I love my religion Islam 2

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I AM A MUSLIM

I AM A MUSLIM

In order to be a Muslim,

Learn your Religion and live According to it!

بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيم

(In the name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful)

رَبِّ يَسِرْ وَ لَا تُعَسِّرْ رَبِّ تَمِّمْ بِالْخَيْر

(My Lord, make things easy, do not make them difficult, my Lord, complete my matter with goodness.)

O Allah! Make our lesson beautiful and entertaining today, let us to enjoy and learn at the same time!

Amin.

O my Lord! The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful! I depended on you, and I will not give up. Please do not give up on me, help me and let my every duty to be completed in the best way.

Let's see what we mean when we say just one *basmala*;

- O Allah, I believe in You and love You with all of my being.
- I know that You are with me all the time.
- There is nothing I can succeed without Your help.

When Allah hears these words of ours, He helps us and loves us so much that we don't forget Him and start everything with His name. In this way, we gain the key of success in all of our duties. YES!

One of the most beautiful qualities of Muslims is that they start everything with the name of Allah and saying a special invocation of asking Allah's help.

Besides, there is "A'udhu Basmala"

أَعُوذُ بِاللهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيْمِ

A'udhu billahi mina'shshaitanir rajim

"I seek Allah's protection from the accursed Shaitan."

بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

"In the name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful"

A'udhu Basmala protects us from all kinds of bad and evil things. It protects us from those who want to cheat us, and it helps us to protect us from very bad feelings such as arrogance, jealousy, lying, anger, laziness, stinginess, and being disrespectful to others.

So what are we waiting for?

Let's have our protection shield by saying A'udhu Basmala;

When we start our day

When we get dressed and undress

When we eat and drink

When we start to work and finish work

When we open our books

When we enter a place or go out of a place

When we start reading the Qur'an

When we go to our beds

In short before everything we do

Let's do not forget to say and

Let's do not forget to get our guard shield

"A'udhu billahi minashshaitanir rajim Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim"

HOW EVERYTHING STARTED?

A scientist looked at the sky through his telescope. He realized that distant galaxies are moving away from each other.

After some scientific researches, he understood that 15 billion years ago, everything in this universe, the stars, planets and galaxies, came into being by separating from a single and a very small substance. But how it happened? Who made all these? How did a very small substance explode and become a very huge universe?

Who is powerful enough to do all these, except Allah? Of course, Allah is the Creator of every exist being that we know and we don't know.

إِنَّمَآ اَمْرُهٗٓ اِذَآ اَرَادَ شَيْئًا اَنْ
يَقُولَ لَهٗ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ

"His command is only when He intends a thing that He says to it, "Be," and it is."
(Ya Sin, 36: 82)

خَلَقَ اللّٰهُ السَّمٰوَاتِ وَالْاَرْضَ
بِالْحَقِّ اِنَّ فِي ذٰلِكَ لَاٰيَةً لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ

"Allah has created the heavens and the earth in accordance with truth. in this [very creation] there is a message indeed for all who believe [in Him]." (Al- 'Ankabut, 29: 44)

Allah only commanded "Be" or "come into existence," and thus created all galaxies, stars, and planets. All heavenly bodies took their places perfectly in the universe. All planets started to move in their orbits without colliding and giving each other any harm. After that, the Sun, Earth and Moon came into existence. Allah placed our Earth in a very special place. If any changes would happen in the movements of our Earth, Earth would be an inhabitable place for us. However Allah, Who calculated everything in perfect way, put Earth in such a nice orbit that neither it goes away from the Sun and turns into a freezer nor does it come closer to the Sun and turns into a fire ball. Our beautiful Earth became a place in which the plants can bloom and give fruits; and animals can grow and humans can have a healthy and orderly life.

O our Alim Lord! You are the One Whoknows everything!
O our Hasib Lord! You are the One Who
created everything with perfect balance!
O Our Hafiz Lord! You are the One Who protects everything!
We live in a perfect world which
You granted to us! We thank to You!
You are Karim, and very generous!

How Did We, People, Come To This World?

Allah created the first man and the first prophet Adam from clay. He created people from different types of dust such as black, yellow, red, and white. He taught the names of everything to the Prophet Adam one by one. Then, the angels accepted the magnificence and supremacy of Allah, and bowed down before the Prophet Adam. However, Iblis who was a jinn created from fire and who trusted his knowledge too much did not accept the superiority of Prophet Adam. Iblis showed pride and said, "How can a being like I am, who was created from fire, and who is very knowledgeable, accept the supremacy of this weak Adam? Never!" and he disobeyed Allah's command. Someone who disobeys Allah cannot enter the Paradise where He bestows endless gifts. After that, Allah expelled Iblis out of Paradise. Let's see what happened after this? Let's learn it from the following jingle.

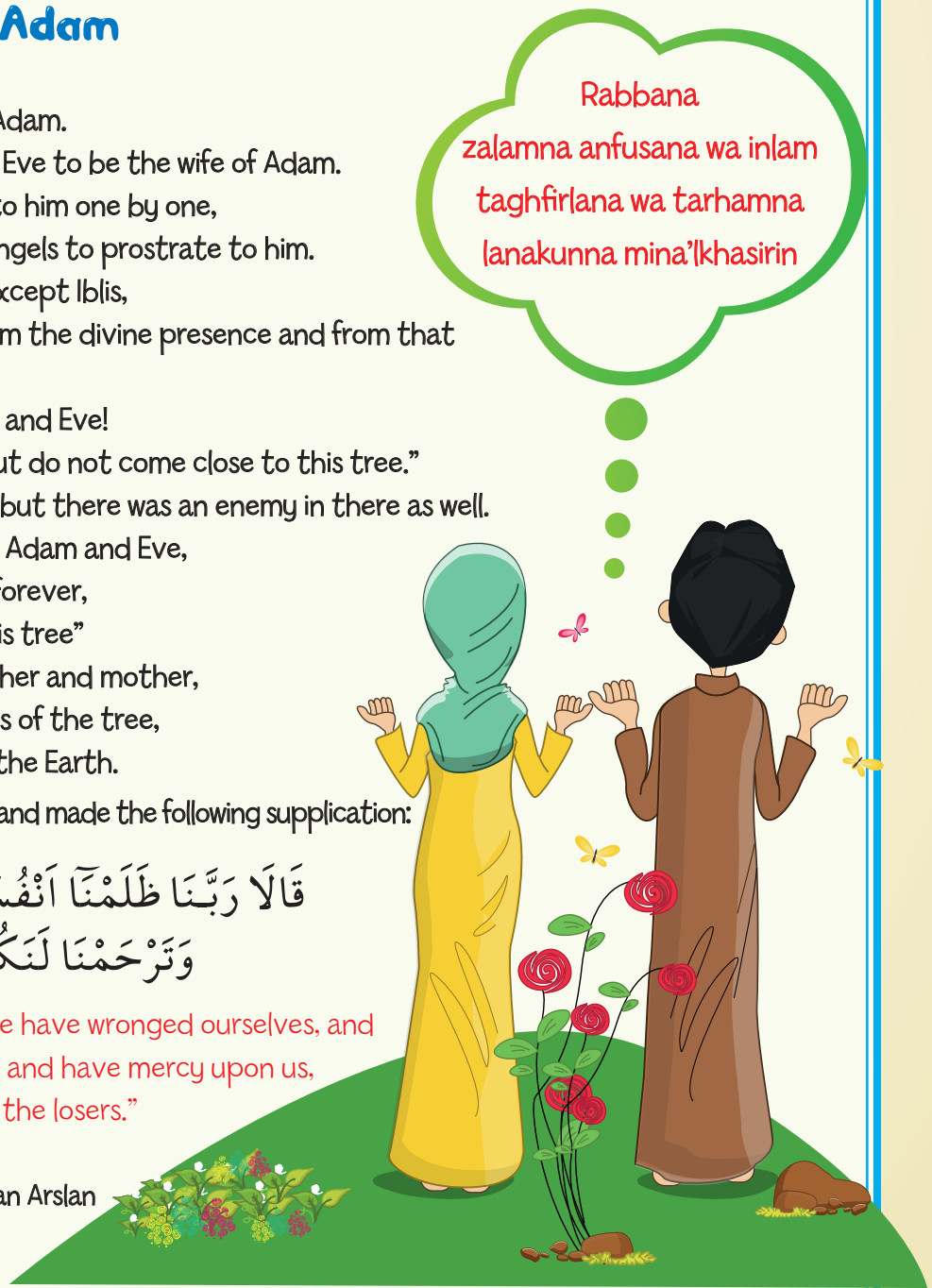
The Prophet Adam

Our Lord wanted,
He created our father Adam.
He created our mother Eve to be the wife of Adam.
He taught every word to him one by one,
Then he commanded angels to prostrate to him.
All angels prostrated except Iblis,
He was expelled out from the divine presence and from that beautiful place.
Our Lord said, "O Adam and Eve!
Eat from everything, but do not come close to this tree."
Paradise was beautiful, but there was an enemy in there as well.
Devil came and said, "O Adam and Eve,
If you like to stay here forever,
you should eat from this tree"
Satan deceived our father and mother,
They ate from the fruits of the tree,
and they were sent to the Earth.
They repented so much, and made the following supplication:

قَالَا رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَآ اَنْفُسَنَا وَاِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا
وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

"They said, "Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers."

al-A'raf, 7: 23



* Written by Nazan Arslan

Allah liked the supplication said by Adam and Eve. He was also pleased because they never gave up saying supplications and never felt hopeless. Thus, He said:

- I forgive you and I give you limited time to live on the Earth. You will have kids during this time. If you live in the world honestly, be cheerful and truthful, and if you do what I command, I will let you enter back to My Paradise. You will live in the Paradise forever among beautiful provisions.

The Prophet Adam and Eve felt very happy and started to have a good and truthful life as Allah commanded. The Prophet Adam and Eve had a good life and they had nice kids. These kids grew up, and they had their own children. In other words, the Prophet Adam and Eve became grandparents. Their grandchildren and then their children grew up. This continued until today and we were born.

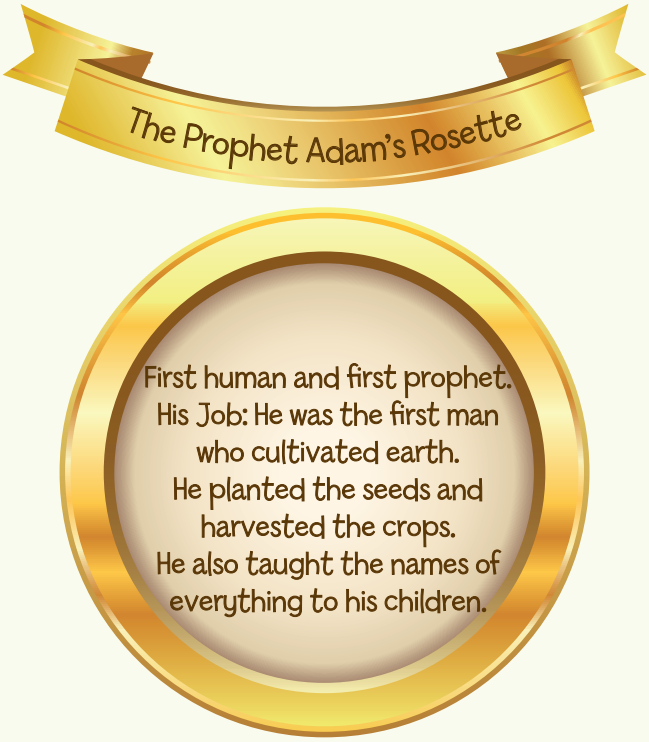
Therefore, the Prophet and the first human Adam is the grandfather of all of us.

When the Prophet Adam sent to the Earth, he saw the colorful flowers, huge trees and various animals. He even met wild animals. He was able to protect himself and his family from them. He did not have a phone, car, computer or any kind of tools to make his life easy. Despite all difficulties, he was able to have a good life. He was a hero! He showed us that even heroes can make mistakes but at the same time he also showed us how to correct our mistakes and how to apologize.

He became an example for us by the supplication he said. He taught us how to say supplication not to make mistakes or not to repeat our mistakes.

If we, as Muslims, make his supplication all the time, we can be safe from the deceptions of Devil and stay away from the mistakes and sins like the Prophet Adam did. Would like to know what happened to Devil after that. Of course, he became so mad. He said, "Oh no, I couldn't deceive Adam again. They entered the Paradise. Well then, I will deceive his children so that they will not be able to enter the Paradise." Thus, he started to make plans. He has not been able to stand that Allah loves people so much and that He created them in a very special way. Satan has always hated the chosen heroes, in other words, Muslims.

Keep making your plans, O Satan! We will be safe from your traps and all mistakes with the help of hero Prophet Adam's supplication.



Surah Al-Alaq

Allah tells us how He created us in the Qur'an, in chapter al-Alaq.

He tells us that He taught us the truth and the good things. He recommends us to read and to be knowledgeable people. We can enter the Paradise if we do good deeds and avoid evil ones in the way that Allah taught us, and if we perform prayers regularly. Then, we can live happily all the time. We can be a hero, in other words, a good Muslim! How beautiful!

بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

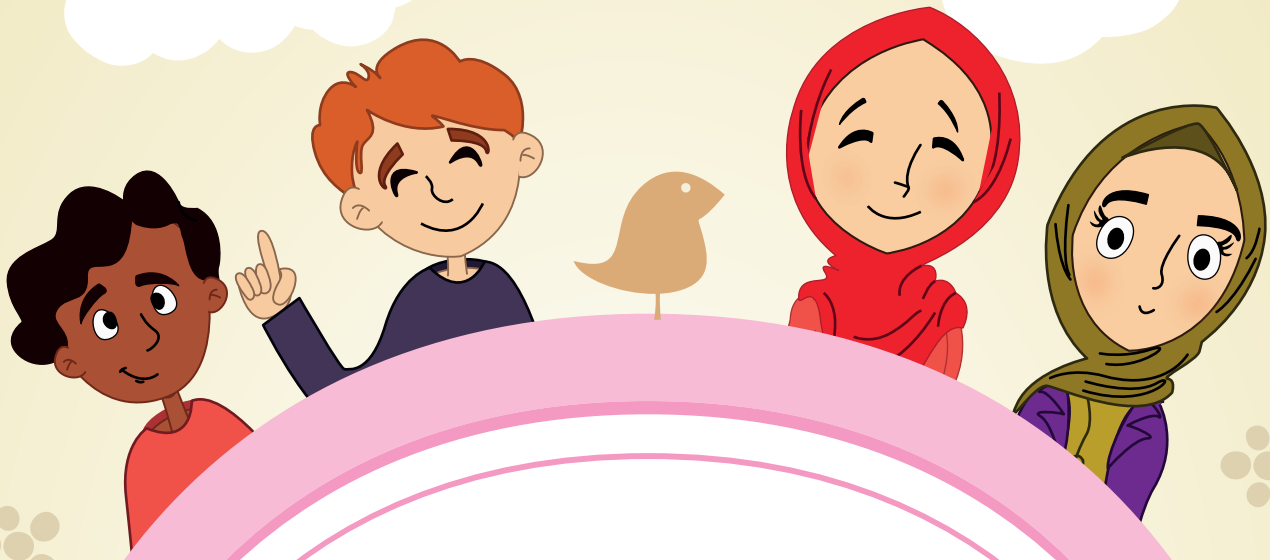
اِقْرَاْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِى خَلَقَ (١) خَلَقَ الْاِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ (٢) اِقْرَاْ وَرَبُّكَ
الْاَكْرَمُ (٣) اَلَّذِى عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ (٤) عَلَّمَ الْاِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ (٥)

The Meaning

With the name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

1-2) Recite in the name of your Lord, who created man from a clinging substance.

3-4-5) Recite, and your Lord is the most Generous, Who taught by the pen, taught man that which he knew not.



MY ISLAMIC IDENTITY

All great heroes, in other words, all prophets have the light of faith in their hearts. This light of faith gives them strength and courage to stand against all kind of evil. By means of this light, they gain an unbeatable power in any circumstances. By this way, no one can harm a person with strong faith. No one can make him sad.

In order to have this light of faith rooted in our hearts, we have to be Muslims, in other words we have to live Islam in the best way. But how?

Here is the Islamic identity of a person who lives Islam in the best way!

His/Her Religion: Islam

His/Her Book: The Qur'an

His/Her Qiblah : The Kaabah

When starting to do something: "Bismillah / With the name of Allah" «بِاسْمِ اللهِ»

When seeing a beautiful thing: "Subhanallah / Glory be to Allah" «سُبْحَانَ اللهِ»

When feeling shocked: "Allahu Akbar / Allah is the Greatest" «اللهُ أَكْبَرُ»

When seeing someone's beauty and goodness: "Mashallah / Allah has willed it" «مَا شَاءَ اللهُ»

After making mistakes: "Astaghfirullah / I ask Allah's forgiveness" «أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ»

For the things we will do in the future: "Inshallah / Allah willing" «إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ»

And all the time: "Alhamdulillah / Praise to Allah" «الْحَمْدُ لِلهِ» der.

Knowing Islamic identity is good, but the best thing is to live our life according to this identity. Applying Islamic identity to our lives is called as "Good manners."

Al-Islamu husn al-Khuluq: "Islam is good manners."

My Muslim Identity

Good morality means that a Muslim is always truthful and good-humored person.

The Muslims with good morality is clever. Because he knows his Creator and does what his Creator wants him to do. He never falls in the same mistake twice.

A Muslim with good morality is always curious and searches for the truths. He always uses his brain and feelings to find the helpful, true and good knowledge. But he never feels curious of people's private lives and searches for them.

A Muslim with good morality is softhearted. He looks at the world with love and treats people with kindness. He feels empathy to the people around him, and shows them respect. He has a soft heart like a ball of love. He feels the people's sorrows in his heart no matter how far away they are. He tries to help the needy and support them by his prayers.

A Muslim with good morality treats everyone with justice. He never discriminates people as the white, the black, the poor, the rich, the close, or the far and treats everyone equally and with justice.

A Muslim with good morality is optimistic. Whatever he experiences, he never feels hopeless about how beautiful the future will be. He knows that Allah's mercy never ends.

To be able to have all this good morals, we firstly have to be Muslims by saying Kalima Shahada, and then take the good behaviors of our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as an example and live according to them.

The Illuminated Word: Kalima Al-Tawhid

لَا اِلَهَ اِلَّا اللَّهْ مُحَمَّدُ الرَّسُولُ اللَّهْ

"There is no god but Allah; Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."

The Game Corner

The Game Of Amantu

Now, shall we play a game?

Now, together we will read the supplication of Amantu and then we will say kalima shahada. And then, our teacher will give us an example from our daily life. The students need to find what they can say in that situation. For example;

- I start to eat, I say Bismillahirrahmanirrahim «بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيْمِ»
- I saw a beautiful flower, I say Subhanallah «سُبْحَانَ اللهِ»
- When I learn that people were created out of clay, I say Allahu Akbar «اللهُ أَكْبَرُ»
- To a friend who got good grades in an exam, I say Mashallah «مَا شَاءَ اللهُ»
- When you mispronounce a word, you say Astaghfirullah «أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ»
- When your friends suggest to play after class, you say Inshallah «إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ»
- When you earn or lose a good amount of money, you say Alhamdulillah «الْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ»

Those who do not say the correct words will be out of the game. And the one who does not make any mistakes will be the winner.

Let's see who will say the correct word in each situation!

If we read Amantu all the time, we will enlighten and polish our hearts. By this way, we will strengthen our faith (iman) and will be more successful.

Then, are you ready to earn the Medal of Faith and to enlighten and polish our heart with the light of faith? So let's start!

THE MEDAL OF FAITH

There are six stages that need to be passed in order to win the medal of faith.

Here is the 1st one:

1 The Stage of "Believing in Allah"

I believe in Allah and get stronger

Allah is the One Who has created all creatures in the universe. Nothing can exist by itself. For example; an artist is the one who paints the drawings. Cooks are the ones who cook the meals. The houses are built by engineers and constructors. Then, who created us? Of course, Allah the Exalted...

We cannot get the blessings that we have without spending some effort and money. However, Allah is the One Who makes us to see, to walk, and to feel. He is the One Who gives us our organs without asking anything in return and without making us ask for them.

Allah makes us warm by the Sun, but He doesn't ask any money in return.

Allah makes the Moon a lamp for us in the night, and helps us to find our way by using the stars, but never asks any money in return.

He supplies provisions of various kind of animals but never asks any favor in return.

He creates the herbs for us, feeds and heals us but never asks for favor in return.

Our Lord gives many more things to us without expecting any favor in return.

Trying to understand Allah by thinking these things is called "Tafakkur." We can understand how much great and powerful Allah is, when look at the blessings He gave us. We say "Allahu akbar (Allah is the Greatest)" to express how much we are fascinated. We become grateful for the things He gave us as gifts and say "Alhamdulillah (Praise to Allah)." And we start everything we are going to do by remembering his name in other words by saying "Bismillahirrahmanirrahim." Thinking about what Allah has created, and seeing the beauty in them strengthen our Iman (faith). By this way, we accept the existence and oneness of Allah without any doubt. Believing in Allah makes us stronger and helps us to overcome difficulties. Therefore, the most important and the greatest part of our medal is "Believing in Allah".

The Game Corner

The Game Of Tafakkur

The Sun, the Moon, water, soil, flowers, vegetables, fruits, animals (like horses, donkeys); animals the meat of which is allowed to be eaten (such as sheep, goat, cow); eye, ear and other blessings that Allah created for us. Each student choose one of them and says the name he/she chose loudly. Then all students say together, "Allah has given us a task. We work without stopping. Come on then let's say La ilaha illallah, bismillah. Tawakkaltu alallah." Then they all start going around in circle. Then, the teacher chooses one of the students secretly and he/she leaves the circle secretly and hides in a place. When they are asked to stop, they stop and try to find out which one of their friends is absent. For example, let's assume our friend who chose to be the Sun is absent. They talk about what would happen in the absence of the Sun. Questions like "Can you imagine a world without the Sun?" "What would happen if Allah did not make the Sun rise and set for us?" are asked.

After a conversation about tafakkur, they all say: "Alhamdulillah, Allah created the Sun for us. Thank to You, o our Lord. Many thanks to You O Allah!" Then, the friend who was the Sun joins the group again, and they start circling by saying: "Allah has given us a task. We work without stopping, now. La ilaha illallah. Bismillah. Tawakkaltu alallah." Teacher chooses another student and other students try to find out who the absent student was and then they talk about the importance of it. And the game continues until all of them are chosen.

What Would Happen If It Didn't Exist?

Fill the blank in the table.

AIR	If it didn't exist .....
SHEEP	If it didn't exist .....
EYE	If it didn't exist .....
THE SUN	If it didn't exist .....
FRUITS	If it didn't exist .....
VEGETABLES	If it didn't exist .....
CLOUDS	If it didn't exist .....
WORMS	If it didn't exist .....
WATER	If it didn't exist .....
TREES	If it didn't exist .....

Beautiful Names Of Allah Are Everywhere!

It is stated in chapter al-'Araf, verse 180th "And to Allah belong the best names, so invoke Him by them..." And our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "Allah has 99 names, and whoever memorizes them will go to Paradise." (Bukhari)

Allah's names are called as "Asma al-Husna," which means "The Most Beautiful Names." Because the most beautiful names belong to Allah. The beauty of the names of Allah covers all universe. The birds, the clouds, the flowers, all of them show us the beauty of the names of Allah. If we observe them carefully and think about them deeply, in other words if we make tafakkur, we can see this reality.

Below are the names of Allah!

The meaning of each name and an example explaining them are also given.

Every day, close your eyes and put your fingers on the table. Let's see which name you will see.

Read Asma al-Husna and think about the example that explain the name of Allah.

Let's see if you can find any example other than the one given on the table.

How nice that everything tells us Allah!

Knowing Allah makes us stronger!

Asma Al-Husna

Beautiful Names of Allah	Meaning	It tells us Allah as follows
Allah	The special name of Allah which comprises all the other names	He created everything from the smallest particle to the endless oceans.
Ar-Rahman	The All-Compassionate to all creation in the universe	Producing milk from sheep and rain from the clouds.
Ar-Rahim	The All-Merciful to the believers in the Hereafter	He makes the Sun rise every morning and set every night to provide us proper conditions to sleep.
Al-Malik	The King, The Sovereign, The Absolute Ruler	Even the ants and the Sun belong to Him.
Al-Quddus	The Pure One, The Purifier	He creates the fragrant flowers and makes them beautiful.
As-Salam	The Source of Peace and Safety	He gives the wings to birds to make them fly comfortably.
Al-Mumin	The Granter of Security	Stars don't fall to our heads and the Sun do not burn us.
Al-Aziz	The Almighty, The Invulnerable, The Honorable	He created the mountains in which there are gold and other precious stones and metals.
Al-Mujib	The Responsive, The Answerer to Prayers	He gives us everything that we desire to eat.
Al-Wasi	The Vast, The All-Embracing everything with His mercy, The Omnipresent, The Boundless	He is the One Who makes elephants and ants to see when sun rises.
Al-Hakim	The Perfectly Wise	It is His wisdom that the heart of a blind person feels stronger than a normal person.
Al-Wadud	The Loving One, the Loved One and the source of Love	He is the One Who gives the mothers and their children the feeling of love and attachment to each other.

Beautiful Names of Allah	Meaning	It tells us Allah as follows
Al-Baith	The Resurrector	He makes the dry branches to green in the spring again.
Al-Haqq	The Truth, The Reality	He never changes the law of gravity to make us live comfortably.
Al-Muqaddim	The Expediter, He Who Brings Forward	He created the people superior to animals and plants.
Ash-Shahid	The Witness to everything	Everything we do are watched and recorded by the angels
Al-Jabbar	The Irresistible, The Compeller	Doctors can treat the diseases with the ability that Allah has given to them.
Al-Wakil	The Trustee, The Dependable, The Advocate	Seasons and days take place for us by themselves.
Al-Mutakabbir	The Majestic, The Supreme	Huge waves in the oceans in which millions of beings live shows us how great Allah is.
Al-Qawiyy	The Possessor of All Strength	He can make mosquito one of the lightest animals and huge clouds that carry water to the fields fly.
Al-Khaliq	The Creator out of nothing	He created the Earth and everything in it out of nothing.
Al-Matin	The Firm, The Steadfast	He gives ability to the little spiders to make thin but very strong nets.
Al-Bari	The Evolver, The Maker	He created various and colorful fruits for us.
Al-Wali	The Protecting Friend	Strong friends always support each other.

Beautiful Names of Allah	Meaning	It tells us Allah as follows
Al-Musawwir	The Fashioner, The Shaper, The Designer	A baby gradually gets its beautiful form in the womb of her mother.
Al -Ghaffar	The Repeatedly Forgiving	Our mother forgives us after we make her angry.
Al-Qahhar	The Subduer of the evil	Whoever does badness finds badness.
Al-Wahhab	The abundantly Bestower without expecting anything in return	Bees make healthful honey for us for free.
Ar-Razzaq	The provider, the sustainer	Even small creatures living in the soil can find foods and live.
Al-Muhsi	The Accounter, The Numberer of All	Allah is the only One Who knows how many stars there are in the sky and how much sand in the seas. He is the One who teaches us how to count.
Al-Mu'id	The Restorer, The Reinstater Who Brings Back All	Migratory birds can come back to their lands without getting lost.
Al-Fattah	The Opener, The Victory Giver	Seeds turn into flowers and then become fruits.
Al-'Alim	The All-Knowing, Omniscient	Scientists learn scientific truths informed in the Qur'an as time passes.
Al-Wahid	The One, The All Inclusive, The Indivisible	Everyone's fingerprint is unique.
As-Samad	The Eternal, The Absolute, The Self-Sufficient	Adults do not need someone to feed them or take care of their needs in the way babies need.
Al-Basir	The All-Seeing	Feeling dangerous things and staying away from them.

I Wonder How Allah Is

Do you want to know Allah more closely Who has those beautiful names? People asked our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) too about Allah. How big was He? Did He have any kids? Who was His father? They asked and asked... In fact, they did not ask out of curiosity, but to make fun of Islam and our Prophet. Then, Allah revealed chapter al-Ikhlas. Allah described Himself in four short sentences. He taught us how speak less but say many things.

The meaning of chapter al-Ikhlas: **"Say, 'He is Allah, (who is) One, Allah, The Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need, He neither eats nor drinks. He begets not, nor was He begotten and there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him."**

Are you ready to tell the attributes of Allah quickly
that we learned from the Qur'an and Hadith?
Our Allah, with His Great Attributes;

Allah has the Attribute of "Wujud (Existence)": He is eternal and everlasting.

Allah has the Attribute of "Al-Qidam (pre-Eternity)": Allah exists without a beginning and an ending.

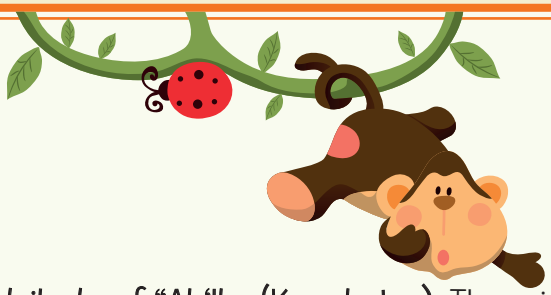
Allah has the Attribute of "Al-Baqa' (Everlastingness)": Allah's existence does not end. He is everlasting.

Allah has the Attribute of "Al-Wahdaniyyah (Oneness)": Allah is one. There is nothing like Him. He created us differently and we are same as human beings. He shows that He is One, by creating everything differently.

Allah has the Attribute of "Al-Qiyamu bin-Nafs (Non-neediness of others): Allah does not need a father and a mother to come to existence because He exists without a beginning and because He neither begets nor was He begotten.

Allah has the Attribute of "Al-Mukhalafatu lil-hawadith (Non-Resemblance to the Creation)": Allah neither does not resemble a mountain, or a camel, or the Sun. He will show Himself in Paradise to those who will be successful in the test of this world.

