**[EZ Speech Writers No. 14938]**

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A brief presentation by Mohammed Alnaama about the critical need throughout the world for organ donations to save lives.

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GOOD [MORNING/AFTERNOON/EVENING] MY FRIENDS: I’M DEEPLY GRATEFUL THAT YOU’VE ALLOWED ME THIS LITTLE BIT OF YOUR TIME TO HEAR MY PLEA.

[TODAY/TONIGHT] I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT GIFTS. THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, WE RECEIVE MANY KINDS OF GIFTS, THE FIRST ONE BEING, OF COURSE, THE GIFT OF LIFE, BESTOWED ON US BY CREATOR. WE DON’T REALLY SEE THIS AS A GIFT UNTIL WE’RE MUCH OLDER; BUT THEN WE REALIZE THAT THIS GIFT OF LIFE IS A WONDERFUL GIFT TO US AND ONE THAT MUST BE CHERISHED.

AND THEN, FROM THE MOMENT WE’RE BORN, WE START GETTING ALL KINDS OF OTHER GIFTS THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES. BIRTHDAY GIFTS. HOLIDAY GIFTS. GRADUATION GIFTS. THANK-YOU GIFTS. “CONGRATULATIONS” GIFTS. GIFTS OF ALL SORTS AND DESCRIPTIONS.

SOME OF THESE GIFTS ARE KIND OF FUNNY OR FRIVOLOUS — LIKE WHEN YOU GIVE A STUFFED DONKEY TO YOUR FAVORITE REPUBLICAN FRIEND ON HIS BIRTHDAY.

SOME OF THESE GIFTS ARE VERY SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT, LIKE THE ENGAGEMENT RING YOU GIVE YOUR BETROTHED [SPOUSE-TO-BE], OR THE FIRST BIBLE OR QUR’AN YOU GIVE TO YOUR ELDEST SON.

SOME OF THE GIFTS WE GET COME AS A TOTAL SURPRISE, WHILE OTHERS ARE PRETTY MUCH EXPECTED, LIKE THAT 10-SPEED BIKE YOU KEPT BUGGING YOUR PARENTS ABOUT FOR THE 364 DAYS SINCE *LAST* CHRISTMAS.

BUT ALL OF THESE KINDS OF GIFTS — LARGE OR SMALL, IMPORTANT OR FRIVOLOUS, USEFUL OR JUST PLAIN FUN — ALMOST ALWAYS HAVE TWO THINGS IN COMMON.

THE FIRST IS THAT THEY ALMOST ALWAYS COME FROM SOMEONE WE KNOW, OR SOMEONE WHO KNOWS US IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, EITHER THROUGH FAMILY, FRIENDS, COWORKERS, CONGREGATION MEMBERS, NEIGHBORS, AND SO ON. AND THE SECOND THING THAT ALL THESE GIFTS HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT THEY COST THE GIVER SOMETHING: IF THEY WERE PURCHASED, THEY COST THE GIVER MONEY. IF THEY WERE HANDMADE, THEN THEY COST THE GIVER TIME — TIME TAKEN FROM *THEIR* LIVES TO ENRICH OURS.

BUT [TODAY/TONIGHT], MY FRIENDS, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT A VERY DIFFERENT KIND OF GIFT, A GIFT THAT EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM IS CAPABLE OF GIVING, A GIFT THAT COSTS YOU NOTHING AND REQUIRES NOT A SECOND OF YOUR TIME. AND IT’S A GIFT TO A PERSON WHOSE FACE YOU’LL NEVER SEE AND WHOSE NAME YOU’LL PROBABLY NEVER KNOW.

THE GIFT I’M TALKING ABOUT IS THE GIFT OF LIFE.

