



Educational stories for children

KARIM AND THE WATER OF LIFE



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Karim went into the bathroom and stood before the sink. He turned the faucet on to its fullest and leisurely began soaping his hands. He formed a large handful of soapsuds and played with it until it fell from his hands and washed down the drain.



Karim began forming more soapsuds. The faucet was astonished, and said to itself, "He's a clever boy, so why would he leave all this water to go to waste?"



Karim finished washing his hands and face, but he didn't turn the faucet off. He put toothpaste on his toothbrush and leisurely brushed his teeth.



Then he slowly swished water around his mouth to remove all traces of the toothpaste. And then he cleaned his toothbrush, all while water continued gushing forth from the faucet.



“He’ll surely turn me off now and give me a break,” the faucet said to itself. But Karim didn’t turn it off; he left the faucet pouring water out at full force.



At a lazy pace, Karim picked the towel up and dried his hands and then his face. And all the while, he paid no attention whatsoever to the faucet!



At this point, the faucet reached the peak of its fury. No longer able to control itself, it screamed at the top of its voice, “What are you doing, Karim? Why don’t you turn me off?”



Why are you wasting all this water? Please turn me off!"

Karim was startled by the faucet screaming at him and dropped the towel.



He hurriedly turned the faucet off and stood there staring at it in bewilderment. "Why did you scream at me like that? What happened? You scared me!" he said.



The faucet felt that it had been wrong to raise its voice so loudly and frighten its kind and sensitive friend.



The faucet remained silent for a moment until it calmed down, and then said, “I’m sorry, Karim, I didn’t mean to frighten you. I’m sorry my friend, please forgive me.”



Karim smiled and said, "I forgive you, but I'm surprised. Why did you get so angry? You're the kind faucet that gives me water!"



“I got angry, Karim, because water is one of God’s precious gifts and you were wasting it without you or someone else making use of it.”



“I was washing my hands and face and brushing my teeth,” objected Karim. “Yes,” the faucet said, “but you left the water running at times when you weren’t using it.”



“What am I supposed to do?” asked Karim. “First of all,” explained the faucet, “don’t turn the water on to its fullest and leave it running. Turn it on to just the amount you need.”



Just let the water drip a bit, for that's enough for you to soap up with. Then turn the water on more to remove the soap with from your hands or face.



Turn it back off while you put the toothpaste on the toothbrush and until you finish brushing your teeth. Then turn it on so that you can rinse your mouth and clean your toothbrush.



Turn it back off when you finish that. Turn it off before you go to the towel and..." Karim cut it off, saying, "Yes, yes, I understand now. You have a point, my friend."



“Did you know that a mere drop can water a beautiful flower, and that the amount you wasted was enough to water a fruit tree?” said the faucet.



