



# Al-Hilal

## Technology Issue

A Magazine for Children

US \$2

2013-3



Browser



Applications



Music



Email





## QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

A magazine for children, by children, that provides them with a creative opportunity to learn about the world around them, and how to apply the teachings of Islām and Aḥmadiyyat to their daily lives.

Al-Hilāl (The New Moon) is published by the Aḥmadiyya Movement in Islām, under the auspices of the Children’s Magazine Committee, and directed by Dr Ahsanullah Zafar, National Amīr, Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya, USA.

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

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Cover by Sumera Ahmad



Dear Reader, As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

Every Friday, Aḥmadī Muslims all over the world huddle around their TVs, computers or even cell phones to watch or listen to the sermon delivered by their beloved Imam. Technology makes it possible to broadcast the sermon of the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ, may Allah be his support, live not only from London but from anywhere in the world if he is traveling. Technology also makes it possible that if we cannot watch the sermon at the time it is delivered, we can watch it later on MTA, and is available online at [mta.tv](http://mta.tv) and [alislam.org](http://alislam.org).

Technology has made it possible to watch live annual conventions from all over the globe, and see how the Jamā‘at of the Promised Messiah is growing and flourishing. We can study all about Islām and Aḥmadiyyat. We can learn about science, history, world cultures, languages, geography, and even astronomy. We can keep in regular contact with our parents and siblings using our cell phones, landlines or computers.

While technology has many benefits, it also has risks and dangers. As Aḥmadī Muslims, we must avoid the harmful content and use the beneficial aspects to bring ourselves nearer to the love of Allah and win His pleasure. We hope you enjoy this issue of Al-Hilāl and use technology creatively and wisely.

Was-Salām,  
Al-Hilāl Editorial Staff



Do not waste Allah's favors

وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنشَأَ جَنَّاتٍ مَّعْرُوشَاتٍ  
وَغَيْرَ مَعْرُوشَاتٍ وَالنَّخْلَ وَالزَّرْعَ  
مُخْتَلِفًا أَلْوَانًا وَالزَّيْتُونَ وَالرُّمَّانَ  
مُتَشَابِهًا وَغَيْرَ مُتَشَابِهٍ ط كُلُوا مِنْ ثَمَرِهِ  
إِذَا أَثْمَرَ وَآتُوا حَقَّهُ يَوْمَ حَصَادِهِ وَلَا  
تُسْرِفُوا ۗ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ ﴿١٤١﴾

And He it is Who brings into being gardens, trellised and untrellised, and the date-palm and cornfields whose fruits are of diverse kinds, and the olive and the pomegranate, alike and unlike. Eat of the fruit of each when it bears fruit, but pay His due on the day of harvest and exceed not the bounds. Surely, Allah loves not those who exceed the bounds. (6:142)

يَبْنِي آدَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ  
وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا ۗ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ

الْمُسْرِفِينَ ﴿٣٢﴾

الْمُسْرِفِينَ ﴿٣٢﴾

O children of Adam! look to your adornment at every time and place of worship, and eat and drink but exceed not the bounds; surely, He does not love those who exceed the bounds. (7:32)

## Avoid vain and useless activities

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنِ اللَّغْوِ مُعْرِضُونَ ﴿٤﴾

And who shun all that which is vain. (23:4)

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُّوا

بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا ﴿٧٣﴾

And those who bear not false witness, and when they pass by anything vain, they pass on with dignity. (25:73)

وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا اللَّغْوَ أَعْرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَقَالُوا إِنَّا

أَعْمَانَا وَلكم أعمالكم سلم عليكم

لَا نَبْتَغِي الْجَاهِلِينَ ﴿٥١﴾

And when they hear vain talk, they turn away from it and say, 'Unto us our works and unto you your works. Peace be to you. We seek not the ignorant.' (28:56)

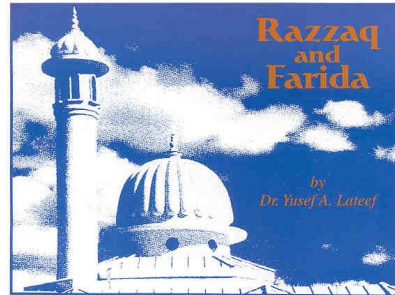
## Razzaq and Farida

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Silver Spring, MD 20905.

<http://www.amibookstore.us/>



## Man uses God-Given capabilities to invent

Whether a person is an inventor of the railways, telegraph, press or any other invention, he has to admit that he is not the inventor of the properties used to create his invention. Rather all of these inventors use existing capabilities, such as the power of steam which is used to run an engine... God Himself created the powers in elements, etc. These inventors cannot create these powers themselves. (Nasīm-i-Da‘wat, Written by the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, Page 20. Translated from Urdu)

## Man invents as Allah desires him to

... A time will come in the latter days that ... people will be inclined towards selfishness and materialism... The earth will make its properties known... mines will become known and agriculture will flourish... Many types of machines will be invented... so much so that man will ask: what has happened and why is this new knowledge, technology and machinery being invented? Then earth, that is the hearts of people, through their condition will proclaim that these new things that are appearing are not due to human efforts, but are a kind of revelation from God since it is impossible for man to create such exotic disciplines of knowledge on his own. (Shahādatul-Qur‘ān, Written by the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, Rūhānī Khazā‘in, Vol. 6, Pages 314-315. Translated from Urdu)





## Man is Destined to Continue to Make Technological Advances

Wise people have produced hundreds of products and procedures by learning some intrinsic and external properties of materials and their nature and by using physical and computational knowledge. As man's knowledge continues to increase, he continues to attain expertise in industry. **To run the rail with the power of steam, the invention of telegraph and printing methods are all quite useful inventions, which are benefiting the whole mankind...** There is as yet no limit to the creativity of man as he has been created for unlimited progress, which he is naturally busy to attain.

