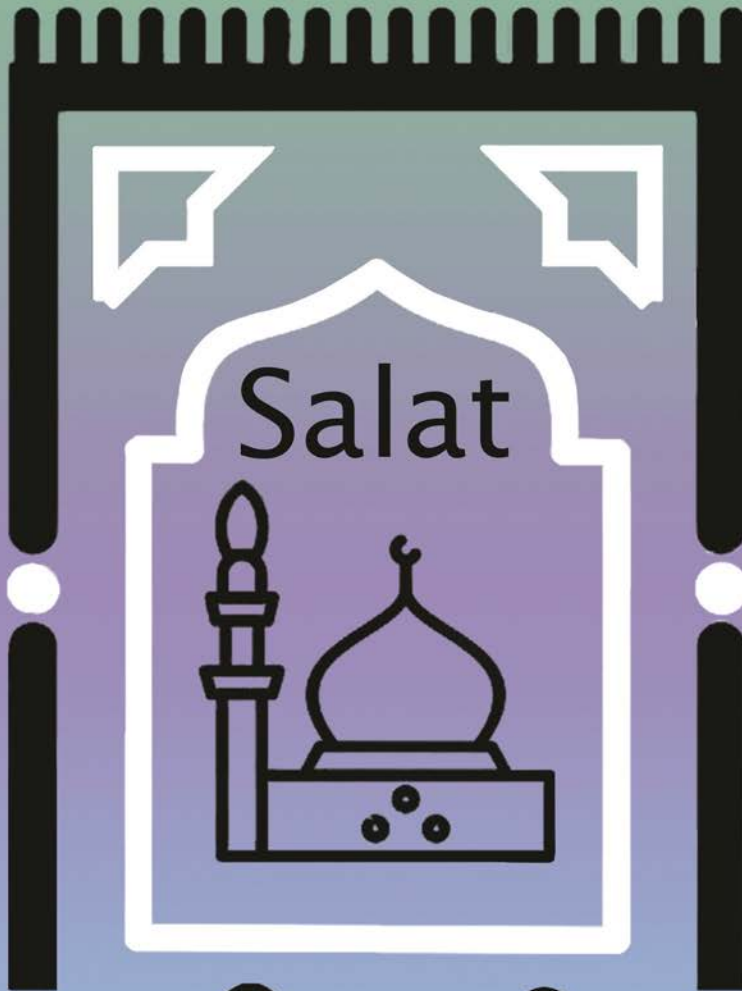


# Al Hilal



A Magazine for Children

2019-2

## 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 Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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## Prayers from the Holy Qur'an

Our Lord, grant us good in this world as well as good in the world to come, and protect us from the torment of the Fire. (2:202)

Our Lord, let not our hearts become perverse after Thou hast guided us; and bestow on us mercy from Thyself; surely, Thou alone art the Bestower. (3:9)

## Prayers from the Holy Prophet <sup>sa</sup>

O the Converter of Hearts, make my heart steadfast on Your faith.

O Allah, I implore You for Your love and the love of those who love You and also such conduct as should lead me to Your love. O Allah, make Your love dearer to me than myself, my loved ones and my wealth and dearer to me than cold refreshing water.



## *Excerpt From Friday Sermon*

### **Virtues of Congregational Salat**

1/20/2017, by Khalifatul Masih V (aba)

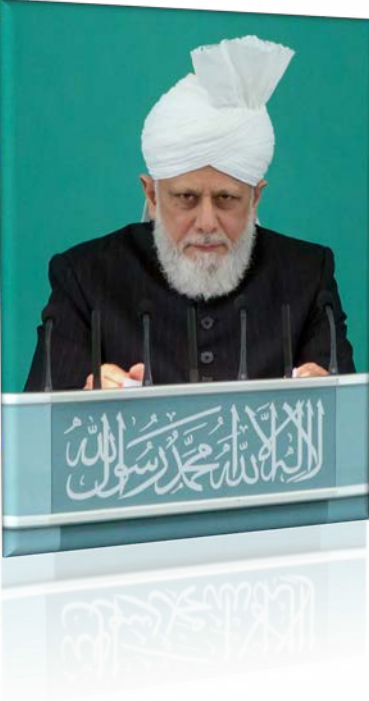
Congregational Salat will save believers from sins and incline them towards performing good deeds.

According to the Holy Prophet (sa) congregational Salat rewards a believer 27 times more than a prayer offered alone.

The Promised Messiah (as), while explaining the importance of congregational Salat to the Jama'at, says:

“The rationale behind putting more reward in congregational Salat is that it creates unity. The instructions to practically implement unity are so meticulous that even the feet are required to be aligned.” This means that while offering the Salat in rows, feet should also be brought into line

for which heels must be aligned. He further says, “and the rows must be straight, and [worshippers] should be standing connected to each other. It means that they must act like one being so that one’s illumination can permeate into others. The disparity that gives birth to ego and selfishness does not last [in such a setting].”



Dear Reader, As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

As we know our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) taught us the way of Prayer and said:

*I like three things of this world, but I tell you that the  
delight and pleasure of my eyes  
is in the observance of Prayer (Bukhari).*

These words tell us how important it was for Prophet Muhammad (sa) that his community should be observing Prayer in the way that he (sa) so lovingly explained and demonstrated, and that he (sa) would want to see us at our mosques altogether in congregation engaged in heartfelt Prayer.

I am delighted to see how children have written about this topic sighting many *Ahadith* (sayings) of our Beloved Prophet (sa) to express their feelings and sincerity about Prayer. To establish true Prayer as a child is a marvelous advantage. I hope you will find their sharing of narrative, poems and drawings most captivating.

Was-Salām

Saliha Malik - Chief Editor, Al-Hilāl

**Editor’s Note:**

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

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

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ  
أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ  
فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي  
لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

And when My servants ask thee about Me, say: 'I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So they should hearken to Me and believe in Me, that they may follow the right way.  
(Holy Qur'an 2:187)



حَفِظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ وَالصَّلَاةِ الْوُسْطَىٰ وَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ قَانِتِينَ ۝

Watch over Prayers,  
and the middle Prayer,  
and stand before Allah submissively.  
(Holy Qur'an 2:239)

أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِذُلُوكِ الشَّمْسِ إِلَىٰ غَسَقِ اللَّيْلِ وَقُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ ۝

إِنَّ قُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ كَانَ مَشْهُودًا

Observe Prayer at the declining and paling of the  
sun on to the darkness of the night, and the reci-  
tation of the Qur'an in Prayer at dawn.  
Verily, the recitation of the Qur'an at dawn is  
specially acceptable to God.  
(Holy Qur'an 17:79)

## Excerpt from 'The Life of the Promised Messiah'

by Hazrat Sayyidah Nusrat Jahan Begum Sahiba (ra),  
his blessed wife. She recounts that Promised Messiah  
(as) tells us about one of many incidents illustrating  
the power of Prayer:

"Once, I travelled for a law-suit. Other cases were being dealt with, while I waited under a tree outside. Since it was time for prayer, I began to offer my prayer right there. However, during my prayer I began to hear my name being summoned by the court, but I continued praying. When I completed my prayer, I noticed an attendant of the court standing next to me. As soon as I completed it, he said, 'Mirza Sahib! Congratulations, you have won the case.'"

*(Sirat-ul-Mahdi, Vol. 1, 99.15).*





**“Come to Prayer, Come to Success!”**

I hear the Call to Prayer, these sacred words are  
professed  
*Come to prayer, come to success!*

He alone alleviates our distress  
*Come to prayer, come to success!*

Allah alone is the One I aim to impress  
*Come to prayer, come to success!*

Where do I turn, when there is endless stress?  
*Come to prayer, come to success!*

Sometimes it's hard to get up early, I must confess  
*Come to prayer, come to success!*

Satan says no, but the angels say yes  
*Come to prayer, come to success!*

Will Allah answer my pleas? No need to guess  
*Come to prayer, come to success!*

If I forget my Creator, my faith may regress  
*Come to prayer, come to success!*

When Satan whispers, only one way to suppress  
*Come to prayer, come to success!*

Remember the Creator, and my ambitions He will bless  
*Come to prayer, come to success!*

**Rehan Mahmood Khan, Age 13, LA East**

# Importance of Salat

Asifa Malik, Age 8, Silicon Valley

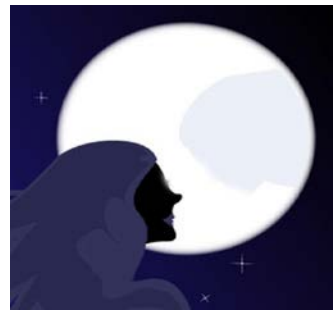
Salat is a very important time when you can communicate with Allah. You can pray for anything you want and feel more connected to him. In a famous hadith, the Holy Prophet (sa) says, “*Tell my servants that if they take one step towards me, I shall come forward ten steps, and if they come walking, I shall come running.*” (Hadith Qudsi) Fajr is the most important time for prayer and the best time to read The Holy Qur’an. It is better to pray in congregation because you can get more blessings than praying by yourself. Salat is a very important pillar and I pray that every one of us will learn the meaning of Salat, In Sha Allah.



