



Our Amazing Journey to Saudi Arabia

Aprilla Arettha



Last month, April and Nadhifa packed their bags with excitement because they were finally going on a long-awaited trip to Saudi Arabia. Both teenagers, aged fourteen, wore neat navy blue hijabs and comfortable black gamis that gracefully covered their heads and bodies. They arrived at the international airport early in the morning, holding their passports tightly with big smiles on their faces.



After boarding the large airplane, April and Nadhifa sat next to each other by the window and watched the clouds drift by below. They enjoyed a delicious inflight meal and talked happily about all the amazing historical places they planned to visit. The flight was long, but their shared excitement made the hours pass by very quickly.



When they finally landed in Jeddah, a warm breeze welcomed them as they stepped out of the airport terminal. They met their local guide, who greeted them warmly and helped them load their luggage into a comfortable air-conditioned van. April looked out the window in amazement at the bustling streets and unique architecture under the bright Arabian sun.



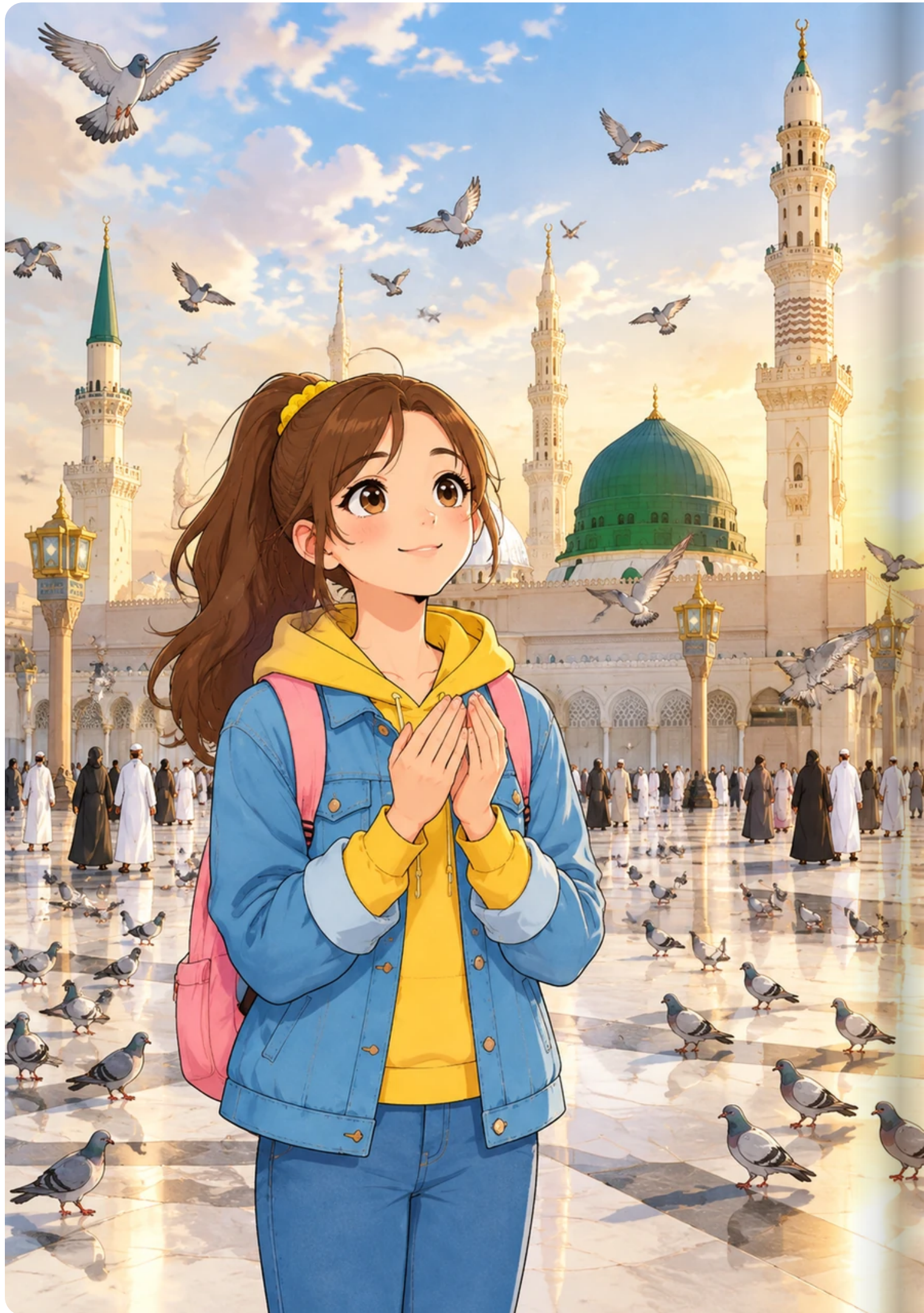
On the second day, April and Nadhifa traveled to Makkah to perform their religious pilgrimage. They walked together in their modest white outfits under the magnificent architecture of the Grand Mosque, feeling a deep sense of peace and wonder. Nadhifa gently reminded April to stay close as they joined the gentle flow of pilgrims from all around the world.



After completing their prayers, they explored the vibrant local markets near the mosque filled with colorful prayer rugs and sweet dates. April bought a small, beautiful keychain as a souvenir while Nadhifa practiced saying simple Arabic phrases to a friendly shopkeeper. The merchant smiled warmly and gave them complimentary mint tea in tiny glass cups.



The next morning, the girls took a fast train ride across the desert landscape to the historic city of Madinah. Outside the train window, endless golden sand dunes stretched all the way to the clear blue horizon. April excitedly snapped photos with her smartphone while Nadhifa sketched the passing scenery in her travel diary.



In Madinah, they visited the beautiful Prophet's Mosque with its iconic green dome and towering white minarets. Thousands of pigeons fluttered gracefully in the wide marble courtyard while the afternoon sun cast a golden glow over everything. Nadhifa felt deeply touched by the serene atmosphere and whispered a quiet prayer of gratitude.



Before leaving Madinah, April and Nadhifa spent a wonderful afternoon visiting a lush local date palm farm. A friendly farmer showed them how sweet dates are harvested from the tall trees and let them taste fresh fruit right from the branch. They bought several boxes of delicious dates to share with their classmates and teachers back home.



On their final evening in Saudi Arabia, the girls enjoyed a traditional dinner at a rooftop restaurant overlooking the twinkling city lights. They ate flavorful rice with tender chicken and drank cold fruit juice while reflecting on all their favorite memories from the journey. April told Nadhifa that this was truly the best adventure of her life.



The next day, April and Nadhifa returned home and eagerly shared their wonderful experiences with their eighth-grade English class. They presented a colorful poster filled with photos, ticket stubs, and their travel diary to explain a personal recount text. Everyone listened closely, inspired by their incredible journey across Saudi Arabia.