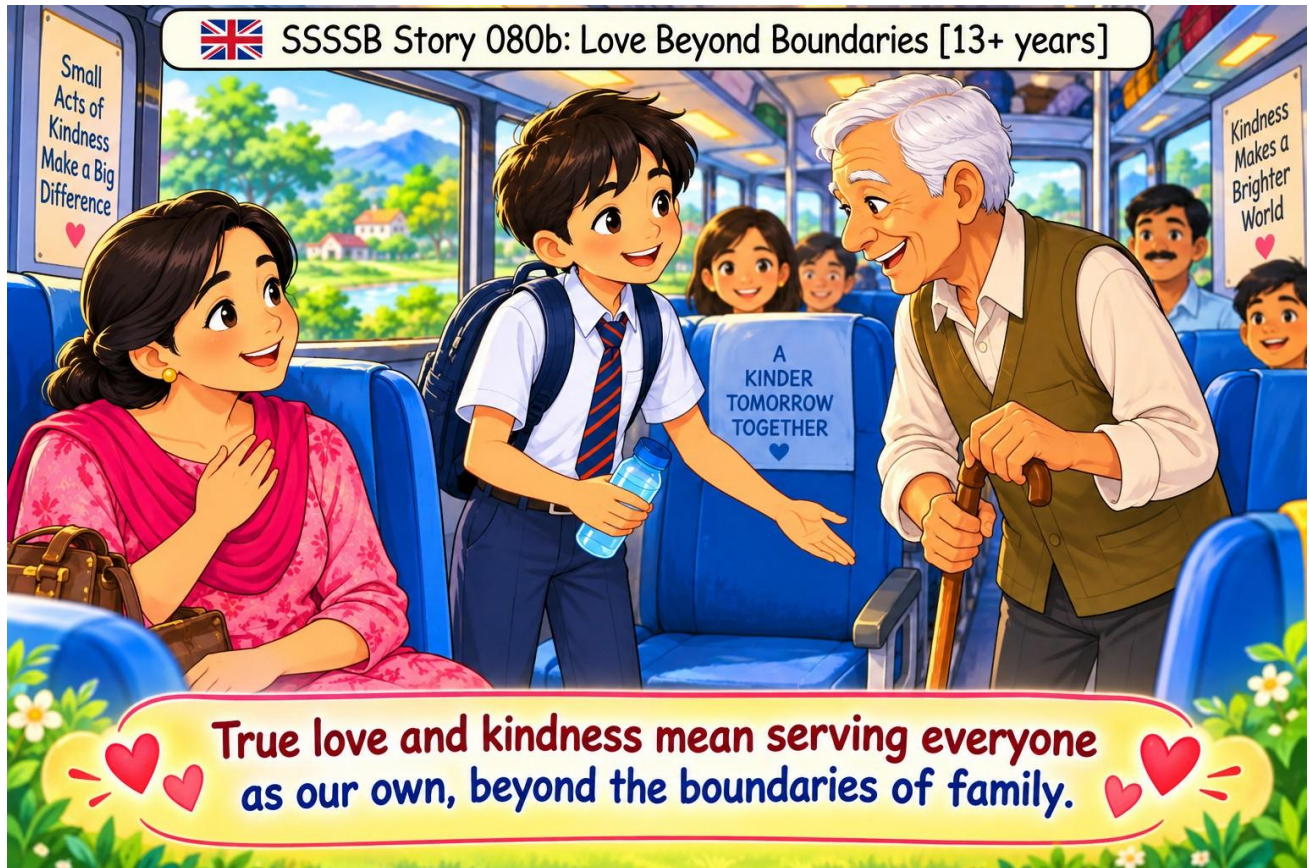




A humble family moved from their village to a town after the father was transferred to a new duty station. Each day, the parents prayed silently that their children would grow into good human beings.

By God's grace, the children were admitted to a school whose motto was *"Education for Character Development."* The teachers there were not only knowledgeable but also gentle, kind, and respectful. They gave priority to manners and values, reminding students: *"Academic education and spiritual education are like the two wings of a bird. Only when both wings are strong can we truly fly."*

The teachers lived what they taught. They spoke gently, treated everyone with respect, and encouraged kindness and service. A Grade 8 boy absorbed these lessons deeply. At home, he often shared them with his parents: "Mummy, our teachers tell us that values should not remain only in books. We must practice them whenever God gives us an opportunity."

During the long annual holidays, the family traveled back to their village by bus. The journey was long, and every seat was occupied. Midway, an elderly man boarded. He looked tired and weak, but there was nowhere for him to sit.

Without hesitation, the boy stood up. He greeted the man respectfully and said, "Grandfather, please sit here." He also handed him a water bottle from the bag.

Shocked, the mother asked, "Son, why did you give away your seat? Our journey is still long. You will become tired too."

The boy smiled gently. "Mummy, when I looked at him, I remembered our grandfather at *mamaghar*. Suppose he were travelling alone and someone offered him a seat and water—wouldn't that make you happy? My teachers say we should not wait to serve only those we know. If we see everyone as our own, how can we ignore someone who needs help?"

His words touched his mother's heart. She realized that love should not stop at the boundary of her home. She said softly, "Son, today you have opened my eyes. From now on, I too will try to see every person as belonging to me. I will be kinder, more helpful, and more respectful to all."

Question: Have you also experience such situation? What did you do?

Heart-Work: Practice the value of serving everyone and share your experience.