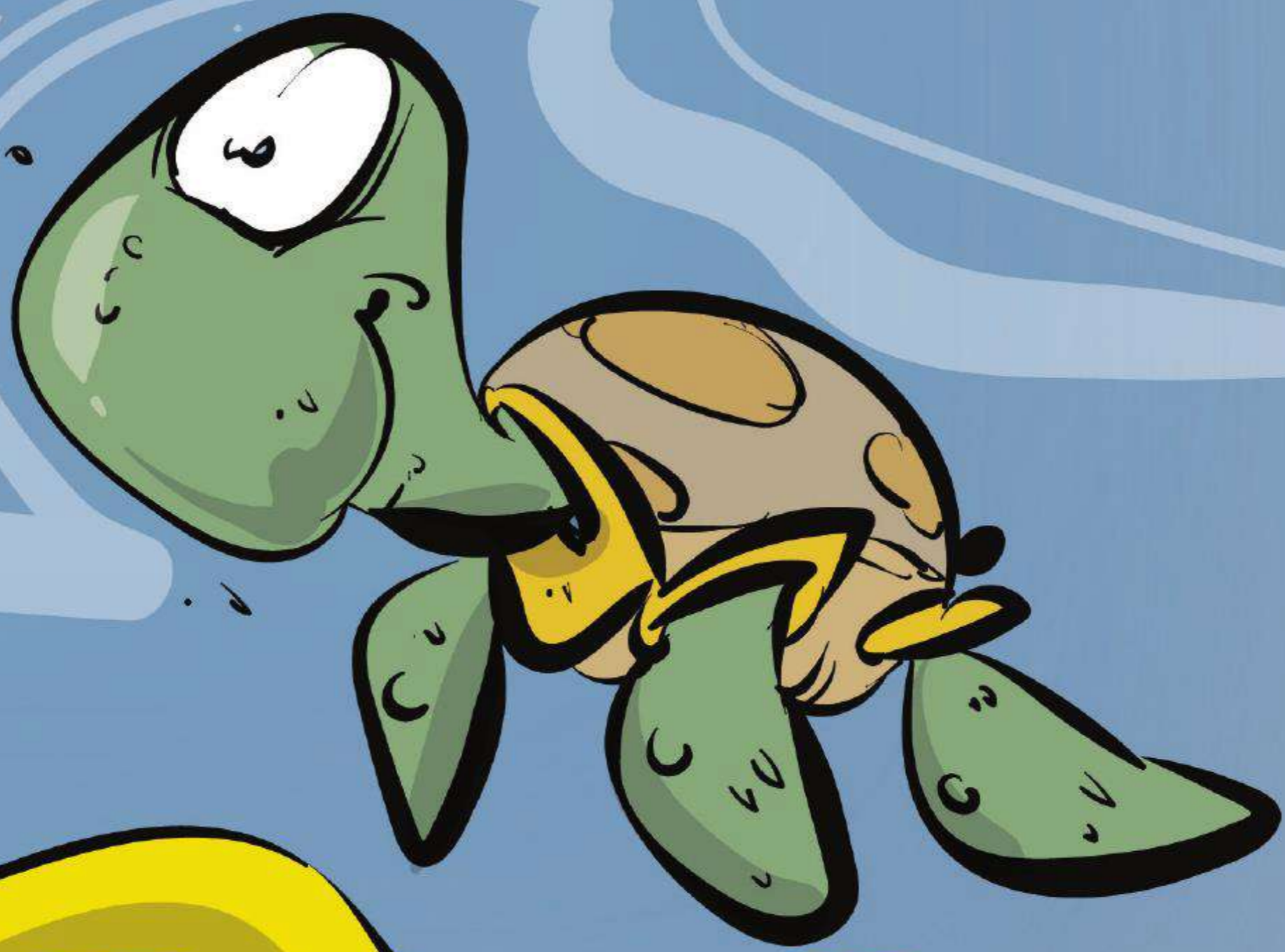
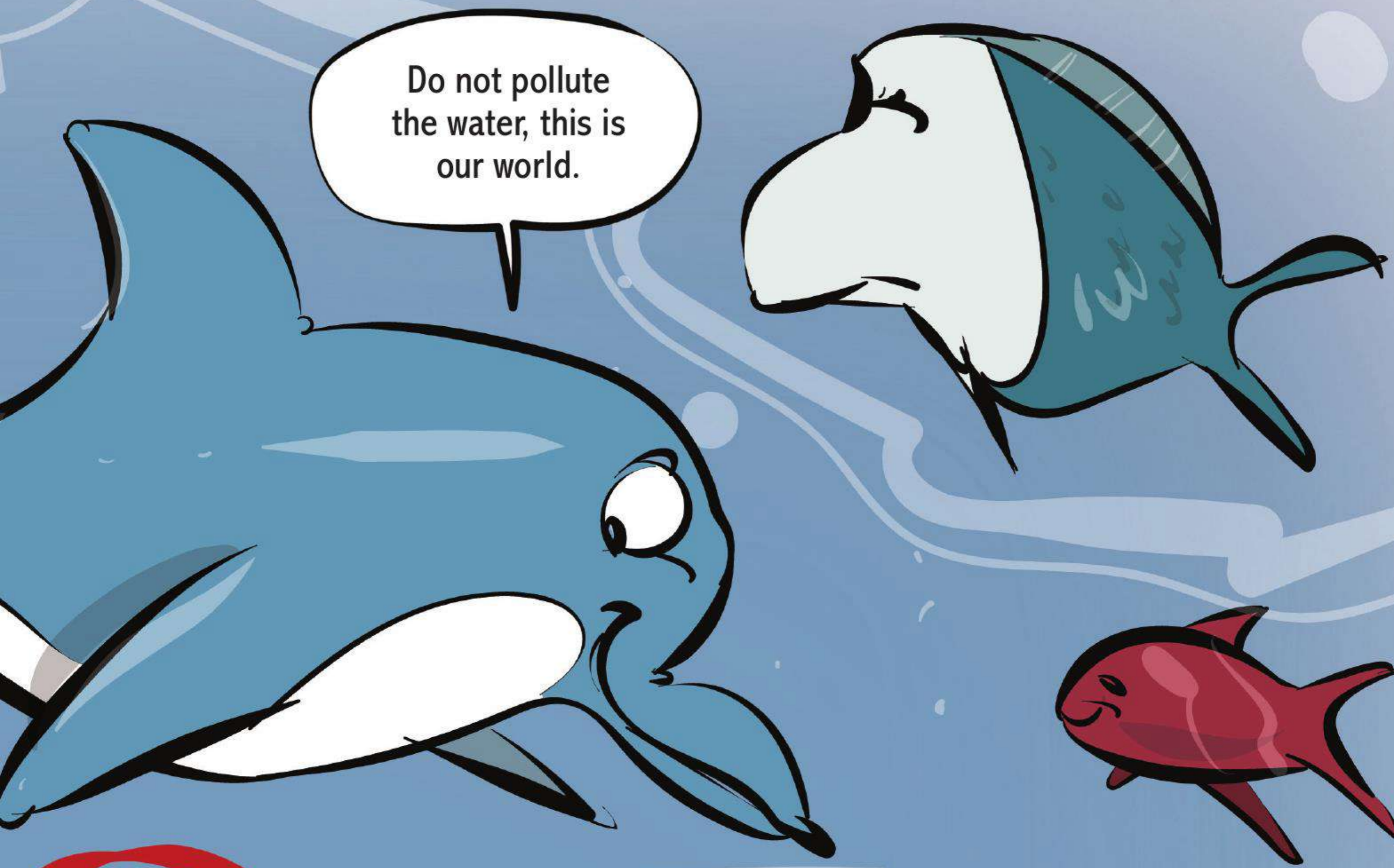
(3) Sunan Ibn MAjah, Hadith No. 2340.



