

Al Hilal

ALLAH

الله



US \$2

A Magazine for Children

2022-1

QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

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

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Editor's Note

The notation (sa) is an abbreviation of the prayer *sallallāhu 'alaihi wa sallam* (peace and blessings of God be upon him), which we say 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.



Dear Reader, As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

As Muslims, we are profoundly indebted to the Holy Prophet (sa) for giving us the knowledge of God and the way to come close to Him. However, this is a very personal subject and everyone’s experience of God is different. Children often have a straightforward and immediate relationship with God, uncluttered by doubts or concerns or distractions. This was beautifully illustrated by a friend’s daughter who told her mother that she was going to make a drawing of God. Her mother said, “But we don’t know what God looks like.” Her daughter replied, “Well you will in a minute!”

Please join me in appreciating our children’s understanding of the existence of God.

Was-Salām
Saliha Malik
Chief Editor, Al-Hilāl

Editor’s Note Continued:

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

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

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

القرآن الكريم

هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ ۚ عَلِيمُ الْغَيْبِ
وَالشَّهَادَةِ ۚ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴿١﴾
هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ ۚ الْمَلِكُ
الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيَّمِنُ الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ
الْمُتَكَبِّرُ ۚ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٢﴾
هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَالِقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّرُ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ ۚ
يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ
الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٣﴾

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ﴿١﴾ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ﴿٢﴾
لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ﴿٣﴾ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ﴿٤﴾

القرآن الكريم

He is Allah, and there is no God beside Him, the Knower of the unseen and the seen. He is the Gracious, the Merciful.

He is Allah, and there is no God beside Him, the Sovereign, the Holy One, the Source of Peace, the Bestower of Security, the Protector, the Mighty, the Subduer, the Exalted. Holy is Allah far above that which they associate with Him.

He is Allah, the Creator, the Maker, the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifies Him, and He is the Mighty, the Wise.

(Surah Al-Hashr, Ch. 59, V. 23 - 25)

In the name of Allah,
the Gracious, the Merciful.

Say, 'He is Allah, the One and only;
Allah, the Independent and Besought of all.

He begets not, nor is He begotten;
And there is none like unto Him.

(Surah Al-Ikhlās, Ch. 112)



Hadith

Jabir narrates that he heard the Holy Prophet (sa) say:
“The most excellent way of remembering Allah is to proclaim:
There is no one worthy of worship
except Allah. And the best
supplication is to profess: All
praise belongs to Allah.”

(Tirmidhi)



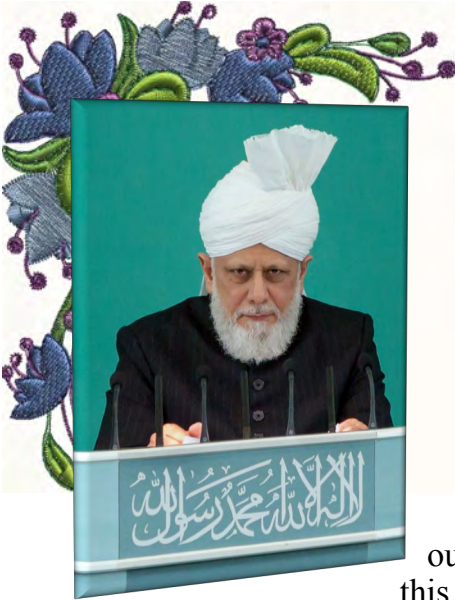
Anas relates that the Holy Prophet (sa), said:

Allah says: When a servant of Mine advances towards Me a foot, I advance towards him a yard, and when he advances towards Me a yard, I advance toward him the length of his arms spread out. When he comes to Me walking, I go to him running.

(Bokhari)