## Waking Up for Fajr

Rameen Noor-Age 6-Silver Spring

One day when I was sleeping, my mom woke me up while the sun wasn't up yet! I had sleepy eyes, but I managed. So I got ready and went to the mosque. We got there just in time and there were just a few people. Then the *adhan* (call for prayer) was heard. We prayed Fajr Salat. After Salat, there was a short *dars* (lesson). Then when I sat in the car, I gazed up at the moon. It was beautiful. By the time we were halfway down the road, the sunrise began to grow. We soon got home. I was so tired, I went to my bed and fell asleep.





# Benefits of Fajr Prayer

**Amna Ali, Age 9, Brooklyn/Staten Island**

My name is Amna, and today I will tell you all the benefits of Fajr prayer. Fajr prayer is one of our five daily prayers. It is the morning prayer that we perform at dawn. But wait! First I have to tell you a story!

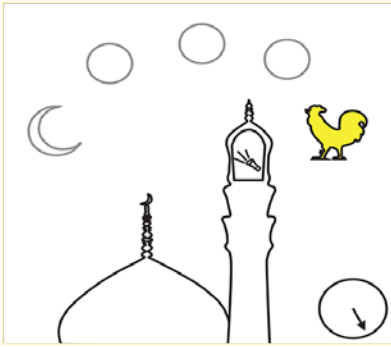
I observe Fajr every day in my room and then sleep some more until school time. But on weekends, this is what I do. I wake up every morning at Fajr. I wake my family up, and we go downstairs to the living room to pray.

Then, after Fajr, we read The Holy Qur'an. After that we go outside for a long walk around the neighborhood! From Farragut avenue, which is our road, all the way to South avenue, making sure to stop by the forest near our house to look at the beaver lodges on the way, until we reach South avenue. When we reach home we are feeling fresh and ready to eat breakfast. There are so many benefits of Fajr. You will get the reward from God Almighty, and a better chance to go to heaven. When you observe Fajr, God will be happy and give you rewards. When you start waking up and reciting Fajr Prayer, you get into a good habit and feel good about yourself. When I woke up early and recited Fajr for the first time, I felt so good about myself that I kept doing it and it became a good habit of mine. If you do it, it will become a good habit of yours and your parents will be happy with you. Waking up early in the morning and doing light exercise like walking, makes you healthy and energetic. You will be successful in life, school and home because you achieve more when you wake up early since you have more hours to do your work. When I wake up for Fajr, I have a good day at school and come home happy and ready to do my chores. These are only some of the benefits of Fajr, I'm sure there are many more. I encourage everyone to make it a habit to wake up for Fajr, read the Holy Qur'an and exercise. Jazakallah!



# Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran:

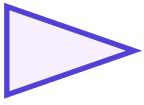
*“Recite that which has been revealed to thee of the Book, and observe Prayer. Surely, Prayer restrains one from indecency and manifest evil, and remembrance of Allah indeed is the greatest virtue. And Allah knows what you do.” (Holy Qur’an 29:46)*



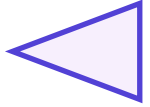
My most memorable Salat was when I was eight years old. I asked my mother to wake me up for Fajr. Back in those days, I was not very frequent in my Salat. I sometimes said half of my Salat one day and then only one of my prayers the next. The only difference was that I never woke up for Fajr because I would be too

tired to pay attention during my Salat. That day, my mother woke me up and I felt absolutely fresh and ready to say my Salat. I felt a connection with Allah. I observed my Salat with full attention and, at the end of my Salat, I felt proud of myself because I woke up really early in the morning for the sake of Allah. I did it to make him happy with me. When I officially turned ten years old, by the grace of Allah, I started saying all five of my daily prayers everyday of the week. As our beloved Holy Prophet (sa) has advised: *“When children reach the age of seven, parents should urge them to be regular in their Prayers and when they reach the age of ten, they must be admonished if they fail to offer their Prayers regularly” (Tirmidhi)*. It is very important to make sure that we observe our Salat slowly and with full attention so that we can get the most blessings as possible.

**By: Zara Laiq, Age 10, Virginia Central**



# SALAT



## AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ISLAM

Iza Anwar, Age 13, Virginia Central

Salat is a very important aspect of Islam that every Muslim should participate in. Salat is your time with Allah where you can thank him for your blessings and let out any emotions you might be feeling; whether they are anger, sadness, or feelings of joy. After letting out your feelings during Salat, you will notice as I did, that you get a sense of inner peace that you can't find anywhere else. Salat is also known to be a great exercise for your body because you do it five times a day. You are constantly getting up and sitting down. Salat is also meditative, if you are taking your time (not rushing) and understanding and listening to what you are reciting. Most people don't understand that feeling of inner peace that I was telling you about earlier, which is tied to doing Salat five times a day.



Let me share with you a very important memory. I will always remember feeling so close to Allah after praying. About

eight years ago now, my parents were going through a divorce, and it was a really hard time. When I didn't want to talk to anyone at the time, I prayed. I let out all my emotions to Allah. After I did, I felt so much lighter, in a sense, I felt like a weight was lifted off of my chest. This didn't just happen from praying once. When you constantly do it, you will eventually feel the same way, I assure you. Now eight years later, I am at total peace with the event, and have moved on thanks to my strong connection to Allah.



# Umrah Salat Experience

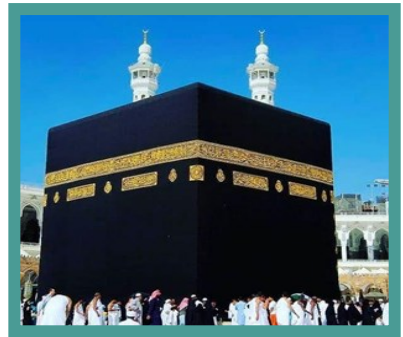
**Areeba Ali, Age 12, Buffalo**

In January of 2018, I departed for my journey to Medina. After an amazing journey of 16 hours from Baltimore, we finally arrived at the blessed city and our destination, Medina. The hotel that we stayed in was right next to Masjid Al Nabawi. We had a beautiful view of the beautiful Mosque. Our hotel was so close to the mosque that when we exited the hotel, the mosque was on the right hand side. Since the mosque was at a walking distance, every



morning during Fajr, we could hear the euphonious Adhan and see thousands of people walk excitedly towards the mosque. After everybody performed ablution, we would head down to the mosque to recite Salat. At the mosque, there were stunning pillars, wash basins, and water drinking amenities for visitors.

One time during Fajr, my cousin and I started reciting Nafil prayers and approximately two feet away from us, we noticed a cat and a pigeon fighting. Upon seeing the pigeon and the cat fighting, I felt terrified. I thought of leaving my Salat half way through and of running away. But, at the same time, I held my trust in Allah Mian and the fact that I was in Allah Ta'ala's house helped me complete my Salat and return to our hotel, unharmed.



**THIS WAS ONE OF THE MOST  
AMAZING EXPERIENCES I HAVE EVER HAD.**





# Taraweeh Prayers in Ramadan

Amtul Noor Ridaa, Age 12, LA East

Salat is the most important part of our everyday life. *Taraweeh* is a voluntary prayer, which we offer only in the Holy month of Ramadan. It consists of eight rakats after *Isha* prayers. My favorite part of *Taraweeh* is that the Imam recites different chapters of Holy Qur'an. I like the recitation of the Qur'an during *Taraweeh* because it soothes and relaxes me. So I take the time to pray to Allah about the things I worry about most, hoping He will change them.

I have been observing *Taraweeh* since I was four years old. If I was already at the mosque, I have never missed any *Taraweeh*. I do *Taraweeh* every time I come to the mosque during Ramadan. I would always hear other children my age playing outside while I was inside praying. It was always tempting to go outside and play with them, but I didn't because Ramadan is the holiest month of the year. It is the month where Allah ties the devil up in chains, it is the month Allah accepts your prayers the most, it is the month where your worries can be heard.

At first I wanted to go outside and run around and play with my friends like every four year old would want to, but my mom insisted that I stay. Many aunts gave me much appreciation and said good job to me for saying *Taraweeh*. From that moment forward, I felt so proud of myself that not only did I listen to my mom instead of ignoring her and running off with my friends, but I am also very grateful to Allah about how He made me responsible and I chose prayers over playing around. This is why, *Taraweeh* is important to me. This year, more and more children have been observing *Taraweeh* and one day I hope everyone else will.

