



# Al-Hilal

Animal Kingdom



US \$2

A Magazine for Children

2016-1

## 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 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 Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, National Amīr, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya, USA.

The publication of this magazine was launched by the late *Ḥaḍrat* Ṣaḥibzādah M. M. Aḥmad (1913-2002).

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In This Issue

**Animals—2**

About Al-Hilāl ..... 2  
 Holy Prophet’s Kindness to  
 Animals—Raameen Khan  
 ..... 4  
 The Kind Treatment of  
 Animals By the Holy  
 Prophet (may peace and  
 blessings of Allah be upon  
 him)—Shafia Javaid ..... 5  
 Hospitality of Birds—Story  
 told by the Promised  
 Messiah, may peace be  
 upon him ..... 6  
 Sympathy for Animals—  
 Hadrat Mirza Masroor  
 Ahmad, may Allah be his  
 Helper ..... 7  
 The Animal Kingdom—Raina  
 Jaffer ..... 8  
 The Thirsty Dog—Sofiya Qazi  
 ..... 9  
 Our friends in the Animal  
 Kingdom—Fariah Basharat  
 ..... 10  
 What are Animals Really  
 For?—Mubashir Faruqi 12  
 Average Life of Some  
 Animals ..... 13  
 The Love of The Holy  
 Prophet Muhammad, May

peace and blessings of  
 Allah be upon him, For  
 Animals—Bushra Rahman  
 ..... 14  
 Animals Poem—Talha Agha  
 ..... 15  
 Story of a Parrot—Story told  
 by the Promised Messiah,  
 may peace be upon him ..  
 ..... 16  
 Kind Treatment Towards  
 Animals—Seemal Ahmad.  
 .....18  
 Oysters and Pearls—Danya  
 Mohammad ..... 20  
 Who am I?—Arusa Malik 21  
 Caring for Animals—Hassan  
 Agha ..... 22  
 God doesn’t waste anyone’s  
 virtue—Story told by the  
 Promised Messiah, may  
 peace be upon him .... 24  
 Wrath of God on a King—  
 Story told by the Promised  
 Messiah, may peace be  
 upon him ..... 25  
 The Extraordinary Bee—  
 Hisham Ahmad ..... 26  
 Dogs who serve mankind 29  
 The Hare and the Tortoise ..  
 ..... 30  
 Story of the Ant Pile—  
 Ghazala Bhatti ..... 32

# Holy Prophet's *Kindness to Animals*

Raameen Khan, Age 12, York Harrisburg

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was the highest and the most excellent model of kindness and compassion. His kindness did not just include people but animals too. The Holy Prophet (may peace and



blessings of Allah be upon him) once stated that a Jewish woman was once punished by God for having starved her cat to death (Abū Dāwūd). I remember when I was five years old, my neighbors found a stray cat in our neighborhood. They showed him to my family, and we tried to be friendly. He was gray with black stripes. He wasn't very young, but not too old either. The next day, he came back. Me, my siblings, and

my neighbor played with him. We soon grew very attached to him. We treated him with love and affection. Sure enough, every day he was back. And so, everyday after school, we all played with him. We always fed him tuna, which he seemed to really enjoy. My brother's friend started calling him Tuna, but we also sometimes referred to him as Tiger, because of his stripes. We weren't really sure where he disappeared to at night, but we soon found him sleeping outside of our house, on one of our doormats. We treated him with love and affection. One of the two most important attributes of Allah is Ar-Rahim ,The Merciful. This Mercy is not just given to human beings but also shown to other living things like animals or plants. We should always keep this in mind when



we are around animals. Our religion teaches us to be kind and compassionate. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) once said “that religion is no religion that does not inculcate sympathy, nor does that man deserve to be called a man who does not have sympathy in him (the Message of Peace). Unfortunately we could not keep Tuna. After awhile, we decided to take him to an animal shelter, where he would be taken in by a caring family. We were all very sad, but we knew it was for the best. And we were happy that our neighbors found him so we could all help him find a home.

