

# Jaspa's Journey.... The Treasure Hunt of Aleppo

By Sham Alkehlou

"I'm so excited to get on the bus" said Sam.

"Me to" replied Jaspa and his brother

"Hurry up, the bus is leaving!" Jaspa yelled

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This story is based on real places in Aleppo Syria. Aleppo was conquered by Muslims troops and later repairs were made to the citadel after a major earthquake. Aleppo has a population of 4.6 living there, Aleppo city only speak Arabic and some French. Aleppo city is also the second largest city in Syria after Damascus. You might think that ses are small and they will not make it to the treasure and you might be right but, we will figure this out by reading the book to the end.

"Stop pushing me," asked Jaspa.

"It's not my fault. We are on a bus full of people," Biskits answered.

"Oh oh," said Jaspa, thinking that they will be stuck in the middle of nowhere.

"Why is the bus stopping? We're still not there yet," asked Biskits.

"Why did we stop?"asked Gravee

Finally they stopped and got out of the bus. They knew that they will not be able to go anywhere before the bus gets fixed.

"What are you doing in the middle of nowhere?" asked an old lady.

"Who are you?" wondered Jaspa and the others.

“I’m just an old lady trying to help” replied the old lady.

“Help with what?” Jaspa asked, confused.

“It looks like you won’t be leaving this place for a while” replied the old lady.

“Why do you care” barked Biscuits.

“Well, I care because I like to help” replied the old lady.

“Help with what?” wondered Biscuits and the others.

“You will know later, now you can all rest at my house if you would like since you don't have anywhere to stay” the old lady answered.

Jaspa and the others where creeped out by the old lady. They didn't know what she was talking about so they were a little scared. They had no other choice but to go with the old lady.

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“So where are we?” said Gravee.

“This is my house,” said the old lady.

Jaspa and the others stared at the house for a moment. It look like a witch's house, from the outside. The walls were all dork red, broken windows, the fences were all dirty and it had a garden with dead flowers and poison plant. From the inside everything was covered, sofas, tables and lamps. The walls were a dark color of red and brown/ The floor was like it was never cleaned and spider webs everywhere. Jaspa and the others were really scared ...

“Do you live here?”asked Biscuits.

“Yes I do, do you mind?”wondered the old lady.

“No, no it’s a nice place” replied Jaspa.

“Ok, good because you will be staying here” said the old lady.

Jaspa and the others were scared of how the house looked and were wondering if this lady live here shouldn't she clean here house. If she's really living here shouldn't she at least have someone live with here, why does she live by herself.

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Finally it was night time and Everyone was getting ready to go to bed, but the old lady was getting ready to tell a story none of the Ses wanted to hear it, but they had no other choice...

“Finally the story ended” said Biskits.

“Is the story true?” asked Gravee.

“Yes” replied the old lady.

“Can we ask some questions?” asked Jaspa and the others

“Well yes” replied the old lady.

“How did you know about this?” Biskits asked

“I was trying to find the treasure that's how I know about it” replied the old lady.

“Where is this place?”asked Jaspa.

The woman new where the treasure was but she wanted to make it an adventure for the ses, she gave them a clue to solve.

Clue: I can be used to make castles, but crumble in your hand. I can help a person see and I'm found all around lands”.

The next morning. The Ses where getting ready to go and solve the clue, Once they solved the clue it lead them to the Citadels castle a place in Aleppo city. Citadel castle is considered the largest and one of the oldest castles in the world. The citadel castle lies on a large hill in the center of the city of Aleppo in Syria. The ground steps that lead up into Citadel castle which stands 50m above Syria second city on the remains of Hellenistic. The great throne room inside the castle loaded with sand begs and the

ancient windows are starting to break away. Citadel and the surrounding area was once one of Aleppo's major attractions for both local and foreign tourists. The citadel castle has a bridge way to going inside, at the door.

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"Finally," said Biscuits.

"Now where are we looking?" asked Gravee.

"Wait, where is Biscuits?" asked Jaspa.

"We haven't seen him for a while," said Sam.

"Well we got to look for him," yelled Jaspa.

Biscuits got swept away by a woman tour guide in the castle and the woman didn't notice. Jaspa and the others go around the city asking for Biscuits or if they saw him walking around but the problem is that know one there talks English they only speak Arabic they would of found Biscuits if the new a little bit of French.

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After looking for Biscuits they decided that since they didn't find Biscuits they will go looking for the other clue and see if they can find anything about Biscuits.

After looking in the castle the found a clue in a wall painting.

clue: In a framed picture, you will find a colourful feather is standing you can't see it standing but you can see it running.

The clue didn't make any sense to the Ses, but after looking into they found a picture in the National Museum of Aleppo. It is the largest museum in the city of Aleppo. It was also found in 1931. It is located in the heart of the northern city on Baron hotel and near the Bab al-Farag clock tower. In the 1931 under the decision of the Syrian authorities, a small ottoman palace was designed to be com the national museum in the city of Aleppo. The museum has a picture that has a peacock drawing that looked like its standing but really it was running. Once the ses got there their reaction was like the saw a ghost. The museum looked so beautiful, the ground had green blocks which were grass and grey blocks which were cement blocks, the big front door had statues shaped like people from the 1980 and standing on big animal statues. From the inside there were stock photos for animals and different things. The front of the museum there are

lots rocks shaped like people, animal, benches, fountains from the old times. From the inside there are also statues, lots of old time things like jars, plates, cups, all different things. The museum also has a little outdoor museum so if you would like to go outside.

