**031010 Rizwana’s parents house in Mohra Kanyai near village Sarsal 2**

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|  | Afshan while laughing |  |
| Rizwana’s GM | And the doctor… |  |
| Afshan | You have a huge village. How many houses are here in an estimate? |  |
| Rizwana’s M | MashALLAH there are a lot of houses. There must be 40-50 houses. Are you leaving now? |  |
| Afshan | No there are still 1-2 months left. We are trying to settle things now |  |
| Rizwana’s M | I see |  |
| W1 | Assalamualaikum |  |
| Rizwana | You didn’t bring Sami along? |  |
| W1 | Sami was having temperature. He slept. How’s everything? |  |
| Afshan | Pick up a stick and hit on his head. There’s only one way to cure him. I tell him often that he should get a good beating |  |
| W1 | Yes he stays clean. He is having fever. His operation is on the 30th. He has fever since last night |  |
| Rizwana | Operation has been done or will take place? |  |
| W1 | It will happen on the 30th |  |
| Afshan | Of what? |  |
| W1 | His leg. His muscle is pulled |  |
| Afshan | Alright? From birth? |  |
| W1 | Yes |  |
| Afshan | Is this a muscle problem or bone problem? |  |
| W1 | Muscle problem. His muscle is pulled. It has worsened now. First it was minor |  |
| Afshan | Whats his age? |  |
| W1 | 4 years. Doctor says that its better to get it operated |  |
| Rizwana | Does exercise help? |  |
| Rizwana | Her son is 4 years old. Neither can he sit nor can he talk |  |
| Rizwana | His brain is weak. He is mentally challenged |  |
| W1 | His age is 4 years but his brain is that of a 6-7 months baby |  |
| Afshan | Your marriage was in the family? |  |
| W1 | Yes. My father in law and my parents were cousins |  |
| Afshan | But there has been cousin marriage in your family for generations. |  |
| W1 | Yes but it never happened before. This is the first time it happened |  |
| Afshan | It doesn’t happen suddenly. It happens after 6 – 7 generations of cousin marriages. |  |
| W1 | This has been proved by science. But our mothers before.. they were always wed in the family |  |
| Afshan | This is how it happens by itself after generations |  |
| Rizwana | The kid is very beautiful MashALLAH. He look at everyone |  |
| W1 | The one next to it is my cousin’s son. He is one day older. He is ne day younger |  |
| Rizwana | He goes to school now |  |
| W1 | He goes to school now. He is now so aware of the surroundings that when I take him outside to the gate, then he starts jumping with joy that he is going outside. He stays on  *charpai* the whole day but now I put him in the walker |  |
| Rizwana | He cannot eat anything himself. I feed him with spoon |  |
| W1 | I feed him myself |  |
| Afshan | Is the muscle of the other kid pulled? |  |
| Rizwana | He is the one |  |
| W1 | He is the one |  |
| Afshan | I see |  |
| W1 | That’s one kid and she is a daughter |  |
| Afshan | Yes |  |
| Rizwana | Is she operated? Can she see? Her head was bigger |  |
| W1 | She had fluid in her head |  |
| Rizwana | She is very intelligent MashALLAH |  |
| W1 | Doctor said it before that her brain.. |  |
| Afshan | You didn’t bear another kid? |  |
| W1 | No not yet |  |
| Afshan | Now remember one thing. If you plan a baby do go to the doctor and tell him your history |  |
| W1 | When my baby was born then I tool medical treatment for three years and then he was born |  |
| Afshan | Baby was born with medical treatment? |  |
| W1 | No… ne was born normal. I took the medicines that the doctor prescribed. They said the baby is fine and is normal. I got an ultra sound in the 7th month and they said the baby is upside down. There is fluid in your tummy. After that I took medicine. He was normal at his birth. That time everyone said that the other child is weak and he is healthy. We didn’t know till 9 months |  |
| Afshan | If he used to call his name then..? |  |
| W1 | He used to respond and my daughter she was also very weak like him. I thought she is like that too.. I used to work and he used to lie down. Everyone blamed me that I used to work and my kid slept and I didn’t care. I said that I didn’t know it. I said that Khala you go to a lot of doctors. Allah is our savior he will be fine. she advices me too show him to a doctor once. Then I took him to pindi. They told me there that his brain is weak. We have been doing his medical treatments since then.. but.. |  |