(Surma-i-Chashm-i-Ārya, Written by the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, Pages 152-153. Translated from Urdu)

## We should say no when we must...

Bushra Ahmad, Fargo ND (Lajna)

In the last century our world has made technological advances that man could not even dream of before. Small children can entertain themselves with video games using just the tips of their fingers. As they become older, cell phones and computers are available to them to communicate freely with each other.

We have the freedom to go on our cell phones and computers to use them as we like. With the push of a button from our computer we can spread love and peace or we can spread rumors and gossip and hurt someone's feelings.

When we have freedom, we also have responsibility. We should remember that Allah is watching us all the time and Allah is with us all the time to support us when we follow him. So, we need not fear to say no when our friends misuse technology to hurt the feelings of others or pressure us to do the same. We can say no with confidence because Allah is watching us and he loves the righteous people.





## Prophecies About the Latter Days

Such news has been given in the Holy Qur'ān about the latter days regarding new circumstances which have been clearly fulfilled in these times. One of these prophecies is that camels will become unused. This is an indication that new means of travel will become available... This prophecy was fulfilled 1300 years after the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him... When God desired the fulfillment of the prophecy, he instilled the thought in the heart of a person to invent a means of travel so that people may go thousands of miles using fire.

... Another prophecy is that ... books and manuscripts will be widely publicized as if such publications had never taken place before. This points to the machines that are used to publish books these days...

... Another prophecy is that ... it will become easier to meet each other. People will travel thousands of miles to meet each other. This prophecy has also been fulfilled in our times.

... Another prophecy in the Holy Qur'ān about the latter days is ... that many canals will flow from rivers. This prophecy also has been fulfilled in our times.

... There is another prophecy about the latter days in the Holy Qur'ān that ... mountains will be made to move. It points to the blowing away of mountains as is done these days that mountains are blown away with blasts to make roads...

(Chashma-i-Ma'rifat, Written by the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, Pages 306-308. Translation from Urdu)



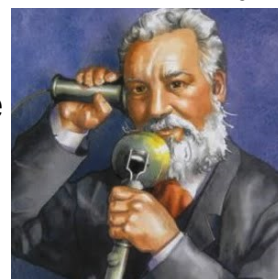
## My Favorite Technology

Hisham Virk, Age 8, Silver Spring Jamā‘at

Technology is something that we use daily and it is everywhere. From the electric toothbrush in the morning to the alarm clock we set at night; and thousands in between. Technology helps us stay in touch; technology helps us get to places faster; and technology makes our lives easier.



My favorite technology is the cell phone. The first phone was invented independently by two American inventors in the year 1870: Elisha Gray and Alexander Graham Bell. Since then this marvelous invention has taken flight to endless heights. We are able to communicate with friends and family thousands of miles away, see images of loved ones, and stay connected with our faith as well.



I use the phone to talk to my cousins in Pakistan, my grandmother in Canada, and I even use it to learn chapters from the Holy Qur‘ān with my Nano. My Dad has the Qur‘ān app on his cell phone, which he uses to recite the Holy Qur‘ān anytime, anywhere. My mother listens to the Khutba of the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ (may Allah be his support) and watches MTA on her phone. Lastly, my little sister uses it to play games. Its amazing how one little device can do so much. That is why this is my favorite technology.



# I Love Technology

Shafia Javaid, Age 7, Houston North

I love watching Huzoor's Khutba!

I love playing games!

I love watching cartoons!

I love watching MTA!

**mta** INTERNATIONAL



## Advanced Technology

Alina Iqbal, Age 9, Cypress Houston

Advanced technology is a great and useful man-made resource for humans. Many people have spent their entire lives on inventing technology to help others. Generation by generation, technology has gotten many births and has grown over the years. It has helped scientists as well as all middle-class families. Every technology company has grown its features and facilities. Life on earth always has something new coming.

My favorite technological advancement is the Internet because I get to do a lot of interesting things on it. I use the Internet to stay close to Allah as well as to have some fun time by watching Huzoor's Waqf-i-Nau classes and by watching missed episodes of my favorite TV shows. It also helps me to memorize Qurā'nic verses and prayers as I turn to them on the Internet while doing my homework. It also helps to stay close to family and friends as I also chat with them. So overall, these days, everyone seems to be benefiting from the perks of information technology.

# My Favorites

Aiman Asif, Age 9, Houston North

**My favorite technology is the iPad because I can play games on it.**  
**My favorite activity online is to play games and read a book**  
**My favorite religious activity is to listen to Huzoor's Khutba on my iPad**  
**Skype is also my favorite because I can get closer to my family!**



## Saadia Khan, Age 9, Houston North

My favorite technological advancement is the iPhone. My mother does not let me have my own iPhone because she thinks I am too young to have one. So sometimes she lets me borrow hers so I can play on it.

I play a bunch of games on it. Some of them are for fun, while some are learning games. I play some kind of a dentist game, where you have to clean kids' teeth. I think it will train me to be a doctor. I also have an app which teaches me math facts. This helps me do well in school.

I feel the iPhone also makes me closer to Allah because I have an app, which reminds me when to offer Ṣalāt. It plays the Adhān five times a day. There is also an MTA app, where I can go and watch MTA if I want. My mother also has an app with the summary of Huzoor's sermons for every week.

