Luca and the Saturday Shop

A small voice can take a brave step.





On Saturday, Luca went to the bakery with Dad. The window held round loaves, long loaves, and rolls like little pillows. Luca knew exactly which one he wanted.



"Would you like to ask today?" said Dad. Luca's stomach gave a small jump. At home, his voice was loud. In busy shops, it sometimes seemed to hide.



Inside, the baker smiled. Someone asked for six rolls. Someone asked for brown bread. Luca watched the paper bags open and close. His own words stayed tucked away.



Dad knelt beside him. "We can take our time." They stepped aside, away from the queue. Luca pointed at a round loaf with a little floury star on top.



"One round loaf, please," Dad whispered. Luca tried the words into his own sleeve. They came out warm and quiet. "One round loaf, please." That was a start.



The baker served another customer. Luca practised again, looking at Dad this time. His voice was a little stronger. Dad listened without finishing the words for him.



At last, it was their turn. Luca walked to the counter. The baker leaned closer. "Good morning." Luca looked at her blue apron and took one slow breath.



"One round..." he began. Then a tray clattered behind the baker. Luca stopped. His cheeks grew hot. "No hurry," she said. "I'm listening." Dad stood quietly beside him.



Luca tried again. "One round loaf, please. The one with the star." This time, all the words arrived. The baker lifted his loaf. "A fine choice," she said.



Dad paid, and the baker passed Luca the paper bag. It felt warm against his hands. "Thank you," he added, without practising. The baker's smile grew wider.



Outside, Luca peeked into the bag. The floury star was still there. "My voice came back," he said. Dad smiled. "You gave it a little time."



At lunch, Luca told everyone how he had chosen the bread. He spoke softly at first, then clearly. Next Saturday, he might ask about those little pillow rolls.



The end

What helped Luca practise?

How did Dad and the baker help?

What small thing would you like to try?

Little adventures. A kinder tomorrow.

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