

# *Helen Keller*

(The lady of strong will)

by

A.D Aly Abd El-Menaem

Illustrated by

Yasser Eid

Translated & Revised by :

Mohammad H.Askar  
Ex-Undersecretary (MOE)



**Safeer. All rights reserved.**

Deposit 13102 / 2016

ISBN: 978 - 977 - 361 - 891 - 9

Her strange, rare and wonderful story surprised the whole world. She was born in a wide big palace in “Alabama”, one of the American states. Her father was of great wealth and luxury. They were very pleased of her birth. It was Helen Keller.

This child had nice pointed features besides a well built body and of good health. On reaching the end of her first year of age, she began to tread upon the ground and pronounce some words. Her body began to grow and so her intelligence began to appear. Her motions began to grow and also her words began to develop. All these features filled her parents' palace with joy, happiness and activity . Her parents were more happy to see their baby grow quicker than usual.



Suddenly, joy and pleasure disappeared. When Helen was in her nineteenth month of age, she had a fever in her head. This fever had left Helen deaf and dumb. Suddenly, she began to live in complete darkness, deep silence and hollow calmness. She had lost all means of communication with the world around her, even the words she spoke before (had come to halt). She became blind, deaf and dumb.

Helen's body grew healthily and her parents observed that with great sadness. Their child couldn't behave well with life around her. Her energies were imprisoned in her chest. She couldn't find way to breathe or express herself. As a result signs of violence and hostility began to get on her behaviour, At the same time, she was scared, puzzled and confused. She spent all the time with her dog which caught her some birds that visited their wide garden. Also, she spent some hours caressing and playing with the cook's daughter but with a bit of severity and violence.

Sadness and misery were everywhere in Helen's palace. The parents lived in severe pain and deep sadness on looking at their daughter's healthy and growing body besides the defects she suffered from. They couldn't find way or help to save her. But Helen had been of great will since her childhood, Now, she was coming nearer to the fifth year of age when an idea rushed out of her mind. What was it ?

She decided to get away of her dreadful prison. She thought to make use of her other senses. She was still able to touch things and to smell scents, so, she could use her two senses of smelling and touching, to know the life around her. She began to walk around the garden touching its fence and smelling the scent of flowers knowing their kinds.

At the end of her fifth year of age, Helen could distinguish her clothes and dresses. She could put them in order. Although from time to time, she felt sad and hopeless she could enjoy the beauties of nature without seeing them. She loved flowers through their scents. The wealthy parents did their best to find a means to save their daughter out of that dreadful prison she was living in.



“What's the benefit of wealth without putting an end to the sufferings of one's child ?”

One day, her doctor advised Helen's parents to send her to Dr. Graham Bell in Washington an expert in teaching the deaf and the dumb. After examining her, Dr. Bell knew that he couldn't offer her any help. He advised the parents to go to “The Blind Perkins Institution” for blinds, in Boston city. There, they met Miss “Sullivan” of twenty years. She had lost her sight before, but she regained it after a successful surgery. So, she decided to devote her life for helping those like her.



The sufferings “Sullivan” passed through had the great effect on helping Helen. She had patience to do her main duty in connecting Helen with the world around her.

It was a great event in Helen's life when “Sullivan” came to live with her at home. That day was considered Helen's spiritual birthdate. Sullivan's mission was a very difficult one. Helen's temper or mood was a mixture of calmness, smoothness and violence. “Sullivan”, the teacher should behave with smoothness besides firmness together. She had to build a bridge of full love and faith with her pupil Helen. Sullivan tried to train her how to sit at the table in a polite and nice way.

Miss Sullivan spent time trying to tame Helen, and to refine her manners and to teach her good habits. When Sullivan felt Helen's likeness towards her, she began her lessons. She gave Helen a doll to touch its different parts. Then she took Helen's palm and put it on her lips and began to pronounce the word “doll” gradually in a slow motion. The pupil thought that it was a kind of game. She felt pleased and the teacher felt happy for her first achievement. It was a step towards success. So, she began with the second lesson. The second lesson was the first success of the teacher's effort with the pupil. Once, they were walking together in the garden, when they reached a basin. The teacher took Helen's one hand and put it under the water of the tap and the other was on the teacher's lips. Then “Sullivan” pronounced the word “water”. Quickly, Helen could know the relation between what went down on her hand and what on the teacher's lips was. Helen tried to move her lips as to what she felt. The word “water” came out of her lips in a faint and weak way. But, she pronounced the word at last.