## **THE KIND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS**

**By the Holy Prophet**

(may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

**Shafia Jawaid, Age 9, Houston North**



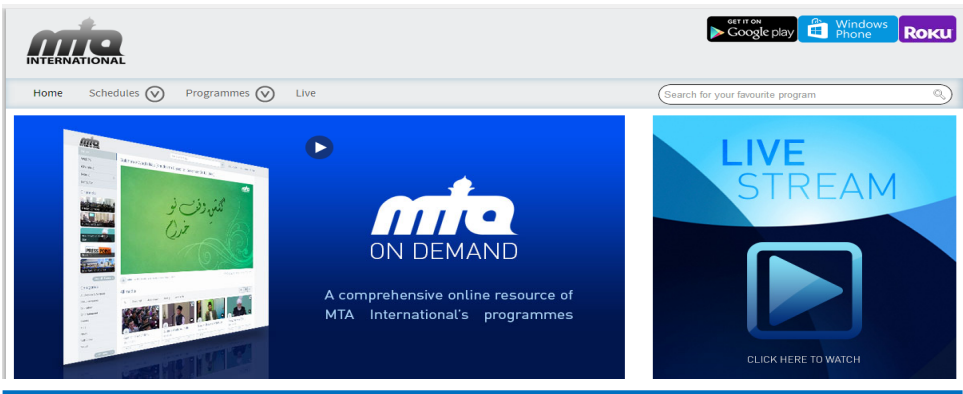
Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was very kindhearted and merciful. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) not only preached to the people to show kindness to each other but also to all living souls. He always treated animals with great care and love. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) forbade the practice of cutting tails and manes of horses, of branding animals at any soft spot, and of keeping horses saddled unnecessarily. If the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) 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) also used to command mercy for all animals such as that they were fed well, watered well, not forced to carry too heavy a burden, and not tortured or maimed for one's enjoyment. May we all follow the footsteps of Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and show kindness to animals.

# Hospitality of Birds

*Story told by the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him*

There is a story on the hospitality of a bird. A traveler came to rest under a tree at night. It was bitterly cold and all around him the wilderness of the forest yielded no comfort. There was a nest of birds on the tree above him. Both male and female birds conversed with each other that a poor man is their guest tonight. He is at the mercy of the cold winter. What should we do for him? After some thought they agreed to break and throw down their nest, so that he could warm himself by making a fire with the twigs and straw. Then they wondered how to provide him with food, as he was hungry. Nothing was available with them at that time. Then the birds dropped themselves into the fire so that their guest could have dinner from their meat. Thus they cited the best example of hospitality, by sacrificing their home and then their lives to help a stranger. (Adapted from Malfūzāt, Vol. VIII, p. 282)

When we eat the flesh of animals and birds, this story should make us realize that they sacrifice their lives for our well being. (Dr. Mahmud Ahmad Nagi)



<http://www.mta.tv>





# Sympathy for Animals

*Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad*

*Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V, may Allah be his Helper*

“... There is an incident narrated about Ḥaḍrat Hafiz Mu‘in-ud-Din<sup>ra</sup> who was blind. Someone narrates that on one cold night there was lot of mud on the dirt roads of Qadian, he noticed that Hafiz Sahib was walking with great difficulty. He inquired as to where he was going. He replied: ‘Brother, a female dog has given birth to puppies. I have one piece of bread left. It is raining, so I wanted to feed it to her.’ What Hafiz Sahib did was the following of the *sunnah*, to take pity on the animals. Remember that incident when someone descended into a well and took water in his shoe and offered it to a thirsty dog to drink! The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said that Allah the Almighty shall grant him forgiveness due to this virtuous deed. His Companions<sup>ra</sup> were amazed and asked him if they would be rewarded for providing for animals also. He replied: ‘Yes, every good deed and favor to any living soul and animal shall be rewarded.’ (From *Ashab-e-Ahmad*, vol. 13, p. 296, published in 1967)

Conditions of Bai‘at & Responsibilities of an Ahmadi, [Ḥaḍrat] Mirza Masroor Ahmad, UK, 2006, pp. 260-261

## The Animal Kingdom

Raina Jaffer

Age 7

Dallas, TX

What would we do without all the animals in the world?

Animals are important in Islam for many reasons. The main reason is because the Quran describes that animals form communities, just like we do. The Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to show kindness to everyone including animals. He also said that it is forbidden to beat animals unnecessarily.

Out of all of the animals, my favorite animal is a bunny rabbit. We have so many bunnies around our neighborhood. Sometimes, my mom and I leave some carrots out in the yard for them to eat. I love watching them sneak to the plate and take the carrots. Bunnies can make great pets; but for now until I'm allowed to have a pet, I enjoy watching them from my backyard! It's important for us to treat all animals with kindness because they have feelings too!

