

Many Hands make Light Work

Translated by Maham

Once there was Aunt Saduran who would hear any news, and she would don her burqa and immediately go to some neighbour's house to share it. The neighbours would often recognize from her eager gait that she had some exciting story to share with them. The moment she would come in and sit on a comfy seat, she would not exchange greetings, rather she would take a deep breath and start speaking directly. She would not let anyone speak until she was done with her monologue. It was due to this reason that people would call her Aunt TV or Aunt BBC, the famous television channel. She is still remembered as the name of any famous television channel.

In the early morning, just when the sun had risen, Aunt Saduran reached the house of Zainab. Zainab's husband was a bus conductor and passed away due to heart disease. She was observing the mourning period after his recent demise. After his death, she had no source of income. While visiting her house, Aunt Saduran told Zainab that a little girl Saleema read in the newspaper that in Saudi Arabia, a woman has opened a Hijama shop. When Zainab heard about it, she was shocked that a woman has opened such a shop. Aunt Saduran advised Zainab that after her mourning period is over, she should not work as a maid in someone else's home to make her ends meet, rather she should consider starting the Hijama business.

Zainab was of the view that she is a woman, and it is too difficult for a woman like her to open a business. Aunt Saduran told Zainab that she should not go outside her home but start business at home. When Zainab heard her suggestion, she agreed that it was indeed possible. She requested Aunt Saduran to spread the news in the neighbourhood so that the neighbours could visit her for the services, and she could earn a respectable living.