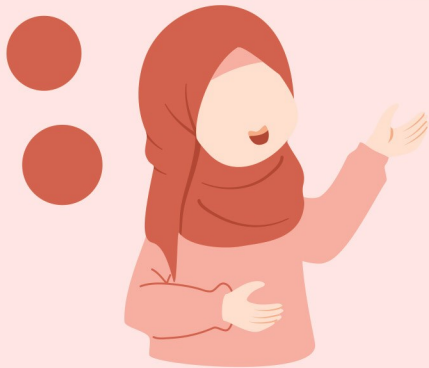


Al Hilal

Characteristics of Good & True Muslims



US \$2

A Magazine for Children

2024-1



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 Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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Patron: Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, Amir Jama'at USA

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Chief Editor: Saliha Malik



Al-Hilāl Editorial Team: Sarah Malik – Ahsan Khan – Sarmad Chaudhry – Olivia Barber

Graphics: Sumera Ahmad – Shoeb Abulkalam – Naila K. Butt – Maleeha Bushra, Samia Jahangiri

Submissions: Shazia Ali, **Layout:** Naila K. Butt



E-mail: al-hilal@ahmadiyya.us
Online: <http://www.alislam.org/alhilal/>

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Editor's Note:

The notation (sa) is an abbreviation of the prayer *sallallāhu 'alaihi wa sallam* (peace and blessings of God be upon him), which we say for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). Though the prayer has not been written in full it should nevertheless be understood as being repeated in full in each case.

Similarly, the notation (as) is an abbreviation of the prayer *'alaihi-salam* (peace be upon him) and is used at the mention of the Promised Messiah (as) and all other prophets of God.

The notation (ra) is an abbreviation of the prayer *radiyallahu 'anhu/'anha/'anhum* (may Allah be pleased with him/her/them) and is used for the companions of the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as).

The notation (aba) is an abbreviation of the prayer *ayyadahullahu ta'ala binasrihil-'aziz* (may Allah be his helper) and is used at the mention of the current Khalifa (aba).

Dear Reader, As-Salāmu 'Alaikum!

As Ahmadi Muslims we are so fortunate to have accepted the Promised Messiah (as) who has given us the true and in-depth understanding of the Holy Qur'an. And furthermore, by his own example, he showed us the beautiful character of the Holy Prophet (sa) who was the practical demonstration of the Holy Qur'an.

Additionally, we are blessed by the Institution of Khilafat and the presence of our beloved Huzoor, Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba), who teaches and reminds us of this exalted guidance on a daily basis, enabling us to strive our utmost to be **'Good and True Muslims'** and helping us to establish our personal relationship with Allah Almighty.

Please join me in learning from our children who readily embrace these teachings and who tell us in clear and direct terms about the beautiful character in a sincere Muslim. May Allah grant us all the ability to live by them, *Ameen*.

Was-Salam,
Saliha Malik
Chief Editor, Al-Hilal

القرآن الكريم

Holy Qur'an

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ

يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ﴿٣٣﴾

Verily you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent model, for him who fears Allah and the Last Day and who remembers Allah much. [Ch. 33, V. 22]

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

You are the best people raised for the good of mankind; you enjoin what is good and forbid evil and believe in Allah. [Ch. 3, V. 111]

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْكِتَابِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ ۗ إِنَّا لَا

نُضِيقُ أَجْرَ الْمُصَلِحِينَ ﴿١٧١﴾

And as to those who hold fast by the Book, and observe Prayer, surely We suffer not the reward of such righteous people to perish. [Ch. 7, V. 171]



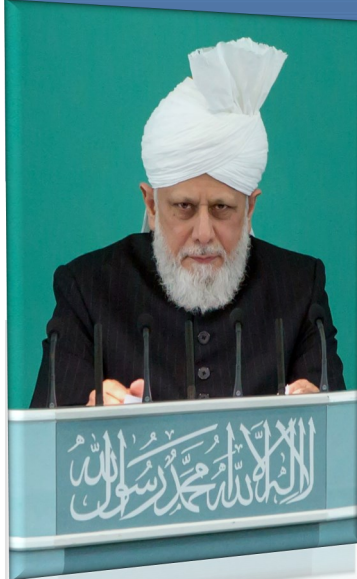
Hadith

The Holy Prophet of Islam (sa) said:

‘The best among you are those who are best to their families and I am the best among you to my family.’
(Tirmizi, Kitabul-Manaqib)

“A true Muslim is one from whose tongue and hand people are safe, and the believer is the one people trust with their lives and wealth.”
(Sunan al-Nasā’ī, 4995)

“There is nothing weightier in the scales than good morals and good conduct.”
(Abu Dawood)



Attributes of True Believers

Friday Sermon October 25, 2019

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) recited verse 42 of Surah al-Hajj: *“Those who, if We establish them in the earth, will observe Prayer and pay the Zakat and enjoin good and forbid evil. And with Allah rests the final issue of all affairs.”* [Holy Qur’an, Ch. 22, V. 42]

In this verse, Allah the Exalted has explained that true believers do not become self-absorbed and materialistic when they attain peace and prosperity after a period of difficulty. Rather they observe salat, pay attention to their prayers, populate their mosques, serve humanity and spend their wealth on the poor and for the propagation of God’s faith.

They are mindful of performing good deeds and avoid sins. They do all these only for the sake of God and God in return brings excellent results of these virtuous acts. Thus, the principle to understand is that any act that is done in accordance with the commandment of God, while being mindful of His Awe and Majesty, is bound to lead to excellent outcomes.



We must make a concerted effort to offer Salat in a committed and dedicated manner and to attain the highest standard of worship. After an initial period of effort, God grants a person spiritual guidance so that they do not need to struggle to offer Salat. For such a guided person Salat becomes the sustenance for their soul and leads to their spiritual progress. Such an individual is granted a pleasure and delight in Salat, which is as fulfilling as drinking cold water in extreme thirst. Such a person feels deprived and restless without Salat and experiences a particular sense of contentment and tranquility in their heart by offering Salat. The Promised Messiah (as) states that it is not possible to put into words the pleasure a person feels, who truly offers the prayer. The Promised Messiah (as) said that prayer is the root and ladder of every advancement and Salat is the ladder through which a believer can find God.

God Almighty has promised that one who earnestly comes towards Him and seeks to comprehend the true reality of His Being, God too shall hurry towards such an individual. The Holy Prophet (sa) has also explained this. God Almighty has declared that when His servant takes a step towards Him, He, in turn, takes two steps and when His servant walks towards Him, He comes running. So true Salat brings about a true spiritual and moral transformation. If, after offering regular Salat, one's moral condition does not improve, then such a Salat is ineffective and will be rejected by God. We must be mindful that our worldly commitments do not distract us and lower our commitment and quality of Salat. Be very mindful that the Holy Prophet (sa) said that the difference between faith and disbelief is the abandoning of Salat. Only dedication to Salat will distinguish between belief and disbelief.



Muslim Hearts

Kareem Jafuneh/ Age 13/ Minnesota

In a world where kindness sometimes takes a back seat,
Muslim hearts spread love, from the homes to the streets.

They're patient and humble,
with no need to show,
just like a river, in virtues, they flow.

With faith shining bright, like stars in the
night, they shine their souls, colorful
and light.

Being generous and nice is air to their lungs,
never speaking meanly,
controlling their tongues.

In unity they stand, a strong
bond of friends,
their loyalty and honesty
never ends.

When doing deeds, they
think of what is right,
always remembering,
they're under God's sight.

In a world where Spirituality
is almost obsolete,
Muslim hearts spread faith,
from the skies to the
concrete.



How I strive to Be a Good and True Muslim Girl



Farwaa Rashad/ Age 8/ Austin



I always try to read the Holy Qur'an and say my five daily prayers. I also go to Tahir Academy classes every Sunday. I always try to attend every event at the masjid.

After eating my dinner, I get ready to go to the mosque. I always study hard for my Waqf-e-Nau and Tahir Academy tests.

Sometimes the test is difficult, but I still keep trying. When I get homework from Tahir Academy class, I get straight to work. I always strive to be a good and true Muslim every day.



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Fajr Chaudhry/ Age 7/ Long Island

Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip have injured more than 18,000 Palestinian children, and many are in critical condition. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian children have been directly affected by Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip, ranging from displacement to being wounded or killed. As a good human being and a true Muslim, we must pray to Allah and ask for relief from the suffering of the innocent people because Allah especially listens to children. I always pray for the innocent people as beloved Huzoor (aba) reminds us, because I believe Allah will accept my prayers. As a true Muslim, we should write a letter to the government to stop the violence.



In conclusion, I feel these qualities show the mark of a true believer in Islam. If you uphold these traits daily, you will have the qualities of a true Muslim.





Azlan Mahmood Ahmed/ Age 7/ Fort Worth



In my first-grade class one of my friends accidentally scratched somebody and he asked me if he should tell the truth or lie. I said you should tell the truth. He listened to me and told the teacher the truth.

Afterwards, he came to me and said, "thank you" for helping him tell the truth. I told him to tell the truth because at that moment I thought about what our Holy Prophet (sa) would do in this situation.

I recommend that to be a good Muslim we should always tell the truth, if you do, Allah the Almighty will bless you.



The Perfect Character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa)

Zoya Malik/ Age 14/ Virginia North

Allah the Almighty declares in the Holy Qur'an:

"Verily you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent model" [Ch. 33, V. 22].

Our beloved Master, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) was the most perfect human being to ever grace this world. He was the seal of the prophets, upon whom the prophethood reached its zenith. Allah the Almighty bestowed on him the title of *'a Lamp that gives bright light'* in the Holy Qur'an [Ch. 33, V. 47]. He was loved by Allah the Almighty so much that Allah commanded him to make it known to the believers that if they wanted the forgiveness of their sins and also wanted to become the beloved of Allah then they must follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (sa). Allah the Almighty says to the Prophet (sa):

"Say, If you love Allah, follow me; then will Allah love you and forgive you your sins, And Allah is Most Forgiving and Merciful" [Ch. 3, V. 32].



As Muslims the main object of our lives is to follow the complete and perfect teachings from Allah the Almighty contained in the Holy Qur'an. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) practiced these



teachings to the fullest extent. He thus became a perfect and living embodiment of the Holy Qur'an. After his death, when his wife Ayesha (ra) was asked about the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) her answer was, "His life was the Qur'an." He showed us how to treat our fellow humans. The



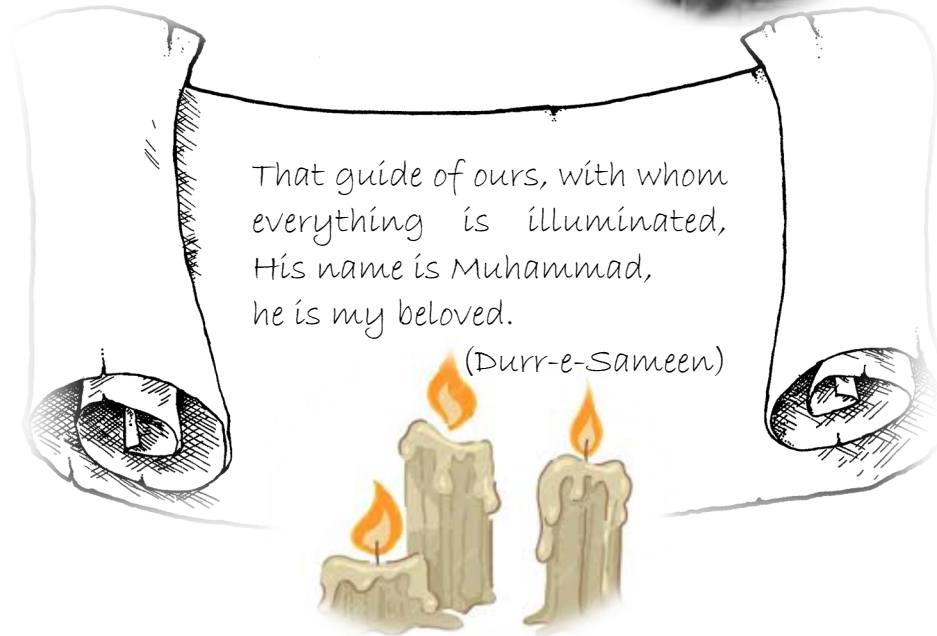
stories of his humility, mercy, forgiveness, love, kindness, generosity are countless. He kept no grudges, no rancor in his heart for his fellow men, even his worst enemies who were once thirsty for his blood, were forgiven by him, many of whom then became his devoted and most loyal followers.

