



Ghazy and Afra's Loving Hearts

Oktafiyatun Oktafiyatun



On a bright morning in Yogyakarta, young Ghazy and his little sister Afra get ready for school. Before heading out, they join hands with their mother and father to offer a quiet morning prayer. They smile warmly, excited for a wonderful day of learning and discovery.



At school, the teacher asks all the children to stand in neat lines for the morning assembly. Ghazy stands up tall and proud as he sings the national anthem alongside his classmates. Little Afra hums along softly, feeling a gentle swell of pride in her heart.



After class, Ghazy wonders out loud if loving his country means doing something big and heroic. His teacher smiles warmly and sits down beside him. She explains that true love for their country begins with small, everyday acts of kindness.



On the walk home, the children see their neighbor planting young trees along the quiet street. Ghazy quickly grabs a small red shovel to dig the dirt, while Afra uses a little can to water the roots. The neighbor thanks them for helping keep their environment green and clean.



The next day at the park, a new boy named Sam sits quietly on a bench. He speaks a different dialect and wears traditional clothing from another region, making him feel nervous to join the other kids. Some children walk past him, uncertain how to say hello.



Ghazy notices Sam sitting alone and walks over with a friendly smile. He offers Sam his favorite toy car and warmly invites him to join the game. Sam brightens up with joy as Ghazy proves that making new friends is easy when you open your heart.



Afra unboxes a basket of delicious local snacks like bakpia and geplak to share with everyone. The children sit together in a happy circle, enjoying the treats and celebrating their different backgrounds. Laughter fills the playground as they play games together.



At home that afternoon, Father explains that their country is full of diverse cultures, languages, and traditions created for everyone to learn from one another. Ghazy nods happily, promising never to leave anyone out just because they are different.



On Friday morning, the neighborhood holds a big community cleanup day. Ghazy eagerly gathers loose paper from the grass, while Afra helps sweep the hall area with a small broom. Working side by side with neighbors makes the heavy work feel light and fun.



Before bed, Ghazy counts on his fingers all the simple ways to show love for his country. Mother hugs both children tightly, reminding them that caring for others, respecting differences, and spreading kindness is the grandest gift of all.