Save us
from pollution!



Do not pollute
the water, this is
our world.



(3)

A Practical Experiment

After Reem finished watching the documentary with her grandfather “Radwan,” and realized how it was tiring for the volunteers to rescue the dolphin, she said: Granddad, I will join a group of Facebook that calls for preserving nature and from polluting water, whether in the seas, rivers, lakes, or others.

I will show the participant’s pictures that illustrate what I saw today, and I will write about the seas and the necessity of preserving life in them. I will encourage them to avoid overusing the fresh waters of the Nile River, as Allah said, “Eat and drink [as We have permitted] but do not be extravagant: Allah does not like extravagant people”⁽¹⁾.

The grandfather said: It is a great idea! But did you know that the fresh river water of river was also salty?

Reem astonishingly replied, “How is that, grandfather”?

The grandfather took a pictured book from his library, and said: This picture explains the water cycle in nature. It begins with the process of evaporation of water in the seas, oceans, and lakes under the heat of the Sun’s rays. Thus, water turns into light steam which rises into the atmosphere forming clouds. When these clouds are exposed to cold air currents, the water steam condenses and turns into rains that falls on the ground, and fills rivers full of fresh water. The Almighty Allah says, “Do you not see that Allah drives the clouds, then gathers them together and piles them up until you see rain pour from their midst? He sends hail down from [such] mountains in the sky, pouring it on whoever He wishes and diverting it from whoever He wishes- the flash of its lightning almost snatches sight away”⁽²⁾.

Reem said: But how does salty water of the sea turn into sweet rain, granddad?

