

## **Fragrance of Knowledge**

### **Translated by Saliha**

Once upon a time, there were three brothers. Muhammad Zain and Abu Huraira were students of fourth grade and Usama Ali studied in ninth grade. These brothers were involved in small crimes. Their father, Sher Afzal, was a plumber. Sometimes, he had work, and at other times he was without it. Their mother was an illiterate and sick housewife. These brothers were frequently absent from their classes. Although they left their home for school, they did not attend it. They used to misbehave with teachers while making absurd remarks about other students. They never learned their lessons or participated in extracurricular activities. One day, some of the railway men came to the school while holding these three boys tied together with a piece of cloth around their waist. Suddenly, there was chaos in the school followed by investigation. Master Gee inquired about the matter from both - the railway men, and the boys. It was told that these brothers were coming to the railway lines from two or three days and were up to something mysterious. The railway men kept an eye on their mischievous acts. On that day, when the train was about to come, they removed the railway hooks (*kunda*) from these railway lines for fun. At that time, the railway men caught them just before the arrival of the train. Their prompt reaction saved the lives of more than 100 people. These boys and some other members of their gang were captured red-handed, and even then, they did not confess their crime.

Later, their father, an extremely poor man struggling with economics, was asked to come to the school. He was a simpleton living below the line of poverty. When he came, he exhibited wrath coupled with grievance and guilt. Suddenly, he started abusing his sons. Master Gee asked the father to spare them. Their father said that "I am a poor man, now I don't want them to study any further, and I will not send them to school after today. I wanted them to be educated to help me with finances, but they are not able to do anything". Master Gee, being a dedicated and sympathetic figure, had tears in his eyes. He asked the father not to make such a hasty decision of not sending his boys to school, as it would be a loss to their lives. The father agreed with Master Gee.

One day, Master Gee pointed at these brothers in the class and said, "from today, we are friends; so, struggle hard". Then, he asked all the students to clap for them. A sense of encouragement was visible in the brothers' eyes. Master Gee started witnessing the results of his motivation when the elder brother, Usama made a habit of reading meticulously during school breaks. He studied hard during free lessons, while other students played around. Master Gee and other teachers gave him extra coaching, so that he could successfully pass his exams. Finally, when his exam result was announced, he was happy to the core. He earned good marks and was promoted to tenth grade. This made him keep his spirits high and keep his struggles intact for Intermediate studies. He was successful in the first year of the intermediate exam and promoted to the next, due to the motivation of his teachers and his honesty to work. The younger brothers, Muhammad Zain and Abu Huraira were also promoted to new classes. Usama, being the eldest, continued his studies and became a huge support to his father. Their father was grateful to Master Gee for his

moral preaching and academic guidance. He wanted to see his sons acquire the wisdom of life. In this way, the moral and intellectual role of Master Gee in a government school (dars gah) paved the way for these boys to pursue their academic careers and improve their financial status.