Allah has the Attribute of "Al-Hayah (Life)": Allah is alive, and those who believe in Him are full of life.



Allah has the Attribute of "Al-'Ilm (Knowledge): There is nothing that Allah doesn't know.

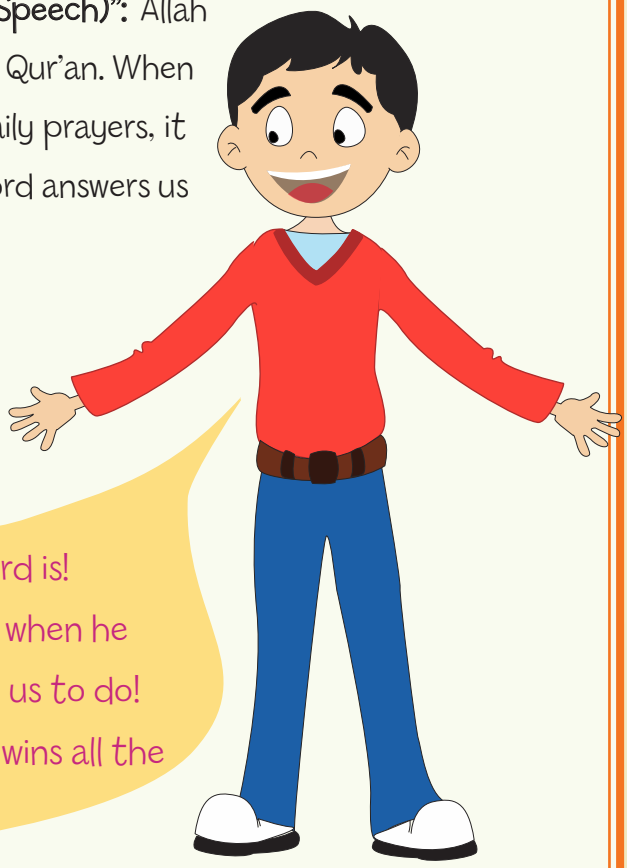
Allah has the Attribute of "Al-Sami' (Hearing)": Allah can hear the lowest voices, even He knows what we have inside but we don't tell.

Allah has the Attribute of "Al-Basar (Sight)": Allah sees even a black ant in the dark and nothing can be done without He sees.

Allah has the Attribute of "Al-'Iradah (Will)": Allah creates everything from nothing in the moment He wants. He does not need to get ready before creating. He creates everything perfectly whenever He wants.

Allah has the Attribute of "Al-Qudrah (Power)": Allah makes the planets to move. He creates perfectly even a small mosquito. He has the power to do anything, and there is nothing beyond His power. He creates everything He wants. He is the One who creates both lions and warms as He wants.

Allah has the Attribute of "Al-Kalam (Speech)": Allah speaks. He speaks through his verses in the Qur'an. When we pray Allah and when we perform our daily prayers, it means that we are speaking to Him. Our Lord answers us through His verses in the Qur'an.



How Great and Perfect Our Lord is!
It is impossible for someone to fail when he believes in Him and does what He asks us to do!
Those who believe and trust in Allah wins all the time.

Ayat Al-Kursi (The Verse Of Throne)

Ayat al-Kursi tells us about Allah like chapter al-Ikhlas. We understand how great and powerful our Lord is when we read this verse.

Our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said about this verse: "Everything has its pinnacle and the pinnacle of the Qur'an is chapter al-Baqarah. In it there is a verse which is the greatest in the Qur'an: Ayat al-Kursi." (Tirmidhi)

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اَللّٰهُ لَآ اِلٰهَ اِلَّا هُوَ اَلْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَاْخُذُهُ سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِى

السَّمٰوَاتِ وَمَا فِى الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِى يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهٗٓ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ يَعْلَمُ

مَا بَيْنَ اَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَىْءٍ مِنْ عِلْمِهٖٓ اِلَّا بِمَا

شَآءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمٰوَاتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا يَؤُدُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ

الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ (٢٥٥)

255th verse of chapter al-Baqarah.

The meaning:

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, The Merciful.

Allah! There is no God but He, the Living, the Self-subsisting, the Eternal. No slumber can seize Him, nor sleep. All things in heaven and earth are His. Who could intercede in His presence without His permission? He knows what appears in front of and behind His creatures. Nor can they encompass any knowledge of Him except what he wills. His throne extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them, for He is the Highest and Most Exalted.

PUZZLE

Below are the names and the attributes of Allah in mixed form. You have to put the names to "Beautiful names of Allah" bucket, and the attributes to "The Attributes of Allah" bucket, by using the numbers next to them. If you do this correctly, you will achieve the first part of the Medal of Faith. Be careful! Some of them may be both name and attribute! So Let's Begin.

1 Allah

2 Al-Wujud

3 Al-Sami'

4 Al-Hayah

5 Rahman

6 Qidam

7 Al-Baqa'

8 Rahim

9 Al-'Ilm

10 Alim

11 Badi

12 Al-Basar

13 Al-Iradah

14 Al-Qudrah

15 Malik

16 Quddus

17 Adl

18 Al-Kalam

19 Al-Wahda-niyyah

20 Latif

21 Aziz

22 Al- Mukhalafatu Lil Hawadith

23 Jabbar

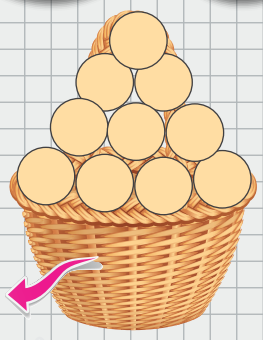
24 Mutakabbir

25 Al-Qiyam Bi Nafsihi

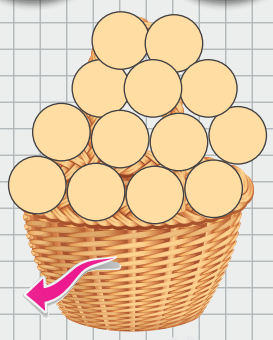
26 Musawwir

27 Dhul Jalali Wa'l Ikram

28 Malik Al-Mulk



The Bucket Of Beautiful Names



The Bucket Of Attributes

You achieved the first part of medal of faith with all these thin-gs you learned!
Congratulations!
You passed this stage easily!
Now it is time for second stage...

2 Stage Of "Believing In Angels"

There are angels protecting us!

Angels are the creatures which are created from nur (light), and they are creatures like lights. We cannot see them with our eyes, but Prophets saw them.

Angels are very powerful. They do whatever Allah asks them to do, and never disobey Him. They do not have male and female genders like human beings. In other words, they are quite different than us.

Angels whisper the good and beautiful thoughts to our hearts. They also pray for us and say "Amin" following our invocations and when we perform our daily prayers. There are angels visiting people who always remember Allah and read the Qur'an. They bring Allah's mercy to us. Our hearts are filled with peace and tranquility when they come near us. There are even some angels who are responsible for holding the earth and the sky in their place. There are also some angels protecting us and stay with us all the time.

Some Angels

The Angels of Kiraman Katibin,
Munkar and Nakir,Ridwan, Malik, Hafaza,
and Hamalat al-Arsh,
Let's learn about them one by one!

The Duty of the Angels of Kiraman Katibin: They are on our right and left shoulder and record our good and bad deeds.

(Students stand up and show their shoulders and act like writing something down)

The Duty of the Angels of Munkar and Nakir: is to Ask questions in the grave.

(Students stand up and make the motion of 'be careful')

The Duty of the Angels of Ridwan is in Paradise,

(Students raise their hands and stand up)

The Duty of the Angels of Malik is in Hell,

(Students raise their hands and stand up)

Being the Head Angel! Being the Head Angel!

(Students all stand up and say it together)

The Duty of the Angels of Hafaza is: to Protect people

(Students all stand up and hold their arms)

The Duty of the Angels of Hamalat al-Arsh: is to Hold the earth and the sky in their place.

(Students act like they are carrying something on their back)

4 FOUR GREAT ANGELS

1 Gabriel

Gabriel is the angel of revelation. He brings the information and the news which he took from Allah to prophets. He is a kind of a messenger between Allah and the prophets.

Our Lord says in chapter al-Baqara verse 97 about Angel Gabriel;

قُلْ مَن كَانَ عَدُوًّا لِجِبْرِيلَ فَإِنَّهُ نَزَّلَهُ عَلَى قَلْبِكَ بِإِذْنِ اللهِ مُصَدِّقًا
لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَهُدًى وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ

"Say, 'Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel - it is (none but) he who has brought the Qur'an down upon your heart, (O Muhammad), by permission of Allah, confirming that which was before it and as guidance and good tidings for the believers."

2 Angel Michael

Angel Michael is responsible for organizing the events taking place in nature. He arranges the natural events like seasons, plants, and blooms of trees on their time without making any mistakes.

Our Lord talks about Angel Michael in the 98th verse of chapter al-Baqarah.

مَنْ كَانَ عَدُوًّا لِلّٰهِ وَمَلٰئِكَتِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَجِبْرِيلَ وَمِيكَالَ فَإِنَّ اللّٰهَ عَدُوٌّ
لِلْكَافِرِينَ

"Whoever is an enemy to Allah and His angels and His messengers and Gabriel and Michael- then indeed, Allah is an enemy to the disbelievers."

3 Angel Israfil

Angel *Israfil* is going to blow the *"Sur"* (trumpet) at the end of the world. *"Sur"* literally means horn. When he blows the trumpet, the Day of Resurrection will happen and the life of *akhirah*, (the Hereafter) will start. All people will be resurrected and will be gathered in the place of *mahshar*. Our Lord tells us about this event in 68th verse of chapter al-Zumar:

وَنُفِخَ فِى الصُّورِ فَصَعِقَ مَنْ فِى السَّمٰوَاتِ وَمَنْ فِى الْاَرْضِ اِلَّا
مَنْ شَاءَ اللّٰهُ ثُمَّ نُفِخَ فِيهِ اُخْرٰى فَاِذَا هُمْ قِيَامٌ يَنْظُرُونَ

"And the Horn will be blown, and whoever is in the heavens and whoever is on the earth will fall dead except whom Allah wills. Then it will be blown again, and at once they will be standing, looking on."

4 Angel Of Death: Azrail

He is the angel who takes people whose lifetime in this world is over to Allah. The lives given us by Allah will be taken by the Angel of Death. Good people feel so happy when they see the angel of death and feel amazed because of his beauty. However, bad people get scared, because they realize that it is time for the punishment for what they have done. Our Lord says in 61st verse of chapter al-An'am:

وَهُوَ الْقَاهِرُ فَوْقَ عِبَادِهِ وَيُرْسِلُ عَلَيْكُم حَفَظَةً حَتَّىَ إِذَا جَاء
أَحَدَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ تَوَفَّتْهُ رُسُلُنَا وَهُمْ لاَ يُفَرِّطُونَ

"And He is the subjugator over His servants, and He sends over you guardian-angels until, when death comes to one of you, Our messengers take him, and they do not fail (in their duties)."

The Game Corner

The Game Of Let's Find The Angels

When a name of four great angels is said, all students do the motion which describes the duty of this angel. Those who do wrong motion will be out of the game. Let's see who will not make mistakes and let's see who will win!

How to play this game?

When the name "Gabriel" is said, the students will put their hands to their mouths and will say "Read!"

When the name "Mikail" is said, the students will tap their fingers on the table as if it rains.

When the name "Israfil" is said, the students act like they are blowing a trumpet.

When the name "Azrail" is said, the students will smile and wave their hands.

I Believe In Angels And I Feel Myself Safe

If we pray Allah much and if we worship our Lord by remembering His name, the angels will always help us. They also say "Amin" following our invocations. They also ask favors from Allah for us. They even prevent the evil who want to hurt us. Do you wonder how?

Like in the Battle of Badr: In that battle, the army against our Prophet and Muslims was three times bigger than the Muslims' army. Muslims were 313 soldiers and the army of the polytheists had 1000 soldiers. The army of the polytheists who were the enemy of Muslims and Allah was so crowded. However, Muslims never felt worried. Because they trusted Allah. Our Prophet Muhammad prayed Allah till the dawn and asked Allah's help to make them victorious against their enemy. Allah sent Gabriel upon a sand dune. There were 3000 angels with Gabriel waiting for the command of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The earth and the sky were almost full of angels. The army of angels helped Muslims in the battle and Muslims defeated the crowded enemy army with the help of angels. By this way, those who believed Allah won the battle with the help of angels.

Like the event which is the reason of chapter al-Maun: Abu Jahil had promised an orphan and poor kid. However, he later seized his property and money and then got rid of him. He also made fun of the poor kid and said, "Go to the notables of Quraish and Muhammad, ask them to take your property from me and give it back to you!" Abu Jahil's aim was to humiliate our Prophet Muhammad. He thought that they did not have enough money to help the kid. The kid, who was unaware what was happening, went to our Prophet (peace be upon him), and our Prophet embraced him and listened to his problem. Then, he took the kid and went to Abu Jahil. He stood against him and said, "Give the poverty and money of this kid which you seized, immediately!" Abu Jahil suddenly trembled and got scared. He immediately gave the kid's property and the money back. Everyone who saw them felt shocked. Abu Jahil's Friends said,

- We were going to make fun of Muhammed. Why did you give kid's money back?

Abu Jahil said:

- If I didn't give it back, the lions standing by the sides of Muhammad were going to destroy me. The lions he was talking about were the angels of Allah. They were angels came to protect that orphan kid and our Prophet and they appeared to Abu Jahil like they were lions.

And again, those who believed in Allah won!

Allah always helps the believers and the needy who ask his help. Our Lord never leaves alone those who work for Allah and do not give up. He surely protects them by His angels. Allah's Angels are with those who believe in Allah and depend on Him, in the dark and light, and in the easiness and hardship.

Allah protects the believers from all kind of evil as our Lord said in the 30th verse of chapter Fussilat,

"Indeed, those who have said, "Our Lord is Allah" and then remained on a right course - the angels will descend upon them, [saying], "Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised.""

Yes, if we believe in Allah in the way our Prophet did, trust in Him, and perform our prayers, our Lord will help us. He sends His angels to help us. He helps us to overcome any kind of difficulties. We will never be defeated by fear and feel hopeless. We always will be the winners. Sometimes, we may feel like losers. If we believe in Allah, continue praying with patience, and continue working, we will absolutely be the successful ones.

Chapter Al-Qadr

There is a hidden, very special and beautiful night in Ramadan month. In that night, Gabriel and all angels descend on the earth. Whoever mentions the name of Allah, these angels greet them and pray for those who worship Allah. They say "Amin" to their invocations.

This special night is also the night in which the Qur'an was revealed.

During those hours, we feel tranquility and happiness inside us. That night is the night of Qadr which is better than one thousand months.

Chapter al-Qadr tells us about that night and the descent of the angels to the earth in that night.

If we read chapter al-Qadr much, the Qur'an will settle in our hearts. Angels always pray for us and never leave us alone.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اِنَّآ اَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِى لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ (١) وَمَآ اَدْرٰيكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ (٢) لَيْلَةُ

الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ اَلْفِ شَهْرٍ (٣) تَنَزَّلُ الْمَلٰٓئِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِاِذْنِ

رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ اَمْرٍ (٤) سَلَامٌ هِىَ حَتّٰى مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ (٥)

The meaning

1) Verily! We have sent it (this Quran) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Decree).
2) And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is?
3) The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months.
4) The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter.
5) Peace! Until the emergence of dawn.

PUZZLE

There are some missing words in the sentences given below. Find the correct places of these missing words, write down and complete them. If you write them down in their correct places, you will achieve the second part of the Medal of Faith.

Be careful! There might be some wrong words in the list.

Angels are created from .....

Gabriel, ... , Israfil, and Azrail are the four ..... angels.

The angels who protect people are called the angels of .....

..... are the angels who carry the earth, ... are the angels who carry the sky.

In the battle of ....., 3000 angels helped the Prophet Muhammad.

Mikail | From Fire | Hamalat al-Arsh | Badr | From Nur (Light) | Kiraman Katibin

Uhud | Hamalat Al-Ard | Malik | Small | Big

You have won the second part of the medal of faith by believing in angels. Now you are stronger than the past and you know that angels never leave you alone.

We congratulate you.

3 Stage Of "Believing In The Books"

I believe in the holy books, and my treasure of knowledge is getting filled!

يَآ اَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ اٰمَنُوٓا اٰمِنُوا بِاللّٰهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِى نَزَّلَ عَلٰى

رَسُولِهِ وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِىٓ اَنْزَلَ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِاللّٰهِ وَمَلٰٓئِكَتِهِ

وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْاٰخِرِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا

"O you who have believed, believe in Allah and His Messenger and the Book that He sent down upon His Messenger and the Scripture which He sent down before. And whoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day has certainly gone far astray."

(Chapter al-Nisa, 4: 136) (Nisa sûresi, 136. Âyet)

People who were sent to the earth started to think.

For which reason are we sent here?

Who sent us here?

What does the one who sent us here want us to do?

Do we have to tell the truth all the time?

What should we do to be happy and healthy?

What do we lose if we sometimes do injustice?

After a while, some people started to pollute the nature, and fight with each other and do wrong things. They even harmed each other so much that they even committed murder.

Allah, of course, did not leave people unchecked on the earth. In order to inform us, He sent messages and information to us through His angels and messengers. We call such messages as *"wahy"*(revelation). The revelations got increased and then were compiled in holy books.

The Prophets read and explained the revelation to us and taught us how to be successful and happy people. People became happy by listening to them and obeying what they asked them to do. They loved each other, and lived in peace.

The last holy book revealed to us by Allah is the Holy Qur'an. All other holy books except the Holy Qur'an sent by our Lord are either lost or corrupted. Only the Qur'an reached this day without any changes. It will never change until the earth exists. Our Lord informs us about this fact in chapter al-An'am verse 115,

وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا لَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

"And the word of your Lord has been fulfilled in truth and in justice. None can alter His words, and He is the Hearing, the Knowing."

The Englightening Book

Allah sent the Holy Qur'an to our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). When we read the Qur'an our mind and heart are enlightened and we learn the secrets of becoming a real hero. Do you know how?

We know more about our Lord through the Qur'an:

We understand the Qur'an more when we read the Qur'an. In the Qur'an, our Lord describes himself to us. He tells us how He created the universe, the angels and their duties. Allah's light embraces us as much as we understand the Qur'an. Our face and eyes are enlightened.

There are miraculous verses in the Qur'an:

These verses give us information about many things ranging from heavenly bodies to our cells which we cannot see with our eyes and this information makes us to think deeply. In the time that the Qur'an was revealed, people thought that the earth was in the shape of a plate. However, the Qur'an gave us information implying that the earth is in oval shape, and turns around the Sun. The Qur'an saved people from misinformation and enlightened them throughout the ages. If we accept the Qur'an as a guidance book, we will improve a lot in serving people and doing useful things and nobody can do better than us. If we work and do our duties properly and in a good way, just as Allah wants us to do, we will be a person and a society to whom all people admire.

The Qur'an makes us stronger with acts of worship:

The Qur'an teaches us how to worship. Our body and soul get stronger through these acts of worship. We are asked to perform daily prayers, give obligatory alms (*zakah*), and perform pilgrimage (*hajj*). By performing these acts of worship, we will be a person with good morals and will be loved by everyone.

We learn the parables and *duas* (invocations) of the Prophets from the Qur'an:

Many difficulties that the Prophets experienced in their lives are told us in the Qur'an. The way how they overcame those difficulties are also taught us in the Qur'an. If we read the Qur'an much, we learn how to overcome if we face such difficulties. Moreover, we learn the ways of being a Muslim with good morality by reading the prophets' life stories.

The Qur'an teaches us how to be healthy:

There are therapeutic verses in the Qur'an. There is also information about living a healthy life. Even, we can give up our bad habits by reading the therapeutic verses found in the Qur'an.

The Qur'an is a cure for us with all aspects. It is said in 82nd verse of chapter al-'Isra: *"And We send down of the Qur'an that which is healing and mercy for the believers, but it does not increase the wrongdoers except in loss."*

The Qur'an makes us a person with good morals:

We learn the good and correct behaviors from the Qur'an. Allah prohibited some behaviors to prevent us from doing bad things and get hurt. For example, Allah warns us by saying, "Don't ever be from among those who falsify, and oppresses." If we follow the words of Allah in the Qur'an, we will be well-behaved people. We will be loved and respected by people around us. If we do what Allah asks us to do and live our life according to these rules, we will be a hero who is loved by everyone.

The Game Corner

The Game Of "My Holy Book The Qur'an"

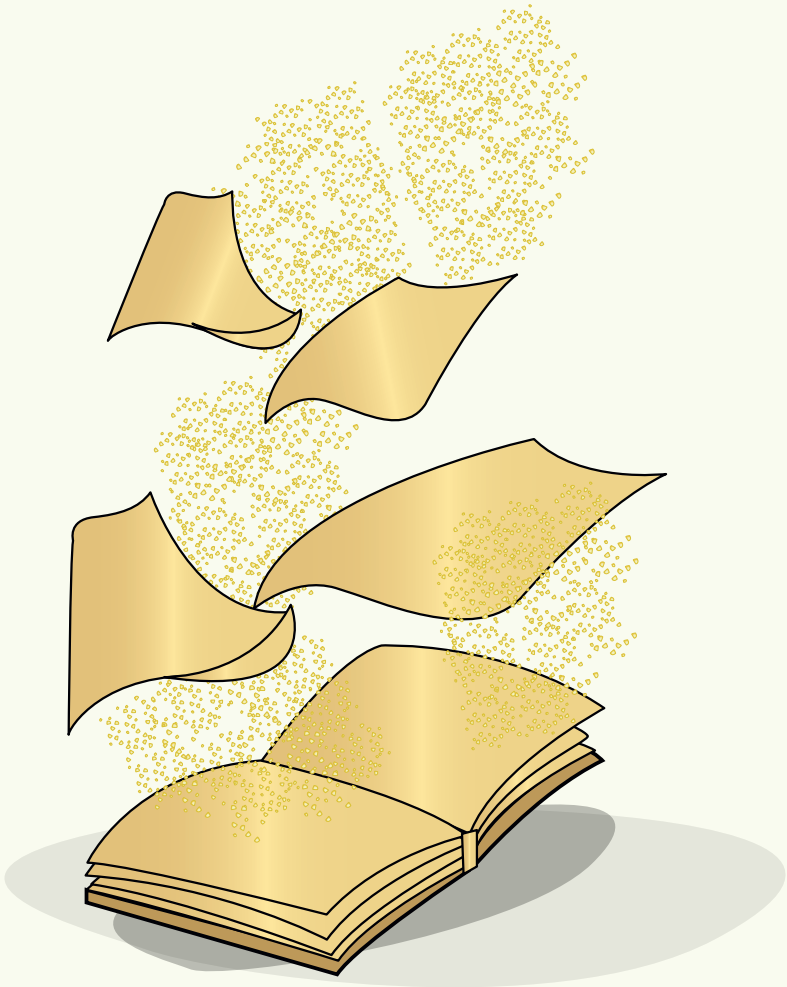
The students say the information given below by
tapping rhythm with their hands.
There are 114 chapters in the Holy Qur'an
Approximately six thousands verses
14 verses of prostration
30 Juz (Sections)
Every Juz consists of 20 pages
With clear meanings
The treasure of knowledge
And full of wisdom
My holy book is the Qur'an

How we play it?

A student chosen by the teacher tells something he/she knows about the Qur'an. Another student next to the first one repeats what the first student said and also adds new information that he/she chooses. The next one repeats the previous information and adds new information himself. By this way, all students tell everything they know about the Qur'an like a chain of information.

Let's see who will say without forgetting! Good luck!

Other Holy Books



Chronologically Allah sent the Torah to the Prophet Moses, Psalm to the Prophet David, and the Bible to the Prophet Jesus. However, people gave up doing what their Holy Books asked them to do after their prophets died. They even changed some information inside their holy books with their own ideas. By this way, the information found in the above mentioned three holy books were changed, lost or corrupted.

Finally, Allah sent the Qur'an. Today, only holy book that people can really benefit is the Qur'an. Our Lord informed us that the other holy books have been corrupted and the Qur'an will be under His protection until the end of the world. Nobody has the power to change it. Real hero is the one who believes in the Qur'an and perform what the Qur'an informs us. In other words, real heroes are the Muslims.

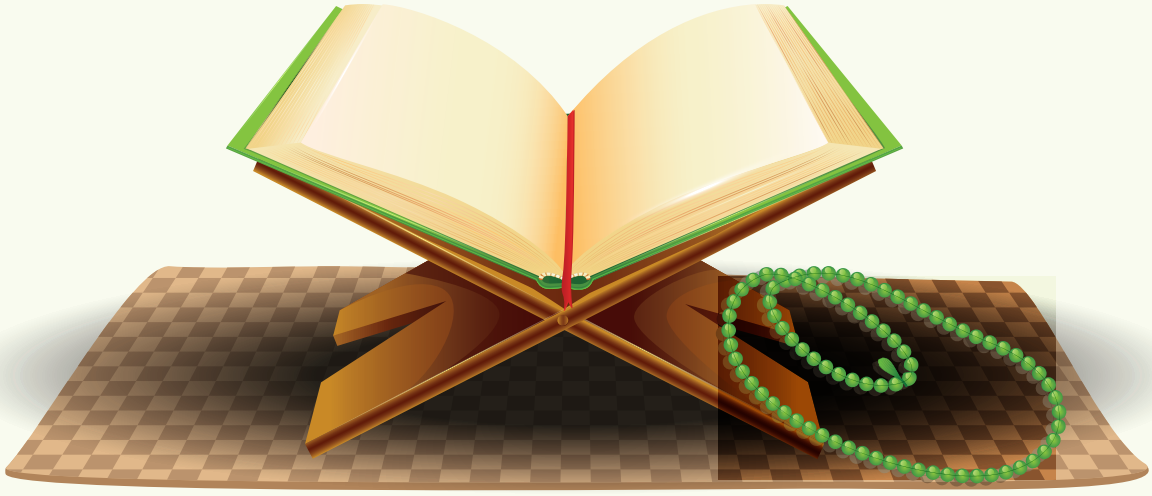
If I Believe In The Revelation And Understand The Qur'an, I Will Be Very Knowledgable Person

Our holy book the Qur'an is like a treasure consisting various kinds of valuable information. If we love our book and read it regularly every day, we start learning very valuable information and realities from this treasure.

Like our Prophet did...

When the unbelievers asked questions about the events that had happened in the very old times, our Prophet Muhammad would immediately answer them by reading verses. Everyone would feel shocked and ask him, "Where did you learn this? You were not in this world at the time!" Our Prophet would explain the truths with the knowledge he got from the Qur'an. Thus, the unbelievers who did not believe in the fact that he was a Prophet would feel shocked.

Our Prophet was taught about how sick people could be healed by some verses of the Qur'an. He was taught that honey and ginger could be used to make our body stronger. Our Prophet also told us how we could be protected from evil beings and badness by reading chapters of al-Falaq and al-Nas. For instance, when the Prophet Muhammad felt pain in his body, he used to put his right hand on the place he was feeling pain and read chapter al-Fatiha. The pain would go right away. If we depend on the Qur'an as strong as our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did, and if we read it much and understand it, we will be knowledgeable person with good morals. We will be helpful person to humanity and to the world. By this way, we will be a great hero, in other words, a good Muslim!



Chapter Al-Bayyinah

Allah gives glad tidings to those who follow His Book and informs us that they will be granted with eternal gifts. He tells us that those who deny the truths are in the wrong path and they will lose both in this world and in the Hereafter. Chapter al-Bayyinah clearly explains these issues to us. If we read chapter al-Bayyinah much, we will understand the book of Allah correctly. We will achieve successes in this world, and gain perfect gifts and presents in the Hereafter.