| Afshan | Allah is the most beneficent. When a child is in the mother’s womb then you can get a test which shows that the kid is fine or not. We call it Genetic test |  |
| W1 | I am scared of that. I just pray that Allah helps us |  |
| Afshan | Yeah this is fine too. If God Forbid another kid is like this |  |
| W1 | When I go to Islamabad then the doctor asks me to try another baby but I say no. she convinced me that it’s not necessary that if one kid is physically or mentally challenged then the other kids would have the same problem but I wasn’t convinced. we had relatives in pindi . They had the same problem with their daughter as mine. She had fluid in her head. They got her operated twice but she didn’t cure. She was 8 months old. After that she had another baby. He is perfectly fine. She says that my break is of 4-5 years and her break was not even of a year. Her son is fine. I said no. Right now no one can take care of him. This is the issue. |  |
| Afshan | I pray that Allah gives healthy child to everyone |  |
| W1 | Doctors say that everything will be fine but with time. When he will be 8 years old he will start sitting, talking and walking. He will start doing things so much. That’s what I say that at least he should become independent. He can eat himself and walk. He can at least tell what he wants. I can help him drink an eat food (while crying). He doesn’t know anything. |  |
| Afshan | (While consoling) never mind. Allah tests his creation. This is a test nothing else. May Allah bless him with health. In Sha Allah |  |
| W1 | You see that he is so beautiful (while crying). His *taya* doesn’t have kids and they love him so much. I say Allah has blessed him with a quality that everyone loves him. There is so much happiness because of him. Even when I go on any journey a stranger starts loving my kid. People say that he is such a beautiful kid. He doesn’t look like a challenged kid. MashALLAH. He seems perfectly fine. His health, growth. |  |
| Afshan | He is just a little mentally challenged |  |
| W1 | Yes... Mentally. He looks a little now |  |
| Afshan | Do you use hearing aid? |  |
| W1 | No… they have been tested |  |
| Afshan | Are his ears ok? |  |
| W1 | His ears are fine. Doctors say that it seems like he cannot hear but when I got a computerized medical checkup he said that his ears are fine. they say that if he can hear he will talk. The chil who hears will speak |  |
| Afshan | Yes the kid who hears also speaks |  |
| W1 | They say that he will speak. Sometimes I feel like he’s saying “baba… baba..” somehow. When his grandmother calls him and asks him where’s mama. Then he looks back at me. He comes to me. When *taya abu* comes to I say that *taya abu* is here. Call him… he looks at him and feels happy. He starts moving his legs and arms that his *taya* is here. He feels so happy. First we didn’t know. When I used to pass from his side or anyone used to, he never used to know, neither did he used to see. Now if we move near him and don’t call him then he notices this. If I call him with love then he feels happy. If im angry at him then he makes a face. Thank God that he responds now |  |
| Afshan | If Allah wants then he can do anything. May Allah bless him with health. What can the poor parents do? |  |
| W1 | I pray to Allah so much. I don’t know what happened that I am passing through this difficulty (while crying). I pray 5 times a day. I recite Quran daily. I fear Allah so much. I try to be good to everyone. I do whatever I can for them I love the kids so much. I respect the elders. But I don’t know what is wrong. |  |
| Afshan | Allah is really merciful. Don’t feel bad. Its just a test |  |
| W1 | When I come here my mother says “*Maa Sadqay”* obviously she is worried about me. I say to her that it’ll be fine. I don’t cry in front of her. I say to her that she is worried herself. How do I make her worried again. But obviously she is a mother and she is bound to feel worried for me. She says that my daughter will stick him to her shoulder all day long. (cries) .she feels bad for me. |  |
| Afshan | For how long can w person seek help from anyone? Obviously by the end of the day you have to deal with it yourself. |  |
| W1 | Anyone will not help you for more than 2 days. After that they will start saying that they helped you. If a mother helps a child she doesn’t boast about it |  |
