

Al-Hilal

MIRACLES OF GOD



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A Magazine for Children

2016-2



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.

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The members of the committee are *Imam* Azhar Haneef, Missionary-in-Charge, USA; *Imam* Zafrullah Hanjra, Aḥmadi Muslim Missionary at Los Angeles, LA; Saliha Malik, Ṣadr of Lajna Imā’illāh, USA; Bilal Rana, Ṣadr Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya, USA; Tazeen Aḥmad of Maryland; Musa Asad of Maryland; and Syed Sajid Aḥmad of North Dakota acting as the secretary of the committee.



Al-Hilāl Editorial Team:

Aliya Latif—Rabia Chaudhry—Tamara Rodney—Sabrina Asad
Ahsan Khan—Osaama Saifi

Graphics:

Sumera Aḥmad—Shoeb Abulkalam
Mahnoor Waseem—Nila Ahmad

Submissions:

Anesia McRae



E-mail: thealhilal@yahoo.com
Online: <http://www.alislam.org/alhilal/>

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

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Cover by Sumera Ahmad

Dear Reader,

As-Salamu ‘Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah.

Al-Hamdu Lillah, we have all been witness to Miracles of God in our lives—both small and large. One of the greatest miracles we can see, touch and read everyday is the miracle of the Holy Qu’ran.

This issue of Al Hilal is dedicated to Miracles of God throughout history and also in our very own day-to-day lives. May these endearing accounts strengthen our hearts and increase our sense of Gratitude for Allah’s blessings and special favors, Aameen!

Aliya Latif,

Editorial Team

The children’s magazine committee members and a group of reviewers review the magazine before going to press.

Their reviews make the magazine what it is.

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Allah's Support for the Holy Prophet

May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

*In the words of the Promised Messiah,
may peace be upon him*

On five occasions, the life of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] was in serious danger and had he not been a true Prophet of God, he would certainly have been destroyed.

One was the occasion when the disbelieving Quraish had surrounded his house and had sworn that they would kill him that night.

The second occasion was when pursuers had arrived with a large body of men at the entrance to the cave in which he had taken shelter along with Ḥaḍrat Abū Bakr^{RA}.

The third occasion was when he had been left alone in the battle of Uḥud and the Quraish had surrounded him and attacked him in a body but were foiled of their purpose.

The fourth occasion was when a Jewish woman gave him meat to eat which had been saturated with a fatal poison.

The fifth occasion was when Khusro Pervaiz, Emperor of Persia, had made up his mind to destroy him and had sent his emissaries to arrest him. His delivery on all these dangerous occasions and his ultimate triumph over all his enemies is conclusive proof that he was righteous and God was with him.

[Chashma-e-Ma'rifat, Rūḥānī Khazā'in, Vol. 23, pp. 263-264, footnote] Translation from The Essence of Islam, Volume I, Third Edition (2007), pp. 308-309.

Miracles of the Holy Prophet

May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

*In the words of the Promised Messiah,
may peace be upon him*

More than three thousand miracles were shown by our lord and master, the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] and his prophecies were numberless; but it is not necessary for us to put forward those miracles which were shown in the past.

One grand miracle of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] is that the revelation vouchsafed to all other Prophets has been cut off, and their miracles have been left behind, and their followers are empty-handed and are left only with old stories; but the revelation vouchsafed to the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] has not been cut off, nor have his miracles been cut off, but are always displayed through his perfect followers who are honored with obeying him.

On this account the religion of Islam is a living religion and its God is a Living God.

In this age also this servant of the Lord of Honor is present. Thousands of signs in support of the Messenger of Allah and the Book of Allah have been shown by me, and I am almost daily honored with the converse of God Almighty.

[Chashma-e-Masīhī, Rūḥānī Khazā'in, Vol. 20, pp. 350-351] Translation from The Essence of Islam, Volume I, Third Edition (2007), pp. 274-74.

