

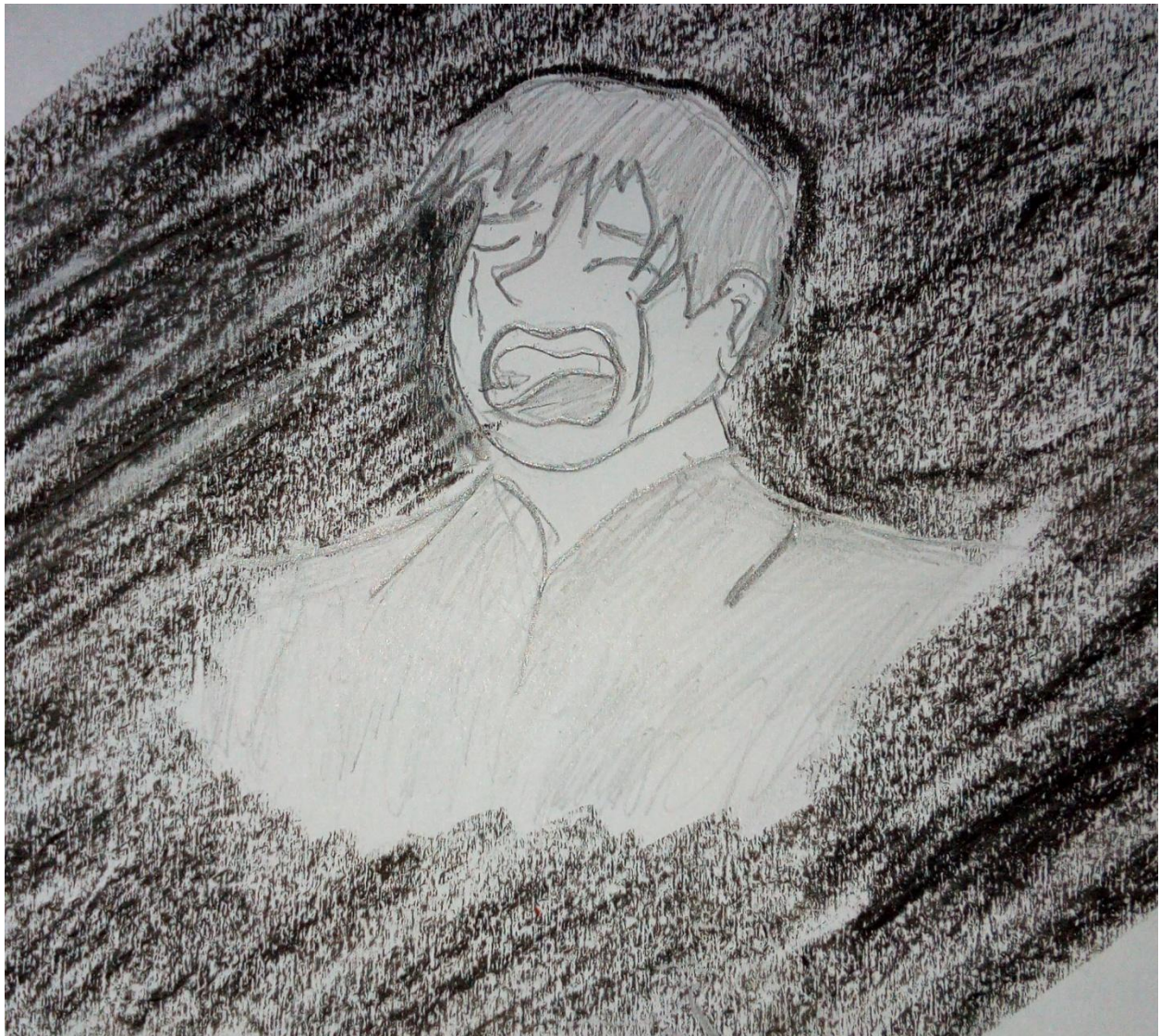
## A NARROW ESCAPE



A clock struck five and Haider made a beeline to the street as it was time to play cricket. But, there was no one in the street. He was waiting for his friends. Meanwhile, a woman came and asked about Khalid sahib's house. His house was in the next street. Haider told the address of the house but she could not understand. She asked him to accompany her and told her the address. Haider thought the house was near and there was no need to inform anyone in the house. He went along with that lady. When he turned left, suddenly, a black Mehran appeared and someone put something on his nose, and afterward, he did not know what happened.