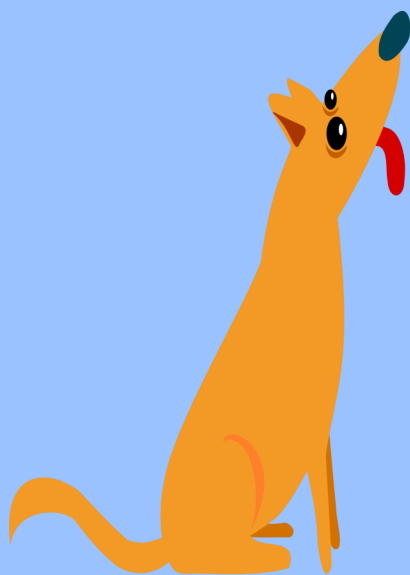




# THE THIRSTY DOG

SOFIYA QAZI—AGE 7—Chicago, IL

Abu Hurairah [may Allah be pleased with him] relates that the Holy Prophet [may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him] said: A man proceeding along a track became very thirsty. Arriving at a well he descended into it and came out after taking a drink and saw a dog with its tongue lolling out trying to lick up mud from extreme thirst. The man thought this dog is suffering from thirst as I was suffering. So he descended once more into the well, filled his leather sock [shoe] with water and came up holding it by his teeth and gave the dog a drink. Allah appreciated his action and forgave his sins. The Holy Prophet [may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him] was asked: Messenger of Allah, are we rewarded for kindness to animals also? He answered: There is a reward for kindness to every living thing (Bokhari and Muslim).



Bokhari's version concludes with: Allah appreciated his action, forgave his sins and admitted him to Paradise. (Adapted from Gardens of the Righteous, p. 34).

This story teaches us to be kind and patient with all animals. Even when we are busy, we should try to help animals in need. It also teaches us that Allah can forgive our sins even if we do the smallest good deed.

# Our friends in the Animal Kingdom

Fariah Basharat

13 years

Queens NY



Islam expects humankind to treat all animals (all living creatures - birds, sea creatures, and insects) with respect and dignity. Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) continuously advised people to show

kindness. He forbade the practice of cutting tails and manes of horses, of branding animals on any soft spot (like their faces), and of keeping horses saddled unnecessarily. If the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) witnessed any animal over-burdened or ill fed, he would speak to the owner and say, **“Fear God in your treatment of animals.”**

However, refraining from physical cruelty is not enough; abstaining from mental cruelty is equally as important. Even a bird’s emotional distress should be treated seriously. A companion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) narrates, **“We were on a journey and during the Prophet’s absence, we saw a bird with its two chicks; we took them. The mother bird was circling above us in the air, beating its wings in grief. When Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) returned, he said, “Who has hurt the feelings of this bird by taking its chicks? Return them to her.”**



Some animals that are mentioned in the Holy Quran are the bee, the ant, the spider, the swine, whales, etc. My favorite animal from the Holy Quran is the whale. This is because of the story of Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (peace be upon him).

It all started when Almighty Allah called Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (peace be upon him) to preach to the people of Nineveh. Nineveh was a great city, the capital of Assyria, and it had become a very wicked place.

Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (peace be upon him) told the people to give up their bad ways and turn towards Allah. But, they would not listen so Prophet Yūnus (peace be upon him) left the town expecting Allah's wrath there.

He boarded a ship. He was thrown off ship. Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (peace be upon him) was filled with despair. He was engulfed by darkness: the darkness of the deep, the darkness of despair.

He cried out, "there is no god but You," and asked for help. In asking for help, his prayer was heard. Allah sent a great fish, some describe it as a whale, to take Ḥaḍrat Yūnus (peace be upon him) to safety.

So, my favorite animal is the whale from the Holy Quran because it acted on Allah's commands. It took Prophet Yūnus (peace be upon him) to safety on Allah's command.

The children's magazine committee members (listed 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.

# What are Animals Really For?

Mubashir Faruqi

Houston North, TX

Age 8

Have you ever wondered why people kill animals? Read on to learn about the treatment of animals, what Islam teaches us about it, and much more!

In my state of Texas, hunting is really popular. There are a lot of state parks where hunting is allowed. Even young kids can learn how to hunt! Some animals that people like to hunt in Texas are: deer, ducks, wild boar, turkeys, geese, waterfowl, doves, and quails. These people hunt because they think it's fun.

On the other hand, some people kill animals for food or warmth. You may be surprised to know that you fall in this category. Almost everybody eats animals. For example, when you eat a burger, some nuggets, or a turkey sandwich. Even if you are a vegetarian, you may be killing or hurting animals in some way, for example, when you wear a sweater or jacket made of fur. So what does Islam teach us about killing animals? In the Holy Qur'an we learn that,



“Allah is He Who has made cattle for you, that you may ride on some of them, and eat of some of them (40:80).”