Joy came over the teacher “Miss Sullivan” and her heart became full of hope and happiness. She gained the first fruits of her success, especially when joy lightened her pupil’s heart, face and body,



Helen's mind began to feel the life and what went around her, Pronouncing the word “water” was the true and overwhelming change that saved Helen's life and lightened her future.

Success came after success, successive lessons led to great progress that astonished her teacher. That, urged or pushed Sullivan to do her best to connect (attach) Helen with the lakes, rivers, mountains and trees around her through touching the models and reliefs.

Helen had great response towards learning, that she progressed quickly. That helped her teacher Sullivan to turn to another stage. She decided to teach her reading and writing, throughout “braille” printed books. She helped her hands in learning reading and writing. Within a short time, Helen showed strong will, great skill and high determination to learn

those two skills. She surpassed her schoolmates.

At the age of ten, Helen knew about a dumb and deaf girl of her age that could speak. Then, she decided to conquer that defect and make her way of speaking as perfect as her way in reading and writing.



Her teacher encouraged her to join a school for dumb people. There, she began to get training on the speech sounds through the movements of her teacher's lips and the vibrations of her larynx.

After difficult efforts, Helen could pronounce the first names. That, encouraged her to follow up the training and to speak about things around her such as seats, walls, stones, toys and trees and to those who or which could hear or couldn't.

She could form sentences and make expressions. She didn't feel desperate and passed her difficult way with pleasure. With her strong will and deep patience, she could fulfil her main hope and aim.

After the eleventh lesson, Helen came back to her family. The family's astonishment and joy increased when they found Helen talking to them. Tears of happiness and joy ran down out of their eyes.





As for Helen, being handicapped, she didn't feel ashamed or confused. She surmounted her case of being handicapped.

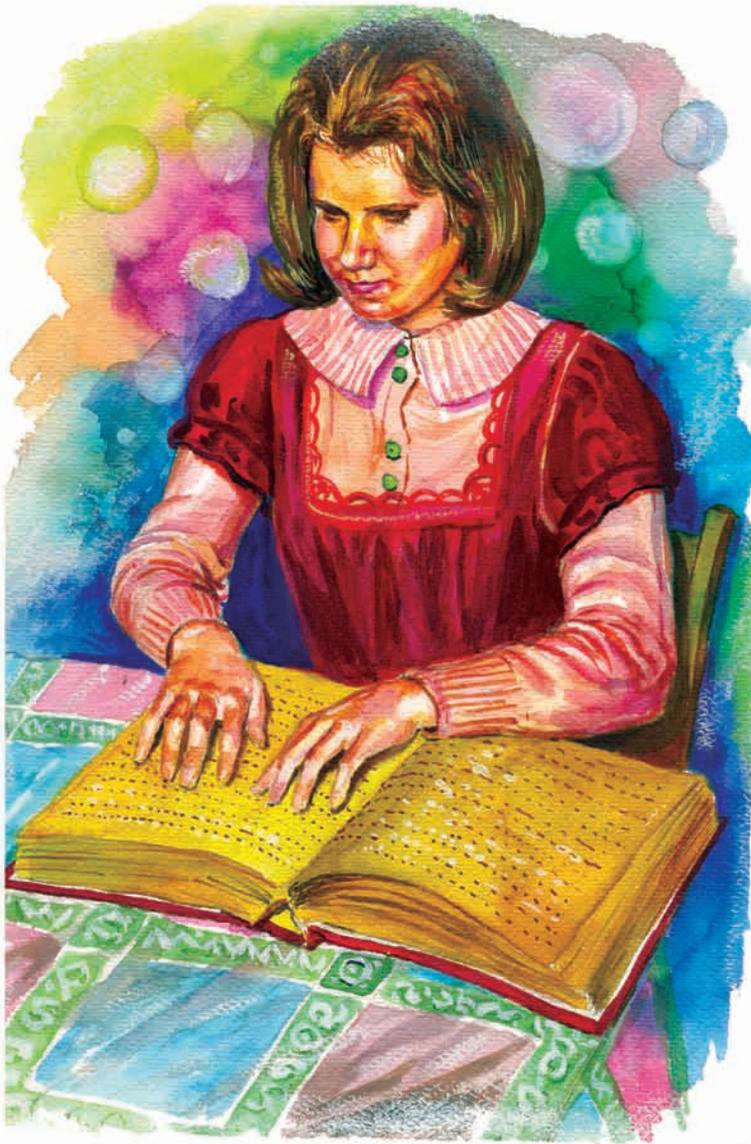
With patience and optimism, she was convinced that joy and pleasure would give her a chance towards growth, progress and