His mission was to spread love, not hate, and bring man closer to his Creator, which he successfully achieved. Abu Saeed Khudri (ra) narrates:

"The Holy Prophet, (sa) used to feed the camels himself: He would perform household chores: mend shoes, patch clothes, milk goats, and eat in the company of servants. If a servant became tired while grinding flour, he would help him with this. He would not feel belittled carrying household goods from the market to the house. He would shake hands with the rich and the poor alike. He would always be the first to extend greetings. He would not disdain accepting an invitation not even so small an invitation as to join in eating dates. He would relieve those who toiled. He was mild tempered and kindhearted. His conduct was excellent, and he was always cheerful. He would smile but would not laugh loudly; he would not frown even when vexed. He was humble, but not lowly; generous, but not extravagant. He was tender hearted and merciful to all Muslims alike. He would never eat his fill to the point where one is likely to start yawning. He would never extend his hand, motivated by greed" (Mishkaat).

Indeed, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) had the perfect character and is a perfect example for us all. Following him has countless rewards for us. The Promised Messiah (as) says: "The very first thing you are rewarded with, after completely submitting yourself to the instructions and teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa), is that you are granted a new heart... this heart is now fit to receive that perfect and purest love – the love of God. Because of your complete obedience to him, all these blessings are bequeathed to you as his spiritual heritage."

(Roohani Khaza'in, Vol. 22:
Haqeeqatul-Wahi, pp. 64-65)



Obedience is a Hallmark of a True Muslim

Shehla Ahmad / Adult submission / Virginia South

A good and true Muslim is one who is obedient to Allah and His commandments. This obedience should not be out of fear of Allah. A true Muslim is one who does good deeds out of love of Allah and obeys Allah because he or she wants to earn the pleasure of Allah.

This obedience is not selective or convenient. Rather, the true test of obedience is when one obeys Allah even if it's against one's personal preferences. Obedience to Allah includes obedience to the Prophet Muhammad (sa) and the commandments given in the Holy Qur'an.

It also requires following what the Promised Messiah (as) laid out in the ten conditions of Bai'at.



Always remember that it was Satan who was disobedient, and he became the rejected one. We seek refuge with Allah from Satan and it's only through unconditional obedience to Allah that we can find this refuge.

Respect & Loving Kindness

Shaina Younas/ Age 7/ Long Island



While prayer, fasting, and charity are essential acts of worship, the fundamental teachings of Islam place great importance on an individual's character. Being respectful, honest, and truthful, and being kind are all important qualities mentioned in the Qur'an and Hadith.

I show kindness by helping clean when there is a spill in my classroom.

I also help clean with my mother at home.

I show honesty by never cheating on tests and I never lie about doing my homework. As they say, "honesty is the best policy." I show respect to my elders by always listening to whatever my parents, grandma, and older brothers say. Because everyone is created by God Almighty, the Fashioner, humans must treat one another with full honor, respect, and loving kindness.



Three Characteristics of Good and True Muslims

Yasin Mahmud / Age 14/ Seattle



My mom has raised me to be a good Muslim. Ever since I could read, she started to ingrain the standards of being a follower of Islam into my mind. She started teaching me the Holy Qur'an as soon as I could read, and I eventually completed the whole Qur'an. Throughout my life, I have developed my own opinions on what qualities truly make a

Muslim who is faithful to Allah.

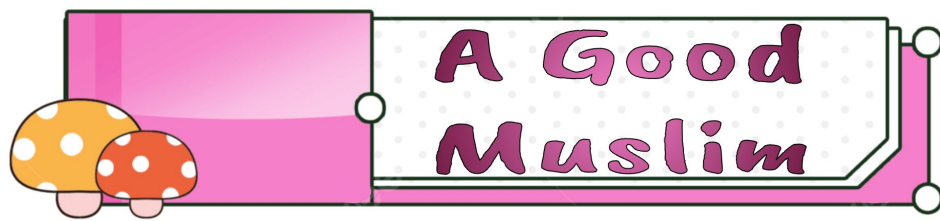
The first quality I think a good Muslim should carry, is to have **unwavering faith**, both in the fact that Allah is the One and only God and they believe in the prophethood of Muhammad (sa). A real Muslim does not begin to doubt his own religion. It's okay to have questions about what you believe in, but in the end, you are confident that Islam is the one true religion. As long as you are faithful to your religion, that will make you a true follower.



The second quality of a good Muslim is **worship and devotion**. A good Muslim will make their best effort to offer the five prayers required each day to maintain a connection with Allah. They also observe the other required obligations of a Muslim, such as fasting during Ramadan, giving the required amount of Zakat, and if it is possible, making the pilgrimage to Mecca. By doing these actions, you



establish your connection with Allah. The third quality of a good Muslim is **kindness, tolerance, patience, forgiveness, humility, and honesty**. If a Muslim observes their prayers and gives their Zakat and has unwavering faith but is still unkind to others, it does not matter how faithful you are to Allah, all your efforts may be wasted if you aren't kind and tolerant to other people.



Sarmed Ahmad/ Age 11/ Virginia South

Here's a question for you: do you think you're a good Muslim? Do you know what a good Muslim is or what a good Muslim does? Let's look at some examples. One way you can become a good Muslim is by offering Salat. Performing Salat brings you closer to God and helps you to become a better Muslim. The Holy Qur'an states:

"...But truly righteous is he...who observes Prayer...it is these who have proved truthful and are the God-fearing" [Ch. 2, V. 178].

This also means that if we don't offer Salat, then we cannot become righteous. Once, there were a few people that came to accept Islam. But they said that since they were businessmen, they couldn't offer Salat. But they said that they would do everything else that the Holy Prophet (sa) told them [i.e., give zakat, keep the fasts, etc]. The Holy Prophet (sa) said that if there is no Salat, then there is no religion. This shows the importance of Salat. But it's not just offering





Salat. We must understand what we are reciting and take your time performing all the rituals of Salat. We should beautify our Salat, so it has meaning and purpose. We shouldn't just memorize everything and say it mindlessly, or just perform Salat because our parents told us to.

Another thing you can do is listen to the commandments in the Holy Qur'an, the sayings (ahadith) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa), and the guidance from the Khalifa. If you simply read the Holy Qur'an for even five minutes every day, but you read the translation and you try to understand the meanings of the verses, then you will improve your knowledge of the commandments of Allah, and it will make you a better Muslim!



There are many things that the Holy Prophet (sa) said or Huzoor (aba) says that we may not be aware of. To counter this, we can simply take time out of our day to listen to the MTA programs like, **"This Week with Huzoor"** or the weekly Friday sermon, or you can watch a talk show on MTA. When you watch these programs, you can improve your knowledge of the many things that Huzoor (aba) says. These are simple ways to become a good Muslim. May Allah enable us to do so, *Ameen*.

Good and True Muslims love Allah and observe Prayers

Hassan Ahmad Khan/ Age 11/ North Jersey



Muslims love Allah Almighty because He is our Creator. He is the Master and the King. We can show our love for Allah Almighty by following His teachings. We can show our love for Allah by observing our prayers. Observing our

prayers is key to attaining nearness to Allah and to establishing a connection with Him.

Observing our prayers brings us close to Allah. True love of Allah and observing the prayers are so important. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

"I have not created the Jinn and the men, but that they may worship me" [Ch.51, V.57].

We can show our love for Allah Almighty by offering five daily prayers on time and performing the prayers properly so that Allah Almighty is pleased with us. When we perform the five daily prayers on time, we will be saved from all kinds of evil.

The Promised Messiah (as) had a deep love and connection with Allah. We can



find His love in this beautiful passage:

“Our Paradise is in our God. Our highest delight is in our God for we have seen Him and have found every beauty in Him” (Essence of Islam, Volume 1, p. 38).

May Allah enable us to follow these teachings.

TRUTH SAVES !

Sabeeka Ahmad / Age 12 / Austin

A true Muslim has many qualities which make them a great person. One of these attributes is truthfulness. Truthfulness is an important attribute because being truthful is a quality that helps prevent all sins. The Holy Prophet (sa) said:

“Truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise” (Bukhari).

Once a man who had sinned a lot visited the Holy Prophet (sa). He wanted to stop sinning and asked the Holy Prophet (sa) for advice. The Holy Prophet (sa) told him to **always tell the truth**. So the man pledged to always be truthful no matter what.

Whenever he thought about sinning, he thought about the embarrassment he would face in case the Holy Prophet (sa) asked about his sins. So, telling the truth gradually saved him from sinning. This shows that being truthful helps us become righteous which can lead us to Paradise.



The Holy Prophet (saw)'s Kindness to Children

Mehreen Raja/ Age 11/ Virginia North

The Holy Prophet (sa) has emphasized that we should respect our elders. After all, they have had more experiences in life than us so far, so they use their knowledge and wisdom to help and guide us. At the same time, he also has told us that it is as important to be kind to children. If we are kind and respectful to our children, then they will learn to be kind and respectful also. The Holy Prophet (sa) himself loved children and was always very kind and affectionate towards them.



Before the birth of the Holy Prophet (sa), people in Arabia considered the birth of girls a disgrace to their families. Some people would even bury baby girls alive right after their birth! The Holy Prophet (sa) knew this was wrong, so he abolished this cruel custom. This shows his mercy, love and empathy towards girls and children in general. When I think about that, it makes me very grateful that I belong to a religion where Allah sent a prophet who had so much love for humanity.



The Holy Prophet (sa) has stated, “There are three prayers that are always accepted by Allah: the prayer of a father for his children; the prayer of a person on a journey; and the prayer of one who is persecuted” (Ibn Maajah). The prayer of a father for his children is very special. Parents should pray for their children as much as possible:

“Our Lord, grant us of our spouses and children, the delight of our eyes and make each of us a leader of the righteous.”

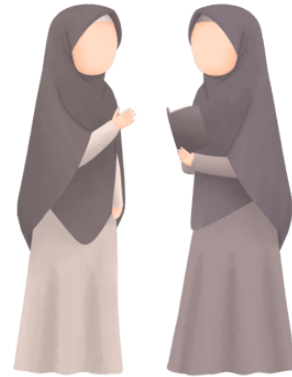
[Ch. 25, V. 75]



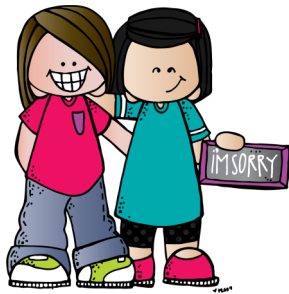
A Good & True Muslim

Humna Tahir / Age 13 / Long Island

Being a good and true Muslim involves embodying certain characteristics that align with the teachings of Islam. Sincerity in faith, following Islamic teachings, kindness, compassion towards others, honesty, integrity, patience, perseverance, and modesty are some of the key qualities that define a good Muslim. These characteristics not only help individuals strengthen their relationship with Allah but also contribute to building a compassionate society. By striving to embody these qualities, Muslims can lead a righteous life and inspire others to do the same.



Muslims are encouraged to be grateful for the blessings they have been given by Allah and to express that gratitude through their actions and words. Islam teaches the importance of forgiving others and letting go of grudges. Forgiveness is seen as a way to attain peace and tranquility in both personal and social relationships. Muslims are taught to remain steadfast in their faith, even during challenging times. This involves staying committed to their beliefs and values and facing difficulties with patience and determination.



Lastly, generosity is highly valued in Islam. Muslims are encouraged to be generous with their wealth, time, and resources, and to help those in need. By embodying these characteristics, Muslims can strive to be the best version of themselves and make a positive impact in their communities.

Muhammad (saw), Our Role Model

Narmeen Rashed / Age 12 / Austin

Being an Ahmadi Muslim is about being strong and pure in faith. We're not like people who are careless and immodest. Many people in this world have no role model or example to guide them. On the contrary, we have a perfect example in the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa).

