

# **Hamasat AL Gaveh we AL Goifa**

(AL Gaveh and AL Goifa Whispers)

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The Emirates Environmental Story Series

# Introduction .....

Praise is to the Lord and peace be upon his prophet Muhammed and his family and companions.

Developed countries always look forward to enhance the knowledge of traditions of the country in the minds and hearts of its children. This is done in order to achieve a certain level of patriotism in the hearts of those who will one day be the leaders.

And in accordance with this vision, the Women Association of Sharjah intends to do so by promoting the traditions and the awareness to the desert environment and its contents and taking these thoughts and inserting them into our children's minds. Doing so would guarantee having

a good basis of knowledge of what our forefathers have done in our children's minds, so that we could pass the torch and they could continue the journey of the Union.

Management of Women Association of Sharjah

Allah Grant Success



In a very cold winter night and before dawn, lightning was seen and there fell amounts of rain. Abu Khalfan has awoken to the sounds of rain and the call to prayer. He looked out the window to find a beautiful scene. He has laid his eyes upon a rainbow and he thanked God in the process. He went to perform ablution and he prayed. He felt an urge to go outside into the desert

but suddenly the rain stopped. That is the nature of rain in these areas always.

There shined the strips of golden sunlight on the sands of the desert. And the trees and grass showered after a well waited period, but abu Khalfan didn't forget the chants he had learnt as a child for rain. He started to sing.



