

# Al-Hilal

## Animal Kingdom

US \$2

A Magazine for Children

2015-2

## QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

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

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

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Dear Reader,

As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

Allah has created such beauty and diversity in our world and the Animal Kingdom is no exception.

From graceful gazelles and giraffes to breathtaking eagles and albatrosses, this issue covers a variety of animals and what Islam has taught us about their treatment and care.

Please enjoy and always remember kind treatment of animals is a part of our Faith and the example of our beloved prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

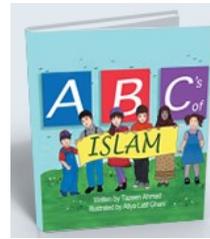
Was-Salam.

Aliya A. Latif, Editorial Team.

## *ABC's of Islam*

Written by Tazeen Aḥmad

ABC's of Islam is a perfect book to introduce your kids to the simple concepts of Islām. Full of colorful illustrations and easy rhymes this book teaches the basic Islāmic beliefs and values, in a fun and easy way, to young children. Paperback: 38 pages. Purchase at [www.tazeenahmadbooks.com](http://www.tazeenahmadbooks.com).



## The Holy Qur'ān on Animal Kingdom

وَالْأَنْعَامَ خَلَقَهَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا دِفْءٌ وَمَنَافِعُ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ



And the cattle too He has created; you find in them warmth and *other* uses; and some of them you eat.

وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا جَمَالٌ حِينَ تُرِيحُونَ وَحِينَ تَسْرَحُونَ ﴿٦﴾

And in them there is beauty for you when you bring them home in the evening, and when you drive them forth to pasture in the morning.

وَتَحْمِلُ أَثْقَالَكُمْ إِلَىٰ بَلَدٍ لَّمْ تَكُونُوا بَلِغِيهِ إِلَّا بِشِقِّ الْأَنْفُسِ ﴿٧﴾

إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ لَرَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿٨﴾

And they carry your loads to a land which you could not reach except with great hardship to yourselves.

Surely, your Lord is Compassionate, Merciful.

وَالْخَيْلَ وَالْبِغَالَ وَالْحَمِيرَ لِتَرْكَبُوهَا وَزِينَةً ﴿٩﴾ وَيَخْلُقُ مَا لَا

تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٠﴾

And He has created horses and mules and asses that you may ride them, and as a source of beauty. And He will create what you do not yet know.

وَعَلَى اللَّهِ قَصْدُ السَّبِيلِ وَمِنْهَا جَايِزٌ ﴿١١﴾ وَلَوْ شَاءَ لَهَدَاكُمْ

أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿١٢﴾

And upon Allah rests the showing of the right way, and there are ways which deviate from the right course. And if He had enforced His will, He would have guided you all. 16[Al-Naḥl]:6-10

## What the Holy Prophet Said About the Love of Animals

Abu Huraira<sup>(ra)</sup> narrated that the Messenger of Allah (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

There are one hundred (parts of) mercy for Allah and He has sent down out of these one part of mercy upon the Jinn and human beings and animals and the insects, and it is because of this (one part) that they love one another, show kindness to one another and even the beast treats its young one with affection, and Allah has reserved ninety-nine parts of mercy with which He would treat His servants on the Day of Resurrection. (Muslim)

Abū Yaʿlā Shaddād bin ʿAus (May Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

“Verily Allah has prescribed kindness for everything. So when you kill, you must make the killing in the best manner; when you slaughter, make your slaughter in the best manner. Let one of you sharpen his knife and give ease to his animal (to avoid the suffering of the animal).” (Muslim) — Compiled by Dr Mahmud Ahmad Nagi, Columbus OH



# Abraha's Elephants

Sarah Schirtzer/Long Island/Age 12

In the Holy Qu'ran, animals are mentioned many times. The Qu'ran says that Muslims cannot eat pigs or animals that were found dead. It is stated that it is permissible for us to eat cows, goats, and sheep since they are Halāl, meaning, allowed.

Elephants and birds are mentioned in relation to Abraha's army. When Abraha came to destroy the Ka'ba, his army rode on elephants. To protect the Ka'ba, Allah infected the men with small pox, which caused them to die. Then He sent swarms of birds to eat the remains of Abraha's army and his elephants.



It is interesting to read about the various animals that are mentioned in the Qu'ran, which play an important role in our everyday life.



# The Amazing Honeybee

Rehan Mahmood Khan/  
Los Angeles East / Age 9

In Sūrah Al-Nahl in the Qur'an, Allah introduces us to the wondrous insect known as the honeybee. He commands the bee to take the mountain as a home, and then to eat fruit and follow a path home. Then Allah reveals that from the belly of the bee comes a drink of diverse colors, which is honey. Allah then promises to mankind that this honey has healing powers. What an amazing sign!

Honeybees live in very organized homes called colonies. The colony has one queen bee, many male bees called drone bees and also thousands of worker bees. The hive that holds these colonies is made up of wax cells shaped in perfect hexagons. Bees collect pollen and nectar from flowers and take it back to the hive. There it is converted into honey in the bellies of the bees.

All of this is Allah's perfect design which he mentions in the Qur'an. Honey has many cures for different sicknesses and so honeybees are a blessing for mankind.

# NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION! PORK

Nimra Sohail/Central Virginia/Age 11

One of the animals mentioned in the Holy Quran is swine or pig.

Islam forbids the consumption of swine due to many reasons.

**"Forbidden to you are: dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine, and that on which hath invoked a name other than that of Allah."** This Quranic verse shows us that we should not consume swine.