May Allah enable all of us to offer our five daily prayers along with voluntary prayers so we can talk to Allah more and share with him all of our worries, *Amin*.

# Salat Is Stronger Than Fire

**Aiza Mahmud, Age 13, LA East**

Salat is a fundamental element of Islam. It is said in the Qur'an, "*Prayer restrains one from indecency and manifest evil*" (Chapter 29, Verse 46). Salat brings us closer to Allah and it is even mentioned that Salat is stronger than fire.

## What is Salat?

Salat are the five daily prayers. Salat is also the second pillar of Islam and is mentioned numerous times in the Qur'an. It creates a relationship with one and God. In the book, "The Essence of Islam" the Promised Messiah (as) says, The various postures [of Salat]... demonstrate respect, humility, and meekness." Prayer takes you closer to Allah than anything else. We should all try our hardest to offer our five daily prayers so we can establish and grow our bond with Allah.



## Why is Salat Important?

In the Qur'an, Allah has told us to safeguard our prayers and make them regular. The Holy Prophet (sa) asked his companions if they were to bathe in a stream, five times a day, would they be clean? In the same way, if you offer Salat five times a day, your soul will be purified. In the Friday sermon delivered on June 22nd 2012, Huzoor (aba) mentioned that for Ahmadis the importance of Salat is even greater because it is linked to *Khilafat*. In that same sermon, Huzoor (aba) also mentioned the importance of saying prayers in congregation. If one lives in an isolated area they should say prayers in congregation with their families. If one lives near other Ahmadis, they should





make Salat centers in their homes and offer Salat there. And lastly, if one lives close to the mosque they should offer Salat in congregation at the mosque.

### My Own Efforts Offering Salat

My parents always tell me that no one can help you besides Allah and if you are worried about anything you should pray to Him. In my Salat, I started to pray about everything I was bothered about. A couple of nights later, I saw Huzoor (aba) in my dream! He told me that everything was going to be okay. This is a great sign that Allah answered my prayers because, as my mom later told me, the name Masroor means happiness and at the time I was sad. Offering Salat on time daily and praying for myself helped me a lot.

May Allah enable us to continue to learn from the teachings of the Qur'an and enable us to say Salat in congregation and as regularly as we can, *Amin*.

## Importance of Salat

**Raheen Abbasi, Age 13, LA East**

There are five pillars in Islam, and Salat is one of them. Just like we eat food three times a day, we pray five times a day. We eat when we are hungry and after we eat, it satisfies us.

Offering Salat satisfies our soul. When we were little, we were not used to offering prayers regularly. As we grew older, it became a habit. Something felt missing or not done when we missed a prayer. I feel after I have offered Salat, I have completed everything. The best way to ask for something is by having this conversation with Allah. It will strengthen your relationship with Allah. This is done through Salat.



# The Bridge to Paradise

Maha Nayyara Arif, Age 10, Georgia, South Carolina

**S**irat, the bridge to paradise

**A**llah's just and rightful ways, Your

**L**ord shall look upon you with kindness on the Day of Judgment.

**A**llah is merciful. In the month of Ramadan, the gates of heaven are open but the gates of

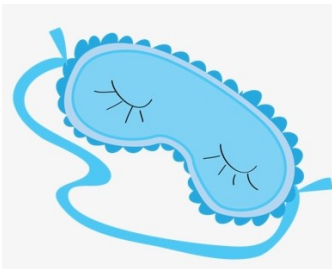
**H**ell are closed.

## TAHAJJUD PRAYER

Sajeela Ahmad, Age 8, Virginia South

*Tahajjud* is a prayer after Isha and before Fajr that we pray as Ahmadi Muslims and is a very blessed prayer. At the Nasirat sleepover, I had the experience of waking up for *Tahajjud* and performing ablution before the prayer early in the morning. It is hard, but if you try, you can do it! It's special because you are praying

to Allah in the middle of the night and as a kid, you get many blessings.





# THE IMPORTANCE OF SALAT

**Emaan Aiza Chaudry, Age 7, LA East**

Salat helps us in many ways. Salat keeps us away from bad things. When we pray, we put ourselves in front of Allah. We don't want to do anything bad standing in front of Allah or else we will feel embarrassed. Another way Salat keeps us away from bad things is we can ask Allah to keep us in His protection. Salat is also important because Allah is happy with us when we turn to Him through prayer. I pray all Muslim kids learn the importance of Salat and develop love for it the way that I do, *Amin*.



**Roha Mirza, Age 8, Dallas**

In my opinion, what makes salat important is that it allows us to make a connection with Allah, communicate with Allah, and it is a very important pillar of Islam. We offer salat to have a closer connection with Allah. This connection allows us to communicate with Him on a personal level. Most people would think we observe Salat to only pray. But it is actually to communicate to Allah about our problems, health issues, or to ask for something, etc. Salat time is a personal communication time between man and God. Lastly, Salat is a pillar of Islam. The Five Pillars of Islam help us become better Muslims.

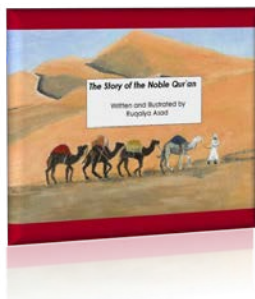
# How I Learned my Prayers

**Yusra Khan, Age 13, LA East**

Salat is very important to Muslims. It's a way for Muslims to communicate with Allah and ask for his forgiveness and blessings. Salat is obligatory at the age of seven, so I learned my prayers when I was about six years of age since I had finished my first reading of Holy Qur'an and I knew how to read and recite most Arabic. My mother used to help me read the Arabic and helped me revise the difficult portions of Salat. I also had a book that had all the prayers of Salat. We also had a class in Pakistan in which teachers made sure we knew Salat. We would revise it at school and then when I would come home, my mom would make me say Salat out loud with her. She would say the prayers and then I would repeat after her. After a few days, I knew how to recite Salat. As I grew older and started observing Salat frequently, I got the hang of it. I also knew how to say Adhan and Iqamaat. I also went to Tahir Academy where I learned the translation of Salat and now I understand what I am saying.



## 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.

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# MY FAVORITE PRAYER DUROOD SHAREEF

My favorite prayer is Durood Shareef. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said, *“Adorn your gatherings with recitation of Durood Shareef because your recitation of Durood Shareef will provide light for you on the Day of Judgment”*. When I recite Durood Shareef, it is so reassuring in so many ways. First of all, it helps me remember Allah in everything I do. This makes everything seem so much easier knowing that Allah is with me. Secondly, when I recite Durood Shareef I know that I am sending a gift to the Holy Prophet (sa) and it’s the least I could do after everything he has done for us. Finally, I can recite Durood Shareef when asking for anything and it puts so much blessing into it. For example, if I am asking for forgiveness, reciting Durood Shareef makes me so much more certain that I will receive it. As you can see, you can recite Durood Shareef no matter what situation you are in and it makes it so much better. I hope and pray that everyone reading this takes more time out of their lives to send Durood to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (sa).



Saba Ali, Age 12, Buffalo

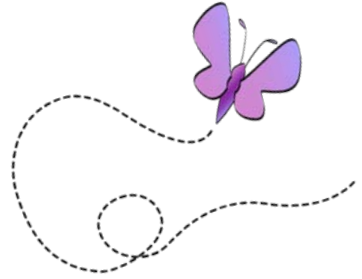
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ  
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إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ.  
اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ  
كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ  
إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ.

# How I Learned My Prayers

Amna Khalid-Age 12-Baltimore



My mother taught me how to do Salat. When I was a child, my mother would recite her prayers out loud so I could hear and repeat the prayers. One day my uncle came to our house and said we should say our prayers first and then we can sit together and chat. I told my mother that I also wanted to pray and she told me that the first step was to do *wudhu*. I ran to the bathroom and made my wudu and then put on my hijab. Then my mother helped me say my prayers. I am thankful for my mother who helped me learn my prayers. May Allah help all children who are learning how to say their prayers, *Amin*.



<http://www.mta.tv>

A screenshot of the MTA International website. The header features the MTA International logo on the left and 'GET IT ON Google play', 'Windows Phone', and 'ROKU' logos on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Schedules', 'Programmes', and 'Live' links, and a search bar. The main content area is split into two sections: 'ON DEMAND' on the left, which shows a video player with Arabic text and the MTA logo, and 'LIVE STREAM' on the right, which features a large play button icon and the text 'CLICK HERE TO WATCH'.