“Ok, whee are we looking?”asked Sam.

“Look for a picture that has a peacock drawing” replied Jaspa.

“Sam and Gravee go left and the others will com with me we’ll go right” said Jaspa.

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“I found it, I found it!!!” yelled Gravee.

“Ok where is it?” asked Biskits.

“I see it, i see it!” replied Sam.

“How are we going to get it?” asked Mad.

The Ses didn't know how to get it because it was behind the drawing and it was high up on the wall and the Ses were to small to get to it. The Ses saw a later and the thought they can climb the ladder to get the clue, but the problem is that the ladder was too far from the picture so they had to wait until someone came to move it closer.

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“Look!” said Mad.

“Someone is bringing the ladder to the picture,” said Sam

The ses were able to get to the picture and get the clue it was hard for them to get to it but they did.

Clue: leave me and you will find the treasure, use me and you will find Allah's pleasure.

The Ses didn't know what that clue meant just like the other clues but this one was harder because they didn't even know if that place is still there and even if it is how do they know where it is and how there going to get there. That place was a mosque. People build a courtyard, single-domed fountain in the mosque. The mosque had black and white stone floor that forms into a diamond to show the world that humans are all equal. The mosque also has a small museum that contains numbers of ancient manuscripts. The courtyard also has an open prayer area including a sundial. There are three long halls leading outward of the courtyard. Each hall leads to the leaders bible and outstanding views. A small tower can be seen at the door when you enter. The hallway door are shaped like half ovals. There are two fountain that have plants around it. From the inside there are green rugs all over the place so people can pray on them and there are lots of chandelier to light up the hallways you just have to look up and you will see chandelier on top of you. From the outside there is a tiny park so if anyone wants to go there before or after there prayer. At the park there is a tiny pond that looks like a fountain. The windows are made of wood and glass. At the night time there would be lights in different colours on. At the door there is a huge shoe rack so people can change in to different shoes before going in. On Fridays the mosque would be full of people praying. Here the Ses thought to split up and try to look for Biscuits and the clue there looking for.

“Ok, Gravee and Sam go through the left hall, Portia and mad go through the right hall and I will go through the middle door,” said Jaspa.

“Ok” replied everyone,

“Help, help!” yelled a person.

“Do you hear this?” asked Gravee.

“No, hear what?” replied Sam.

“It sounds like Biscuits, listen,” said Gravee.

“Yeah you’re right, it sounds like Biscuits,” replied Sam.

“Biscuits is that you?” yelled Gravee.

“Help me, please,” said Biskits.

“Biskits it’s us, Gravee and Sam,” replied Gravee.

“Biskits, we are here to save you, where are you?” said Sam.

After Sam and Gravee saved Biskits they went back and met up with Jaspa and the others. Jaspa found the clue he read it before telling anyone and he thinks it leads to two places.

Last clue: The place you started at is the place where you will find what you're looking for.

Jaspa knew it was where they first started looking for the treasure and that place is where the old lady is because when they first met they old lady she told them about the treasure and gave them the first clue to start with. Jaspa also thought of the citadel castle where they first started looking for the clues...

After the ses decided to separate again and each group can go and in a place one group will go to the citadel castle and the other group will go to the old lady and asked here if they can look in her house for the treasure.

“ Gravee, Sam and Biskits will go to the old lady. Mad and Portia and I will go to the citadel castle”

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“Ok, so what specifically are we looking for here?” asked Biskits.

‘Ok, so we are looking for a hidden door a secret room or something” replied Jaspa.

Meanwhile...

DING DONG,DING DONG

“Hello,” said the old lady.

“Hello, mama it’s me Gravee and I’m here with Sam and Biscuits,” answered Gravee.

“Can we com to your house and look for something” said Sam.

“Why, I am not going to let you in my house if you don’t tell me why” yelled the old lady.

“Well, we found the last clue for the treasure and it lead us to your house and now we need to get into your house and look for it” explained Gravee.

“Ok, but you guys have 10 minutes to find the treasure” replied the old lady.

“Ok, thank you we will be very fast” said Sam.

A few minutes later...

“Guys, I found something,” yelled Jaspa.

“What, what did you found,” asked mad.

“Look, it’s the treasure we’re looking for, we found it finally,” replied Jaspa.

“Wait, how are we going to open this,” asked Portia.

“I know how but first we need to meet up with the rest of us,” said Jaspa.

“Ok, I will go to the old lady’s house and com back with the rest,” replied Mad.

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“Ok, we are all here, now how do we open this?”asked Biscuits.

“Ok, so when I found the clue I found it in a fountain and with it there was a key to open this treasure chest.

Well Jaspa was looking for the treasure he was also looking for a key to open the treasure chest. Jaspa knew that if there is a treasure chest then there must be a key to open it so he was looking for a key or something that will open the chest.

“Oh, so that’s why you wanted me to get the rest, you wanted us to know what we’re doing and what were dealing with” asked Gravee.

This story might not be realistic, but the places that the Ses went to are pretty places and they are real.

Hope you enjoyed.

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