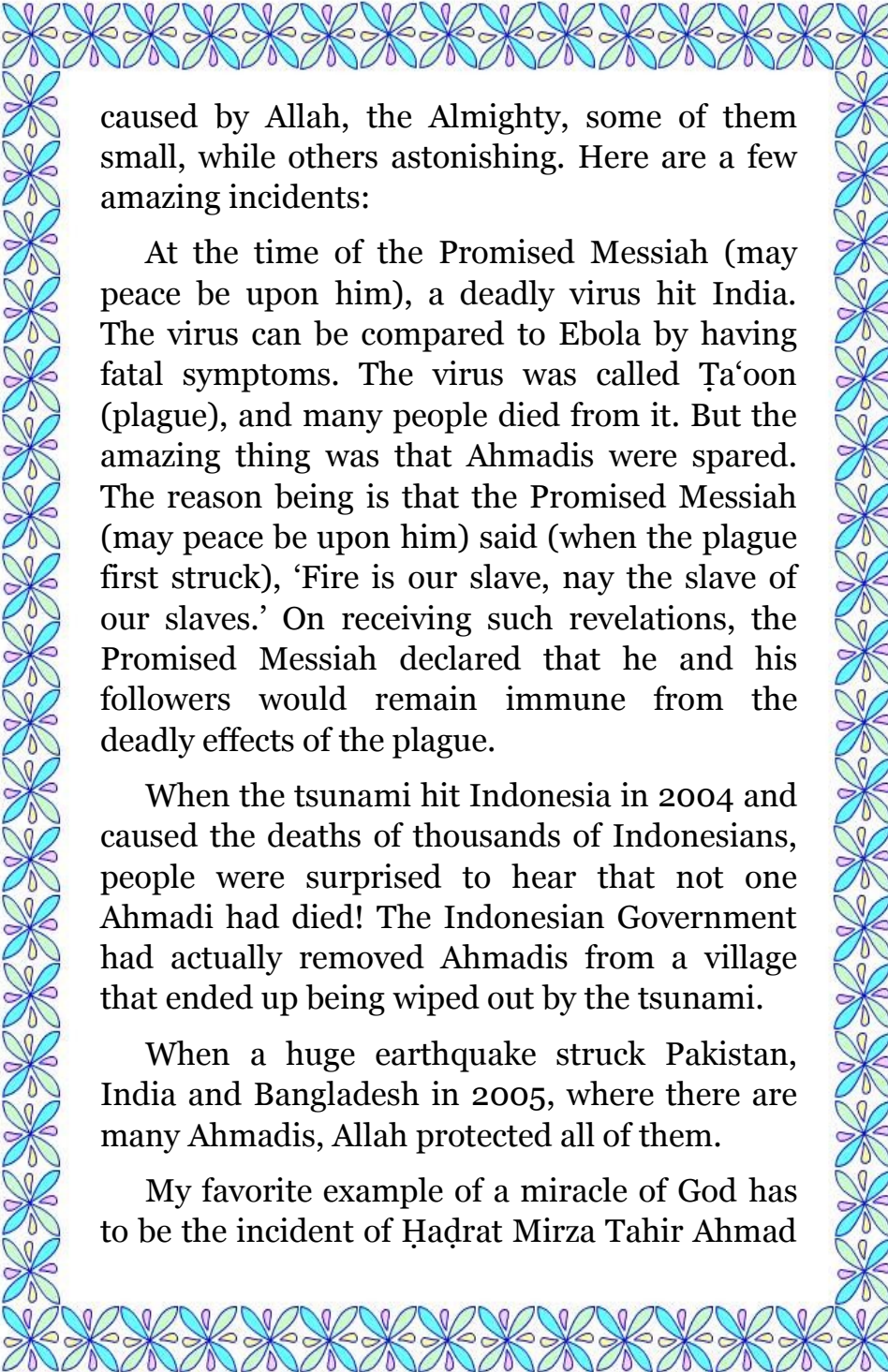


MIRACLES OF GOD

Amal Ahmad / 12 years / Central Virginia

What is a miracle? When people think of miracles, they usually think about stuff like the Redskins winning a (football) game, or to be more general, people think of luck. But us Ahmadis know better when it comes to miracles. We know that luck isn't the cause of any of this, instead, all of this "luck" is actually Allah's doing. Allah has told us in the Holy Quran of many examples of miracles, like the story of Prophet Moses (may peace be upon him) and the Pharaoh, in which Prophet Moses (may peace be upon him) showed the signs of Allah to the Pharaoh as he demanded. The Pharaoh thought of this as a miracle of magic and ordered his best magicians to try and challenge Prophet Moses (may peace be upon him), but none of them could do much. This explains that what Prophet Moses (may peace be upon him) did wasn't a miracle of magic, instead, it was a miracle of God.

There are a lot of other examples of miracles

A decorative border with a repeating pattern of stylized flowers in shades of blue, green, and purple, framing the text on all sides.

caused by Allah, the Almighty, some of them small, while others astonishing. Here are a few amazing incidents:

At the time of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), a deadly virus hit India. The virus can be compared to Ebola by having fatal symptoms. The virus was called Ṭa'oon (plague), and many people died from it. But the amazing thing was that Ahmadis were spared. The reason being is that the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) said (when the plague first struck), 'Fire is our slave, nay the slave of our slaves.' On receiving such revelations, the Promised Messiah declared that he and his followers would remain immune from the deadly effects of the plague.

When the tsunami hit Indonesia in 2004 and caused the deaths of thousands of Indonesians, people were surprised to hear that not one Ahmadi had died! The Indonesian Government had actually removed Ahmadis from a village that ended up being wiped out by the tsunami.

When a huge earthquake struck Pakistan, India and Bangladesh in 2005, where there are many Ahmadis, Allah protected all of them.

My favorite example of a miracle of God has to be the incident of Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad

(may Allah's Mercy be upon him) leaving Pakistan. This incident immediately qualifies to be a miracle of Allah, and can't even be considered luck. When the Pakistani government made a law claiming all Ahmadis to be non-Muslims, the Khalifa at the time, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (may Allah's Mercy be upon him), was advised to leave the country. He left Rabwah and went to Karachi to board a plane for the United Kingdom. Even though the authorities had been given clear instructions not to allow the Khalifa of Aḥmadiyah to leave, the police order specifically said to detain "Ḥaḍrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad" (the third Khalifa) and not Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (the fourth Khalifa), so the authorities had no choice but to let him leave.