# Salat

**Haseeb Khan, Age 14, Virginia Central**

Salat is a very important practice that all Muslims should participate in. Salat gives you inner peace and peace in general. Also, Salat is a very good exercise. If someone leads it then you get more blessings. It is a way to let out any emotions, fears, and joy. It is a very good meditation source. The best time to pray is in the morning because, when I pray in the morning, I feel like it's just me and God. That is why Salat is important.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SALAT

**Adina Shawkat, Age 9, LA East**



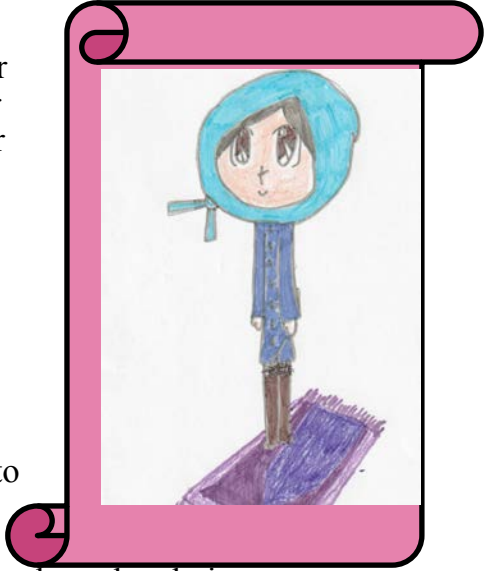
Salat is one of the pillars of Islam and it is the main way we can worship our Creator, Allah. Salat is very important to me because when I am praying, I feel like Allah is in front of me watching me pray. I can ask Allah for anything in my prayers, and in my opinion that is the most wonderful thing about salat. When I perform my Salat, I feel like something good will happen to me in the future. One night, I was having trouble falling asleep and realized I did not pray Isha before bed. So, I got up and prayed Isha with my grandmother and I felt a lot better. I slept very well that night.

My mother taught me how to properly perform my Salat, and when I was little I would grab a scarf and start praying next to her and copied her example. My baby sister does the same thing now and it is very cute. When I perform my salat it gives me a great feeling of peace because I feel that Allah is very close to me and listening to my prayers, and it also makes me proud to be a Muslim. I am the only Muslim in my school and I feel very special and lucky, Ma Sha'Allah.



# Congregational Salat During Ramadan

On the first day of Ramadan my mom told me and my older brother about the Ramadan Challenge started by our Murrabi Sahib. The challenge instructed all the kids to do all the prayers during Ramadan in congregation, read the Holy Qur'an and listen to Huzoor's (aba) Friday sermons. Our mom helped us get started with the first part of the challenge, which was doing prayers in congregation. For our first prayer in congregation, our Abu was at work, so my brother led the congregational prayer. During all of Ramadan, we did all the prayers in congregation. Some prayers were led by my brother, some were led by my dad and some prayers we did in the mosque. Doing Salat in congregation during Ramadan made me feel better and closer to Allah. My dad also told me that if you do your Salat in congregation, Allah will be very pleased and give you many rewards. I hope this challenge inspires me to continue to perform all my five daily prayers regularly, In Sha Allah. Ramadan has been over for a few days, so the challenge is over. But I am still regular with my prayers, Al-Hamdu Lillah.



**Zoya Malik Age 9 Virginia North**

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# Importance of Salat

Sahibzada Nabeel Ahmad-Age 8-Virginia North

Salat is important because it is the best way we can communicate with Allah. He will be happy with you when you do Salat and He can also tell you if you are doing something bad. Salat also makes sins go away. The Holy Prophet Muhamad (sa) said, “When a Muslim offers his Salat to please Allah his sins are shed away from him just as leaves are falling off trees” (Musnad Ahmad). That is important because sins lead to more sins and it can become a vicious cycle. But if you do prayers, you won’t do sins and instead you will do good deeds. Those are some reasons Salat is really important.

## SALAT BENEFITS US IN MANY WAYS

Salat is one of the five fundamental requirements that a Muslim is obligated to perform. Salat is given the highest priority in the Holy Qur’an. There are many benefits of Salat described in the book of Allah. In chapter Luqman we read that when Hazrat Luqman was giving advice to his son, the first and foremost on his mind was to remind his son, “*ya bunayya aqimissalat*” which means “O my dear son, observe Prayer.” (31:8) According to a saying (hadith) the Prophet of Islam (sa) is reported to have said, “*inna fissalati shifa*” which means “verily salat is a cure.” A Muslim who offers Salat regularly has very little chance of getting arthritis as we exercise our bones and joints while we offer Salat. Indeed, offering Salat benefits us in many ways physically, emotionally and spiritually.



Maleeha Bushra-Age 13-Virginia Central



# Why do we pray?



What is Salat? We pray five prayers at five different times during the day, but what is the reason behind Salat and why do we pray? This question has many answers. We will learn more about Salat, and many reasons why to do Salat. Come on, let's go!

Well, one reason is to earn righteousness. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah the Almighty says in chapter 2 verse 22, "*O ye men, worship your Lord Who created you and those who were before you, that you may become righteous;*" and again in chapter 20 verse 133, "*And enjoin Prayer on thy people, and be constant therein. We ask thee not for provision; it is We that provide for thee. And the end is for righteousness.*" In this verse, Allah the Almighty is telling us that He does not need anything from us. We need Him for everything.

When we pray, we earn righteousness and nearness to Allah the Almighty. Hazrat Abu Huraira (ra) relates that he heard the Holy Prophet (sa), say, '*Tell me if one of you had a stream running at his door and he should take a bath in it five times every day, would there be any dirt left upon him?*' He was answered: "*O Prophet of Allah! No dirt will be left on him.*" The Holy Prophet (sa) observed, '*This is the case of the five Prayers. Allah wipes out all faults in consequence of them*' (Bukhari and Muslim). This also shows us that the Holy Prophet (sa) thought of prayers as a way to purify ourselves, a fact which is still true.



We may not notice it sometimes, but the importance of prayer is shown all around us in our Ahmadi homes and mosques. At Fajr prayers early in the morning in our mosques, the person who gives Adhan to call us for prayers "adds" an extra verse, different from the one that we hear for the rest of the prayers. He includes, "*Assalatu khairun-minan-naum*" which is repeated twice



and is said after “*Hayya ‘alal-Falah.*” This small verse means Prayer is better than sleep. It explains to us that Allah the Almighty has thought of Salat as something better than everything else.



We should always pray with full devotion and sincerity and should always do Salat at its proper time. May Allah the Almighty give us the ability to do all of these things and enable us to spread the message of Ahmadiyya Islam to the corners of the earth, In Sha Allah, *Amin.*

**Haala Masroor, Age 11 ,Central Jersey**

# Aspects Of Worship

**Puzzle by: Naman Naeem, Virginia South -Age 14**

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

Ramadan Taraweeh Salat Quran Iftar Sehri Dates Fasting  
 Mosque Tahajjud Fajr Zuhr Asr Maghrib Isha Dua

# The Action Most Acceptable to Allah

Oishi Momen, Age 8 , Silicon Valley, Helped by mother, Urmi Jahan

As-Salamu 'Alaikum! Do you know which action is most acceptable to Allah? In answer to this question, our Holy Prophet (sa) says to perform the prayer at its due time. According to my Google search, blessing means “God's favor and protection for which one is grateful.” When I did “The Gratitude Project” for Nasirat class, I realized that I am most grateful to God for my parents, my two big brothers, my Tahir Academy friends, my gigantic family in Bangladesh and more! My parents told me to show gratitude to Allah for all of these blessings. We try to follow His teachings like reading Qur'an, watching MTA, listening to Huzoor's sermon, and most importantly doing our Prayers five times a day.



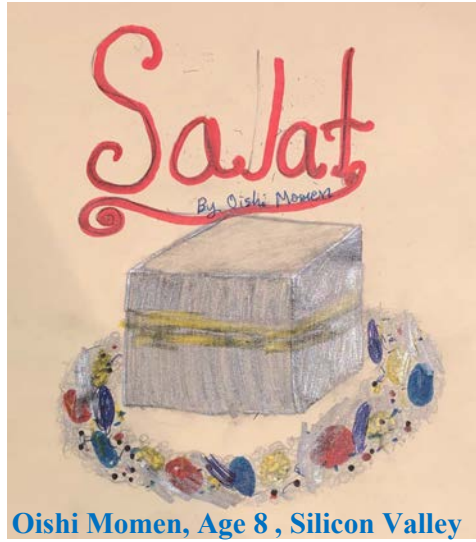
In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says, “*Verily, I am Allah; there is no God besides Me, so serve Me and observe prayer for My remembrance*” (Surah Taha, Verse 15). Our Holy Prophet (sa) has said, “*Assalatu Mi'raj-ul-mu'minin*” meaning, Prayer is the spiritual apex of a believer.