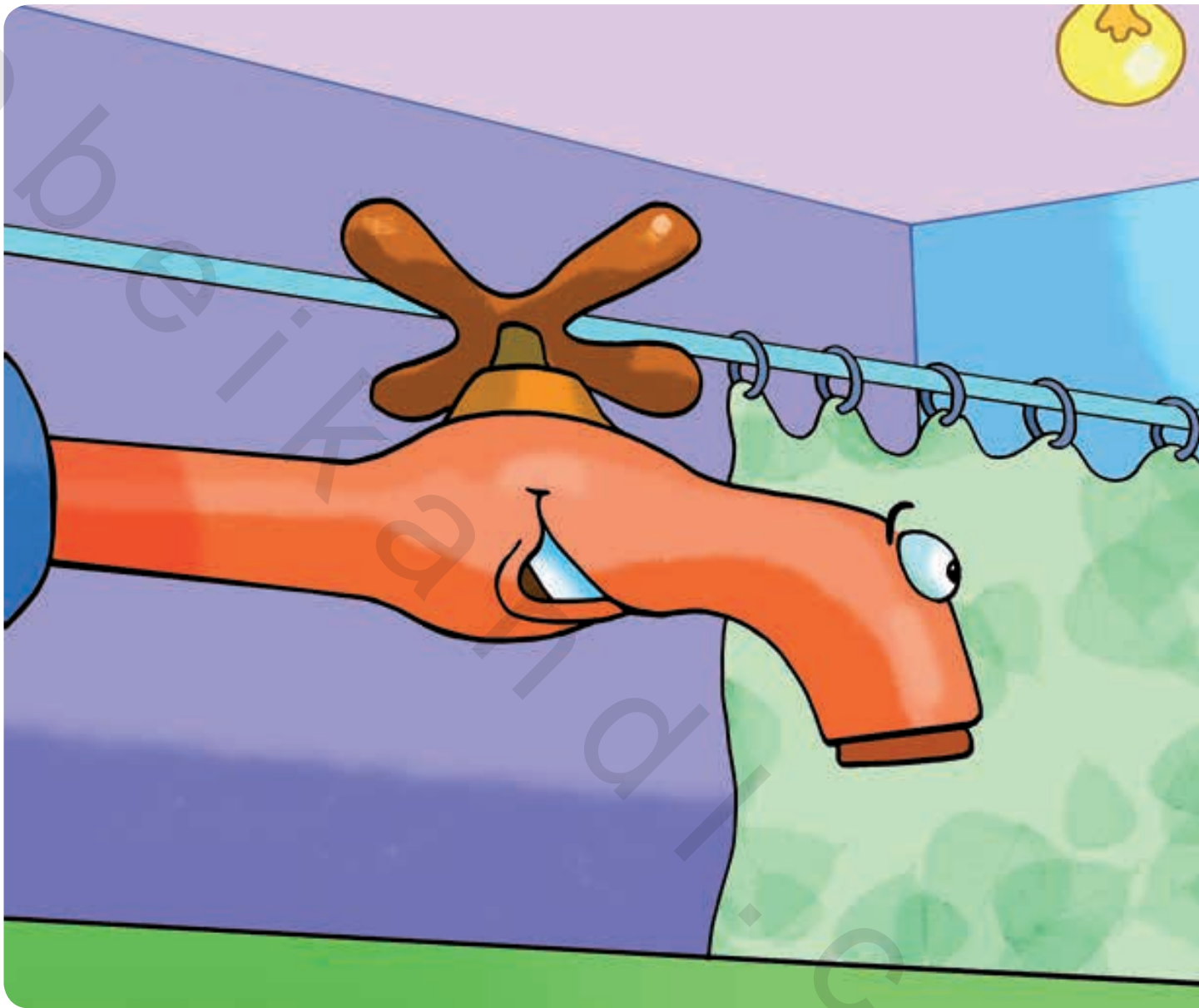
Karim thought about the trees and flowers that could have been watered and felt ashamed. "I'm sorry," he said, "I won't do that again."



“Don’t be embarrassed, Karim,” the faucet said. “There are many children like you who don’t know that water is a precious gift from God, and that there is very little water in our country.”



“But I went with my father to the beach and there was lots of water there!” said Karim.



The faucet laughed and asked, “And how did it taste?” “It was salty,” said Karim. “Right, it’s salty water that’s not fit humans or animals to drink, and it’s not fit for watering plants.”



What is fit is fresh water, and there's very little of that in our country. That's why we have to conserve it, and make use of every drop."



“Thanks, I understand now,” said Karim, “and I’ll go explain to my friends so that they conserve water too.” “Off you go,” said the faucet, “give them my greetings!”



Karim rushed towards the door, but then froze in his spot when he heard an angry voice scream, “Karim! Wait, Karim!”



Karim looked behind him and saw the lightbulb lit up and shaking in rage. “Why didn’t you turn me off?” it demanded. “I’m burning to make light for you. If you’re leaving, then you’re no longer in need of my light!”



Why didn't you turn me off so that I could take a break and be able to make light for you another time? Please turn me off!"



Karim wasn't able to reply; he couldn't utter a word. He knew that the lightbulb was right! He gently reached his hand out to the light switch and turned the lightbulb off.



Then he picked up the towel that had fallen to the floor and placed it on the towel rack. He gently closed the door as he left.



and said to himself, “I wonder what the towel would have done with me if I had forgotten and left it on the floor?”