

## **Muhammad and the hungry stranger**

“Grumble, rumble, rumble, grumble”: the poor hungry man could hear his stomach rumbling and grumbling. He was so very hungry. He had not had anything to eat for so very long.

“I know,” he thought to himself. “I will go to the mosque where people are praying and thinking about their God. Someone there will surely help me.”

The mosque was a big, beautiful building. The people inside were saying prayers and thinking quiet thoughts when the poor hungry man went in.

“That man looks kind,” thought the poor hungry man, “I’ll ask him for some food”. The man he chose to ask was indeed a very kind and very special man. He was called Muhammad, and many people believe that he was God’s special messenger in the world.

Muhammad tried to help. He asked another man to go to his own house to fetch some food, but the answer came back, “No, I’m sorry there is no food.” “Grumble, rumble” went the hungry man’s tummy.

Muhammad asked a second man for food and a bed for the hungry man, but the answer came back, “No, I’m sorry there is no food and no spare room.” “Grumble rumble” went the hungry man’s tummy.

Muhammad asked a third man, and this time the answer came back, “Yes, I think I can help. My wife and I have some food and a room where this man can sleep.”

The kind stranger took the poor hungry man home with him. He whispered to his wife about what had happened. “But what can we do?” his wife whispered back. “There is hardly enough food for our children to eat, let alone you and me! And now we have an extra mouth to feed as well!”

“Muhammad asked me to help this poor hungry man,” said the kind stranger, “And so we shall. But we mustn’t let him think we haven’t got enough food for him. If he realises that we do not have enough food to share he will feel guilty and he may not accept it.”

So the kind man thought and thought about what he could do. “I know!” he whispered. “When the children are in bed we will turn out the lights and serve the food in the dark. We will say that we have to keep the lights out in order not to wake the children. We will pretend that we are eating, but really we will give all our food to the poor hungry man.”

And this is exactly what they did. They sat down in darkness and while the poor hungry man ate, they pretended to eat too. The hungry man’s stomach stopped grumbling and rumbling. He had a good meal and a good sleep. The next day he said, “Thank you” to the kind stranger and his wife and went on his way.

When Muhammad saw the kind stranger later in the day, he said “Thank you” too, and he told the man that God was very pleased with him for being so kind.