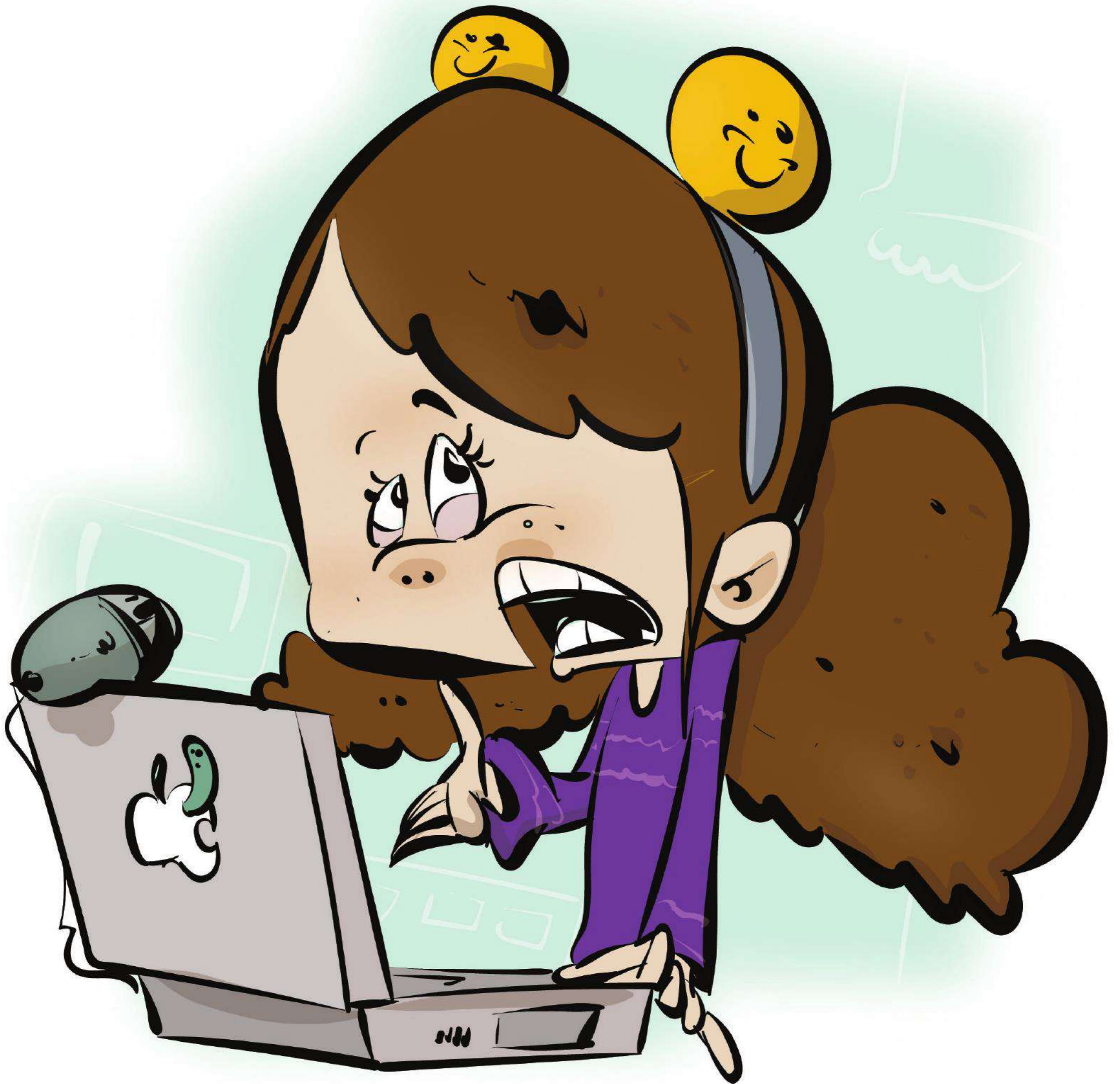
The grandfather said: Let’s discover this in a simple and practical way! Put three spoons of salt in a glass of water, stir it well until the salt dissolves, then put the mixture in a wide dish under the Sun shines in your balcony, then watch what happens, write down your notes and tell me your observations.

(1) Al-A’raf: 31.

(2) Al-Nour: 43.

Reem entered the kitchen, took three spoons of salt, and did what her grandfather Radwan said, then went up to her room in the second floor, put the dish in the balcony, and started getting ready for bed.