Clearly, Allah has arranged for miracles to happen for the benefit of his servants, and there are many examples proving this statement.

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Why I Am Proud to be an Ahmadi *Serena Malik / 10 years / Central Virginia*

We have one God that we focus on. He is the All-Knowing, the Almighty.

We pray five times a day and that gives us more time for our beloved God and to be close to him.

We know God loves, having His love gives us everything, but we must be fearful of God because He is our Creator and losing His love would mean losing everything.

We have a holy book, the Quran, that can answer all questions. Reading a single word will give us blessings.

Logic is key in Islam, everything has an explanation and reasoning behind it, that makes life so much easier.

Can you go somewhere you have never been before without a guide? Probably not. Luckily for us we have our Master Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and then the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) to guide us, and his Khalifa to keep us on the right path, so we never lose our way.

We have a special tool to save us, so we can go to heaven. It's called Durood Shareef. It even gives us blessings! On the day of Judgement we are alone, and sending Durood constantly on our beloved Prophet can lead us to heaven.

We have been taught to be covered, but why? For our own protection and it's also a way to show modesty and respect for ourselves.

Being an Ahmadi Muslim gives me Love, Guidance.

LOVE FOR ALL, HATRED FOR NONE

VAJEEHA AHMAD / 13 YEARS / CENTRAL VIRGINIA

The quote, “love for all, hatred for none” was given by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad (may Allah’s Mercy be upon him), Khalīfatul-Masīḥ III. This is the slogan of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Our services to humanity and preaching efforts have the sole aim of promoting love and putting an end to hatred.

Allah says in the Holy Quran; "Create not disorder in the earth after it has been set in order." (7:57)

All kinds of high morals and virtues can be attained by following the blessed model of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He invited people to believe in the Unity of God by practical efforts and prayers. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has said, “Entertain no ill-will or envy nor indifference nor cut off interaction; be servants of Allah, brethren to each other. It is not permissible for a Muslim to keep away from his brother for more than three days .” (Bukhari and Muslim)

This beautiful teachings about love for God’s creation is absolutely unique to Islam. This slogan has a very strong and vivid meaning. Our beloved Imam has been pushing these words to all four corners of the earth. This is our tool to attain God’s love and blessings.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon

him) said: ‘My faith is to not even be too harsh with the enemy. I say truthfully, do not consider anyone your personal enemy and completely give up the practice of holding rancor’ (Translated from *Malfūzāt*, Vol 4 p. 440). Love for all, hatred for none—indeed serving Allah’s creations with compassion and promoting love is a great virtue, but this slogan is not the sole objective of our life. **Our objective** is to develop true comprehension about Unity of God and to try and practice all of God’s commandments.

There is a light that shines through this quote. **As Ahmadis, we should develop real insight of ‘love for all, hatred for none,’ which is rooted in the concept of Unity of God. We need to focus on our real objective and motto so that we may be the recipients of worldly as well as spiritual blessings. May God enable us all to understand this! AMEN.**

Acceptance of Prayer—A Miracle

Waseema Sadaf / 9 years / Chicago West

Prayer is an example of Allah’s miracles. When you pray with the right intentions, Allah will accept your prayers. During a difficult situation, for example, if a family member is sick, then pray, because Allah will help your family member since you prayed, this is a miracle because Allah could have let your family member suffer but instead Allah performed His miracle, and your family member is safe.

Aliens and Airplanes

Khafia Choudhary / 13 years / Central Virginia

The Holy Quran has prophesied many miracles. My favorite types are the ones that refer to the future. When the Quran was revealed, there was barely any technology, but the Quran has examples which show that Allah, the Almighty, knew all along what was to happen in the centuries to come. The Quran talks about aliens in Chapter 42, Verse 30:

“And among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and of whatever living creatures He has spread forth in both. And He has the power to gather them together whenever He pleases.”

Meeting aliens still seems millions of years away, but science is moving in that direction. The presence of factors supporting alien life has been proven by scientists. The next step is to see them and make a link with them. Scientists will first need to know if life forms can survive on other planets, then they can go on from there.

My second favorite prophecy in the Quran is when it predicts that people will not ride on camels everywhere; meaning that new modes of transportation like airplanes would be invented!

"And when the she-camels, ten months pregnant are abandoned." (81:5)

“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.” (16:9)

People, especially those living in deserts, have abandoned their camels and other animals for traveling. But this prophecy of invention of new transportation is still going on today.

While prophesying about modern transportation, the Quran also foretold the air-traffic system which is a very important part of airplanes:

"And by the heaven full of tracks" (51:8).

A person living in the desert 1400 years ago can't talk about advancements in technologies, but Allah can. He is the All-Knowing, The Wise.

My Favorite Miracle

Jaziba Ahmad / 7 years / Austin

My favorite miracle is the miracle of Prophet Jonah (may peace be upon him).

