



A Ramadan Farewell

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Mr. Cabato, a competent student nurse, found himself entrusted with the care of twelve-year-old Mohammad, a patient battling aplastic anemia. The clinical instructor, recognizing Mr. Cabato's skills, felt confident in his ability to handle the complexities of Mohammad's case. Aplastic anemia, a rare and life-threatening condition where the bone marrow fails to produce enough blood cells, had left Mohammad frail and vulnerable. His skin, a pale, bronze hue, was marred by bruises; his abdomen was distended. His low platelet counts necessitated frequent platelet transfusions, coupled with rigorous bleeding and infection precautions.

Treatment options were limited. While bone marrow transplantation offered a potential cure, finding a compatible donor proved challenging. The financial burden of undergoing the procedure in Korea, a necessary step given the lack of suitable facilities locally, added another layer of difficulty. Mohammad's condition, already precarious, might not even be stable enough to withstand the rigors of the transplant. Yet, despite the grim prognosis, Mohammad's spirit remained remarkably strong.

One day, during a quiet conversation, Mohammad shared his aspirations. "I want to be a doctor," he declared, his eyes shining with a hopeful light. "So, I can cure other kids like me." His words resonated deeply with Mr. Cabato, who saw in this young boy a resilience that belied his suffering. The student nurse redoubled his efforts, striving to provide Mohammad with the best possible care.

The inevitable, however, arrived with brutal swiftness. Mohammad's platelet counts plummeted, unresponsive to transfusions. A catastrophic hemorrhage ensued; blood seeped from his orifices; his cheeks flushed crimson as his body succumbed to hypovolemic shock. The relentless bleeding overwhelmed his frail body. It was Ramadan, a time of spiritual reflection and renewal. As Mohammad breathed his last, he seemed to bid a peaceful farewell, his spirit transcending the limitations of his earthly existence.

Mohammad's passing left an indelible mark on Mr. Cabato and his clinical instructor. While the young boy's life was tragically cut short, his dream of becoming a doctor and his unwavering spirit served as a powerful reminder of the importance of compassion, dedication, and the unwavering human spirit in the face of adversity. The memory of Mohammad, his resilience, and his unspoken lesson, would forever shape Mr. Cabato's approach to nursing.

This story is dedicated to the memory of our patient, Mohammad. May he rest in peace.



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