So this means even though we can kill animals for food, we should never do so for sport or for fun. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once said, “Whoever kills a sparrow or anything bigger than that without a just cause, God will hold him accountable on the Day of Judgment (Sunan An-Nasa’i).”

So the next time you eat an animal, you should pray for it and be grateful to Allah. And make sure to never go hunting in Texas!



## Average Life of Some Animals

Tortoise.....	190	Eagle.....	55	Chimpanzee .....	40
Turtle .....	120	Eel.....	55	Horse.....	40
Parrot .....	80	Camel.....	50	Rhinoceros .....	40
<b>Human .....</b>	<b>75</b>	Macaw .....	50	Toad.....	36
Elephant.....	70	Crocodile .....	45	Deer .....	35
Alligator.....	68	Donkey .....	45	Lion.....	35
Owl .....	68	Hippopotamus ..	45	Goose.....	33
Catfish.....	60	Bear.....	40	Swan .....	33

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# The Love of The Holy Prophet Muhammad

May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him

## For Animals

Bushra Rahman

Age 13

Dallas, TX

There are a lot of stories regarding the love of animals from the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), but here is one that stood out to me.

Once a man came up to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) with his belongings in a box; He said, “O Prophet! While I was passing through a jungle, I heard the voice of some bird’s babies. I took them and put them in this box. The moment I did that, their mother came fluttering round my head.”

The Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, “Put them down.”

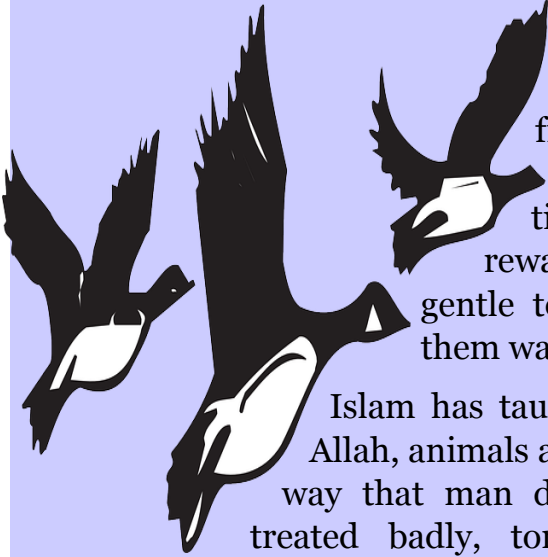
When the man put the box on the ground, the mother of the young birds joined them. Seeing this, the Prophet asked the man who now had a look of surprise on his face,

“Are you surprised by the affection of the mother towards her young? I swear by Him (Almighty Allah) who has sent me, surely, God is more loving to his servants than the mother to these young birds. Return these baby birds to the place from where you took them, and let their mother be with them.”

“Fear God with regard to animals,” said the Prophet of







Islam.

“Ride them when they are fit to be ridden, and get off their backs when they are tired. Surely, there are rewards for being kind and gentle to animals, and for giving them water to drink.”

Islam has taught us that in the eyes of Allah, animals also have rights in the same way that man does. They should not be treated badly, tortured or left to starve without food or water.

This shows how much the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) cared for animals.

# Animals Poem

Talha Agha, Age 9, Kansas Jama'at

Animals  
Be Kind to Animals  
And they will be fine to you  
When you pet one don't be rude  
Or you're going to give them the blues  
And they could be tough on you  
Because they do stuff for you  
So why don't we help them too  
Don't hurt them just love them  
Don't yell at them just play with them



## Story of a Parrot

*Story told by the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him*

The saints say that it is necessary for every person who wishes to meet God that he must pass through the gate of death.

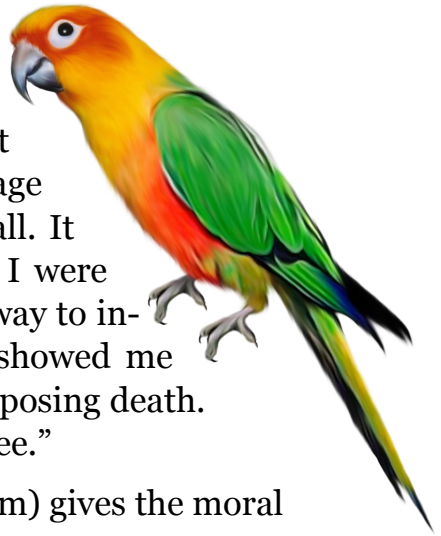
A story is relayed in ‘Masnavi’ (a book by Sheikh Sa‘dee), that illustrated the matter:

“There was a man who kept a parrot in a cage. As he prepared to go on a journey, he asked the parrot to say something. The parrot said that if you happen to pass a certain place you will find a big tree. There will be lots of parrots on it. Convey my message to them that ‘you are very fortunate to lead an independent life in the open air whereas I am unfortunate to be in prison’. When the man reached that tree, he delivered the message to the parrots. Whereupon one of the parrots fell down from the tree and flapped his wings and

died. The man felt extremely sorry for causing the parrot’s death. But he could do nothing except remain patient. When he returned from his journey, he narrated the whole episode to his own parrot and expressed grief for the dead parrot. On hearing this, his parrot also fell in the cage and flapped his wings and was found dead. The man was again very grieved at this,



as he was now instrumental in taking two lives. At last he took the parrot and threw it away from the cage. The parrot that was thrown out from the cage as dead, flew off and sat on a wall. It said that actually neither he nor I were dead. I asked the parrots for the way to independence from prison. So he showed me that independence is achieved by posing death. I assumed death and set myself free.”



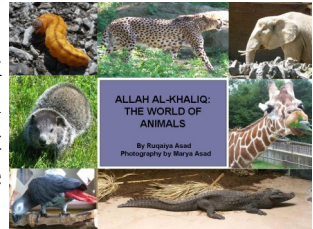
Hazoor (may peace be upon him) gives the moral of the parrot story:

“It is absolutely true that the one who is entangled in self-esteem cannot be released without death.” (Malfuzat, Vol. VI, p. 96) Translation by Dr. Mahmud Ahmad Nagi.

## Allah Al Khaliq: The World of Animals

*Written by Ruqaiya Asad*

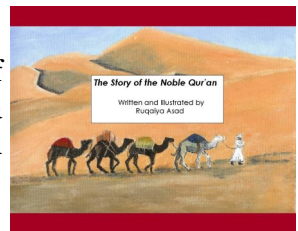
This is a book for children. The book contains original photos and simple text with Qur’anic references and scientific facts that appeal to children’s natural interest. Purchase at: [islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com](http://islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com).



## 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)



# Kind Treatment Towards Animals

Seemal Ahmad, Age 12, Syracuse, NY

Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was the model of being respectful towards any creature. He showed care to everyone around him like, family, orphans, friends, strangers and even enemies. He also treated animals and everything around him with respect. He taught his followers that because animals were part of God's creations they should be treated with care.

Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was kind-hearted towards people, but as mentioned in Sahih Muslim book (a Hadith book), his kindness included even animals.

Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) ordered his companions to treat all kinds of animals with mercy. He ordered that animals must be fed when they are hungry, given water when they are thirsty, treated when they become ill or get injured, and never beat, disturb or overburden them.

“Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once entered the garden of a man from the Ansar (Muslims of Madinah) and there was a camel. When the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw the camel, it froze and its eyes started watering. Then the Prophet of Allah came to it and rubbed its ears so it calmed down. Then the Prophet said, “Who is the owner of this camel? Whose camel is this?” A young man from the Ansar told him, “O Messenger of Allah, it



belongs to me.” Then he told him, “Do you not fear Allah with regard to this beast which Allah has let you own? It concerns me that you starve it and tire it by overworking it and using it beyond its capacity.”

Islam expects humankind to treat all animals with respect and dignity. Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) continuously told people to show respect. He stopped the practice of cutting tails and manes of horses, of branding animals at any soft spot, and of keeping horses saddled unnecessarily. If the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), saw any animal hurt or ill fed he would speak to the owner and say, **“Fear God in your treatment of animals.”**

Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) relates that Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "A traveler who was thirsty saw a well in the way. He got inside the well and when he came out he saw a dog licking mud due to thirst. The man realized that the dog was as thirsty as him, so he got into the well again, filled his leather sock with water and carried it out holding it with his teeth. Thus, he quenched the thirst of the dog. Allah was pleased with this act of kindness and pardoned his sins." The Companions asked: "O Messenger of Allah is there recompense in the matter of beasts and wild animals also?" The Prophet replied: "There is recompense in regard to every creature that has a living heart." Sahih Al-Bukhari: 6009.



The animals mentioned in the Holy Qur’an include ants, apes, bee, birds, camels, cattle, cow, dog, donkey, elephant, ewe, fly, frog, locusts, hippopotamus, horses, lion, mosquito, mules, quails, raven, snake, spider, swine, termites, whale, and wolf.

Animals are part of the whole global environment - they have an important role to play, just like plants. Without animals, it would only be a matter of time until there were no

humans. Our ecosystem is very tightly balanced and needs animals to do their part and keep things in balance in the cycle of life and death.