Long time ago Prophet Jonah (may peace be upon him) told his people about Allah but they refused to listen to him. So he decided to leave and got on a boat. But soon he was thrown off the boat and got swallowed by a whale. The whale threw him up on shore.

This was a miracle of Allah that Prophet Jonah (may peace be upon him) survived even though he was in the belly of the whale for three days.

My Favorite Miracle

Dania Ahmad / 9 years / Austin Texas

My favorite miracle is the miracle of Zamzam. Thousands of years ago Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (may peace be upon him) left his wife, Ḥaḍrat Hājra and his baby, Ḥaḍrat Ishmael (may peace be upon him), in the desert of Mecca on the commandment of Allah. When all the food and water was out, Ḥaḍrat Hājra ran between the hills of Ṣafā and Marwah looking for some water. But she returned empty-handed. Suddenly she saw some water appeared under Ḥaḍrat Ismael's feet. She put rocks around it to contain it. This was the spring of Zamzam which is a great miracle of Allah. Zamzam is still running even after thousands of years.



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The Miracle of Zamzam Well

Danial Ahmad Butt / 13 years / Virginia South

There are several miracles of God. For example, the origin of Zamzam Well.

Thousands of years ago, Prophet Abraham (may peace be upon him) received a revelation to leave his son and wife in a desert. He obediently carried out this commandment by taking his son Ishmael (may peace be upon him) and wife Hager (may Allah be pleased with her) to a desert in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. He left them there with dates and water.

The small amount of dates and water lasted for a limited time. After their food and water ran out, they were left with nothing to eat and drink. Ishmael (may peace be upon him) started crying from thirst and hunger. Hager started running up and down in between the hills around the desert looking for water.

While Hager (Hājrah/Hājar) was running looking for water, Ishmael continued crying and hitting his heels on the ground. When Hager had repeated running in between the hills seven times, she noticed that water started running from where Ishmael was hitting his heels due to thirst.

This is a great instance of how Allah provided water for his loved ones in a desert. The hills that Ḥaḍrat Hājrah (may Allah be pleased with her) was running and climbing are now known as Ṣafā and Marwah and the water fountain is the very famous Well of Zamzam.

My Special Miracle

Mlahat Mahmood / 11 years / Michigan

**Miracles are everywhere
Though they may not meet the eye
Miracles are amazing
Whether they are yours or mine**

**It is a miracle that I was born
In an Ahmadiyya family
Where I go to a beautiful mosque
In a wonderful city**

**It is a miracle I have a family
That cares and shows
Their love for me
My mom, my dad, and my sisters
Help erase my faults and blisters**

**God has helped show me
That everything is a miracle
Every corner, every inch
Every moment of light and darkness
Every day, every wish,
Every hope, every dream, every fear
Every laughter, every tear**

**God not only gave us miracles
He has given us the chance
To make one happen**

**A miracle is a bit of heaven
That has drifted down to Earth
Something so small
A smile, a handshake
Can be so big**

**I am a miracle
So are you, and you, and you
A miracle is anything
And that is the truth**

My Miracle

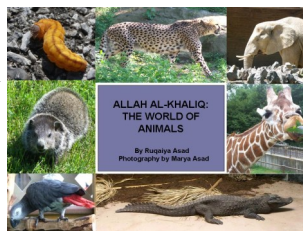
Amna Malik / 11 years / Houston North

In a typical eleven year old's life, a normal miracle would be something of ordinary means. However, in my life, that is not the case. My mom was diagnosed with breast cancer in April of 2015. People always say be grateful for who and what you have in life, and I could not agree any more than that. Hearing the negativities of breast cancer and the deaths linked with it really upset me. My sister, brother, and dad really stepped up, along with myself to help take care of my mom. The hadith, "Paradise lies under the feet of your mothers," is 100% true. I could not and refused to imagine life without my mom. My mom is the life and soul of our household. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, by the grace of Allah, my mom is now cancer-free! Radiation ends soon, and she's getting her strength back day by day.

Allah Al Khaliq: The World of Animals

Written by Ruqaiya Asad

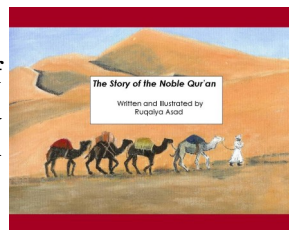
This is a book for children. The book contains original photos and simple text with Qur'anic references and scientific facts that appeal to children's natural interest. Purchase at: islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com.



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



FATHER'S DAY

Ujala Yousaf / 13 years / Central Virginia

There is a day called Father's day where all of the children give cards or presents to show their dad that they love him. As a Muslim girl, my love for my father is more than a present and is not limited to one day. I believe that every day is father's day because our dads love us everyday so why should we show our dad we love him only on a certain day. My dad gives me what I want when I ask him as your dad does for you. It does not matter how tired or how busy he is. He wakes up at 5 AM to go to work; he calls home to see if I need anything; he checks his emails so he can print my homework; he comes home early so he can pick me up from school he Google searches so he can help me with homework; he goes to the store to get my supplies for a project after he lays down to rest; he stays up all night when I fall sick; he wears pink so his shirt matches my dress; he gets misty-eyed when I get A's on my report card and then says he has allergies; and he prays for me day and night. I can go on and on but I am getting a little misty-eyed myself. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) loved his daughter Fatima so much that every time she visited him, he would stand up and give her his seat. Yeah, every day is father's day. Just take a minute of your time and just say "thanks dad, I love you" just because you are my father and you do everything for me.