Eating pork can cause several diseases, such as Helminths.

Pork has fat building material. Most of pork is fat. Fat gets stored into blood vessels. It can clog the artery and that leads to hypertension and heart attack. Hypertension is the elevation of blood pressure.

50% of the Americans suffers from hypertension.

Swine is also one of the filthiest animals on Earth. It lives on mud and dirt. Swine can eat any type of food, including dead insects, worms, rotting carcass, and garbage.

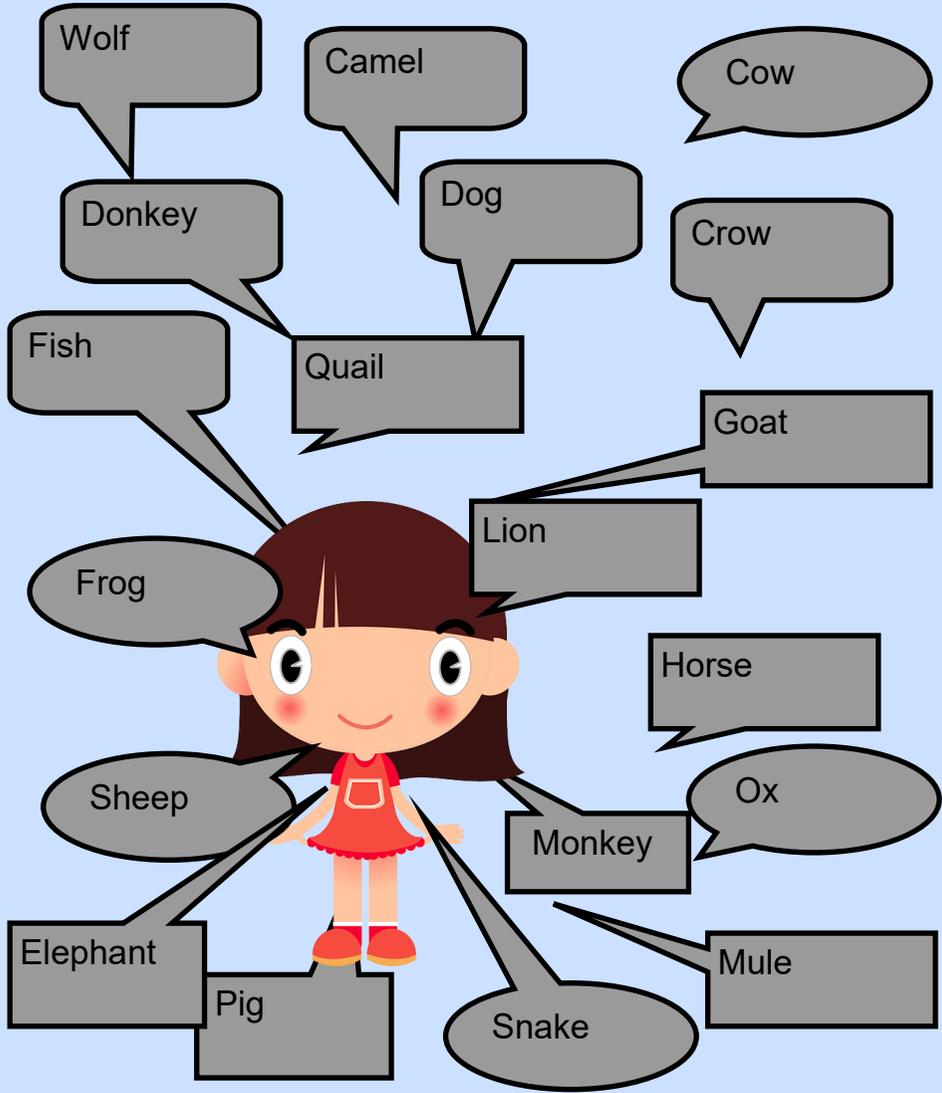
They have few sweat glands, and because of that, their bodies can't get rid of it. This is why the Qur'an wisely prohibits eating pork. In the end, you are what you eat.

Time magazine (November 9, 2015) reports that researchers have discovered that fried bacon (pork) is high in carcinogens. It is the most toxic of all the fried foods.

The committee members on page 2 and a group of reviewers review the magazine before going to press. Their reviews make the magazine what it is. Please send your email address to [publications@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:publications@ahmadiyya.us) if you want to help us review the contents before their publication.

# Animals and Birds Mentioned In the Holy Quran

Jaziba Ahmad/Austin, TX/ Age 6



# The Golden Retriever

Fareeda Malik/Research Triangle/ Age 9

My favorite dog is the golden retriever. If I had a golden retriever I'd name it Charity.

I love golden retrievers because they are cuddly and retrieve stuff like sticks and balls. They also help people who are in need.

A golden retriever is a guide dog who helps blind people get to different places.

Did you know that a female Golden Retriever can birth 5 to 10 puppies?

After a puppy is born, it stays with and gets nourishment from its mom. Eventually the young puppies grow strong and healthy. Now for the fun part: the puppies get adopted into other people's houses!!! Yaaaaay!!!

This is why I love Golden Retriever.

There is a saying in Islam that mistreating of an animal is a sin. Both Qur'an (6:39 next page) and Ḥadīth give many examples and directives about how Muslims should treat animals. Islam also says that any Muslim who chooses to keep a pet has a responsibility of treating the animal with care and providing for their wellbeing by providing food, water, shelter and other needs.



