



I Can Do Whatever I Want!

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Long times ago, there was a 9-year-old Afghan boy named “Ali” who was living in Kabul. Ali was in 4th grade in school. He was not good at his studies that’s why his parents used to taunt him a lot.

One day, when Ali came back home from school, his parents said, “Your teacher had called us and told us that you have a quiz tomorrow, so go, change your clothes and start preparing for it. This time you must get good marks otherwise you will not be allowed to play games anymore”.

He went to his room, changed his clothes and opened his book to study. He read some lines of it and got irritated and closed the book and said to himself, “I cannot study. I am not able to study because I am not getting anything. I cannot do it.”

The next day when Ali came back home from school, his mother asked, “How was your quiz, did you do good?”. Ali nodded and went to his room without saying anything.

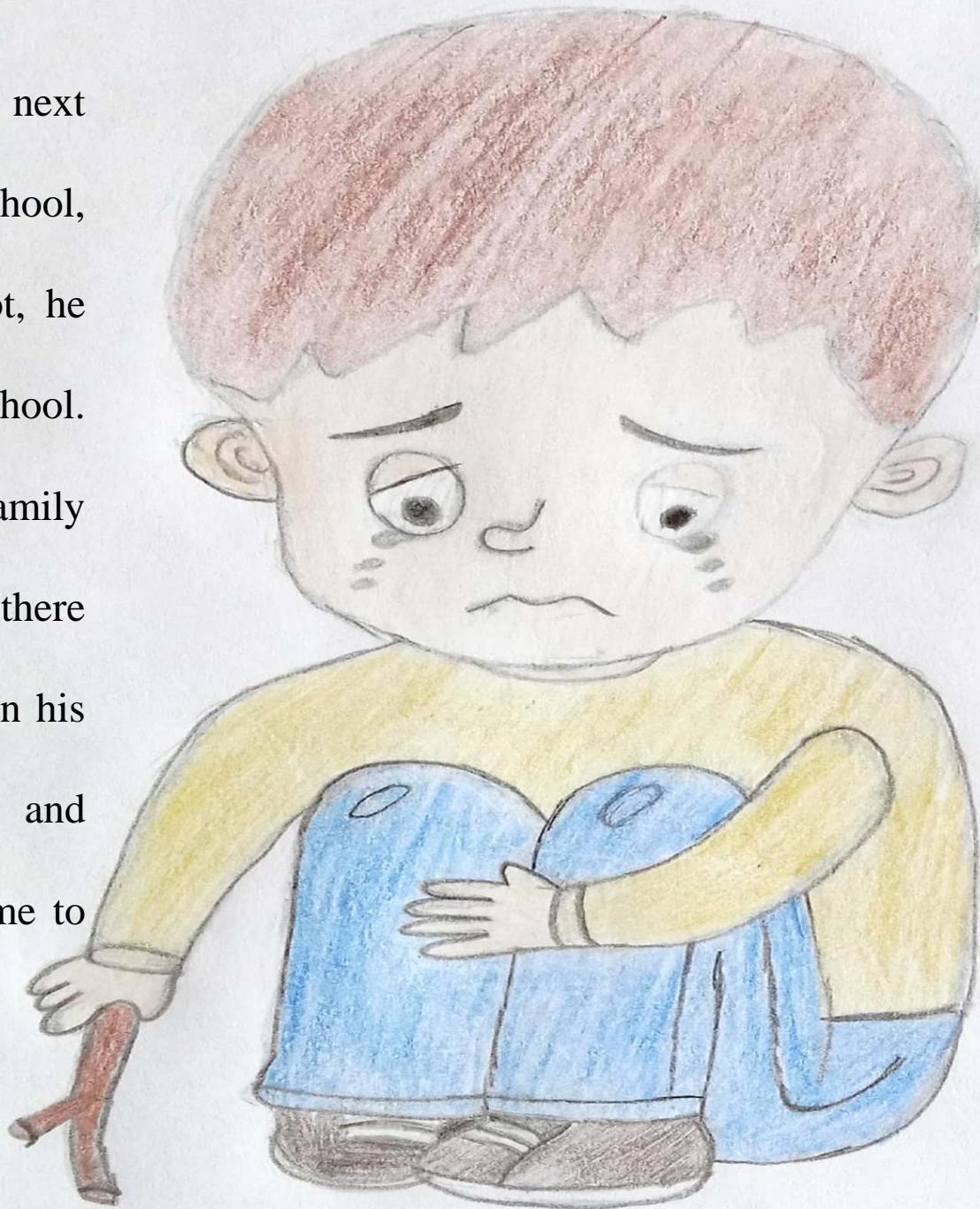
It was the day when he was going to know his marks in the quiz, and his mother was so excited and was hoping that his son had gotten good marks this time, because Ali had told her that he had done good in the quiz.

Ali got his quiz paper back from teacher and saw that he had gotten 'Zero' marks. He was not shocked because he knew that he had not studied for it and had not answered any question correctly, but he was very worried about telling his parents about this.



Ali came home and his mother asked him about his marks. Ali hesitantly gave the paper to his mother and looked down. When his mother saw that, she got angry on him and said, “Didn’t you say that you have done good in the quiz, so what is this?”. He didn’t say anything and went to his room. The whole day, he didn’t come out of his room and was so much upset.

In the morning of the next day, on the way to school, and after thinking a lot, he decided not to go to school. Instead, he went to a family park. He was sitting there alone and sad. A man in his 40s saw Ali so sad and crying alone, so he came to him.



