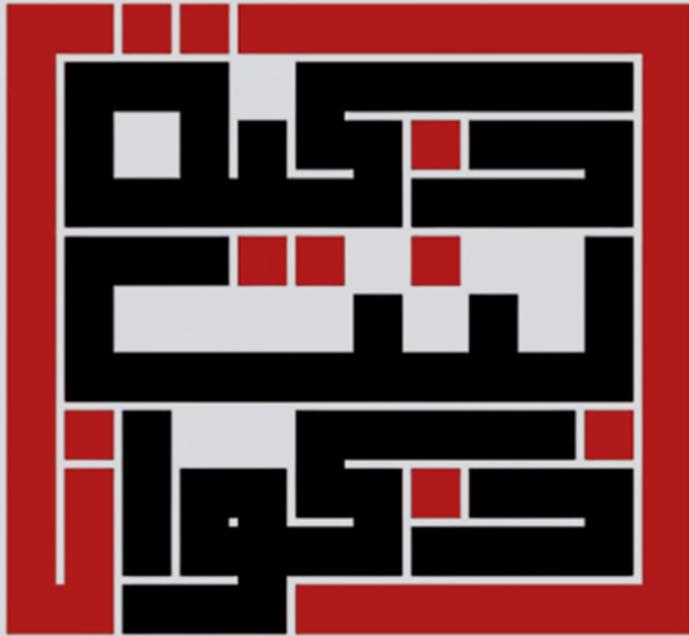


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Malek & Faiza  
The Sweetness of Good Thoughts



The kitchen smelled wonderful! Malek and Faiza peeked from the doorway. Their mother was carefully frosting a strawberry cake for the family party.



"Oh, I hope it is delicious," Faiza whispered, smiling. Malek frowned. "I think the cake will not be delicious. Last time, the frosting was too sweet."



Faiza took his hand. "Malek, we should not think bad thoughts. Mama worked hard! You should be optimistic and expect good things. Say, 'InshaAllah, it will be delicious!'"



Later that evening, Father called them.  
"Are you ready? The cake is packed, and  
the guests are waiting!" Father smiled  
big, looking proud of their mother's  
work.



They arrived at the party. Soon, the mother's strawberry cake was set on the table, sliced into many pieces. Everyone took a bite.



"MashaAllah, this is the most wonderful strawberry cake!" said an auntie. "It is perfect," said an uncle. Malek looked at Faiza, and they giggled. The slices disappeared quickly!



Only one piece remained. Faiza was the next to ask for dessert, and she happily received the very last slice of the delicious strawberry cake.



She brought the plate over to Malek, who was looking at the empty cake stand with a sigh. He loved strawberry cake more than anything.



Malek smiled, learning two lessons that night: Good thoughts bring happiness, and sharing with others is the best kind of sweetness. Malek smiled, learning two lessons that night: Good thoughts bring happiness, and sharing with others is the sweetest kind. He thanked Allah and said Al Ahamed lillah and also thanked his family, his mom, his dad abdullah, and his sister for the delicious cake.