In the Holy Prophet's (sa) lifetime, he performed great acts of justice. He helped the poor and needy and set the slaves free, and he was kind to everyone. He was a pious man and offered his prayers on time. The Holy Prophet (sa) had a life of magnificent success. In every aspect, he was the example of great moral qualities. His spiritual power, his high resolve, the excellence and perfection of his teaching, his perfect example and acceptance of his prayers; all these qualities are signs of true prophethood. Even with his example, we often don't abide by the guidance that has been given to us, so how can we improve our spiritual state?

Here are some suggestions:

- ◆ Observe all five daily Prayers on time.
- ◆ Read the Holy Qur'an and understand the translation.
- ◆ Be kind to your family, friends, and strangers.
- ◆ Always speak the truth, especially when it is difficult.
- ◆ When you're in trouble, acknowledge your mistakes; don't be defensive!



- ◆ When you're given a responsibility, be fair and kind.
- ◆ Don't be greedy; don't get used to getting everything you want; it can be taken away from you as quickly as you receive it.

God willing, we will all pick up these amazing qualities and follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (sa), *Ameen*.



Alisha Chaudhry/ Age 11/ Long Island

There are many ways to be a true Muslim. A good Muslim worships and believes in Allah. They observe Prayers, they are honest, respect others, and are modest, Whenever I observe Salat, I feel connected with Allah and feel Him forgiving my sins. I try to be honest, and I am always respectful towards my elders. I also dress modestly. Following the path of Allah makes me a better person. And I know even if I make mistakes, Allah will direct me to the right path.



You can be a true Muslim by doing all these things and more, but don't do them like a chore, do it from your heart.

Holy Prophet (saw) is the Best Example

Kinza Malik/ Age 11/ Virginia North

Every year we come together to honor the Holy Prophet (sa). In addition to being a friend and hero, he was also a great leader, a helper, compassionate and generous. He always showed great courage and strength in the face of any problems. He is an inspiration and his legacy lives on to this day. Today I will focus on his courage.



One day when Abu Talib (the Prophet Muhammad's (sa) uncle) told the Holy Prophet (sa), "O son of my brother, your people have come to me saying such and such so spare me and yourself, and do not put on me a burden greater than I can bear." In response to this Holy Prophet (sa) said: **"O my uncle, by Allah, if they put the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left on condition that I abandon this cause before Allah has made it victorious, or I perish therein, I would not abandon it"** (Bukhari).



Allah has made it victorious, or I perish therein, I would not abandon it" (Bukhari).

The Holy Prophet (sa) said that no matter the power of my enemy even if it is as strong as the sun and the moon, I would rather perish than surrender in the cause of Allah. This

shows his courage and undeniable commitment to the cause of Islam, even in the face of hardship. He was determined to spread the word of Allah and was willing to put his life on the line to make it happen. His courage inspired many and continues to be an inspiration to us today.

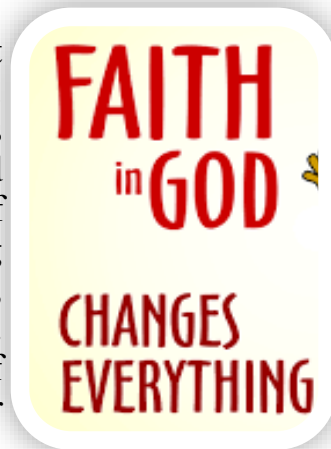


In another scenario, in the battle of Hunain, the Holy Prophet (sa) was standing on the front lines of the battle with only twelve companions around him, and called out:

“I am a prophet of God without a lie, I am a prophet without a doubt, I am the son of Abdul-ul-Muttalib” (Bukhari).

He said this to show the enemy that he was not going to run away and flee. He was going to fight with courage on the front lines. He believed that Allah would protect him, and he refused to back down in the face of danger. However, he added that **‘I am the son of Abdul-ul-Muttalib’** to point out that he was an ordinary man and no angel. He was courageous and stood out in front of all his enemies calling them towards him.

In conclusion, the Holy Prophet (sa) was a strong and courageous man. Who put Allah and his belief over his own life. He believed his life’s sole and only purpose was to spread the word of Islam. Under all the adversity of getting pushed out by his tribe and hated by all, he stood strong and didn’t back down. His courage and faith in the face of adversity are a great inspiration for generations to come.

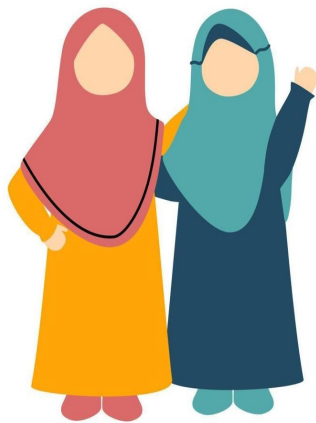




The Life of a True Muslim

Aniyah Mubasher / Age 14/ Long Island

To be a true Muslim is to walk with faith
In every step and breath we take
To bow our heads humbly in prayer
And let our hearts be guided by Allah's grace
It's in the way we treat our friends
With kindness, love, and mercy to the end
To help the needy with a helping hand
And spread peace across our land
To be a true Muslim is to strive each day
To follow the teachings of the Quran's way
To seek knowledge and pray
So let us be Muslims in every sense,
Embodying the values no matter the
expense
And spreading light and love with no
pretense
With faith as our guide, in His mercy
we commence.



A Vital Responsibility

Mahnoor Khan/ Age 15/ Virginia North

As Muslims, we are blessed to have guidance from the Qur'an, Prophet Muhammad (sa), the Promised Messiah (as), and the advice from the Khalifa of our time. The Friday sermon of October 25, 2019, summarizes the many attributes of a true believer. Huzoor (aba) specifies the most essential qualities that a true believer must attain.



First and foremost, a true believer is committed and dedicated to prayer and worship. Knowing the importance of Salat, being consistent with prayer, and understanding the role it plays in building a strong relationship with Allah is a vital responsibility for us. We must grasp that our routine of prayer is not merely ritual, but the road to spiritual development and familiarity and affection with our beloved God. It is our duty to offer genuine and passionate prayers.

Secondly, a true believer is always working to make the world a kinder place through serving humanity and spreading virtue. This value can be delivered in many ways, such as helping those in need, encouraging moral values in society, and purifying wealth by taking part in acts of charity. We must attempt to make a positive impact on the world to the best of our abilities.

Finally, we must remember these words of the Promised Messiah (as); he says: **“You must reform yourselves in a manner whereby your intentions become aligned with God Almighty’s intentions.”** We must always act with pure intent, humility, and integrity to represent Allah and our faith.



The Great Leader: Our Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw)

Hana Suhail/ Age 11 / Virginia North

The reason behind the state of the world today is the lack of good leaders, let alone perfect leaders. The qualities of a good leader are loyalty, truthfulness, reliability, selflessness, and passion for his people. All these qualities can be found in one person, the perfect leader to guide us on the right path, our Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). He is

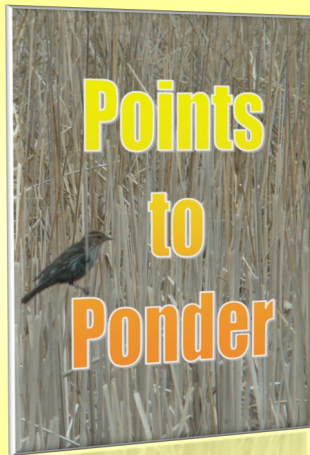
the perfect example of a flawless leader. This can be seen in many aspects of his life. People trusted him so much that they called him “Al-Amin” the trustworthy, and “As-Sadiq” the most truthful.



An example of his great leadership was when Muhammad (sa) wrote, The Charter of Medina. It provided equal rights for both Muslims and Jews in Medina so that they would live peacefully together. It created a multicultural environment where everyone could freely practice their own religion. It was the first written constitution in Islam.

Another great quality of

Muhammad (sa) was his strong belief in justice for everyone no matter who they were. One incident relating to this is when leaders of all the tribes in Mecca were arguing as to who would put the black stone back on the Ka'aba. Since they could not stop arguing about it, they asked the Holy Prophet (sa) to solve this problem. The Holy Prophet (sa) put his robe down on the floor and laid the black stone down on top of it. Then he told all the leaders to take a corner of the robe and take the stone to the Ka'aba. In this way all the leaders got a fair chance of placing the stone back to the Ka'aba. This is another great example of how the prophet Muhammad (sa) showed leadership. If our leaders these days had even half the great qualities that Muhammad (sa) did, it would create more peace around the world.



Points to Ponder

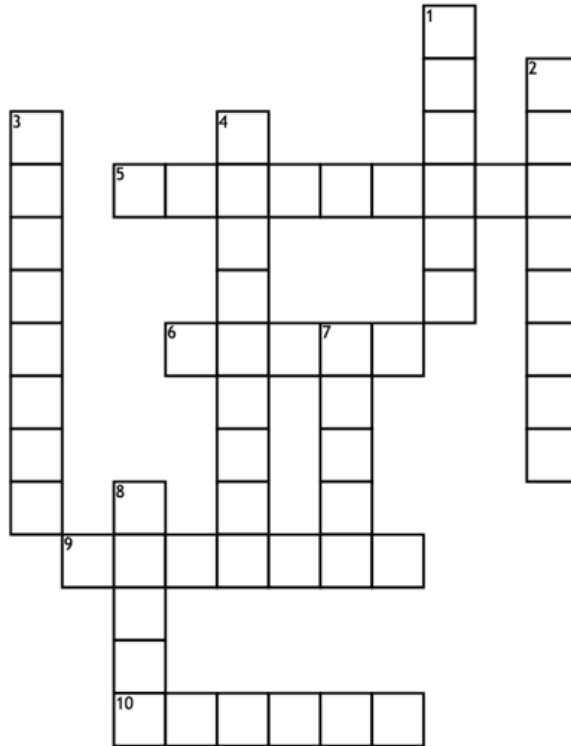
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A GOOD MUSLIM

Bushra Shahid / Adult Submission / Dayton Ohio



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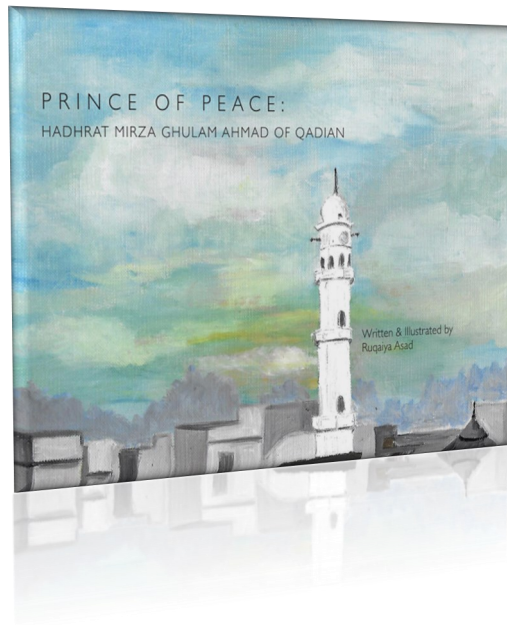
- 5. A good Muslim tries to increase his
- 6. A good Muslim is one who does daily recitation of the Holy
- 9. A good Muslim is one who offers the five daily
- 10. A good Ahmadi Muslim writes regularly to

Down

- 1. A good Muslim acts with
- 2. A good Ahmadi Muslim listens to Huzoor's sermons and
- 3. A good Muslim shows this to everyone
- 4. A good Muslim serves his
- 7. A good Muslim controls his
- 8. A good Muslim always speaks the

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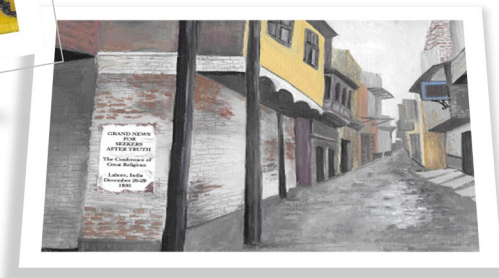
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PROMOTING TRUE ISLAM

Shafia Hamid/ Age 14/ Long Island

As Muslims, we must spread the true teachings of Islam. Islam is often misinterpreted and criticized by people who know nothing about Islam. Huzoor (aba) even stated in an address he delivered on March 11, 2013, in California:

“True justice and fairness requires that rather than judging Islam in a prejudiced manner or by making false assumptions based on hearsay, a person should study the religion and try to develop an understanding of its teachings before criticizing it and its Founder.”