Once Was A Miracle

There once was a miracle
Over by the sea
Where the land is a faraway memory
There was a whale
Big and strong
Blue perhaps, and really long
The gentle giant did not know
Of the happenings above.
A boat rocking fast
Straws tight on a crewman's chest
Jonah, dear Jonah
Jump, dear Jonah.
Gasping for air
The boat is perhaps still
Jonah's eyes are drifting shut
The whale cannot see through the muck
Jonah, dear Jonah
Careful, dear Jonah
Shivers through the lion of the sea
A claw digging inside of his body
Jonah, dear Jonah
Breathe, dear Jonah
Time passes like the making of the oyster's pearl.
The waves are thick
Brushing against the dear blue hull
Bubbles dying at the touch of the sun
Jonah, dear Jonah
Land, dear Jonah.

By Shifa Ahmed

Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (may peace be upon him)

Sadaf Ahmad / 7 years

Allah, the Almighty, always sends his messengers to his people. Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (may peace be upon him) was one of them. When he was giving Allah's message to the people they did not listen to him. Then Allah told Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (may peace be upon him) that He will send a disaster on them. After Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (may peace be upon him) told the people about the disaster, he left. When Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (may peace be upon him) was gone, the people started crying to Allah for forgiveness and Allah forgave them. Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (may peace be upon him) got mad that Allah did not punish the people. Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (may peace be upon him) sat in the boat to go away and then there was a big storm at sea. Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (may peace be upon him) fell in the deep blue sea and a whale swallowed him by Allah's order. Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (may peace be upon him) started to pray to Allah for forgiveness and then Allah told him that in the same way his people had asked for forgiveness and Allah had forgiven them. Allah saved Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (may peace be upon him) from the whale's stomach. This is a miracle of God.

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My Favorite Miracle

Safiyah Bennett / 11 years

My favorite miracle was when the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) were in danger and nothing but the thin blanket of a spider's web kept them alive.

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his companion Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) were traveling to the city of Medina to escape persecution in Mecca. While they were traveling they heard that some men from Mecca were after the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) and wanted to harm them because of a bounty that the enemies of Islam had placed on them.

These men were upset with the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) because he taught the people of Mecca that there was only one God truly worthy of worship, whereas the Meccan people worshiped many.

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) took to safety in a cave along with his companion. While they were there, a spider began to spin its web across the entrance of the cave. In the meantime, the men trying to harm the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) began to get closer and closer to the cave. When they approached the cave in hopes of doing harm to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him), they found the

spider web that had been woven in the cave's entrance unbroken, and concluded that there was probably no one in the cave because someone would have broken the web upon entry.

The Holy Prophet's (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) prayers and faith in Allah kept him from harm. If it wasn't for his constant faith and belief in Allah, then the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his companion Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) would have been harmed, but Allah saved them using the fine barrier of the spider's web.

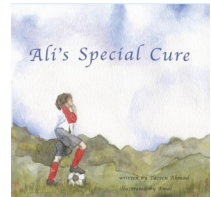
LOVE FOR ALL, HATRED FOR NONE


Hiba Shahid with help of parents / 6½ years / Bloomington IL

The word Islam literally means 'Peace and surrender to the will of Allah, the Creator'. So Islam would mean the path of those who are obedient to Allah and who establish peace with Him and His creatures. The motto, "Love for All, Hatred for None" was created by the third successor of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad (Raḥimahullāh) and he explained, "Islam teaches us to live with mutual love and affection and with humility. It teaches us no distinction between a Muslim or a non-Muslim. My message to everyone is that you must have LOVE FOR ALL, HATRED FOR NONE!"

Ali's Special Cure: Written by Tazeen Aḥmad

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






Miracle of Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim and Ḥaḍrat Ismail

(may peace be upon them)

Shanze Hayee / 13 years / Duluth, MN

A miracle is a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency. This divine agency is God. Normally, God does not bend his rules. However, when He wishes to show the truthfulness of His beloved ones to people, He manifests the deeper laws of nature which are otherwise obscured from the human eye.

For instance, when Allah told Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (may peace be upon him) to leave his wife and infant child in the desert, Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (may peace be upon him) knew no one could survive in those conditions but He had full trust in his God that He had a purpose for asking him to do this. So he left his son and wife in the desert with nothing but a little food and water. People might have thought that Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim's (may peace be upon him) act was cruel. However Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (may peace be upon him) knew that God knew what was best. Indeed God saved the wife and child by miraculously providing water in the desert through a hidden spring of water now known as Zamzam Spring. God not only provided water but revealed His bigger plan by bringing forth the Seal of the Prophets, the Holy



Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) from the progeny of that son. This is the fruit of trust of Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (may peace be upon him) in Allah.