لَمْ يَكُنِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ اَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ مُنْفَكِّينَ حَتّٰى تَأْتِيَهُمُ
الْبَيِّنَةُ ﴿١﴾رَسُولٌ مِنَ اللهِ يَتْلُوا صُحُفاً مُطَهَّرَةً ﴿٢﴾فِيهَا كُتُبٌ قَيِّمَةٌ
﴿٣﴾وَمَا تَفَرَّقَ الَّذِينَ اُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ اِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمُ الْبَيِّنَةُ
﴿٤﴾وَمَا اُمِرُوا اِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلٰوةَ
وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكٰوةَ وَذٰلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ ﴿٥﴾

The Meaning of chapter *al-Bayyinah* (verses 1 - 5)

In the name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

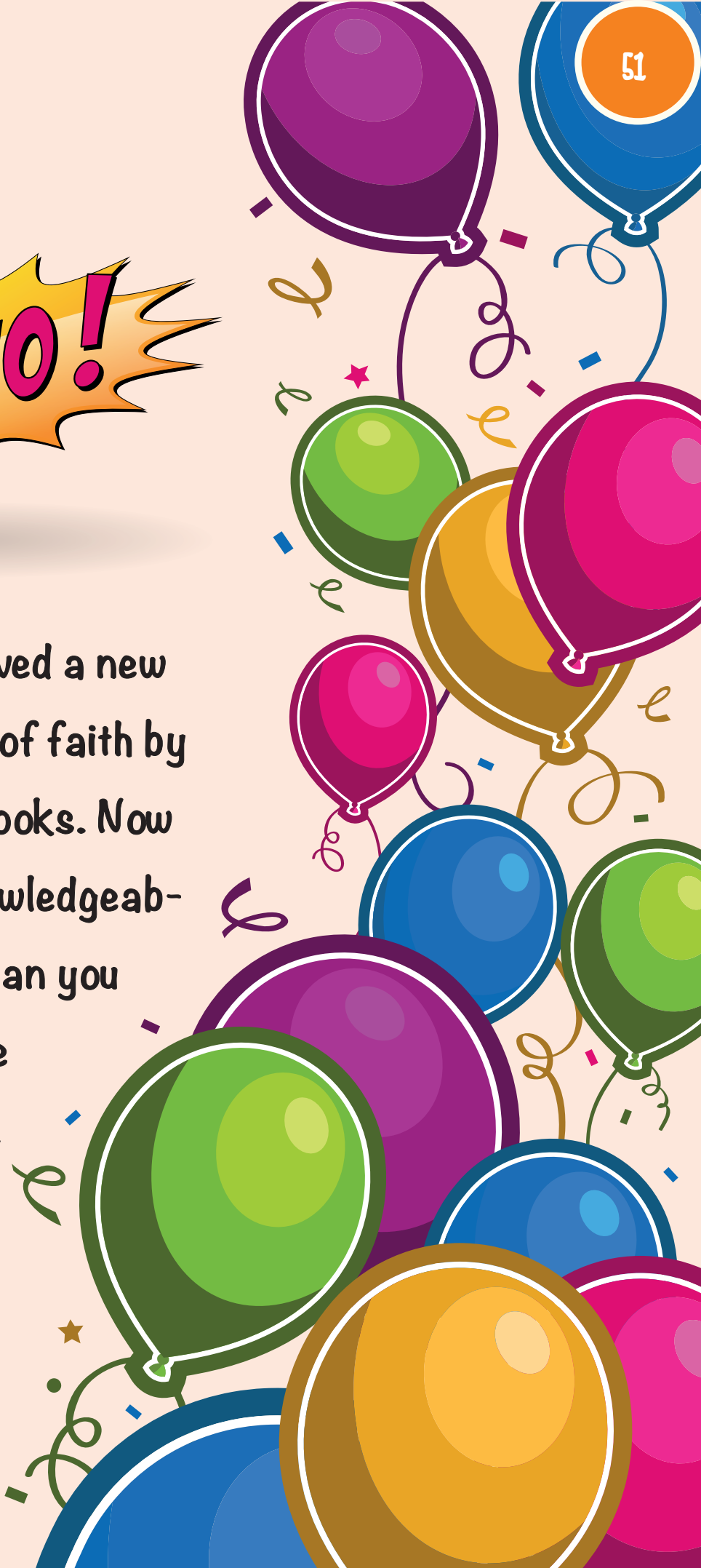
1. Those who disbelieved among the People of the Scripture and the polytheists were not to be parted (from misbelieve) until there came to them clear evidence
2. (This clear evidence is) A Messenger from Allah, reciting purified scriptures
3. Within which are correct writings.
4. Nor did those who were given the Scripture become divided until after there had come to them clear evidence.
5. And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, (being) sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayer and to give zakah. And that is the correct religion.

PUZZLE

Below are the holy books given next to the name of the prophet to whom it was revealed. However, their letters are mixed. Can you correct the letters and find which books are revealed to which prophet? When you find them, you will be achieved the third part of the Medal of Faith. Good luck!

The Prophet Jesus	.....	Slpam
The Prophet Muhammad	.....	Htaro
The Prophet Moses	.....	Ibibe
The Prophet David	.....	Raqnu

You have achieved a new part of the medal of faith by believing in the books. Now you are more knowledgeable and brighter than you were before. We congratulate you.



4 Stage Of "Believing In Prophets"

From among people, Allah chose His messengers who taught the holy books to people and become examples to them by their acts and behaviors. He gave them "the Seal of Prophethood." Abilities and characters of the prophets are different than each other. However, they all love Allah so much, and are heroes who obey what Allah commands word by word.

The Conditions to Have "the Seal of Prophethood"

It is necessary to have some superior characteristics in order to be a prophet. Allah chose His messengers from among the people who had these characteristics, and helped them all the time.

1. Sidq (Loyalty): Sidq means honesty. The prophets were extremely truthful and honest people. They never lied. When they said that something had happened, it happened for sure. They spoke in the light of the revelation Allah sent to them.
2. Amanah (Trustworthiness): It means being trustworthy. The prophets were people whose words and deeds could be completely trusted. When they were entrusted with something, they protected it in the best way and returned it back to its owner.
3. Fatanah (Intelligence): It means being clever and smart. The prophets were very clever and highly intellectual people. That's why they could not be deceived. They knew the best and the truest of everything.
4. Ismah (Innocence): It means not to commit sins. The prophets do not commit any sin openly or secretly. They did not do evil or bad deeds, hurt anybody's feelings. They always did good and right deeds.
5. Tabligh (Delivering a message): It means delivering a message. The prophets conveyed all religious messages that they got from Allah without making any change. They were also the ones who could explain in the best way the message that they delivered.
6. Amn al-azl: It means that they could not be removed from their duty. They would never be dismissed from the mission of prophethood. They were and will be the prophets all the time in this world and Hereafter.
7. Courage: It means being brave. The prophets were all brave people. They never felt afraid of their enemies or unbelievers, and they did not stay away from struggling
8. Iffah (Chastity): It means being chaste and pure. All prophets were modest and honorable people. They never were in a shameful or embarrassing situation.
9. Adalah (Justice): It means acting with justice. All prophets were just people and never oppressed or acted with injustice. They solved contradictions between people and made the suitable decision.

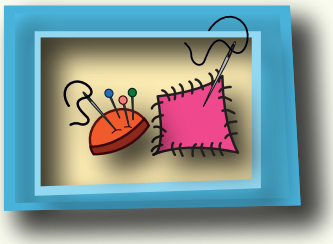
Arrival Of The Prophets

Our Lord sent the Prophet Adam as the first human being and the first prophet. Afterwards, many prophets were sent periodically. Finally, our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (peace be upon him) was sent. After the Prophet Muhammad, there will be no prophet sent to this world.

So, prophets, whose names are mentioned in the Qur'an, became the guides and perfect examples to people in goodness and truth. Allah sent them to humanity as examples. Some nations and people denied the prophets, and treated them badly. However, Allah continued sending the prophets and revelation to help them find the right path and be good people.

All prophets fought with and overcame all kind of difficulties, and showed us that a person who believes in Allah always wins. Each one of them is a real hero.

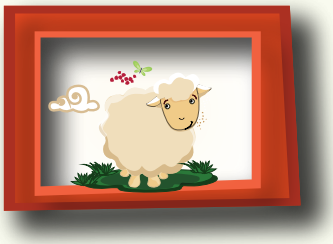
The Prophet Adam



The Prophet Idris

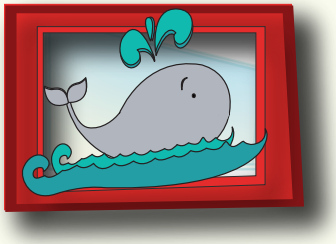
The Prophet Noah

The Prophet Abraham



The Prophet Ishmael

The Prophet Jacob



The Prophet Jonah

The Prophet Muhammad

Prophets

Allah speaks about many prophets in the Holy Qur'an. Let's learn some of them now...

The students say this all together in chorus.

They do same hand gesture for four prophets but do different hand gestures for the other four Prophets' names. For example, if they put out their index fingers when they read first four names of Prophets, they can raise their index fingers for the second four names, and in the third four names they can wave their hands etc.

The Prophet
Adam, Idris, Noah, Hud
Adam, Idris, Noah, Hud

Saleh, Ibrahim, Lot, Ishmael
Saleh, Ibrahim, Lot, Ishmael

Ishaq, Yaqub, Yusuf, Ayyub
Ishaq, Yaqub, Yusuf, Ayyub

Shuaib, Moses, Harun, Dawud
Shuaib, Moses, Harun, Dawud

Suleiman, Ilyas, Elyesa, Dhulkifl
Suleiman, Ilyas, Elyesa, Dhulkifl
Jonah, Zechariah, Yahya, Jesus
Jonah, Zechariah, Yahya, Jesus

Peace be upon them all..

And..
The Prophet Muhammad
(Peace be upon him).

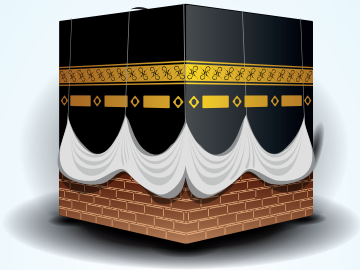
THE PROPHET ADAM
He is the first agricultural engineer and farmer. He taught the names stuff to people.

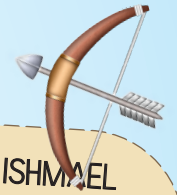
THE PROPHET IDRIS
He was interested in astronomy and mathematics. He invented measuring instruments and scales. He invented the needle and was the first tailor.

THE PROPHET NOAH
He worked as a carpenter, as a seaman, and in seafaring.

THE PROPHET HUD
He dealt with trading. He taught how to trade in truthful and honest way.

THE PROPHET SALEH
He raised camels and was interested in trading.





THE PROPHET IBRAHIM
He is the first architect, and he built the Ka'bah with his son, Ishmael.

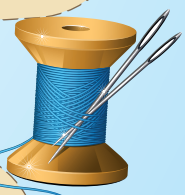
THE PROPHET ISHMAEL
He was an expert in hunting, and knew several languages.

THE PROPHET LUT
He was a historian. He also was the first man who believed in the Prophet Ibrahim's prophethood.

THE PROPHET ISHAQ
He was a shepherd.

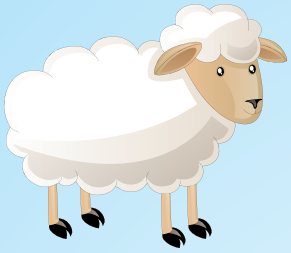
THE PROPHET JACOB
He was a tailor, a teacher, and a shepherd.

THE PROPHET JOSEPH
He learned interpreting dreams. He stocked the products of soil and invented clock.



THE PROPHET AYYUB
He was famous by his patience against the illnesses and hardships. He engaged in agriculture.

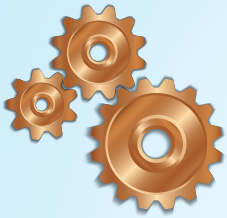
THE PROPHET SHUAIB
He engaged in agriculture and ranching.



THE PROPHET MOSES
He was a shepherd, and served for the Prophet Shuaib.

THE PROPHET AARON
He served as the vizier of his brother Moses.

THE PROPHET DAVID
He was the first one who forged iron. He was a hero ruler in wars.



THE PROPHET SULEIMAN
He forged copper and had armies formed from animals and winds.

THE PROPHET ELYESA
He was the assistant of the Prophet Ilyas.

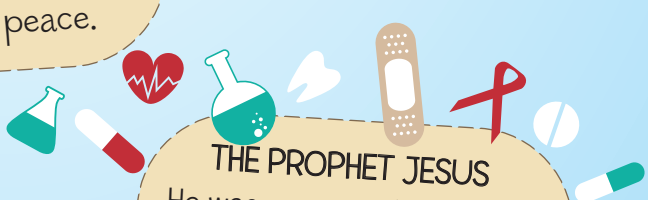
THE PROPHET ILYAS
He engaged in weaving.

THE PROPHET DHULKIFL
He worked as a baker.

THE PROPHET JONAH
He was an expert fisherman.

THE PROPHET ZAKARIA
He engaged in carpentry.

THE PROPHET YAHYA
He was a great person and giving people peace.



THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD
He was a shepherd and a very successful merchant.

THE PROPHET JESUS
He was an expert in haunting and showed miracles in medicine.

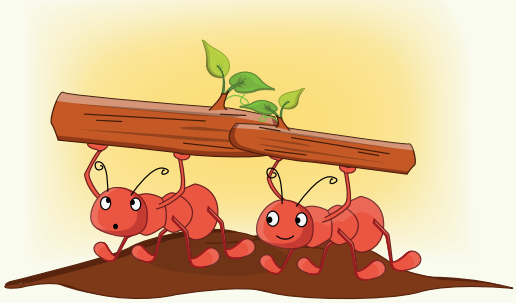
Some Prophets Mentioned In The Qur'an And Their Secrets

If we read the Qur'an carefully, we understand some secrets of each prophet which brought them to success and endless happiness.

Like the Prophet Joseph: The Brothers of Joseph felt jealous of him and threw him into a well. The Prophet Joseph never said "Why this is happening to me, I am an unlucky person." He believed for sure that Allah would help him. He patiently waited and prayed in the well. Finally, he got out from well and was sold as a slave. However, he never felt sad for being sold as a slave. After waiting patiently, he was appointed as the minister responsible from treasury in Egypt.

The situation of the Prophet Joseph tells us, "Dear Kids! Do not ever feel depressed. Pray to Allah, and wait patiently. Surely, Allah's help will arrive to you."

Like the Prophet Suleiman: He learned the languages of all animals and plants. He showed us that it is possible to speak to them and they have their own languages. Nowadays, scientists have found out that some plants have a special language between themselves. The Prophet Suleiman taught us long time ago that we have to value every creature created by Allah. When we care all creatures, trees will not be destroyed, animals will not go extinct, and seas will not be polluted. All these creatures carry us, help us and serve us. The Prophet Suleiman showed us how to care to the creatures around us and how we will benefit from their services.



The Prophet Suleiman was a commander who cared not to disturb even ants when he was passing by with his army. Once he even smiled at an ant and made the following invocation:

"...My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to do righteous of which You approve. And admit me by Your mercy into (the ranks of) Your righteous servants."

(Chapter al-Naml verse 19)

Like the Prophet Aaron: The Prophet Aaron was the brother and assistant of the Prophet Moses. He always supported his brother. They depended on each other. Together they taught the truth and the good to people. They also defeated Pharaoh the powerful ruler of their era.

He influenced the people by his good voice and speech. Everyone was amazed of his speeches. His brother, Moses was lisper and people could not understand his speeches very well. However, the Prophet Aaron did not tell that "I speak better than Moses, so I am a better Prophet." He knew that the most important thing was delivering the people the message and news informed him by Allah. The prophets Moses and Aaron believed that if they support each other, they will achieve great happiness and success.

He never felt jealous and said, "Why the holy book which Allah revealed to my brother Moses was not sent to me?!" Instead, he said, "Whatever Allah gives to anyone is beautiful" and supported his brother the Prophet Moses all the time. He showed us that all powerful enemies can be defeated if they stand together against them. These two brothers became the prophets that Allah sent His greetings.

Chapter Al-Inshirah

The Prophets passed through very rough times. They came across with people who did not listen to them, even insulted them. Unbelievers in Mecca also treated our Prophet badly. They denied him and even slandered him. Our Prophet felt so hurt and sad, but he never gave up telling them about Allah. Our Lord tells in chapter al-Inshirah about how He helped our Prophet in those hard times and how He relieved his heart. He informs us that there is easiness together with every hardship and we can overcome them if we become patient. Allah advises us not to waste our time with useless things, and start a new duty whenever we are done what we do. In this way, we can be happier and more successful. If we want to be a hero like our Prophet, we should read chapter al-Inshirah as well. We should understand the meaning of this chapter. In order to be happy, we should work hard, and never forget that Allah is our helper all the time.

Chapter Al-Inshirah

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اَلَمْ نَشْرَحْ لَكَ صَدْرَكَ (١) وَوَضَعْنَا عَنْكَ وِزْرَكَ (٢) اَلَّذِىٓ اَنْقَضَ
ظَهْرَكَ (٣) وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ (٤) فَاِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا(٥) اِنَّ مَعَ
الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا (٦) فَاِذَا فَرَغْتَ فَانْصَبْ (٧) وَاِلٰى رَبِّكَ فَارْغَبْ (٨)

The Meaning

In the name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

1. Did We not expand for you, (O Muhammad), your breast?
2. And We removed from you your burden
3. Which had weighed upon your back
4. And raised high for you your repute
5. For indeed, with hardship (will be) ease.
6. Indeed, with hardship (will be) ease.
7. So when you have finished (your duties), then stand up (for worship)
8. And to your Lord direct (your) longing.

PUZZLE

Are you ready to win?

For the seal of prophethood, you have to pass through necessary stones and reach the seal of prophethood. Later on, you will find the meanings of the stones you passed through and you will put them in the correct sentences. This challenging duty will make you achieve the fourth part of the medal of faith.

Let's start!

Boring	Energetic	Different	Ismah	Congra tulation
Sidq	Amanah	Fatanah	Interested	Tabligh
Calm	Witty	Poor	Interesting	Education

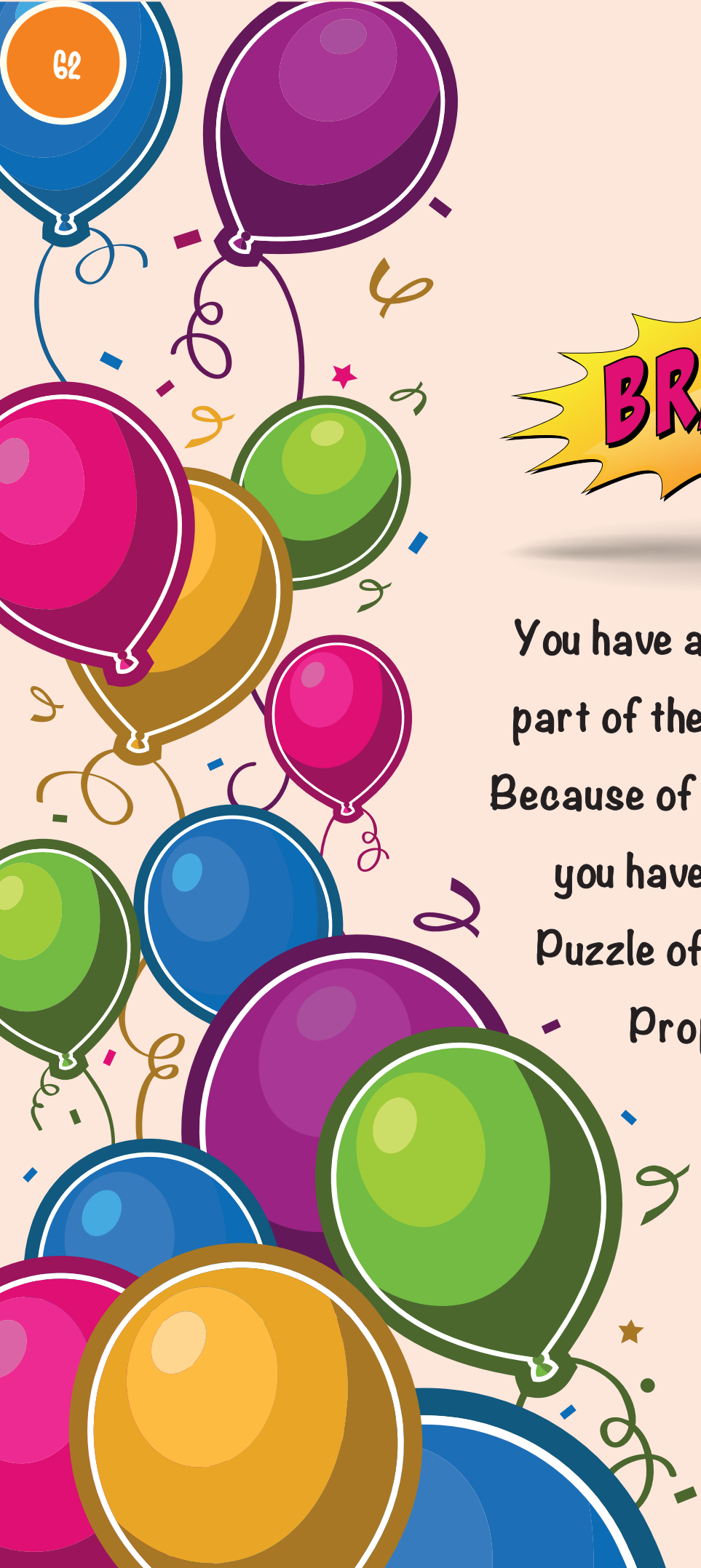
..... means truthfulness. The prophets are extremely truthful people. They never lie.

..... means being trustworthy person. The prophets were people whose words and deeds were trusted.

..... means being clever and smart. The prophets were quite smart and clever people.

..... means not committing sins. The prophets never committed sins openly or hidden.

..... means delivering a message. The Prophets delivered the message that they received from Allah to people without making any change.



BRAVO!

You have achieved another part of the Medal of Faith. Because of this achievement, you have earned in the Puzzle of the seal of the Prophethood.

5 Stage of "Believing in Hereafter"

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنْزِلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ وَبِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ

"And who believe in what has been revealed to you, (O Muhammad), and what was revealed before you, and of the Hereafter they are certain (in faith)."

(Chapter al-Baqarah, 4)

Time which will start with resurrection and will last forever is called as "the Hereafter." Believing in resurrection after all people die, and rewards and punishment in Hereafter is one of the necessities of being a Muslim.

Our Lord created the Earth for us. He gave a lifetime to every person he created. This lifetime is given to them to show whether they are good or bad. When all people's lifetimes end, the duty of this world will also end. Our Lord will destroy this world which He created from nothing at the end of this world. When that day comes, Angel Israfil will blow Sur and the world will be completely destroyed. When Angel Israfil blows Sur for a second time, all people will be resurrected.

All people will see the result of their good and bad deeds. Those whose rights were violated will get their rights from people. People who oppressed and hurt others will give their good deeds to these people. Oppressed people will get all their rights. Judgment Day is the day when the right and the wrong, the good and the bad will be distinguished. Those who do good deeds will be rewarded and get their gifts, and go to the Paradise. Those who do bad things will stay in Hell to get their punishment and will be devoid of the blessings of the Paradise.

This is told us by our Prophet,

"Whoever has oppressed another person concerning his reputation or anything else, he should beg him to forgive him before the Day of Resurrection when there will be no money (to compensate for wrong deeds), but if he has good deeds, those good deeds will be taken from him according to his oppression which he has done, and if he has no good deeds, the sins of the oppressed person will be loaded to him." (Bukhari, Mazalim, 10)

Do You Know?

Our Lord will not ask about the deeds of other creatures in the world. He will ask only the peoples' deeds. Because our Lord valued people and gave them responsibilities. Each one will be asked according to their responsibilities and intelligence. For example, responsibility of doctors is helping the patients to heal. The teachers' responsibility is to give good education to the students. Doctors will not be asked for the responsibility of teachers, and teachers will not be asked for the responsibility of doctors.

Because of this, the one who believes in the Hereafter acts very carefully. He knows that he will be asked of everything he does in this world. He does not treat anybody with injustice and works to do good all the time. A Muslim, who fulfills this condition, achieves another necessary quality to become a hero.

Curiosity Of The Prophet Ibrahim

The Prophet Ibrahim was wondering how resurrection after death will happen. One day, he asked Allah, "O my Lord! Can you show me how you resurrect dead people?" And Allah said, "don't You believe in Me?" And the Prophet Ibrahim said, "I believe in You, O my Lord, but I wonder how it will happen. And I want to see to understand better." Thereupon Allah said:

"Take four birds, then cause them to incline towards you (then slaughter them, cut them into pieces), and then put a portion of them on every hill, and call them, they will come to you in haste. And know that Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise."

(Chapter al-Baqara 2: 260)

Thereupon, the Prophet Adam took four birds. He raised them and as Allah commanded. After they died, he took their pieces (wings, legs, heads) and left them on different mountains. Then, he called them. Allah collected the pieces of birds and they came to him flying. The Prophet Ibrahim was amazed. At that moment, he clearly understood how Allah creates and resurrects. So like this, we are born in this world, grow up and live. We will depart when our time comes. Our body will turn into dust in our graves. Then, Allah will resurrect us in the Hereafter and we will be gathered again. We will go to our Prophet Muhammed joyfully like birds. Those who love our Prophet and live like him will run to him happily and gather around him. Because those who really love each other will never be separated, and will be together forever. How nice!

The Game Corner

The Concept Of Hereafter (Akhirah)

The words listed below and their meanings are given to the students.

Death: End of lifetime in this world.

Grave: Our place after death.

Barzah: Our time in grave.

First Sur: Blowing of Sur for the first time by the angel Israfil and the sign of beginning of afterlife.

Qiyamah (End of the world): Quaking of sky and earth and end of everything

Second Sur: Blowing of Sur for a second time by the angel Israfil, and beginning of resurrection of all humans.

Ba'th: Resurrection of all people in the Hereafter, in other words, second life.

Hashr: Gathering all people in presence of Allah.

Book of Deeds: The book in which all of our good and bad deeds are recorded.

Judgement: Everyone's getting the result of good and bad deeds.

Mizan (Scale): Measuring all good and bad deeds perfectly without any mistake.

Hell: The place where the people whose bad deeds and sins are more will go. The Place of regret and sadness.

Paradise: The place where the people whose good deeds are more will go. They will be rewarded with gifts and presents there. The Place of peace and happiness.

Students are divided into two groups. Each group writes down the words given above, on small cards or stones. When teacher makes a sign, each group throws their cards in their places mixed. The group which puts the incidents that will happen in the afterlife in the correct chronological order wins. The students applaud the winning group.

Let's Go To Paradise

- Those who read the Qur'an that Allah sent, and follow its principles,
- Those who try to live by taking our prophet as an example,
- Those who perform ablution and pray,
- Those who listen their mothers and fathers and never complain,
- Those who like helping others and doing good deeds
- Those who visit old and sick people
- Those who do not break the hearts of their friends
- Those who live with smiling face and always tell the truth
- Those who are merciful to animals
- So, those who live in this world like they live in Paradise!

Good News To You!!

- Allah created Paradise for us.
- He filled it with beautiful blessings and great gifts.
- If we love everyone in this world and make them happy, we will be happy.
- Our world will be a kind of small Paradise!
- Our hearts will be filled with peace and tranquility.
- Allah will make us to see the results of our good and correct behaviors. Our good deeds will welcome us in the Paradise as ageless and lasting gifts.
- How happy to the Muslims believing in the Hereafter!

Be Careful!

- There is also Hell.
- It is the place for those who regret for what they did.
- The place for those who suffer, and feel sad.
- May Allah protect us all from Hell,
- May Allah make us among those who know what is good and the truth and do them. Amin!

I Can Understand The Life In The Hereafter

If we look and think carefully, the Hereafter reminds us many things. If we understand them correctly and apply to our life, we will prepare ourselves to Paradise in the Hereafter. We know that every action we do is like flower seeds, and will bloom into various and colorful flowers in the Hereafter.

Plants tell us: Many flowers blossom in the spring, and plants turn to green. Everywhere becomes colorful and fragrance of flowers covers all over the places. After a while, season changes and the flowers start turning to yellow, fade, and fall. When we examine them, we see that all plants die. After that, the only thing that remains is dry soil. After a while, time passes and spring comes again. Some of the dried plants, which turned into dust, start blooming into new plants again. All the dried plants in the previous season become alive again and start smiling at us. In a way, they tell us, "Don't forget! There is resurrection!" Don't you see? How happy have you become to see us? Would you still be happy for seeing us if we polluted the environment or hurt you? Then, give life to your environment like we do. Give relief to your environment through your actions. Work hard in order to give useful fruits. Don't forget, there is resurrection in the hereafter after this world. You will get the results of the deeds you do in this world."

Exams show me: Teachers give us information about so many things at school and test us to see how much we have learned. If we listen to our classes and work hard, our exams will be very easy for us and we will be able to answer all questions in the exams. On the contrary, if we do not study hard enough and do not listen to our classes, we will have difficulties in our exams. We will get bad grades and we will not be one of the hardworking students. We will stay as we are, while our friends will show progress and we will be sad. We become among the losers while our friends make great achievements.

Therefore, our exams give us some clues about the Hereafter. They remind us that everyone will go either to Paradise or to Hell according to their deeds in this world. In order to gain high levels in Paradise and to become a neighbor to our Prophet, we have to fulfill what Allah asks us to do, and work honestly. By this way, we can be with our Prophet and the people we love in the Hereafter. However, if we do not do good deeds, do not work honestly, and do not perform our worships, we may lose Paradise.

You will surely be very sad if that happens.

Chapter Al-Qari'ah

There is a chapter in the Qur'an talking about the Hereafter and the Judgment Day. This chapter is titled chapter al-Qari'ah. In this chapter, Allah reminds us that Judgment will come suddenly like an unexpected guest. He tells to us that we have to wait for the Judgment Day, just like we get prepared when a guest comes our home. Allah gives us some good news and says that those whose good and beautiful deeds are more will have a great life in Hereafter. Allah states that those whose bad and wrong deeds are more will be very sad and punished because of their wrong deeds.

بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اَلْقَارِعَةُ (١) مَا الْقَارِعَةُ (٢) وَمَآ اَدْرٰيكَ مَا الْقَارِعَةُ (٣) يَوْمَ يَكُونُ النَّاسُ

كَالْفَرَاشِ الْمَبْثُوثِ (٤) وَتَكُونُ الْجِبَالُ كَالْعِهْنِ الْمَنْفُوشِ (٥) فَاَمَّا مَنْ

ثَقُلَتْ مَوَازِينُهُ (٦) فَهُوَ فِى عِيشَةٍ رَاضِيَةٍ (٧) وَاَمَّا مَنْ خَفَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُ

(٨) فَاُمُّهُ هَاوِيَةٌ (٩) مَآ اَدْرٰيكَ مَا هِيَهْ (١٠) نَارٌ حَامِيَةٌ (١١)

In the name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

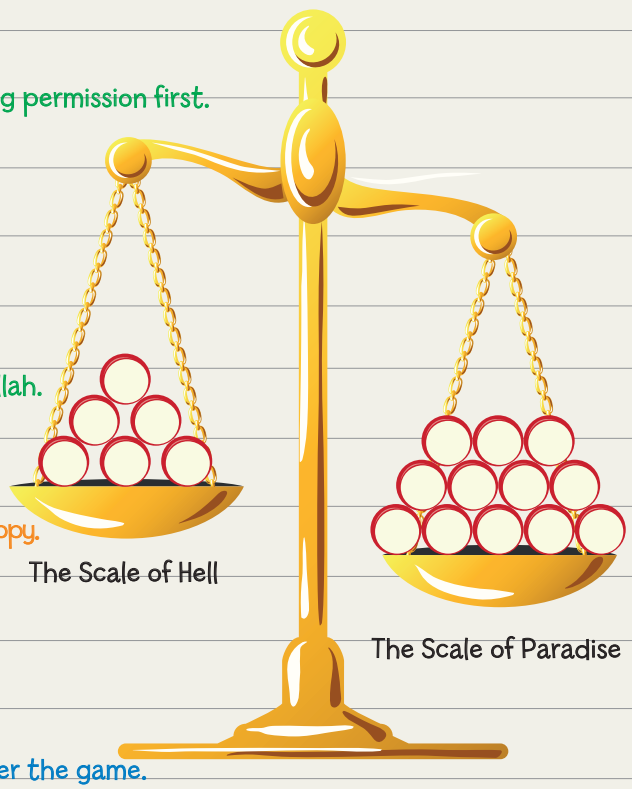
1. The Striking Calamity
2. What is the Striking Calamity?
3. And what can make you know what is the Striking Calamity?
4. It is the Day when people will be like moths, dispersed,
5. And the mountains will be like wool, fluffed up.
6. Then as for one whose scales are heavy (with good deeds),
7. He will be in a pleasant life.
8. But as for one whose scales are light,
9. His refuge will be an abyss.
10. And what can make you know what that is?
11. It is a Fire, intensely hot.