The man said, “Son, why are you crying, and where are your parents? Have you come alone here?”. Ali looked at him and because he needed someone so badly to share his problem, he stood up and hugged him tightly while crying.



The man solaced Ali and asked him why was crying. Ali said, “My parents want me to get good marks in school, but I am not able to do that. My parents do not understand that I cannot study well and get good marks however I try, and when I don’t do good in my exams or quizzes, they get angry and taunt me.”

The man asked, “Why do you think that you cannot study well and get good marks? Have you tried studying well for your exams or quizzes?” He said, “Yes, I have tried. Some days before, we had quiz. I opened my book, read some lines of it but didn’t get anything, so I closed it because I knew that I could not do it.”

The man smiled and said, “Never say that you cannot do something.

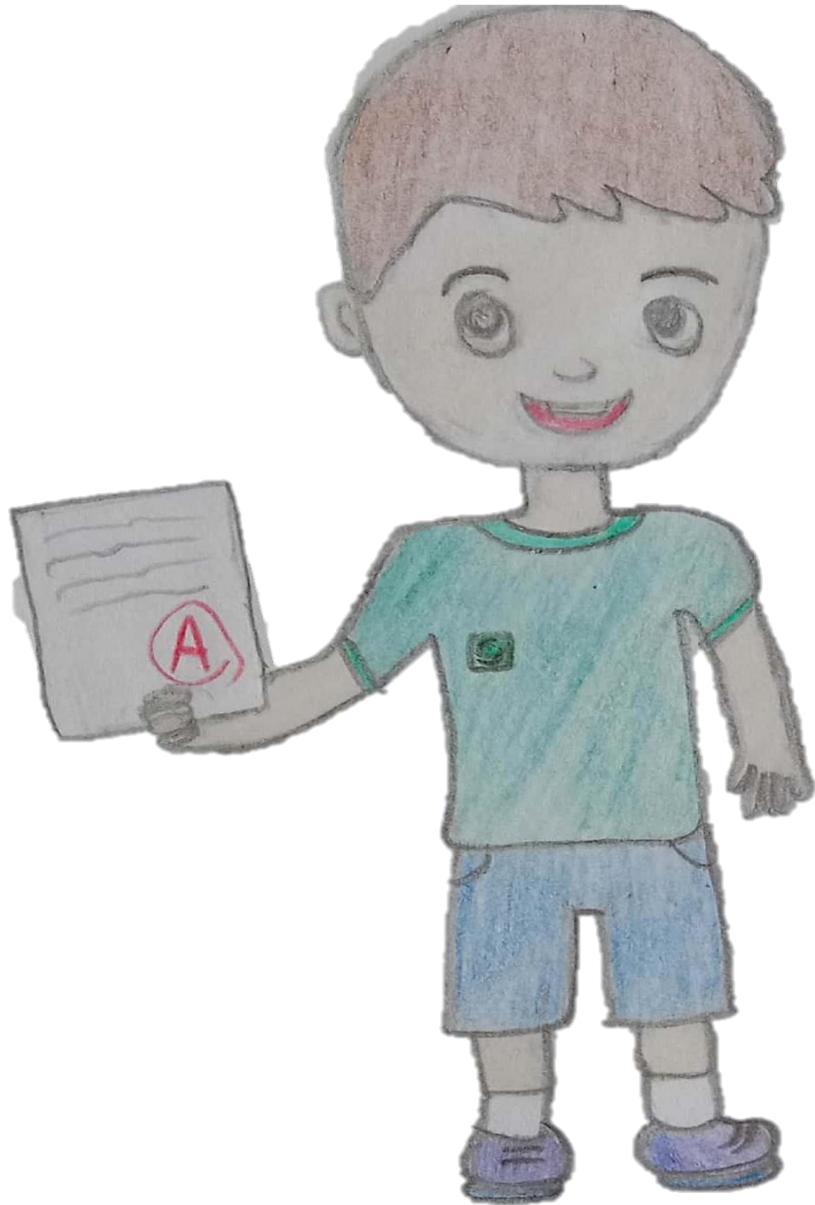
Always say ‘I can do it’ before starting doing something then see how you will get everything. Also, no one can get something in first try, you should keep trying, and see that you are also able to get good marks”. He added, “Now, get up, go back to your home and start studying keeping in mind that ‘You can do it if you want to’, and if you don’t get it in once, try again and again and never give up. Okay, you brave boy?”.

Ali felt energetic and happy after listening to him and came back home. As he entered his room, he directly went to his studying desk and opened his book. Before starting to study he said to himself, “You can do it whatever you want, and now you want to get good marks in your upcoming exam, so you can get it”.





After studying for some minutes, he felt exhausted and wanted to close the book but remembered that the man had told him to keep trying again and again, so he continued studying. After studying for some hours, he noticed that he is getting most of the things written in the book, and even he was enjoying studying. Ali was very happy.



Times passed, and it was the time when Ali had given his exams some days before and was waiting in the class for his teacher to announce the results. Everyone got their marks, and it was Ali's turn. The teacher said, "Ali, come in front of the class. Students, I am very happy to announce that Ali has gotten the highest marks in the class. So, I want all of you to clap for him loudly and congratulate him". Everyone praised and congratulated Ali in his class for his marks.

Ali came back home and shouted happily, “Mom, Dad, where are you? Come and see, I have gotten the highest marks in my class”. His parents came and hugged him tight and loved him so much. Then Ali said, “Mom, Dad, I can do whatever I want to if I keep trying to do it and never give up.”

