

Punish a Muslim Day?

by Omar

Whaaaaaataat?

This morning, I was minding my own business in the playground, when I heard these two kids in Year 4 talking about something called Punish a Muslim Day. I stopped to listen. Ok, ok, I wasn't minding my own business, I suppose. But, sometimes when you hear something that could affect you, manners go down the drain and you become a right old nosey parker and eaves drop with full efficiency. Well I do, anyway. I admit it.

Back to what they were saying. They were super scared. Here's what I picked up:

- Everyone hates Muslims. Everyone.
- Punish a Muslim Day is in April and it's quite official, which means the Prime Minister must have approved it and everything.
- People got letters in the post, by Royal Mail, which is basically the Queen's, saying that Muslims must be punished.



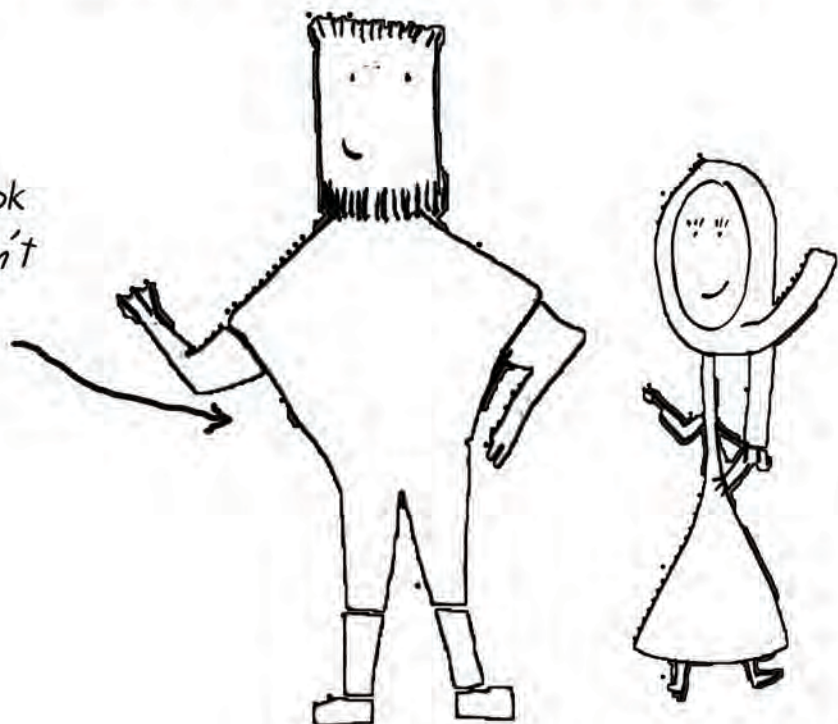
Obviously, I was like, 'Whaaaaaaat?'

But I am in Year 6, so I know that at least half of what the Year 4s were saying was made up, or wrong.

I already told you in my book, that I found out that all Muslims are not going to be kicked out of the country, and Daniel, who used to hate me when I was a new kid at this school, just because I was a Muslim, loves me now. But he still won't say it. Like it's not weird or anything, we don't tell each other we love each other.

Anyway, I was very patient and waited till Dad got home, so I could ask Mum and Dad about this together. I like talking to them when they are together, because Mum says some good stuff and then Dad says some good stuff, so I get lots of good stuff. They are like a team. I will tell you what they said...

This is what they look like, in case you can't remember.



It's not a real day!

It's not a real day that was approved by the Prime Minister and everything. I knew it! I roll my eyes at you, Year 4!

Mum and Dad think it was probably written by some lonely guy, who hadn't had enough love and was feeling terribly grumpy about his whole life.

They also said that **SOMETIMES, PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING AND SO THEY ARE SCARED OF IT.** Like when Mum went horse riding on that windy and snowy day, and the horse didn't like the sound of the wind and the snow in his eyes, so he was acting funny and going faster than Mum could manage. Mum didn't understand the horse, so she thought it was trying to kill her, and she was scared of it. Yes, Mum can be a bit dramatic sometimes. But it wasn't trying to hurt her at all. It was just scared too. The point is, some people just don't understand Muslims, and make up stuff in their own minds.

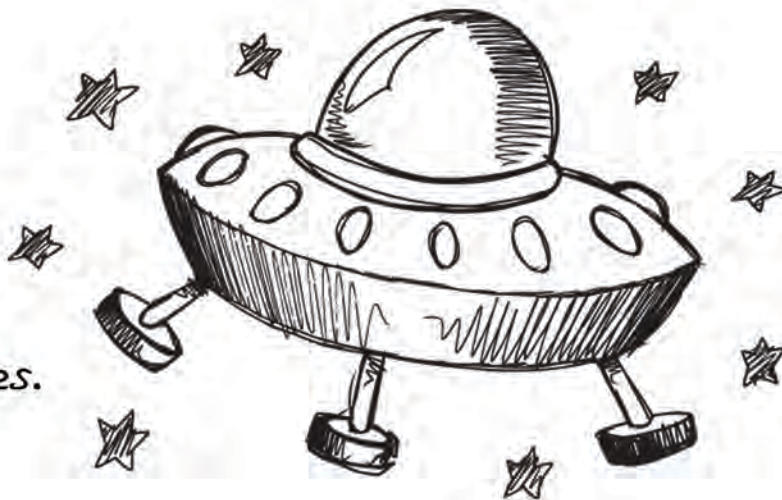
ALSO, OUT OF ALL THE BILLIONS OF MUSLIMS IN THE WORLD, A FEW OF THEM DID SOME BAD STUFF, SO SOME PEOPLE (LIKE THE GUY WHO WROTE THAT LETTER) START TO BELIEVE THAT ALL MUSLIMS MUST BE LIKE THAT, WHICH DOESN'T MAKE SENSE AT ALL. BECAUSE WE ARE NOT.