This miracle carries a great lesson for parents in today's society where parents want to see their children succeed in this world. Yes parents should worry about their children's secular education, however, their priority should be the moral training and spiritual health of their children. If parents show their children by their own example of giving preference to their faith then God will make sure that children get the secular knowledge as well as the spiritual upbringing they need. This is the miracle of God, which every parent and every family can witness, putting full trust in Allah and giving precedence to faith over worldly affairs. Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (may peace be upon him) put his full trust in Allah and did not care about anything else. Allah took care of his son's secular upbringing as well as his spiritual upbringing. This is an example of how putting full trust in God led to a healthy spiritual and secular life for one of our Prophets. Although not everyone is a prophet we can still try to follow the example and lead good pious lives like Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (may peace be upon him).

So next time my exams clash with Ijtimā, I would prefer that my parents let me go to Ijtimā even if it affects my exams. I know that if my parents and I do this for the sake of God as Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (may peace be upon him) did, it will not hurt my career.

IMPORTANCE OF “DUROOD”

ROHA FARIDA / 13 YEARS / CENTRAL VIRGINIA

We are informed in the Holy Quran that Allah sends blessings on the Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and also His Angels as Allah says. “Allah and His angels send blessings on the Prophet. O ye who believe! You also should invoke blessings on him and salute him with the salutation of peace” (33:57). In other words, we are informed in this verse of Quran that repeating “Durood Shareef” is very important. The Persian word “Durood” represents the Arabic expressions used to send blessings on the Holy Prophet. It is termed as *Ṣalāt-un-Nabi* in Arabic.

Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: On the day of judgement the person closest to me will be the one who has sent the most Durood on me. He also said: If any person writes my name and sends *Durood* on me, then for as long as my name remains in that book, angels will pray for mercy on him. For the reciter of *Durood*, Allah sends 70 blessings on him and the Angels pray for him 70 times.

One night, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) dreamt that heaps of lights were entering his abode, symbolizing that blessings of Allah were being sent on him as a result of his invocations on the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says that in order to gain closeness to Allah, one must pass through many struggles and difficulties. To ease this path towards him, Allah has shown the believers a way they can reach Him effortlessly, and that is to recite the *Durood* because the only way towards Him is through His Prophet.

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.

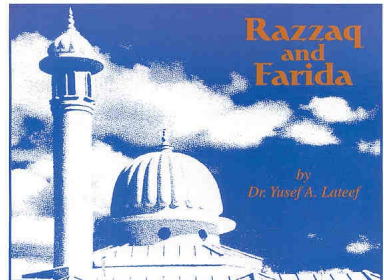
The Children's Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amīr, Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

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

Razzaq and Farida

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Angel Cake

Esha Bhatti / Silver Spring, Maryland

I would like to share a true story that my grandma told me. She used to work at the JCPenney store, sewing and mending clothes. One day in 1989, she had been assigned the duty of serving tea at Baitur-Rahman Mosque in Washington, DC, for our Fourth Khalifa, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{ra}. She had made some dishes and wished that she could also make a recipe that she had once tried. A year ago, at a Christmas party, a lady had made a carrot apple cake. The cake tasted heavenly, so she asked for the recipe. *How nice it would be to make this dessert for Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV, my grandmother thought. But how on Earth would I have the time to make the sweet, not with her work and the little time she had left.*

Just as she had this thought, the same beautiful lady from a year ago appeared. “Long beautiful hair, just like yours,” was the way Nani described the stunning young woman to me. “I owe you,” is what the lady said as she handed Nani a glass dish of the mouthwatering cake. In the midst of the moment, Nani couldn’t find the words to properly thank her. She later served the cake to the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV. He liked it, but Nani’s happiness was much more. A while after the visit of the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV, she had the dish and wanted to give it back to the lady, but couldn’t find her.

Miracles of Allah In Favor of His Prophets

Syeda Sabahat / 11years / Chicago West

The miracles of Allah are always within the laws of nature. Allah himself created the laws, but we humans may not understand them at that point in time. Miracles can happen in a time and place, where technology and knowledge is not advanced enough to explain the phenomenon. Allah shows His miracles in favor of His Messengers and His true believers.

An example of a miracle is when the disbelievers asked the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) if he could show them a miracle. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) pointed to the moon, and it seemed to be split in half. (Holy Qur'an, 54:2)

Another miracle is when Ḥaḍrat Musa (may peace be upon him), in obedience of Allah, threw his staff on the ground in front of the Pharaoh's magicians, and it seemed to become a snake. (Holy Qur'an, 27:11).

My favorite miracle is when Ḥaḍrat Musa (may peace be upon him) struck the red sea with his staff and the river parted. "Then We revealed to Moses: 'Strike the sea with thy rod.' Thereupon it parted and every part looked like a huge mound" (Holy Qur'an 26: 64), and the people of Moses were able escape the advancing armies of Pharaoh. Really, it could be possible that at that very moment, it was high tide. When the enemies came, they couldn't do the same, because that specific time was over. Really it was a Miracle that Allah, the Almighty, told Ḥaḍrat Musa (may peace be upon him) to strike his staff at that very moment.