I also use my iPhone to stay in touch with my family. My grandmother is in Pakistan and I FaceTime with her, so I can see her and talk to her at the same time. It helps us stay closer. I also have a cousin in Dallas that FaceTimes me every day so we can stay in touch all the time.

I feel this technology is the best in the world because it helps me get closer to Allah and also be in touch with my family and friends.



# Walking the Technology Tightrope

**Haala Bhatti, Age 7, Houston North**

There are many new technologies in the world that we encounter everyday. My favorite technology is the computer because I like typing and going to fun websites where I learn new things. It also assists me in getting help for my school projects.

Technology helps us to stay close to Allah by allowing us to watch MTA, and listen to Huzoor's Friday Sermon.

I use technology to talk to my relatives in Pakistan using Skype. I also talk on the phone with my dad when he is out of town. Sometimes I teach my sister and brother interesting things on the computer.

We should be careful and avoid cyber-bullies, and not waste our time on inappropriate games. May Allah help us all to use technology wisely. Āmīn!



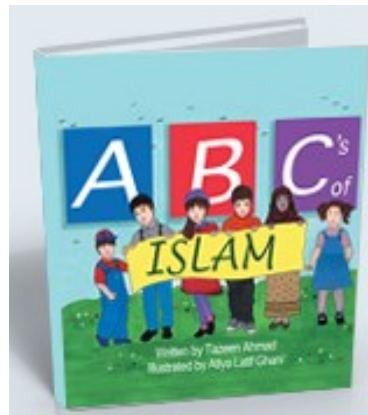
## *ABC's of Islam*

Written by Tazeen Ahmad

ABC's of Islam is a perfect book to introduce your kids to the simple concepts of Islam. Full of colorful illustrations and easy rhymes this book teaches the basic Islamic beliefs and values, in a fun and easy way, to young children.

Paperback: 38 pages. Purchase at

[www.tazeenahmadbooks.com](http://www.tazeenahmadbooks.com)



# TECHNOLOGY

Arshia Zafar, Age 13, Houston North

- T-** Track Nāṣirāt homework
- E-** Extract information from alislam.org for Nāṣirāt research!
- C-** Crack some jokes with friends
- H-** Help others with homework
- N-** News around the world
- O-** Obey Huzoor by not having Facebook
- L-** Listen to Huzoor's Friday sermon
- O-** Obtain information about other religions
- G-** Google search about endless topics
- Y-** Yummy recipes



We Want to Hear  
from You!!!

Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication.

Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

The Children's Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amīr, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.



# Technology

Ujala Yousaf / Central Virginia /Age 11

I think technology is a mystery because it has a different meaning to everyone. Technology has been around ever since man set foot on earth; some of it is for good use and some of it is for bad use. Some inventions have been around for thousands of years. The Aztecs made the wheel and at that time it was the best thing ever. Today we cannot even go a mile without it. Today's calculator is more powerful than the computer that guided the spacecraft Apollo with Neil Armstrong on it to the moon. Most of the technology I use today was invented way before I was born so I take everything for granted.

My favorite technology would be the Internet. It has made everything easier for us. In many ways I feel like the world is only a click away. Internet has many beneficial applications if it is used the right way. We can go on my favorite website, [www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org) or use lajnausa.net. There are a lot of bad things on the Internet, which can be very harmful. Whenever I use the Internet, I always ask my parents' permission. Whenever you get on the Internet, I strongly suggest to all my sisters and brothers to be very cautious and have an adult nearby.

I can watch TV, play games, do research for school and even talk and see my grandparents in Pakistan. I can see and listen to my Khalīfa anytime I want. This was not true for my parents when they were my age. They had black and white TV, which only had one channel. They had this thing called the video camera, which was size of a suitcase. They had to travel miles to make a phone call. They had something



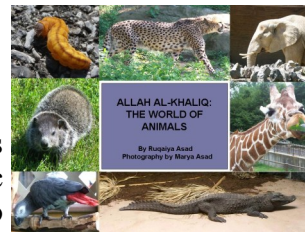


called a stereo and you had to have cassettes for it. I do remember the VCR since my parents still own video cassettes. My brother, who is only nine, laughs when he sees them. Today we only need the iPod or the iPhone, and we can accomplish all the tasks at the same time. So we all can see technology has changed a lot. In the end I would like to say that many years from now, when I look back and read this article the technology today would be obsolete.

### **Allah Al Khaliq: The World of Animals**

*Written by Ruqaiya Asad*

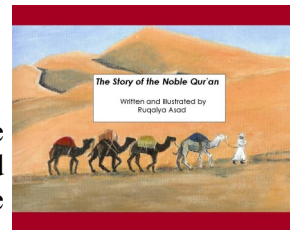
This is a book for children. The book contains original photos and simple text with Qur'anic references and scientific facts that appeal to children's natural interest. Purchase at: [islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com](http://islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com).