I learned from my Tahir Academy Islamic History Class that all the prophets relied on prayers to thank Allah, seek His forgiveness, blessings and guidance. Our Promised Messiah (as) said, “Just as a soldier would never surrender his best weapon in a battlefield, prayer is the most excellent weapon for a believer and a believer should safeguard it at all costs” Our beloved Huzoor (aba) said “It is the responsibility of each Ahmadi to focus on observing each prayer at its prescribed time.”

As we all know, our lives tend to become very busy with school, homework, games, dinner and bedtime. The only way I can

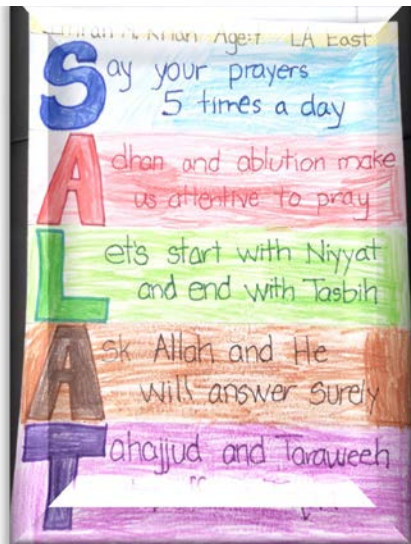
remember to do my prayers is by following a daily schedule and constant reminders from my family members. Since congregational prayer increases the blessings 27 or 70 times, I try my best to pray with my family whenever I can. We must take some time for remembrance of Allah after prayer by saying *Subhanallah* (Glory to Allah), *Al-Hamdu Lillah* (All Praise Belongs to Allah) and *Allahu Akbar* (Allah is the Greatest).

May Allah help us follow the beautiful teachings of Islam and may He make us a model for the Righteous, *Amin*



Oishi Momen, Age 8, Silicon Valley

## 🌊 Observe Salat 🌊



Imran M. Khan, Age 7, LA East

Allah has said to observe Salat. The Holy Qur'an tells us to offer Salat 700 times. It is the second pillar of Islam. It is the best way to communicate with Allah. It is one main thing a Muslim should do to obey Allah and it gives protection from Satan. The Holy Prophet (sa) said, "If people knew about the reward for the Isha and Fajr prayer, they would come to the mosque even if they had to crawl".

Mairah Husna Kauser, Age 8, Houston North

# observe Prayer

**Fateha Masroor-Age 10-Central Jersey**

Do you know how we get everything? Where do our clothing, shoes, food, and water come from? It all comes from God Almighty. Are you thankful to Allah the Almighty for all He gives? The most important way to thank Allah is through Salat, which is the ultimate form of prayer. Why is Salat important? It is just a way to thank Allah for all He has given you. This includes your family, home, clothes, and everything you can think of. Through Salat, Allah forgives your sins and gives you more blessings. These are two benefits of Salat.

Salat is one of the five pillars of Islam. In the Holy Qur'an, Chapter 29 Verse 46 says, "*Surely prayer restrains one from indecency.*" In Chapter 31 Verse 18, the first thing Hazrat Luqman said to his son was, "*O my dear son! Observe Prayer.*" Prayer is so important, it was the first thing that came to Hazrat Luqman's mind to advise his son. Hazrat Bilal (ra) relates that the Holy Prophet (sa) said, "*You should offer Tahajjud Prayer regularly as this is the way of earlier saintly people and this is the way to achieve nearness to God. Furthermore, this habit (of offering Tahajjud Prayer) safeguards from sins, repels evil, and protects from physical afflictions*" (Tirmidhi).

Our beloved Huzoor (aba) advised a local president in London earlier this year not to, "Ask [members] about chanda first but emphasize on Salat. Chanda will come automatically." On a trip to Fiji, a tsunami was heading toward the city where Huzoor (aba) was staying. Huzoor advised everyone to pray with him in sajdah, and everyone prayed behind him. The news reported that suddenly, by the Grace of Allah, the tsunami had turned around and headed the other way. The Promised Messiah (as) said, "Man cannot attain nearness to Allah unless he performs prayers as it behooves us to do so."



May Allah enable us all to offer Salat on time and succeed in our lives. May Allah enable us to achieve our goals through prayer. May Allah show us acceptance of prayer throughout our life. May Allah show us incidents like how the tsunami turned away. Today we can all promise to offer Salat at the right time because now we know why Salat is important, its benefits, and what Huzoor(aba) and Promised Messiah (as) said about it, *Amin, Jazakallah.*



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## *My First Taraweeh*

Aariz Ahmed-Age 8-Silver Spring



My first Taraweeh during Ramadan was hard, but I got used to it. When my family and I were at the masjid, I thought we were going to leave after Isha, but my dad told me to go pray Taraweeh. I was so tired, but I agreed. Then I prayed my Taraweeh and I got even more tired! When me and my family were in the car, I asked my dad why he did not pray, but made me pray Taraweeh!

My dad said, “our baby Hamzah made trouble so I had to go to the back and couldn’t pray.” So this is my first Taraweeh.



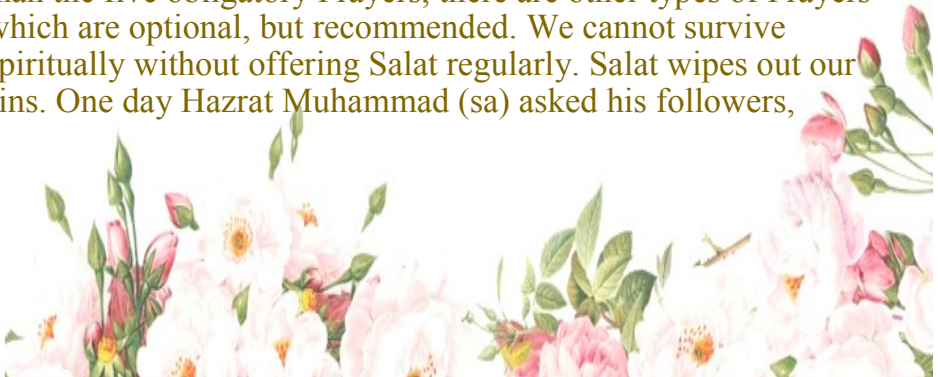
# Salat connects us with God



Salat is an Arabic word which means worship and prayer. It is a way to connect with our God and talk to him about our needs. In Salat, we can pray for our loved ones, the sick, the needy and anyone else. Salat is very important. It is one of the five pillars of Islam and is mentioned about 700 times in the Holy Qur'an such as in Chapter 29, Verse 46 where it says,

*“Recite that which has been revealed to thee of the Book and observe Prayer. Surely, Prayer restrains one from indecency and manifest evil, and remembrance of Allah indeed is the greatest virtue. And Allah knows what you do.”* Worship means to be totally obedient to the commandments given from Allah. According to the Holy Prophet (sa), *“Salat is the peak of the spiritual life of the believer. It is the highest form of Divine worship.”*

Islam has five basic duties that a Muslim has to perform. They are known as the five pillars of Islam and are; belief in God and His messenger (the proclamation of faith), Salat, Zakat (charity), fasting during Ramadan and Hajj. Salat is a requirement upon every Muslim to pray five times a day. Other than the five obligatory Prayers, there are other types of Prayers which are optional, but recommended. We cannot survive spiritually without offering Salat regularly. Salat wipes out our sins. One day Hazrat Muhammad (sa) asked his followers,



*“If one of you had a stream flowing by his door and he takes a bath in it five times a day, would any dirt be left on him?” They replied, “No dirt would be left on him.” The Holy Prophet (sa) replied, “This is the case with Salat. Allah makes the Salat wipe out sins” (Bukhari and Muslim).*

Sometimes worldly things can get in the way of offering Salat. Computers, game systems and TV can sometimes be in your schedule, but Salat must always be. You should also focus when you offer Salat before returning to your TV or video game. Salat is important and has its own blessings in paradise. We should endeavor to understand the importance of Salat to find our connection to God. May Allah enable us to attain our special connection with Him, and to have the ability to keep it, *Amin*.

Tehmina Manshad-Age 13-Virginia South



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.