This quote from Huzoor (aba) shows that it's our duty as Muslims to open people's eyes to the true Islam.

One way that we can clear up misinformation is to inform people about the true teachings and history of Islam when we hear them talking about Islam in a prejudiced manner. Another similar way is to answer questions about Islam to the best of our ability when people have them.

I was walking in the gym with my Christian friend. We were talking about the different languages we could speak. Over time, we found ourselves talking about religion. She had many questions about Islam and its history and wanted to learn more about the Qur'an and its similarities to the Bible. I answered her questions to the best of my ability. She also



asked something along the lines of, “I’ve seen some Muslims on TikTok say that there are lies in the Qur’an. Is that true?” I immediately cleared that up and said “God forbid, there are no lies in the Qur’an. All Muslims know that everything the Qur’an says is true. People who say that the Qur’an has lies in it and then call themselves Muslim aren’t Muslim at all.” I then told her that I would invite her to the mosque during the month of Ramadan where she could ask more of these questions and get better answers.

TALKING TO ALLAH

Amna Alvi/ Age 10/ North Jersey
With assistance from Shahid Alvi (Father)



Muslims love Allah and observe prayers because they recognize Allah’s countless gifts and His Mercy, including things so simple but necessary for life such as food, family, health and life itself. Believers pray to Allah not just because of Allah’s



commandment but to thank Him for His Mercy. To true believers, praying to Allah is an act which is inseparable from them. For true believers, praying becomes a means of connecting with and talking to Allah. Talking to Allah might at first sound silly, but just as a foreign language might seem alien to someone, **only a true believer would recognize the significance of prayers.**

HOW I TRY TO FOLLOW THE PATH

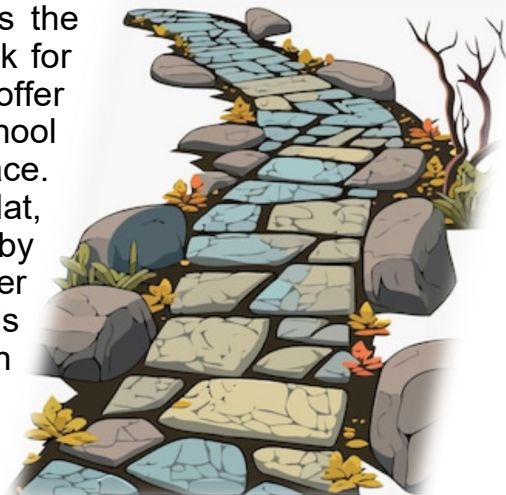
Labeena Ahmad Nasir/ Age 8/ Houston
With assistance from Naila Mubashir (Mother)

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says:

“The response of the believers, when they are called to Allah and His Messenger in order that he may judge between them, is only that they say: ‘We hear, and we obey.’ And it is they who will prosper” [Ch. 24, V. 52].

One of the qualities of a good Muslim is that they are obedient to Allah and His Prophet (sa). I show obedience to Allah is by listening to and trying to act upon what our beloved Huzoor (aba) says. Obedience is pleasing to Allah and brings a lot of blessings. I also try to obey and help my parents because Allah told us to obey our parents also.

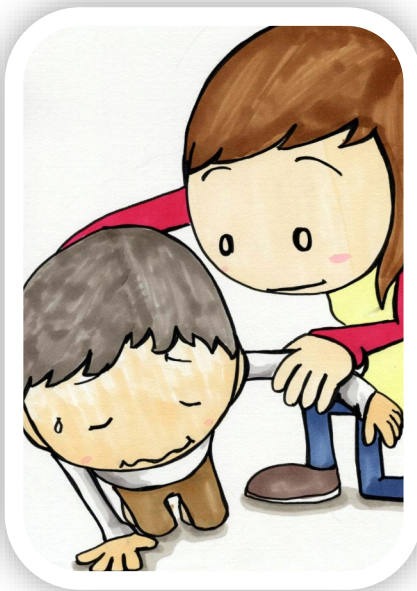
Another quality of a good Muslim is that they offer prayers regularly. I try to offer salat regularly because it is the time to talk to Allah and ask for His favors. Sometimes I offer the midday prayer at school where I can find a quiet place. When it is time for salat, sometimes Satan stops us by tempting us to do other things like watch TV. At this moment, I try to push Satan away.



I also try to read The Qur'an daily and other religious books to increase my religious knowledge. I also try to work hard in school to gain worldly knowledge because there is a hadith that says:

“The word of wisdom is the lost property of a Muslim, so that, wherever he finds it, he should take it, as he is most entitled to it” (Tirmidhi).

Another quality of a good Muslim is helping others. I help others by cheering people up when they're sad, or helping people when they need help. When you help others and show good morals and they get to know that you are a Muslim it is like you are propagating Islam. Helping others not only pleases Allah but it makes me feel good as well.



Another quality of a good Muslim is avoiding evil. Whenever I get angry, I try to recite *Ta'awwudh*, **‘I seek refuge with Allah from Satan the accursed’** and, **‘There is neither might nor any power except with Allah’** to help me calm down. I also try not to lie because lying breaks one's trust. There is a hadith in Bukhari: **“Lying leads to vice and vice leads to the Fire.”** I try to be honest with my parents even if I have made a mistake.

In the end, I pray to Allah that may He enable all of us to keep following His path to become better Muslims, *Ameen*.

THE PEACEMAKERS



Sundas Aiman/ Age 10/ Virginia North

Al-Hamdu Lillah, I am an Ahmadi Muslim. Being a true Muslim, we should follow Allah's commandments and respect His prophets. The Holy Prophet Mohammad (sa) is the best example. If we read the sayings of the Holy Prophet (sa) we can increase our knowledge about how to become a true Muslim. We should follow his teachings. I attend Tahir Academy to be close to Allah.

Here are some ways I strive to become a good Muslim. First, I know the five pillars of Islam. I perform the five daily prayers, since I am now ten years old. I recite the Holy Qur'an daily when I return back from school. My Holy Qur'an teacher is great. We are very blessed with Khilafat. I listen to Huzoor's (aba) Friday Sermons, which also guide us to the right path. When I go to the pool I wear modest clothing. I speak the truth, respect my elders and am nice to my friends. I do not hurt anyone, not even an animal.

A good and true Muslim pays Chanda [dues] to please Allah. It serves humanity in many ways. Volunteering at Jalsa Salana is also a good service. Muslims are peace makers. They do not fight. My religion of Islam teaches me about peace and harmony.



Peace and Harmony

Tanzeela Ahmed/ Age 12/ Virginia North
With assistance from Durre Sameen Prapulla, mother

In peace conferences, round the globe, he stands,
Beloved Khalifa (aba), with love in his hands.
With "Love for all, Hatred for none" as his creed,
He spreads the message, fulfilling a noble deed.
To every corner of the earth, his voice resounds,
Reminding world leaders, peace knows no bounds.
In weekly Friday sermons, wisdom pours like rain,
Guiding humankind to pray for peace again and again.
With each word spoken, hearts are stirred,
A beacon of hope, his message heard.
For in the folds of love, true peace is found,
In every soul, its echoes resound.
So let us join hands, in prayer and in deed,
Embracing all, regardless of creed.
For in the unity of hearts, we'll surely see,
The world transformed, in peace and harmony.

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN SIBLINGS ABOUT A GOOD MUSLIM

Amna Bushra/ Age 8/ Hartford



I am giving a presentation at the mosque about the qualities of the righteous servants of Allah.

Of course, Amna! Let's get started!

Do you want to be a good Muslim? Here are some qualities that are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an to make you a righteous servant of Allah. Allah says: ***"And the servants of the gracious God are those who walk on the earth in a dignified manner"*** [Ch. 25, V. 64].

Good Muslims should not be arrogant or egoistic. They must focus on adopting humility and granting others their rights.

A good Muslim must avoid conflict and gently advise those who are harsh and argumentative, as it is mentioned in the rest of that verse:
“And when the ignorant address them they say, ‘Peace!’” [Ch. 25, V. 64]

Another extremely important quality of a Good Muslim is that he not only focuses on his obligatory prayers but also decorates his nights with optional prayers and observes the extra early morning prayers. In the next verse, Allah says: **“And who spend the night before their lord, prostrate and standing”** [Ch. 25, V. 65].

What do you think, Omar?

I think it is great Amna! I have watched ‘**This Week with Huzoor**’ on Muslim Television Ahmadiyyat and Huzoor (aba) says we must observe our five daily prayers and never miss a prayer, and try to learn the Qur’an, especially the meaning of Surah Al-Fatiha.

Jazak Allah Omar for adding a beautiful point.

Ahsanal jaza, Amna.

A True Muslim

Sitwat Khalid/ Age 14/ Virginia North

A good Muslim is characterized by a strong and sincere belief in the Oneness of Allah and the prophethood of Muhammad (sa). This includes a firm belief in the five pillars of faith. These are as follows:

Kalima (Declaration of Faith): Bearing witness that there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is His messenger.



Salat (Prayer): Performing five daily prayers.

Zakat (Charity): Giving to the needy and fulfilling the obligation of charity.



Roza (Saum/Fasting): Observing the fasts during the month of Ramadan.



physically able.

Hajj (Pilgrimage): Undertaking the pilgrimage to Mecca, if financially and



A true Muslim should exhibit noble character, including honesty, integrity, humility, patience, kindness, and compassion.

A good Muslim is encouraged to seek knowledge throughout their life. This includes understanding the Qur'an and Hadith, as well as gaining knowledge in various fields to contribute positively to society.

A true Muslim upholds justice and fairness in all aspects of life, treating others with equity and kindness.

A good Muslim shows mercy and compassion towards all living beings, being mindful of the welfare of others, and actively participating in acts of charity and goodwill. He or she respects the diversity of opinions, beliefs, and cultures, and treats others with kindness and empathy.

A true Muslim is humble before Allah and expresses gratitude for blessings, recognizing that everything comes from Allah. A good Muslim goes beyond the basic obligations and strives for excellence in one's faith and actions.

A good Muslim contributes to social welfare and works towards the betterment of society. They endure challenges and difficulties with patience and perseverance, trusting in Allah's wisdom. They abstain from harmful actions and behaviors, including dishonesty, gossip, backbiting, and other negative conduct.

It's important to note that being a good and true Muslim is a continuous journey of self-improvement, and individuals may strive to embody these characteristics to the best of their ability while seeking forgiveness for any shortcomings.

» serve Humanity «

Asma Athar/ Age 13/ Long Island



In order to serve humanity Muslims must be selfless and consumed by a love for others. It requires us to be ever ready to make sacrifices for the sake of the peace and well-being of other people. For example, The Holy Qur'an says:

“You are the best people raised for the good of mankind; you enjoin what is good and forbid evil and believe in Allah” [Ch. 3, V.111].

Here, the Qur'an explains that true Muslims are people who promote goodness, stay away from evil and injustice, and encourage others to do good deeds as well.

Only a person who has a sincere love for humankind and feels the anguish of God's creation can be caring and sympathetic, in the way the Qur'an desires. Such profound love for humanity is only possible if your heart is pure and free from malice and selfishness. Further in the Holy Qur'an, Muslims are instructed to feed the hungry, to show empathy and love to orphans and to help anyone in need, especially those mired in poverty or who are defenseless and weak [Ch. 90, V. 15-17].



In conclusion, we should strive to become like our Holy Prophet (sa) who had those beautiful qualities and served humanity.

All Creatures of Allah

Jaziba Munir/ Age 8/ Virginia North
With assistance from Fareha Hamid (Mother)

Muslims believe that there is only One God. The Holy Qur'an tells us what we should do to become good Muslims. In the Holy Qur'an Allah tells us to do good, spend out of what Allah has given us, and offer Salat. Some characteristics of good Muslims are sharing, giving, donating, and helping. For example, if your friend comes over to your house, you can share your toys. Good Muslims also give generously. For example, we should donate and give Chanda. We should help the less fortunate and give out of what we have because Islam teaches us to take care of other people. We can help others by giving them food and water.