### **The Story of the Noble Qur'an**

*Written by Ruqaiya Asad*

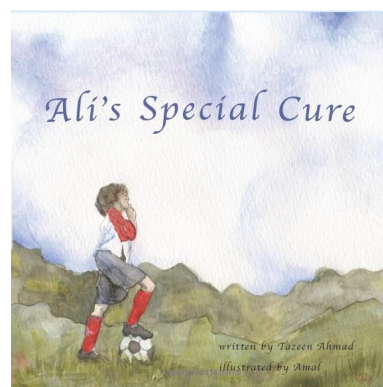
This is a book for children. It tells the story of the Qur'an's revelation and significance in a simple, child friendly story. All original, oil illustrations. Purchase this book at: [islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com](http://islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com)



### **Ali's Special Cure**

Written by Tazeen Ahmad

This book is written for children. It is a story of a young Muslim boy who discovers the power of prayer as he strives to become a better soccer player. Purchase at [www.tazeenahmadbooks.com](http://www.tazeenahmadbooks.com)



# Technology

Daanish Malik/10/ Silver Spring, MD

My favorite technology advancement is a computer. It's my favorite advancement because with this device I can do research, play games, watch MTA online, and do many more things to stay close to Allah. My favorite thing to do with a



computer is visit the Atfāl website; it's my favorite thing to do on my computer because I can play games, learn about Aḥmadiyyat, and many more things. I can use technology to stay close to Allah by watching Huzoor's (may Allah be his support) Khutbas, checking my Waqf-i-Nau and Atfāl syllabuses, learning about the prophets, learning about Islām and Aḥmadiyyat, and

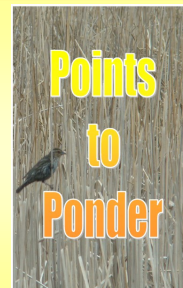
many more things. Families can use technology to stay closer by, let's say, some people in a family went somewhere on a trip to another location and the other part of the family didn't go, that family can use Skype or another way to video-call one another to stay close to one another or they can call one another to stay close.

One experience with me is that once my family and I

## Points to Ponder

A collection of stories told by  
*Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II,*  
may Allah be pleased with him.

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went to another country in winter break, but my dad didn't go because he was going to come two weeks after us because he had to go to work. During those two weeks we stayed close to my dad by using Skype to video-call him every day! That is one experience with me and my family to stay close to one another. This is why a computer is my favorite technology advancement.

## Technology of 2013

Duranab Mahmood, Age 10, Cypress Houston, Texas

Have you ever noticed how many different types of technology there are? They're all great but I think the best type of technology is the iPhone. It's great because you can do many different things on it.

You can do things like play games, talk to friends, and search the web. These are some ways that you can use your iPhone for entertainment, but there are some ways that you can use your iPhone for your daily routine.



You can use your iPhone's Holy Qur'an app to read The Holy Qur'an. You can watch M.T.A., and read some books on your iPhone.

These are all great uses for the iPhone, but remember you should always use your technology in the right way. The iPhone was invented by Steve Jobs and it was made in the year of 2007, in California. Today, there are even many generations of the iPhone. Now people all over the world are using their iPhone or any technology for entertainment and learning.



# Technology

**Sarah Rahman / Age 11 / Dallas, Texas**

New technology can be used to spread the message of Islām, and it fulfills the revelation of the Promised Messiah, peace be upon him, "I shall take your message to the corners of the earth."

Out of all the new electronic devices, I like the iPad because all of the apps that are on a computer are on the iPad as well.

It is easy to carry around with you; you can search anything that you want to know. You can download a FaceTime app to talk to families who live far away, and since we can see them we feel like a family sitting together.



With God given intellect, human beings have made significant scientific and technological advances in recent years.

Huzoor (may Allah be his support) in his Friday sermon April 7th, 2006 said that the modern day inventions and developments are a sign of the advent of the Promised Messiah, peace be upon him, and how they are to be utilized, but we should keep a balance so it does not prevent us from accepting the Messiah.



One advantage of the iPad is that you can read the Qur'ān and Ḥadīth to get close to Allah Ta'ālā.

One disadvantage is that if a person is not mindful, he can neglect his spiritual side.

I pray that may Allah keep us safe from all evils associated with technology and enable us to take advantages of its services.



# Wonders of Technology



Maha Ahmad / 12 / Dallas, TX



Tablet, computers, cell phone, and iPod  
This is all the technology we use a lot.  
These are the tools of learning for us,  
Through them we can be educated and  
prosperous.

Back then they used telegraphs and mail,  
But now every message is there by email.  
Back then they communicated with pen and  
ink,

Today we are living link by link.  
For sending the message I don't have to type,  
Though there is a wonderful way to Skype.  
I am very grateful for these great inventions,  
Behind these were great mind's intentions



Şalāt Poster  
18" x 24"

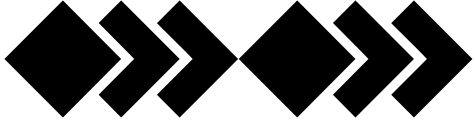
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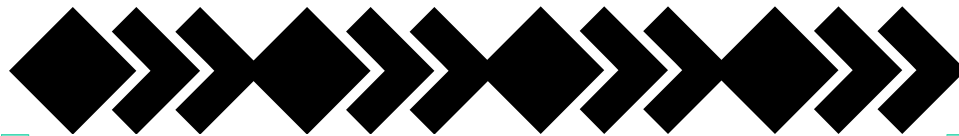




# Technology

Bushra Rahman / Age11 / Dallas, TX

We all use technology in many different ways. I will explain some of the ways that I use technology. I have my own iPad at home and I use it for a lot of things. I use it for playing games and reading the Qur'ān. I use it for both Islāmic and fun ways. I can connect with different family members too by texting them or using Skype. There are many different Islāmic things to do, like going on alislam.org, listening to MTA, and reading the Qur'ān. You do not have to use it to only do research for Islām, you can also play some games too. It has many uses, and you can get close to Allah Ta'ālā. It is also good for communicating with your friends. It is not bad to have a technological device unless you play on it all day.