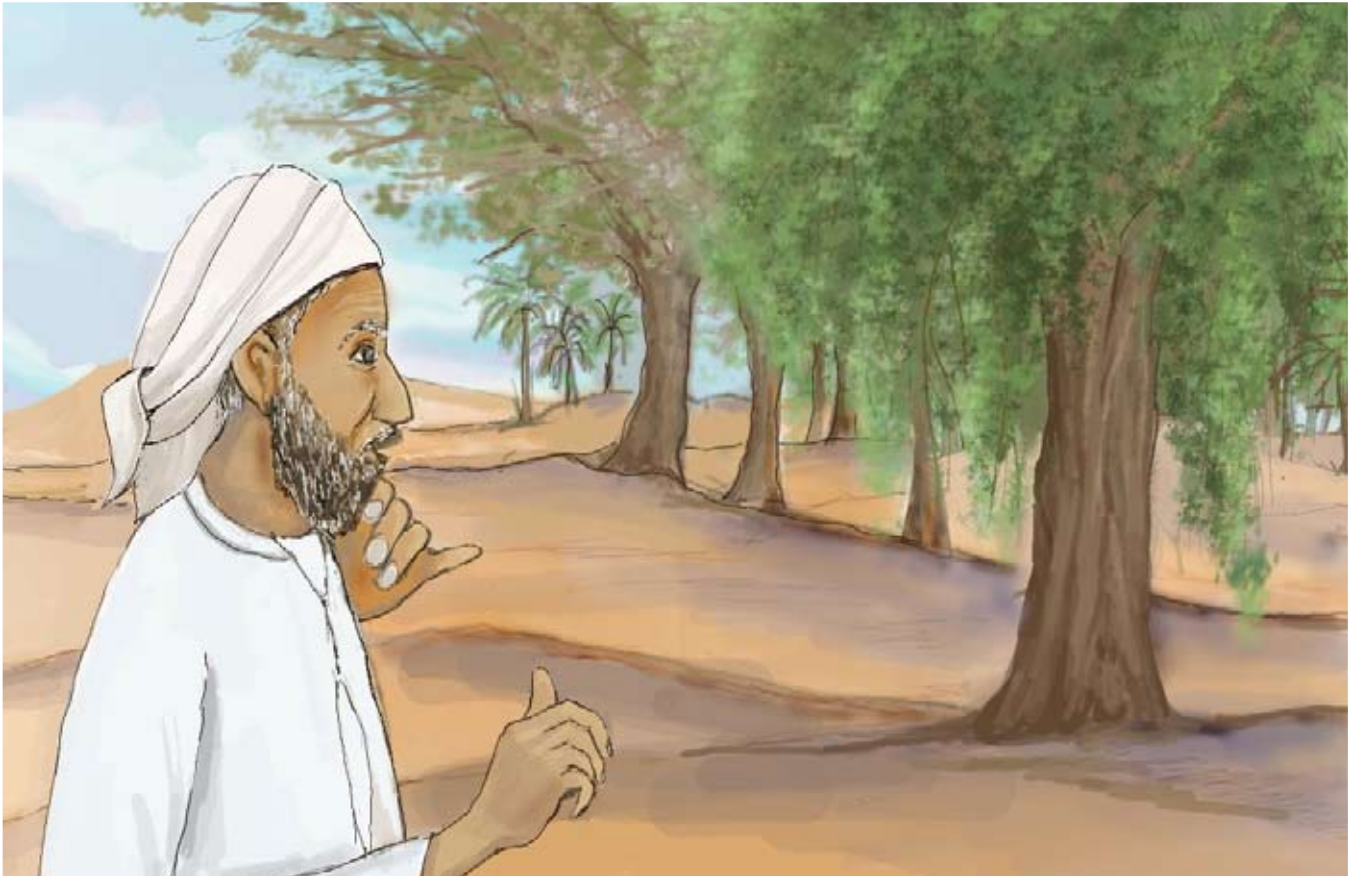


Abu Khalfan, contemplating the Ghafa trees here and there, started his journey towards the barn with two of his camels, hoping to share the joy of rain with his livestock whom he hadn't seen in days.



The camels raced towards an approaching tree and began to devour the leaves on the dangling branches. Abu Khalfan whispered to God the many thanks and admiration he felt towards his creations and pondered upon the blessing presented by Ghafa trees in the desert.

Then he remembered the taste of Majeeja which was a brew of fish stock and minced Ghafa leaves and decided to pick some Ghafa leaves on his way home.



trees, he heard echoes of sounds which made him stop in his tracks. He listened close to identify the source of the sound and heard a conversation hidden by the sound of moving trees and the fresh breezes of rain.



The Ghafa said happily:

“Look Ghoeifa tree, how he left you and came to me for the benefits that distinguish me from all other desert trees.”

The Ghoeifa replied serenely:

“Don’t be overjoyed, people wonder around a lot these days.”



The Ghafa said:

“But they choose me because I’m a grazing pasture for them and their animals, so they race to reserve the largest Ghafas to benefit from their shade and graze their camels and livestock with my nutritious leaves.

The Ghoeifa replied sarcastically:

“You are a nutritious pasture? Who told you that, you arrogant tree?”

The Ghafa said:

“The Bedouins and desert dwellers.”



The Ghoeifa then pouted and stretched its branches as it called out to the remainder of the Ghoeifas in order to seek their help against the arrogant Ghafa tree and said “Let us embark on the final battle.”



That is when Abu Khalfan realized the seriousness of the situation and interjected loudly: "Stop! Stop! Stop!"

"Am I in the wilderness or in a dream? I fear that you shall kill one another. This dispute will only increase the dryness of the desert environment and will cause me pain and misery. The birds of the sky will weep for you and the desert hills will disappear", he continued.





The trees answered in unison, startled by the old man's words:

"And who are you, human, to interfere with our business and fear for our lives?"





Abu Khalfan replied:

“I am the son of the desert, shepherd of goats and camels. Would you take me as a fair judge?”



The two trees said as they were struck by a sense of calmness and safety:

"We take you as long as you are the faithful son of the wilderness. You are the most knowledgeable of every tree in this far reaching desert."

Abu Khalfan got up, regaining his strength, and rested his back on the stem of a palm tree as he leaned on his cane then said:

"O disputing trees, each one of you should recite its roots and origins so that I can judge you fairly. Let the oldest of you begin."



The Ghafa went forward and said  
I am the Ghafa, a smart tree. My homes are the deserts of the Khaleej, and I can withstand harsh climate conditions. Known by my long neck and my beautiful greens, God has blessed me with the people of the Emirates that took care of me and nurtured and grew me everywhere. They have also named their children and locations by my name, one example would be in the emirate of Ras al Khaima that has named a valley after me.



