

This story was developed as part of the regional initiative "Stories in Color: Children Tell Stories on Climate Change," under the activities of Civic Horizons Regional Program, in collaboration with the Brilliant Talents Forum, the Cub Scouts and Girl Guides of Al-Jadid, the Libyan Red Crescent - Sebha branch and Bayti Foundation.

# Medallion of Nature's Guardians

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We extend our heartfelt thanks to the creative young members of the Cub Scouts and Girl Guides of Al-Jadid, whose imaginative storytelling and environmental awareness brought this tale to life. Their voices remind us that children can inspire powerful change in addressing climate justice.

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Khaled lived with his family on a small, peaceful farm in the countryside. His father raised soft, woolly sheep, and all around them stretched beautiful green fields and trees. Khaled had a beautiful white cat that followed him everywhere and never left his side.





One day, Khaled went out with his father to the garden, as they usually do. While they were enjoying the evening breeze, Khaled noticed thick gray clouds gradually covering the sky.



When they returned home, it began to rain. The rain continued for three days until the nearby river overflowed, flooding the farm and sweeping everything away. The sheep died... and the cat disappeared.

Khaled was heartbroken over the loss of the cat and the sheep.



He turned to his mother and asked sorrowfully: "Why did the river come to our home? Why did it destroy our farm and take away my cat and my sheep?"

His mother replied:  
"Because of climate change and global warming, my dear."  
He asked: "What is global warming, Mum?"



She explained: "Global warming happens when people cut down trees, throw away waste, and burn it carelessly. The smoke rises into the sky, along with smoke from coal, car exhaust, and factory emissions. All of this pollutes the air, reduces oxygen, and increases the temperature of our planet. As the heat rises, ice melts and heavy rains fall, causing floods and other environmental disasters. It's all because of human actions."







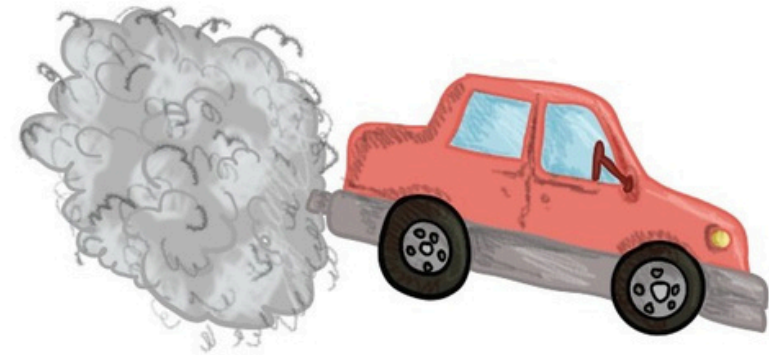
Khaled asked: "How can we reduce this damage, Mum?"

She replied: "We need to care for the environment and reduce our use of anything that harms it."

He asked eagerly: "How can we do that, Mum?"

Smiling, she said: "Let's go for a short walk, and I'll show you what causes climate change and how to stop it."

Khaled exclaimed: "I'm ready, Mum!"



They walked outside. The mother pointed to a smoky car and said: "Look, my son, at the smoke coming out of that car. It's one of the causes." Then she pointed to a park stripped of its trees and added: "Here, the trees were removed to build a shopping center, which reduced the oxygen in the air." Finally, she stopped in front of a heap of scattered trash. With a sad sigh, she explained, "When people burn this garbage, the smoke poisons the air we breathe and makes the soil sick. Our poor Earth is exhausted from being treated this way." Khaled nodded with determination and said: "Tomorrow I'll tell all my friends about global warming. I'll join them in tree-planting campaigns and cleaning the land of harmful materials. I'll also advise anyone whose car emits smoke to fix it to prevent environmental problems. We all have to keep our environment clean."







That night, Khaled went to bed feeling responsible and excited. But something strange happened in his dream...He felt a warm breeze and heard a soft voice calling: "Wake up, Khaled... wake up, Khaled..." He opened his eyes in wonder and asked: "Who's there? Who's calling me? Who are you?" The voice replied: "I'm the spirit of the forest, and my name is Khadra (Green)."







Khaled found himself standing on a soft cloud floating in the sky, surrounded by green lights and flowers that bloomed with every breath.

Khadra said: "I came to show you how Earth feels and how children can make a difference."



Khaled took Khadra's hand, and they flew together over the Earth. He saw rivers flooding villages and animals searching for shelter. He saw the big tree that once stood in his village's park silently weeping.







But Khadra didn't stop there. She flew with him to joyful places; he saw children planting small seedlings with smiles on their faces, young people cleaning beaches of trash, and artists painting murals with environmental messages.



Then she handed him a shiny green medallion in the shape of a leaf and said: "This is the necklace of guardians of the Earth. Every time you help the environment, it will glow brighter. You are not alone, there are children like you all over the world who want to help the Earth." Khaled smiled confidently and said: "Thank you, Khadra. I promise to be a true friend to the environment." Khadra laughed and said: "When children love the Earth... nature smiles."



Khaled woke up the next morning, feeling as if his dream wasn't just a dream... He looked out the window and smiled when he saw a small flower growing on the farm where he lived.