

Peaceland by Saamiya Khan

My name is Saamiya and I am 11 years old. I attend Whimsical Primary School in Peaceland. I didn't always live in a peaceful place. I was living in Wonderland during World War III. I remember hearing a siren blaring and announcement being made throughout the land: "Alert! Alert! Country X is going to invade our land! Everyone is advised to rush to a safe shelter."

My parents could hardly speak. They were left both shocked and scared. Suddenly, I heard a gunshot outside my house and I was sure that Country X's soldiers were approaching. I heard their feet marching and our front door breaking open. Then, I saw a few soldiers grabbing my parents. "We know that we cannot escape but you can! Knock three times, clap three times and look at the mirror in our bedroom," Father told me before he was dragged away. I knew I had to make haste and so I ran into their bedroom and followed Father's instructions.

Suddenly I fell into an illusion. I felt so dizzy that I thought this was real magic and I was right! I found myself standing on a piece of cotton and thought I was flying. When I looked around, I could see big houses in different types of colours. The air smelled as fresh as morning dew and there were animals, fairies the size of humans, children and fairytale characters. The fascinating thing about the animals was that they were kind and could also talk. I tried to taste the water from the fountain and it was as sweet as honey.

Out of nowhere, a tour guide approached me. "You must be Saamiya. Your parents have sent me a message to take care of you." You may not believe me but my tour guide was Cinderella! When I looked at myself, I realized that I was no longer wearing my T-shirt and pants but I was decked in a gown, just like Cinderella! I was overwhelmed with joy. "Welcome to Peaceland. In this place you and I will be living in a grand, big mansion painted in purple. I will be showing you around," Cinderella added. I was excited but at the same time, sad because I had lost my parents.

However, when I entered the mansion, I was awed and mesmerized by its appearance. The floor of the mansion was made of glass and marble and the walls were painted in my favourite colour, purple. My bathroom has a bathtub and a Jacuzzi. I knew I was going to be as happy as a lark living in Peaceland. I went on many treasure hunts with Cinderella and I became more and more familiar with the place.

Every day, I discovered something new about Peaceland. Once, I saw a cat talking to a person. Other times, I witnessed many animals talking and playing with the fairies. I learned that everyone living in Peaceland, including the animals, were very generous. The fairies and people would take care of the animals and in turn, the animals would give them juicy, sweet mangoes from their trees. I also realized how much the citizens loved nature. They would grow plants and crops frequently and no one would pluck flowers.

Everyone lived harmoniously with one another. Even though everyone was rich, they would share their things among themselves. There was no such thing as money or greed and everyone was very kind. On occasions like birthdays, a wedding or a festival, the fairies and animals would give each other rare, precious gifts, that were not commonly found in Peaceland.

Despite the peace in the place, there were a few disagreements. I once witnessed two fairytale characters quarreling about something. One of them said in frustration, "Why did you take my precious diamond book? It's not yours!" The other replied defensively, "I didn't take it! Why don't you understand?" The quarrel was soon resolved by a child. "Calm down, you two!" said the child. "If you didn't take his book, I will ask the King of Peaceland to give him another book. Now, both of you can be friends again?" the child asked innocently. The two characters agreed, shook hands and asked for one another's forgiveness.

It's been three years since I've arrived in Peaceland. I never regretted my decision to listen to my father and escape from Wonderland. I don't think I will ever be leaving Peaceland as it is now my home and I feel very contented living here.