Islam also teaches us to be hospitable and kind to our guests. We can also help others by giving directions to people when they ask, reading to someone, and playing with someone. Finally, we can be good Muslims by taking care of animals or pets. We can take care of pets by feeding them, looking after them, and even taking them for walks. The Holy Prophet (sa) said, **"All creatures of Allah are His family."**



HOW TO BE A BETTER MUSLIM

Oishi Momen/ Age 13/ Silicon Valley

The infographic is set against a background of a mosque interior. It features several speech bubbles and text boxes. At the top, a white box contains the title 'Characteristics of Good & True Muslims'. Below this, a vertical text box on the left reads 'OISHI MOMEN'. The main content consists of five speech bubbles and two text boxes. The first speech bubble (top left) contains the text: '...Be steadfast and strive to excel in steadfastness and be on your guard and fear Allah that you may prosper. -3:201'. The second speech bubble (middle left) contains: 'Except those who repent and amend and hold fast to Allah and are sincere in their obedience to Allah... -4:147'. The third speech bubble (top right) contains: 'And confound not truth with falsehood nor hide the truth, knowingly. -2:43'. The fourth speech bubble (middle right) contains: 'How can we be better Muslims?'. The fifth speech bubble (bottom right) contains: 'These verses can teach us!'. At the bottom of the infographic, three cartoon characters are shown: a green one, a blue one, and a purple one, all looking at an open book.

Verses from the Quran

...Be steadfast and strive to excel in steadfastness and be on your guard and fear Allah that you may prosper. -3:201

Except those who repent and amend and hold fast to Allah and are sincere in their obedience to Allah... -4:147

OISHI MOMEN

Characteristics of Good & True Muslims

And confound not truth with falsehood nor hide the truth, knowingly. -2:43

How can we be better Muslims?

These verses can teach us!

How Can I be a Good & True Muslim?

Saamia Ahmad/ Age 8/ Hartford

I can try and be a good Muslim by doing what Allah has asked me to do. First, I must follow the five Pillars of Islam. I must try to offer my Salat every day at the correct times. It can be hard sometimes, but I must keep trying so I can become a better Muslim, and since I love Allah so much, I want Him to love me also!

I must recite the Holy Qur'an daily with translation, so that I can understand the meaning and follow its teachings. I must also listen to Huzoor's (aba) Friday Sermons every week and always follow what Huzoor (aba) tells me to do. This will help me to become a better Ahmadi Muslim, *In Sha' Allah*.



A good and true Muslim treats others how they want to be treated. The Holy Prophet (sa) said:

“A gentle word is charity.”

So, I must remember to always be kind to everyone and listen to my parents and respect them. I should always speak the truth and never hurt anyone. I have to remember that Allah is always watching what I do, and I must try my best to do the right thing, so that He is always pleased with me.

May Allah enable us all to become good and true Muslims, *Ameen*.



Saqeena Zakia Ahmed/ Age 8/ Hartford

I try my best to be a good Muslim every day. I listen to my parents, I play with my little brothers, I respect my grandparents, and I offer Salat and read the Holy Qur'an. I try my best at school, and I have received the honesty award three times, *Al-Hamdu Lillah!* Huzoor (aba) said many times that Ahmadi Muslims should be honest. I think it is important to be honest because Allah sees everything.



I regularly go to the mosque for classes they hold for children. I learn about the History of Islam and memorize parts of the Holy Qur'an. In Nasirat class, we share points from Huzoor's (aba) Friday sermon. Do you listen to the Friday sermon and make points?


A good Muslim offers Salat. Did you know that Salat purifies the soul? A good Muslim reads the Holy Qur'an because it is the book of guidance from Allah and the only book that has never changed since it was revealed to the Holy Prophet (sa). Do you recite the Holy Qur'an every day?



For the Holy month of Ramadan, I made a Ramadan journal to record good deeds. It helps me remember to do good deeds, so I write in it every day about at least one good deed I did that day. I also like to draw small pictures. I tell my teachers and friends about it.

At school we must always show the best example of a good Muslim. If someone drops something, I pick it up and give it to them. It is very important to be respectful to your teachers and friends. Sometimes my teacher asks me to help other classmates with math assignments. I know that it pleases Allah when we help other people. As a good and true Muslim, I try my best to help people and be kind and honest.





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PRAYER & DEVOTION

Maleeha Raqeeb/ Age 10/ Minnesota

With assistance from Attiya Ghani (Mother)

A few qualities of a good Muslim are as follows: A true Muslim expresses sincerity, humility and devotion to his faith.

- **Sincerity and Faith:** Faith is the driving force behind a believer's action. When a believer tries his or her best, it strengthens the



believer's relationship with Allah.



- **Honesty and Truthfulness:** Honesty is highly valued in Islam. It leads to goodness, and goodness leads to paradise.

- **Kindness and Mercy:** the Holy Prophet (sa) said that **"One who does not show mercy will not be shown mercy"** (Bukhari). This hadith explains that being kind to others is very important.






- **Prayer and Devotion:** The purpose of prayer is to worship Allah and to keep connected to Him. We also pray when we have a problem on our hands, asking Allah to help us with our problems.

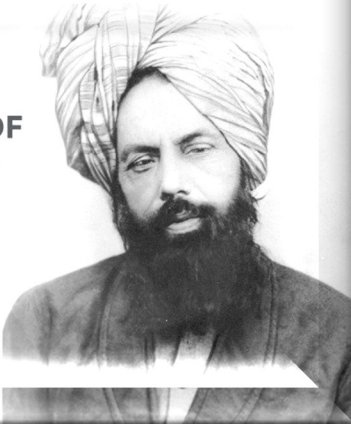
- **Seeking knowledge:** The Holy Prophet (sa) said, **“Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim man and woman”** (Sunan Ibn Majah). We should seek knowledge so we know as much as we can about our religion.

These are some qualities of a good and true Muslim. Out of the qualities that I mentioned, my favorite one is Prayer and Devotion. Prayer has a great importance in our lives as it is the meaning of our existence.

“IN THE HEAVENS, YOU WILL ONLY BE CONSIDERED A PART OF MY COMMUNITY IF YOU TRULY TREAD UPON THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

HAZRAT MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD,
THE PROMISED MESSIAH (PEACE BE UPON HIM)

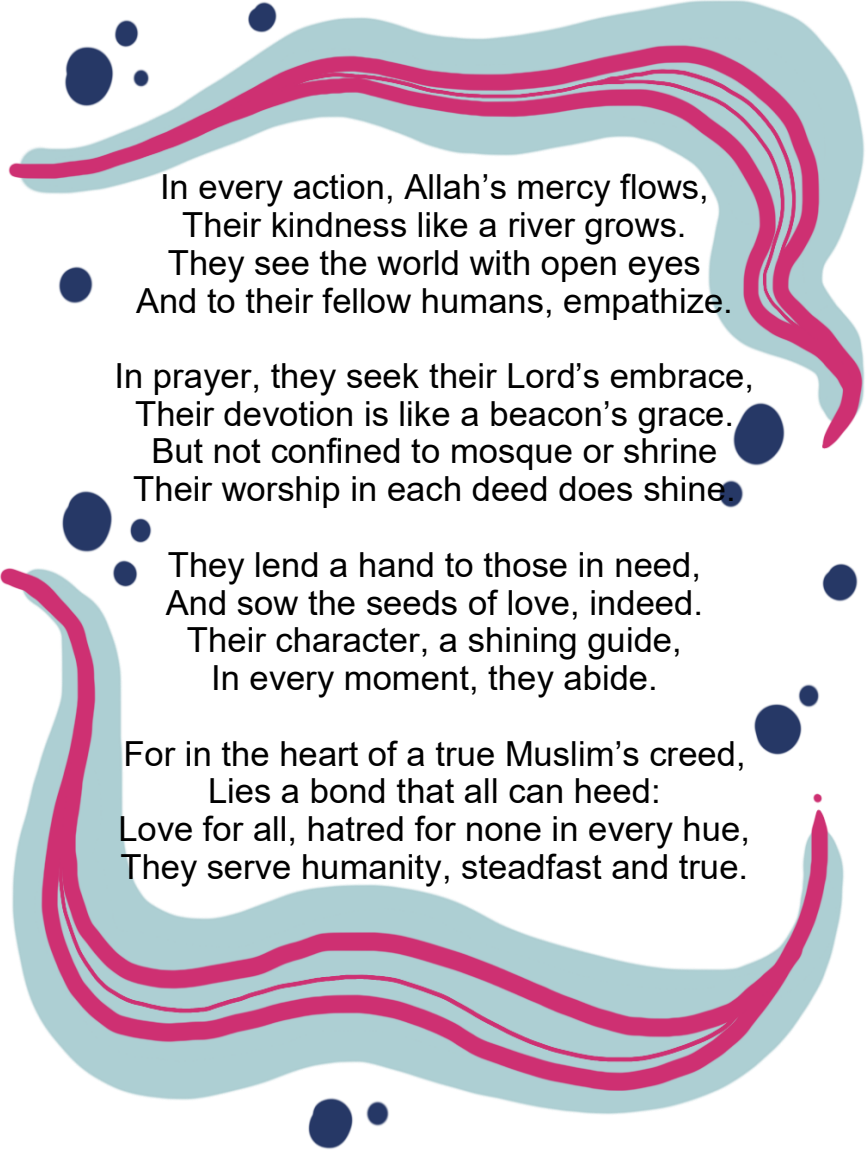
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They Serve Humanity Steadfast & True

Adeel Ahmad/ Age 14/ Virginia North

With assistance from Durre Sameen Prapulla (Mother)



In every action, Allah's mercy flows,
Their kindness like a river grows.
They see the world with open eyes
And to their fellow humans, empathize.

In prayer, they seek their Lord's embrace,
Their devotion is like a beacon's grace.
But not confined to mosque or shrine
Their worship in each deed does shine.

They lend a hand to those in need,
And sow the seeds of love, indeed.
Their character, a shining guide,
In every moment, they abide.

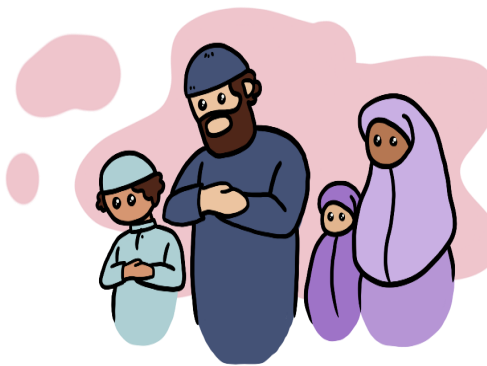
For in the heart of a true Muslim's creed,
Lies a bond that all can heed:
Love for all, hatred for none in every hue,
They serve humanity, steadfast and true.

Good Muslims Love Allah

Maroosh Raheem/ Age 13/ Dallas

Why is praying so important? Prayer is the wif connection to heaven. A Muslim that is dedicated to all five prayers everyday shows their closeness to Allah. This love and dedication to Allah drives you closer to Him not only in prayer but in guidance. We

need Allah's guidance for everything, because without His help we are lost and will be on the wrong path. A Muslim is nothing without prayer because when you don't pray you aren't close to Allah and are guaranteed to be on the wrong path and have no guidance.



A good Muslim can't just pray but still have bad morals and character, thinking they will go into heaven. A true Muslim recites and practices the Qur'an. They respect everyone, no matter their background and beliefs, they give money to charity willingly and not because, "my mama told me to." They are kind and honest, but eager to grow and change.

A Muslim is nothing without prayer and good character. Praying not only strengthens your bond with Allah and guides you on the right path, but also brings many, many blessings.

The Best Example

Fatiha Malik / Age 11 / Phoenix

Good and true Muslims have many good qualities like being caring, honest, and helpful. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) is the best example of this. When The Holy Prophet (sa) married Khadija (ra), she gave him all her money and all her slaves. He gave away all the money to the poor and freed all the slaves. This was the best example of extreme kindness and caring.

The Holy Prophet (sa) was so honest that he was given the titles of ***Al-Amin*** and ***As-Sadiq***, which mean the Trustworthy and the Truthful. He was given these titles by the people of Mecca even before he became a prophet.