Abu Khalfan said: And you Ghoeifa, introduce yourself.



The Ghoeifa said: I am a tree next to the Ghaf with many branches, and from my fruits the animals feed. I also suck the salt from under me so that the plants next to me could live, that's because I do not need water like other trees and plants, can you see my sacrifice?



Abu Khalfan interrupted the trees speech and went to the Ghaf trees and the Ghoeifa trees that are modest to God with prayer.

He said to the trees: O trees that are not on good terms, each tree has told me where they belong and what beauty it has bestowed upon us. The Ghafa with the long neck is a daughter of the desert that has been a friend to the human race and has given us shade and protection over the ages.

The Ghoeifa interrupted Abu Khalfan saying: I see you lean and support to the Ghafa's argument, but I see that your judgment does not require or consider that the Ghafa has no evidence to back up its talk.



Abu Khalfan went towards the Ghafa saying: Can you prove your argument???

The Ghafa responded with: In my shades is the beauty of meetings between men, on my branches the birds play and sing, and I am a source of beauty in the summer as well as the winter. My green leaves are extremely important for medicine synthesis and I am important as food to the bedwins in the desert.

The Ghoeifa reacted saying: If I was of age and if I was taller, I would be closer to the humans ... my leaves contain proteins and is therefore crushed and used for food for the animals in the deserts.



The Ghafa replied: your being close to the trees would be harmful for them. You are the cancer of the earth and your repugnant smell repels the masses because it causes them a lot of diseases like asthma. That's why



mothers warn their kids from getting close to you. Plus your fruits taste bitter.

Ghoeifa: praise and thanks be to God who created my branches that look like an umbrella that protects passersby from the desert heat .

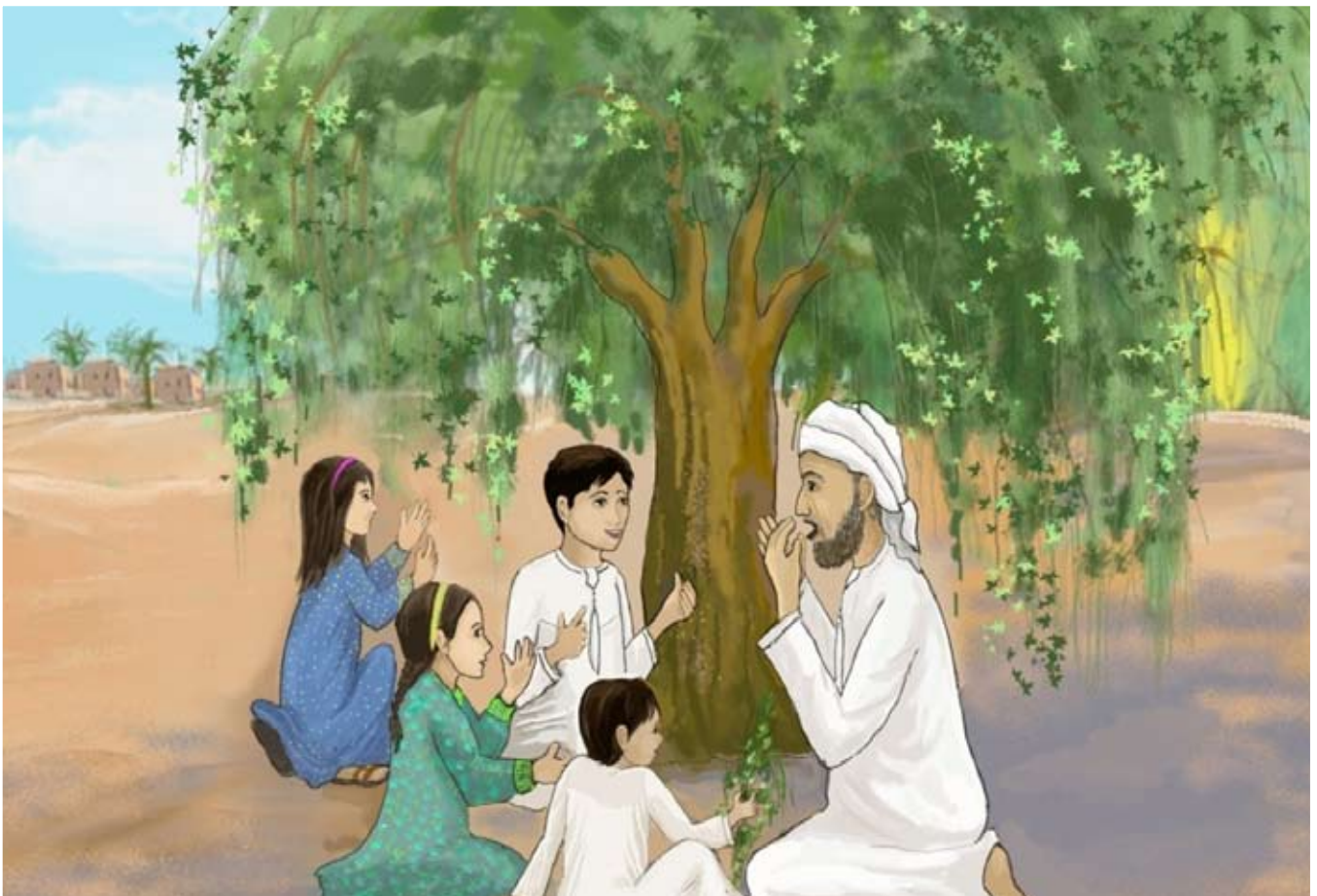
The Ghafa: Ghoeifa, don't you see that children's swings are attached to my branches so that it makes them happy. Don't you see that my shades are used as stadiums for little kids and as councils and meetings for adults? Don't you see the bees when their nectar absorbs the honey from my yellow flowers that works as a cure? Don't you see my branches that extend to the furthest of the deserts? Don't you see that from my woods are synthesized anything that can benefit man on the earth and the seas.