PICTURE THIS SCENARIO. A FIRST-TIME MOTHER-TO-BE IS ONLY 18 WEEKS PREGNANT WHEN SHE GETS THE HORRIBLE NEWS FROM THE ULTRASOUND THAT HER BABY (I’LL CALL HER MARY) HAS A SERIOUS, SERIOUS HEART DEFECT, SOMETHING CALLED “HYPOPLASTIC LEFT HEART SYNDROME.” FROM THE MOMENT MARY WAS BORN, JUST AS THE DOCTORS HAD PREDICTED, HER LITTLE HEART BEGAN TO FAIL. CORRECTIVE SURGERY HELPED FOR A WHILE, BUT THEN, AFTER ONLY THREE MONTHS OF LIFE, MARY’S HEART STARTED TO FAIL AGAIN. SHE WAS GIVEN NO MORE THAN 10 DAYS TO LIVE. IMAGINE YOURSELF A PARENT GIVEN THIS DEVASTATING NEWS. IMAGINE THE HEARTACHE, THE FEAR, THE DESPERATION THAT MARY’S PARENTS MUST’VE FELT.

[LONG PAUSE.]

WELL, I’M VERY HAPPY TO REPORT TO YOU [TODAY/THIS EVENING] THAT MARY IS NOW A GORGEOUS, HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND COMPLETELY ACTIVE 8-YEAR-OLD, WITH A WHOLE LIFE OF JOYS AND SORROWS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FAILURES, LOVES AND LOSSES ALL AHEAD OF HER. AND DO I REALLY HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW THIS MIRACLE OCCURRED? IT OCCURRED BECAUSE VIRTUALLY AT THE 11TH HOUR, A COMPATIBLE HEART FROM AN ORGAN DONOR HALFWAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY WAS FOUND AND TRANSPLANTED INTO MARY’S LITTLE FOUR-MONTH-OLD CHEST. AN ANONYMOUS ORGAN DONOR SAVED MARY’S LIFE.

BELIEVE ME, HAD I THE TIME AND YOU THE PATIENCE, I COULD TELL YOU DOZENS AND DOZENS OF STORIES — IN FACT THOUSANDS OF STORIES — JUST LIKE MARY’S. BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT, RIGHT HERE IN THE UNITED STATES ALONE, THERE ARE NEARLY A HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE DESPERATELY WAITING FOR AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT. AND, I’M SORRY TO SAY, TWENTY-TWO OF THEM WILL DIE BECAUSE THE ORGAN THEY NEED WON’T BE FOUND IN TIME.

THAT’S TWENTY-TWO “MARY’S” EVERY DAY. MORE THAN EIGHT THOUSAND MARY’S EVERY YEAR. EIGHT THOUSAND LIVES THAT COULD BE SAVED. EIGHT THOUSAND FAMILIES WHO *WOULDN’T* HAVE TO BURY A LOVED ONE.

MY PURPOSE HERE THIS [MORNING/AFTERNOON/EVENING] IS VERY SIMPLE. I’M ASKING YOU TO BECOME AN ORGAN DONOR. IF YOU HAVEN’T ALREADY SIGNED UP SOMEWHERE, PLEASE GO THE WEBSITE OF THE UNITED NETWORK FOR ORGAN SHARING [OR OTHER ORGANIZATION] AND PUT YOUR NAME INTO THEIR DATABASE. THEY’LL SEND YOU A CARD FOR YOUR WALLET OR PURSE. THE “YOU-NOSS” WEBSITE IS [WWW.UNOS.ORG](http://WWW.UNOS.ORG). WRITE IT DOWN. I’LL WAIT. AND REMEMBER THAT, AS AN ORGAN DONOR, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HAS THE POWER, BY JUST THE STROKE OF YOUR SIGNATURE ON A SIMPLE FORM, TO SAVE UP TO EIGHT HUMAN LIVES.

ORGAN DONATION COSTS YOU NOTHING. UNDER MOST CIRCUMSTANCES IT’S APPROVED BY ALL RELIGIONS IN THE WORLD. AND BELIEVE ME, IT DOESN’T HURT AT ALL! [ANTICIPATE POSSIBLE CHUCKLE.]

I BEGAN MY REMARKS THIS [MORNING/AFTERNOON] TALKING ABOUT GIFTS. WELL, I’VE COME HERE THIS [MORNING/ AFTERNOON] TO ASK YOU TO GIVE THE MOST PRECIOUS AND THE MOST *UNSELFISH* GIFT ALL: THE GIFT OF LIFE.

THANK YOU, VERY MUCH, AND PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE: SIGN UP TO BE AN ORGAN DONOR TODAY!

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