

Somali Smile

BY JUSTIN YAMANUHA, MD, AND FATIMA SHABA, BS

This poem was inspired by the Somali children and their parents who have come to the University of Minnesota Eye Clinic. We are grateful they have put their trust in us as their physicians. Translation and cultural insight were added by Fatima Shaba, whose family is from Somalia, the Land of Poets.

We meet as Patient, Parent, and Doctor,
united by the unforeseen.
Our faces masked but our eyes open.

We gather in an exam room
with computer monitors and microscopes,
our eyes connected and ears ready to hear.

We call an Interpreter, a stranger to us both,
who helps us listen and be heard;
a voice connecting us even from afar.

We discuss our next steps
to help find a cause and a treatment to heal
and take the next steps in our journey.

We smile and laugh sometimes
as we stay focused on our goal.
These are moments that do not need interpreting.

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Dhoolacadaaynka Soomaalida

Curinta Gabaygan waxaa loo waxyoodey carruurta Soomaaliyeed iyo waalidkood ee yimaada. Jaamacadda Minnesota ee Xarunta Indhaha. Waxaan uga mahadcelineynaa inay iyagu na aamineen annaga oo ah dhakhaatiirtooda. Turjumaad iyo aragti dhaqan oo ay ku dartay Arday Caafimaad, oo qoyskiisu ka soo jeedo Soomaaliya, Dhulkii Gabayaaga.

Waxan is baranay markaan ahayn bukaan, waalid, iyo dhaqtar.
Waxaan ku midoobney wax aan la arki karin.
Wejiygeena waxaa ku daboolnaa af qariye lakiin indhaheena weey
furnayeen.

Waxaan ku kulaney qolka dhakhtarka,
oo leh Diirada Kombiyuutarrada iyo mikroskoob.
Indhaheenna wey is egayeen iyo dhegaheena waxay diyaar u
ahayeen in aay is maqlaan.

Waxaan wacaney turjubaan oo naga fogaa labadeenaba si aan isu
fahamno.

Turjubaankan ma anan garanayn, waxuna ahaa qof qalaad.
Lakin noo turjumayey isago naga dhageesaneyey alada la isku
maqlo.

Waxaan ka wada hadalney talaabooyinkeena xiga.
Si lagaga caawin lahaa helitaanka sababta iyo daaweynta,
iyo talabooyinka xiga oo aan qadeeyno safarkan.

Mararka qaarkood waan dhoola cadeyney oo aan qosolney,
anagoo beegsaneyney ama diirada ku hayney hadafkeeni.
Daqiiqadahini waxeey ahayeen kuwo aan u bahneen in naloo
tarjumo. MM

