

أَطْفَالُ الشَّمْعِ

Children of wax

- Southern African Folktale
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- Arabic / English
- Level 2





فِي يَوْمٍ مِنَ الأَيَّامِ، كَانَتْ هُنَاكَ عَائِلَةٌ سَعِيدَةٌ.

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Once upon a time, there lived a happy family.

لَمْ يَحْدُثْ بَيْنَهُمْ أَيُّ خِلَافٍ قَطُّ. كَانُوا دَائِمًا يُعَاوِنُونَ وَالِدَيْهِمْ فِي الحَقْلِ وَفِي المَنْزِلِ.





They never fought with each other. They helped their parents at home and in the fields.



لَكِنْ لَمْ يُسْمَحْ لَهُمْ بِالْإِقْتِرَابِ مِنَ النَّارِ أَبَداً.

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But they were not allowed to go near a fire.



كَانَ عَلَيْهِمْ القِيَامُ بِكلِّ مَا لَدَيْهِمْ مِنْ أَعْمَالٍ خِلَالَ اللَّيلِ، لِأَنَّهُمْ مَصْنُوعُونَ مِنَ الشَّمْعِ.

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They had to do all their work during the night. Because they were made of wax!



وَلَكِنَّ أَحَدَ الأَوْلَادِ كَانَ يَتُوقُ إِلَى الخُرُوجِ فِي ضَوْءِ الشَّمْسِ.

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But one of the boys longed to go out in the sunlight.



وَذَاتَ يَوْمِ اشْتَدَّتْ رَغْبَتُهُ فِي الخُرُوجِ فِي النَّهَارِ، فَخَدَّرَهُ إِخْوَتُهُ...

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One day the longing was too strong. His brothers warned him...



وَلَكَنْ بَعْدَ فَوَاتِ الأَوَانِ! فَقَدْ ذَابَ فِي الشَّمْسِ الحَارِقَةِ.

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But it was too late! He melted in the hot sun.



كَانَ أَطْفَالُ الشَّمْسِ حَزِينِينَ لِلْغَايَةِ لِرُؤْيَةِ أَخِيهِمْ يَذُوبُ.

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The wax children were so sad to see their brother melting away.



إِلَّا أَنَّهُمْ قَامُوا بِتَشْكِيلِ قِطْعَةِ الشَّمْعِ المُنْصَهِرِ إِلَى طَيْرٍ.

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But they made a plan. They shaped the lump of melted wax into a bird.



بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ، أَخَذُوا أَخَاهُمْ المُتَشَكَّلَ عَلَى هَيْئَةِ طَيْرٍ إِلَى جَبَلٍ عَالٍ.

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They took their bird brother up to a high mountain.



وَمَعَ بُزُوغِ الشَّمْسِ، طَارَ بَعِيداً وَهُوَ يُغَنِّي فِي ضَوْءِ النَّهَارِ.

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And as the sun rose, he flew away singing into the morning light.



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This story originates from the African Storybook (africanstorybook.org) and is brought to you by Storybooks Canada in an effort to provide children's stories in Canada's many languages.



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