| Afshan | Yes she doesn’t. |  |
| W1 | His father comes for 2 days. He is usually in Lahore. When he comes I ask him to feed Sami food. He says that Sami doesn’t know anything he cannot eat. I say that he eats from my hands. I can even put him to sleep. I can deal with him anyhow.  if I tell you always excuse with the fact that you cannot pick him up. I say that I never get tired. It has been 4 years even if he cries all day even then I pick him up. You say that a mother is a mother. (while crying) |  |
| Afshan | Actually the pain that a mother can bear, no one else can |  |
| W1 | Yes |  |
| Rizwana’s GM | Her husband…I told him that he corners himself from the baby. The actual challenge is to your wife (while crying) |  |
| W1 | He actually blames his wife for not doing anything. When he goes home he says that it’s not your fault you have so much work to do. Now don’t come. If she doesn’t go for two days they start complaining. I can’t go daily. I have to go to school. I even have to cook food, and then I cannot carry him with me all day. His eating routine gets disturbed. |  |
| Afshan | Obviously you have to take extra care of the baby |  |
| W1 | Yes. Now even Rizwana was asking why I not brought Sami. I told her that he was sleeping |  |
| Nighat | Where did you leave him then? |  |
| W1 | At his grandmother’s place. She was sleeping too. I told her that I am going I will be back soon. I get worried though he must be asleep when I go. I fear that he might wake up. I go home quickly. When I go home he is asleep most of the time and I feel that I should have sat there for some more time. I get worried. He sleeps in the other room. I keep on looking from the door that he might not get up. Baji says that leave him and let him sleep. I tell that we never know he might be awake. He cannot tell us after all |  |
| Rizwana’s GM | This is all how nature works |  |
| Afshan | These are all Allah’s tests. Allah rewards big for these type of challenges |  |
| W1 | His *taya* says whatever you are sowing the world, you will reap it in the heaven. I say that whatever happens in this world is not a problem but the hereafter should be good. Parents who have normal kids work hard for them because they know one day they will earn sometime and help them (greed) but what do you is unconditional. You will not get anything in return. You love him more than the rest of the kids. I say its pretty natural that you are more inclined towards him than the rest of the kids. Sometimes my daughter says that mama you bring a lot of things for Sami. You love him more and you don’t love me. I someone says even the slightest things then she gets angry. I feel bad that why y son is suffering. I feel happy that everyone does so much for him. *Taya and Taiyan* *Chachiz*. And his uncles too. Everyone tries their level best that I don’t feel bad but sometimes when my brother or Bhabi try to do something, I quickly notice what they are trying to do. |  |
| Afshan | You are sensitive at the moment. May Allah bless you |  |
| W1 | When we took him to Lahore they said that make him wear boot, with the help of which his leg will remain straight. He will be able to pick up weight. Even now if you try to make him stand then he stands on his toes. He doesn’t pick his weight. We spent 4000 on them. I make him wear it for 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the evening. I make him sit in the walker |  |
| Afshan | Yes. Maybe he is able to walk with the help of an operation |  |
| W1 | That’s what the doctors say that he might b able to lift his weight. If we help him to stand up then he turns his leg back. He doesn’t puts his weight on his leg |  |
| Afshan | Yes. (talking to the girl) in which class do you study? |  |
| Girl | 2 |  |
| Rizwana’s GM | Why did she not go to school? |  |
| W1 | Its Sunday. Holiday |  |
| Afshan | (while laughing) |  |
| W1 | I came last evening and said it but I won’t come tomorrow. My mother says that she keeps on looking at the gate. But it’s really hard for me to visit her every day. The house is really far away. I told her today that I will not come. She will be home then I can finish my chores. She takes care of him. Rizwana called Zain, then I thought that everything’s fine, I hope there’s not a problem for why they’re calling. When Rizwana called I thought she was calling just like that. |  |