Humankind must strike a balance in their treatment of animals. All living creatures were put on this earth by God for our benefit. They are not at the same level as human beings but neither should they be treated cruelly. A true believer in God demonstrates his or her belief by respecting the entire creation, and Prophet Muhammad's character and actions are a shining example of respect for all that exists.

## Oysters and Pearls

**Danya Mohammad / 8 / Dallas, TX**



And He it is Who has subjected *to you* the sea that you may eat therefrom fresh flesh, and may take forth therefrom ornaments which you wear. And thou seest the ships ploughing through it, *that you may thereby journey* and that you may seek of His bounty and that you may be grateful. (16 [Al-Nahl] : 15)



O Allah, who created the sea for you and me.

Finding gems in oysters fills me with glee.

This wonderful pearl gifted from Allah is beautiful indeed.

I am thankful for the fish I eat and the pearl necklace my

Mom loves to see.

Ships sail the seven seas guided by Allah's Mercy.

Seafood and treasure are hidden blessings of the sea.







# Who am I?

Arusa Malik, Age 10, Laurel. MD

*Solve these riddles about animals mentioned in the Holy Quran.*

1. I am in Surah Al-Feel, I am the biggest animal mentioned in the Holy Quran, who am I?
2. I am in Surah Al-Ghashiyah, I am usually used for prophets to ride or travel on, who am I?
3. I am in Surah Al-Nahl, I am very small, I make a sweet treat, who am I?
4. I swallowed Ḥaḍrat Yūnus, and then threw him out after a while, who am I?
5. I am in Surah Al-Baqarah, I am very smart, I love Bananas, who am I?
6. I am in Surah Al-Ma'idah, I fly, I like to take away food from children, who am I?
7. I was a companion of Abu Hurairah<sup>ra</sup>, who was nicknamed after me, who am I?
8. I am in Surah Al-An'am, I make wool, I am fluffy, who am I?

SHEEP	MONKEY	BEE	WHALE
CAMEL	ELEPHANT	CROW	CAT



# Caring for Animals

Hassan Agha /Age 11/ Kansas City

One day our Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was approached by a man holding a box. The man had found baby birds along his way. When he had picked up the birds their mom had come and flew around his head. The Prophet told the man, “Put the box down.”

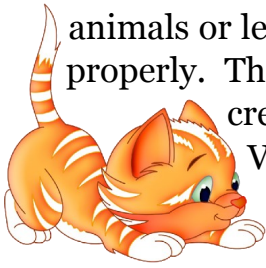


When he did the babies were joined by their mom. When the birds were reunited with their mother, the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked, “Are you surprised by the affection of their mother?” He swore by Allah, who has sent him, that, “Surely, God is more loving to His servants than the mother of these birds.”

After that he said, ‘Return these birds and let their mother be with them.’

We should have respect for animals, like get off their backs when they are tired (horses, camels mules, etc.), feed and provide water for them when they are hungry, and ride them when they are ready to be ridden. There will be rewards for being kind to animals. Islam has taught us to treat animals the way you would treat humans, with respect, kindness, and more.

A man named Imam Ali, had a duck living under his house. When he died he had told his sons to look after the



animals or let them go if they could not take care of them properly. The Holy Quran has also taught us that all creation is important. In Al-An‘ām, Chapter 6, Verse 39 it states:

“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.”

One day, the Prophet of Islam (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was doing Wuḍū and a cat passed by with a thirsty look on its face, looking at the water. The prophet stopped doing Wudu and fed the cat and gave it water. This shows that even when we are busy with anything, anyone can stop to feed an animal in need, like a cat.

In conclusion, animals are just like us, they eat, sleep, and care about their children. We should treat them like we treat others. The message from the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is being mindful about caring for and being grateful for living things and about consequences. When you do good to others, good comes your way or you attract goodness. Basically Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), is teaching people how to be loving and kind.

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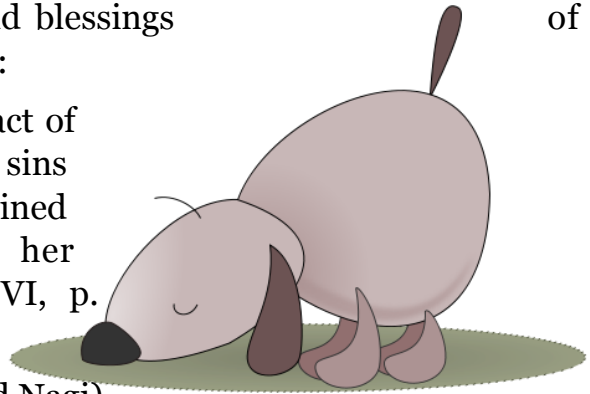
# God doesn't waste anyone's virtue