A screenshot of the MTA International website. The header includes the MTA International logo, navigation links for Home, Schedules, Programmes, and Live, and a search bar. There are also platform availability icons for Google Play, Windows Phone, and Roku. The main content area features a 'MTA ON DEMAND' section with a play button and a description: 'A comprehensive online resource of MTA International's programmes'. To the right is a 'LIVE STREAM' section with a large play button and the text 'CLICK HERE TO WATCH'.

<http://www.mta.tv>

## Why Animals are Important for Human Life

Animals are not like human beings because they do not have free will. The Holy Quran states that animals form communities just as humans do: “There is not an animal *that crawls* in the earth, nor a bird that flies on its two wings, but they are communities like you. We have left out nothing in the Book. Then to their Lord shall they be gathered together.” (6 [Al-An‘ām] :39).

Without animals, humans would not be able to survive because animals provide food and milk.

Also, without animals, we would have difficulty producing our foods since we need insects to pollinate our crops, which give us 90% of the food that is eaten by humans.

It is forbidden in Islam to treat animals cruelly or to kill them, except as needed for food. The Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) often chastised his companions who mistreated animals and spoke to them about the need for mercy and kindness. It is related from Abu Umama that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “Whoever is merciful even to a sparrow, Allah will be merciful to him on the Day of Judgment.”



There are many animals mentioned in the Holy Quran. Some examples are bees, ants, spiders, apes, swine, and dogs. Sūrah Al-Nahl talks about animals. It says, And thy Lord has inspired the bee, *saying*, ‘Make thou houses in the hills and in the trees and in the trellises which they build. ‘Then eat of every *kind of* fruit, and follow the ways of thy Lord *that have been made easy for thee.*’ There comes forth from their bellies a drink of varying hues. Therein is cure for men. Surely, in that is a Sign for a people who reflect. (Al-Naḥl 16:69-70). This Sūrah mainly talks about how Allah inspired bees to go and make honey. Allah inspires bees to go to the mountains and trees. Bees and honey provide many benefits, that is why The Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) loved honey.

**Romana Pasha, Age: 13, Long Island Jama'at**

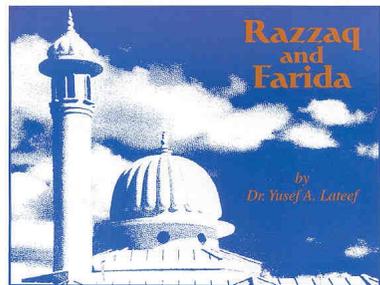
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## Razzaq and Farida

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# The Magnificent Honeybee

Saman Khan/Philadelphia/Age 11

Did you ever think that Almighty Allah would inspire such a small thing to do something great? Well according to the Qur'an (Sūrah Al-Nahl, Verses 69 and 70) "And thy Lord inspired the bee, saying make thou houses in the hills and in the trees and in the trellises which they build" and "Then eat of every kind of fruit, and follow the ways of thy lord that have been made easy for thee. There comes fourth from their bellies a drink of varying hues. Therein is cure for men".

These verses are talking about how Almighty Allah told the bee to make houses for themselves and to make honey from their bellies as a cure for humans. That reminds me, when I went to the doctor with a sore throat, he said that honey is very helpful for my throat. Imagine someone from our current day recommending something our wonderful Quran recommended many years ago!

Allah made honeybees a whole nation. They have a queen bee, whose commands they follow and they work extremely hard every day collecting pollen from flowers, which they store in a little basket they have on one of their legs.

Next time you see a bee flying around outside, don't think of it as a small pest; think of it as something magnificent mentioned in our beloved Holy Quran.

*Find many books for children at*

***[www.amibookstore.us](http://www.amibookstore.us)***

# Kind Treatment of a Camel by the Holy Prophet

May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him

Haala Bhatti/Houston North/Age 8

I will state a Ḥadīth about the kind treatment of an animal that was used by people for their daily work, over 1,500 years ago.

It is related by Ḥaḍrat Abdullah bin Ja'far (may Allah be pleased with him) that once the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) took him to a garden of an Ansari. Upon seeing the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), a camel in that garden started whining, and tears started to flow from its eyes. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) went near it and rubbed his hand on its face. The camel became quiet and peaceful.

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked, "Whose camel is this?"

One young Ansari came forward and replied that it was his camel.

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that you should fear Allah in dealing with your animal. It has complained to me that you don't feed him well and take too much work from it.

This Ḥadīth shows the mercy our beloved Master Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had for animals in his heart, and how we should take care of them. This is also a guidance for us if we have pets in our home.

## The Prophet's Kindness to Animals

Saadia Khan/Houston North/ Age 11

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was very kind to animals. He said to his followers that they should be kind to animals because they are living and are Allah's creation.

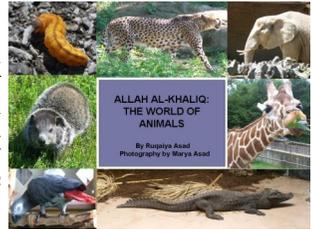
He used to relate the instance of a Jewish woman who was punished by God for having starved her cat to death. He also used to relate the story of a woman who found a dog suffering from thirst near a deep well. She took off her shoe and lowered it into the well and drew up some water. She gave the water to the thirsty dog to drink. This good deed earned her God's forgiveness for all her previous sins.

May we all follow the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and be kind to animals.

## Allah Al Khaliq: The World of Animals

*Written by Ruqaiya Asad*

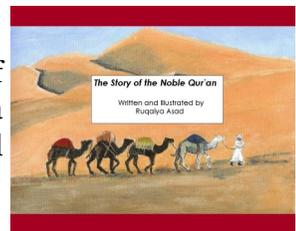
This is a book for children. The book contains original photos and simple text with Qur'anic references and scientific facts that appeal to children's natural interest. Purchase at: [islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com](http://islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com).



