



February, 2019

The 500th Story

www.lovetruth.org

Why god, why?

Every patient of Love Without Reason is special to us, and Rehan was no exception. He is the 500th successful surgery, and the story his parents, shared with us captured our hearts.

Rizwana, Rehan's mother, was barren the first six years of her marriage. She endured much shame, isolation, and humiliation from family members due to her barrenness. Her husband, Sher, is the oldest son, on his side of the family, which, in their culture is a great honor.

Finally, Rizwana gave birth to her first child, Ashraf, who was born with an eye disease. She was heartbroken with her child's suffering and hoped for more children who would be healthy. Her second pregnancy was a much-anticipated delivery. Rizwana described that day as a hopeful and exciting day. However, when the doctor brought baby Rehan to her, she nearly collapsed with the shock of his bilateral cleft lip. Her family was extremely upset that she would dare to give birth to a baby that was obviously cursed and would bring shame to the family. She struggled for several days with sorrow, anger, and pain. How could god allow such suffering of a child?

Sher, who works for \$5 per 12 -hour shift as a produce stocker, only met his baby several days after his birth. He could not stop weeping at the sight of his newborn son. The family lived below the poverty level and knew they could not afford any surgery to help Rehan. However, Sher loved Rehan.

"I love my son, no matter what he looks like. I don't care what the world says about my son. I just know that he is the most precious gift that was given to me."

- Sher

Rizwana tried multiple ways to feed baby Rehan. The milk that escaped through his nose was a constant reminder to her that she failed. She blamed herself for the stunted growth of Rehan. After many months of crying and struggling in Rehan's poor feeding and nutrition, the family learned of an upcoming medical camp in the Kolar area. This was the first time they heard the name **Love Without Reason**. After meeting Dr. Sathish and the LWR staff, they were comforted. The family

made the journey to Bangalore's Aster CMI Hospital for Rehan's surgery. Upon arrival at the hospital, our team took special care to ensure that all the needs of the family were met. Rehan was admitted to the pediatric unit and received all the pre-operative tests. In a few hours, the family was informed that Rehan had passed the tests and was ready for surgery



The look on Rizwana and Sher's faces when they saw baby Rehan after surgery was one of surprise, delight and shock all rolled in one! Then the tears came again. "Thank you, you have saved our family's honor. When there was no one to help us, Love Without Reason came to our aid. Truly, your name says it all."

Several months after his surgery, Rehan is continuing to recover well. Rizwana is overjoyed that he can drink his milk without it spurting through his nose. She feels that he is growing stronger now that he is able to feed better!

"Thank you, you have saved our family's honor. When there was no one to help us, Love Without Reason came to our aid. Truly, your name says it all"

- Rehan's family

Rizwana and Sher Ali Khan openly shared the social stigma, sorrow, and humiliation they faced as parents of a child with facial birth defects. Thanks to you, their story changed and so has Rehan's future! The entire family sincerely shares their appreciation and gratitude in the 500th Story.

Watch Rehan's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jWlxOMwrk>

We will continue the work, Until The World Is Cleft-Free!

- Susan Mathews



Below: Rehan with his parents after surgery



Shine!

FASHION SHOW

SILENT AUCTION | APRIL 6, 2019 | 6PM

Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta
1775 Pleasant Hill Rd
Duluth, GA 30096



REGISTER ONLINE AT www.lovewithoutreason.org

Save these dates:

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5KRun4Love on September 14, 2019 at the Tennessee Riverpark. Registrations open in June

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