PUZZLE

Are you ready to win?

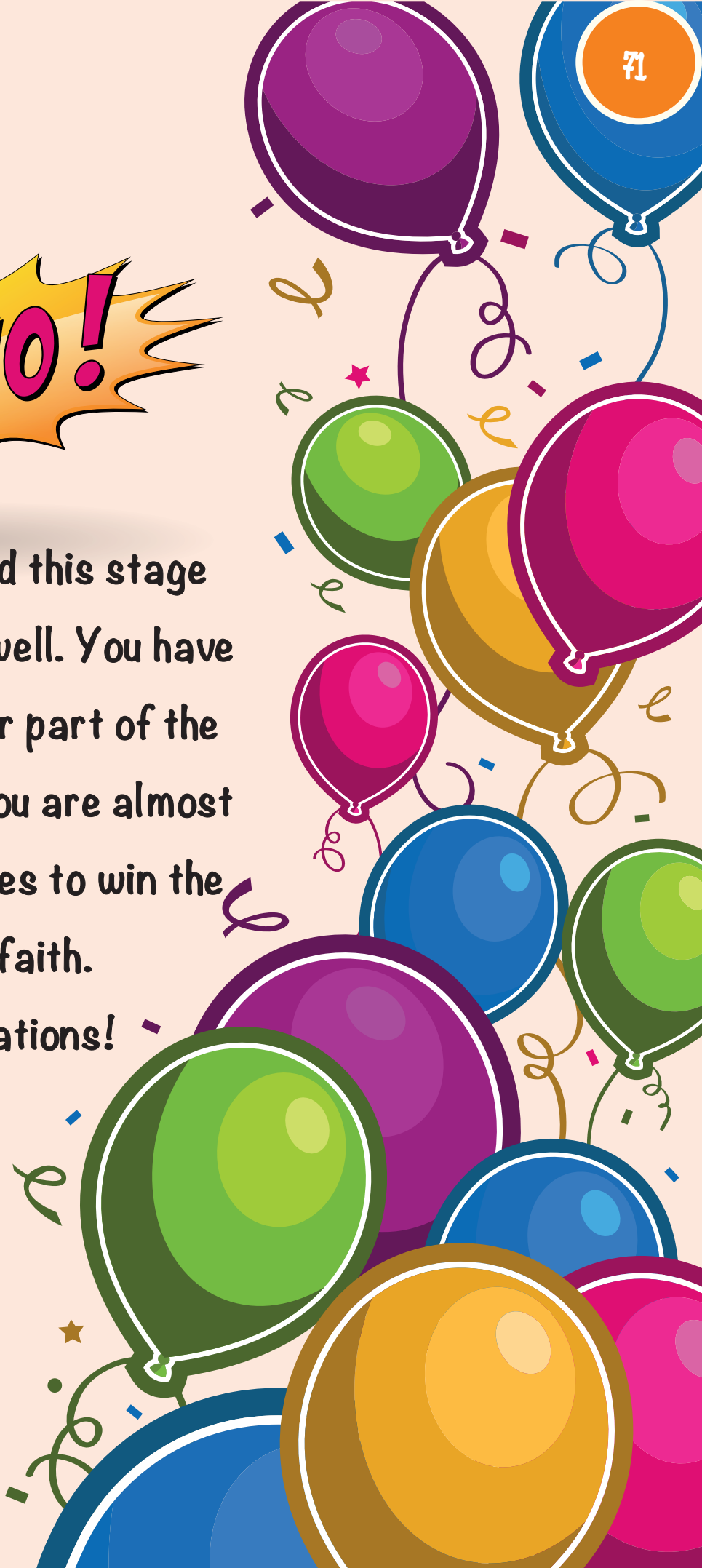
In fact, a Muslim can turn his life into a paradise with the way of his living in this world. By this way, his life in the Hereafter also becomes Paradise, while he lives happily in this world. There are some behaviors given in the list below, which will turn both our life in this world and in the Hereafter into Paradise. In addition to them, there are also some bad actions which will make our world and the Hereafter uncomfortable and miserable. Your task is to put the good deeds into the right side of the scale which will measure the deeds recorded in our book of deeds in the Judgment Day, and the bad deeds into left side of the scale. Put the good deeds into the Paradise side, and the bad ones into the Hell side. We hope that you will be among those the right side of whose scale will be heavier in the Hereafter!

1. S/he performed prayer.
2. S/he smiled.
3. S/he took his/her friend's pen without getting permission first.
4. S/he said "pff" to his/her father.
5. S/he performed fasting.
6. S/he gave water to a little bird.
7. S/he gave his/her clothes to a needy person.
8. S/he helped to an old woman.
9. S/he started eating by saying the name of Allah.
10. S/he broke her/his friend's heart.
11. S/he apologized from her/his friend.
12. S/he played with her/his brother and made him happy.
13. S/he brought water to her/his brother.
14. S/he kissed her/his mother.
15. S/he threw trash to ground.
16. S/he gave her/his *zakat* (alms).
17. S/he did not let one of her/his friends to enter the game.
18. S/he made a joke and hurt her/his friends' feelings.



You have passed this stage successfully as well. You have achieved another part of the medal of faith. You are almost done all the stages to win the medal of faith.

Congratulations!



6 The Stage of "Believing in Qadar Predestination"

I believe in *qadar*, I trust in my Lord

Qadar means that Allah knows everything and establishes a balance in everything that He created. Even a leaf cannot move without His knowledge. Our Lord created people like other creatures and sent them to the Earth. He made a program, in other words, wrote a destiny for every creature.

Allah created people as intelligent beings. People have the ability to distinguish between the good and the bad. They can act freely by using their minds and abilities. In this way, it will appear whether people will be able to show good and correct behavior or not in the test of qadar in this world.

Allah loves people so much, and wants their goodness. People should use their minds, their power, and the feelings that Allah has given to them in a good way. If a person works on doings goodness, Allah helps them all the time. We should always say in our supplications, "O my Lord! Everything happens by Your wish. Give me good things."

Those who believe in qadar know that if anything happens to them, it is from Allah, and Allah always wants their goodness. That is why they act patiently, take refuge in Allah and depend on Him.

A Muslim who believes in qadar immediately repents when he does something bad. He asks forgiveness from Allah, and knows that he is cleaned from the stains of sins when he repents. He believes that he becomes very clean and pure as if he did not do anything.

A Muslim who believes in qadar cannot get scared by any hardship. Because a Muslim is a hero with strong will.

Indeed, we, all humans, are chosen and special creatures. If we know our responsibilities and believe in Allah, and do good deeds, we will be real heroes. In other words, we can be from those who are successful both in this world and the Hereafter. Then, all people and angels admiringly watch us.

Wouldn't you want to be a hero that all people and even angels admire? So let's get to work!

The Game Corner

Goodnesses To The Heart
Badnesses To The Trash

You, the chosen special people! Your duty in this game is to separate the good and the beautiful behaviors from the wrong and the bad ones.

In order to this, firstly you will write down the good and the beautiful behaviors on small papers. Then, you will write down examples of the bad and the wrong behaviors on small papers as well.

Now, it is time to draw two hearts on the ground. Then, let's take two trash cans and put them on two different corners. Let's mix the papers and throw them in the middle.

Then, teacher chooses two students and they start collecting the papers with the command of teacher. They compete in putting good behaviors in the heart, and bad ones to the trash can. The one who collects more papers in the heart wins.

Well kids, we face many incidents in our lives. If we collect good behaviors in our heart and let all the bad behaviors go out of our lives and throw them into the trash, we will be the winners.

The Cameras Are Recording

There are cameras continuously recording how we behave, and what we say on the path of destiny written by Allah. Allah makes the angels of kiraman katibin fulfill this duty. These angels continuously record our good and bad behaviors as they are. The tapes recorded by these cameras will be presented in front of everyone without anything missing or added to them. On that day, whatever we said and did will appear before us.

Our Prophet says,

"The feet of Allah's slave shall not move on the Day of Judgment until he is asked about four things:

- about his life and what he did with it,
- about his knowledge and what he did with it,
- about his wealth and how he earned it and where he spent it on,
- about his body and for what he wore it out." (Tirmidhi, Qiyamah, 1)

Our Lord will ask us about whether we have spent our life with good, correct and beneficial things. Everything we did will be reflected on a type of screen. Even the thingS which are done secretly without seen by anyone will be clearly revealed. If we spend our time with good and helpful things, our points for Paradise, in other words our good deeds will increase. If we sleep more than we need, or play games all the time and waste our time, our good deeds will be less. In fact, we need so much good deeds to be able to enter Paradise.

In fact, our body created by Allah is entrusted to us by Him. Our Lord gave our body to us to use it comfortably in doing good deeds. If we do not care our bodies by eating more than we need, or eating less than we need, or not brushing our teeth, or not cleaning our nails and hair; we will be among those who could not protect this body entrusted us by Allah. We will lose our Paradise points, rewards. However, if we care our bodies perfectly, and perform prayers by our bodies, gain knowledge, and do beneficial things, we will get so many Paradise points. However, if we lie with our tongue, take others' stuff without their permission with our hands, and go wrong places with our feet, we will be away from Paradise. May Allah protect us from doing such things! Whereas, Allah has given this body to us to earn Paradise with it.

In addition to this, we will be asked about where we have earned and spent our money. Have we steal someone else's money or have we earned it by our own efforts? If we earned it by stealing other people's rights, our Paradise points will immediately be given to the person whose right was stolen. If we earned it by our own efforts, our points will increase. Then, it will be checked if we have spent our wealth in good or bad ways. If we have spent it for good causes without wasting it, and shared them with the needy people, we will be really rich in the Hereafter. Countless gifts, foods and drinks will be ours in the Paradise. How beautiful! However, those who waste, become stingy and never share anything with others will miss these beautiful things... How bad...

Chapter Al-Zalzalah

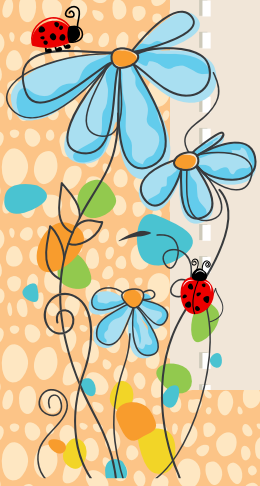
There is a chapter in the Qur'an called as az-Zalzalah. Allah reminds us qiyamah or end of the world in this chapter and tells us what will happen when the end of world comes. People will be resurrected after qiyamah. Even the smallest good deeds and bad deeds will surely be revealed. Nothing will be hidden and everyone will be held accountable for what they have done. Here is chapter az-Zalzalah which tells these things:

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اِذَا زُلْزِلَتِ الْاَرْضُ زِلْزَالَهَا (١) وَاَخْرَجَتِ الْاَرْضُ اَثْقَالَهَا (٢) وَقَالَ الْاِنْسَانُ مَا لَهَا (٣) يَوْمَئِذٍ تُحَدِّثُ اَخْبَارَهَا (٤) بِاَنَّ رَبَّكَ اَوْحٰى لَهَا (٥) يَوْمَئِذٍ يَصْدُرُ النَّاسُ اَشْتَاتًا لِيُرَوْا اَعْمَالَهُمْ (٦) فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ (٧) وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ (٨)

In the name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

1. When the earth is shaken with its (final) earthquake
2. And the earth discharges its burdens
3. And man says, "What is (wrong) with it?
4. That Day, it will report its news
5. Because your Lord has commanded it.
6. That Day, the people will depart separated (into categories) to be shown (the result of) their deeds.
7. So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it,
8. And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it.



Depending On Allah And Trusting In Him: Tawakkul

Those who believe in Allah and trust in Him always become successful.

Allah surely helps those who believe in, trust in Him, and asks His help.

Because our Lord always wants us to be good and happy.

Our Lord created Paradise for us and invites us there.

Therefore, our duty is to try to become someone who deserves Paradise by believing in Allah and worshipping Him, praying, fasting, reading the Qur'an and having good morality.

How happy to the heroes who gains Paradise!

PUZZLE

Now your duty is to follow the green arrows if the behavior or action given below is a good one or follow the red arrows if the action or behavior is a wrong one. You will proceed on a path by following these two rules. Let's see to which letter you will reach in the end. If you can follow the correct actions until the end of the path, you will use your willpower in the correct way and earn the final part of the medal of faith. In this way, you will earn all the parts of the medal of faith. Good luck!

The letter J made you gain the Medal of Faith.

Now, are you ready to know how to protect the medal you have gained?

So, let's start learning about the acts of worships!

Worship

Are you ready to protect your medal of faith?

To earn something, one needs to spend effort. It is also necessary to spend effort not to lose it.

Now, it is turn to protect our medal of faith.

Acts of worship are our shields to protect our heroism that we have achieved. Yes, by performing the acts of worship, we develop a kind of shield around us which protects us from all kinds of evil. By this way, we get stronger.

Do you know how? For this, you have to pass through 5 stages. Every stage will make you stronger and protect you from harmful factors and dangers.

Now it is time to raise or put on our shield.

1 Kalima Shahada

I declare that I am a Muslim with my shield of *Kalima Shahada*.

When we say *Kalima Shahada*, our first shield embraces us.

A person who says *Kalima Shahada* becomes "a Muslim".

A person who says kalima shahada separates himself from everything that is wrong and bad. In this way, a Muslim says that he certainly believes in the existence of Allah, Owner of everything.

Moreover, one who says kalima shahada also states that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is our Prophet and he is also a servant of Allah just like we are. By saying this statement, one emphasizes that he tries to live just as our Prophet taught us, to do good and beautiful things, and to treat everyone with justice.

How beautiful it is to be a person who loves Allah and trusts in Him and is protected by Allah. Let's all say Kalima Shahada together.

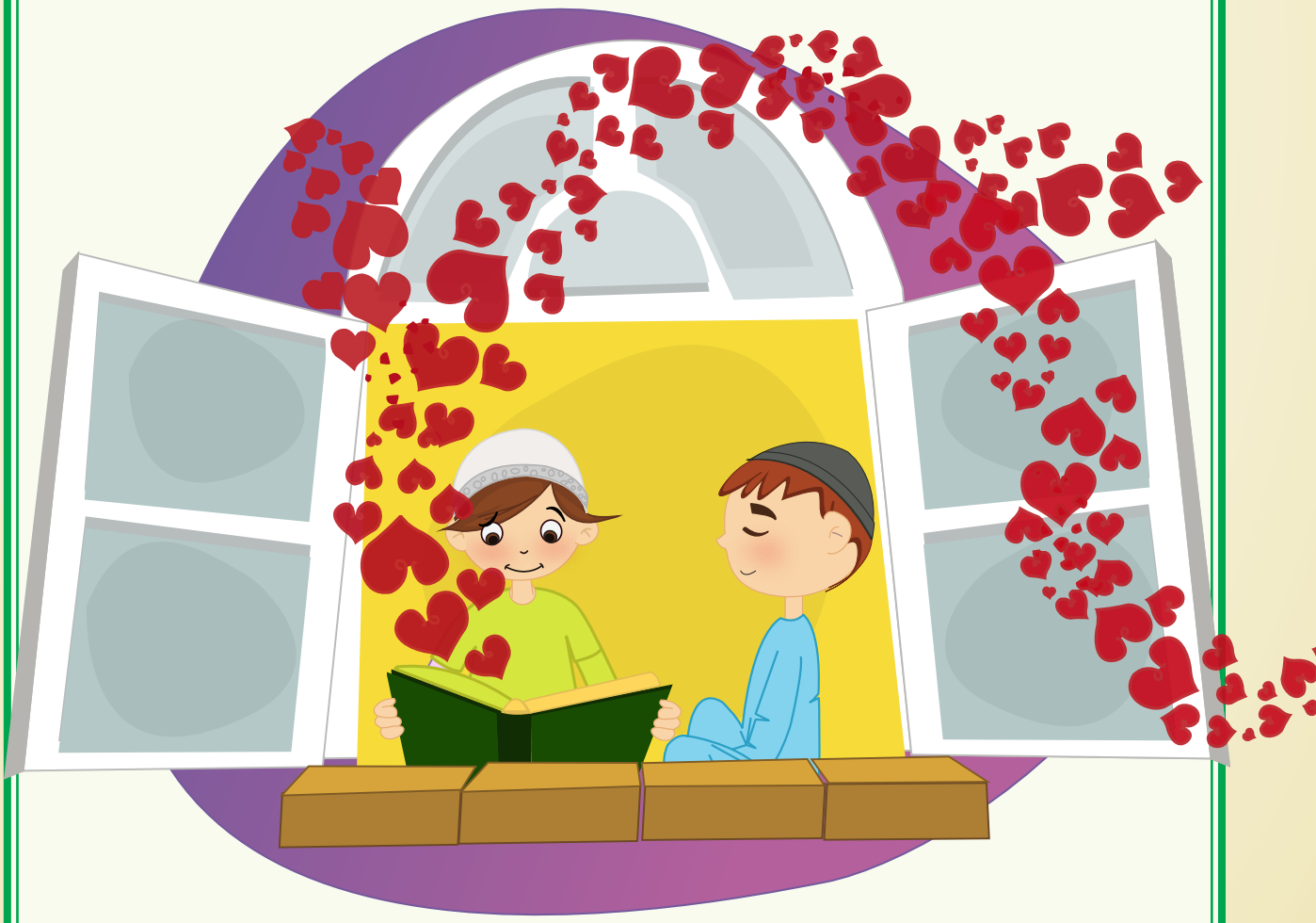
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

"Ashahadu an la ilaha illallah wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan abduhu Wa Rasuluhu."

It means, I bear witness that (there is) no god except Allah; He is One. He has no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger.

Umar's Kalima Shahada

Everyone was feeling afraid of Umar ibn Khattab before he embraced Islam. Because he was very strong and used to beat and harm others when he was angry. He felt so angry when he heard that our Prophet left their ancestors' religion and brought a new religion. Without hesitation, he decided to kill our Prophet. When his friends saw him in rage, they said: "You should first check your sister! She changed her religion as well and became a Muslim." When he heard this, Umar ibn Khattab changed his direction to his sister's



home. When he arrived there, he heard his sister and her husband loudly reading the Qur'an. When Umar heard the Qur'an, he said "how beautiful it is" and started listening to it. He was influenced from the Qur'an and amazed from what he heard. However, while he was listening to the Qur'an, he was enraged again and said, "One cannot oppose our ancestors' religion and I cannot let them follow this new religion" and entered their home in rage. He was angry with his sister and sister's husband. He shouted at them and even slapped them.

They both said,

- "This is the book of the religion we believe in. You can have a look and read it if you want." After reading the Qur'an, Umar realized that it was quite different and beautiful book. He immediately set off to visit our Prophet. Muslims who saw his arrival felt so afraid. They discussed and said: "Oh no! What if Umar try to attempt to hurt our Prophet?! Should we not let him enter the Prophet's presence?" At that moment, our Prophet let Umar to come to him.

Umar kneeled down directly when he came to our Prophet and said, "Tell me about Allah, tell me about the Qur'an." Because he was amazed by the verses of the Qur'an so much that he deeply wanted to listen them again and again. Umar said, "This is such a beautiful book! It cannot be written by a human being! This is a book from Allah." He wanted to become a Muslim at that moment. Then, our Prophet taught him Kalima Shahada. And Umar converted to Islam by saying *"Ashahadu an la ilaha illallah wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan abduhu Wa Rasuluhu."* After that day, everything

started to change. by reading the Qur'an and listening to our Prophet, in time Umar understood that it was wrong to act in anger. He started to pray, fast, and give alms and charity. Every passing day, these acts of worship made him a better Muslim. Whenever a bad thought came to his mind, he was able to clear them out of his mind fast. Bad people were not able to approach him. *Kalima* Shahada that he said all the time and his worships protected him like a shield.

After learning *Kalima* Shahada and becoming a Muslim, angry Umar was gone, and a lovely, understanding and helpful Umar came in his place. Everyone started to love him.

Umar became a caliph after the Prophet Muhammad passed away. He ruled people with justice in the light of what he learned from the Qur'an and from our Prophet. During his ruling, almost no one committed a crime. Everyone started to follow him with great love and admiration.

Only ill-minded and evil people continued being afraid of Umar and trembling in his presence.

The Game Corner

I Am Strengthening My Iman (Faith)

Students go in a garden with their teacher where they can find tree branches. Everyone starts looking for small branches. Those who find a branch says Kalima Shahada and come to the teacher.

After everyone finds a branch and brings it to the teacher, he holds one of the branches in his hand and says, "Now all of us have faith, but it is a bit weak I think. Can it be broken easily?"

"So let's do something to strengthen our faith."

When it is said "prayer (Salat)," students run to the right; when it is said "Fasting (Sawm)" students run to the left; when it is said "Alms (Zakat)," students run forward; when it is said "Pilgrimage (Hajj)", the students run behind; and when it is said "Good morality," students run to any direction they choose.

Those who find a branch say Kalima Shahada and put it to next to the previous branch.

When they are done collecting tree branches, the teacher asks: "Now hold all of the branches you collected. Try to break them all at once. Can you break them? No, you can't, can you?"

Then teacher continues, "Our faith exists with Kalima Shahada, and becomes stronger with worships and good morality like these branches. It becomes so much stronger with other branches that no one and nothing can break them. Devil and evil people cannot harm our faith, either.

We congratulate you all. Now you have strong faith and you learned how to protect it in the best way.

Supplication

Do you remember the supplication of Tahiyat?

This supplication narrates the event when Allah ascended our Prophet up to high heavens (Mi'raj) in the Night of night travel (Isra). This event happened during the days that polytheists were oppressing and hurting our Prophet so much.

When our Prophet was ascended to heavens (Mi'raj), the angels and other prophets greeted our Prophet. They welcomed him with love.

Our Prophet felt so excited and amazed when he was raised to the presence of Allah and said,

اَلتَّحِيَّاتُ لِلّٰهِ ، اَلزَّاكِيَاتُ لِلّٰهِ ، اَلطَّيِّبَاتُ الصَّلَوَاتُ لِلّٰهِ

"All good invocations, all prayers, all good things, and all praises are for Allah." Our Lord greeted our Prophet by saying:

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكَ اَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ وَرَحْمَةُ اللهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

"O Prophet! Peace, Allah's mercy, and His blessings be upon you." Our Prophet did not forget his *ummah* (followers) at that emotional moment and said immediately,

اَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَى عِبَادِ اللهِ الصَّالِحِينَ

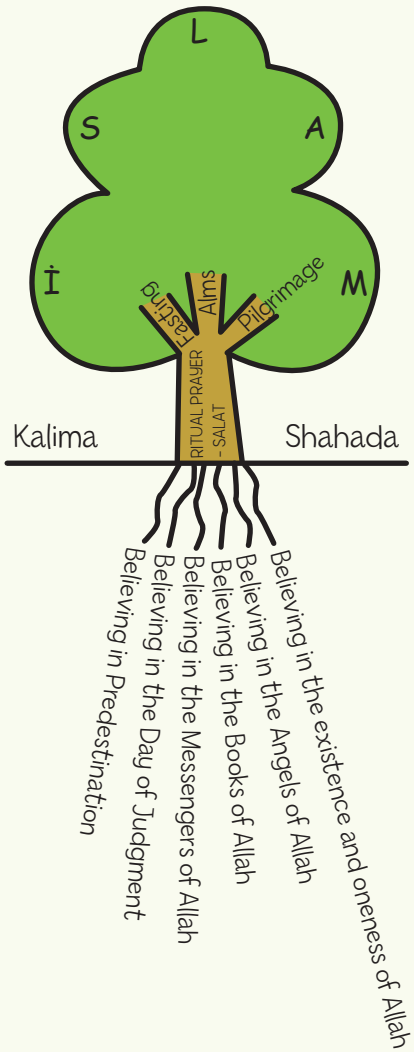
"Peace be upon us and all good slaves of Allah" And he mentioned us in this beautiful *dua.* Angels liked this beautiful *dua* and they started saying *Kalima* Shahada with joy and happiness.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

"I bear witness that (there is) no god except Allah, He is One, He has no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger." The whole universe echoed with these words.

All Muslims gained strength against the tortures of the polytheists by this event. They attached to each other and said *Kalima* Shahada much stronger. After this event, they did not give up saying *Kalima* Shahada no matter what happened to them. As always, Muslims became victorious in the end.

The Tree Of Kalima Shahada



Our Lord tells us about the tree of *Kalima* Shahada in the Qur'an;

"Have you not considered how Allah presents an example, (making) a good word like a good tree, whose root is firmly fixed and its branches (high) in the sky? It produces its fruit all the time by permission of its Lord. And Allah presents examples for the people that perhaps they will be reminded. And the example of a bad word is like a bad tree, uprooted from the surface of the earth, not having any stability."

(Chapter Ibrahim, 14: 24-26)

When we say *Kalima* Shahada, we plant a tree whose branches reach up in the sky. The trunk of our tree becomes stronger when we perform our daily prayers. When we fast, give alms, and perform pilgrimage, the strong branches of our tree stretch towards the sky. By means of our good words and behaviors, our tree produces many leaves and fruits.

Our tree of faith comes into existence by saying *Kalima* Shahada. The roots of this tree are the principles of *iman* (faith) and our good morality and acts of worship are its fruits and its branches that reach up in the sky.

Yuppie! We have learned that our shield developed by saying *Kalima* Shahada protects us.

Now let's get to work to protect and strengthen it!

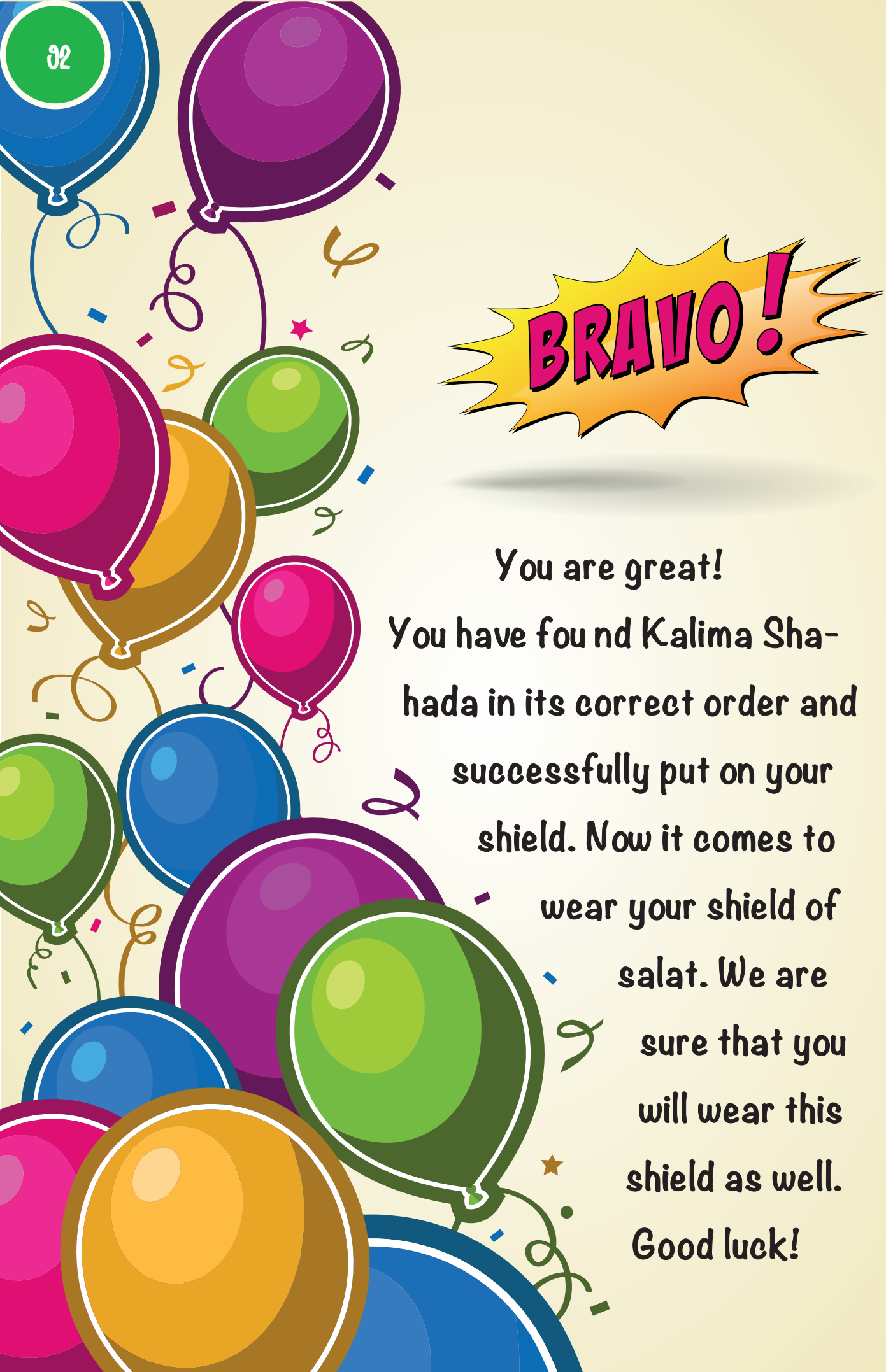
You can pass this stage by solving the following puzzle.

