

## The Elephant Doctor of Baghdad by George Y6

One day thirteen-year old Hammed was fishing with his dad. He never liked fishing because he loved animals and didn't like eating them either. He had been known for catching lots of fish but he never wanted to; it was like they were attracted to him. He lived in a big village owned by the cruel landlord. His house was not the best but livable with his mother, two sisters and some hope.

That day, he came back from fishing when he saw his mother pleading to the landlord for more time to pay the rent. He then said "You have until the next full moon!" as he smashed a lit oil lamp and rode away on his muscular, white horse with a huge grin on his face.

The next day Hammed set off early in the morning to find a job that could pay him handsomely in the great city of Baghdad. On his way there, he saw a man on a huge, beautiful elephant with marble white tusks. He ran from it as it approached and rushed to the great city.

He was famished as he walked through the huge gates into Baghdad. Then he saw a huge elephant in a filthy cage being carried to the king's palace. It looked scared and sad but it seemed he was the only one to notice. He then tried to stop them and reason with them but he was shoved into a huge man who took him to be judged. He was sentenced to two months in prison for arguing with royal palace guards. He was placed in a stone cell with nothing to do but pray to get out and so he did.

Hours later, a quite large man came and said "Come I have something to show you," with a low deep voice. As Hammed followed him he asked "What do you want to show me?" but there was no answer. He turned into a dark alley, in between two huge houses, where there was a house with a huge wooden wall all the way around it. Inside the wall was the huge elephant he saw on the way there. It was sick and tired from the long trip from Egypt.

"If you can heal her you will be paid handsomely but if you kill her the male will kill you but do not worry he is not here," he said sarcastically and laughed. Hammed ran to the House of Wisdom as his dad had said it was filled with the knowledge of the world but he had never been in there. As he approached, he was confronted by a guard who wouldn't let him in because he was not a scholar. He waited until he wasn't looking and ran straight past him. As he went in he realised he couldn't read. He looked and asked an old man where the books on elephants were. He pointed to one huge book on a carved wooden elephant head. "Thank you," he said politely.

On a few pages in he found a picture of a plant which grew in an oasis near his house. He ran and ran to his old broken down house to ask his mother where it was.

In the morning he walked- as he was tired from yesterday- to the oasis to find a huge lion sleeping next to the plant. He couldn't wait so he crept and snagged the plant. As he crept away, he heard a huge yawn and growl and ran for his life, the lion on his tail but then he heard a yelp and the lion disappeared. He never knew what happened but he was grateful to Allah.

When he got back the elephant was still sick but it looked very slim. He gasped as a baby elephant nudged into him from behind. Quickly he gave the healing plant to it, when suddenly the man said "No get out quick she will kill you if you get too close to the baby." Hammed ran to the house and got paid a few gold dinars. This was how a young boy named Hammed became a well known elephant doctor