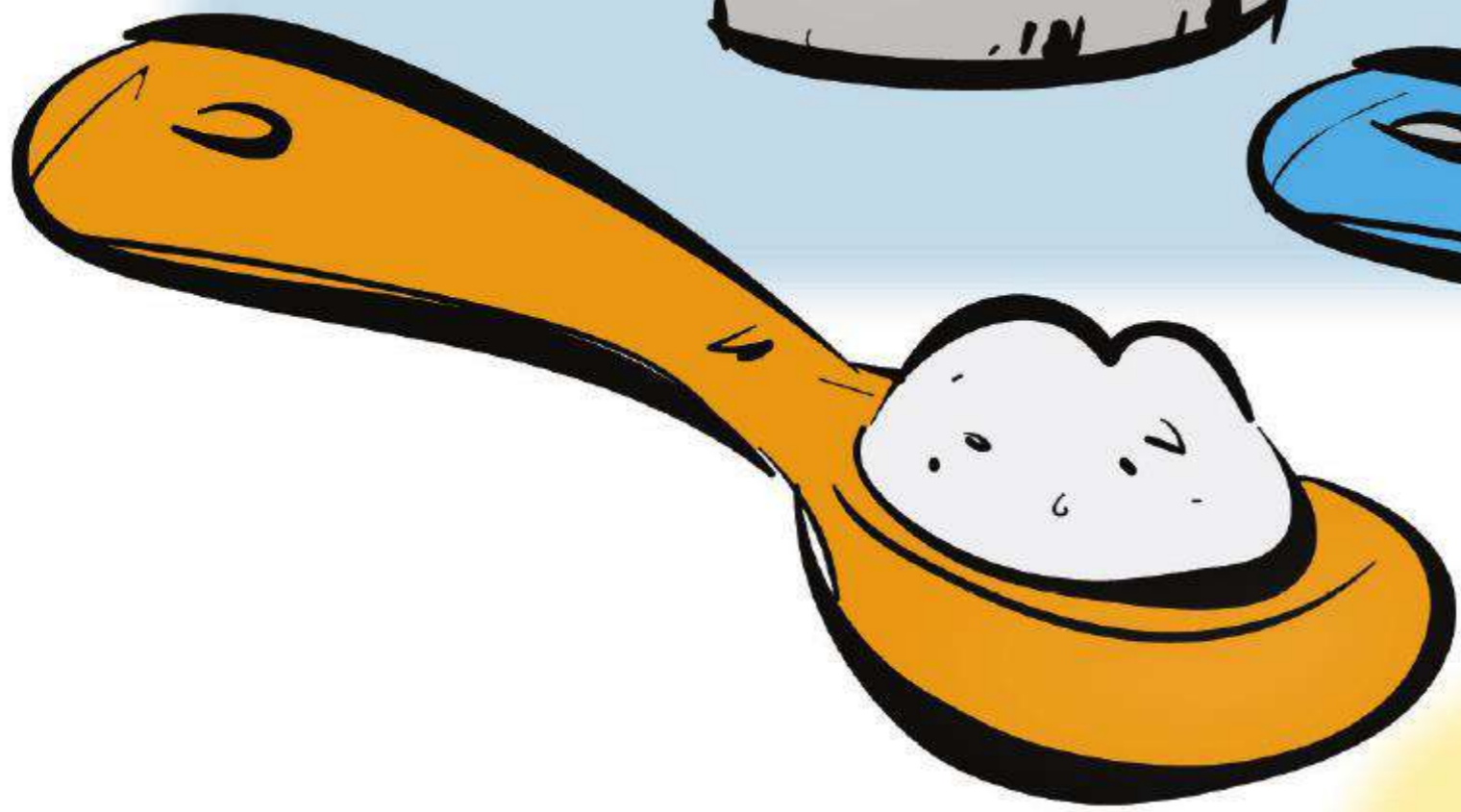
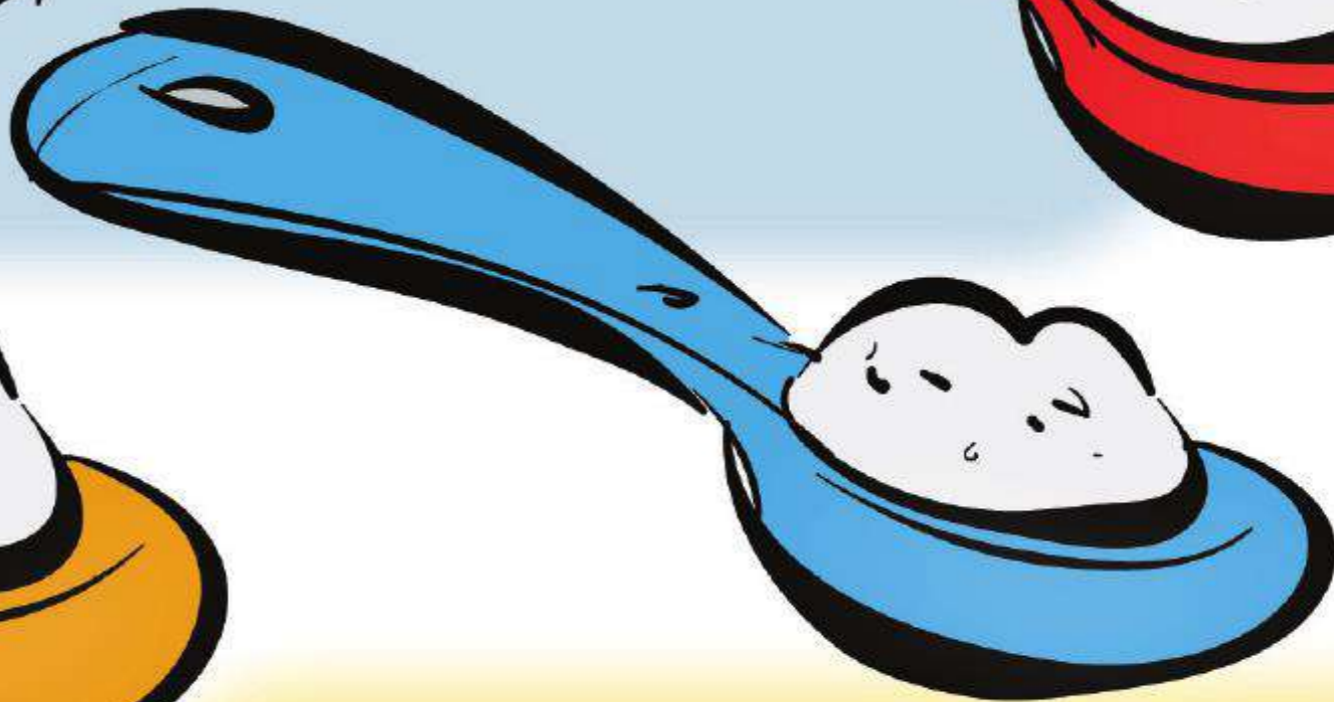
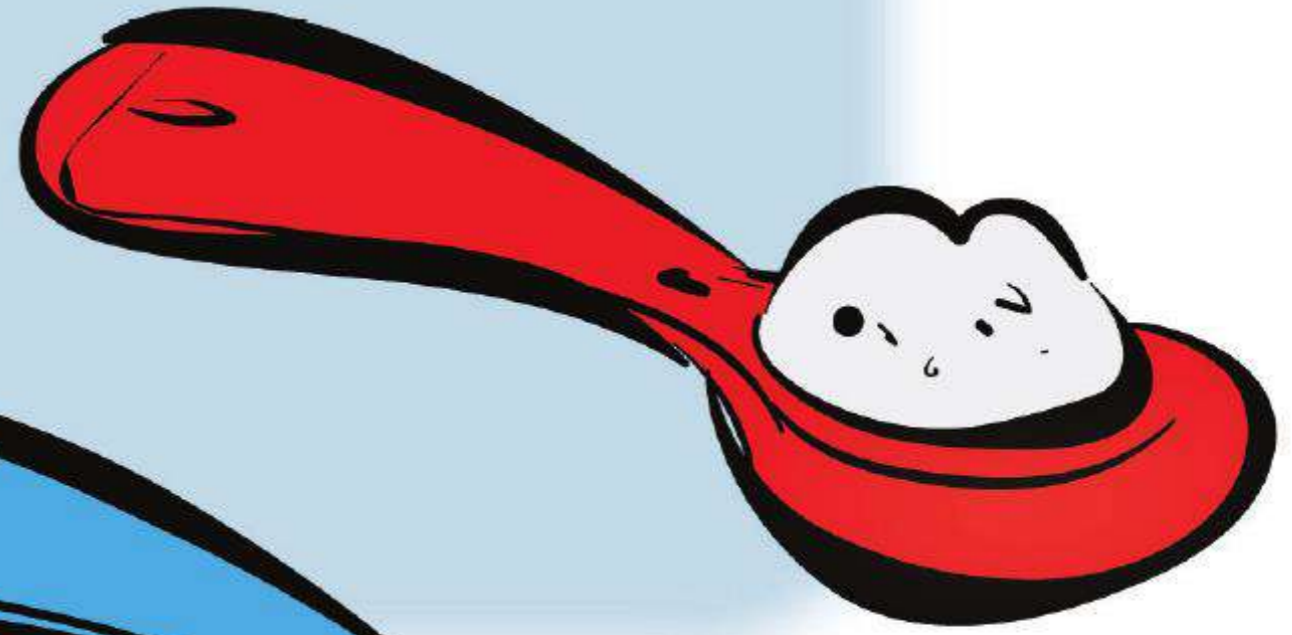
Reem started thinking about what her grandfather said till she felt asleep.