Good Muslims

Flania Amina Mannan / Age 8 / Hartford

Good Muslims offer five daily prayers, help others in need, help the poor, give Chanda and pray for people who are facing difficult times. They recite the Qur'an and try to understand the meaning.

Good Muslims obey their parents. They are not selfish or jealous and are happy with what they have and thankful to Allah for everything.

Good Muslims always practice sympathy, tolerance, humility, kind speech, gentleness, patience and truthfulness. Our dear Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said: **“Restrain your tongue and your passions and you will enter paradise”** (Musnad Ahmad).

Good Muslims take care of hygiene and cleanliness. Allah says in the Qur'an: **“Allah loves those... who keep themselves clean”** [Ch. 2, V. 223].

Good Muslims do not get influenced by society and are proud to be Muslims and practice their religion courageously because they have love for Allah in their heart. May Allah enable us to become good Muslims, *Ameen.*

The Best Muslims

Tamseela Mumtaz / Age 13 / Virginia South

“Verily, Prayer is enjoined on the believers to be performed at fixed hours” [Ch. 4, V. 104].



Good Muslims make a special effort to wake up for early morning prayer, leave their activities for midday prayers, and offer their sunset and nighttime prayers before sleeping.

They also read the Holy Qur’an daily. The best time to read the Holy Qur’an is after waking up for the morning prayer. Reading the Holy Qur’an brings untold blessings. There are many characteristics of a good

Muslim. Today, I will only be talking about a few.

Firstly, good Muslims offer their five daily prayers on time. Allah says in the Holy Qur’an:

Good Muslims don’t lie. Allah dislikes people who lie in any circumstance. There is an incident where The Holy Prophet (sa) was approached by a man who had a habit of doing a lot of bad things, and he asked the Holy Prophet (sa) one bad thing to give up.

The Prophet (sa) said, **“Give up lying.”**

The man promised the Holy Prophet (sa) he would not lie. A few days later, the man was thinking of robbing something but then thought that if he got caught, he would have to lie thus breaking his promise to the Holy Prophet (sa).



The man did not rob and every time he thought of doing a bad thing, he would think of the same thing. A few months later, he said to the Prophet (sa) he had not done any bad things because of his promise not to tell lies. We can use this story as an example for not lying.

In the same way good Muslims are those who respect their elders and are nice to their youngsters. If you see a lady older than you standing while you are sitting, you should give up your seat for them. The same goes for those younger than you. If you treat them well, they will treat you with respect and look up to you.



The Holy Prophet (sa) The Best Example

Tuba Rizwan / Age 9 / & Rbiya Rizwan / Age 7 / Brooklyn

The Holy Prophet (sa) is the perfect man and the best example. Allah sent him to guide us on the right path. He showed us the right path. He told us what is wrong and what is right. Our Holy Prophet (sa) brought the message of Allah so people can find the right path and worship Allah alone.

Our Holy Prophet (sa) loved children and respected elders and took care of poor people. Whenever his daughter came in, the Holy Prophet (sa) would give up his seat for her. The Holy Prophet (sa) told others about Allah's message and told them Allah is One so worship Him alone. The Holy Prophet (sa) guided us in the right way, and that's why he is the best example.



Good & True Muslims

Mahera Qudus Malik/ Age 8 / Virginia North

Good and true Muslims pray five times every day
They believe in One God
They are honest and modest
They think before they speak
They respect their elders and pray for the sick

They are humble and true
They are loving and kind
Hardworking and faithful
Staying strong in bad times
And grateful in good

They never give up
They never lose hope
They fight for justice
Stand up for the weak

They help the needy
And assist the poor
Never selfish or self-centered
They fight for peace, equality and
fairness for all.

A Good and True Muslim
What a great person to be!



Good Muslims are Truthful

Inaaya Sana Nizami/ Age 9/ Pennsylvania



Good and true Muslims are truthful, and they don't lie. They believe in one God and all His prophets, angels and books. They offer the five daily prayers and read the Holy Qur'an regularly.

They are good to others and help each other. They stay safe and keep themselves away from harmful things. They are respectful to others. They are responsible. They stay clean and keep their things tidy. They also take care of others' things and are trustworthy.



ALLAH'S RULES

Tzeb Sultaan Butt / Age 9 / Portland

Being a good Muslim means that you need to follow the rules of Allah. Muslims abide by the five pillars of Islam: the Kalima, Salat, fasting during Ramadan, Zakat and Hajj.

There is also Jumu'ah every week and whatever you're doing, you must leave it for the Friday prayer. You should also leave everything to observe your daily prayers. Praying to Allah is talking to God about your worldly problems and spiritual problems.



BEING A MUSLIM

Darmana Butt / Age 6 / Portland

Being a Muslim means to pray to Allah, to be grateful [*Al-Hamdu Lillah*] and ask for help, health and forgiveness [*Istighfar*]. A Muslim also sacrifices time from school and work to go to the



mosque for Jumu'ah and other prayers. My dad leaves work to go to Jumu'ah. On Sunday, we go to the mosque to enjoy our free time instead of staying at home. We also help others through food drives, blood drives, and clothing drives. Being a Muslim means to protect your body and mind with purdah. Muslims also do things to help the planet, like planting trees.



Good Conduct

Aqsa Suhail / Age 14 / Virginia North

On one occasion, my mom had to pick up a few of my friends, and although they are all kind mannered, one stood out. From the second she got in the car, she made sure to express her gratitude towards my mom. She asked my mom how she was doing and talked to her as if they were close friends. My other friends were chatting with each other while she talked to my mom the whole drive.



“He is not one of us who does not have mercy on our young and does not respect our elders” (Tirmidhi). This hadith from the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) tells us that all Muslims should respect those who are older than them and those who are younger than them. Islam teaches us that as good Muslims our behavior must always be exemplary.

<http://www.mta.tv>

A screenshot of the MTA International website. The header includes the MTA International logo, a search bar, and navigation links for Home, Schedules, Programmes, and Live. Below the header, there are two main sections: 'MTA ON DEMAND' with a play button icon and the text 'A comprehensive online resource of MTA International's programmes', and 'LIVE STREAM' with a play button icon and the text 'CLICK HERE TO WATCH'. There are also icons for Google Play, Phone, and Roku in the top right corner.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD MUSLIM

Aiza Khan/ Age 7/ Houston

A good Muslim worships Allah and knows He is One and has no partner. They pray five times a day. Especially in hardships they pray to Allah. They read the Holy Qur'an every day. They try to learn all the surahs. They believe in all the prophets. They respect all the books revealed to the prophets. They believe in the Day of Judgment. They believe in angels. They believe in the divine decree of Allah.

They listen to their teacher and their parents. They don't brag or boast about themselves. They always tell the truth and do not lie. They don't say mean things to anyone. They help people who are hurt or lonely. They don't complain about something they don't want to do. They are not jealous of other people. They forgive people if they do something to hurt them. They try to make themselves pure. They do not think or say bad things. They only eat what is good for them. They are mindful of good manners. They are kind and do the best they can to stay on the right path.

They keep themselves clean. They make their bed every day. They listen to all the Friday Sermons. They write letters to our beloved Huzoor (aba). They don't do what Allah says not to do. They don't watch too much TV. They don't watch bad things. A Muslim will sacrifice anything to please Allah. They will spread the message of Islam.



The Best Example

Sajeela Ahmad/ Age 13/ Virginia South

We all want to be the best Muslims, but how? We are so fortunate to have the Holy Qur'an to guide us on how to be the best Muslims. As the Promised Messiah (as) said, **“Had the Holy Qur'an been revealed to the Christians, they would not have gone astray.”** However, sometimes it is hard to understand the Holy Qur'an and how to implement it. That is why we have the Holy Prophet (sa) to show us the characteristics of a good Muslim. When Hazrat Ayesha (ra) was asked about the character of the Holy Prophet (sa), She said, **The character of the Holy Prophet (sa) was the Holy Qur'an.** He followed its teachings in every second of his life.

Allah the Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an:

“True believers are only those whose hearts tremble when the name of Allah is mentioned, and when His Signs are recited to them they increase their faith, and who put their trust in their Lord, who observe Prayer and spend out of that which We have provided for them” [Ch. 8, V. 3-4].

Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) said in his sermon of August 15, 2003, **“Venerable episodes exhibiting remarkable trust in Allah in the face of astonishing adversity by the Holy Prophet (sa) spanned throughout his blessed life and are a source of continual inspiration for arousing faith.”**

The Holy Prophet (sa) went through many trials and suffering throughout his Prophethood, however, he never lost hope in the truth of Allah. We can see that he honored this commandment throughout his life, keeping firm in his faith in Allah no matter the situation. He (sa) had followed, explained, and perfectly practiced the teachings of the Holy Qur'an, and his (sa) character is truly the best example of a good Muslim.

The Holy Prophet (sa) & The Acceptance of Prayers

Sanaya Raja/ Age 9/ Virginia North

We know from history that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) always prayed very hard to Allah. So when we need help from Allah, it is also best to pray with all our heart. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“And when My servants ask thee about Me, say I am near. I answer the Prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So they should hearken to Me and believe in Me, that they may follow the right way” [Ch. 2, V. 187].

However, we shouldn't only pray when we need help from Allah. We must pray every day. We must thank Allah for everything that He gives us.

Can you think of a time when you wanted help from Allah or you really wanted something, so you prayed hard, and Allah gave it to you? Once, a companion of the Holy Prophet (sa) named Sa'ad bin Abi Waqaas (ra), was very ill. There was no hope that he would survive. The Holy Prophet (sa) went to visit him. Sa'ad said, ***“O Messenger of Allah! I am going to die in a town from where we had emigrated.”*** The Holy Prophet (sa) then said, ***“No, you will not die if God wills.”*** Then, he prayed three times for Sa'ad's (ra) recovery. His prayer was accepted by Allah, and Sa'ad (ra) lived for





another fifteen years!” Can you believe how praying can do such great things like even saving lives! This is why it is so important to pray to Allah.

Praying is our perfect way to communicate with Allah. The Holy Prophet (sa) spent hours and hours in his salat. Imagine you are at an amusement park, and you are having a lot of fun on all the rides.

You wouldn't want to leave after just one ride, you would want to stay for a long time. Similarly, we should try to enjoy salat and not just pray quickly so we can be done; rather, we should pray for a long time.

On top of the five daily prayers, you can offer nafl [voluntary] prayers when you want to pray extra to Allah. The Holy Prophet (sa) offered nafl every day as well as Tahajjud. Tahajjud brings abundant blessings. In one Hadith, the Holy Prophet (sa) said, “Our Lord Almighty descends to the lowest heaven in the last third of every night saying: Who is calling upon Me that I may answer him? Who is asking from me that I may give him? Who is seeking My forgiveness that I may forgive him” (Bukhari).

Prayers can be as small as asking for a good grade on a test, or as great as asking forgiveness for our sins. No matter how great or small your prayer is, the Holy Prophet (sa) has shown us that if you pray hard, Allah will listen to your prayer, *In Sha' Allah*.