Truthfulness

Amina Dayisi / 12 years / Bloomington, IL

Al-Haqq, The Truth, is one of the 99 names of Allah.

O ye who believe! Fear Allah, and say the right word. He will bless your works for you and forgive you your sins. And whoso obeys Allah and His messenger, shall surely attain a mighty success. (33:71-72)

I have chosen to write about Truth. It is a very strong term in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Every Muslim knows that Allah wants us to be truthful and to not tell lies. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, *“Verily, truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise. A man may speak the truth until he is recorded with Allah as truthful. Verily, falsehood leads to wickedness and wickedness leads to the Hellfire. A man may tell lies until he is recorded with Allah as a liar.”*

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) said:

“One of the natural qualities of man is truthfulness. Normally, unless a person is moved by some selfish motive, he does not wish to tell a lie. He is averse to falsehood and is reluctant to have recourse to it.” (The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam)

So, being truthful is an important trait to have. You should never lie because Allah does not like it. I don't lie not only because Allah does not like it, but because my name is Amina, which means 'the truthful one.' I have to live up to the name that was given to me. Allah will bless you for telling the truth. We should keep telling the truth and In Sha' Allah we will go to Al-Jannah, not because I say so, but because Allah said so!

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

KHAFIA CHOUDHARY / 12 years / Central Virginia

“Actions speak louder than Words.” This means doing things and giving living examples are better than words. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has said that a lot of people including Muslims, claim to be followers of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and make great speeches, but their actions are completely opposite of that. This is something Allah does not like.

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), said, “Verily, Allah does not look at your appearance or wealth, but rather He looks at your hearts and actions.” The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) foretold that a time would come when Muslims will forget the true teachings of Islam and they will merely claim to be Muslims. The words of Allah will be on their lips but their hearts will be empty of divine guidance. Research done by psychologists shows that 75% of learning happens through eyes, because the tongue of action is more effective than the tongue of words. In the Holy Quran (61:3-4) Allah says: “O ye who believe! why do you say what you do not do? Most hateful is it in the sight of Allah that you say what you do not.”

If a person does not back his words with actions, his influence will not be long lasting. The Ṣaḥābah and the true followers of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) practiced what they preached; that was the reason for their success. May Allah grant us the ability to truly practice our faith through our words as well as our actions, Aameen.

O Allah! Grant me your love

Dania Ahmad / 7 years / Austin, TX

O Allah! Grant me your love, your love!
Which is stronger than the love for my parents;
Which is deeper than the love for my siblings;
Which is greater than the love for my friends.

O Allah! Grant me your love, your love!

Love that can beat my love of books;
Love that can surpass my love of science;
Love that can overcome my love of electronics.

O Allah! Grant me your love, your love!

Guide me to the path that leads to your love;
Enable me to do the deeds that can win your love;
Allow me to follow those who earned your love.

O Allah! Grant me your love, your love!

O Allah! Grant me your love, your love!

What is a Mosque?

Sabahat Pall / Atlanta, GA

Mosques are Muslim places of worship and prayers.

Mosque is a place where our wonderful Muslims gather around.

Where we learn about our religion.

It's where we offer Ṣalāt with all our other awesome friends.

It's a wonderful place for you to come closer to Allah!!!