1



Put three table-
spoons of salt in a
glass of water.



3

Put the mixture in a
wide plate and leave it
under The Sun rays for
several days.



2



Stir the salt well.

Try it yourself.



(4)

The Result of the Experiment

Several days later, Reem remembered the experience and came down from her room, holding the dish in which she put salt and water, shouting: Granddad! Granddad! The water has disappeared from the dish!

Grandfather Radwan laughed and said: The water has evaporated, Reem, but is there anything left in the dish?

Reem said: Yes, look! I found this white powder, it looks like sugar.

The grandfather said: And looks like salt too, Reem, I'll put some on my finger and taste it.

Do you want to find out what it tastes like too?

Reem said: Of course granddad, I want to find out myself.

The grandfather and Reem started to taste a little bit of the white powder.

Reem shouted: It tastes like salt, granddad.

The grandfather smiled: Yes, my daughter, it is the salt that has dissolved in the water. The water has evaporated by the sun's rays and the movement of the wind in the balcony, but the salt remained in the dish.

Reem said: Now I know how rain water is sweet. When sea water evaporates, salt remains in the sea because it's heavy weight, but water steam rises because it's light weight, and clouds are formed from this steam, then rain falls, and the Nile is filled with water. Is that true, granddad?

The grandfather said: That's right Reem. The Almighty Allah says, "Have you not considered that Allah sends water down from the sky, guides it along to form springs in the earth, and then, with it, brings forth vegetation of various colors?"⁽¹⁾.

Reem asked: Do crops need rain like us, grandfather?

The grandfather replied: Of course, Reem, all plants must be irrigated with fresh water, and in Egypt we depend on the water of the Nile River for irrigation. The Al-

(1) Al-Zumar: 21.

mighty Allah says, “It is He who sends down water from the sky. With it We produce the shoots of each plant, then bring greenery from it, and from that We bring out grains, one riding on the other in close-packed rows. From the date palm come clusters of low-hanging dates, and there are gardens of vines, olives, and pomegranates, alike yet different. Watch their fruits as they grow and ripen! In all this there are signs for those who would believe”⁽²⁾.