## The Story of the Noble Qur'an

*Written by Ruqaiya Asad*

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



# Allah's Creatures

Maha Ahmed/Willingboro, New Jersey /Age 9

Allah has created everything including animals for the benefit and services of mankind. There are many services human beings get from animals including transportation of people, food, protection and amusement.

Allah asked us to be kind to animals. He says. "There is not an animal that crawls in the earth, nor a bird that flies on its two wings but they are communities like you" (6:39). Allah mentions many animals in the Holy Qu'ran such as horses, dogs, snakes, monkeys, whales, ants, donkeys, mules, cows, frogs, goats, elephants, camels, sheep, birds and spiders. A whole chapter is named after the cow, Sūrah Al Baqarah.



Allah has allowed human beings to eat the meat of most of the animals including camel, cow, turkey, goat, sheep, chicken and fish. Allah has forbidden us to eat the meat of some animals particularly, pig.

Allah used examples of lots of animals for the benefit of mankind. A honey bee makes honey that is beneficial to our health. "There emerges from their bellies a drink, varying in colors, in which there is healing for the people." (16:70)

We thank Allah for creating these animals for all kinds of benefits for us. I would finish by stating that my favorite is milk and eggs—my gratitude to Allah Ta'ālā for creating the cow and chicken.

---

# HORSES

Maahida Bajwa, Age 9, Queens, NY

**I love horses.**

**They have such soft, shiny manes.**

**Trotting, cantering, and galloping,**

**Down the lanes.**

**Baby horses are called founs,**

**And female horses are called mares.**

**They have different natures,**

**Calm, loyal, stubborn, or wild.**

**The calm and loyal ones are the ones I like.**

**Pet horses wear iron shoes,**

**So their feet won't get bruised.**

**Some people (who are good),**

**Treat them kindly.**

**Other people (who are bad),**

**Treat them with cruelty.**

**Horses are amazing and wonderful,**

**Majestic and playful.**

**But let me tell you a fact,**

**That stopped me in my track**

**Did you know that in the Quran,**

**Horses are called Şāfināt [38:32]?**



وَمِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ حَمُولَةٌ وَفَرَشَاتٌ ط  
كُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوتِ الشَّيْطَانِ ط  
إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ ﴿١٤٣﴾

And of the cattle He has created some for burden and some for slaughter. Eat of that which Allah has provided for you, and follow not the footsteps of Satan. Surely, he is to you an open foe.

(Holy Qur'ān, 6 [Al-An'ām] :143)

We Want to Hear  
from You!!!

Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication. Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

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

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

**E-mail Submissions to: [al-hilal@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:al-hilal@ahmadiyya.us)**

# Forbidden

Sumrah Bhatti, Age 13, Queens, NY

Allah has given us permission to eat all good things and has forbidden us to eat things that are impure. The Holy Quran says:

***“He has made unlawful to you only that which dies of itself, and blood and the flesh of swine, and that on which the name of any other than Allah has been invoked. But he who is driven by necessity, being neither disobedient nor exceeding the limit, it shall be no sin for him. Surely, Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.” (2 [Al-Baqarah] : 174)***

An animal that is mentioned in the Holy Quran is a pig. Pigs are animals that we are forbidden to eat. The first reason is that, pigs contain 98% uric acid in their blood because their kidneys don't process it that much. When a person eats a pig, s/he is basically eating something mostly saturated in urine.

Another reason is that, some wild pigs eat flesh. Muslims are only allowed to eat animals which are herbivores. When you eat a carnivorous animal, you are basically eating something saturated with the flesh of another dead animal.

Yet another reason that we may not consume pork is that they cannot be slaughtered because they have no 'neck.' This means that by slaughtering it, one is unable to reach major arteries to let the blood out.

Lastly, Muslims by Islamic law have an obligation to always be clean. By touching pigs we are becoming dirty, and being dirty is un-Islamic. Pigs live and thrive in muck, feces and dirt.

Eating of pork can cause no less than seventy different types



of diseases. Some of the diseases you can get from eating pork are: Yersiniosis, Salmonellosis, Ringworm, Rabies prevention, Leptospirosis, Influenza, Cryptosporidiosis, and Campylobacteriosis.

You should be thankful to Allah because He has given us permission to eat all good things and He has forbidden us to eat things that are impure.



## PUZZLE



**Hala Malik, Age 9, Laurel, MD**

Can you match the animals with the chapters of the Qur'an they are mentioned in? Some appear more than once?