Young Helpers of Aḥmadiyyat

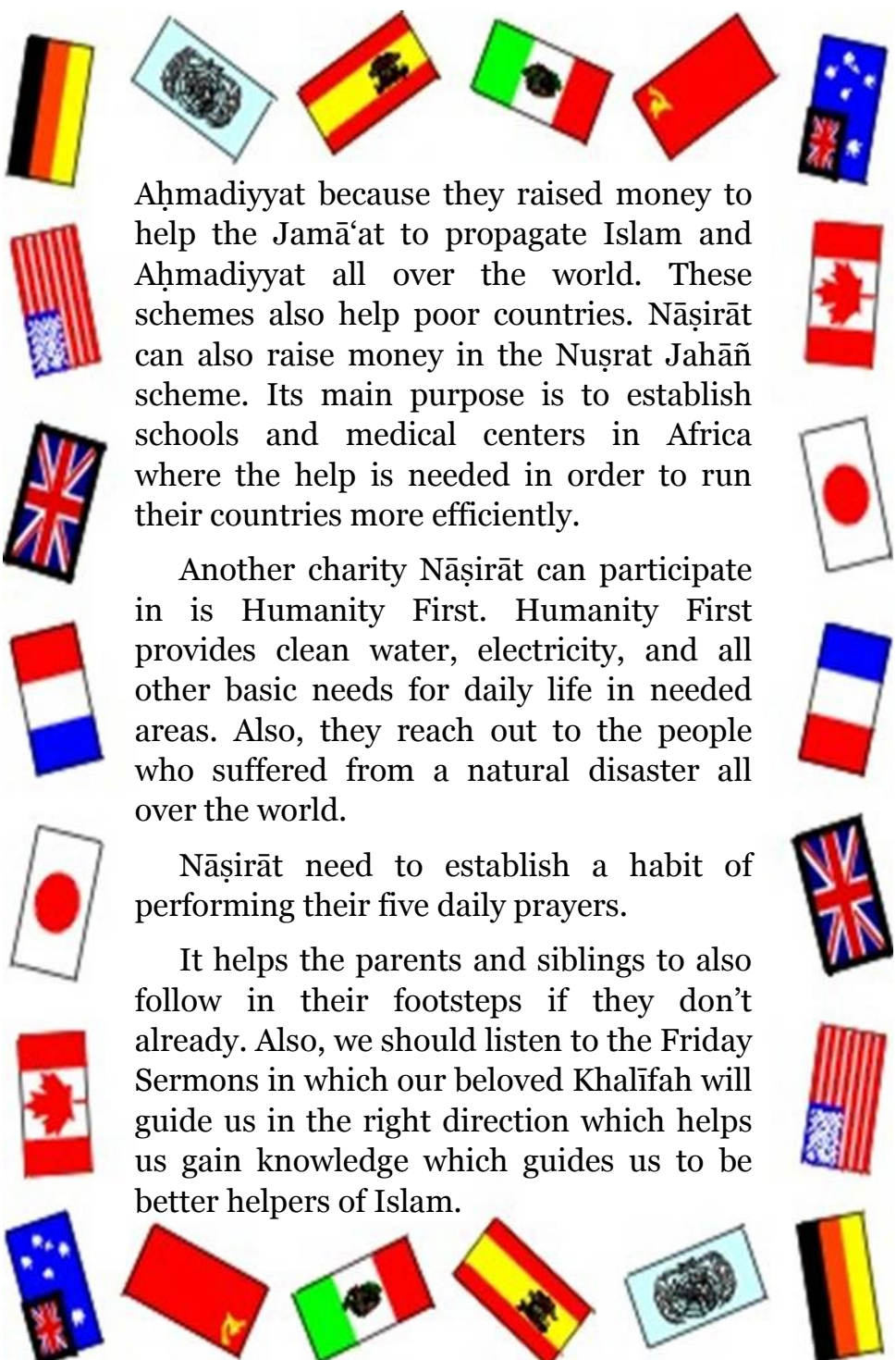
Afsha Anjum / Zion, IL

Nāṣirāt means girl helpers of Aḥmadiyyat. So, it is our duty to help. There are many ways to be a good helper and help your Jamā'at and community.

One way to help is to go to soup kitchens and participate in food drives for the poor. Many Jamā'ats collect food for the poor and needy. As a Nāṣirāt we should do our best to try to collect canned food or whatever our mosque and community are collecting and help the best to our abilities. I know we are young but we can always ask parents and trusted adults for help. I am sure they would be more than happy to help you help others.

Another way is to donate money. Taḥrīk-e-Jadīd and Waqf-e-Jadīd are financial schemes to help propagate Islam within the region and internationally.

The Nāṣirāt who participate in these schemes by donating part of their allowance become a young helper of



Aḥmadiyyat because they raised money to help the Jamā'at to propagate Islam and Aḥmadiyyat all over the world. These schemes also help poor countries. Nāṣirāt can also raise money in the Nuṣrat Jahāñ scheme. Its main purpose is to establish schools and medical centers in Africa where the help is needed in order to run their countries more efficiently.

Another charity Nāṣirāt can participate in is Humanity First. Humanity First provides clean water, electricity, and all other basic needs for daily life in needed areas. Also, they reach out to the people who suffered from a natural disaster all over the world.

Nāṣirāt need to establish a habit of performing their five daily prayers.

It helps the parents and siblings to also follow in their footsteps if they don't already. Also, we should listen to the Friday Sermons in which our beloved Khalīfah will guide us in the right direction which helps us gain knowledge which guides us to be better helpers of Islam.

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Rabia's Eid

Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din
Mahmud Ahmad, the Promised
Reformer
(may Allah be pleased with him)

Hadhrat Safiyyah
(May Allah be pleased with her)

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

Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad
(may Allah have mercy on him)

Hazrat Hud (peace be on him)

Hadhrat Ruqayya
(may Allah be pleased with her)

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The Miracle of Ṣalāt

Aleeha Chughtai / 11 years / Bloomington, IL

I am going to write about Ṣalāt.

Being a Muslim, we follow the five pillars of Islam. Ṣalāt is one of them. It's the second pillar of Islam.

We make time to offer Ṣalāt five times a day. The five prayers are Fajr, Ḍuhr, 'Aṣr, Maḡrib and 'Ishā.

Ṣalāt is really important to offer. Allah Ta'ālā will be proud of us if we take the time to remember Him.

Before Ṣalāt we need to perform Wuḍū—making sure our mind and body are clean so that we can give full attention to our prayer.

In Ṣalāt we use many postures. Even if you can't stand, you can sit. And if you can't sit, you can lie down and pray.

Ṣalāt is a connection to Allah Ta'ālā. We communicate directly to Allah during Ṣalāt.

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