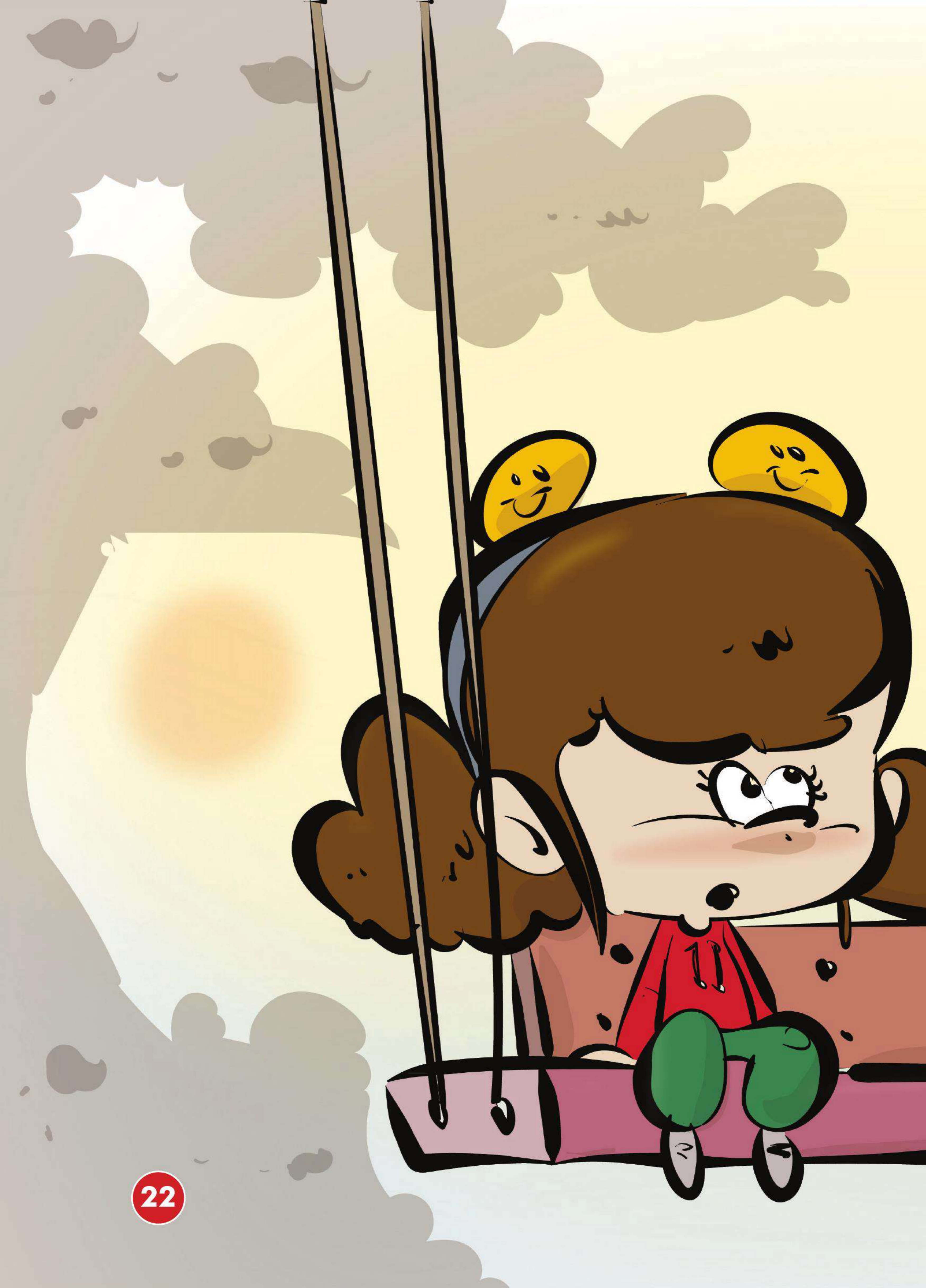
Reem said: You told me that the Nile is facing big problems, what are they, grandfather? Can I do anything?

The grandfather said: Yes, Reem, you can play a great role. It starts from the conserving water, and not overusing it.

Let’s continue our conversation on the boat during our Nile cruise, during which we will pass by Nasser Lake, the largest artificial lake in the world, and you will see the High Dam, El Nabatat Island in the Nile, and the Egyptian monuments everywhere.

(2) Al-An‘am” 99.







We will pass during our Nile cruise by Lake Nasser, which is the largest artificial lake in the world.



(5)

Where did the water disappear?



Reem got up early, turned on the tap to brush her teeth, but there was no water.

Reem wanted to drink, but she did not find water bottles in the refrigerator. She entered the kitchen to drink a glass of milk or fruit juice, but she did not find anything. She waited for her grandfather to call upon her to come down from her room to have the breakfast with him as he does every morning, but time passed and she did not hear any voice.

Reem felt thirsty, so she came out of her room, calling: Granddad! Granddad! Where did the water go? I am thirsty?

She heard her grandfather saying: Come on, Reem, I'm in the garden.

Reem was happy and ran out to the garden. She found her grandfather trimming the trees of the garden, watering them, and arranging the flowers.