When he opened his eyes, he found himself in complete darkness. He did not know where was he? There was the incessant down pouring of the rain. His stomach was aching because of hunger. Haider was very afraid and started weeping.



Then, he heard the Azaan. He did not know what time was it. The voice of his mother echoed in the backdrop. 'Never leave your prayers'. He prayed to Allah and asked for help in this difficult time. He waited and waited for someone to come. Tension hung heavy in this creepy room. He did not know when he dropped off into deep sleep.

He woke up with the coarse voice of a huge man standing near him. The man shouted, 'Oh boy, take this food'. Haider was so much afraid that he could not say anything. When the man disappeared he devoured his food and regained his lost energy. After some time that man came again and told him to follow him. When he came out of the room, he was stuck with fear because there was nothing like his city, Karachi. There were mountains and trees. He soon realized that he was far away from his city. That big man carried him to another room. There were many other children in this room. He was a bit relieved to see other boys. He talked to them and realized that they were also kidnapped from different cities. Haider also came to know that they were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He was worried whether he would be able to meet his parents or not. He did not know the purpose of his kidnapping but he could smell the danger.

The next morning, he woke up with that coarse voice again. He saw that children were being given tea and rusk for the breakfast. At night, two men came and took two boys from there. Children told Haider that they would take two boys daily and nobody would see that boys again. Haider was curious to know, where were they taken and for what purpose.

One week had elapsed since he was kidnapped. In this short time, he had also made some good friends. Abdullah and Waqas became his close friends. They shared and discussed every bit of information they got.

One day when two men took the boys. They forgot to lock the door. Haider and Abdullah planned to follow them. Waqas kept the eye on the children and their surroundings. After five minutes of walk, these men entered into a room. Fortunately, there was a window on the backside of the room. That was the perfect place for them, as they could hear what these two men were talking about. There was one more man who was checking the boys. He looked like a doctor. After checking, the boys were taken to another room and they started talking. The doctor said that the boys were very weak. One of them suggested cruelly, 'just take out kidneys. If they died, it was not our headache; we would throw their bodies in the river. Otherwise, if they lived, they would become good beggars.' Abdullah and Haider were shocked and numb. They tried to run away but could not.....after sometimes

they felt that some force was pushing them to run. They ran and ran to save their lives. They were breathless and terrified when they reached their room. Fortunately, nobody saw them. They told everything to Waqas. They planned to escape then, as the door was open, and they would not get this chance again. Other boys in the room were sleeping; they quietly slipped out of the room and started heading towards the boundary wall. The boundary wall was fully covered with barbed wire. Crossing the wall was like an Achilles heel. They planned to climb nearby trees and jumped from those trees to another side of the wall. Suddenly, they saw Haibat khan, a huge and scary man patrolling the area. They, at once, hid behind the trees and prayed to Allah. Fortunately, he passed by without seeing them. Without wasting the time they climbed up the trees and jumped on the other side of the wall.



The next moment, they were standing in the thick woods. They scurried aimlessly. Out of the blue, they saw some lights coming from the huts. It was a village. They just knocked on the door of the first hut in their way. A bearded man came out of the hut. He was surprised to see the boys at this hour of the night. It was 2 o'clock. Haider cautiously told the whole story to him and asked for help. The man was Maulvi Abdur Razzaq and he was an imam in a nearby mosque. He was a good man and promised to help them. He suggested them to wait for the morning but the boys told him that the life of other boys is in danger. They asked him to do something now.

Maulvi Abdur Razzaq was a known person in the area and people respected him. So, they planned to move from house to house and gathered people for this cause. As luck would have it, about fifty people assembled which were more than enough. They headed towards the kidnappers' house and cordoned all the area. Police had also reached. Maulvi Abdur Razzaq had also called the police before.

Police caught the kidnappers. Luckily, none of the kidnappers ran away and all the boys were saved. All the boys reached safely to their homes. Their parents were overjoyed and thanked Allah for this mercy. It was not less than a miracle that they got their kids back.

The next day, all the electronic media and newspapers were full of this story. The government praised and rewarded Haider, Abdullah, and Waqas for their bravery. With their help, the police were successful in catching the notorious gang of kidnappers who were involved in the abduction of many kids.