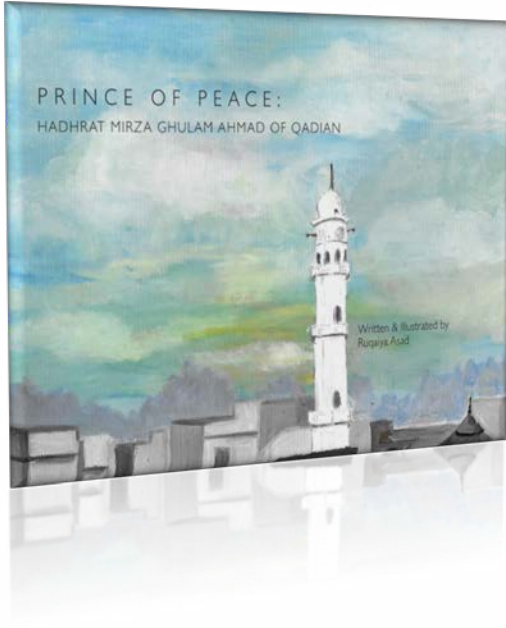
If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

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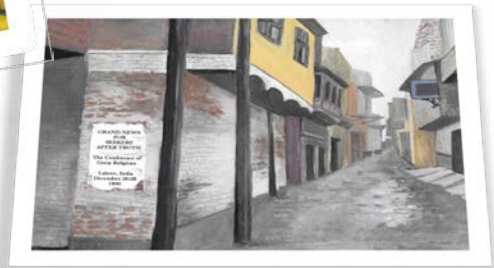
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## New Children's Book

# The Prince of Peace



The life of the Promised Messiah (as) written for children ages 7 to 14. Original artwork by the author based on authentic photos. Told in a simple style capturing the history and teachings of Ahmadiyyat Islam for young readers. An engaging overview that will resonate with parents and





# Prayer Gets You Through Hard Times



I started seeing things in my room in the darkness. They were figures of people roaming around my room, sitting at my desk and on my dresser. They were shadows without faces. One of them had short hair and a mouth that always smiled. She seemed to be their “leader”. I became more and more frightened, so I turned the light on and they went away. I started thinking about some scary stories that I had seen. I started to imagine those scary stories, and began to feel uneasy. After that I would read books when I went to bed to distract my thoughts.

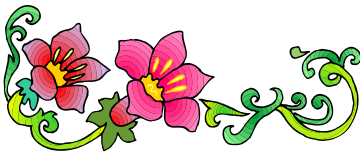
One night the girl came back. She was crawling quickly over my covers towards me. When she reached me she just disappeared into nothing. I really freaked out! I knocked over my lamp, and ran out of my room, down the hall and jumped in bed with my mom. She could tell that I was upset, so she kept asking me about it. Finally, I gave in and told her what had happened. She asked me why I had not said a prayer. I felt so embarrassed. She said that we would pray in my room. Mom read a few verses from the Holy Qur’an and we performed Salat in my room. After that, I felt better and I was able to sleep in my own room. Then, whenever those disturbing thoughts entered my mind, they did not bother me. This experience taught me that prayer can get you through hard times. After that, I had more confidence in prayer, and better understood the reason for Salat. I was better prepared to make my regular Salat, and I stopped becoming afraid.

*By: Alia Hampton, Age 11, GA/South Carolina  
Assisted by Grandma: AmatulMuid A. Anderson*

# ***The Power of Salat***

**Maha Laiq, Age 15, Virginia Central**

My friend told me to pray for her in Salat,  
So I prayed daily for her a lot,  
She told me to pray for her because she was lately feeling unwell,  
So I prayed that the medical exams and doctors would have  
nothing worrying to tell,  
I persistently prayed with intensity everyday,  
Praying that all her worries would go away,  
I knew Allah heard all that I prayed for,  
I prayed that He would surely send a cure,  
I didn't ask Allah to send my friend riches,  
so she could shop at expensive stores,  
I didn't pray to Allah, so He  
could give her fame and power,  
I asked for Him to send a gift  
of the highest value and was  
pure,  
I asked for Him to give her the  
gift of His nearness and health,  
All praise belongs to Allah  
who granted her the wealth of  
health,  
My prayers were accepted by  
the power of Salat and prayer.



**Amatul Baqi Bahri, Age 12,  
Georgia / South Carolina**

# Importance of Salat

Zaina Khan-Age 10-Virginia North

Salat means prayer. It is one of the five pillars of Islam. The importance of Salat has been emphasized in the Holy Qur'an greatly as well as by the Holy Prophet (sa) and by the Promised Messiah (as). Muslims offer Salat five times in a day; Fajr (at dawn), Zuhr (from the decline of the sun until mid afternoon), 'Asr (from mid afternoon to an hour before sunset), Maghrib (just after sunset) and Isha (from nightfall until midnight).



Salat should be offered regularly, on time and in congregation. People are often occupied at work or school during the day, but Fajr, Maghrib and Isha prayers can easily be offered at the masjid. Salat is repeated five times a day by hundreds and thousands of people. When we pray together in congregation it helps us to realize that all humanity is one and equal in the sight of Allah. Salat is very important and it is the apex in a true believer's worship. It is the best way to interact with God. The act of Salat is a way for us to present ourselves to Allah Almighty and it is a combination of different forms of prayer.

Salat should be performed wholeheartedly by thinking that when we stand, we are actually standing in front of Allah, when we bow, our heart is bowing to Allah and when we prostrate, it is in fear of Allah's displeasure. The purpose of Salat is to submit ourselves in front of Allah to be grateful for all that He has blessed us with and to ask Him to show us the right way. May Allah give us the ability to offer our five daily prayers, *Amin*.

## ***My First Fast***

Samreen Khalid Age 13-Baltimore

When I first began to fast, I was nervous, but I did not give up. My mom woke me up at 4:00am and taught me the proper way to fast. First, I prayed Tahajjud and then I had my sehri (early breakfast during Ramadan). Following this I prayed Fajr Salat. When this was complete around 5:00am, I went back to sleep. When I woke up, my mom gave me some tips to keep the fast including;

- Encouragement from parents
- Remembering that fasting was prescribed to people so that they could be grateful
- Memorizing part of the Holy Qur'an everyday
- Being mindful of your Salat
- Eating a healthy breakfast

During Ramadan, I would continue to read the Qur'an until my mom would tell me that it was time for iftar. Fasting teaches us many lessons such as the experience of the poor who do not have food and yet they must survive as well. May Allah help all those who are fasting during the month of Ramadan and bless us abundantly, *Amin.*

# *Our Beautiful Mosque*

**Sofiya Qazi -Age 12- Chicago Northwest**

**Our mosque, Our mosque, Our beautiful mosque,**

**Its pillars creamy white and tall,  
Its golden moon and unique dome,  
Its fresh green grass and crisp red roses.  
And the inside, with its plush carpets with green and gold,  
The silent while pillar halls,  
The light brown bookcases full of Qur'ans,  
The soft whisper of voices, from room to room.**

**The kind Ahmadis, old and young,  
Who proudly wear their hijabs and topees,  
Atop their heads like kings and queens.  
And all the others who are united within this mosque,  
Parents, sibilings, grandparents, friends, cousins.  
This mosque is where we gather for prayers,  
For education and celebration,**

**Yes, Our mosque, Our mosque, Our beautiful mosque.**





# SALAT VS. SCHOOL

Mariam Faruqi, Age 10, Houston North

We all know it's important to recite all the five prayers, but what happens when one of them is in your school time?



Well, I faced this exact problem when I started third grade, and I wanted to pray Zuhr at the right time. My best friend, a non-Ahmadi Muslim agreed with me: it was time to take matters into our own hands. My friend asked our teacher if she could pray in her classroom. However, that turned out to be a bad idea. With the new dismissal arrangement, it became too noisy and not at all private. So, our teacher promised to ask the principle where we could pray from now on. It took a few days, but we got our reply. We could use our principal's office

or another teacher's room. My friend and I were bursting with joy! I even got a brand-new sparkly hijab to celebrate. But if you thought this was the end, you thought wrong! In the last two years, my friend and I have faced a lot of obstacles. Some days, the principle is busy in his room and we have to go to the other teacher's room. Sometimes that room is also occupied, so we pray in a tiny closet by the front office. Despite all these problems, I get to pray Zuhr, which makes me happy, my parents happy, and hopefully, Allah happy.



# We must always put Prayer First

I want to take a few minutes to share my experience when Huzoor (aba), may Allah be his Helper, hosted a Waqf-e-Nau class in Maryland.

My first thoughts were that Huzoor (aba) spends much of his time in front of Presidents, Prime Ministers and Parliaments. So, of course, his time is very precious. He is meeting with leaders of nations who are responsible for millions and even billions of people. My next thought was, as I looked around the class: “Why would a man whose time is so precious, want to spend an entire hour with just a bunch of little kids?” My guess is that there were about 70 of us altogether.

