WATCH OUT FOR MINES!
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Prepared by SERVE

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SERVE, Box 477, Peshawar
Some boys were up on the mountainside. Daoud was also there. He found a green toy. It looked like a bird.

As he picked it up, it exploded! There was a terrible bang and fire. He felt severe pain in his face, hands and legs.
Daoud screamed all the time. He thought he would die.

Daoud was taken to a hospital. The Doctors did what they could for him. His father was with him all the time.
His eyes were gone, and his right hand. He had a lot of bandages. His father tried to feed him.

Daoud told his father how it happened.

"It was such a nice green bird. Why did it explode when I picked it up?"
Back in the village after Daoud was taken to the hospital, the Mujahideen got to know what happened.

The leader said to the children, "Never touch anything that is found out of place. It could be a mine which is very dangerous. There are mines shaped like toy cars, pens, torches and money purses."
One of the boys said, "But it was a green nice bird! I saw it also. What should we have done then?"

"You should put stones around it like this to show where it is. Then you should have told us."
Nadir had been out with the goats. His brother was with him. They had been out the whole day. As it got dark they started toward home.

Then it happened! Nadir stepped on a mine! There was a big explosion!
Nadir did not know what had happened. He was unconscious. His legs were badly injured. Two goats were dead.

Nadir's mother came running. Blood was coming from his wounds. His mother and everyone were crying.
Nadir's uncle brought a cot. Others helped him carry Nadir to a hospital. The trip took many days.

The Doctor had to amputate his legs. All the people were nice to Nadir. But he had no legs.
Nadir lived and recovered. He was a clever boy. He learned to read. His uncle was with him.

The wounds healed. Then he got prostheses and crutches. He could move about a little with them.
The Lord is my Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness for
His name's sake.

Even though I walk through
The valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,
For you are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, 
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me 
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; 
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me 
all the days of my life.

And I will dwell in the house 
of the Lord forever.

-The Prophet Daoud
Mahmood and his friend were on their way home. It was evening and nearly dark.

Mahmood walked ahead. He had a stick in his hand. He did not see the mine. It exploded!
Mahmood fell to the ground. When he tried to look around, his friend was there.

His lower jaw did not function as Mahmood tried to talk. Blood came from his face.
Then he felt pain in his eyes and face. But he was able to get up and walk. His friend helped him to a nearby house.

The people there were very kind. They helped him to lie down. He stayed there until the next day.
His friend bandaged his face and also bandaged his jaw, because it was broken.

Then they got ready to leave. His friend and another man helped him walk to the hospital.
It was not too far.
The hospital was in a cave.
A doctor took good care of him.

The next day Mahmood was sent by truck to a larger hospital. There they set his jaw right and cared for his eyes.
A National Anthem

This is the apple of our eyes,
And the light of our hearts,
This is the sign of our honour,
This is our life forever.
This is our reputation and national pride.
It is sweeter to us than all the world.
It is higher than the lofty sky.
This is our Afghanistan.
This is our Afghanistan.

Bravery is our occupation,
Our sacrifice, our standard.
Independence is our habit.
Guarding our country is our dignity.
Honour and zeal are our pride.
Afghan3 forever
Keep their heads high in the world.
This is our Afghanistan.
This is our Afghanistan.

—Abdullah Ghamkhhor
Zargona, her sister and her brother were gathering sticks for fuel. They did not find many.

Zargona reached out for a stick. As she did, a mine exploded!
Her father came running. Zargona was lying on the ground. Her right arm was badly injured. One eye was in a mess.

Father carried the girl home. Children and big people followed crying. Mother came running to meet them.
Zargona was taken to the hospital.

"It is not good that children gather sticks in these fields. There are many mines here."

"You wouldn't need so many sticks if you had a solar cooker. It is just a box like this. I got one from SERVE. I will show it to you."
The Mujahid brought the solar cooker.

He opened the lid and took 4 pots out.
"Bring meat, rice and vegetables. I will cook it in this box."

These were brought out from the house. The Mujahid put it in the pots.

He put the pots into the cooker.

"After 2 hours the food will be ready!"
"But how will it cook?"

"By the sun!"

"Is he sick in his mind?"

"Mommy, I am hungry!"

"Bring a tablecloth and plates!"
The Mujahid put big gloves on.

He opened the lid on the cooker.

The Mullah said the blessing.

He put the steaming pots on the table. It smelled nice!
"It tastes good!"

"Amazing! The food is cooked!"

"And the cooker does not cost much. Not more than one month's fuel."

Zargona's grandfather said, "I will buy one!"
Havah and her son and her mother-in-law washed clothes at the river.

Then Havah gave her son a wash also. The sun was shining. Everything was beautiful.
Then Havah went to pick up the clothes. She wanted to spread them out to dry. When she put the heap of wet clothes on the ground, there was an explosion!

Havah was thrown to the ground. There was fire all around her. She felt terrible pain in her eyes and face.
Her son screamed. Her mother-in-law rushed to her and tried to help her.

Other women came. They helped Havah home. There was blood all over her face. She could not see anything.
Havah was lying on her mattress. She was lying there many days in pain. She knew that she had become blind.

Her father-in-law heard about an eye hospital. He said, "I will take you there."
The journey was long. It was difficult. Havah rode on a camel. Finally they came to the hospital in the city.

The doctor could not save her eyes. Havah was blind.
Her wounds healed, but her world was dark. Havah did not want to live. But the people encouraged her.

"Life is not over!"

"We will make artificial eyes for you. You will look beautiful again!"

"But how ugly I will be without eyes!"
A lady showed Havah how to do things herself. Havah was afraid and hesitant. But she learned more and more.

One day Havah got a long white cane. She was taught how to use it to get around on her own.
She got her artificial eyes. Everyone was happy to see her. Havah was thankful for all the help, even though she could not see.

Her father-in-law brought her back to the village. Her little son ran to meet her. He embraced her and said, "Mommy, I love you!" Then Havah felt that it was good to be alive!
This mine looks like a butterfly.

The mines are spread from the air.
This mine looks like a stick.

The mines are stuck in the ground with wire between them.
A pressure mine looks like a snuffbox.

The mine is usually buried in the ground.
A pressure mine looks like a snuffbox.

The mine is buried in the ground.
A pressure mine.

The mines are scattered on the ground.
This mine is spread from the air.

These two pieces are the mine's top and container.
This mine is a wooden box. It is closed and buried in the ground.
The wooden box is opened.
This mine is a set of batteries.

The batteries are buried in the ground and only the wires might be seen.
This is an anti-tank mine, looking like a piece of wood.
This is an anti-tank mine. The mine is buried in the ground.
Three different ways of marking a mine.

Stones put round about a mine.

Stones put across the road in front of a mine.

A white M on a red flag.
You are reminded again that:

*Never touch anything that is found out of place.

*It could be a mine which is dangerous.

*Mark it with stones or a red flag.

*By doing this you warn others of danger.

*Tell the village elders what you found and where you found it.
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Read in this book about Daoud, Nadir, Mahmood, Zargona and Havah, and see different kinds of mines, and learn to be careful!

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