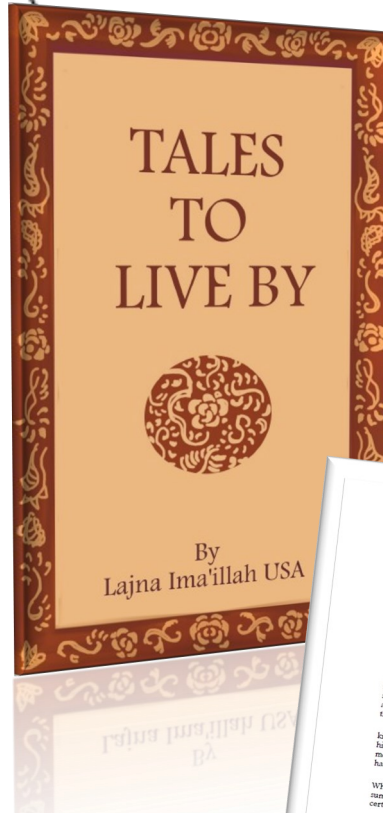


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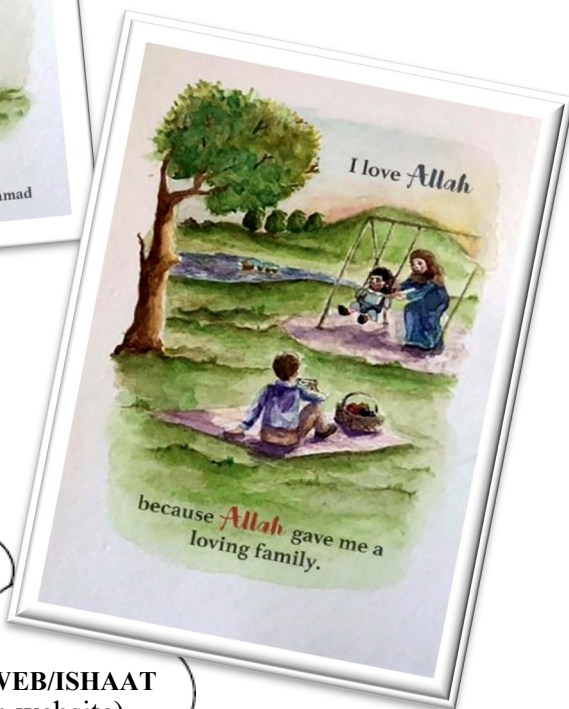


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Jazakumullah!



THE HOLY PROPHETS (SA) LOVE FOR CHILDREN

Ali Ahmad Khan/ Age 12/ North Jersey

Our Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) was a prophet of Allah Almighty. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“And we sent thee not but as a mercy for all peoples” [Ch. 21 V. 108].

He is the role model in every way of life. He is the best example and treated children with love and affection. He rightfully said, **“A person who does not deal with children with love and does not respect them does not belong to Islam”** (Tirmidhi).

Whenever his daughter Hazrat Fatima (ra) visited the Holy Prophet (sa), he would stand up to welcome her and spread his shawl on the floor. He showed his love and affection for her and gave her his own seat. Whenever our Holy Prophet (sa) passed by children he always offered his Salam to them. He addressed children with love and honor and treated them with justice.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) would distribute fruits to children. He would on occasions ask his grandsons Imam Hassan (ra) and Imam Hussain (ra) to stand on his feet and he would then ask them to rise and thus would indulge them in play. These two grandsons would sometimes get on the Prophet's (sa) back during *Sajdah* [prostration] in Salat and the Prophet (sa) would remain in *Sajdah* until they got off.



One day the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) was kissing and showing affection to his grandson Imam Hassan (ra) when an Ansari passed by and said, "I have ten children but I have never kissed any of them." Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) replied with sadness, "If Allah has deprived your heart of love, there is nothing I can do about that" (Sahih Muslim).

I pray that may Allah enable all parents to follow the best example of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (sa),
Ameen



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.

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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.

E-mail Submissions to: al-hilal@ahmadiyya.us

★ QUALITIES OF A GOOD AHMADI MUSLIM

Hazeem Ahmad / Age 10 / Virginia South

An Ahmadi Muslim is special. Here are a few qualities of a good Ahmadi Muslim:

Be polite: As a Muslim, we should be polite and likable, and be able to defuse arguments. We must also learn how to control our emotions and suppress our anger. Abu Hurairah (ra) reported that the Messenger of Allah (sa), said:

“The person who is strong is not strong because he can knock people down. The person who is strong is the one who controls himself when he is angry” (Bukhari).

Follow the five pillars of Islam, which include: The Kalima, Salat, Fasting, Zakat, and Hajj. A good Ahmadi will always recite the Kalima with a true heart, observe salat, fast during the month of Ramadan, pay Zakat, and go on the Hajj if they are able.

Help others: A Muslim wants to be righteous, and being righteous includes helping others. It should be instilled in you that you have a helping hand. There are lots of ways you can help other people. The possibilities are endless.

All in all, Ahmadis are special, but everything has a price. You can't be special as an Ahmadi if you don't offer your salat, keep the fasts during Ramadan, or give Zakat. Just like the possibilities are endless to be helpful to others, there are also many ways to win the pleasure of Allah. And all righteous people try to win the pleasure of Allah.





HOW I STRIVE TO BE A GOOD AND TRUE MUSLIM

Malaika Khan / Age 14/ North Jersey

Being a good Muslim involves following the teachings and principles of Islam. Here are a few key aspects to consider:

Faith and Worship: Strengthen your relationship with Allah Almighty through regular prayers, reading and understanding the Holy Qur'an with translation and engaging in acts of worship such as fasting during Ramadan and giving to charity. Embrace the five pillars of Islam, which include reciting the Kalima, performing Salat, fasting, Zakat and pilgrimage to Mecca.

Good character and conduct: Strive to embody the values of Islam in your everyday life. Show kindness, compassion and respect towards others, regardless of their background or beliefs. Practice honesty and patience. Treat others as you would like to be treated, and seek forgiveness when you make mistakes. Admit to your mistakes and ask Allah for forgiveness.

Remember being a good Muslim is a journey of continuous learning and improvement. It's really important to know that during this journey there will be ups and downs but if you pray to Allah then everything will be good. It's about striving to live a life that aligns with the teachings of Islam and making a positive impact on those around you.



The Character of the Holy Prophet (sa)

Manal Ahmad/ Age 10/ Virginia North

The Holy Prophet's (sa) character is the Holy Qur'an. The Holy Prophet (sa) was truthful, honest, pure, kind, forgiving, and he was **'a mercy for all peoples'** [Holy Qur'an Ch. 21, V. 108]. The Holy Prophet (sa) was so merciful, that when he marched into Mecca with 10,000 followers after years of being tortured, harassed, persecuted, murdered, by the Meccans, he forgave them all.

Earlier in his life, the Holy Prophet (sa) went to Ta'if accompanied by one of his close companions, Zaid (ra), to preach his message. The Meccans were not letting him preach his message at all. However, at Ta'if, none of the chiefs were interested in his message of the One, True God. They drove the Holy Prophet (sa) and Zaid (ra) out of Ta'if and had vagabonds throw stones at them until they were wounded and bleeding, and then chased them miles out of Ta'if.

When they finally were able to rest, an angel appeared and asked the Holy Prophet (sa) if he wanted to have his persecutors crushed. The Holy Prophet (sa) replied, **"No, I hope that their children at least would accept Islam and worship the One, True God."**



The Holy Prophet (sa) was so forgiving that when a



Jewish woman tried to poison and kill the Holy Prophet (sa), he still forgave her and let her go without any punishment. She had tried to kill the Holy Prophet (sa) by giving him poisoned meat. The woman cooked some meat and then rubbed some deadly poison on it and presented it to the Holy Prophet (sa) who realized it was poisoned as he was about to take his first bite. The Holy Prophet (sa) forgave her even though she had earned the penalty of death.



The Holy Prophet (sa) was truly kind and often sacrificed the only food that he had. He asked one of his very hungry companions to gather people in the mosque that were hungry as well. He had gathered about seven people, including himself. The Holy Prophet (sa) only had one cup of milk in his home which he shared with all seven people and made them drink until they couldn't drink anymore. When it was the Holy Prophet's (sa) turn, there was still plenty of milk left in the cup for him. The Holy Prophet (sa) drank the rest and thanked Allah.

I hope and pray that these few incidents will help us understand the kind forgiving and merciful nature of our beloved Holy Prophet (sa). Let's look at our own lives and see if we are following in his footsteps. Do we forgive our sisters or friends if they treat us badly? Are we being kind and forgiving to the ones that are unkind to us?



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Live By Good Values

Eshaal Rashid/ Age 11/ Virginia North

Being a good and true Muslim is about living by certain values and principles that guide our actions and behaviors. One of the most important characteristics of a good Muslim is faith in Allah and following the teachings of Prophet Mohammad (sa). This means believing in the Oneness of Allah and striving to live according to the teachings of Islam. It involves praying regularly. Prayer is our way of communicating with Allah. It's like having a heart-to-heart conversation with our best friend.



Islam teaches us to be kind and compassionate towards all living beings. It's about treating others with empathy, respect, and love, regardless of their background or beliefs. Acts of kindness, no matter how small, have the power to brighten someone's day. A good Muslim should also be honest. Honesty is valued highly in Islam. It means being truthful in our words and actions, even when it's difficult.

The fear and love of God, also known as **Taqwa** in Islam, is another important characteristic of a good and true Muslim. This includes being mindful of our intentions and actions, and seeking forgiveness when we fall short. The fear of losing God's Love helps us stay on the right path and remain steadfast in our faith. Incorporating these qualities into our lives helps us be better people and enables us to follow the teachings of Islam. By living with these values, we make our families, communities, and the world a better place. Let's keep trying our best to be good Muslims every day, with Allah's help guiding us along the way.





Five Qualities of a Good Muslim

Nabeeha Raqeeb/ Age 12/ Minnesota

1. **Deep Faith in Allah:**

A good Muslim's unwavering belief in God's Will and Actions will determine where they go on the Day of Judgment. We must constantly remember and trust our God, praying to seek His guidance and support. Our faith is rooted in the teachings of the Qur'an and authentic Hadith.

2. **Self-Care and Moderation:**

A good Muslim pays attention to their physical health. Muslims avoid excesses in eating and prioritize balanced nutrition. Personal hygiene is essential, as cleanliness is part of faith.

3. **Humility and Modesty:**

A good Muslim is humble and modest, treating others with respect. We must avoid arrogance and shouldn't look down upon anyone. Our appearance is neat and clean, reflecting our religion.

4. **Positive Relationships:**

A good Muslim interacts well with others, mixing with people and being friendly. Good Muslims have a sense of humor and do not disdain others. We must fulfill our promises, avoid gossip, and abstain from interfering in matters that don't include us.

5. **Benefits to Society:**

A good Muslim contributes positively to their community. We should strive to be helpful, organized, and considerate of others' needs. Our actions need to align with the teachings of Islam, which are promoting goodness and compassion.



Nasirat from Germany, January 27, 2023

What is the best way to express love for Khilafat?

Pray to Allah the Almighty that He may enable you all to develop a relationship with Khilafat and act upon the guidance that the Khalifa of the time gives.

It should not be the case that one only follows the things they like and when something is said they don't like they say, 'This should not be implemented like this instead it should be implemented in such and such a manner.' Nor should it be that they start to offer their own interpretations and inferences of what is said... One ought to endeavor to act upon the true meaning of the words that are conveyed, and this is how you may develop a relationship of love, alright?

Yes, Jazakallah.



The non-Muslim girls in my class don't like me wearing a headscarf. If they do not make friends with me due to this, then what should I do?

Inform them that everyone has their own likes. First and foremost, explain to them that let's put religion to one side that I am a Muslim, and you are Christian, or that you believe or don't believe in God and don't follow any religion. That you are wearing a skirt or a mini skirt it is completely your choice. You think it is nice and it is your choice. Now I am wearing clothes that I think is nice. This is not something to raise an objection about. Explain to

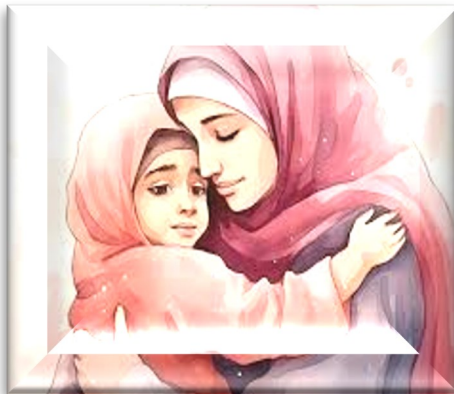




them that look, you are wearing whatever you think is nice and I am wearing whatever I think is nice.

Then apart from looking nice tell them that you are a girl who follows the religion of Islam and there is a dress code for girls in Islam. Currently you are under 12 and the commandments of purdah and hijab are not compulsory yet for you. But when you reach adolescence purdah becomes compulsory at the age of 13, 14 or 15.

Tell them, we are both human beings and we ought to live together in love and harmony and not concern ourselves with what the other person wishes to wear. Rather we ought to see how pure our heart is and how much we look after each other's sentiments and how much we are prepared to help each other. That is the duty of every human being.



