



Miles Apart, Still You

afandee mukem



During their high school years, Amira and Rayan drew a clear but gentle boundary between them. It was not out of coldness, but a shared commitment to protect their focusing minds and future aspirations.



In a modern world where everyone was instantly connected by a single touch, they chose a different path. They remained like two distant stars, orbiting in their own spaces while silently watching over each other's growth.



Rayan was a calm and deeply attentive young man who often expressed his kindness through thoughtful gifts sent from afar. Looking at the packages, Amira often felt a pang of guilt, wishing she had a physical gift to send him in return.



Yet, what Rayan cherished most was simply Amira's presence and her willingness to listen. In the quiet hours of the night, her attentive silence became his sanctuary as he practiced his path.



Through the telephone receiver, Rayan's beautiful and melodious Quran recitations would echo softly into Amira's room. These sacred verses, spoken into the midnight stillness, became an invisible, priceless gift engraved into her memory.



Sometimes, he would sing heartfelt Anasheed melodies just for her to hear. Though thousands of miles apart, his voice acted as a warm embrace that comforted her during her darkest and most stressful nights.



Time moved swiftly, and high school graduation soon arrived, turning pages into a new chapter of life. Amira stepped into university to become a dedicated English teacher, while Rayan earned a prestigious scholarship to study in Cairo, Egypt.



In their photo albums, there was not a single photograph of the two of them together because they had never once met in the physical world. Instead, their lives were recorded on the pages of shared growth, stretching from Southeast Asia to North Africa.



An invisible thread of faith and deep understanding kept their hearts perfectly aligned across different continents. They bloomed in separate soils, always respecting the boundaries that kept their connection pure and honorable.



Sitting at her desk, Amira grades her students' English exam papers when her phone screen lights up with a brief notification from Cairo. With a gentle smile, she realizes that loving someone with honor means letting them grow into their best version on the path chosen by the Almighty.