**Camel**

**Sūrah Al-Ādiyāt**

**Sheep**

**Sūrah Al-Ghāshiyah**

**Crow**

**Sūrah Al-Şāffāt**

**Cow**

**Sūrah Al-Fīl**

**Bee**

**Sūrah Al-Naḥl**

**Ant**

**Sūrah Al-Naml**

**Monkey**

**Sūrah Al-Mā'idah**

**Elephant**

**Sūrah Al-Baqarah**

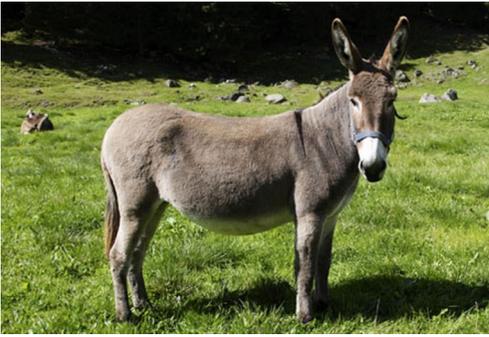
**Whale**

**Sūrah Al-An'ām**

# The *Kind* Treatment of Animals

**Aneeka Aleem Tak, Age 10, Potomac**

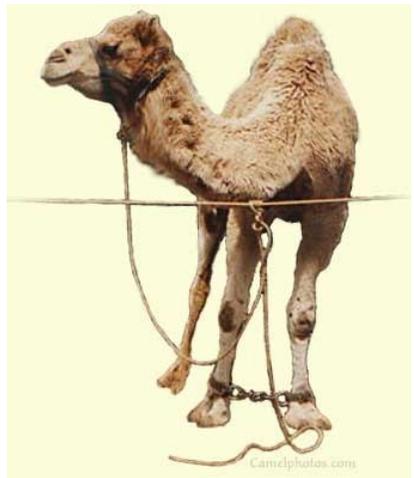
There are many things that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught us about kind treatment of animals. Animals are a creation of Allah



so they need to be treated with respect and handled with care. Once Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw a donkey being branded on the face. He asked why this was being done. He was told

that Romans had done this long ago to tell apart high-bred animals. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that the face is very sensitive and that the donkey should be branded on the haunches instead.

Another time, Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw a camel tied up. It was tired, hungry, and sad. This upset him and he told the owner of the camel, "Fear Allah in your treatment of animals". He said this often. Allah is Al-Khaliq (The Creator) so we should fear him when we disrespect his creations.



# Love for All Hatred for None

**Roha Farida, Age 13, Central Virginia**

Love for All Hatred for None is a universal motto of peace, justice, equality, love,

understanding, and mutual reconciliation. The motto was coined by the third spiritual leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad (raḥimahullāh). Ḥaḍrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad (raḥimahullāh) coined this motto on the occasion of the inauguration of the first mosque in Spain in the last 700 years.

This took place on October 9, 1980. Elaborating on this motto, he said, “Islam teaches us to live with mutual love and affection and with humility.”

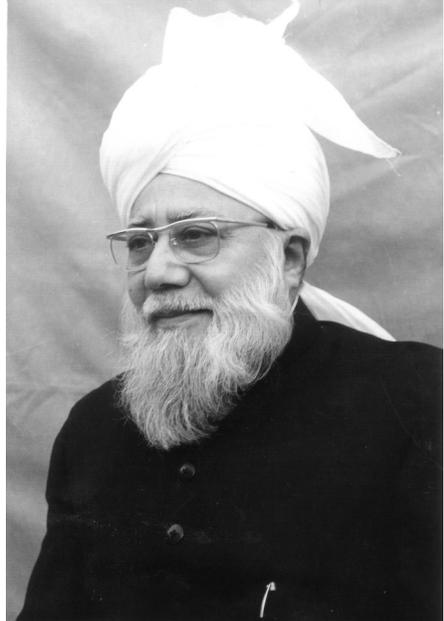
Islam means Peace and in

order to uphold principles of peace, one needs mutual love

and affection. How can one ensure mutual love is continuously spread, clearly with humility. I believe humility is the key reason



why ‘Hatred for None’ is present in the motto. If one is humble, one acknowledges that they have many shortcomings and learns to overlook shortcomings of others, which helps foster an atmosphere of hatred for none.



# Our Friends in THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

Nooreen Qureshi, Age 12, Tucson

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was kind to all. He preached that we should be kind to all living souls. If he saw any animal over-loaded or ill-fed he would call the owner and say, 'Fear Allah in your treatment of animals.' The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) commanded that all animals receive the right treatment; which is being well fed, given water, and are not forced to carry too heavy loads. He also said that animals shouldn't be branded on their faces.

There is a Ḥadīth that tells about the kind treatment of animals, by the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). It is narrated by Sahl ibn Amr, He says: The Messenger of Allah passed by a camel whose stomach almost touched it's back (from lack of food). Upon seeing this he said: 'Fear God in treating these unspeaking animals! Ride them while they are in good health, and eat them while they are in good health.' (Abū Dāwūd).

Once the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was on a journey. On the way he saw a man picking up eggs from a bird's nest. Then he saw the bird pecking the man. He told the man to replace the eggs. Then the bird left him alone.

The kind treatment of animals will be rewarded with Heaven. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that,

"Verily, there is heavenly reward for every act of kindness done to a living animal." Once a thirsty man saw a dog panting from thirst. He decided to get water for the dog. He asked, "Is there any reward for serving any animal?" Then Allah told him there was a reward.



The punishment of harming animals is what you did to harm the animals. There is a story of what happens to people who hurt or harm any animal.

Once, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “A woman entered Hell because of a cat that she tied up and did not feed it or let it loose to eat of the vermin of the earth, until it died.” (Ibn Mājah, Book on Piety)

In conclusion animals are living creatures that Allah created and should be treated kindly. Animals are in this world and are creations of God. May Allah enable us to be kind to all of Allah’s creatures, Āmīn.

# My Ramadan Experience

**Namood-E-Saher Naveed, Age 12, Bay Point, California**

This past Ramaḍān, by the grace of Allah, I kept 12 full fasts. Our local President Sahib instructed the children to finish the Holy Quran in the month. He promised us a gift on Eid day for all the kids who finished the Holy Quran. I was fortunate enough to finish the Holy Quran during the month of Ramaḍān. We woke up every morning for Sehri and offered Fajr Prayer with my family. We offered Tarawīh Prayer every night with the family. Additional relatives joined in for Iftar and Tarawīh Prayer every night. Waking up every morning around 3:45 A.M. was quite an experience. There were a few nights when we stayed up all night. On the weekends we went to the Bay Point Mosque and played with our friends and prayed together. The best part of the Ramaḍān was Eid. It was a very enjoyable and memorable Ramaḍān for me.