PUZZLE

The kid in the above wants to have a tree of *iman* (faith). To plant this tree, he needs *Kalima* Shahada. And some words of *Kalima* Shahada are hidden in the nature. Can you find where they are and tell them in their correct order? In this way, you can help him say *Kalima* Shahada correctly.

Good luck!

	Where	What is written
1	In the grass	Ash hadu
2	On the trunk of the tree	
3		
4		
5		
6		



You are great!
You have found Kalima Shahada in its correct order and successfully put on your shield. Now it comes to wear your shield of salat. We are sure that you will wear this shield as well.
Good luck!

WORSHIP OF SALAT (Ritual Prayer)

I become happier and more cheerful by performing my prayers!

Allah says, "And enjoin prayer upon your family and be steadfast therein. We ask you not for provision; We provide for you, and the (best) outcome is for (those of) righteousness." (Chapter Taha, 20: 132)

Our Prophet said,

"Do not associate anything with Allah, even if you are cut into pieces and burned. Do not neglect any prescribed prayer deliberately, for whoever neglects it deliberately no longer has the protection of Allah." (Ibn Majah, Fitan, 23)

Yes, Salat Is Protecting Us...

1 We wake before sunrise and perform *Salat al-Fajr* (the Dawn Prayer) to make our Lord pleased with us. We will full of good energy by breathing the clean air at dawn. By this way, we can think very fast and easily find the truths. We can easily do our homework and duties, and do not get easily tired when we play.

2 When we are in the middle of the day, we perform *Salat al-Dhuhr* (the Noon Prayer) to get closer to Allah. When we feel tired because of hot weather, hard work and our classes, we perform wudu (ablution), then go to prayer, and feel relaxed. After the prayer, we can happily continue our classes and duties.

3 We pray *Salat al-Asr* (the Late Afternoon Prayer) before sunset to express our thankfulness to Allah. Our tiredness goes away and we feel full of peace. Allah increases His help to us and gives us strength to finish our jobs with patience and in a good way. By this way, we can play games with our friends away from bad words and behaviors.

4 At the sunset, we pray *Salat al-Maghrib* (the Evening Prayer) to earn contentedness of Allah. Our heart get filled with peace and tranquility and we feel strength to do our duties and help our mother and father at home.

5 We pray *Salat al-'Isha* (the Night Prayer) when sleeping time comes. Darkness of night is illuminated by the light of prayer. We think about what we did during the day and thank Allah for our good behaviors and for the blessings He gave us. In addition to this, if we pray Salat al-'Isha and then go to sleep while we are in the state of wudu, it is like we perform prayers until the next morning. Our good deeds continue to increase even when we sleep. By this way, we can easily wake up for *Salat al-Fajr* next morning.

Do you know? *Salat* is an act of worship that we perform by both our body and heart. When we pray, we not only turn our heart to Allah but also do the physical exercises that we need to do every day. *Salat* on the one hand strengthens our heart and on the other hand strengthens the muscles of our neck, waist, arm and leg. There are so many benefits of performing *salat*, aren't there?

Glad to have *Salat!* We love performing prayer so much!!!

Here Is the Map of the Shield of *Salat* (Prayer)

With this map, you can learn the times and the number of *rakats* (cycles) of prayer easily. Every time, the shield of *salat* will embrace you and strengthen you more. The shield of prayer will protect us from all kinds of badness. Our Prophet said when he was speaking with his friends,

"If there were a river at the door of anyone of you and he took a bath in it five times a day would you notice any dirt on him?"

The companions said,

"No trace of dirt would be left." The Prophet added,

"That is the example of the five prayers with which Allah blots out (annuls) evil deeds." (Bukhari, Mawakit, 3)

How beautiful it is! The shield of *salat* keeps us away from badness and at the same time cleans us from dirt and strengthens us!

The Noon Prayer
Two cycles of Sunnah Mukkadda *(According to Hanafi School, 4 cycles)*
Four cycles of fard
Two cycles of Sunnah Mukkadda

The Late Afternoon Prayer
- Four cycles of Sunnah Muakkada
- Four cycles of Fard

The Dawn Prayer
- First two cycles of Sunnah Muakkada
- Two cycles of Fard

The Evening Prayer
- Three cycles of Fard
- Two cycles of Sunnah Muakkada

The Night Prayer
- Four cycles of Sunnah Ghair Muakkada
- Four cycles of Fard
- Two cycles of Sunnah Muakkada

Three cycles of Sunnah Muakkada

Table Of Prayers Cycle By Cycle

If you follow this table carefully, you can perform your ritual prayers in a correct way. By this way, your protecting shield perfectly covers you. Don't forget, each prayer cleans you, prevents you from doing mistakes and bad things. Let us start! May Allah accept your prayers.

How to perform a two-cycle prayer

1st Cycle

We express our intention to pray.
Then we say "*Allahu Akbar*"

We recite supplication of Subhanaka, then recite istiâdha, chapter al-Fatiha some more verses from the Qur'an. [According to Maliki School, only chapter al-Fatiha some more verses from the Qur'an are recited.] [According to Shafii School, the suplication of wajjahtu is recited in stead of subhanaka.]
Then we bow down and say *"Subhana rabbiyal azim"* at least three times.
Then we rise back by saying *"Sami 'Allahu liman hamidah"* and then we say *"Allahumma Rabbana laka'lhamd"*.
We then prostrate and say *"Subhana rabbiy al-a'ala"* at least three times and and then we rise back from prostration and sit for a while and again prostrate and say *"Subhana rabbiy al-a'ala"* at least three times [According to Maliki School, we say *"Rabbi zalamtu nafsi wa amiltu su'an faghfir li"* during prostration]

2nd Cycle

We say basmalah and recite chapter al-Fatiha and then some more verses from the Qur'an. [According to Maliki School, only chapter al-Fatiha some more verses from the Qur'an are recited.]

Then we bow down and say *"Subhana rabbiyal azim"* at least three times. [According to Maliki School, we say *"Subhan a rabbiyal azim"* as many times as we want.] Then we rise back by saying *"Sami 'Allahu liman hamidah"* and then we say *"Allahumma Rabbana laka'lhamd"*.
We then prostrate and say *"Subhana rabbiy al-a'ala"* at least three times and then we rise back from prostration and sit for a while and again prostrate and say *"Subhana rabbiy al-a'ala"* at least three times [According to Maliki School, we say *"Rabbi zalamtu nafsi wa amiltu su'an faghfir li"* during prostration as many times as we want]
We then sit down and recite the supplications of Tahiyyat, Salli and Barik and Rabbana atina.
And finally, we turn our face to right and say *"As salamu alaikum wa rahmatullah"* and then to left and say the same statement and finish the performance of prayer.

How to perform a three-cycle prayer

1st Cycle

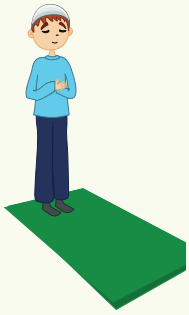
Perform like the first cycle of 'a two-cycle Prayer'

2nd Cycle

Perform like the second cycle of 'a two-cycle Prayer.' Recite only the supplication of Tahiyyat when you sit but do not turn your face to right or left in the end. Remember, there is one more cycle we need to pray [According to Shafii School, we say *"Allahumma salli ala muhammad"* after the recitation of supplication of Tahiyyat]

3rd Cycle

We say basmala and recte chapter al-Fatiha. [According to Maliki School, only chapter al-Fatiha is recited.]
Then we bow down and say *"Subhana rabbiyal azim"* at least three times. [According to Maliki School, we say *"Subhan a rabbiyal azim"* as many times as we want.] Then we rise back by saying *"Sami 'Allahu liman hamidah"* and then we say *"Allahumma Rabbana laka'lhamd"*.
We then prostrate and say *"Subhana rabbiy al-a'ala"* at least three times and then we rise back from prostration and sit for a while and again prostrate and say *"Subhana rabbiy al-a'ala"* at least three times [According to Maliki School, we say *"Rabbi zalamtu nafsi wa amiltu su'an faghfir li"* during prostrations as many times as we want]
We then sit down and recite the supplications of Tahiyyat, Salli and Barik and Rabbana atina.
And finally, we turn our face to right and say *"As salamu alaikum wa rahmatullah"* and then to left and say the same statement.

	1st Cycle	2nd Cycle	3rd Cycle	4th Cycle
Performing a four-cycle Obligatory Prayer	Perform the first cycle like the first cycle of 'a three-cycle prayer'.	Perform the second cycle like the second cycle of 'a three cycle prayer'. 	Perform the third cycle like the third cycle of 'a third-cycle prayer.' Do not read any other verses from the Qur'an after *Al-Fatiha.*	O my friend! Continue performing it like the previous cycle. After prostrations, you can sit down and finish your prayer. Recite the supplications of *Tahiyyat, Salli and Barik and Rabbana atina.* Then we end prayer by turning our head to right and then to left while saying *"As salamu alaikum wa rahmatullah".* May Allah accept your prayers.
How to Perform a four-cycle Sunnah Muakkada prayer	Perform the first cycle like the first cycle of 'a three-cycle prayer'.	Perform the second cycle like the second cycle of 'a three cycle prayer'.	Perform it like the first cycle. Recite Al-Fatiha and any other Surah; bow down and then prostrate. And this cycle is completed as well. [According to Maliki School, only chapter al-Fatiha some more verses from the Qur'an are recited]	Perform it like the second cycle of 'a two-cycle Prayer' and complete your prayer. May Allah accept your prayer.

The Way To Be Together With Our Prophet In Paradise

One night, Rebia who loved our Prophet more than anything and became very happy to serve him waited for our Prophet. As he knew that our Prophet was going to come to mosque for Dawn Prayer, he had prepared his water for wudu (ablution), his towel, miswaq (stick toothbrush), and his prayer rug the night before. Finally, our Prophet appeared in front of the door. He smiled at Rebia and greeted him.

Everything was just as Rebia wanted. It was such a peaceful and spiritual night! Master of the universe was performing ablution in front of him and Rebia was pouring

water for him. That moment was priceless for Rebia. He was peacefully pouring water in these beautiful thoughts. When our Prophet finished performing his ablution, Rebia gave him a towel and suddenly they caught each other's eyes. Rebia felt embarrassed and bent his head. The Messenger of Allah said:

- O Rebia! What do you want in return for your service?

It was the greatest chance in Rebia's life.

- I want to be with you in Paradise, O Messenger of Allah!
- Don't you want anything from this world?
- I want to be with you in Paradise, O Messenger of Allah!

This was really a great request. Rebia was demanding to be with our Prophet, who will be in the highest position "Maqam al-Mahmoud" in Paradise and who is the most beloved one by Allah. Our Prophet said to him:

- You asked something big from me, can't you ask something else?

Rebia said,

- O Messenger of Allah! All I want is to be with you in Paradise!

Then the Messenger of Allah said,

- O Rebia! In that case, help me by performing prayers as much as you can!

After that day, Rebia prayed all the time. He prayed so much. Rebia had found the key of Paradise which he wanted so much. He was holding it so strongly that he did not even leave it while he was dying!

(It is a story written based on the 226th hadith in Muslim, Chapter Salah)

Supplication

The first five verses of Chapter al-Baqarah tell us the characteristics of a hero Muslim. When we read these verses, we can understand that Muslims advance by obeying the Qur'an

Below is the verses starting with "Alif Lam Mim"

الٓمٓ ﴿١﴾ذٰلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٢﴾الَّذِينَ
يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلٰوةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ﴿٣﴾وَالَّذِينَ
يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنْزِلَ اِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنْزِلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ وَبِالْاٰخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ
﴿٤﴾أُولٰٓئِكَ عَلٰى هُدًى مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ وَأُولٰٓئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٥﴾

1. Alif, Lam, Mim.

2. This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for hose conscious of Allah

3. Who believe in the unseen, establish prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them,

4. And who believe in what has been revealed to you, (O Muhammad), and what was revealed before you, and of the Hereafter they are certain (in faith).

5. Those are upon (right) guidance from their Lord, and it is those who are the successful.

The Game Corner

Obligations Of Prayer

You remember the obligatory acts of prayer, don't you? Now we will draw a circle to the ground big enough that all of us can fit in it. Either our teacher or one of our friends say one of the obligatory acts of prayer. If he says one of the obligatory acts that must be done during prayer, we will go inside the circle. If he says one of the obligatory acts that must be done before prayer, we will go outside the circle. Of course we will also do the special movement that represents the obligatory act mentioned. For example; if our teacher says cleaning material impurities (najasa), we will immediately go outside the circle and pretend like we are cleaning our surroundings. If our teacher says ruku, we will immediately go inside the circle and bow down like we are performing ruku during prayer. Those who make a mistake or are late will be out of game. Let us see who will be able to do the acts without any mistake.

OBLIGATORY ACTS OF PRAYER

The obligatory acts that must be done before the performance of prayer:

1. Purification from spiritual impurities (hadath); to perform ablution (Students pretend like they are cleaning themselves.)
2. Purification from material impurities (najasah); to get cleaned (Students pretend like they are cleaning their surroundings.)
3. Satr awrah; to cover certain parts of the body (Students pretend like they are putting something on and covering their body.)
4. Turning towards the direction of Mecca (Students stretch out their hands and pretend like they are showing direction.)
5. Time; performing the prayer in its established time (Students pretend like they are showing their watches.)

The obligatory acts that must be done during the performance of prayer:

1. Intention; to make intention to perform prayer (Students put their hands on their hearts) [According to Hanafi School expressing intention is among the acts that must be done before the prayer]
2. Opening takbir; to say Allahu Akbar at the beginning of prayer (Students raise their hands and make the gesture of takbir.)
3. Standing (qiyam); to stay standing for a while (Students stay standing.)
4. Al-Fatiha: Recitation of chapter al-Fatiha (Make the sign of speech using your hands) [According to Hanafi School, recitation of Fatiha is not an obligatory but a necessary act.]
6. Ruku': Bending down (Bend down as if you perform ruku')
7. Raising up and Standing straight after ruku' (Stand upright again) [According to Hanafi School, it is not an obligatory but a necessary act]
8. Sujud: Performing two prostrations (Prostrate)
9. Qa'da: Sitting between two prostrations (Sit for a while)
10. Final Sitting: Sitting at the end of the cycles of the prayer. (Sit a little longer)
11. Reciting the invocation of Tahiyyat in the final sitting. [According to Hanafi School, it is not an obligatory but a necessary act. According to Maliki School, it is a sunnah]
12. Salam: Greeting to the right and left sides (Look aside as if you give salam) [According to Hanafi School, it is not an obligatory but a necessary act.]
13. I'tidal: Staying calmly and straight for a while. (Students stay calmly and straight for a while in any act of prayer of their choice) [According to Hanafi School, it is not an obligatory but a necessary act.]
14. Tuma'nina: Performing prayer calmly and smoothly (Move as if you pray hurriedly and then say "No!" waving your hands) [According to Hanafi School, it is not an obligatory but a necessary act.]
15. Tartib: Performing everything in its proper order (Takbir, standing, ruku', sajda, sitting, sajda, sitting and salam. Then everybody clap their hands and each student congratulates one another.)

PUZZLE

Ahmed is performing Four obligatory cycles of the Late Afternoon Prayer. However, he is confused about when and which moves to do. Can you help him by putting the photos in the correct order according to prayer?

Recitation of Basmala, al-Fatiha and some more verses from the Qur'an

1

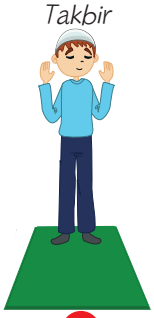
Recitation of Supplications of Tahiyyat, Salli and Barik, and Rabbana atina

2

Saying "Salam" to both sides.

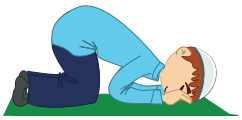
3

Intention and *Takbir*



4

Prostration and reciting *"Subhana rabbiya al-'ala"* three times.



5

Supplications of *Subhanaka, Audhu basmala, Al-Fatiha,* and some more verses from the Qur'an

6

Bowing down and saying *"Subhana rabbiy al-Azim"* three times. Bowing down and saying "Subhana rabbiy al-Azim" three times.

7

Basmala and *al-Fatiha*

8

Supplication of Tahiyyat.

9

Saying "Salam" to both sides and praying Allah.

10

What should Ahmed do in each Fard cycles of the Late Afternoon Prayer? We helped him in first cycle. Now it is your turn to help in other

1st Cycle:	4	6	7	5
2nd Cycle:	_	_	_	_
3rd Cycle:	_	_	_	_
4th Cycle:	_	_	_	_

BRAVO!

Congratulations! You have completed your duty successfully and you have girded on your prayer shield now. Now it is time for the shield of fasting. We are sure that you will earn it successfully as well. May Allah help you.

FASTING (Sawm)

My Willpower Gets Strengthened With My Shield Of Fasting

Fasting is an act of worship which we perform with our body. From dawn (imsak) until sunset, we don't eat and drink anything for the sake of Allah. This act of worship is called as fasting.

No living being can live without eating and drinking. However, we can spend our time without eating and drinking for a while in order to be a good servant of Allah. When we fast, in a way, we say, "O Allah! I am fasting because I love You and to fulfill the command You asked me to do. O Allah! I control myself and do not eat and drink until sunset from all these halal blessings that you have given us. O Allah! Many Thanks to You for all these blessings that You have given us."

When we fast like this,

-Our body becomes stronger and can more easily overcome the diseases. Fasting even prevents us from catching many types of diseases.

-When we control ourselves and do not do everything which come to our mind and do everything we want, we do not become a spoiled or a disobedient person against the commands of Allah. In other words, we can control our desires inside us and strengthen our will power. By this way, we can struggle against difficulties.

-We can enter Paradise from a special gate called as "Rayyan." There are awesome gifts awaiting only those who fast. By this way, we live in the hereafter happily forever.

When we perform this act of worship, our eyes, tongues and hearts also fast. Do you know how?

Our eyes fast by not looking at the things that Allah does not want us to look at.

- Our ears fast by not listening to gossips, bad and wrong words.
- Our tongue fasts by not talking behind anyone, and not saying bad and wrong words.
- Our heart fasts by controlling the bad feelings such as jealousy and being angry with anyone, and by not feeling heartbroken to anyone.
- Our organs such as hands, feet and others fast by not hurting anyone and not behaving badly.

By this way, fasting becomes a kind of shield protecting us from badness; a shield which protects from all kinds of badness and wrong actions.

When we properly fast in the month of Ramadan, this shield stays with us in other months as well. It protects us from doing bad actions until the next Ramadan comes. When Ramadan comes again, we strengthen our shield more, and we become a better Muslim than we were before.

Our Prophet says us, "Fasting is a shield or a protection from the fire and from committing sins. If one of you is fasting, he should avoid quarrelling. If somebody should fight or quarrel with him, he should say 'I am fasting.'"

(Bukhari, Sawm, 9; Muslim, Siyam, 163)

Story Of Fasting

It was last days of the month of *Shaban.* The hearts of the Companions in Medina felt the joy and happiness of Ramadan. They performed the prayer in the Mosque and our Prophet said to his Companions gathered around him and listening to him carefully:

-The shadow of a holy and great month came upon us. There is the Night of *Qadr* in this month, which is more valuable than one thousand months. Allah the Exalted obliged us to fast during the days and wanted us to perform prayers during the nights. Whoever makes an effort to get closer to Allah by doing a good deed, he becomes like someone who fulfills an obligatory act of worship in other months. Whoever performs an obligatory act in this month, he is considered as one who performs seventy obligatory acts in other months. Ramadan is a month of patience. The reward of patience is Paradise. This month is sharing others' problems and a month in which believers' provision *(rizq)* is increased.

A poor Companion asked,

-O Messenger of Allah! Not all of us have the means to feed a fasting person. Our Prophet said,

-If you make a Muslim break his fasting even with a date, or a glass of water, or a sip of milk, Allah will offer this person drinking of Paradise from my pond of *Kawthar* on the Judgment Day and such that this person will never feel thirsty until entering Paradise.

Are you ready to drink water from the water of *Kawthar* from the hand of our Prophet?... So let us fast and at the same time help a fasting person break his fasting!

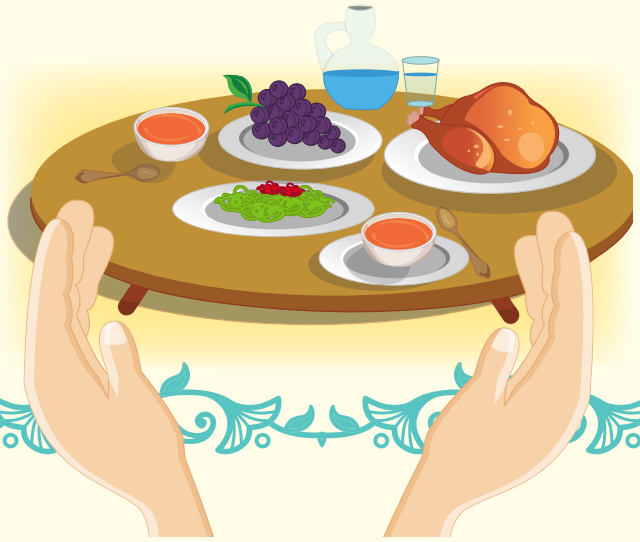
Supplications which we say when we are breaking our fasting are very special. Allah certainly accepts the supplications of those who fast, who are just and who are oppressed during. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was breaking his fast by saying some supplications all the time.

Would you like to learn his special supplication?

"O Allah, for You I have fasted, in You I have believed, in You I put my trust, and with Your provision I have broken my fast, and I intended to fast the next day of Ramadan, O Allah! Forgive my past and future sins."

Do you know with what our Prophet was breaking his fasting after this supplication?

"When one of you breaks his fast, then let him do so with dried dates, for they are blessed. Whoever does not find dates, then water, for it is purifying." (Tirmidhi, Zakat, 26; Ibn Majah, Siyam, 25; Abu Dawud, Sawm, 21)



Yes, Our Prophet was breaking his fast with date or water. One of the wisdoms in this can be: When we eat food suddenly after not eating for a long time, our blood glucose level increases very fast. However, the dates balance the level of glucose and helps us stay healthy. How nice! Let us be healthy like our Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

Be Careful! Don't Break Our Shield Of Fasting!

Yes, if we do not fast or if we break our fast without a valid excuse, our shield of fasting gets broken. Therefore, in order to protect our shield, we need to learn well which acts break our fasting and which acts do not.

The acts that break our fasting:

1- Knowingly eating or drinking something.
2- Swallowing the rain drops or snowflakes.
3- Knowingly swallowing the remaining food between our teeth from the sahoor meal which we have before starting to fast.
4- Breaking fasting mistakenly assuming that it is the time to break fasting (time of iftar)
5- Getting vaccinated or having medicine.

Some Tips!

Our Prophet gives a small secret to help us to fast easily. Let us see what he says,

"Whoever does four things, fasts easily:

- Breaking fasting with water,
- Not neglecting to get up for suhur,
- Not neglecting to take a rest a little in the afternoon,
- Wearing perfumes. (Ramuz al-Ahadis, Hadith number, 957)

The Game Corner

Silent Fasting

We have two games, are you ready to play?

For our first game, let us read together carefully the words below related to fasting and learn them well.

Suhoor: The time of expressing our intention to fast and the meal we eat before starting to fast. (Pretend like you are eating)

Imsaq: Dawn. (We close our mouth)

Iftar: The Time when sun sets, the time of Evening Prayer starts, and fasting ends. (We put our right hand on our ear and act like we recite *Azan* 'Call to Prayer', and then we act like eating)

Zakah al Fitr: Charity that we give in the month of Ramadan in order to express our gratitude to the blessing Allah has given to us. (We move our hands like we give someone something)

Qada: Make up fasting performed for the days that are not fasted in the month of Ramadan because of being on journey or sick.

Fidya: Giving money enough to feed a needy for one day by a person who cannot fast because of being old, or having illnesses for each day that he could not fast.

The Fast of Kaffarah: Atonement fasting for 60+1 days performed by a person who breaks his fasting intentionally without a valid excuse.

LET'S PLAY

Let us be separated into two groups, and write down our new words on papers and put them into a box and mix them.

Each groups choose a teller friend among them in order to explain the words. The teller selects a word from the box and will try to explain the word silently with gestures and motions. The group who finds out the word first will win and earn some points.

When all words are finished, the group who gets more points will win.

The Game Corner

Either Clap Or Say "Stop"!

Our teacher or one of friends claps his hands. We will move around until our teacher or friend stops clapping his hands. Our teacher or friend will say something that would either breaks our fasting or not.

If our teacher says something that breaks fasting, students will sit down immediately and say "NO, STOP!" If teacher says something that does not break fasting, students will continue moving by clapping hands.

The one who makes the wrong movement will be out of the game. The one who stays until the end of the game will be the winner.

Good News!

First Good News!

Jabir b. Abdullah (May Allah be pleased with him) gives us glad tidings from our Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

"Five gifts have been given to my *Ummah* in the month of Ramadan that they have not been given to any of the prophets before me:

First: On the first night of Ramadan, Allah looks at my *Ummah* with a glance of mercy. Allah does not punish those whom He looks at with a glance of mercy.

Second: The smell of the mouths of those who fast is more beautiful than the smell of musk in the presence of Allah.

Third: Every day and night, Angels ask from Allah for the forgiveness of those who fast.

Fourth: On that day, Allah commands His paradise as follows, "O Paradise! Get ready and adorned for My servants. Their salvation from the hardships of this world and coming to My presence and bounties in order to get rest have come closer."

Fifth: When the last night of Ramadan comes, Allah forgives all of His fasting servants."

One of the Companions who heard the good news asked, "Are you talking about *Laylat al Qadr* (The Night of Power)?

Our Beloved Prophet (pbuh) responded,

"No, I am not. Don't you know that the workers are paid when they work and finish their job?"

At that moment, all Companions started look at each other and smile happily.

How happy! We can earn all of these gifts by fasting. There are so many gifts that we can earn when we spend Ramadan by fasting. Moreover, there are some surprise gifts hidden in *Laylat al-Qadr!*

How much our Lord loves us and how much He is Generous to us, is not He?

Second Good News

We can perform this beautiful and helpful act of worship, fasting, not only in the month of Ramadan but also in other months of the year. By this way, we can make our shield bigger and stronger. This is up to us.

Fastsing which we perform in Ramadan month is obligatory. In other words, our Lord asks us to perform it in the Qur'an. By this way, we achieved great shields and started to protect ourselves by means of these shields of fasting. Our Lord in 183rd verse of chapter *al-Baqara*, says,

يَآ اَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ اٰمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

"O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous."

Fasting which protects, strengthens and makes our shield of fasting greater are the ones that are *(nafila)* supererogatory. Supererogatory fasts are performed in the months of the year other than Ramadan.

Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her) informs us that Our Beloved Prophet was fasting on Mondays and Thursdays. *(Tirmidhi, Sawm, 44)*

So that's why Our Beloved Prophet was so strong. One of the reasons that made him to overcome difficulties so easily was that he paid attention to his shield of fasting carefully and to strengthen it all the time.

So, let us fast as well and have a great shield of fasting like our Prophet had. It will protect us from all kind of difficulties.

Warning: Our Prophet said, *"You are not permitted to fast in two days; first day of Eid al-Fitr, and first three days of Eid al-Adha."* (Bukhari, Sawm, 66-67)

Don't fast on these four days so that you would break your shield of fasting!

PUZZLE

There is a fasting day below. Can you take our friend who woke up for *Suhoor* to time of *Iftar* without making him break his fast?

Congratulations!

You have successfully completed your mission. You have completed your third shields by adding the Shield of Fasting. Now it is the turn of earning the shield of *Zakah* (Alms) and *Sadaqa* (Charity). We are sure that you will earn this shield easily as well. Good luck!

You have successfully completed your mission. You have completed your third shields by adding the Shield of Fasting. Now it is the turn of earning the shield of Zakah (Alms) and Sadaqa (Charity). We are sure that you will earn this shield easily as well. Good luck!

GIVING ZAKAH (Alms) and SADAQA (Charity)

Protective Shield that Covers the World: Zakah (Alms)

Our Lord says in 277th verse of chapter al-Baqara:

اِنَّ الَّذِينَ اٰمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَاَقَامُوا الصَّلٰوةَ وَاٰتَوُا الزَّكٰوةَ لَهُمْ
اَجْرُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ ۚ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

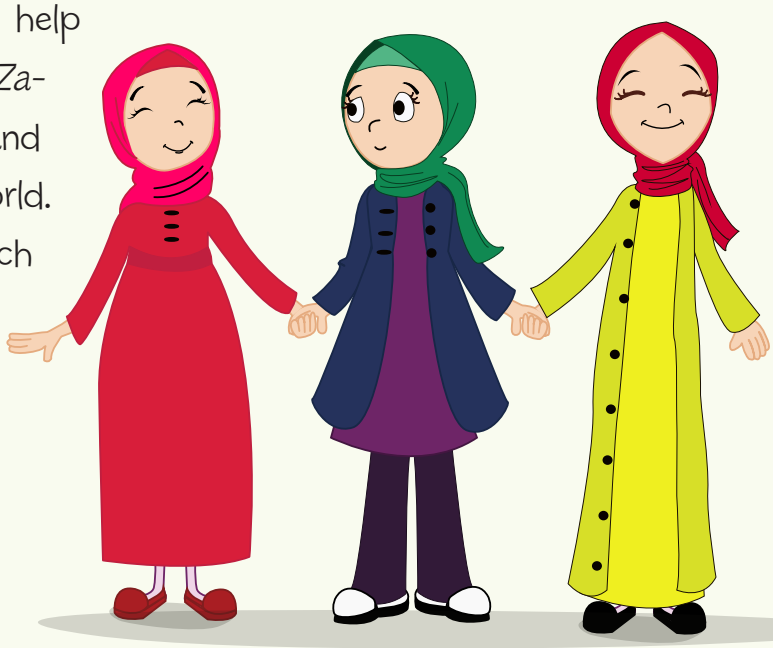
"Indeed, those who believe and do righteous deeds and establish prayer and give Zakah will have their reward with their Lord, and there will be no fear concerning them, nor they will grieve."

