

My nine-year-old grandson Abdullah asked me to go out and spend some time with him a few days before the US presidential elections. I suspected he meant to get me alone so I would spoil him and buy him some new toys. I cleared my schedule, picked him up, and asked where he would like to go? I was surprised that he just wanted to go to one of the cafes at The Promenade. So we sat at the café and I asked him what he wanted to talk about? “Perhaps you want to talk about your friends? School?” Then he told me, “No, I want you to tell me what would happen if Trump wins the election?” I was completely shocked that he would be concerned about something like that, but as everyone else thought at the time, I assured him that Trump wouldn’t win. So, he repeated the question in a different way, insistent that I tell him what would happen. Apparently he heard me talking to his father a few days earlier, telling him even if Trump won the election, Kuwait would be fine. Those words stuck with him and conflicted with the sarcasm and gossip he heard at school. Although children might not understand everything adults talk about, we transfer our concerns to them without even noticing. So I tried to avoid the issue and calm his mind the best I could. I told him we would be fine regardless because we enjoy good relations with everyone, thanks to God. We are blessed with a wise Emir, and our country and people are protected by God. He said, “I know all that, but why it would be *good* for Kuwait if Trump won?” I realized I wouldn’t get out of this without answering his question, so I told him, “Maybe Trump will take a tougher stance against Iran.” Of course, as children do, he answered with another question: “How?” I told him an old story to make the picture clear.