

Family of Angels

Sadat Golestaneh

BEFORE YOU READ:

1. What does it mean to refer to someone as your angel?
2. Is there someone (or some group of people) who has been an angel in your life? Share the story.

How Would I Deal with the Loneliness?

I remember the day I immigrated to the United States. It was a beautiful day, and I was excited, but I also felt a lot of stress. I was entering a completely new world. As the plane approached the Boston airport, I loved seeing the dark blue ocean and dense green trees. The colors were stunning.

As we drove to our new home from the airport, I felt tired and confused. I had decided to say goodbye to my parents and emigrate forever. I was thinking about how much I would miss them. I was wondering how I would deal with the loneliness that lay ahead. I was still deep in thought when we arrived at our house. When the car turned into the driveway, I saw sunlight shining down on our new home. I saw tall trees and a garden with beautiful flowers. I was so happy to be home after our very long journey from Iran.



When I opened the door of the breezeway, the floor was covered in flowers and candles all the way to the front door. Beautiful pink flowers with large green leaves filled the entryway, and colorful candles next to the flowers multiplied their beauty. I was so inspired to see this scene that all my fatigue and stress were instantly gone! I asked my husband, “Who did this?”

A New Friend Shows Me Kindness

He answered, “Hoda and Mahmoud must have done it.” Mahmoud is my husband’s friend from Iran. Hoda is his wife. Later, when I saw Hoda, I hugged her and thanked her for the incredible welcome she had made for me. My friendship with Hoda started from that moment. She is like an angel, my helper who is always with me. Hoda



has shown me that kindness can change the way people experience the world.

This friendship has lasted for six years, and we are getting closer every day. Hoda, Mahmoud, and their child, Hiram, have been strong supporters of our family ever since we came to

the U.S. Since our son Benyamin was born, this family has helped us take care of him.

They treat my son with so much love and affection.

Whenever my son

counts his family members, he includes Hoda, Mahmoud, and Hiram.

They make us laugh louder, smile brighter, and live better. They are our family of angels.

They Are Our Family of Angels

Last year, I had to be hospitalized for about a week due to illness. Without the help of Hoda and her family, I would not have been able to focus on healing. When I had to be hospitalized, my son just stayed with Hoda, who took care of him with compassion, kindness, and patience. I appreciate all their goodness and generosity, and I hope we will always be happy together.

Good friends show their love in times of trouble, not just in times of happiness. Hoda, Mahmoud, and Hiram are the people in our life that make us laugh louder, smile brighter, and live better. They are our family of angels.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. How did Hoda, Mahmoud, and Hiram act like angels toward Sadat and her family? Be specific.
2. Look at the pull quote on this page. *Laugh, smile, and live* are verbs. They are actions. *Louder, brighter, and better* are adverbs. They describe the verbs. Write several sentences using adverbs. (Note: many adverbs end in *ly*.)

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Angels in Religion

Angels show up in Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Another thing these religions have in common is that they are all monotheistic. That means they all believe in one God. Research these and other world religions to find out what they have in common and how they differ.



Statue of a Christian angel by Michelangelo (1494–95), Bologna, Italy.



An Islamic angel depicted in an Arabic manuscript.



The Archangel Metatron is mentioned in the Jewish text, the Talmud.