Our Beloved Prophet said,

"Protect your wealth by giving *Zakah*, heal your patients by giving *sadaqa* (charity), and get ready for the hardships by praying." (Munawi, *Fayd al-Qadir*, III, 464)

***Zakah* is an act of worship performed by wealth and money.** Like all other acts of worships, *Zakah* and charity provide us many benefits and protect us. When we give *Zakah*, the gifts given us by Allah increase. They never decrease. We become richer when we give *Zakah* and charity.

If we give *Zakah* out of our wealth, we will be protecting our wealth and money. Besides, when we give *Zakah* and charity, we will meet the needs of the people around us and help them. If all people give their *Zakah*, there will be no poor and hungry people left in the world. All people will have full stomach and have clean clothes. In this way, both those who give and receive *Zakah* can happily live in the world. How nice...



Two Friend's Sadness

Two Muslim friends who read the thirty ninth verse from chapter al-Rum *"And whatever you give for interest to increase within the wealth of people will not increase with Allah. But what you give in Zakah, desiring the countenance of Allah- those are the multipliers"* felt very happy. They wanted to give *Zakah* and *sadaqa* as soon as possible. However, they did not have any money to give. They were hardly able to find money to buy bread and fill their stomachs.

These two friends who felt very sad about their situation sat under a tree and started thinking.

Abu Huraira, who saw them so sad and absent-minded, approached to them and asked, "What is wrong, my Muslim brothers? What is your problem?" And they said, "Giving *zakah* is a very nice act of worship. We have grown up and become adults. Thanks to Allah, we are also sane men. We have all the conditions required to give *zakah*, except we do not have money and wealth. Just because of this, we miss so many rewards and gifts that Allah will give in Paradise. That is why we are so sad.

Abu Huraira smiled at them and said, "Haven't you heard the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)'s saying about it? Let me tell it to you and do not forget it. Do not ever feel sad" and he started to tell them what he had heard from our Prophet,

"There are charities have to be given every day for each organ that one has.

- Treating between people with justice is a charity.
- Helping people while getting on a vehicle or loading stuff on a vehicle is a charity.

- Saying good words is a charity.
- Each step when you go to prayer is a charity.
- Removing something harmful from the road is a charity.

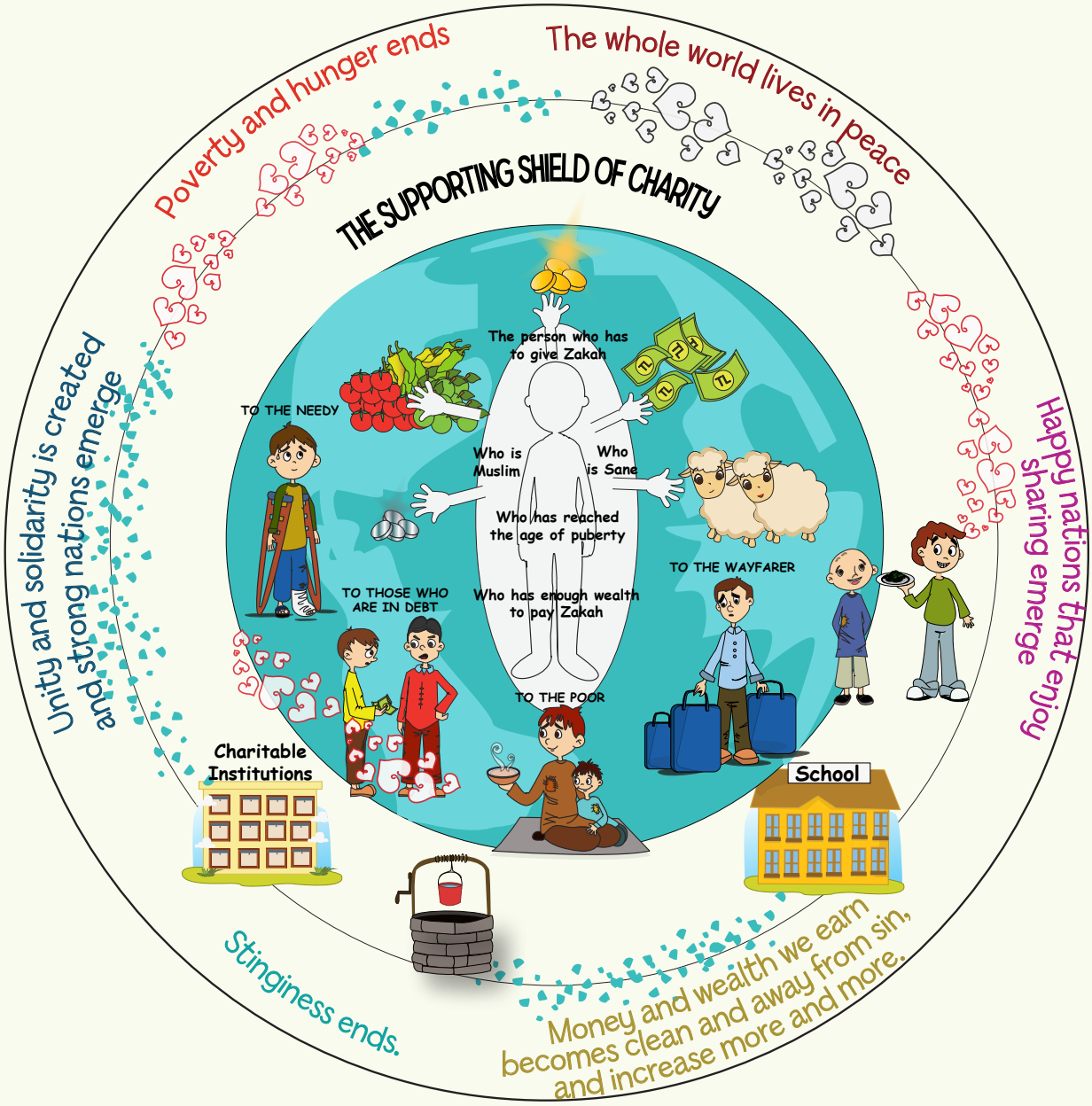
So when you do all these nice deeds, they are accepted as charity. If you do like this, you will earn the multiple rewards and gifts of Paradise. Do not be sad."

When Abu Huraira finished his speech, he saw these two young brothers were happily leaving. One of them said excitedly, "I should remove this stone from the road not to hurt anyone" and trying to remove it, and the other one was asking an old man to carry his staff by saying, "Let me help you my uncle, I can carry it for you."

(It is a story written based on the 56th hadith in Muslim, Chapter Zakah)

The Chart Of The Shield Of Zakah

Here is the outline of almsgiving (zakat). You can easily raise your shield of zakat by using this outline. In this outline, you can find who gives alms and charity, to whom they are given, and how they are given. Would you like to know how? The child in the middle shows the person to who he needs to give zakat. We understand from the inscriptions that the person who has to pay zakat should be a sane and adult Muslim who owns enough wealth to pay zakat.



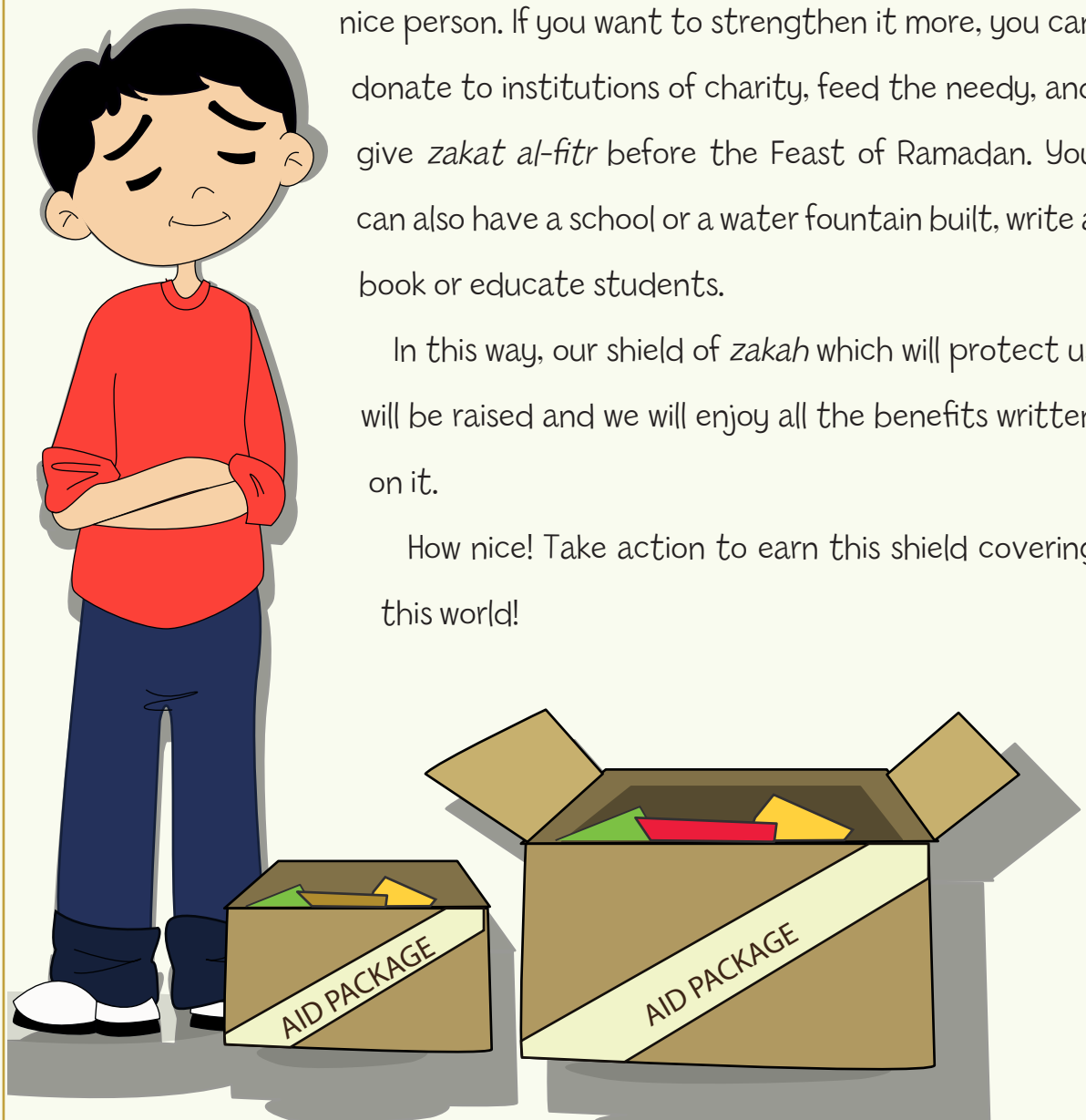
People to whom we can give *zakah* are shown on the world.

What will you give as *zakah*? It is so easy. Photos near the hands are showing them to us. Animals, crops (vegetables, fruit...), money, gold, silver and commercial merchandise.

Charity is the act of worship that strengthens and supports the shield of *zakah*. People who do not have enough wealth to give *zakah* can raise their "The Supporting Shield of Charity." In this way, they can also have this great shield. To raise the shield of charity, it is enough to be good-humored and nice person. If you want to strengthen it more, you can donate to institutions of charity, feed the needy, and give *zakat al-fitr* before the Feast of Ramadan. You can also have a school or a water fountain built, write a book or educate students.

In this way, our shield of *zakah* which will protect us will be raised and we will enjoy all the benefits written on it.

How nice! Take action to earn this shield covering this world!



The Game Corner

We are Building Bridges of Charity! Yuppie!

A friend of us will be chosen as it and will wait nearby. We will find some materials such as long tree branches, or a long rope or raffia palm to establish our bridge of charity.

We will hold out this material to our friend to whom we give charity and thus establish a bridge between us. Of course, we will not forget to say the name of our friend and what kind of charity we are giving.

For example, we will give one end of the rope to our friend Ahmet saying that "I am looking at you with a smiling face, Ahmed." He will hold the rope and will give it to his friend saying "Dear Aisha, I am helping you to carry your school stuff." By this way, we will establish a great bridge when all of our friends hold a part of the rope.

The last one of our friends will give his charity to the first friend and in

this way, we will create a circle. We will take the shape of the world by giving alms and charity and will reach all people by our bridges.

Now, it is the turn of our friend we chose to be it in our game. Our friend will come from outside and try to enter our circle in order to break our circle.

If anyone of our friends is broken from the circle, he/she will become it and the game will restart.

So let's start! We wish you a game plenty of alms, charity, and fun.

Dear Kids, Our Prophet (pbuh) says, "Alms (zakah) is a great and strong bridge of Islam." (Targhib, Haythami, Majma al-Zawaid, III, 62). Your and your families' alms and charities can cover whole world just like in our game. The stronger our alms and charity bridges become, the stronger we can connect to each other. Nobody can divide and separate us. We can be a strong Muslim community. There will be no hungry or needy person left in our world. Everyone lives happily. Let us not forget it!

The Army That Gets Stronger by Alms and Charity

Syrian Christians wrote a letter to Byzantine Emperor Heraclius. They informed him in this letter that Muslims were miserable in famine and poverty. Moreover, they told him that it was the best time to destroy Muslims, and asked him to send an army over Muslims to destroy them.

Upon this request, Heraclius prepared a huge army with 40.000 soldiers and set the army off under the command of Kubad. There even were other armies supporting them.

When our beloved Prophet heard about it, he prayed Allah saying: "O Allah! Do not let these handful Muslims to be destroyed! Otherwise, there will be no believer left on this earth worshipping you..." and then he gathered his Companions and told them that they were going on an expedition over Byzantine in order to ensure the Muslims' safety. He then called everyone to donate money and provisions for the Muslim army.

In those days, the weather was extremely hot and dry. There was a sever famine. The road of expedition was very long, and the enemy army was very strong.

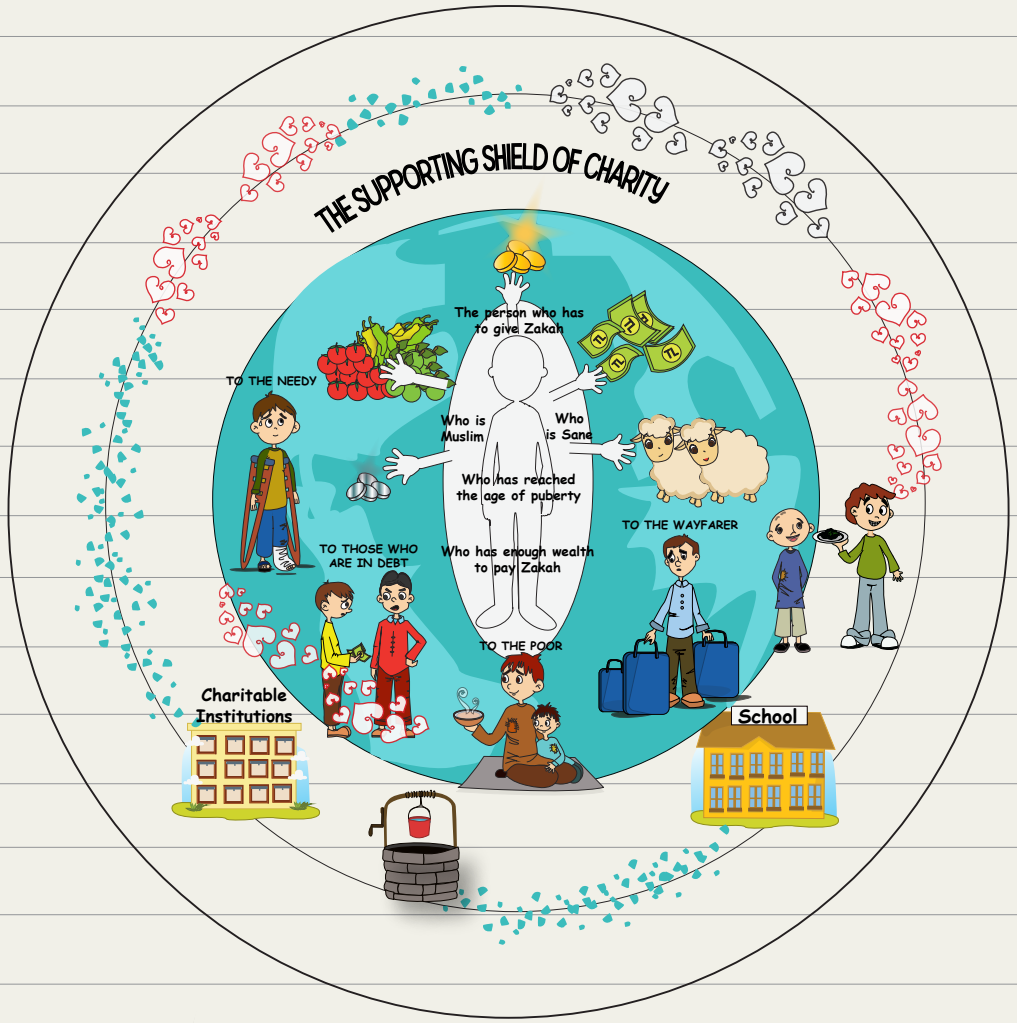
Despite all those difficulties, Muslims competed with each other in helping the Muslim army. Everyone, both rich and poor brought whatever they had and donated to the army. With the alms and charities, Muslim army got stronger. Muslims held onto each other and got united. Heraclius, the Emperor of Byzantine, who saw the magnificent state of Muslims was shocked and got scared to fight with them. He said, "I thought Muslims were weak because of famine and poverty?! We cannot defeat them in this way. If we cannot win this war, it will be our end." Thus, he decided to sign a treaty without fighting.

Byzantines who wanted to destroy Muslims signed a treaty for the benefit of Muslims. In this way, Muslims got stronger and added more to their gains.

PUZZLE

Below is the Chart of Alms and Charity. However, some information is erased. Now you have to write down the qualities of a person who has to give alms and what will happen when alms and charity are given. After that, you need to underline the materials given as alms and put a circle around the photos of charitable actions and behaviors.

After completing this mission, you will reach the last stage of the protective shield. Let us start, good luck!



Congratulations! You have successfully completed your mission! You have earned your fourth protective shields, after earning the shield of Alms and Charity that covers the whole world. So now, it is time to earn the shield of pilgrimage! We are sure that you will earn this shield as well. Good luck!

PERFORMING PILGRIMAGE (Hajj)

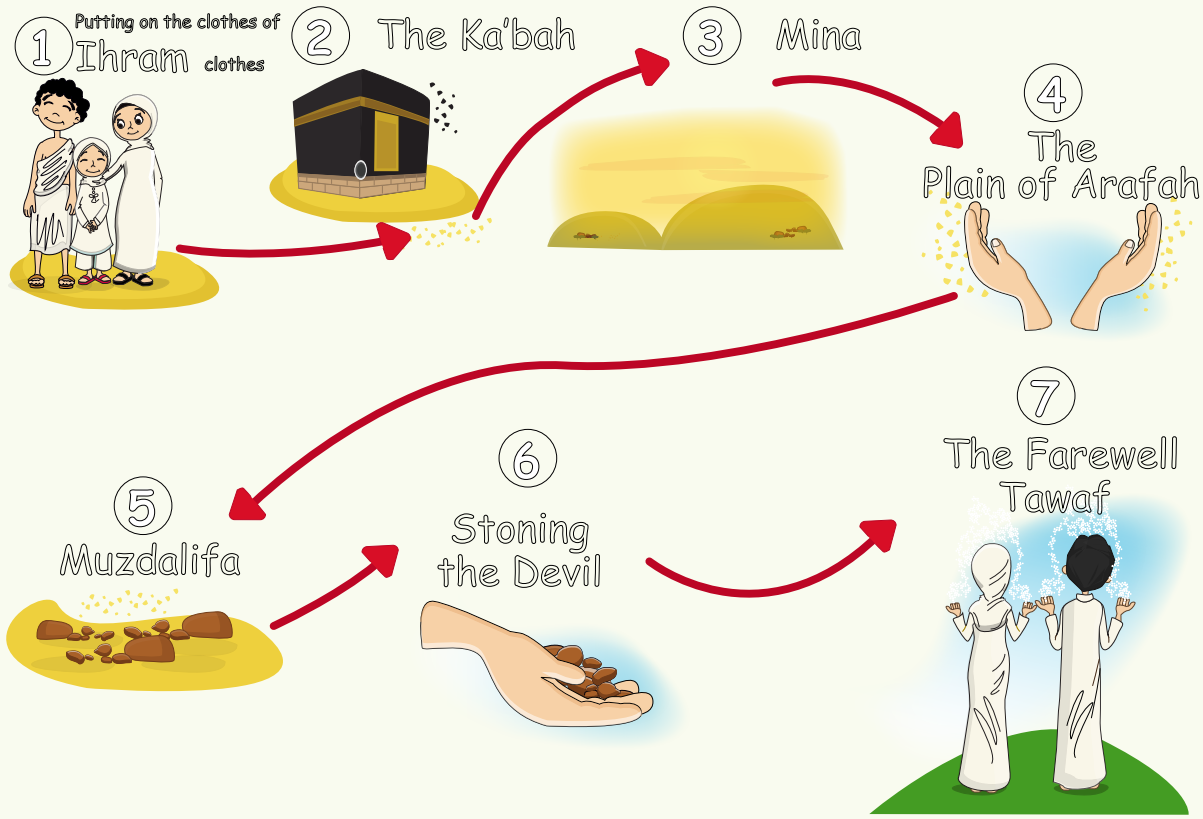
We perform Pilgrimage and become Pilgrims (Hajji).
We come back from pilgrimage puried from sins

Pilgrimage *(Hajj)* means to visit the house of Allah, The Holy Ka'bah, and other Holy places in Mecca.

As a religious term, Pilgrimage *(Hajj)* means to wear the clothes of ihram in the month of *Dhu'l-Hijjah*, circumambulate around the Ka'bah and wait for a while in the plain of *Arafah*.

The person who visits these places on certain days of the year (the period of Feast of Sacrifice) becomes a pilgrim according to Islam. The Ka'bah can also be visited on days other than the days of hajj, and can be circumambulated in ihram clothes, and can be waked back and forth between the hills of *Safa* and *Marwa*. This is called as *umrah* or minor pilgrimage.

Here is the Map of Journey of Pilgrimage for you



In order to become a pilgrim, we need to fulfill certain conditions. These conditions are;

1. To be someone who is free, adult, and sane.
2. To be someone who has enough time to go to pilgrimage.
3. To have enough financial means to provide for his family's living expenses throughout the time he performs his pilgrimage.
4. To have enough financial means to perform the necessary acts of pilgrimage.
5. To be healthy enough to go to the journey of pilgrimage and perform its required acts.
6. The safety of the roads that need to be passed during the journey.

Let's see what Our Lord and our beloved Prophet said about pilgrimage:

وَأَذِّنْ فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَأْتُوكَ رِجَالاً وَعَلَى كُلِّ ضَامِرٍ يَأْتِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيقٍ

"And proclaim to the people the Hajj (pilgrimage), they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant pass." (Chapter al-Haj, 27)

The Messenger of Allah said: "Alternate between Hajj and Umrah; for those two remove poverty and sins just as the bellows removes filth from iron, gold, and silver - and there is no reward for Al-Hajj Al-Mabrur except for Paradise." (Tirmidhi, Hajj, 2)

Yuppie! How beneficial pilgrimage is. By means of pilgrimage, we are cleaned from spiritual dirt and become clean. And then... We fly to endless Paradise.

Story

Shaqiq Balhi, a friend of Allah, saw a man crawling on the road towards Mecca. It was obvious that he was coming from long distance. He felt sorry for him and asked:

- Where do you come from? The man said:

- From Samarkand. Shaqiq Balhi asked:

- Since when you are on this journey? The poor crippled man replied,

- I am on this journey for more than ten years.

Thinking how this man was able to go on this journey even though he was disabled man, Shaqiq Balhi astonishingly looked at the man's face. The man asked,

- Why are you looking at me like this? Shaqiq Balhi replied:

- Because I am shocked. Because you are disabled, while your path is very long...

The man whose heart is full of desire to see the Ka'bah said,

- O Shaqiq! My way is long, that's right, but my faith in Allah and my love for Allah's Ka'bah help me see this road shorter. As for my disability, my Lord is helping me. O Shaqiq! Are you shocked seeing a man that Allah helps can stand such a long journey? When Allah helps one of His servants, would there be any difficulties for this servant?!

Supplication

After the Prophet Ibrahim completed the building the Ka'bah, Allah commanded him: "Proclaim people for pilgrimage." And Prophet Ibrahim responded:

- How my voice will reach all people my Lord?

Then Allah said,

- Just invite. We are the one who will make everyone to hear this call. Then the Prophet Ibrahim called out,

- O People! Allah made it obligatory for you to visit the Holy Ka'bah. Every existence between the sky and the earth heard this call, such that many people coming from all corners of the world, even from very away lands to circumambulate the Ka'bah, to perform pilgrimage. (Ibn Hajar, Fath al-Bari, 4/152)

So, all people who follow this call say the supplication of talbiya when they go to pilgrimage. By saying talbiya, they mean, "O our Lord, you invited us and we came to your presence, All Praise is to You, and all blessings come from you."

Talbiya means accepting Allah's invitation and going to His presence.

Abdullah ibn Umar said, "I learned talbiya by hearing from our beloved Prophet who said,

Labbayka Allāhumma Labbayk. Labbayka Lā Sharīka Laka Labbayk. Inna'l hamda, wa'n-ni'mata, Laka wa'l Mulk, Lā Sharīka Lak.

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ ، لَبَّيْكَ لاَ شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ ،
إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ وَالنِّعْمَةَ لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ ، لاَ شَرِيكَ لَكَ

'Here I am O Allah, (in response to Your call), here I am. Here I am, You have no partner, here I am. Verily all praise, grace and sovereignty belong to You. You have no partner.' (al-Bukhari, Hajj, 26)

So let's say the supplication of Talbiya all together, and be among those who are invited to pilgrimage.

Pilgrimage

You remember the game of pilgrimage, don't you? Let us add another game to it. Let us learn which acts nullify *ihram.*

Among the months, Dhu al-Hijjah is the month of pilgrimage.
It is obligatory for rich people to go to pilgrimage.
Let us see what are the pillars of pilgrimage?
We make intention, we wear ihram.
We go to the Ka'bah, we circumambulate.
We go to Arafah, we wait there for a while.
We go to Muzdalifa, and we pray there.
We stone the Devil in the morning of Festival of Sacrifice.
We sacrifice an animal and we get a hair cut.
We perform the visiting circumambulation.
We perform sa'y or walk between the hills of Marwa and Safa.
We become pilgrims, and cleaned from the sins!
We become pilgrims, and we become happy!

Below are the acts that we cannot do when we are in ihram:

Hurting others, fighting, swearing at people, saying bad words and behaving in a bad way.

Cutting nails, having a haircut or shaving beard, and plucking or cutting hair from any part of the body.

Oiling hair or moustache, or dyeing hair, or applying gel on hairs or polishing nails and using lipsticks, or putting perfume on our ihram cloth or any part of our body.

Wearing dress, covering head and face; wearing gloves, socks or high heels. Plucking and cutting flowers in Mecca or around it.

- Now, it is time to bring a big white towel from home to cover our body. We cover a friend of us that we chose while reciting supplication of *talbiya.*
- Now, it is time to perform pilgrimage. In order to perform it, we will write down on seven papers the following in order: Circumambulating the Ka'bah, Sa'y between the hills of *Safa and Marwa, Arafah, Muzdalifa, Mina,* Stoning the Devil, sacrificing an animal - having a haircut, Visiting Circumambulation. And then, we will put them on the ground five steps away from each other. If it is possible, we can also write down the above-mentioned words on the ground with chalk.
- Our friend who wants to become a pilgrim will move on this path of course, without doing any act that would nullify our *ihram.*

Meanwhile, we will try to make our friend do some of these acts. For example, we may try to make him angry, by pushing him or doing something that would make him angry. Or we can say, your hair is in mess, comb it with this; or we can give a bottle of perfume to him and say 'You like my perfume so much, why do not you wear it?' or we can give him socks and say 'I bought these socks as a gift for you, why do not you wear it'; or we can say 'this thorn may hurt you, why do not you pick it up?', or 'You may get sunstroke, let me give you a hat' etc.