# Open Your Eyes

(A poem about Animals)

Syeda Sabahat  
Age 11  
Chicago



Look up at the sky,  
What do you see?  
Birds; different colors and sizes.

Look up at the trees,  
What do you see?  
Amazing acrobats; squirrels,  
monkeys, and lizards.



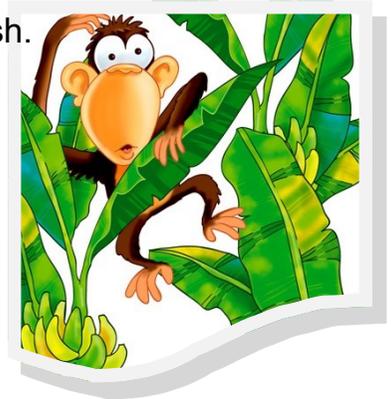
Look up at the mountains,  
What do you see?  
Daring creatures; snow leopards,  
mountain goats, and wolves.

Look at the ground,  
What do you see?  
Amazing abilities; cheetah,  
gazelle, and zebra.

Look at the ocean,  
What do you see?  
Agile; whales, sharks, jellyfish, and fish.

Now look closer...

You see spiders, butterflies, beetles  
The list goes on and on...



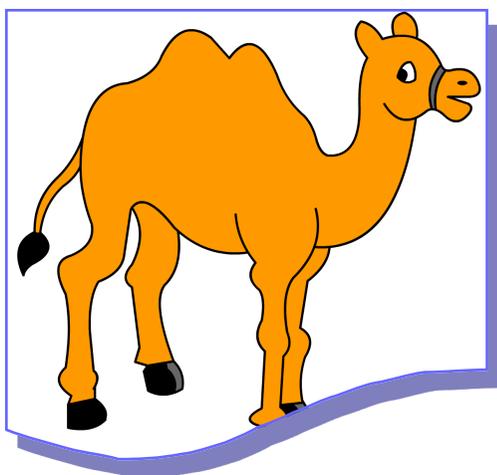
## IMPORTANCE OF CAMELS

Camel is a marvelous creature. Camels live mostly in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. On average, camels can live up to 40-50 years. The height of a camel can be 7 feet! Camels are able to run at a maximum speed of 65 mph. It is known as the "ship of the desert" because of the special pads on its feet that stop it from sinking and allow it to move quickly (float) over the sand. It is able to travel long distances without water, and stores water in its hump. It is large enough to carry men and goods, and protects the rider in the storms of the desert with its body.

Camel is mentioned in the Holy Quran in the following verses:

*"Verily there has come to you a clear evidence from your Lord — this she-camel of Allah, a Sign for you. So leave her that she may feed in Allah's earth, and do her no harm, lest a painful punishment seize you."* (7 [Al-A'rāf] : 74)

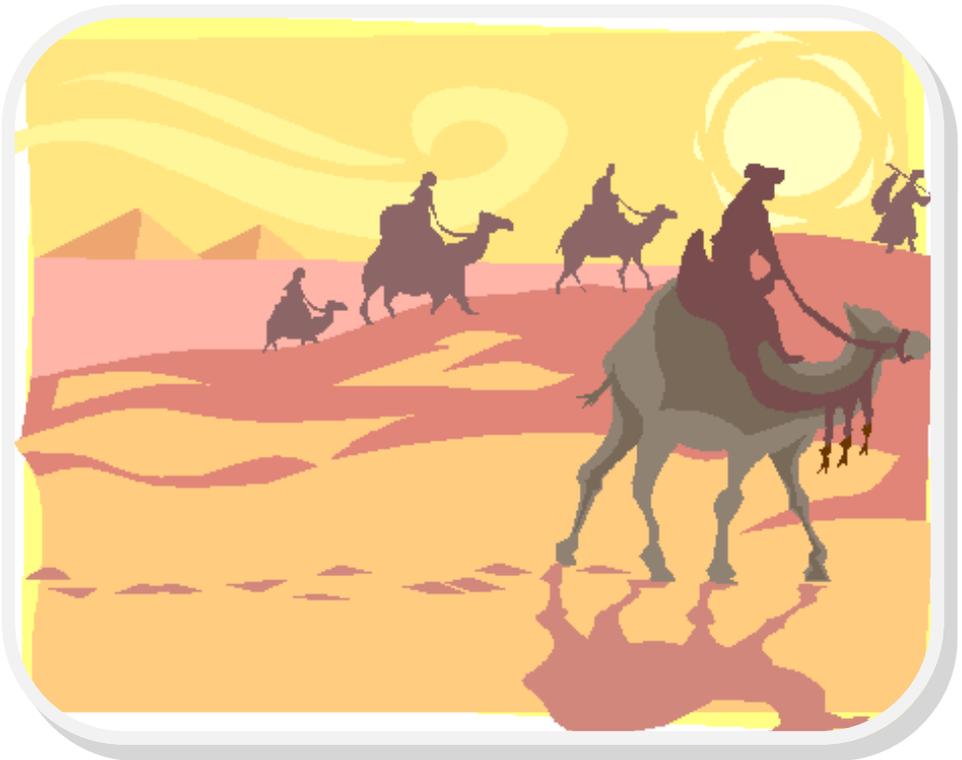
This verse describes how Ḥaḍrat Ṣāliḥ (may peace be upon him) tried to bring the Message of Allah to the people of Thamūd. A female camel was made a sign of Allah. They were told not to harm her or stand in her way when she took Ḥaḍrat Ṣāliḥ (may peace be upon him) on his preaching travels. The people did not listen and ended up killing the camel. As a punishment, an enormous earthquake destroyed their village.



