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Ad-Duha Institute

Storytime Series | Book 8

Aneesa's Surprises

Dear little reader,

In this book, you will meet a young girl named Aneesa who learns that surprises come in many types, and she thinks her mother deserves the nicest ones. As Rasulullah ﷺ taught us in this hadith*...

“A man said, ‘Oh Rasulullah ﷺ! Who is more entitled to be treated with the best companionship by me?’ The Prophet ﷺ said, ‘Your mother.’ The man said, ‘Who is next?’ The Prophet ﷺ said, ‘Your mother.’ The man further said, ‘Who is next?’ The Prophet ﷺ said, ‘Your mother.’ The man asked for the fourth time, ‘Who is next?’ The Prophet ﷺ said, ‘Your father.’”

(Sahih Al-Bukhari & Sahih Muslim)**

**Rasulullah ﷺ: This is a respectful title meaning ‘The Messenger of Allah (God), may peace be upon him’ that is used to refer to Muhammed, the last prophet of Islaam. A hadith is a saying or story from Rasulullah ﷺ that teaches an important lesson.*

*** Sahih Al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim are the two most authentic and widely accepted written collections of hadith in Islaam.*



Aneesa peeked in the back door to see if the coast was clear. Ummi¹ was busy washing dishes. Perfect!

Aneesa slipped off her boots and tiptoed through the kitchen as quiet as a mouse. When she was safely out of sight in the hallway, she did a little happy dance and thought to herself,

*“I love my mother and want her to see,
How much her love really means to me!”*

*“My special surprise will be so great,
Insha-Allah², I can hardly wait!”*

¹ Arabic name for “Mother.”

² Arabic phrase meaning, “*If Allah (God) wills,*” said to express the hope that Allah will help, protect, and bless us to be able to do whatever we plan to do.



Aneesa went upstairs to put the basket of flowers she had gathered from the garden in her room. Then, like a ninja on a top-secret mission, she slipped back downstairs to the living room to get the supplies she needed for the rest of her surprise. She thought to herself gleefully,

*“I love my mother and want her to know,
Her love is beautiful as pure white snow!”*

*“My special surprise will be so great,
Insha-Allah, I can hardly wait!”*



Just then, Ummi finished putting the dishes away and turned around to find Aneesa's other surprise; muddy boots on the kitchen floor and the back door wide open.

Ummi called, "Aneesa, can you come clean up this mess you left in the kitchen?"

Aneesa heard her mother call but was so busy in the living room that she did not answer.

Ummi sighed and grabbed the mop.



Meanwhile, Aneesa was silently gathering colored paper, markers, crayons, and glitter from the art cabinet. A LOT OF GLITTER! She planned to make an amazing card to go with her flowers. She thought to herself happily,

*“I love my mother and want her to feel,
That she is terrific and my love is real!”*

*“My special surprise will be so great,
Insha-Allah, I can hardly wait!”*



Aneesa had just rushed back upstairs with her supplies when Umami walked into the living room to find another surprise; papers scattered around the living room and glitter spilled all over the floor. A LOT OF GLITTER.

Umami called, “Aneesa, can you come clean up this mess you left in the living room?”

Aneesa called back, “Can I do it later? I’m really busy right now.”

Umami sighed and grabbed the vacuum cleaner.



Aneesa was hard at work on her card when she realized she had forgotten the glue. So, she slipped back downstairs to get it.

She loved making special surprises! It was so much fun. She just couldn't stop smiling.

When she peeked into the living room, she saw her mother cleaning up. Ummi looked tired and a little sad. Aneesa's smile faded, and she thought to herself,

*"Some surprises I give Ummi are not really good,
She deserves the best, as every mother should.*

*"Love, kindness, honor, and respect,
Are the nice surprises all mothers should get.*

*"I thought my surprise would be so great,
But now I think it's a little too late."*



Aneesa went back upstairs to think things through in her room. Baba³ passed by her door and asked, “What’s the matter Aneesa?”

Aneesa said, “I was trying to make a surprise for Ummi, but now she is sad because I left messes for her to clean up. Plus, I did not come right away when she called me. Even if I make the best gift ever, it will not make up for that.”

Baba smiled and said, “I know how you can make it up to Ummi, but it will take a little work.”

Aneesa looked up and suddenly felt hopeful, “I’ll do anything!”

Baba said, “Okay, let’s learn the three parts of honoring mothers (it works for dads too).”

³ Arabic name for “Father.”



Honoring Mothers

*“First, answer when she calls **without delay**,
Then do what she asks, big or small, right away.*

(Baba pointed to his watch/wrist. You can do it, too!)

*“Second, greet her well with a **happy face**,
Don’t frown or roll eyes all over the place.*

(Baba circled his face with his finger. You can do it, too!)

*“Third, say **kind, sweet words** with your **mouth**,
Don’t huff and puff, yell, complain, or shout.*

(Baba pointed to his mouth. You can do it, too!)

*“One last important thing for you to know,
A special skill every child should show.*

*“Do extra things **before** your mother asks,
You’ll get bonus points for those thoughtful tasks.”*