Of course, you will say some acts that do not nullify our ihram. For example, "Eat an apple or you have dust on your hair, clean it..." etc. Our friend who wears the ihram clothes has to do the acts that do not nullify our *ihram.*

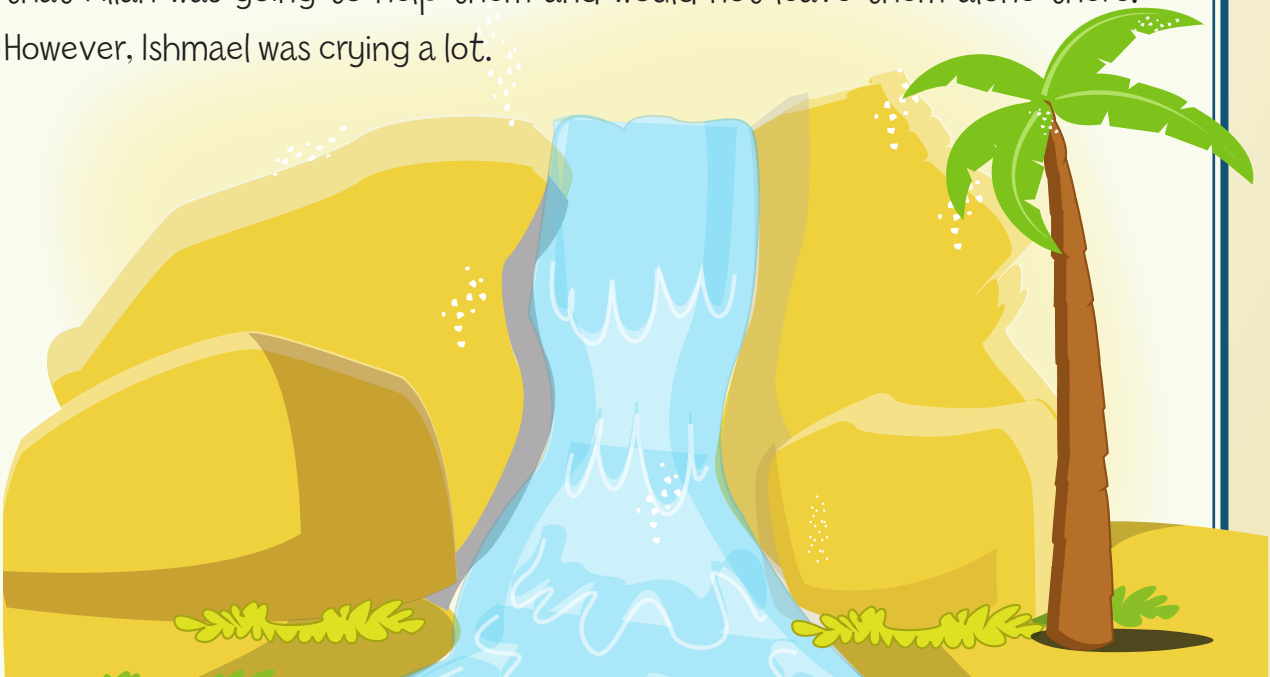
The one who confuses the friend who wears the ihram and makes him do the mistake will take his place. He will wear the ihram clothes while reciting the supplication of *talbiya* and starts the journey for pilgrimage. Those who finish this journey without making any mistakes will be successful.

So let us start. Good luck...

Story Of The Ka'bah And Zamzam

The Prophet Ibrahim and his wife Hagar had a very beautiful baby named as Ishmael. They were raising him with love. Then one day, Allah commanded the Prophet Ibrahim to leave Hagar and Ishmael in the middle of a desert. In this request, there were secrets hidden that only Allah knows. The Prophet Ibrahim told this command to his wife, Hagar. They got prepared and set off. They made a long journey by passing mountains and hills. Finally, they arrived to a desert where nothing existed except sand. The Prophet Ibrahim looked around and understood that this was the place that Allah informed. He said to Hagar that he has to leave them there and go. Hagar looked around anxiously and told him: "is Allah the One Who asked you to do that, O Ibrahim?" The Prophet Ibrahim responded saying, "Yes, Allah asked me to do this." Just when she heard it, the fear in her face disappeared and she started smiling. "In that case, you can leave us here without any hesitation" The Prophet Ibrahim hugged her and his little baby Ishmael, and smelled them. He left them after telling them that he loved them very much.

The desert was very hot and there was nothing except sand. After a while, the food and water they brought with them run out. Ishmael started to feel hungry so much that he started crying because of hunger. Hagar was sure that Allah was going to help them and would not leave them alone there. However, Ishmael was crying a lot.



She started to think about what to do. Because her baby started crying so much, Hagar couldn't stay. She started to run between the hills of *Safa* and *Marwa* to see if there was anyone passing or to find something to eat and drink. She was running to *Safa* and then to *Marwa*, and waiting for the help from Allah. At that moment, her baby suddenly stopped crying. Hagar immediately ran to him because of wondering what had happened. Amazingly she saw that water was flowing from the place that her baby hitting his foot. Hagar immediately came to the baby Ishmael and said to the water "*Zam zam, zam zam*, stop, stop, stop, stop!" to stop it flowing and getting waste. She immediately put her hands in front of the water and tried to save it.

So, when we go to pilgrimage, we run between the hills of *Safa* and *Marwa* like Hagar did. We all know that Allah is with us and He helps us all the time. As for *Zamzam?* It has become the name of the fountain which has never stopped flowing from that day on. Since that day, people satisfied their thirsty and felt satisfied. If Hagar had not stopped it, it might have turned into a river. Today, there are wells of zamzam in that place. Millions of Muslims drink zamzam water there and feel relieved. *Zamzam* water has been flowing for thousands of years but never run out. It not only satisfies people's thirst, but also satisfies their hunger.

Later, people who saw the oasis in the middle of the desert came and settled down there. The Prophet Ibrahim also came there and started to live happily with his family. That place first turned into a residential area and then developed into the holy city of Mecca.

Years later, the baby Ishmael grew up and he built the Ka'bah together with his father, the Prophet Ibrahim.

So, this is the story of the Ka'bah and the well of Zamzam... All Muslims are satisfied their thirst and hunger with the *zamzam* water. They perform pilgrimage with peace and tranquility. They think about those memories and pray Allah. By means of those memories, the secrets and beauties hidden in the Prophet Ibrahim's trial have revealed themselves.

O Allah! We are lucky that You love us. We love You, too, sooooo much.

The Things We Attain with the Help of the Shield of Pilgrimage

When we perform pilgrimage, our shield of pilgrimage develops. And what does this shield make us gain? They are countless. Let us tell you some of them.

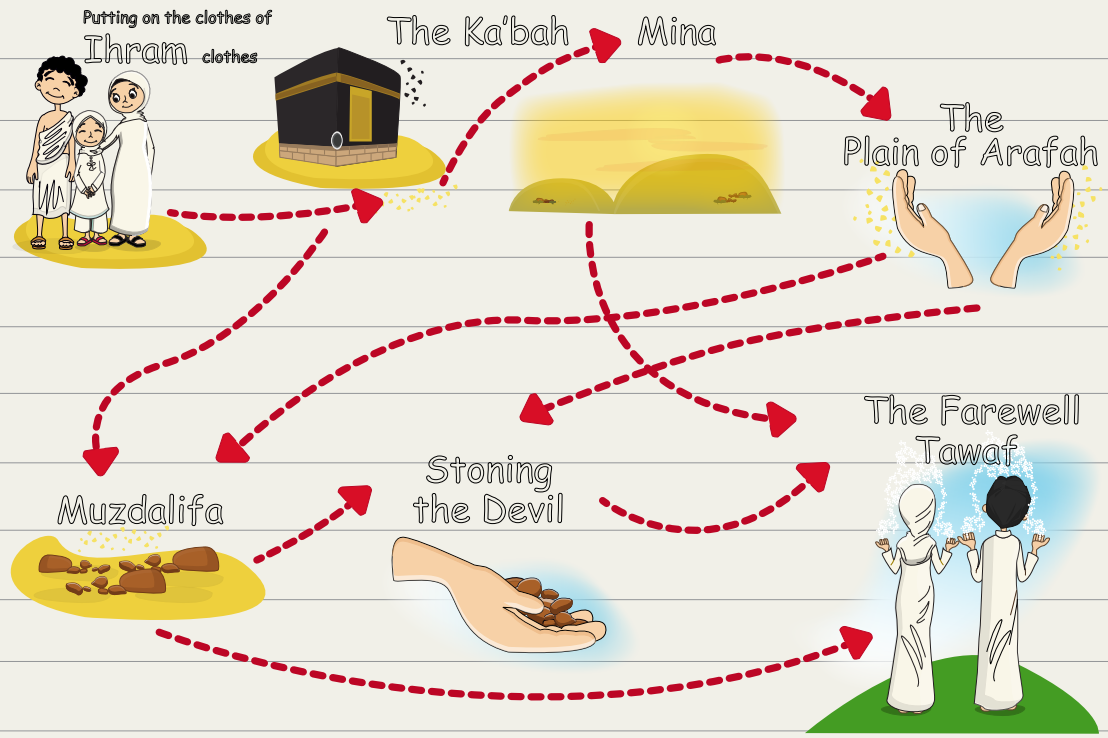
- Muslims who perform pilgrimage express their thanks to Allah for the health, wealth and blessings in this world that He has given to them.
- All pilgrims understand that they are brothers and sisters with each other when they are wearing the white ihram clothes without making any discrimination between their colors, races, status or jobs.
- Muslims from different counties meet with each other and exchange their knowledge and cultures. They also set up commercial links between them.
- The act of pilgrimage can be the reason for our sins to be forgiven except the rights of others. Muslims promise Allah not to commit any bad deeds and to be people with good mortals from that day on.
- In the season of Pilgrimage, the Ka'bah reminds us the day of Judgment. The rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, everyone stands in the presence of Allah. Just like it will happen on the Day of Judgment. People all remember the Judgment Day in this world and endeavor to become people who deserve Paradise.
- We know that going on a journey is good for our health. Allah suggested us to make journeys on the earth. People going to pilgrimage also get all kinds of benefits of making a journey.
- Because Mecca is a warm city, the acts we do while performing pilgrimage is good for the health of our joints.
- The one who performs pilgrimage strengthens his/her will and becomes more patient and understandable in the face of the events or other people. They become more merciful and generous.

So these are some of the benefits of the act of pilgrimage. How many and beautiful they are, aren't they?

PUZZLE

One of our friends has decided to go to pilgrimage. However, he does not know how to perform it. Can you show the path that he has to go in the map of pilgrimage to help him perform the pilgrimage correctly?

You can show him the order of pilgrimage path by completing the dashed line and help him by this way. Thank you very much in advance.



Congratulations! You have shown him the path correctly. You have successfully achieved the fifth and final protecting shield.

As long as you continue performing the acts of worships, these shields will continue to protect you. It will help you become "a Hero Muslim" for your entire life.

We congratulate you because of your success.

Congratulations! You have successfully completed your duty. You have achieved all protecting shields after gaining the last one, i.e. the shield of Pilgrimage.

Now, it is time to beautify what we have gained with good morality.

Good Morality

Our Lord wants us to have good morality and teaches us how to become a person with good morals in the Qur'an. Our Prophet Muhammad, who has the best morality, is a great example for us with all of his words and behaviors. If we obey the commands and prohibitions of our Lord in the Qur'an, and follow in the footsteps of our Beloved Prophet, we will be a believer with the best morality. By this way, every act we do will be considered as an act of worship. Our good deeds will increase, Allah will be pleased with us, and we will go to Paradise if Allah wills.

Our protecting shields that we have achieved by performing the acts of worship become stronger and more beautiful with good morality. Good morality helps us become individuals who are loved and praised by everyone.

Now, we will learn about the best and the greatest hero ever. Guess who? Of course, he is our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). We can be a loved and praised hero, a good Muslim by learning about him and following him. Our Lord says about our Prophet in the Qur'an,

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

"And indeed, you are of a great moral character." (al-Qalam, 4)

And our Prophet said, "I was sent only to complete good morality."

(Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, II, 381)

A'isha, our mother and the wife of our Prophet Muhammad, said that "His character was the Qur'an." Yes, the greatest hero of mankind followed the principles of the Qur'an letter by letter. He showed us how to become a hero Muslim through his actions and behaviors.

Now, we will follow his footsteps and try to be like him in cleanliness, love, respect, mercy, honesty and justice.

Yuppie!

Now, the first part is about Material and Spiritual Cleanliness and the second part is about Our Positive Personality Characteristics.

If you pass these stages successfully, you will be able to earn our Beloved Prophet's Seal of Prophethood which opens us the doors to the beauties of Paradise.

So let us start! Good luck!

Our Material And Spiritual Cleanliness

إِنَّ اللهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

It is stated in the Qur'an, "Indeed, Allah loves those who are constantly repentant and loves those who purify themselves." (Surah al-Baqarah, 222)

Hero Muslim is always clean.

Because cleanliness comes from faith.

Our Prophet tells this fact to us as follows "النظافة من الايمان" (Cleanliness is from faith.) (Muslim, Taharah 1; Darimi, Wudu 2; Musnad 5/342; Ajluni, Kashf al-Hafa, 291)

Then, what are the material and spiritual impurities? Material impurity means that our body, clothes, foods and environment get dirty. While spiritual impurity means that our intention, words, and behaviors become evil.

We can get rid of our material dirt by washing it with water and soap. However, we can clean ourselves from spiritual impurities only by beautifying our morality and performing acts of worship. If we continue performing daily prayers and reading the Qur'an and praying with determination and patience, we will be purified from spiritual impurities and will be cleaned. Then, our tongue will start to tell the truth, our behaviors and words become kind, and we will not hurt anyone.

Let us give you a secret. Just like there are stain removers for our clothes, there are also strong stain removers for the spiritual impurities.

Yes, if a person recognizes his mistakes, feels regret, and decides not to do them again, Allah, Who accepts sincere repentance, forgives the sins of that person. A repentant become like a new born baby, pure and sinless.

And the secret of repentance is to say *"Astaghfirullah al-azim wa atubu ilayh"* and to not get close to that mistake again.

اَسْتَغْفِرُاللّٰه اَلْعَظِيمْ وَاَتُوبُ اِلَيهْ

Here is the best stain remover purifying us from nonmaterial dirt.

"Astaghfirullah al-azim wa atubu ilayh"

When We Live as Our Prophet Taught us

In old times, the people in Mecca did not use to brush their teeth and did not use to live in a very clean environment. The old, the young, and children used to dye because of diseases.

And our Prophet who lived in those days paid attention to his cleanliness very much. He would comb his hair and beard, and put a kind of oil with musk, and pay attention to his personal care. When he walked, he would spread good fragrance all around. The people knew that he passed through that path from the nice fragrance they smelled.

Our Beloved Prophet used to carry his *miswaq* (stick toothbrush) in his pocket all the time. He would always clean his teeth with it after he ate something or when he performed ablution. When he smiled, his clean teeth would shine like pearls.

One day our mother A'isha asked to our Prophet, who always went to the presence of his Companions in clean and perfect way:

-'O Messenger of Allah, why are you paying so much attention to your health and personal care?'

Our Prophet smiled brightly and said:

-'Allah loves his servants who do their personal care when they go to meet their friends.'

The Companions of our Prophet, who tried to take him as an example for themselves, started to act like him. One day, when our Prophet was speaking with his Companions he asked,

-Do you want me to inform you about the deeds which remove the sins and strengthen your faith?

The Companions said,

-Yes, O Messenger of Allah.

Our Prophet said, "Performing ablution even when there are hardships,

taking many steps towards the mosque in order to perform prayer, and waiting for the time of next prayer when you are done praying. This is the thing that you should strongly attach yourself."

(Muslim, Taharah 41)

The Companions who heard about it started to be in the state of ablution all the time. They immediately cleaned their clothes when any dirt smudged on them. They brushed their teeth with miswaq and their smile became bright. The more the number of Muslims increased, the less bad smells and diseases started to be seen in Mecca.

In his another speech, our Prophet said: *"My people would come with bright faces and bright hands and feet on account of the marks of ablution, so he who can increase the luster of his forehead (and that of his hands and legs) should do so."* *(Muslim, Taharah, 35)* Companions who heard this started to perform ablution more and more. Their hands and faces were getting brighter and brighter. Then, they started to wash their hands before eating something, and left the table before feeling completely full when they were eating. They became more hardworking and stronger with the acts of worships they performed and the good deeds they did. Thanks to daily prayer, they achieved an orderly life and became healthier and happier.

They were no longer getting sick as they had in the past. The doctors started not being able to find any patients to examine. Mecca became a bright city that everyone started to admire our Prophet and Muslims who followed his footsteps.

The Best Cleanser of Our Body and Soul: ABLUTION (WUDU')

A Hero Muslim pay attention to his personal care very much. He performs ablution every day by washing his hands, face, feet; and washes whole body a few times a week and never smells sweat.

Now it is time for us to learn how to perform ablution.

1. Prayer Ablution

Our Prophet gives us good tidings. *"When a Muslim or a believer-washes his face (in course of ablution), every sin he contemplated with his eyes will be washed away from his face along with water, or with the last drop of water; when he washes his hands, every sin they wrought will be effaced from his hands with the water, or with the last drop of water; and when he washes his feet, every sin towards which his feet have walked will be washed away with the water or with the last drop of water with the result that he comes out pure from all sins."* (Muslim, Taharah, 32)

As our material body is cleansed by means of performing ablution, our feelings and intentions, which are our spiritual side, are also purified. How nice... So, let us learn how to perform ablution as soon as possible!

After saying Audhu Basmala when we start performing ablution, we wash our hands up to our wrists three times.

All praises due to Allah, Who made water clean, and Islam as light.

2

I give water to my mouth with my right hand and rinse my mouth three times.

O Allah, let me drink such a glass of water from the pool of Your Prophet that I should never feel thirsty again.

3

I draw water into my nose by my right hand and cleanse it by my left hand three times.

O Allah! Do not make the smell of Your blessing and Your Paradise unlawful to me.

4

I wash my entire face three times.

O Allah! Make my face bright on the day that some faces will be bright and some others will be dark.

5

I wash my right arm up to my elbow (including my elbow) three times.

O Allah! Give my Book of Deeds from my right side and make my questioning easy.

6

I wash my left arm up to my elbow (including my elbow) three times.

O Allah! Do not give my Book of Deeds from my left side or my behind, and Do not make my questioning difficult.

7

I wipe one fourth of my head with my right hand.

O Allah! Cover my head with Your Mercy, Descend Your blessings upon me.

8

I wash my hands and wipe the inner side of my ears with my little finger, and behind my ears with my thumb.

O Allah, Make me one of those who hear the word and obey the best of words.

9

I rub my neck with the back side of my remaining three middle fingers.

O Allah! Save my neck from the punishment of Hell and protect me from chains and ties.

I wash my right foot up to my ankle (including my ankle) three times with my left hand.

O Allah! Keep my feet stable on Sirat Bridge on the Day when the feet will slip.

I wash my left foot up to my ankle (including my ankle) three times with my left hand.

O Allah! Bless me with a work which is appreciated, forgive my sins, and let me do acceptable deeds and bless me with profitable earnings.

We wash all our all limbs by rubbing them well without giving a break in between them.

Ablution is a light, and we shine when we perform ablution. The more we perform ablution, the brighter we become. Our skin becomes beautiful and our eyes start to spread energy of happiness.

2. Major Ablution (Ghusl)

There is also Major Ablution the we perform in addition to our daily minor ablution. With major ablution, our body is cleaned and it smells nicely. Our protecting shield becomes shiny.

Below is how to perform major ablution (ghusl):

- Firstly, we recite basmala, and make our intention to perform major ablution.
- We thoroughly wash our hands up to our wrists three times, and clean our hands if there is anything impure on our hands and nails.

- We wash our private parts and thighs.
- Then we draw water to our mouth three times by our right hand. If we are fasting, we should be very careful not to swallow any water.
- We rinse and clean our mouth.
- Then we draw water in our nostrils by our right hand three times.
- We then blow the water by using our left hand. In this way, we thoroughly clean our nostrils. After that, we perform minor ablution just like we perform before prayer. After performing minor ablution, we pour water over our head three times.
- We then pour water over our right shoulder three times and then over our left shoulder three times and wash our body by rubbing it.
- Then, we wash our body completely by rubbing without leaving any dry place. We should be very careful not to forget especially some parts of our body such as belly button, inner parts of our ears, ear hole, the roots of our hair and the roots of our beard.
- We wash our feet with the remaining water and leave the bathroom. In this way, we cleanse our body from all kinds of impurities. We become pure and clean.

How nice.

3. Dry Ablution (Tayammum)

Sometimes there are times of drought in our lands. We may not be able to find water for days or sometimes we may not be able to find water when we are in long journeys. When we do not have water, are we going to stay in a spiritually impure state? Of course not. Soil is a clean material. If we perform dry ablution *(tayammum)* when there is no water, we will be purified from material and spiritual impurities and will be clean. So, are you ready to perform dry ablution *(Tayammum)*?

- We recite Basmala (in the name of Allah) when we start performing dry ablution (tayammum) and then express our intention..
- We rub our palms on clean soil.
- We strike our hands to each other in order to shake of the excess dust on our hands.
- We thoroughly rub our entire face.
- Then, we rub our palms on the soil again.
- We strike our hands to each other in order to shake of the excess dust on our hands.
- We rub our right arm with our left hand up to the elbows (including elbows). After that, first we rub our left arm up to the elbow (including elbow) with our right hand.

The Game Corner

Ablution

We perform ablution to get cleansed. However, in which situations does our ablution become invalid and does it become necessary to perform ablution again? Let's learn!

- Impurities such as blood, urine, and feces coming out of our front and back private parts: Defecation and urination. — Going to the bathroom
- When blood or pus comes out of our body — Bleeding
- When we vomit more than the amount that fills our mouth — Vomiting
- When we break wind — Breaking wind
- When we lose consciousness — Losing consciousness
- When we sleep by lying on our side or while sitting by leaning on something — Sleeping deeply
- When we laugh during prayer as loud as other people can hear us — Laughing during prayer
- When the blood coming from our teeth is more than the saliva — Tooth Bleeding

But how spiritual impurities are cleansed? Here is the answer; Repenting *(Istighfar)*

Repenting is a kind of stain remover cleansing all kinds of spiritual impurities. It cleans our mistakes and errors without leaving any trace behind.

Now we will play its game.

We will choose a friend as a referee, and s/he will try to deceive us by telling us acts and behaviors which nullify our ablution or make us spiritually impure. We will pretend like performing ablution in the situations that require to be cleaned by performing ablution. We will bow our head down and say *"Astaghfirullah al-Azim"* in the situations that we have to be cleaned with repenting.

Here are the words showing us both situations!

Good luck!

The Situations which necessitate to perform Ablution

- Losing consciousness
- Going to the restroom
- Sleeping
- Breaking wind
- Bleeding
- Laughing during prayer
- Opening the wou nds
- Tooth bleeding

The Situations which require to say istighfar

- Wasting
- Gossip
- Being lazy
- Insulting
- Lying
- Hastiness
- Slandering
- Jealousy
- Arrogance
- Grudge

Some TIPS to Recognize a Hero Muslim immediately When You See

A hero Muslim is recognized by his/her smiling face. S/he wears in the way s/he likes but there are some principles s/he really cares. We can recognize such heroes from these principles.

For example, their clothes are always clean and covered the parts of body that Islam commands them to cover. Their hands and face are always clean and well-cared. They are always kind and elegant.

Here are some tips to recognize a hero Muslim;

The Light Spreading from Muslim to All Around

How does the body of a hero Muslim become clean?

The ablution they perform, and the care they pay to their hair, their teeth, and nails make them shining. They are simple and elegant with their clean and tidy clothes. They do not disturb others by going out to society after eating garlic, onion, and other food which smell bad. The foods they eat are clean, and all of the stuff they use is organized. A hero Muslim is an exemplary person that all people admire because of his/her cleanliness.

Keeps Himself / Herself away from the Forbidden (Haram)

A hero Muslim never eat forbidden foods. He/she stays away from forbidden products and foods such as alcohol, drugs and pork products as if he/she runs away from them. He/she never eat food or use the things that are stolen or in injustice way. In this way, s/he protects her/his body and heart from badness and ugly feelings.

Protects his/her tongue from the Impurities of Bad Words

S/he does not tell words including swearing, insulting and shameful words. S/he does not search for the mistakes and faults of others and reveal them. In this way, everyone enjoys speaking with a hero Muslim. Nobody feels disturbed from him/her. Everyone wants to be a friend with him/her.

Stays away from Useless Knowledge and Time Wasting Occupations

S/he does not make his mind busy with useless knowledge and never numb his mind with computer games, television programs for hours. He avoids gossip, backbiting, and useless speeches. He avoids commenting about people carelessly and never makes his mind and tongue dirty.

S/He does not violate Other People's Rights

S/he does not gossip and backbite, and never makes jokes which may hurt others' hearts. S/He never makes fun of others behind by making face expressions. S/he never makes others sad by giving bad nicknames to them. S/he never takes anyone's stuff without permission. By this way, they hesitate to violate rights of others.

S/he keeps his/her environment clean

S/he never throws rubbish all around. S/he keeps her/his environment in the garden, at school, or at house clean. They leave the bathroom clean just as s/he finds it. S/he prevents people geting hurt by removing the stones, screws, or pieces of glass lying around.

His cleanliness and light help everyone love him. People like to be friends with him. How nice! How magnificent feeling to be a Hero Muslim!

PUZZLE

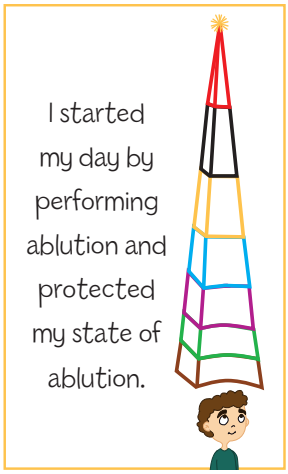
Kids which are going to perform ablution are confused about how they will do that. Can you help to make them perform ablution correctly? Put a circle around those who perform ablution, a square around those who perform Major Ablution *(Ghusl)*, and a triangle around those who performs dry ablution. In this way, they can perform their ablution in the correct order. We can tell you in advance that they appreciate your help. Thanks a lot. :)

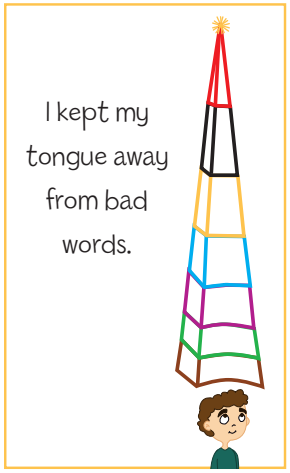
"If anyone amongst you performs the ablution, and then completes the ablution well and then says: "Ashhadu an la ilaha illallahu wahdahu la sharika lah, wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan abduhu wa rasuluh", (I testify that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger), the eight gates of Paradise would be opened for him and he may enter by whichever of them he wishes." (Muslim, Taharah, 17)

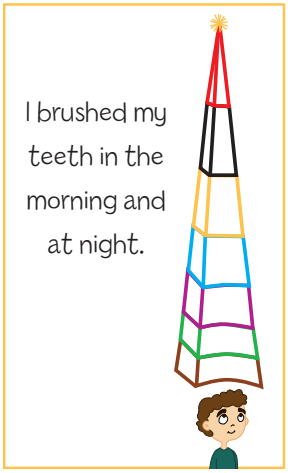
My Rays Of Cleanliness Are Reaching To The Peak!

Allah is Pure and loves those who are pure. So, let us be clean as much as we can. It is time to take action to be a hero Muslim...

Let us do the actions and behaviors written below every day. Then let us color the parts of each day that we have completed. Let us see how high our rays go up when we care of our cleanliness.







Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Our Positive Personality Characteristics

Our Lord created us in the best way, and gave us good characteristics such as compassion, mercy and generosity. If we realize them and use them in correct and good way, we will both be a good servant of our Lord and we will add new ones to our achievements. If we use them in wrong way and do not appreciate them, we will be away from Paradise and decrease more and more.

Below are some of the good moral characteristics that Allah have given to us:

- Righteousness and Honesty
- Helpfulness and Goodness
- Responsibility and Self-Control
- Love and Respect

Let us see how these good characteristics will become our good personality characteristics and how they will turn us to a virtuous hero. Let us see.

Everyone trusts me when I become Righteous and Honest

اِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللّٰهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ
اُولٰٓئِكَ اَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا جَزَآءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

Allah the Almighty says in the 13th and 14th verses of Chapter al-Ahqaf, *"Indeed, those who have said, 'Our Lord is Allah,' and then remained on a right course - there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve. Those are the companions of Paradise, abiding eternally therein as reward for what they used to do."* Our Lord invites us to live righteously and honestly and draws our attention to one of the greatest features that a real hero must have.

As for our best example, i.e. our Prophet, he leads us to the right path and guides us. Our Prophet always spoke the truth. He never lied even when telling a joke. He would care other people's stuff entrusted to him. When anyone gave him something in order to be protected, they were sure that they would take their stuff back just as it was, and on time. People who entrusted their secrets to him were sure that they would never hear their secrets from other people.

People called our prophet as *"al-Amin"* because of his truthful and honest behaviors. This title means someone who is trustworthy and is trusted that he does not do bad things.

So, we should also be righteous and honest in order to be like him, i.e. someone trustworthy. Do you know how?

Our Lord gives us information to make us truthful and honest and He revealed verses to us. Here are the verses of righteousness and honesty.

"O you who have believed, why do you say what you do not do? Great is hatred in the sight of Allah that you say what you do not do."

(Chapter al-Saf, 2nd and 3rd verses)

"But whoever earns an offense or a sin and then blames it on an innocent (person) has taken upon himself a slander and manifest sin." *(Chapter al-Nisa, 112)*

"And they who are to their trusts and their promises attentive."

(Chapter al-Mu'minun, 8th verse)

"O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful." *(Chapter al-Hujurat, 6)*

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah , even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, with what you do, Acquainted."

(Chapter al-Nisa, 135)

An Example Incident for the Honesty of Our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

It was time that the Ka'bah needed to be repaired. All Meccan people got ready and repaired the Ka'bah. Then, it was time to replace *Hajar al-Aswad* (The Black Stone) to its place. A group said, "We are the noblest men of Mecca, we have the right to put it to its place." Another group: "We are the most crowded group of Mecca and we have the right to put it to its place." Another group said, "We are the most prominent group in Mecca, and we deserve to put the Black Stone to its place." Suddenly, chaos broke out under the voices of "We will do it, we will do it!" Finally, someone among them said, "we will not be able to solve our problem like this, let us choose an arbitrator." This idea was accepted as logical by all of them and they decided to choose the one who would enter the Ka'bah first as their arbitrator.

They turned their face to the gate and started to wait. A while later, our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) appeared at the gate. They all felt happy and started to think: "al-Amin came, he will decide the best." "Ohh, al-Amin came, he will surely choose us for this duty." "That's great! Al-Amin is a just man, he will choose us."