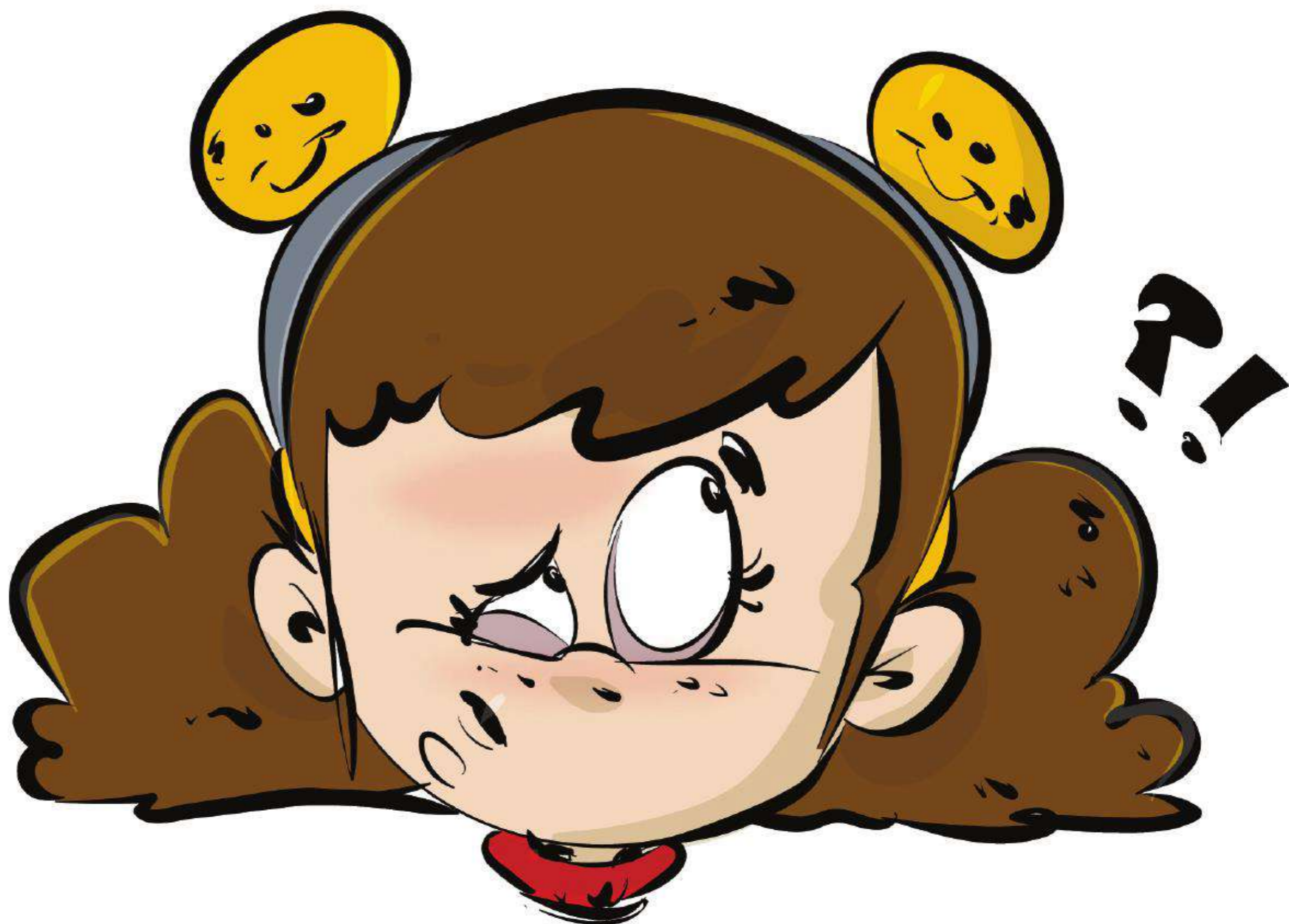
Reem asked: What happened, granddad? There is no water in the tap, no milk or juice in the fridge! How will we live now?

The grandfather smiled and said: This is what would happen if we did not preserve water.

Look how you got bothered that there was no water in the tap? This is because today is the time to wash the water tanks, and after they finish cleaning them, tanks will be filled with water again.

You felt thirsty because you usually find water in the refrigerator, but you did not notice that there was a carton of bottles of water next to the refrigerator. Getting used to find water close to us, Reem, may make us unaware of its value.

Reem said: When I felt thirsty, I couldn't think or look elsewhere for water, Granddad.



The grandfather said: Let's eat and continue our conversation about water.

The grandfather pointed to a large tree in garden, and Reem found that her granddad had prepared a table there filled with food, along with water and fruit.

While eating and drinking, Reem did not stop talking about the taste of fresh orange juice, white cheese mixed with olive oil and nigella, and red and yellow dates from the granddad's garden.

Reem raised a glass of water, drank slowly, and said: What beautiful the water and food, granddad!

The granddad said: All these delicious things depend on the presence of water for their life, Reem.

Reem asked: How is that granddad?

The granddad said: Our lives and all of our activities are dependent on the presence of water. If I had not found water, I would not have planted trees, and cows would not find something to eat or drink, and thus, there would be no cheese, milk, or anything on the table in front of you. Allah Almighty said: "We made every living thing from water, Will they not believe?"⁽¹⁾ Allah (Glory be to Him) also said, "Did We not send water pouring down from the cloud, to bring forth with it grain, plants and luxuriant gardens"⁽²⁾.

(1) Al-Anbiyaa: 30.

(2) Al-Naba: 14-16.

Reem said: The teacher of science has explained to us how water is a part in the formation of all the cells of living organisms; it runs in the stems, leaves and fruits of trees, and in human blood in the veins and arteries. We knew that humans, animals, plants, insects, and everything needs water.

The grandad added: Right, Reem, Allah, the Almighty, said: “And Allah has created from water every living creature”⁽¹⁾.

The Almighty Allah also said: “Have you not considered how Allah sends water down from the sky and that We produce with it fruits of varied colours”⁽²⁾.

Reem said: Now, I understand very well how important water is to us, Grandad.

(1) Al-Nour: 45.

(2) Fatir: 27.



What a beautiful food and water, grandfather.

The presence of all these things depends on the presence of water, Reem.





Grandfather Radwan held Reem's hand and went up to the boat. Reem saw tourists of all nationalities speaking different languages, of which she knows only English.

Reem asked her grandfather: Why do these foreigners come to Egypt, granddad?

Grandfather "Radwan" answered: Because they feel safe in Egypt, and they love to witness its great civilization. They like the hospitality and kind nature of the Egyptian people. Our Prophet (PBUH) has urged to treat guests well. He (PBUH) said, "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should talk what is good or keep quiet, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should be generous to his neighbor; and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should be generous to his guest"⁽¹⁾.

