

SCRIPT: “The Overlooked Silver-linings of The Puzzle.”

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May, 2018

The purpose of this audio documentary is to shed light on Autism but from a more positive perspective. This audio will help clear misconceptions and show how people on the Autistic Spectrum can bring interesting and valuable qualities to society when given the chance. This is the exciting story of Kareem El-Gabri, a high functioning Egyptian Autistic adult.

MUSIC: FADE IN: Eracilon - Cellomane (0-42 secs from the start of the song)

KAREEM EL-GABRI (KG): “Hi my name is Kareem El-Gabri, I am an entrepreneur, I am the owner of Kareem's Awesome World.” (:05)

Running a place called Kareem's Awesome World is as thrilling as it sounds. When you first walk through the glass door, you immediately get immersed into the universe of comic books. It is a social hub and a co-working space for friends and colleagues to meet. The place is run by Kareem; a 23 year old college student who wears a special cape, but I'll tell you why later. It doesn't matter why you're going there, you'll still feel exhilarated with the spectacular superhero theme. But what is the story of this place and more importantly, what is the story of Kareem the protagonist of this story.

MUSIC: FADE IN: NicoHeidMusic - Calm Acoustic Background (0-108 secs from the start of the song)

DR. DUAA EL-HADARY (DH): “One day we were in our way back from England at Heathrow Airport” (:06)

That's Doctor Duaa EL-Hadary; Kareem's mother.

DH: “And there was a store that sells DVDs comics and video games. He spent like two hours inside that store and I have a lot of picture for him really taken away by the store buy stuff on the floor all over the place and really taken away. And then he came out from the store and sat next to me on the bench and said Mom How can someone get a job in a place like this. And for me it's like found it. I told him you can have your own store Kareem and this is how it all started really.” (:28)

Now, it's time to reveal Kareem's superpower.

KG: “I like to be awesome.” (:03)

Yeah I agree Kareem but that's not just it. Kareem is also on the Autistic Spectrum.

You may have heard about it you might even know about it but there is a high chance you only know the negatives and the misconceptions. Well I'm here to tell you it's more than what it leads on first of all a little brief about the Spectrum.

DR. HEBA KOTB (HK): "Autism Spectrum disorder is actually a disorder that has many ranges. This is called under the spectrum which means that there are varying degrees and varying symptoms but the main idea is lack of interaction or poor communication, language delay, and sometimes certain behavior problems."(:18)

That's Heba Kotb; Professor Psychology at the American University in Cairo. The legend of Autism is misunderstood but I'm here to show you the other picture.

HK: "We all have our different ways of dealing with people even if we don't have Autism. Some of us are over friendly some of us are overcautious some of us are extroverted, others are introverted."(:11)

MUSIC: FADE IN: Kaa Sound - A Journey to World (0-77 secs from the start of the song)

In the past and more specifically in the 1980s, the Autism Spectrum was starting to be more defined and more researched in developed countries like Sweden. But it took a while until the knowledge reached all the way to Egypt. Only recently not just regular people but even doctors started to get more aware and more acquainted with the Spectrum. Many years ago Autistic children were automatically marginalized because doctors couldn't properly diagnose them and parents felt lost and didn't know what to do.

DH: "I'm a doctor and his father is a pediatrician a consultant pediatrician. We both never heard so we looked at the diagnosis in our books and then saw Nelson the pediatric reference is very huge reference so it was like four lines saying: Autism is a lifelong mental disability and the rate was 1 to 10000 but today the rate is 1 to 68(000)."(: 31)

Most parents improvised and designed specific programs to make up for the scarcity of proper institutions in Egypt that helped with Autism development. Egypt still needs more developmental institutions and more awareness. But things are moving forward. I bet you didn't know that Autism Spectrum brings in many extraordinary qualities or as I prefer to say, it highlights many magnificent super heroic powers

MUSIC: FADE IN: Corporate Music - Funny and Upbeat Corporate (0-102 secs from the start of the song)

Like bringing laughter and delight to all around. Dr. Duaa recalls one funny situation.

DH: "His understanding for language is very literal social cues when he doesn't get it make it can end up with many funny cues into a situation like I remember he was in the states and he had a visual schedule. I was in Egypt and I heard that he scheduled his that the class is going to be moved to another for some project or something I tried to modify the schedule and I emailed him the new schedule. I told him 'Kareem', I text him on the WhatsApp, 'Kareem you have this new schedule emailed to you, download it and print it please dear.' Okay. He downloaded he printed but on the following day he didn't go to that place. Why? And then we figured out that I didn't say hang it he downloaded he printed but he left it in the printer" (:47)

Nour Enien is Psychology student interning at the Egyptian Autism Society and she also recalls an adorable moment.

NOUR ENIEN (NE): "One especially one of the kids was the one that I dealt with almost all the time and he had he was too sensitive, like his motor skills or motor sensitivity was too high. So he used to get tickled at the very minimal touch. And he loved it, he would always want us to like rub his hand a little bit so he could start laughing and he was so cute." (:27)

See! I told you it's more than what it seems.

MUSIC: FADE IN: Štefi Music – Happy Travelling (0-24 secs from the start of the song)

Now Kareem is putting all his focus to improve himself.

KG: "I work hard for my communication skills." (:03)

Always open to learn.

KG: "I learn from my customers" (:02)

And determined to achieve his goals

KG: "I promise myself self-independence" (:03)

Kareem is the real hero in our universe and the ultimate inspiration for all. If you ever feel discouraged by society's limitations, Kareem is here to tell you:

KG: "Don't let them bother you or get to you." (:03)

