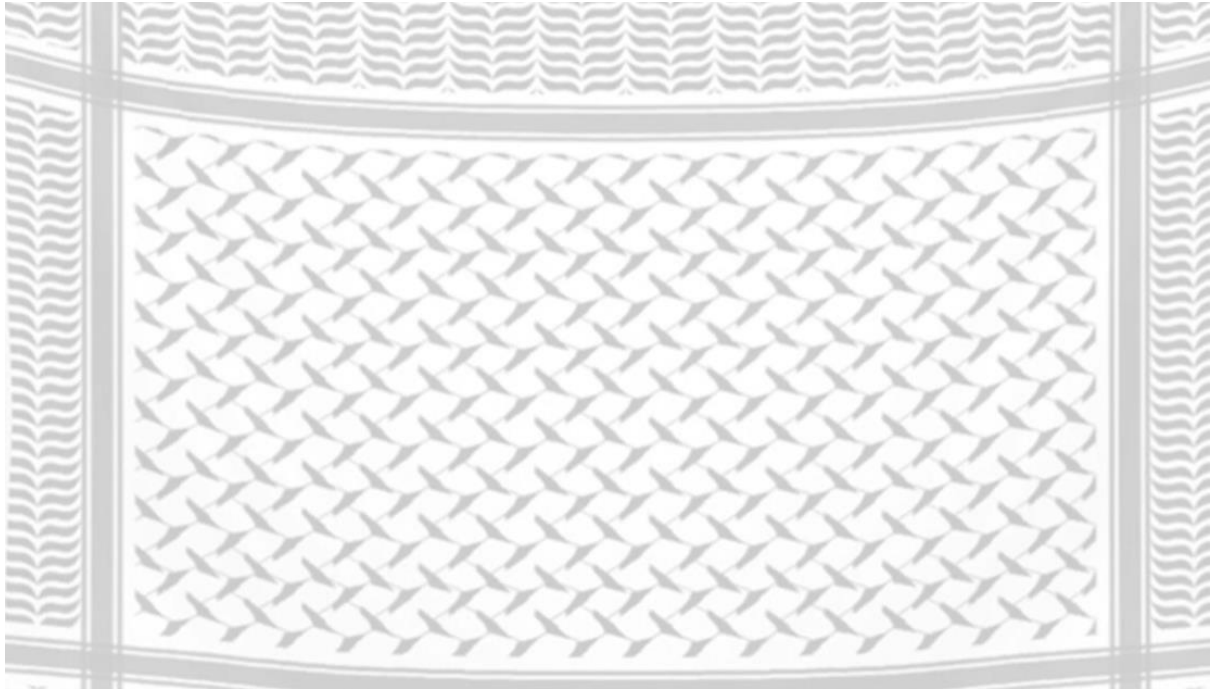


Story 9: Mice, help!



Story shared by: *Marija*

Representing: *Palestinian and lives in Belgrade.*

The Story:

There is an abandoned village. For years, no one lived there until the mice settled in. Over time, the mice arranged the village to suit their needs, creating tunnels and building houses underground.

One day, a herd of elephants headed toward a pond near the mice's village. They went there to rest and drink water, but as they passed through the mice's village, they damaged the tunnels and underground houses the mice had built. When they reached the pond, the leader of the mice appeared.

"Who's in charge here?" asked the leader of the mice. "We have lived in this village for years, and we have come to ask you to take a different route on your way back. We worked hard to build our houses and tunnels, and now they are damaged because you passed through. We know that our efforts may mean nothing to you, but who knows – maybe one day you will need our help."

The elephant laughed and said, "There's no way we'll ever need help from a mouse! But fine, we'll take a different path on our way back."

The elephants kept their promise and took a different route from the pond. However, there was a trap. The king knew the elephants would pass that way, and his men surrounded them and captured



them. They trapped the elephants in nets and tied them to trees. One elephant managed to escape from the king's men. Since he couldn't help on his own, he went to the mice.

"We need your help," he said.

At his request, the mice went to the place where the elephants were tied. They began gnawing at the nets, chewing and chewing until they freed the elephants. Then, the elephants realized they should not have underestimated the mice because, even though they were small and seemingly insignificant, they were able to free them from the king's trap.