The Turn That Did Not Disappear

Picture story • Ages 3–5 • B13

Sami hurried to the swing, but Rami was already flying high. “I want my turn now!” Sami said. “I’m not finished yet,” Rami answered.

Sami waited beside the swing. One minute passed, then another. What if playtime ended before his turn? Laith arrived carrying three colored stones.

Laith placed the stones on the bench: blue for Rami, green for Sami, and yellow for himself. “After each turn, we move one stone. Then we can see who has played and who is waiting.”

Rami moved the blue stone, slowed the swing, and climbed down. “Sami’s turn,” he said. Sami climbed on and began to swing.

Sami pushed his feet once, twice, three times. He looked toward his green stone to remember the agreement. He wanted one more push, but he moved his stone and climbed down. “My turn,” Laith said.

Laith finished and stepped down. No one shouted, and no one had to guess. “I thought my turn would disappear,” Sami said. “It didn’t,” Rami replied. “And Laith’s turn didn’t disappear either.” The stones kept their agreement safe until the last turn.

A Turn You Can See

Question: What worried Sami? How did the stones help him see his turn and everyone else’s turn?

Safe activity: Put two large colored markers beside a shared home game. Move one marker after each turn, then practice exchanging two turns without grabbing or rushing.

For the grown-up: Keep turns short and visible. Remind children of the agreement before conflict grows. The marker protects each turn; it does not rank the children. Replace small stones with large cards if mouthing is a risk.

Original fiction inspired by “Until the Self Grows Steady — Rights and Building Community,” physical PDF pages 6, 16, and 93. No direct Qur’an or hadith quotation appears in the child text.