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# Walking the Technology Tightrope

Kanita Tariq / age / Queens, NY



My favorite technological advancements are made by Apple. Apple has many products such as the iPad, MacBook, iPhone, and iPod. Apple products give us the chance to use a camera, the Internet, apps, and to communicate. My favorite activity to do online is browse. I usually find a new game or interesting websites. I also like to do research for school projects. I can use a smartphone or tablet to stay closer to Allah as

well as have fun. I can download the MTA app to listen to Huzoor's (may Allah be his helper) Friday sermon and go on [www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org) to do Islāmic research. I can use the technology of this era to have fun playing games as well. This technology can help families communicate with each other no matter how far they are. Thanks to smartphones, web chat, FaceTime, email and text, I can communicate with family all around the world.





# Technology

Myrah Shah / Age 9 / Bay Point

Technology is used for so many purposes such as researching, playing games, and many more things. You can also use technology for religious reasons as well. There are apps for cell phones and iPods such as the Holy Qur'ān app, Ṣalāt reminder apps, the Friday sermon app, and many, many more. My favorite advancement in technology is *the Internet* because we can do multiple tasks on it and it makes life a lot easier. My favorite activity is playing games on the computer and listening to the Friday sermon on alislam.org. Being able to listen to the Friday sermon is a great plus, because anyone can access the summary or video via their smartphones and laptops.

Families can stay in touch by video chatting, e-mailing, and texting. Through technology, we can listen to Huzoor's Friday Sermon online. We have all of the world's information at our finger-tips, which makes research much easier. Also, technology allows us to call or video chat with family that live

across the world, which is an excellent advancement.

Advancements in technology allow us to stay in touch with family, do schoolwork, play games, and most importantly, stay in touch with Allah Ta'ālā.



# iPad: my favorite Invention

Dania Iffat Ahmad / Age 7 / Austin

My favorite technological advancement is the iPad because it is a most useful invention. You can use it as an alarm clock, a timer, a scheduler, a calendar, an address book, a note pad, a drawing board, a map, a mail box, a great Internet tool, etc. You can also download books, newspapers, magazines, games, videos and so on. You can even shop on it!

I love to take pictures, make videos, play games, watch my favorite shows, read books, and draw on the iPad. Besides fun, I use the iPad to do online research for my school projects. My favorite use of the iPad is to play learning games and do educational activities on [PBSkids.org](http://PBSkids.org).

The iPad is also a great tool that keeps families and friends connected by emails, iMessages, and video chats. My parents use the iPad to send and receive emails and messages and to keep in touch with friends and relatives. They even have live video chats every weekend with my grandparents, uncles, and aunts who live far away.

The iPad can also help you stay close to Allah if you choose to. You can learn Holy Qur'ān online, listen to Huzoor's Friday sermons, read books and articles about Islām & Ahmadiyyat, watch live MTA or videos of missed MTA programs on YouTube, attend or listen to online Waqf-i-Nau classes, etc. I use the iPad to memorize the Holy Qur'ān and to read articles/ books on the Naṣirāt web page, which keeps me close to Allah.



# My Favorite Electronic Device

Numan Saeed / Age 9 / Hartford CT

My favorite electronic device is Apple's iPad because I'm able to stay connected to fun activities and local Ijtimās. This electronic device allows me to read the Holy Qur'ān online. Every Friday, I sit down and listen to Huzoor's sermons. I talk



to my grandparents once a week on Skype. A couple times a month, I check to see if there's anything to do to help out at my mosque. When I'm done with my Ṣalāt, Holy Qur'ān and also helping around the house, I play FIFA 12 for about 20 minutes.



# My Favorite Electronic Gadget

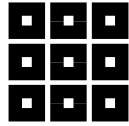
Waleed Saeed / Age 11 / Hartford, CT

My favorite electronic gadgets would be the iPhone because I can go anywhere and am still able to stay in touch with my friends and family. Staying in touch is great because it helps to bring me and my family closer together.

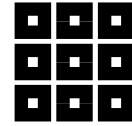


Another advantage to this phone is that I am able to stay in touch with my faith. I like using the iPhone to read Qur'ān and listening to Huzoor's Friday sermons. I play really fun games like Jetpack Joyride, Minecraft, and Angry Birds.





# iPad



Aleena Zaufishan Dard / Age 8 / Research Triangle, NC

My favorite technology is an iPad because you can take it around wherever you go. You can read books, download fantastic games, watch entertaining videos, and look up stuff that you don't know. My favorite activity on the iPad is Temple Run 2 because it exercises your hand. More importantly, on the iPad you can learn about the Holy Qur'ān and other Islāmic information. My Papa has started to teach



me the correct recitation of the Holy Qur'ān using the iPad. It is fun when you play a game about Islām. We can keep in touch with our families and friends on Skype and it can go to any place in the world like Canada, Pakistan, and England. So that's my favorite technology!

## T E C H N O L O G Y

Rehan Mahmood Khan / Age 8 / Los Angeles East

**T**witter is used to spread Islām

**E**mail my family and friends

**C**alculators help me with math

**H**earing Adhān on MTA

**N**intendo Wii is fun and challenging

**O**rder cool stuff online

**L**isten to Friday Sermons on alislam.org

**O**ops, I deleted my homework!

**G**ood conversations with family on FaceTime

**Y**es! I got a high score on Angry Birds!



**How do you use technology to both stay close to Allah Ta‘ālā and to have some fun time?**

**Eesha Shamas / 11 yrs / Chicago West**

Technology, if used properly and safely, can be used for purposes such as being close to Allah as well as have fun time. Time is the most important part of technology; as in, how much of it you can spend on any type of electronic devices.