*Do they not then look at the camels, how they are created?  
(Al-Ghāshiyah, 88:18)*

*This verse is explaining that camels always walk in a straight line, all behind the one who leads them, being very obedient. As believers, we Muslims should also follow our religious leader and obey him completely. Camels can go on for days without water, living in the hot, sandy desert. They have so much patience in these hardships and continue on their journey without complaining. We should follow in these footsteps and trust that Allah will help us through our hard times and guide us to the right path.*

***By: Haaris Khan, Jama'at: Brentwood, TN, Age 8***



# The Significance of the Camel

The camel has been mentioned in The Holy Qur'an in Sūrah Al-A'rāf, Hūd, Yūsuf, Banī Isra'īl, Al-Ḥajj, Al-Shu'arā, Al-Qamar, Al-Ḥashr, Al-Ghāshiyah, and Al-Shams. In ancient times, camels were used as a mode of transportation by people and prophets.

I have chosen verse number 18 of Sūrah Al-Ghāshiyah to point out some unique characteristics of camels. In the Friday Sermon on June 6, 2014, Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) gave a detailed commentary on this verse. He said that one quality of camels is that they do not try to go in front of other camels. They are obedient and always follow their leader. Here, Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) has compared us to camels and said that our Imam is our leader. We must obey all of his instructions and show complete submission to him. Camels are always ready for a long journey. This means that, as Muslims, we should act righteously so that we are rewarded in the afterlife. Therefore, this small verse contains a huge lesson for believers. We must follow the Imam and make sure that we have made necessary preparations for our eternal life. I pray that Allah the Almighty will enable us to follow our beloved Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper)! Aameen.

**By: Muaz Malik, Age: 10, Jama'at: Kansas City**



# Our Prophet's Kindness to Animals

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) loved animals. He said that we should be kind to all animals because they are God's creation. There are many stories from his life that teach us to treat animals with respect.



One story is about a mother pigeon and some eggs. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his companions were riding horses and camels. They came across a tree where they decided to rest. Three of his companions climbed up a tree that had a nest with eggs. The companions took the eggs to eat. The pigeon circled around the nest and started making distressed sounds. The Holy prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked his companions why the bird was circling the nest. The companions told him what they had done. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) immediately told them to put the eggs back in the nest because it was disturbing the mother. He said that we should never cause another animal to suffer.

In those days, people used to brand their farm animals on their faces. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was opposed to this practice. He said that this was very painful, and if they must be branded, it should be done on the back or another tougher body part.

It is amazing how much the Holy Prophet taught us about animals. He taught us to love and respect each other, and also to respect the Earth and all its creatures. All animals deserve respect and kindness!

**By: Sulaiman Qazi, Age: 9, Chicago, IL**



# What we learn from animals?

Animals have a lot of valuable lessons to teach us, and if we ponder carefully we can learn how to incorporate these lessons into our lives. We can list following qualities of the animals.

Forgive and forget.

Unconditional love.

One should not worry what others think.

Instincts should be trusted.

Fair play.

Relax and reflect.

Express yourself.

Don't ever give up.

I share with my beloved children following behavior of animals which are worth noticing.

**Cat:** Cats are friendly pets. Cats can easily see in darkness. The domestic cat can be a valuable addition to the home.

What is "Cat Eye:" The eyes of the cat glitter in the dark. This idea is used on roads for traffic signs and road markers. Reflecting paints are exclusively used on



roads, airports, etc. Light reflectors on bicycles and vehicles are installed for safety purposes.

**Crocodile:** The shape of the jaw of crocodile or alligator is used to make ladies hair clips, car battery clamps or jumper cables.



**Dog:** Loyal to his master; can sacrifice his life for his master. The dog cleans the place with his tail when sits. It is content with little. It does not eat despite great appetite. It is known for constant vigilance.



A recent study show that dogs yawn more in response to their owners' yawns than to others. This observation suggests that dogs are empathetic towards their owners.

Children learn compassion from looking after a cat or a dog.

**Elephant:** They respect their elders. Research has shown that elephant groups with older matriarchs are more effective at fighting off predatory lions. They are highly adept in social coordination when pursuing shared goals. They help each other out.



**Monkeys:** They are nice to their neighbors. Monkeys who live in groups often exhibit highly pro-social behaviors. Red colobus monkeys (pictured right) are so friendly



that they even socialize with members of other species.

**Bear:** They cuddle.

**Donkey:** Continues to carry



his load even when tired. Does not concern about cold and heat. Always happy.

**Bat:** Bats are not blind. Most bats can see as well as

humans. Their unique echo location ability is literally thousands of times more efficient than any similar system built by humans.



**Dolphins:** They are diplomatic. Dolphins have a sophisticated "language" and communication



system, using sounds, in some cases, to avoid violence or confrontation.

The common bottlenose dolphin has a vocal repertoire of 14 sonically distinct social signals. The dolphins burst-pulse sounds as a way to avoid possible aggression in situations of high excitement and energy, possibly when competing for food.

**Lion:** No matter what we do, we should do it wholeheartedly and with all our strength. (Dr Mahmud Ahmad Nagi, Columbus OH)





## I Really Want a Cat for a Pet

I would name my cat Scottie. I would feed him when he was hungry and let him sleep when he was tired. I would care for the cat and I would play with him. I would keep him happy.