*Story told by the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him*

We should worship that God who grants reward for a thing however small it may be. God is pleased with humans even if a sip of water is given to someone. There was once a woman who was traveling in the jungle. She saw a thirsty dog on her way. She weaved a rope from her hair and fetched some water from a well. The thirst of the dog was quenched. The Prophet of Allah (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

“God accepted that act of hers and forgave all her sins although she had remained wicked throughout her life.” (Malafuzat, Vol. VI, p. 26)

(Dr. Mahmud Ahmad Nagi)

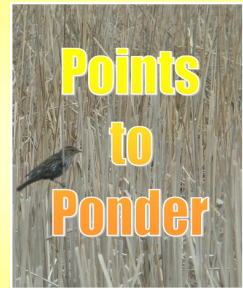


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## Wrath of God on a King

*Story told by the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him*

There is nothing more effective than prayer. Sheikh Nizamuddin (a Muslim saint and scholar) mentioned, “Once the wrath of the king was on him and it was ordered that he shall face severe punishment in a week’s time. As the time approached, he was sleeping while using the thigh of his pupil as a pillow. The pupil wept as he thought of the orders of the king and his tears flowed on Sheikh Nizamuddin, who got up and asked, “Why are you crying?” He submitted that today is the day of punishment. Sheikh Nizamuddin replied, “Do not worry? It shall not be decreed. I dreamt just now that a strong cow approached to kill me but I managed to turn her down by the horns.” So the king fell ill on the same day. He remained seriously ill and died of the disease.”

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) summarizes: “These are divine appropriations and humans are not in a position to comprehend this phenomenon.” (Malfuzat, Vol. VIII, p. 37) Translation by Dr. Mahmud Ahmad Nagi.

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**2016 - Issue 1**



# The Extraordinary Bee

**Hisham Ahmad**  
**Central Jersey / 13**



My favorite animal is probably the bee. I won't specify any further because I love all bees. These small insects buzz around looking for flowers with a sweet substance called nectar, which the bees love to drink and it gives the bees lots of energy. At the same time, the flower benefits because the bee, while drinking the nectar, gets pollen stuck all over its black and yellow striped body. The bee then transports this pollen to other flowers it has not visited yet. The bee stores the nectar in its 'honey stomach,' which is separate from its real stomach. There the nectar turns into honey. This spreading of pollen allows the flowers to reproduce. The bees go back to their hives and spit the honey out into 'cells'. Over millions of years, the flower and the bee have developed this relationship in which both species benefit, or this is called mutualism.

The reason I love the bee so much is because it creates honey, and although it stings, it will not harm a person unless the person threatens the bee's hive. Honey is not only sweet, but it is a cure for many illnesses and diseases as said by the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). In the Holy Quran, Chapter Al-Nahl, verses 69-70,



Allah Ta'ālā says,

وَأَوْحَىٰ رَبُّكَ إِلَى النَّحْلِ أَنِ اتَّخِذِي مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا وَمِنَ الشَّجَرِ وَمِمَّا يَعْرِشُونَ ﴿٦٩﴾  
ثُمَّ كُلِي مِن كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ فَاسْلُكِي سُبُلَ رَبِّكِ ذُلُلًا ۗ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ بَطُونِهَا شَرَابٌ  
مُّخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَانُهُ فِيهِ شِفَاءٌ لِلنَّاسِ ۗ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٧٠﴾

The translation and commentary on these verses appears as follows in the English Translation and Short Commentary as follows:

69. And thy Lord revealed <sup>1556</sup> to the bee: ‘Make thou houses in the hills and in the trees and in the trellises which they build,

70. ‘Then eat of all *manner of* fruits, and follow the ways *taught thee* by thy Lord and *which* have been made easy *for thee*.’ There comes forth from their bellies a drink of varying hues. Therein is healing for mankind. Surely, in that is a Sign for a people who reflect. <sup>1557</sup>

1556. Revelation here signifies the natural instincts with which God has endowed all creatures. The verse contains a beautiful hint that the entire universe depends for its smooth and successful working on revelation (or inspiration), whether manifest or hidden. In other words, all things and creatures serve the purpose of their existence only by working according to their natural instincts and inborn faculties and aptitudes. The bee has been selected as a prominent example, because its wonderful organization and work impress even a casual observer and are discernible even by the naked eye.