Then, they informed him about their disagreement. They continued to discuss even when they were telling the Prophet about their disagreement. Our Prophet ended their disagreement and calmed them down. Then, he asked them to bring a piece of cloth. After this, he put The Black Stone on the cloth and asked a person from each group to hold from each corner of the cloth. By this way, they all together carried the stone and put it to its place.

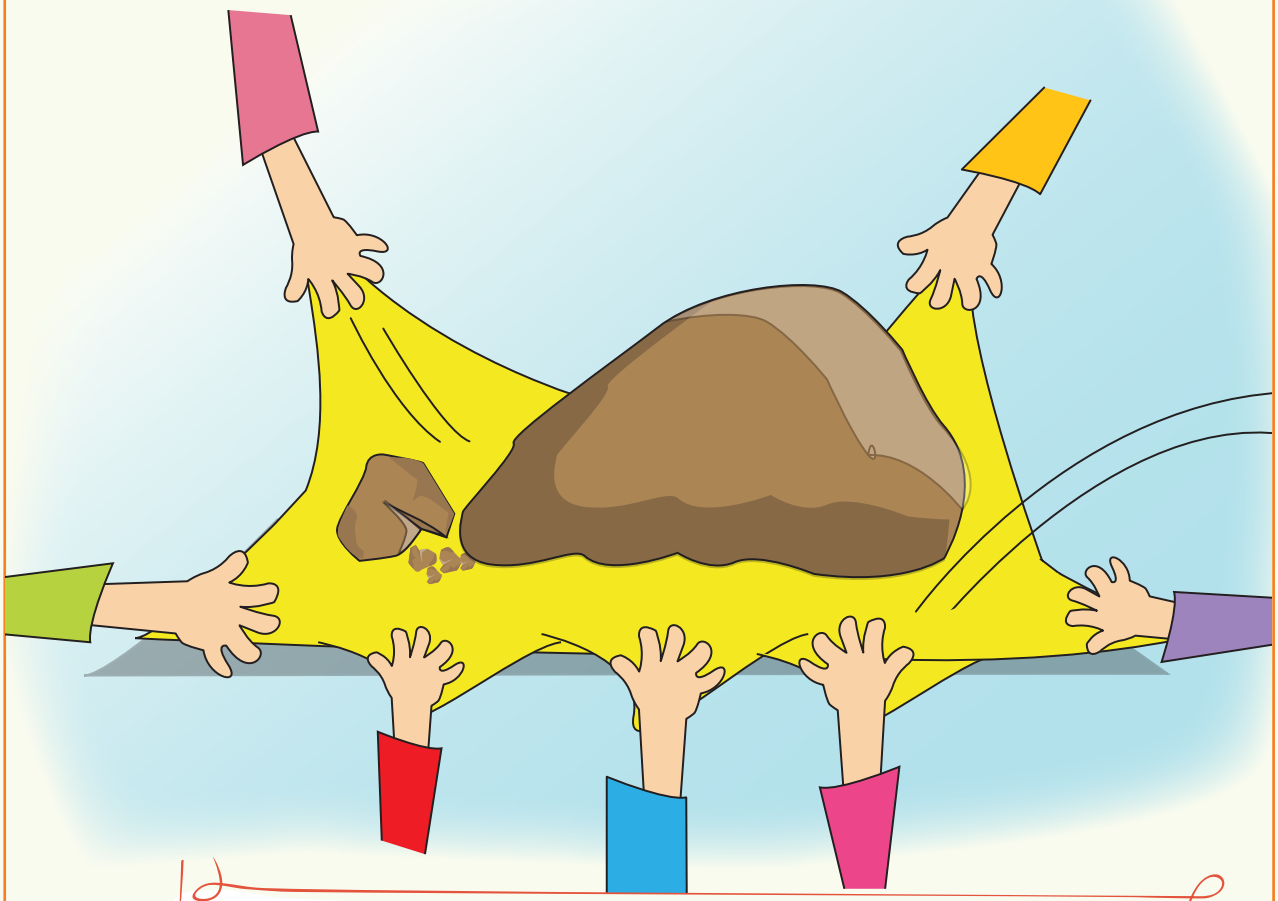
Then, there was no need left to discuss and fight about. Nobody was treated unjustly or felt offended. Everybody said, "Al-Amin found the best solution again, how just he is" and then they thanked him.

So, our Prophet was a very clever and trustworthy person. He treated everyone with justice without making any discrimination among people.

He became a great example to us. He showed us how a real hero should be.

Now, it is our turn to be just and truthful.

What can you do to be like our Prophet Muhammad in justice and honesty? Please write down over the lines given below.



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PUZZLE

Which one is Correct?

Below are given two brothers who have many thought in their minds. Our Lord is rewarding us for out good intentions and nice thoughts even before we do not actually do them. As for the bad actions and behaviors, he punishes us only when we commit them.

Can you help these two brothers to choose the good and right thoughts? Put an "X" before injustice and wrong thoughts so that the brothers do not commit them and make a mistake.

My friend entrusted this toy to me. I cannot give it to you to play. I need to put it away.

If I stay in the queue, all candies may run out so I cannot get from the candies distributed. I should cut the line without making anyone to notice.

This is the right of the birds. We live together with animals on the Earth. I will give them from our remaining food.

Since nobody sees, I will take my friend's pen. It is beautiful. it should be mine.

I could not study well for my exam. My friend knows the answers but cheating is not the right thing to do.

My mother will be so angry because I broke vase. Since my brother is too little, my mother will not be angry with him. I will tell that he did that.

I cannot give you equal parts. The big part is for you, and the small part is for you. Because it is necessary that one should give everyone as much as he/she needs.

I will play in the park and tell my mother that I am late because the market was crowded.

I like this game so much but I have to go because I promised my mother that we will read a book at this hour.

Ah, I will not be able to hold myself and I will share my brother's secret with my friend. She will not tell anyone for sure.

Faces Smile with Helpfulness and Goodness

There are times in life that everyone and each living being faces with a difficult situation and needs help. If we help them in their difficult times, we do something good. These good deeds not only make the people whom we helped smile but also make us happy.

For example, when we turn a turtle back on its feet when it was upside down... Or when we give the food crumbs left on the table to the birds... Or when we bring the cooking materials to our mother when she is cooking... Or when we put food to our father's plate... Or when we give medicine to our grandfather.... And when we help our brother doing his homework... All these help us feel the happiness of doing good to others.

We even do a good thing when we smile and greet our neighbors and friends, and ask about their health and well-being.

Our Prophet (Pbuh) said: "A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, so he should not oppress him, nor should be hand him over to an oppressor. Whoever fulfilled the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfill his needs; whoever brought his (Muslim) brother out of a discomfort, Allah will bring him out of the discomforts of the Day of Resurrection, and whoever screened a Muslim, Allah will screen him on the Day of Resurrection." (Bukhari, Mazalim, 3)

Generous and helpful person gives happiness to everyone around him. He/she himself/herself also feels peaceful. Everyone loves the helpful people and feels admiration towards them. Helpful Muslims will also be blessed with many good news of Allah and His Messenger.

Because our Prophet Muhammad says, "Whoever takes in an orphan among the Muslims to raise, to feed and give him drink, Allah admits him

into Paradise without a doubt, unless he has done a sin for which he is not forgiven." (Tirmidhi, Birr 14, 1918) He wants us to help especially the orphans with mercy and compassion.

Be Careful!

Our Lord is warning us: "... And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression..." (Chapter al-Ma'idah, 2) Supporting and helping to our friend or family when they are doing something bad is never a good thing to do. It is not a favor, but rather a bad thing to do if we help a person to do something bad even if he/she is a person whom we love very much. This will lead not only the person we help but also us to the badness and unhappiness. We can help people by greeting each other, saying "Yarhamukallah" (May Allah have mercy on you), removing something harmful from the road, and in many other ways. So, during a day, to whom you can help, and what kind of helps you can do? Let us think now and write them over the lines given below. Then, do them every day and increase your rewards in Paradise in this way. Be an irreplaceable hero in goodness and helpfulness.

When I see my best friend fighting with someone .....

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When a friend wants to join to our game .....

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To my friend who god bad grade from an exam .....

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Here are some beautiful memories from the helpfulness of our Prophet

One day our Prophet went to bazaar to buy a shirt. He had ten liras with him, and he bought a shirt for four liras. When he was returning home, a Medinan man came to him and prayed for him saying:

- Make me wear a shirt so that may Allah make you wear a cloth from the clothes of Paradise.

And our Prophet gave the shirt he bought from the market to the man. The man took the shirt with happiness, thanked him and left.

Our Prophet went back and bought another shirt for four liras. He had only two liras left in his pocket. He saw a slave woman crying in Medina streets when he was walking. He immediately came to her:

- Why are you crying? The slave woman was very sad.

When woman saw him, she hoped that he could help and said,

- The family I was working for gave me two liras to buy flour. But I lost the money, and I do not know what to do now.

Our Prophet gave her the two liras left in his pocket and asked her to buy flour with this money. However, the woman was still crying. Our Prophet asked,

- I gave you money to cover the money you lost, why are you still crying? She said,

- I am afraid that they will beat me because I am late. Our Prophet said,

- I come with you and speak with this family.

Thus, he went home with the woman. The family felt very happy when they saw our Prophet. When our Prophet said,

- This woman feels afraid that you may beat her, forgive her.

They said,

- Since you came here with her and ask us to forgive her, we set her free for the sake of Allah, we gave her freedom.

And they all felt so much happy. (It is a story written based on Haythami 13-14)

Our Lord has sent us verses because He wants us to be helpful and good people. Here are some of the verses about helpfulness and righteousness.

"Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded." (Chapter al-Nahl, 90)

And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age (while) with you, say not to them (so much as), "uff" and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word. And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy and say, 'My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up (when I was) small." (Chapter al-Isra, 23-24)

"You are the best nation produced (as an example) for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah..." (Chapter Al-i Imran, 110)

"Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler, and those whom your right hands possess..." (Chapter al-Nisa, 36)

"So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it." (Chapter al-Zalzalah, 7-8)

"If you disclose your charitable expenditures, they are good; but if you conceal them and give them to the poor, it is better for you, and He will remove from you some of your misdeeds (thereby). And Allah, with what you do, is (fully) Acquainted." (Chapter al-Baqarah, 271)

"And they give food in spite of love for it to the needy, the orphan, and the captive, (saying) 'We feed you only for the countenance of Allah. We wish not from you reward or gratitude." (Chapter al-Insan, 8-9)

PUZZLE

Which one is correct?

Below are given two sisters who have many thought in their minds. Our Lord is rewarding us for out good intentions and nice thoughts even before we do not actually do them. As for the bad actions and behaviors, he punishes us only when we commit them.

Can you help these two brothers to choose the good and right thoughts? Put an "X" before injustice and wrong thoughts so that the brothers do not commit them and make a mistake.

I will help my friend in her homework so that she will let me play with her toy.

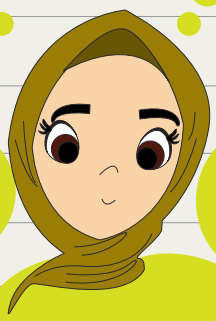
I will leave these shoes in front of my neighbor's door when nobody sees me. His shoes are old and torn. He will not feel cold when he wears these new shoes.

I will visit my sick relative. A bowl of warm soup will be good for him.

My mother and father get tired so much. I will prepare tea for them myself. They should have a rest.

These socks are torn, and this one is old. I will give them to a needy.

My brother is collecting fruit from our neighbor's garden without getting his permission first. I will go to help him.



Who threw this banana peel to the ground? The one who is not very careful might step on it and fall, but I do not care! I cannot take it from there and make my hands dirty.

What is this smell! My friend must have unintentionally broken wind. I should open the window without telling anyone not to make him embarrassed.

These poor animals are getting thirsty a lot in hot weather. I will put some water in this cup and leave it outside for them to drink.

Uff, I do not like this boy. I will ignore his greetings.

How Comfortable the World is when you are Responsible and have Self-Control

Our Lord says in the Qur'an, "Indeed, we offered the Trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, and they declined to bear it and feared it; but man (undertook to) bear it..." (Chapter al-Ahzab, 72)

Yes, we, humans, have free will. We can think and distinguish the correct from the wrong. We can take our decisions ourselves, in other words, we can make self-control, and control ourselves about doing the good and keeping ourselves from the bad. That is why we, humans, have accepted the trust of faith instead of mountains, stones, animals and plants. We are able to fulfill our responsibilities because we can distinguish the right and the wrong, the good and the bad, the beautiful and the ugly.

In order to be more successful, we should do our tasks on time in order to undertake our trust and fulfill our responsibilities. For example, it is our duty to perform our acts of worship on time, pay attention to our health and cleanliness, and fulfill our duties towards our family. It is our responsibility not to waste the blessings that Allah has given us, not to pollute animals, plants, and rivers and to protect them all.

When someone says to us "Why do you care? Are you the only person here? Let others do it!" or "You can do it later, let us have some fun now" we should be able to say "No, it is my responsibility and I have to do it on time" by using our self-control. When we say these, all difficulties will be easy

and world will become a more comfortable place. We should not forget that when we delay our duties and responsibilities, they will pile up and it will become harder to fulfill them.

Now, write down the responsibilities you have at home, at school and on the street. Talk with your friends and teacher about what may happen if you do not do them on time.

The responsibilities that I have to do	The things that may happen if I do not do them
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We have various responsibilities. If we do them all well for the sake of Allah, they become like an act of worship, as long as we do our self-control carefully and pay attention to our responsibilities.

Here is a Memory from our Prophet about Responsibility

One day our beloved Prophet and his friends were travelling on camels. Our Prophet was going from behind. His Companion Muadh Ibn Jabal said,

- O Messenger of Allah! Do you mind if I come close to you? And then he came closer to him. When our Prophet permitted him, Muadh asked,

- Let my life be sacrificed for you O Messenger of Allah! My wish from Allah is to take our lives before you. However, if you die before us, which acts of worship should we perform after you?

Our Prophet remained silent for a while before answering this question. Upon this, Muadh asked:

- Should we fight for the sake of Allah?

Our Prophet said,

- Jihad for the sake of Allah is good, but there is something better than this for you.

- Do you mean fasting and almsgiving?

- Fasting and almsgiving are good as well, but there is something better than this for people.

Muadh (May Allah be pleased with him) said all kind of goodness he know and responsibilities he performs but each time, our Prophet told him that there was something better.

Muadh couldn't stand more and asked,

- Let my mother and father be sacrificed for you O Messenger of Allah! What is better than these things?

Then our Prophet showed his tongue and said:

- Stay silent when you will not speak good. Muadh asked:

- Will we be judged for what we speak as well?

Then, our Prophet touched Muadh's knees and said:

- May Allah give you the best, O Muadh! What else can lead a person to

Hell facedown except his tongue? Whoever believes in Allah and the Day of Judgment either should speak good or keep silent! You should be winner by speaking the good word, and reach the comfort and peace by not speaking harmful words.

Muadh listened our beloved Prophet's advice carefully and thought for a long time. Why should he speak if his words were not going to help him anyway, even will cause badness? He would successfully fulfill this resolution. He said "I can do it!" to himself. He thought "This is my responsibility. I can stay silent not to hurt people and not to be misunderstood. I can stay SILENT even if I am angry, excited or happy if the words I am going to say may hurt others."

Our Lord sent some verses for us in the Qur'an as He wants us to have Responsibility and Self-Control. Here are the verses about Responsibility and Self-control.

"And do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge. Indeed, the hearing, the sight and the heart - about all those (one) will be questioned." (Chapter al-Isra, 36)

"Then you will surely be asked that Day about pleasure." (Chapter al-Takathur, 8)

"O children of Adam, take your adornment at every masjid, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess." (Chapter al-Araf, 31)

"And if Allah had willed, He could have made you (of) one religion, but He causes to stray whom He wills and guides whom He wills. And you will surely be questioned about what you used to do." (Chapter al-Nahl, 93)

"And from their properties was (given) the right of the (needy) petitioner and the deprived." (Chapter al-Dhariyat, 19)

"Say, 'Obey Allah and obey the Messenger; but if you turn away - then upon him is only that (duty) with which he has been charged, and upon you is that with which you have been charged. And if you obey him, you will be (rightly) guided. And there is not upon the Messenger except the (responsibility for) clear notification." (Chapter al-Nur, 54)

"And (they are) those who, when they spend, do so not excessively or sparingly but are ever, between that, (justly) moderate." (Chapter al-Furqan, 67)

PUZZLE

Which one is correct?

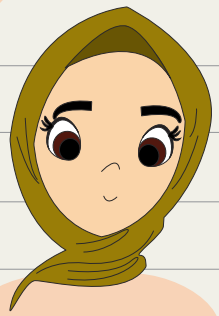
Below are given two sisters who have many thought in their minds. Our Lord is rewarding us for out good intentions and nice thoughts even before we do not actually do them. As for the bad actions and behaviors, he punishes us only when we commit them.

Can you help these two brothers to choose the good and right thoughts? Put an "X" before injustice and wrong thoughts so that the brothers do not commit them and make a mistake.

I am so tired today. Nothing will happen if I go to sleep today without brushing my teeth

Picnic was great, now it is time to collect our rubbish. We should leave this beautiful nature as we want to find it.

Missing a prayer in a day will not affect me. I already prayed 4 times today. Let us continue to play the game...



We can pour water as much as we want to make our car cleaner. The brightest car will be ours. I do not care where others find water, it is not my duty.

My friends can make fun as much as they want. I will not give up reading the Qur'an. Moreover, my reciting will be better by reading more.

Mom! Even though you sometimes make me so bored, I will not even say "Uff" to you no matter what happens. Obedience to you is my duty as your child.

I have many things and homework to do at home, but at the same time I want to play so much. I will play first, and then will do other works later.

I should tell my teacher that other teachers think that he is very slow.

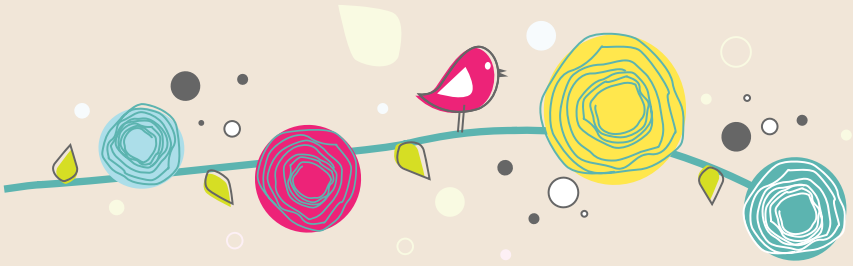
What they are talking secretly? It is not my duty to learn what they are talking. It should be better if I leave.

Today, the class president will be elected. I should go and vote for the best candidate.

Chapter Al-Tin

Chapter Al-Tin explains us how Allah created us in the most beautiful and purest way. So, Allah gave us the features to be hero Muslim. We use all these good characters given to us such as generosity, mercy, patience, and thankfulness to earn rewards. We use the characters which seem to be bad such as jealousy, love for money and hastiness in proper places. For example, we love our close friend so much and feel jealous of him, and it makes us to love each other more. While loving money, we become thrifty, and do not waste money uselessly and can give charity to the needy. We can use our character hastiness in finishing good and beautiful duties. By this way, each work and behavior make us closer to Paradise.

Below is Chapter al-Tin which warns us about these matters, and its meaning:



Chapter Al-Tin

بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالتِّينِ وَالزَّيْتُونِ ﴿١﴾وَطُورِ سِينِينَ ﴿٢﴾وَهٰذَا الْبَلَدِ الْاَمِينِ ﴿٣﴾لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْاِنْسَانَ فِي اَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ ﴿٤﴾ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ اَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ ﴿٥﴾اِلَّا الَّذِينَ اٰمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَلَهُمْ اَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ ﴿٦﴾فَمَا يُكَذِّبُكَ بَعْدُ بِالدِّينِ ﴿٧﴾اَلَيْسَ اللهُ بِاَحْكَمِ الْحَاكِمِينَ ﴿٨﴾

1- By the fig and the olive,

2- And (by) Mount Sinai

3- And (by) this secure city (Mecca),

4- We have certainly created man in the best of statue;

5- Then We return him to the lowest of the low,

6- Except for those who believe and do righteous deeds, for they will have a reward uninterrupted.

7- So what yet causes you to deny to Recompense?

8- Is not Allah the most just of judges?

Love And Respect

Wadud is one of the names of Allah. He is the Loving and the Loved. He created the whole universe and all creatures with love and He loves so much.

The warm Sun illuminates us every morning, and kindly wakes up from our sleep. Allah presents animals and plants to our service in daytimes. We live healthily by using them and benefiting from them. Allah makes nights to us like a blanket, and the stars and the Moon like night lamps not to get afraid from darkness.

Our Lord loves us so much that He created everything for us. For example, trees produce oxygen for us, and flowers smell wonderful.

All creatures in the universe love Allah so much. Planets, stars, trees, flowers, and animals, in short all creatures make dhikr (remembrance) of Allah. They perform their duties that Allah has appointed to them with love. Birds sing saying "Allah" and waters flow saying *"Hu"*.

The love of all creatures to Allah turns into respect as well. For example, the Sun would never say "I will not rise today." Clouds would never say "We will not send down rain today" or the trees would never say "I do not want to give fruits." All of them obey Allah with love and respect, and do what Allah asks them to do.

And we, human beings, show our love and respect through reading the Qur'an, praying, fasting and doing goodness, in other words, worshipping Him. We become thankful to Allah for the blessings He has given to us. We show our love by remembering the names of our Lord.

Not doing the things that our Lord does not want us to do is also an act

of worship as well. For example, when we want to say something bad, we give it up thinking "Allah hears me, He does not like that kind of words." When we feel angry to someone or to something, we become understanding by thinking that Allah likes forgiveness and the forgivers. As we love our Lord, we love what He created as well. We approach them with love and mercy.

Let us see how our beloved Prophet gives good tidings to us:

"No young person honors an elder due to his age except that Allah appoints for him one who will honor him at that age." (al-Tirmidhi, Birr, 75)

How beautiful, isn't it? We are loved more and more! We are respected more and more!

Write down the people and the things that you approach with love and respect. And then read them together with your friends.

Let us see who will write what?

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Examples of Love and Respect from our Beloved Prophet

Each person is respectable, and deserves to be respected. The person who shows respect to others has good morals, and is a mature person. Everyone shows respect to him. One day, when our Prophet was speaking with his Companions in Medina, a Jewish funeral procession passed in front of them. Our Prophet stood up immediately and waited until they passed. Our Prophet's Companions were surprised and asked, "O Messenger of Allah, this is a Jewish funeral. He is not a Muslim, why did you stand up?" Our Prophet responded: "He is not a Muslim, but he is a human being." With this answer, our Prophet's Companions understood the importance of showing respect to every person they were living with. They treated everyone with respect no matter from which religion they were or what kind of thoughts they had. Because of their respectful treatment, they were respected and appreciated all the time.

Our Prophet Loved and Respected the Kids. When a kid held the Prophet's hand, he would not leave the kid's hand until the kid would. He would carefully listen to the kid or an adult until the end of their speech. He would give the gifts came to him to the youngest person around him and make them happy. When his daughter Fatima entered his room, he would stand up and welcome her with love, respect and smiling face. He would carry his grandsons Hasan and Husain on his back, and play the game of camel with them. (Bukhari, Adab, 18)

Once when he was praying, his granddaughter Umamah hugged the Prophet's shoulder and climbed up on his back. She was trying to play with him by this way while the Prophet was performing prayer. Every time our Prophet wanted to bow down, he carefully put her down, and when he stood up, he lifted her up. He continued his prayer in this way not to disturb her game. Just to make Umamah happy and not to make her sad.

Our beloved Prophet would shorten the prayers which were normally

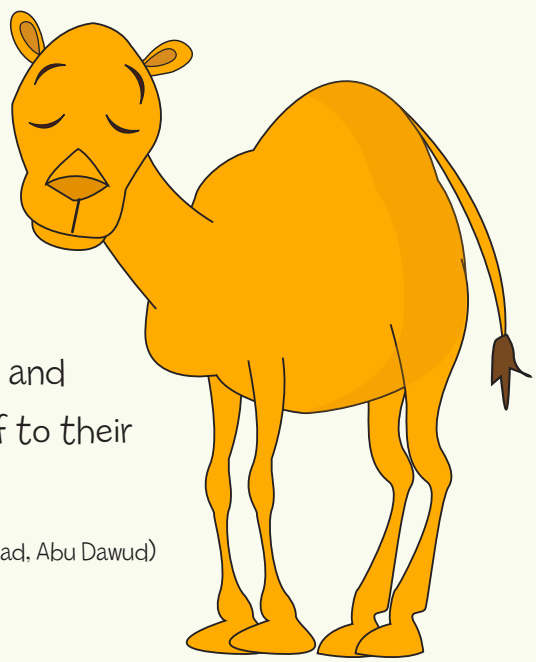
performed longer such as Dawn and Night Prayer, if there was a child crying among the congregation. He stated his mercy and compassion by saying that "Whoever makes a kid happy until s/he stops crying and treats him/her nicely, Allah will reward him in Paradise with blessings as much as he wants." And our Prophet would love kids by calling them as "the Flowers of Paradise".

Our Prophet loved and respected animals very much as well. One day a camel came close to our Prophet and approached to our Prophet so much that it was as if trying to tell something to our Prophet. It was like murmuring to our Prophet's ear. Our Prophet suddenly asked, "Is there anyone knowing the owner of this camel?" and said, "Tell him to come to me." They found the owner of the camel and brought him to our Prophet. The man felt very happy when he saw our Prophet and did not know what to do because of his excitement. When our Prophet asked, "Is this camel yours?" The man answered excitedly, "Yes, O Messenger of Allah!" Then our Prophet said:

- This camel is complaining about his owner, and says that his owners makes him to carry very heavy loads, and does not feed enough and leaves it hungry.

Then, he told his Companions that these animals were the gifts of Allah and should be cared and treated with love.

On the Day of Judgment, animals will complain about us as well. We will give answer to Allah for our disrespectful and loveless treatment to the animals. The man said, "O Our Beloved Prophet! I will immediately do whatever you ask from me to do! From now on, I will take good care of my animals with love so long as my camel becomes pleased with me in this world and in the Hereafter."



Then he caressed the neck of his camel and then the man and his camel happily set off to their way.

(It is a story written based on the 47th hadith in chapter Jihad, Abu Dawud)

Our Lord sent some verses for us in the Qur'an as He wants us to have Responsibility and Self-Control. Here are the verses about Responsibility and Self-control.

"(Jesus said): And made me dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant." (Chapter Maryam, 32)

"Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels (ask Him to do so). O you who have believed, ask (Allah to confer) blessing upon him and ask (Allah to grant him) peace." (Chapter al-Ahzab, 56)

"And those who join that which Allah has ordered to be joined and fear their Lord and are afraid of the evil of their account." (Chapter al-Ra'd, 21)

"Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - the Most Merciful will appoint for them affection." (Chapter Maryam, 96)

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought." (Chapter al-Rum, 21)

"O children of Adam, take your adornment at every masjid, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess." (Chapter al-A'raf, 31)

"It is that of which Allah gives good tidings to His servants who believe and do righteous deeds. Say, [O Muhammad], "I do not ask you for this message any payment [but] only good will through kinship." And whoever commits a good deed - We will increase for him good therein. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Appreciative." (Chapter al-Shuara, 23)

PUZZLE

Which one is correct?

Below are given two sisters who have many thought in their minds. Our Lord is rewarding us for out good intentions and nice thoughts even before we do not actually do them. As for the bad actions and behaviors, he punishes us only when we commit them.

Can you help these two brothers to choose the good and right thoughts? Put an "X" before injustice and wrong thoughts so that the brothers do not commit them and make a mistake.

I am really close to my friend. I can use her stuff without taking her permission.

Off, she is giving the wrong answer. I cannot wait till the end. I should interrupt her speech and give the right answer.

I do not like that kind of kids, but we live in the same place. I should respect his choices.

How beautiful our picnic was. We should pick up our rubbish. Let the people come after us feel comfortable as well.

Am I not their child? Of course, I can enter my parents' room without getting their permission. No need to knock their door.

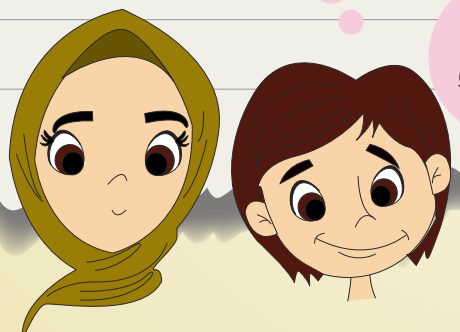
My grandfather started to talk about the same thing again. It is boring but he cared me a lot when I was a little kid, now it is my time to listen to him with smile.

Let us not play our game here not to destroy the flowers. If we play a little bit away from here, none of the creatures will be destroyed.

My dear mother and father! How tired you get! Now it is my turn, I will happily be your best helper in everything.

My dear friend, I love you so much. You do not need to wait for your turn. Get ahead of me when nobody sees you. Do not wait at the end of line.

O my brother! Take and eat all of these candies without letting our mother see. I love you so much and I do not want you to be sad.



The Game Corner

You can play this game with the verses of characters either separated from each other or mixed all together. We will choose some character verses such as the verses of "righteousness and responsibility". The number of should be as many as half of the number of our classmates. Let us then write the verses down on the small papers.

Then let us prepare a big box containing toys, books, or stationery.

Let us be separated into two groups. Half of each group will stand next to the box, and other half of them will stay 10-15 steps away from them in a single line.

Let us choose a referee. This person will choose the papers on which verses and hadith are written and will throw them in the box while saying "Verses, good and true words are raining from the sky!" He will be careful not to drop them to the ground.

A member of each group will take one of the papers thrown by the referee and will run to his friends standing 10-15 steps away. They will take the paper and write the verse or hadith down on the board. Later on, each group will read the verses and hadith they wrote down on the board.

The group which writes more verses and hadith and finishes the writing first will be the winner.

Let's start! Good Luck!

NOTES

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