

Salamoji

At Majlis



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‘What are you doing Salam?’ whispered Moji as she saw Salam coming towards her, jumping over everyone that had sat down for the majlis in a very packed hall.

‘I got bored sitting next to my friend,’ replied Salam as he wiggled his bottom and pushed the person next to him so that he could sit down comfortably.

‘Salam, do you know that you hurt lots of people by stepping over them, just because you wanted to change where you were sitting?’ scolded Moji. Just as Salam was about to reply, the reciter started to speak and the room’s lights were dimmed.



After a short while, Salam started to play on his Mum's phone. The light from the phone was so bright in the dimly lit majlis hall that everyone could see it. Salam didn't notice as he was too busy playing a game.

Moji gently tapped her brother to get his attention, which caused Salam to lose his game. Salam became very angry and shouted loudly at his sister, 'Moji, I lost the game because of you!'

Everyone in the majlis turned around, shocked at the noise Salam was making. Salam was so embarrassed by all the stares, he quickly looked down so that he couldn't see all the angry faces.

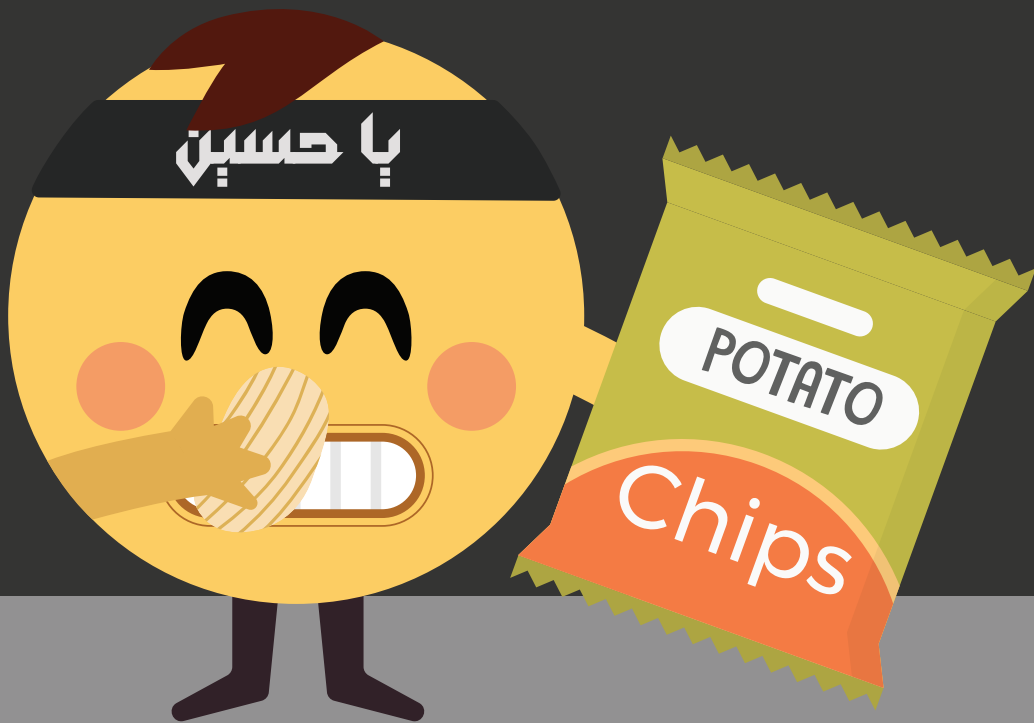


After some time had passed, Salam started to get very hungry so he grabbed a packet of crisps. In the silence of the hall, the crackling sounds of the crunchy bag were heard by nearly everyone. But, Salam didn't notice all the noise he was making as he was too busy eating.

As the majlis finished, Moji quietly grabbed her brother's hand and took him outside of the hall.

'Salam, all the noise you were making, the flashing light from the phone, and stepping over people was disturbing everyone. It made it hard for people to concentrate on the majlis,' said Moji.

'But Moji, I was only making a little bit of noise, I'm sure it doesn't matter,' said Salam, as he carried on finishing his packet of crisps in the mosque hallway.



‘Salam, it is important to respect the people around you by not making noise, and it is very important to respect the majlis of Imam Hussain (a.s.) by not distracting people during the majlis.’ Moji said very sternly. ‘Remember you were angry when you lost your game? In the same way, everyone was getting annoyed as you were disturbing them.’

‘But, I got angry because I was on the last level of the game and it was very important to me, Moji!’ retorted Salam as he still didn’t understand why he was getting in trouble for distracting people during the majlis.

Moji replied, ‘Salam you are quite right, the game was important to you, but the majlis is important to everyone too. That’s why they came to the mosque: to listen to the majlis.’

WELCOME



Salam was still very curious about the concept of respect, so he looked up to his big sister and asked, 'Moji, is being quiet the only way to show respect in a majlis?'

'No, there are lots of different ways that you can show respect,' Moji pointed to the crisp packet in Salam's hand. 'For example, you can throw away all your rubbish and other people's rubbish too.'

'But why should I throw other people's rubbish away Moji?' cringed Salam.

'Because a mosque is a special place and you want to keep it clean and comfortable for everyone,' replied Moji. 'If you see a cup or tissues on the floor, pick it up and put it in the bin. If you see an elderly person struggling to find a seat, or someone looking for their shoes, you should help them.'



'Moji, I think it's really nice to be part of a majlis because everyone helps each other and works together,' said Salam, happy with his new found discovery. 'Next time I'm part of a majlis, I am going to try my best to be ever so quiet, and be clean and helpful to show that I respect the majlis the most!'

