

One Act of Kindness

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Gabriel was just a little boy and he wanted to change the world. He had no idea where to start, but he did not simply want to sit around. He went to his older brother for inspiration. Juan was busy texting his friends, and the only answer he gave Gabriel was: "You are too young to make a change." Gabriel simply nodded, but determined not to be defeated, he asked his other family members. "Mami, I want to change the world." "Oh, Gabriel, I am busy with a work call, but you are too young to worry about changing the world. Worry about yourself." "Papi, I want to change the world." "Gabriel, I am busy making dinner, but you are too young to worry about changing the world... why don't you go play outside!" He got the same answer from all of them. Gabriel knew it would not make much difference, but he went to ask his cat... but Simon just purred.

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The idea never left Gabriel. He was small... so maybe he could do something small instead of nothing at all. A few days later, he saw his neighbor's trash cans still out on the street. This surprised him because Mr. Greenlake was very organized. Gabriel decided to go and take them in for him, but as he did, he saw Mr. Greenlake laying on the ground. Gabriel got scared and began to shout: "Are you alright, Mr. Greenlake?!" But he did not reply. So Gabriel went inside to see if everything was alright. Mr. Greenlake was surprised to see his young neighbor, but explained that he had hurt his back and could not get up. Gabriel carefully helped him into bed, and throughout the next few days, Gabriel brought him meals and kept him company until Mr. Greenlake recovered.

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Mr. Greenlake began to think about Robert, his uncle who had been sick for a while. Robert lived in the next town over. "If a little kid can help me, I can go help my sick relative," he thought as he drove to his uncle's house. Mr. Greenlake stayed at his

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uncle's house for a few days, helping him get healthier. Mr. Greenlake cleaned his house and cleared his backyard. His uncle soon got better and was able to return to his job as a dry cleaner... and good thing he did, because on his first day back a woman came in tears saying her wedding dress was ruined. Robert was the best dry cleaner in town and was able to fix her dress and allow the wedding to continue.

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The wedding was fun and lively, and everyone loved the bride's dress. Joana was so pleased that Robert had fixed her grandmother's dress. Joana had long planned to get married wearing this family heirloom, but that the wedding had been rushed at the last minute. Joana had just learned that her future wife, Angelina, was going to be deployed the next day. Angelina was a Captain in the US army and was going to serve her tour of duty. Neither Joana nor Angelina wanted to wait that long to be married.

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Mrs. Thompson, Gabriel's teacher, shared pictures of her wedding day with the class. All the kids loved the pictures. Gabriel said, "Your dress is so pretty!" Mrs. Thompson laughed and said, "That is my grandmother's dress... but I am wearing it all thanks to Robert! I had to get my dress fixed at the last moment. And I was lucky because Robert had just recovered."

Later that day Gabriel told Mr. Greenlake about his teacher, and Mr. Greenlake told Gabriel that he had helped Robert, just like Gabriel had helped him. Gabriel's small action had not only helped one person, but it had rippled out and helped many more that he did not even know about! Gabriel then realized how he could change the world... one small action could trigger many others. He was small, but his small actions could change the world.

The End

This is how I will change the world... I will act with kindness. Because one small act of kindness can inspire others to do the same.