But as I watched Huzoor (aba) and how he treated all of us, I began to realize that he was not looking at us as if we were just a bunch of kids. He was looking at us knowing that we are the future of Ahmadiyyat. He gave each of us two gifts. The first was a beautiful gold prayer rug. The second gift was chocolate. From these two gifts I understood what he wanted to say. The prayer rug was that if we are going to succeed as the future of this Jama‘at, we must always put Prayer first!



The second gift of chocolate told me that Huzoor (aba) understands that almost all kids enjoy candy. In other words, to be the future of Ahmadiyyat we can be blessed with both *deen* (religion) and *dunya*, (the world).

We waqf-e-nau must live up to the standard that our Khalifa has established for us. We must excel in both spiritual and worldly realms in order to be his true helpers. May Allah enable us to do so, *Amin*.

**Mehrosh Shams, Age 10, Zion**

# Salat

Aneela Kauser, Age 12, Houston North

Salat is the second pillar of Islam. It is reported that the Holy Prophet (sa) said, *The key to paradise is prayer; the key to prayer is Wudhu* (ablution) (Musnad Ahmad). Another saying of The Holy Prophet (sa) is reported by Hazrat Abu Huraira (ra): *On the day of Judgment, the first thing a man will have to account for will be his Salat. If this account is settled in his favor he will be successful. But if this account is not settled in his favor he will suffer a great loss* (Tirmidhi). Hazrat Abu Dahar (ra) said that once the Prophet (sa) went out in winter and a lot of leaves were falling off the trees. When he held a branch of a tree more leaves started to fall, and he said, *“If a Muslim performs prayers in order to please Allah, his sins will be shed like the leaves of this tree are shed”* (Musnad Ahmad).



## Salat Is The Key To Paradise

Jibran Qazi, Age: 9, Chicago Northwest

From Sura Al-Fatiha to Sura Al-Nas, the Qur'an repeatedly talks about prayer. The Qur'an actually says that the reason why we have been created is to worship Allah. Islam teaches us that we have to pray 5 times a day. But we also learn so many other prayers that we can say at any time we want. Prayers are the key to the gates of paradise because they help us get closer to Allah.



When we pray, we remind ourselves that we need Allah and we thank Him for everything. Allah says that he always answers prayers, even if it's not right away. So, we have to get in the good habit of praying every single day. In Chapter 2, Verse 187, Allah says:

***“And when my servants ask you about Me, say, I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me, so they should hear Me and believe in Me”.***

We have so many examples of when prayers work. Our prophets prayed and were saved from huge problems. For example, Prophet Noah (as) was saved from a flood and the Holy Prophet (sa) prayed when enemies chased him and he hid in a cave. And you know what happened? A spider spun a web over the cave opening to protect him! Ordinary people can have their prayers answered too. Our prayers are so powerful that they are the keys to our happiness and success, In Sha Allah.

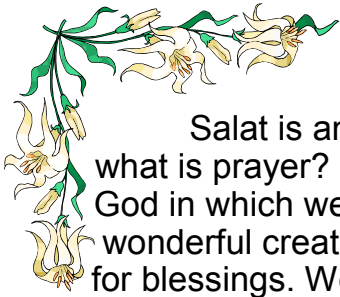


Let me tell you the story of my great grandfather. One day, he found himself in a strange village. The only way to get back to his town was to cross a long river, but he didn't know how to swim. My great grandfather prayed a lot. Suddenly, a strong man appeared out of nowhere and told him to climb onto his back. My great grandfather hesitated. What if this man hurt him somehow? Then he prayed some more. The man told him not worry. So he climbed onto his back and went across the river. When he got to the other side, he turned around to give this man some money. However, the mysterious man had disappeared. When my great grandfather asked some people where he had gone, they said, “There was no man. You crossed the river by yourself!”

It seems that he prayed so much that Allah sent an angel to help him!

This is the power of our prayers.





# What is Prayer?

Salat is an Arabic word that means prayer. So, what is prayer? It's the meeting between humans and God in which we talk to God and praise Him for his wonderful creations and His powers as we offer thanks for blessings. We also ask Him for things that we need because we strongly believe Allah is watching and listening to us. Islam teaches us that a part of the purpose of a Muslim's life is to worship Allah and to seek His love. Prayer is a wonderful thing which makes us closer to Allah Almighty.

Allah Says in the Holy Qur'an:

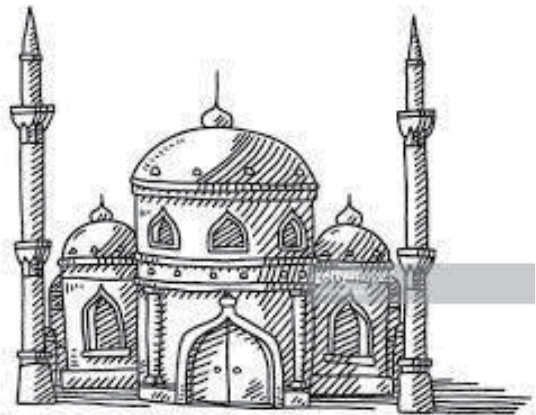
وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ﴿٥٧﴾

*"And I have not created the Jinn and the men but that they may worship Me." (51:57)*

Once the Holy Prophet (sa) asked his companions, *"What do you say? If there is a river in front of the house of one and if that person takes a bath in that river five times a day, would there be any filth left on him?"* The companions replied, *"There would not be any filth left on him."* Our Prophet (sa) said, *"Praying five times a day is just like that. Allah forgives our sins through our five daily obligatory prayers"* (Bukhari and Muslim).

## Color Your Own Mosque

When we are hungry, we eat something yummy like a tasty treat. We aren't hungry anymore and our stomach is full. Prayer is like that. Healthy food keeps us strong. Prayer does the same as it prevents us





from doing any wrong. Food is satisfying and so is Prayer. We may get what we pray for, like a gold medal. Without food, we get weak and sick. Without Prayer, we become exposed to evil.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (ra) says in his poetry:

*"With prayers, the impossible becomes possible. O my philosophers, witness the power of prayers."*

He is the Living God. There is no God but He. So pray unto Him, being sincere to Him in religion. All praise belongs to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

May Allah give us the strength and steadfastness to unlock the doors of bliss and fortune through prayers, *Amin*

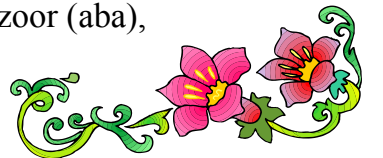
**By: Jaziba Manshad, Age 7, Virginia South**

## Salat is the Way to Connect to Allah

**Ruhaab Fatima, Age 11,  
LA East**

Salat is one of the five pillars of Islam. It is mandatory to offer Salat five times every day. Salat is the way to connect to Allah. I

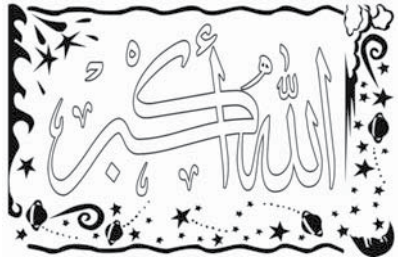
learned about Salat from my parents and through Tahir Academy. There are many other important prayers such as Friday Prayer, Eid Prayer, and *Tahajjud* Prayer. Every day, I offer Fajr before going to school. When I come back from school, I offer Zuhr and Asr. I offer Maghrib and Isha along with my family in the Salat Center at our home. We also try to offer Salat at the mosque whenever we get a chance. I pray for the health of Huzoor (aba), my family and for my studies.



# IMPORTANCE OF SALAT

Amatul Baqi Bahri, Age 12, Georgia-South Carolina

The Adhan is called and everyone is assembling for Salat. They start the prayer with “Allahu Akbar” (Allah is the greatest). But what is the importance of us doing Salat five times a day, daily? What is the purpose, the reasoning, the significance? Isn’t it simple? So we can become closer with Allah, be grateful to Him, ask for forgiveness, or beseech Him to grant something to us. We are submitting ourselves in the mercy of Allah, and are showing our gratitude to Him, the Almighty. Salat is not something that should be done mechanically, without emotion. Rather, we should be pouring our feelings into Salat, praying to get closer to God, and becoming closer to reaching Paradise in the Hereafter.



I’ve had a personal experience with having my prayers accepted by Allah, twice. I’d like to start with the first incident. My mother was very ill and she had to rest during Salat. I had become worried for her well being, and prayed to Allah to have her recover swiftly. The very next day, she was up and well, by the grace of Allah. I was relieved that she is okay, and grateful that Allah had heard and accepted my prayers.



My second experience was just last year, in 2018, when I was preparing to go on a field trip with my school. A tremendous thunderstorm was forecast, and some activities were to be cancelled. Feeling anxious about the thunderstorm, and the disappointment the other students would feel with having our activities cancelled, I prayed to Allah that the storm be held off, or better yet, not happen at all.