You can spend half of your time on electronic devices such as an iPod, iPad or a laptop to visit a religious website. For example, I go to the alislam.org website and watch the Friday sermon or see where Huzoor is? I was unable to go to Los Angeles to visit

Huzoor; I followed Huzoor’s visit to Los Angeles through the alislam.org website and I really enjoyed the information and pictures on the website. I also listen to poems and I have apps on my iPod to remind me of the five daily Prayer times. I also use the iPod to help me with memorization of different parts of the Holy Qur’ān.



You can also spend time on technology to have fun with any good games that you like the best. Mathematics games and Hello Kitty games are my favorite. I have a tiny zoo friends game on my iPod and it helps me to be responsible for my animals, as I take care of their needs such as food and water. If you like to read, you can use technology to read your favorite author’s books. On my parent’s iPad, I keep in touch with my cousins and grandparents in Canada.

In the end, you don’t always have to have fun time and you don’t have to only be on religious websites. The best thing is to be moderate with your time on your electronic devices; I follow the same rule.



# Technology

Temoor Dard / 12/ Research Triangle

My favorite technological advancement is the computer. This is my favorite advancement because it gives us an opportunity to connect with people and ideas all over the world. It lets us do research for school purposes, watch entertaining videos, and it updates us on what is happening around the world. I like to listen to updates on books or video



games that are coming out in the future. I don't play many computer games. I also listen to music on the computer while I am doing my work. My family uses Skype to contact far away relatives in Pakistan, Canada, or in London. We have phones to call them when we need to.

We can use the computer to find out more information on the Holy Qur'ān, our syllabus, Ṣalāt times, Friday sermons, and important speeches about Islām. When Huzoor comes to different countries, we can watch live broadcasts of this event on MTA, via the computer.



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Review of Religions

Magazine of Comparative Religious Thought

<http://www.reviewofreligions.org/>



# TECHNOLOGY >> SO MANY USES

Seher Ambar Khan / Age 10 / Los Angeles East

Do you use technology in your everyday life? I use technology in various ways at school and for religious purposes.



Some ways we use technology at school is through Promethean boards, Activexpressions, Smartmusic and Tenmarks. Promethean boards, or “smart boards,” are like electronic chalkboards that use a special pen. Activexpressions are little devices that connect to these smart boards. We use them to send in answers to a question or to text a spelling word to our teacher. Smartmusic is a computer program for orchestra stud



smartmusic®

It records my “takes” and sends them to my flute teacher. Tenmarks is a program that has math assignments and is due every week. All of these forms of technology are extremely useful at school.



TEN  
MARKS

There are many ways I use technology as a Nāṣirāt student. My Nāṣirāt teacher sends me workbook pages through email and class timing reminders. She also sends us reading comprehension exercises and fill-in-the-blank worksheets. I listen to Friday sermons on the iPad and type summaries for my class. Recently, we watched Huzoor’s amazing trip to the Far East (Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Japan) on MTA. What amazing technology!



*Find many books for children at  
[www.amibookstore.us](http://www.amibookstore.us)*





# Technology

Sameen Hanan/10/SVA

Technology is a great invention; almost every person has a device they play with. I have a few devices that I love to use. I play games, listen to music, do my homework and other things. My favorite thing to do on my devices is listening to Huzoor's Friday sermon and playing games. I can listen to the Friday Sermon on an iPhone, iPod or laptop. To stay close to Allah, I use my computer to take Qur'ān classes and listen to the



Friday sermons. Families can use technology to stay closer to one another by texting, FaceTime, Skype, phone calls and much more. I talk to my family in Pakistan by texting and using Skype.

If you use technology in a good way there are many benefits, but if you use it in a bad way there are no benefits and it is no use. An example of

a good use of technology is by taking Qur'ān classes and playing educational, knowledge-based games, but a bad use is by watching inappropriate things. I bought my laptop for taking Qur'ān class, but when I am free I use it for other fun stuff. May Allah guide us in the right path when using technology.



# TECHNOLOGY WORD SEARCH

Haniah Virk (12) Tanzeela Virk (7) Zinnia Virk (10)

F E G P A I R S O A G N D F A  
R R O N O P P C S C A G E M L  
P A I R U O M U P Z H C H E F  
P P R D V D A T M D F A V E U  
A N P H A N S S S R P P W D R  
N B F A J Y O F L C J I S V Q  
A S A A N N S X T U I M P N A  
H K L O L A N E Q W Z I P F N  
D R I I O R R O R C V D M S O  
A K N O E A M U R M I Y I U N  
E E K J Q Z G T Q J O Q H M L  
A L I S L A M J A P R N A B I  
P L I N P W G I Q A H J A D N  
S S A L C N A R U Q P C Q P E  
J C L H V X R X C V Y P Z M P



## UPSIDE DOWN, DIAGONAL, ACROSS WORDSEARCH

ADHAN APP \* ALFURQAN ONLINE \* ALISLAM  
\* FRIDAY SERMON APP \* IPOD \* LAJNA USA \*  
MTA APP \* NAZMS ONLINE \* QUR'ĀN APP \*  
QUR'ĀN CLASS \*