Here shook the branches of both the Ghafa and they said in unison:

"We shall remain standing tall as we are nourished from stone and live in sand and rock. The camels take shelter underneath our shades and the livestock and birds speak to us."

Touched, Abu Khalfan replied:

"Ghafa trees, you have admitted the presence of your thorns and the harmful traits ou carry. You cause the demise of any plants that live next to you. You never benefit anyone because of your short life and the mothers advise their children to stay away from you.



On the other hand, the Ghafa tree proved its worth and you still complain? Can you both be equal?"

The Ghoeifa sighed and asked the old man for permission to speak.

"Am I not a creature of God? Am I not a desert tree as well? Do I not resemble the Ghafa? Why, then, do you deny my benefits?"

"Who can survive in saline salt other than me?"

Abu Khalfan replied:

"God has created man and many things to serve him in this universe and made him responsible for its welfare. But here you are, admitting your lack of use."

"What benefit is there from one that spreads thorns and disease? Your reward stems from whatever you give, and he who doesn't give life does not deserve to live. Hence people should avoid you."

The Ghoeifa was seized by anger and its stem went black.

Then Abu Khalfan said sternly:

"I have decided that you, Ghoeifa, would be used as firewood. The value of things is measured by their benefits, and there is no life in our country for he who does not give life. Get out of here, Ghoeifa, and long live the Ghafa tree."

I can say the meaning of these words:

Match between the word and the picture

A

B

Pray

Desert

وضع

A تعبر عن المعنى ليتم تزاوجها مع الكلمات في العمود (B) صور

Sun

AL Ghaf

AL Goifa

Grass

Fill in the following words:

Old man - camels - AL Gaveh - taste- desert





• Mussabah is an ----- who was called Abu Khalfan

I like the -----of the chopped which made from the leaves of the Ghaf

The -----raised their necks to eat the green branches

Some medicine is made from ----- tree.

Bedouin live in the -----

Compare between the two trees

Food production for people, Cures diseases, Harming the soil, Harming the environment, Gulf tree , An extended tree shadow, An evergreen tree

Different

Different

The Same

... ..  
.....

Decide which tree you like most.

