

Zufan...and the Flower

Press Release

by

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Ethiopian born but now a US resident, author **Haymanot Berhanu**, well known for her first book, **A Man With Integrity**, has released the first printing of the North American edition of her **Zufan** children's book series, **Zufan...and the Flower**.

In the same way that **A Man With Integrity** was the first Ethiopian first person book dealing with Ethiopian life, the **Zufan** series breaks new ground, too. **Zufan...and the Flower** is a traditional children's story as well as being a true story, and deals with the strong, universal issue of family love and behavior, but unlike most children's books this book is designed to be a joint journey for the child and a parent, or even for an older and younger sibling to read together. Illustrated in traditional Ethiopian style drawings, **Zufan...and the Flower** is specifically sized to be held by a "pre reading age child" while sitting on the lap of a parent, the intricate nature of the illustrations allowing the child to point out the actions of the story and identify with it as the parent reads to them.

But going one step further, **Zufan...and the Flower** has the story text in four languages, Amharic, the language of Ethiopia, English, Spanish, and French. Not only does this allow the book to be used by people speaking those languages, it helps with learning a new language, so a parent who is learning English but who reads Amharic, for example, can read it in his native tongue, then read it aloud to his child in either that language or in English. This serves to enhance the language skills of the adult, and to make transition into a new culture easier for the entire family, as well as serving as a common point for shared experiences by children of different ethnic backgrounds.

In this respect, **Zufan...and the Flower** creates a common meeting ground for children of different backgrounds, and allows full understanding by their parents, allowing comfort and a feeling of safety in knowing what the book actually says, not worrying that they do not understand the nuances.

As an African culture children's book the **Zufan** series will help children everywhere deal more directly with other children, the clean and precise translations of the Spanish and French text by Kennesaw State language instructors making it easy for those with limited language skills to clearly understand and convey the story, no matter which language they need to use.

Both **Zufan...and the Flower** and **A Man With Integrity** are available on eBay, Amazon.com, and via the dedicated website www.zufan-stories.com for direct order if your local bookseller is out of stock.