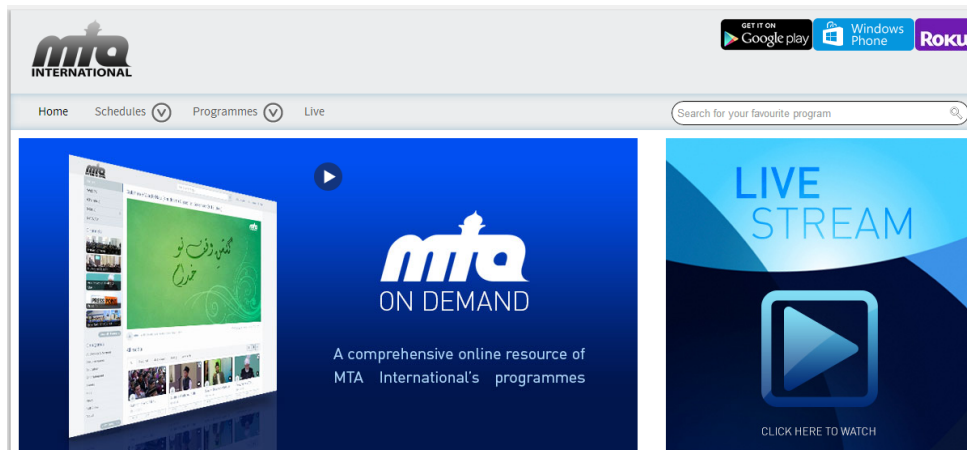
# TECHNOLOGY

**Zeenat Ahmed / Age 10 / South Virginia**

One piece of technology that I personally love is our iPad. I have been using this iPad for about a year now. An iPad can help you with staying on top of your Friday sermons. I also use it to listen and prepare myself for different contests and competitions. I did my speech on our iPad. There's an app on the iPad about what's the latest on MTA that I use often so I won't miss a thing on MTA! There's also an app that tells you the daily prayer times. If you don't want an app that just tells you the time, the iPad has an app that calls Adhān when the Prayer happens. It also helps me with my homework. It saves me a lot of time. When I have a question about basically ANYTHING, all I do is type it up and VOILA!

I am too young to have email and other kinds of accounts but I am sure when I am old enough, I will use my iPad even more than now. I hope that by that time they have an iPad that can also cook, clean and do my chores for me.

<http://www.mta.tv>



# Technology

Dur-e-Shewar Butt / 12 / South Virginia

The topic of my article is technology. Technology has come so far that if you start writing, you can fill columns and columns about the topic. But since I have to write a short article, I would like to go over some very serious points about using technology. Technology can be used for many positive things such as staying in touch with our friends, family and also your education. But nowadays kids use technology for many negative things. Instead of increasing their knowledge and vocabulary, they stay in their rooms and decrease their social hours day by day with others. Even if they are playing, they are playing alone, and due to this, their habit of sharing decreases.



One thing that I am a hundred percent against is that parents think that if their child is good at studies then they buy them iPods, iPads, iPhones, etc., because they deserve it. No matter how good or bad a child is at studies, if a child is eight they may not be mature enough to control themselves and stay away from bad sites and even play games that are for kids older than their age.

Now let's talk about Facebook. This social networking site can be used positively to talk to our relatives, for business, for advertisement, to get notes from a friend for school, and also for other positive things, but young people often use Facebook to put pictures of themselves to show others how beautiful they are and to write comments on other people's pictures. Sometimes the pictures get tagged and





anyone can do anything with the pictures and this can be really dangerous for your upcoming life. Please use technology as positively as you can for yourself and others.

The reason for me to write this article is to put awareness in people's minds of the right use of technology and now even if one person has changed their view of using technology, I think the purpose of writing this article is complete.

## Technology

Kanzah Khan/11/Virginia South

**T**echnology can be used good or bad

**E**mail can help you stay close to family

**C**hat can help you stay close to friends

**"Hi"** can be sent by e-mail, iMessage, text, and cellphones too

**N**etworking helps you connect to other people

**O**rganizing files and pictures in a computer is helpful

**L**istening to Huzoor's khutbas and reading press releases

**O**n or off, my favorite thing is an iPad because it makes everything bigger

**G**ood for staying close to Allah and playing games

**Y**ou can use AGkidzone.com which is my favorite website



# Humanity First

## Gift of Sight

Hasan Shuja Khan, 8 years old, RTNC Jamā‘at

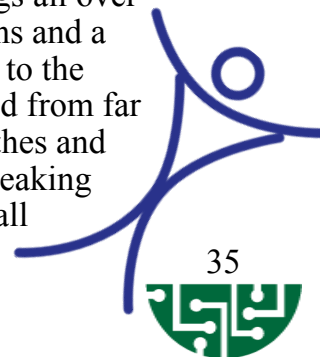


“Me llamo Hasan. Que es su nombre?” I asked the little old Guatemalan lady. I was holding Senorita Maria’s hand and she was getting ready for eye surgery. She couldn’t see very well and she needed this surgery so that she could see her grandchildren better.

In November, I volunteered with the Humanity First Gift of Sight team in Antigua, Guatemala for one week. The other volunteers came from all over the United States including Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, and Raleigh. The reason we came was to help repair eyesight in people who could not see very well.

If you can’t see, you can’t get a job or get money to take care of your family. The ophthalmologist did the eye surgeries for free. I am not a doctor, but I got to help in other ways.

After a long flight, we drove to the clinic and I helped sort out the supplies including the lenses, the eye drops and medicines, and organized the operating room. I didn’t understand everything, but I followed directions and did what I was told. In the morning, the team walked on cobblestone roads to the clinic. Some people stopped to get coffee, but I preferred hot cocoa. There were ancient temples and buildings all over town with grand wooden doors. I saw mountains and a volcano far away in the distance. When we got to the clinic, the patients and their families had arrived from far away villages. They were wearing colorful clothes and shawls. Everywhere I turned, I heard people speaking Spanish. I was a little confused, but they were all smiling so they must have been happy to be at



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the clinic.