I would do all this because the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to be kind to animals. We should be kind and good to all that Allah has created and this includes animals. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) told us that there was once a lady who was punished by God because she did not feed her cat and the cat died (Abu Dāwūd). If you take care of animals and treat them nicely, Allah will reward you.

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also said that there was once a lady who saw a dog who was very thirsty. She took off her shoe and put water in the shoe from a well and gave the water to the dog. Allah really liked this kindness and rewarded the woman by erasing all her past sins (Abu Dāwūd).

So, I want to be kind to my pets and take care of them so Allah can be happy with me. I wish everyone in the world would be kind to animals like our Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught us to be.

**By: Tahaani Khan, Age: 7, Jama'at: York/Harrisburg**

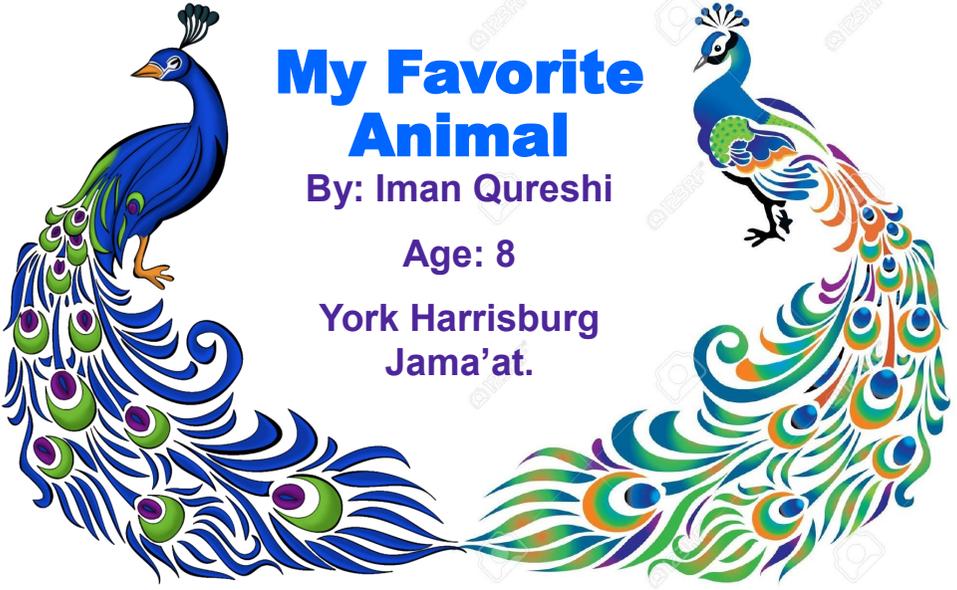


# My Favorite Animal

By: Iman Qureshi

Age: 8

York Harrisburg  
Jama'at.



“No Incongruity canst thou see in the creation of the  
Gracious God.

Then look again: seest thou any flaw?  
Aye, look again, and yet again, thy sight will only  
return unto thee confused and fatigued.”

Chapter Al-Mulk, Verses 4-5

My favorite animal is the peacock. I love how Allah made its colorful feathers. It reminds me that Allah is the best of all creators, Al- Khāliq (The Creator).

Another reason the peacock is my favorite animal is that I love the designs on the feathers.

Allah has made each animal with a purpose. Scientists are just now beginning to understand how Allah has made everything in perfect harmony.



Many animals are mentioned in the Quran, for example, the honeybees make honey which is tasty and sweet, and it works like medicine to help people heal. This way, Allah has made animals and insects a provision for us humans.

Livestock are also mentioned in the Quran. They help us by giving us milk to drink and meat to eat. We can ride horses for fun and they help farms with their work. When there were no cars, we could ride horses or carriages pulled by horses.

The Quran and Ḥadīth instruct us on the kind treatment of animals. There are many examples from the life of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) towards the kind treatment of all animals, big and small.

Once, a man started a fire near an anthill. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was very upset and asked him to put it out so as not to put the ants in danger of getting hurt.

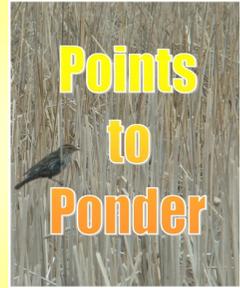
Our world is better place with all the animals Allah created.

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# My Favorite Animal

My favorite animal is a squirrel.  
I love squirrels because they're cute and furry.  
We have a lot of squirrels in our backyard.  
Everyday, my mom, dad and I leave food out for the squirrels.  
It is usually our leftovers so that we don't waste food.  
The squirrels are always very excited  
when we put the food out.  
This makes me happy because I am able to help them.  
I hope Allah is pleased with me because  
I am being kind to an animal He has created.

**Amtul Thakir, Age: 15, Long Island**





# Cheetah

**Tahir Bhatti, Age 9, Houston-North**

A cheetah will propel  
to eat a gazelle

if he doesn't catch it fast  
he may have to last

and wait for his next meal  
but pity for none you should feel

no matter whoever should stay  
Allah has made it that way

life may not [always] be merry  
but it's only temporary.

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 أَمْثَلُكُمْ ۗ مَا فَرَّطْنَا فِي الْكِتَابِ مِنْ  
 شَيْءٍ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يُحْشَرُونَ ﴿٣٩﴾

There is not an animal *that crawls* in the earth, nor a bird that flies on its two wings, but they are communities like you. We have left out nothing in the Book. Then to their Lord shall they be gathered together. (The Holy Qur'an, 6 [Al-An'am] : 39)

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