Then after explaining this, you can tell them... when I become mature and reach adolescence I must cover my head, wear the hijab and modest clothing and at the very least maintain the minimum standards of purdah.

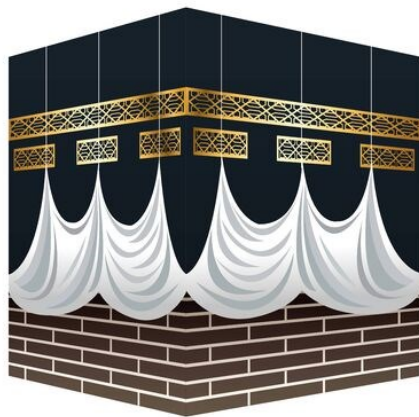
My Prophet, My Example

Meher Rehman/ Age 12/ Dallas

The Holy Prophet (sa) is the very best example in this world of a true and good Muslim. He demonstrated justice and fairness to people. He always believed in Allah through every hardship, and he prayed to Allah constantly and had a very good connection with Him. The way the Holy Prophet (sa) strode for justice is in one of my favorite stories of his life.

Before the Holy Prophet (sa) became the prophet, a flood happened, and the people of Mecca needed to rebuild the Ka'aba because of the damage the flood caused. The different tribes of Mecca all pitched in to rebuild it. When it was time to set the Black Stone inside the Ka'aba, the tribes argued over who would put the stone inside. Finally, they agreed that the first person to walk into the masjid would place the stone inside. They waited

and the Holy Prophet (sa) came. At that time, he was known as the trustworthy, so the tribe leaders felt happy and good about him placing the stone. However, instead of doing it himself, the Holy Prophet (sa) took a cloak and set the stone inside of it. He had all the tribe leaders hold onto an edge of the cloak and carry it inside the Ka'aba. The Holy Prophet (sa) showed justice and fairness instead of selfishness.



This is a quality of a true Muslim.

Another story is when the Holy Prophet (sa) and Abu Bakr (ra) were in Cave Thaur. They had been traveling to Medina and the Quraish were chasing them. They stopped in the cave and Abu Bakr (ra) said he heard them coming. Abu Bakr (ra) started to fear for the life of the Holy Prophet (sa) and told the Holy Prophet (sa) his worries. The Holy Prophet replied, **“Fear not, God is with us, we are not two in this cave. There is a third – God.”**



The members of the Quraish tribe didn't look into the cave because they saw a spider web and a bird's nest undisturbed at the entrance which showed to them that no one could be in there. The Holy Prophet (sa) believed so much in Allah that he didn't show the slightest fear because he knew Allah would help them and He did. This is another attribute of

good Muslims.

The final story is of the lady who would throw her trash on him every day without fail. The Holy Prophet (sa) was not affected by it. One day, he noticed that the lady had not thrown trash and began to worry. He went to her house to find she was sick and started to tend to her. She was so moved that he had taken care of her after all she did, that she accepted Islam. This shows how much compassion he had and is another attribute of a good Muslim.

The Holy Prophet (sa) was the greatest model of a true and good Muslim because he was just, steadfast, showed compassion, and he believed in Allah and never lost faith in Him.



Qualities of Good and True Muslims

Shafiya Munir/ Age 11/ Virginia North

Good and true Muslims have many qualities. Let me share just some of those characteristics. First, we should be honest and truthful. The founder of our religion, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) was known to be **As-Sadiq**, the truthful and **Al-Ameen**, the trustworthy, so we should strive to be like him. As Muslims, we must also be helpful and generous. For example, we can donate to charities and help people in need. Islam teaches us to share our wealth with those who are less fortunate so to promote equality. Sharing our wealth also creates peace in the society because when everyone's needs are met they can be happy and live good lives.

Good Muslims are also kind. We can be kind by helping others. For example, we can help our classmates and friends with studying. We can hold the door for others and pick up something that someone dropped. We can also be kind by giving compliments to others. Good Muslims are kind to both people and animals.



True Muslims are also loyal. We must be loyal to our friends by keeping their secrets and not telling others. The Holy Prophet (sa) said that loyalty to our country is part of our faith. We can be loyal to our country by keeping it clean, obeying the laws, and helping out.



Another quality is hospitality. The Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as) were both always



hospitable to their guests. They would invite in any companions that came to their door and would always serve them food. It is important to be kind and respectful to your guests. These are just some qualities of good and true Muslims from the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and Hadith, and we must all strive to act upon them.



Trust In Allah

Muneefa Khan/ Age 10/ Hartford

One of the most important characteristics of a Muslim is putting your trust fully in Allah.

No one knows better than Allah. I don't trust my mom fully whenever she gives me medicine. I usually accept it with some doubt. However, if the Khalifa gave me medicine, I would accept it with no doubt because a Khalifa is guided by Allah and Allah knows everything.

It is very important to show your trust in Allah because if you don't have any trust in him, you are showing that you have doubt in Allah and think that Allah might make mistakes, which is not true at all. Also, your trust in Allah can reduce your anxiety because you can reassure yourself that everything is in Allah's hands. Anyone who tries to harm Allah's believers will be punished by Allah. I don't trust my fellow humans because humans make mistakes and Allah does not. That's why putting your trust in Allah is one of the most important characteristics of a Muslim.



A True Muslim loves Allah & Observes Prayer

Zara Laiq/ Age 15/ Virginia North

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Surely, only those who follow the Book of Allah and observe Prayer and spend out of what We have provided for them, secretly and openly, hope for a bargain which will never fail; In order that He may give them their full rewards, and even increase them out of His bounty. He is surely Most Forgiving, Most Appreciating” [Ch. 35, V. 30-31].

Prayer is the key to both spiritual and worldly success. Performing it sincerely, will lead to His pleasure, and the opening of his endless mercy to be showered upon you. It is the most fundamental duty to Allah a person can observe throughout their life, and the essence of humanity's creation without which their existence is futile. Continuous correct performance of it has been said in the Qur'an to be a guarantee of His endless rewards upon a person. In a world full of conflicts and disagreements dividing society, prayer is a source of unification for all of mankind and a way to establish a connection with Allah.

A true Muslim observes prayer not just in times of distress or hardship. Rather they make an effort to stay in a state of His remembrance in all periods of their life, whether good or bad.

The significance of Salat is shown through how Allah has made it one of the five pillars of Islam. It is a requirement that every person must do to express their gratitude to Him.



However, the observance of prayer goes deeper than just actions performed on the surface. It is essential to feel a deeper connection with prayer.

The Promised Messiah (as) has written, **“Prayer is the Right of Allah; fulfill it well... Even if the entire house is destroyed, let it be, but do not discard the prayer. The Holy Qur’an speaks of two paradises, one of which is the paradise of this world, which is the Prayer”** (*Malfuzat, Vol.6, p. 370*).

When a prayer is being performed half-heartedly, the right of Allah is also being neglected and therefore the prayer has no effect. In the eyes of Allah, it has no significance, and the action is meaningless, as they are empty words and the key to paradise is also lost. Prayer outweighs all other aspects of life which is why in order to be a true Muslim, it is crucial to perform Salat correctly to fulfill a person's duty to Allah.

The Promised Messiah (as) has stated, **“In reality, Salat is but a name for plunging into a fire, and after plunging into a fire of Divine love and fear of Allah, to burn one’s being and burn everything except Allah; and it is but a name for such a state wherein God and only God remains in sight; and man progresses to such a state wherein he speaks when God wishes, and walks when God wishes; the whole of his moving or remaining still, his performing an action or abandoning an action begins to conform to Allah’s will and the ego is annihilated”** (*Malfuzat, Vol. 10, p. 314*).

While praying, our actions and movements are being fully controlled by Allah’s will. When we stand before Allah in a state of distress, we need to pray with humility in our actions and words, as we make requests to Him. If praying is just lip service, and not going to a deeper emotional level, then we fail in sustaining our bond with Allah. We would be neglecting His right, and the privilege of our creation would be without gratitude. When the practice of salat is just completing an ordinary task, the true



significance of it is diminished.

In order to live a blessed life full of both spiritual and worldly success, attaining Allah's mercy is essential. That is why a true Muslim, must love prayer and perform it with full devotion. The pleasure of Allah only comes back to a person when they fulfill the duty that has been required of them, to attain His love and blessings.



Rohma Salman / Age 13 / Long Island

What are the characteristics of a good and true Muslim? It's having the strength and courage to leave your friends for a moment to help an elderly woman with heavy grocery bags cross the street. It's having the confidence to turn down plans with friends so that you can observe your Prayers or it's time for Qur'an lessons.



Being a good and true Muslim is such a gray area, but it's the most beautiful one I could ever dream of living in, the only one I ever want to live in, the one I strive to live in every single day of my life, *In Sha' Allah, Ameen.*

A GOOD MUSLIM

Zara Qureshi/ Age 10/ Harrisburg
With assistance from Mariam Khan (Mother)

Allah is the One who inspires
His friendship I desire

I want His friendship so soon
These are the things I will do

Pray Tahajjud and offer Salat during the
day and night
Read Qur'an, our guiding light

Go to the masjid and
have our knowledge expand
Teach those about Islam
who don't understand

These are the things I will do
Because these are the
qualities of a good Muslim

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

The Attributes of a Model Muslim

Zohaib Ahmed / Age 12 / GA-SC
With assistance from mother, Attiya T. Ghani

To God, I bow with heart sincere,
In worship, I feel Him near.

From soaring eagles to the humble ant,
I find His grace, His love, enchant.

A quality emerges, steadfast and strong,
A thread of kindness, weaving along.

Compassion blooms in each embrace,
A gift of understanding, a harmonious grace.

For in serving others, the world we mend,
A ripple effect that shall not end.

With hands extended, and hearts aglow,
I strive for peace, and let compassion grow.

In this journey, as a servant true,
I find God's love in all I do.



Across

5. A good Muslim tries to increase his
 6. A good Muslim is one who does daily recitation of the Holy
 9. A good Muslim is one who offers the five daily
 10. A good Ahmadi Muslim writes regularly to

Down

1. A good Muslim acts with
 2. A good Ahmadi Muslim listens to Huzoor's sermons and
 3. A good Muslim shows this to everyone
 4. A good Muslim serves his
 7. A good Muslim controls his
 8. A good Muslim always speaks the

ANSWER KEY

Glossary

Abū Dāwūd ابو داود : A collection of Aḥādīth. The author of this collection.

Adhan: The call to prayer

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ : All praise belongs to Allah.

Al-Hilāl الهلال : The new moon.

Āmīn [Āmeen, Aameen] آمين : So be it. Amen. Ceremony to commemorate the completion of the first reading of the Holy Qur'an.

As-Salāmu `Alaikum السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ May peace be upon you. (The formation assalam-o or assalam-u is incorrect as there is no waw و after mīm م, hence the abbreviation AoA or A.O.A. or A-o-A is also incorrect.)

Bukhari: A collection of Ahadith. The author of this collection.

Chanda: چنده Monetary contribution, donation. (The ha at the end is to indicate a fath on dal, and is not pronounced, so should not be explicitly written in the transliteration of the word.)

Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Ḥaḍrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor (1950-...) حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد, may Allah be his Helper: Fifth successor (2003-...) to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

Ḥuḍūr [Ḥudhūr, Ḥuzūr, Huzoor] حضور : His Honor, His Holiness, Your Honor, Your Holiness. In Urdu, it is spelled Ḥaḍūr [Ḥaḍoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor].

Iftār افطار : breaking the Islamic formal fast at sunset

Iftārī افطاری : eating to break Islamic formal fast.

Ijtema: gathering

Jalsa Salana: Annual Convention

Jama`at: Community

Muezzin: caller to Prayer

Muslim: Believer, one who submits to Allah

Nāsirāt ناصرات : helpers (feminine). A member of Majlis Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya, association of young Ahmadi girls.

Sadaqah صدقه : alms



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(may Allah be pleased with him)

Hadhrat Safiyyah

(May Allah be pleased with her)

Ḥaḍrat Nuh (peace be on him) and
the Great Flood

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GOOD & TRUE MUSLIMS ARE....





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MUSLIM COMMUNITY

United States of America

*Muslims who believe in the Messiah,
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani*