One by one, patients started going back to the operating room. During the day, I passed out lunches and coffee to the patients and their families. They all said “Gracias” and smiled. I also gave toys like cars, dolls, and coloring books to the little kids. I took a break and got to play soccer with one of the Guatemalan boys. He was really good!

It is an amazing feeling to help others. You don’t have to go all the way to Guatemala; you can start by helping your mom, your friends, and your neighbors. To make my mom’s life easier, I do chores like doing the laundry, vacuuming the house, and making school lunches the night before. Huzoor (may Allah be his support) said recently in a sermon that helping humanity is a form of worship of Allah. It makes sense to me now because you are taking care of Allah’s creations.

Finally, Senorita Maria’s surgery was over. I asked “Senorita Maria, como estas!?” She said “Muy bien! Gracias! Gracias!” I pushed her in a wheelchair back to her family. I gave her some toys to take home to her grandchildren. She thanked me for coming to help in Guatemala. I was so happy to make someone feel good.





# Technology in the Holy Qur'ān

By Marium Manahil Ahmad (MD-Lajna)

Technological advancements in the past century prove all the signs of the Latter Days as prophesied in the Holy Qur'ān. Understanding these signs establishes the truth of the Holy Qur'ān, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), and most importantly it upholds the existence of God. Technological advancements may be directly linked to the Holy Qur'ān throughout history. There are countless examples of this proof.

“When the she-camels, ten-month pregnant,  
are abandoned” (Holy Qur'ān, 81:5).

Imagine sitting in Arabia 1400 years ago and reading that there will come a day when the only form of transportation you know of will no longer exist. How could one understand such a change? Camels were the main way of getting around for all matters small or large. The Holy Qur'ān told us that this way of life would not last for all time. The Qur'ān gives us great wisdom and helped us prepare for this tremendous change by warning us of the incredible advancements in our future.

This idea is further explained in a Ḥadīth. “The camel as means of transport will be abandoned and will not be used to go from place to place” (Muslim). This Ḥadīth restates the evolution of transportation that we would come to see in the Latter Days.

In 1835, the birth-year of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), the first railroad was introduced in England. This invention was one of many that would change our lives forever. Soon after, in 1903, the Wright Brothers flew the first motorized airplane. Ten years later, in 1913, Ford installed the first assembly line to mass-



produce automobiles. In 1969, Apollo astronauts landed on the moon. Methods of transportation were changing drastically and Holy Qur'ān and Ḥadīth were showing their truth.

Within 150 years after the birth of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), technology advanced so much that we were able to go to space and land on the moon. In Arabia, when the first Muslims were reading the Holy Qur'ān, they could never have imagined how advancing technology would change peoples lives. People from all around the world can now be brought together without any difficulty. This has improved the lives of every person and allows us to learn and understand people from different parts of the world.

The invention of the telephone, radio, television, computer, and Internet are also foretold in the Holy Qur'ān. These inventions, like newer transportation, have also brought the world closer together in countless ways.

“And when people are brought together.” (81:8)

When the Holy Qur'ān was delivered to man, there was no simple way for people living far away from each other to communicate. While there were different ways to communicate, it would take much longer than ever imagined in today's world. During the time of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would prepare for the annual Ḥajj when pilgrims from all parts of Arabia would come to Mecca. This Ḥajj that happened once a year was the perfect opportunity to spread the message of One God and the message of Islām. Ḥajj was always very important because it was one of the only times when people from all over Arabia would gather in one location to mix with each other. An occasion like this would not come often.

Today's world has become a global village. We are easily able to connect with any person living near us or even across the world. These faster modes of communication have brought people together just as the Holy Qur'ān told us. It is important to acknowledge and understand the signs we are constantly witnessing in our everyday lives. The truth of the Holy Qur'ān can never be overlooked because it is present in everything we do.



# Technology is all around us...

When we think of technology, the first things that come to our minds are computers and cell phones as we use them often and they are comparatively recent inventions. Otherwise technology is all around us.

Medical technologies keep us healthy and fit. Doctors use technology to diagnose and treat ailments. Using technology, they can monitor human vital signs such as temperature and blood pressure. Technology makes possible eyeglasses and contact lenses so that we can observe the beautiful world created for us by our



Creator. Using technology, medicines are discovered and prepared so that people can live healthier and productive lives. Technology makes possible various kind of clothing to cope with heat and cold.

Technology makes possible our homes which keep us at the right temperature during cold winter months and during hot summer months. Electricity powers lighting, alarm clocks, refrigerators, air conditioning, clothes washer and dryer, vacuum cleaner, dishwasher, television and numerous other helpful appliances in the house.



Technology helps us travel as close as to our school or work or grocery store using bicycle, car, train or bus. Or we can travel as far away as to another country or continent using airplane.

Refrigeration makes to possible to keep food, medicines and industrial products fresh for longer times to store them or to transport them to far away places where they are needed. As we enjoy all the benefits of technology, we should be grateful to Allah who gave us abilities to progress in knowledge and its use for the benefit of us all.



## Technology

Surmud Jamil



My favorite technological advancement is a computer. With a computer you can go online, do homework, play games, check email, etc. A computer is better than a smartphone because it's faster and has more memory. People can use their technology to stay close to God by looking up prayer timings, doing homework for Atfāl class, typing speeches, and many more things as well. Families can also be closer together on computers by talking to each other on computers and emailing. Computers are a way to have fun online and stay close to God. May Allah help us online, while on a computer.

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