A Foolish Argument: Trina Ehsan

A man was selling blocks of ice. He left the ice boxes outside the shop, while he and his close friend sat beside them. Suddenly a dog jumped over the boxes.

The seller's friend said, 'Oh look, the dog jumped over the ice boxes and his tail touched the ice.'

'He jumped but his tail didn't touch the ice,' his friend said.

'I swear I saw it had touched.' His friend said.

'Believe me it hadn't touched.' The owner said.

'It had touched.'

'It hadn't.'

'It touched.'

'It didn't.'

They got frustrated and angry and started hitting each other and a fierce fight started between them. They ended up in hospital and one of them died due to severe trauma. Their families, who had been very close friends, became enemies.

This incident broadened and the two tribes started fighting against each other for years and years, until they reached peace with the intervention of other tribes.

After years of peace two young boys of each tribe met each other at the university and they recalled that event by saying, 'Our forefathers fought for many years over a pointless issue, and we were angry with each other for a long time.' Then one of them said, 'Do you know actually my grandfather was right, the dog's tail touched the ice.' His friend said, 'No, I think my grandfather was right. The dog's tail didn't touch the ice.' And each of them was insisting on his family's beliefs.

They started fighting with each other verbally, but people around them calmed them and stopped them fighting each other.

This is a real story, and we learn that we should not argue over topics that do not benefit us. In Islam there is a saying that if you stop arguing over a useless topic, even if … you are right you will be granted a palace in paradise.