self-independence.

When she was sixteen, she finished her secondary study and decided to join university.

Patience helped her too much. She joined the preparatory study in Cambridge University. She faced many hard and difficult obstacles, but she could overcome them all. She passed successfully and skilfully her final exams in Greek, Latin and German (Dutch) languages, and also in Algebra and Geometry. That helped her to join “Radcliffe” College in the same university.

During Helen's study in the university, her knowledge and culture increased and so her gifts flourished.



She began her first creative works, when she introduced her own experiment.

In her book, “The Story of My life”, she wrote about herself and her life. She talked about the weapon with which she faced her handicap in her book “Optimism”. Helen, then, went on climbing the mountain of knowledge in great caution and strong

will. She tried to climb the endless top. She knew that the one who wished to reach the top, should have the zigzag way.

She had what she had wished, she finished her university study with great excellence. She was performing her exams using a special typewriter with “braille” letters. Her teachers, Professors and publishers assured

that she didn't make but rare mistakes.

Helen's experiment was known everywhere. Her “The Story of My life” was translated into more than fifty languages.

Outside the university, she was keen on reading literature, history and sociology besides writing about the subjects that help to enhance the welfare of humanity.

Oratory, rhetoric or discourse was very difficult to Helen. She couldn't hear the sounds of letters she pronounced. She couldn't distinguish between loud voice and whisper. So, her way of talking was so loud such as crying.



She felt that, and continued training. She could fulfil her wish and then lowered her loud voice, believing that she could reach her aim.

“Sullivan”, Helen's teacher and comrade, stayed with her until the former’s marriage. Helen couldn't stay away from her dearest teacher. She left for Sullivan's new home to live together with the husband and wife.

All of a sudden, Sullivan died and Helen felt deep sadness for her first teacher and companion (comrade).

Helen loved her teacher and companion too much, for the years they passed together and the efforts exerted to break down the obstacles.



After that, Helen took “Polly Thomson” as a companion to help her continue her way of study. She received many invitations from different countries to visit.

After the Second World War, she visited her country's hospitals condoling the wounded and the injured people encouraging them get away of despair and depression. Also encouraging them lead a happy and good life.

In response to the invitations Helen received, she made tours around the European countries and those of the Far East.

She received welcome, honour and respect wherever she was. She was granted high university degrees and was considered the greatest personality throughout the nineteenth century.

All that didn't hinder her to continue her real mission and aim. She devoted her life to the help of the handicapped all over the world. She wished to help those people get away of their mishap and change their own view towards their handicap or defect.

Exploiting the money she could get during her tours, she founded the first foundation for the help of the Blind.

During some of these tours, her house was burnt down. Even her valuable library was burnt down. That wouldn't weaken her strong will. She didn't feel desperate. Quickly her friends and favourites decided to

build her a new house with a good library in favour of her struggle and great efforts all around the world.

At her age of seventy five, she visited Egypt and other Arab countries. She appeared so tidy and of good look in spite of her old age. She visited the handicapped foundations and introduced her life's experiment as a model of patience and struggle, and a model for getting out of loneliness and darkness.

She showed them that, "Belief is the strong fortress that would make them evade the feeling of despair and get them away of the dark life which no one knows but the dumb, deaf and the blind."

Helen Keller gave her life for those people. Her experiment, was a torch that enlightened the way in front of the weak and the handicapped. She wished to help those people overcome their obstacles, and her hope was to draw pleasure upon their faces to lead a human life.

She spent all her life for the help of others till she died in 1968 at the age of eighty eight.

Her story of struggle is a gift for both the weak and handicapped and for the good of the people also.