Mum said that some of the Newspapers have a lot to answer for, because of the way that they write stories.

Everyone doesn't hate Muslims!

The good news is that everyone doesn't hate Muslims. Dad said that if aliens existed and one came down to Earth and just spied on us humans for a long time, he'd tell you that humans are nice creatures. That's because Allah made humans naturally good. If you had a rucksack full of jelly beans, maybe, just maybe, one of them out of the thousands might taste funny. People are like that. Out of thousands and thousands, only one would do something stupid like write that letter, or listen to it. That means, almost everyone is nice and kind and would never do something like that or allow it to happen. And it means you have a whole rucksack full of nice jelly beans around you at all times.

Alien spies.



5.

The letters came by Royal Mail, but the Queen wasn't involved.

~~I thought she was too old to bother playing tricks anyway.~~ ←

Mum said that was rude of me to say, and she made me cross it out.

What should we do about it?

Ok, so remember I told you that Mum and Dad said that when people do silly things like writing a punish Muslims letter, it's because they don't understand Muslims, so they are scared of them? We think that all of us should help everyone understand Muslims a lot better. We should be friends with all kinds of people, so they can get to know us, like Mrs Rogers did. Then we can tell them stuff about us, like I did in my book. After reading the book, lots of my friends told me that they really did used to believe that my Mum wore a scarf on her head in the shower.

Resist the urge to facepalm

ALSO, MUM SAID THAT EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR, WE SHOULD LOVE EVERYONE AROUND US WITH ALL OUR HEARTS, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE OR WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE. SHE SAID THAT IF YOU HAVE FEELINGS OF **love** and **happiness** INSIDE YOU, WHEN YOU WALK AROUND, IT'S LIKE YOU'RE SHOOTING OUT RAYS OF GOOD FEELINGS AND WHOEVER COMES NEAR YOU JUST FEELS LOVE AND HAPPINESS TOO. SO EVEN IF SOMEONE WAS ONE OF THOSE BAD JELLY BEANS, THEY COULD BECOME A GOOD ONE WHEN THEY ARE NEAR YOU, JUST BECAUSE OF THE LOVE YOU HAVE INSIDE YOU.

Dad pointed out that this happens the wrong way round too, which is why people who are always angry inside often get other people being horrid to them, for no apparent reason.

But the reason is that they are **OOZING OUT UGLY RAYS OF ANGER AND HATE, SO WHEN PEOPLE COME NEAR THEM, THEY FEEL ANGER AND HATE TOO.**

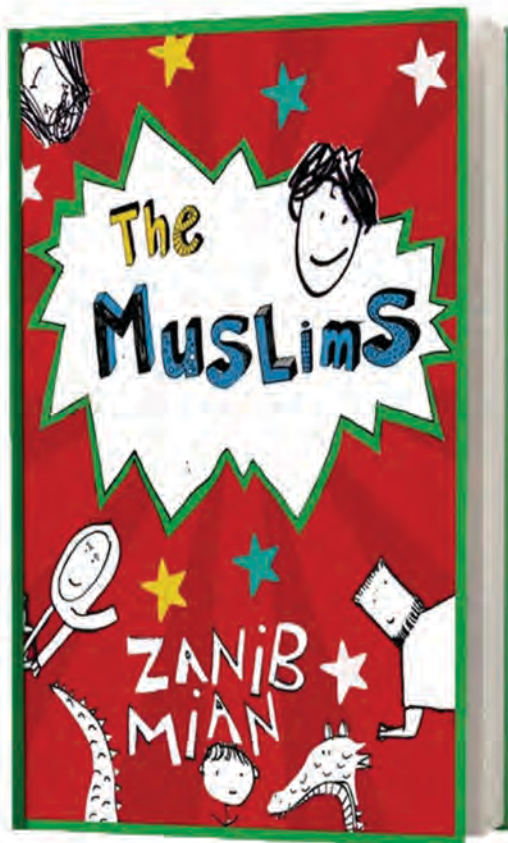
Don't forget Allah!

I felt pretty smart, because Mum and Dad didn't even get to this bit yet, but I knew it was coming, so I told them myself...

I told them that when Yunus (as) got swallowed by a whale, he knew **Allah** would help him if he asked. So he did ask Allah to keep him safe and Allah helped him. And it was only Allah who could help him and protect him, because this **whole universe is controlled by Allah.** The same thing happened when Ibrahim (as) was being thrown in the fire by horrible people. He prayed to Allah and then the fire was a cool and lovely garden for him! Super Amazing! Dad said that I was a genius and he said that those amazing things happened to those prophets because they really, really trusted Allah and loved Him lots - so they didn't think, for even a second, that Allah wouldn't do what is best for them. That's how we should be and Allah will take care of us, for sure!

Now, all I have to do is get this report to those Year 4s and all their friends, and all my friends, and my cousins and it would probably help if I gave it to my teachers too. And the NSPCC. Hmmm this list is getting long. Ah, I nearly forgot the Queen (good thing Mum made me cross out the cheeky bit about her). Oh yes, and the Prime Minister, just so she knows that I set it straight for her.

**PHEW, THAT'S A LOT OF PEOPLE.
WILL YOU HELP ME?**



Omar is a fictional character from Zanib Mian's, *The Muslims*, which was written in response to the surge of faith-based bullying in schools, as reported by the NSPCC.