



# MAMUD'S DREAM OF FREEDOM

When I visited Goreme in the Cappadocia region of Turkey, I wanted to see as much of the beautiful work on offer as possible as Cappadocia is the carpet capital of Turkey. Before I left home, I'd done my research and found a very reputable seller who was an English woman married to a Turk. I had some trouble finding the shop as it had recently been relocated, but, eventually, I did. I had already been to a shop across the road from the hotel and was pretty convinced that was where I planned to buy the carpets, but I felt compelled to see what this place would offer.

The shop was clearly geared for the European market and Ruth, the proprietor was very knowledgeable about the symbolism that makes up the designs and I enjoyed talking to her immensely. While I was there, a young couple showed up and Ruth introduced them as her daughter and friend, Mamud, who had recently arrived from Syria. I was interested to know how things were for him and what had happened to his family. His father who had been a professor in Syria and his mother was also a professional person, were compelled to leave as the situation there had become too dangerous for them to remain. Mamud's father relocated the family to Iraq, hoping to find a better situation, but found it untenable, so they began the long journey to Europe.

During this time, Mamud had a dream in which he was in an illuminated room. He discovered that he was not alone and saw a strange, but kind man before him. The man identified himself as "Christopher" and told Mamud not to be afraid. He then pushed at one of the walls of the bright room and it opened to reveal a vast vista. Christopher extended his arm and told Mamud that he was safe to carry on his journey and that all would be well for him and his family.

Mamud awoke feeling happy and reassured and told fellow travellers about the dream. A woman in the group of refugees who was Catholic smiled and told him that Christopher was the patron saint of travel in her religion and that he was clearly looking out for Mamud. Needless to say, Mamud and his family made it safely to Turkey and it is to be hoped that he will find a new life there. It would seem that he has already found a lovely young woman!