1557. The subject of the bee has been further elaborated in this verse. God inspires the bee to collect its food from different fruits and flowers and then by means of the mechanism provided in its body and by the methods revealed

to it by God it converts the collected food into honey. Honey possesses different colors and flavors, but all its different varieties are highly useful for men. This suggests that revelation has continued to descend on Prophets at different times and that the teachings of one Prophet differed in some details from the teachings of others, nevertheless all were the means of moral and spiritual regeneration for the people for whom they were designed.

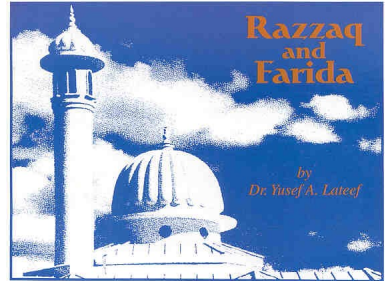
Bees are very specially adapted to do what they do best—make honey! They live in large colonies, with the worker colonies going out to gather the nectar. They come back and do a special “wobble-waggle” dance that tells the other bees precisely where the nectar is. The bees also have specially adapted eyes that can see ultraviolet light helping the bees get to the flower’s center. Amazingly, bees can sense a flower’s electric field because the bees have a slightly positive charge and the flowers have a slightly negative charge, making the nectar and pollen stick to the bee’s fuzzy body like a balloon sticks to your hair after you rub it against your head.

So next time you are enjoying some sweet honey, remember to thank Allah for this seemingly simple creature buzzing around your garden!

## **Razzaq and Farida**

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Dr. Yusef A. Lateef.

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# DOGS WHO SERVE MANKIND

My favorite animal are dogs, because of the many ways dogs are able to help mankind. Some dogs are very smart and can be trained to serve in various ways. For example Collie dogs are sensitive, responsive animals and are so clever at herding sheep and cattle. Farmers use them to help round up the herds from the fields where they graze, to bring them home. Labradors, Retrievers and German Shepherd dogs are also exceptionally smart and can be used in a number of ways. Some times they lead the blind. Or they can be trained to warn people who have seizures that a seizure is about to start and they should sit down and prepare. Service dogs help people perform a function if they have some kind of physical or mental disability.

Now-a-days, dogs are used to provide affection and give comfort to children in hospitals or to the elderly in nursing homes. They also provide comfort for people who have emotional problems, like depression or panic attacks. There is a special quality in a dog that knows how to comfort a sad or lonely person. It may be they provide something that a human being can't provide. This is why I am very fond of dogs.



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# THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

A hare was once boasting of his speed before the other animals. “I have never yet been beaten,” said he, “when I put forth my full speed. I challenge any one here to race with me.”

A tortoise responded quietly, “I accept your challenge.”

“That is a good joke,” said the hare; “I could dance round you all the way.”

“Keep your boasting till you’ve beaten,” responded the Tortoise. “Shall we race?”

A course was fixed and a start was made. The hare darted almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, to show his contempt for the tortoise, lied down to have a nap. The tortoise plodded on and plodded on, and when the hare awoke from his nap, he saw the tortoise just near the winning -post and could not run up in time to save the race. Then said the Tortoise: Slow but steady wins the race.

This story also illustrates that it is not a good idea to boast or show off in pride.

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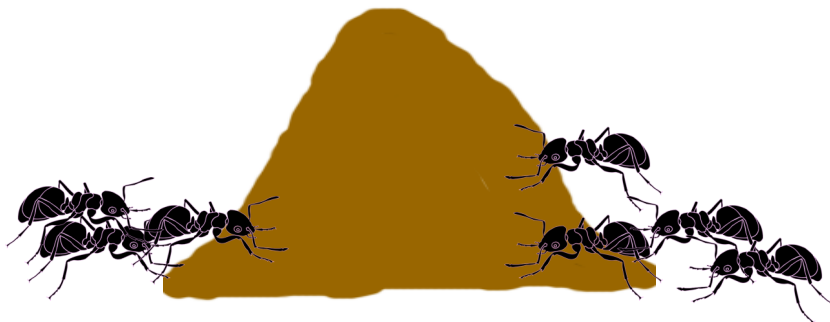
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## Story of the Ant Pile

Ghazala Bhatti—Age 7 yrs—Houston North, TX

Our beloved Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was ever merciful and kindhearted. It is related that once the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw an ant pile, which had been set on fire. He asked the companions, “Who has set it on fire?” A few companions replied that they had done so. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “It is not appropriate for you to give the punishment of Allah to anyone.”

From this Hadith we learn how careful we should be in our treatment of even the smallest animal or insect, and should not hurt them unnecessarily.



Al-Hilal

(Published by The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, U.S.A.)

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