When we got there, there was no sign of a storm, and we continued on as planned. I felt immense relief, though in the night the heavy thunderstorm cancelled our night hike. Still, I was happy that we were able to do our daytime activities.

The importance of Salat is immense. Not only is it one of the Five Pillars of Islam, it is how we communicate with God and how we come closer to Him. When we return to Him, we may enter Paradise. When we commit sin, we ask for His forgiveness during Salat, in hopes of Him having mercy on us. We ask Him to accept our prayers, and to help us through our hardships. We ask Him to help us in making substantial decisions. Most importantly, We pray to worship Him, praise Him, be grateful to Him for granting us our needs.

He is our Creator, the One who has granted us life. Why shouldn't we worship Him for all that in which He has done for us, our world, and the universe? Salat has been practiced in this way since more than 1400 years ago, and we are still steadfast in our prayers, so that we have a closer relationship with Allah, and so that we may enter Paradise in the Hereafter.

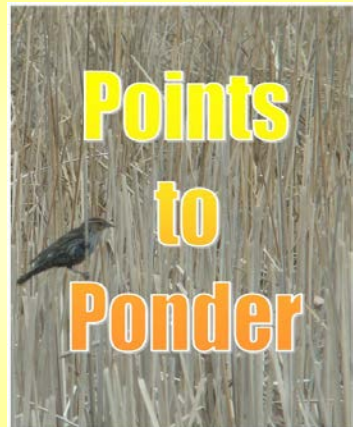


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# Prayers and Traveling

I like to travel a lot, but one of the big issues for me is turbulence in planes. Airplanes are very special to me. I like to learn about them and enjoy going places, but like everything in this world, planes are not perfect. Airplanes can



mess up and the news is sometimes filled with bad news of aviation accidents.



I always want to make sure that I say my prayers before boarding the flight, during the flight, and after the flight. I start praying for a smooth flight weeks before I even see the plane. Before we leave the house, I write a letter to Huzoor (aba) to ask him for prayers for our safe travel. I know that sometimes my letter won't reach him in time but once I write



it, I feel better because my intent reaches Allah before the actual letter reaches Huzoor (aba).

In the airport, there is a room for praying. It always has a prayer mat and some copies of the Holy Qur'an in it. I always offer Nafil (voluntary) prayer in this room. Then, on the jetway, I say my Durood Shareef and right when I enter the plane, I recite *Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim* (In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful)

Once on the plane, I can recite prayers for traveling that I have downloaded on my Kindle. Once we are on the runway, I keep repeating Ayat-ul-Kursi (Holy Qur'an, Chapter 2: Verse 256) and Surah Al-Fatihah (Holy Qur'an, Chapter 1)

over and over until the wheels are off the ground. I have had a lot of experience with turbulent flights throughout my life. When I have turbulent moments, I always recite Nafl. Usually the worse it gets the more I stay in sajdah (prostration). I do this because I feel more relaxed after saying the Nafl even if the turbulence isn't over. These prayers give me more confidence and trust in Allah.



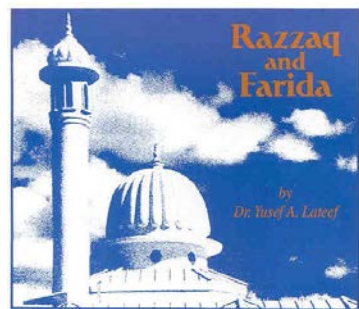
Once on a Saudi Arabian Airlines, I saw that the plane even had a place to pray in the back where you can stand and do ruku and go into Sajdah. There are indicators on a lot of Middle Eastern air carriers about the direction of the Qibla in relation to the plane. I think this is very cool. I always thank Allah for everything on the flight. I know that He is the ultimate Protector, and when I pray, I feel that He is listening to me and will take care of me.

By: Hammad Safi, Age 13, Harrisburg

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# I talk to Allah in Salat

**Zara Ahmad Age 11-Virginia South**

Salat is the time you take out of your day to pray that God leads us closer to Him and heaven. According to the Holy Prophet (sa), *“Salat is the pinnacle of the spiritual life of the believer. It is the highest form of Divine worship.”*

During Salat, you can pray your heart out and prayers could be answered. Salat is a time to love your Creator and fear Him. According to a saying of the Holy Prophet (sa), *“Perfect*

*Prayer is one where the worshipper has the immediate and sure feeling that he is seeing God, or at least that God is seeing him.”* As we need food and water in the physical world, we need Salat in the spiritual world. In the spiritual world, it is as if we can't see without Salat as our eyes. The first thing we will have to answer about on the day of judgment is Salat. I talk to Allah in Salat about my wishes, hopes for success, family and much more. Most of my prayers get accepted, Al Hamdu Lillah. I feel comfort and peace by doing Salat.



# My Favorite Prayer

My favorite prayer is “*Rabbi Zidni Ilma*” which means, “*Oh my Lord, increase me in knowledge*”. I say this prayer before I read, write, play, and sometimes I even stop in the middle of a sentence just to say it. One thing that I know really



well about this prayer is that once you start saying it, it is very hard to stop. Saying this prayer helps us a lot. For example, every time I say this prayer before a test, worksheet, or activity, I always get a good grade on it, Al-Hamdu Lillah! When we say “*Rabbi Zidni Ilma*” we are asking Allah to increase our knowledge, and in that way Allah helps us to learn better. I always say this prayer in my Salat as well, because we all need knowledge. The Holy Prophet (sa) said: “*The acquisition of knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim man and woman*” (Baihiqi). He (sa) also said that even if you have to go as far as China to gain knowledge, then do it (in those days China was a very far away place). This prayer will always be one of my favorite prayers. I encourage you to say it often too. May Allah give us a lot of knowledge and enable us to be true helpers of humanity through our knowledge, Ameen.

**By: Kashifa Wahab Mirza, Age 10, Virginia North**



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## ***Salat is very important***

Ataul Noor, Age 13, Virginia South

Salat, or prayer, is a very important connection in Islam. Salat is what connects you to Allah. Salat is so important in fact, it is one of the five pillars of Islam. These are things that you must do to be considered a Muslim. You must pray five times a day, at the appointed times. At dawn is Fajr, soon after noon time is Zuhr, late afternoon is Asr, just after sunset is Maghrib, and nighttime is Isha.

Salat is very important, and this rank of importance is shown in a saying (Hadith) of the Holy Prophet (sa):  
*“On the day of Judgment, the first thing that a man will have to account for will be his Salat. If this account is settled in His favor then he will be successful. But if this account is not settled in his favor then he will suffer a great loss. If there is a deficiency in offering Fard (obligatory Prayers), Allah shall compensate this deficiency by borrowing from his Nafil (voluntary Prayers) if there are any”* (Tirmidhi).

Not only is the importance of Salat shown through the Holy Prophet’s wisdom, but it is also expressed through Allah Almighty’s words:

*“Recite that which has been revealed to thee of the Book, and observe Prayer. Surely, Prayer restrains one from indecency and manifest evil, and remembrance of Allah indeed is the greatest virtue. And Allah knows what you do.”* (Holy Qur’an, 29:46).

May Allah enable us to endeavor to complete our Salat, and may He enable us to show full commitment for, and during our Salat, *Amin*.



# Salat is the Way

In our life we must be fair,  
and take the time to say our prayers.

We say our prayers five times a day,  
so that we do not go astray.

To Allah alone do we bow down,  
Al Maalik, who has the crown.

In salat we search for peace,  
and that our blessings do not cease.

In congregation we are one,  
besides Allah there is none.

Next time you hear the call to pray,  
get up, do ablution and don't delay.

Allah is waiting to listen to you.  
Let's be among His blessed few.



By: Yazaan Malik Safi , Age 11, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

## Conditions of Bai'at

**III**

That he/she shall regularly offer the five daily Prayers in accordance with the commandments of God and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) and shall try his/ her best to be regular in offering the tahajjud and invoking durud on the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). That he/she shall make it his/her daily routine to ask forgiveness for his/ her sins, to remember the bounties of God and to praise and glorify Him .







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## Answer Key

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

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# Glossary

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

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ : All praise belongs to Allah.

al-Hilāl الهلال : The new moon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iftār افطار : breaking the Islamic formal fast at sunset

Iftārī افطاری : eating to break Islamic formal fast.

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

ṣadaqah صدقه : alms

ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wa sallam صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ : peace and blessings of Allah be on him.

Sipara سپاره : One of the thirty parts of the Holy Qur'an. [سی سی : thirty. pāra پاره : part] Juz جز in Arabic.



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