Reem sat with her grandfather at a table on the Nile. She began to watch the boat as it went quietly in the Nile, and around it there were many boats full of tourists.

The grandfather ordered himself a cup of Aswani hibiscus, while ordered a can of orange juice, and some fresh cookies.

Reem finished eating and drank the juice, but she grabbed the empty can and the empty bag, and stood up wanting to throw them into the Nile.

Her grandfather shouted before she could throw them away: No, Reem! Do not throw anything into the Nile, do not pollute its water.

Reem said: I want to see the can floating on the face of the water, and the bag will fill with water and become like a balloon. It would be beautiful scene granddad.

The grandfather said sadly: This is a wrong, Reem. We should not throw anything into the Nile. Do you know that the ancient Egyptians used to respect the Nile. They were very careful not to pollute its water. In their will before death, they would confess that they never polluted the Nile, as this was a major crime that they should not do.

(1) Recorded by al-Bukhari and Muslim.

When the Almighty Allah blessed people with the message of Islam, the Islamic Shari'ah stressed the importance of preserving water, and never polluting it in any way, such as throwing rubbish or wastes of factories and ships into water. This in fact harms people and badly affects their lives and health. The Nile River is the artery of our life. The Almighty Allah said 'Eat and drink the sustenance Allah has provided and do not cause corruption in the land.'⁽²⁾ Polluting water is a sort of causing corruption in the earth. So, we should avoid polluting the Nile River in any way, even if it something simple such as throwing an empty juice can.

Reem said: I didn't think that I was polluting the Nile, Granddad. I thought how the bag would look like. I didn't realize that it would be a big mistake, and actually the view of garbage in the Nile is never beautiful. Now, I'll put the empty can in the trash.

The granddad said: Well done Reem; that's part of your role you've been asking about to conserve water.

Reem pointed to the island in the middle of the Nile and said: What is this beautiful place full of trees in the middle of the Nile, granddad?

The granddad said: This is al-Nabatat Island, one of the oldest islands in the world, full of rare plants and trees, and it has a unique location that distinguishes it from anywhere in the world, as it is surrounded by water from all sides, and around it there are monuments everywhere.

Reem said: What a beautiful place, Granddad. Shall we go to al-Nabatat Island?

The granddad said: Not today, Reem. I want you to watch the journey of the Nile from its sources in the south.

Reem asked: What is the meaning of its sources, granddad?

The granddad said: These are the places where the Nile starts, Reem. The Nile, which you see now, is fed by the water of the White Nile, which stems from the Great Lakes region in central Africa, and the Blue Nile, which stems from Lake Tana in Ethiopia, and the two rivers meet in Khartoum in the State of Sudan, and continue its journey to Egypt, until it reaches its mouth in northern Egypt in the Rashid and Damietta branches on the Mediterranean Sea.

Reem asked surprisingly: Really? The river pours into the sea! Is sea water mixed with Nile water there?

The granddad said: No, Reem, one of the great miracles of Allah is that the Nile River meets the Mediterranean Sea, and both of them are not mixed together. The Almighty Al-

(2) Al-Baqrah: 60.

lah says: “And He is the One Who merges the two bodies of water: one sweet and fresh and the other salty and bitter, placing between them a barrier they cannot cross”⁽¹⁾. The Almighty Allah also said, “He merges the two bodies of (fresh and salt) water”⁽²⁾.

Reem asked: Does the Nile River cross all this long distance?

Grandfather “Radwan” answered: Yes, the Nile travels more than about 6,400 kilometers, and passes through eleven countries in Africa, which we call the Nile Basin countries, and these are: Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Republic of Sudan and Egypt at the end of his journey to the Mediterranean.

Reem said: It is really a long journey, grandfather. I will write in my diary everything I know about the Nile, to tell my brother Khaled when he comes after two days.

The granddad said: Do not worry, Reem, when Khaled comes, I will take both of you to the High Dam and Lake Nasser to know more about the importance of each of them, and to thank Allah the Almighty for the great blessings that we enjoy in our homeland, Egypt. Thanking Allah for His blessings leads to the increase and continuity of these blessings, as Allah said, “Remember that He promised, “If you are thankful, I will give you more, but if you are thankless, My punishment is terrible indeed”⁽³⁾.

Reem said: When I go back to school, I will apply what I have learned. If I find a tap open, I will close it, and if it is broken I will tell the teacher to bring someone to repair it. I will give a speech during the school morning assembly about the importance of conserving water and not polluting it. I will say: Polluting water is a form of corruption in earth, and I will recite a Qur’anic verse that I memorized from Surat Al-Qasas. The Almighty Allah said: “Do good to others as Allah has done good to you. Do not seek to spread corruption in the land, for Allah does not love those who do this”⁽⁴⁾.

The granddad said: Well, Reem. This is the role of a true Muslim. He should guide others to the good, and always work to reform that which is around him. Our Noble Messenger (PBUH) said, “Whoever amongst you sees an evil, he must change it with his hand; if he is unable to do so, then with his tongue; and if he is unable to do so, then with his heart; and that is the weakest form of Faith”⁽⁵⁾.

(1) Al-Furqan: 53.

(2) Al-Rahman: 19.

(3) Ibrahim: 7.

(4) Al-Qasas: 77.

(5) Recorded by Muslim.



Do not throw anything into the Nile.



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