The All-Powerful One God

Friday Sermon: April 18, 2014

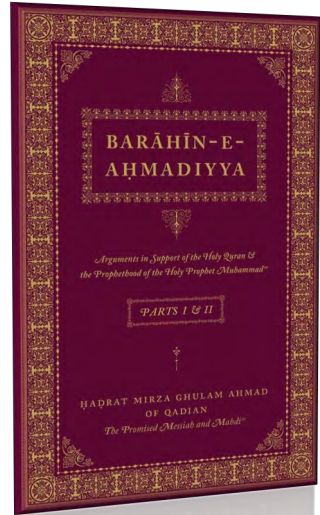


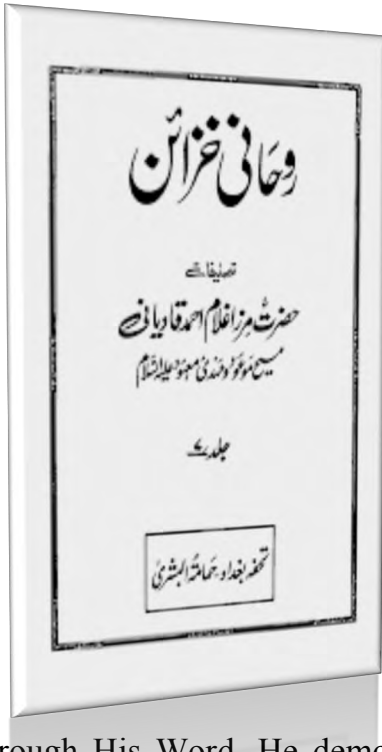
Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih V (aba) explained, 'In order to appreciate the power of God one must turn to God in complete sincerity and worship Him. If this is done, God runs to embrace His servants and showers them with His blessings. The Promised Messiah (as) asked us with great anguish to connect to God in this manner and thus adorn

our life in this world as well as in the Hereafter.'

'Writing about the reality of God as presented by Islam the Promised Messiah (as) said: 'God is the light of the heavens and the earth. Every light that is visible on the heights or in the valleys, whether in souls or in bodies, whether personal or impersonal, whether apparent or hidden, whether in the mind or outside it, is a bounty of His grace. This is an indication that the general grace of the Lord of the worlds envelops everything and nothing is deprived of that grace. He is the source of all grace, the ultimate cause of all lights and the fountainhead of all mercies. His Being is the support of the universe and is the refuge of all high and low. He it is Who brought everything out of the darkness of nothingness and bestowed upon everything the mantle of being. No other being than Him is in himself present and eternal or is not the recipient of His grace. Earth and heaven, man and animals, stones and trees, souls and bodies, have all come into existence by His grace.'

(Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 1, pp. 191-192)





‘Writing about the Holy Prophet (sa) as the only way to know God the Promised Messiah (as) said: ‘Our soul and every particle of our being are prostrate before the Mighty, True and Perfect God from Whose hand every soul and every particle of creation together with all its faculties came into being, and through Whose support every being is sustained. Nothing is outside His knowledge, outside His control, or outside His creation. We call thousands of blessings and peace and mercy on the Holy Prophet Muhammad, the chosen one (sa) through whom we have found the Living God Who gives us proof of His existence

through His Word. He demonstrates to us through extraordinary signs His shining countenance which possesses eternal and perfect power. We found the Messenger (sa) who manifested God to us and we found God Who created everything through His perfect power. How majestic is His power that nothing came into being without it and nothing can continue to exist without its support. That True God of ours possesses numberless blessings, numberless powers, numberless beauties and beneficences. There is no other God beside Him.’”

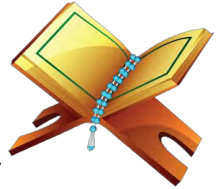
(Nasim-e-Da‘wat, Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 19, p. 363. Essence of Islam, Vol. I, p. 39)



I Believe in Allah

Sara Khan/ Age 11/ Philadelphia

I have known about the existence of Allah since my early childhood. I know that Allah has created all of us and everything. He accepts our prayers when these prayers are good for us and what we pray for is good for us. I always feel peace when I pray to Allah, which makes me believe in Allah's existence. Allah has sent many prophets, and they said to us that Allah exists, and they talked to Allah the Almighty. They all were righteous people and experienced the presence of Allah, so I believe that Allah exists.



Allah

Waseem Ahmad/ Age 12/ Dayton

Allah is most Gracious and Merciful. There is no telling what He looks like. Allah is One. Allah is Lord of all the worlds. He is invincible. There are Holy Books about Him like the Bible and the Qur'an. Allah has created everything. There is a reason why everything happens. He is always watching over you. Allah has sent many prophets to guide mankind to Him. If something bad happens, pray to Him for help. God is very powerful. If you think you're alone, you are wrong. Allah is Almighty. Allah has ninety-nine attributes. May Allah grant us wisdom to know and understand all His attributes.



Allah



Painting On Canvas

Maimoona Rahman/ Age 12/ Los Angeles



The beautiful names of Allah

Leila Raja/ Age 9/ Virginia Central

Allah is the Arabic word for God. He is the One God and there is nothing like Him. We should have trust and have faith in Him and worship Him with all our hearts. We should pray to Allah and not to anyone or anything else. He gave us a soul, so we have a special relationship with God and our soul wants to get closer to Him. We can do that by thinking about His names.

God has the most beautiful names like **Ar-Rahman**, the Gracious. He created everything we need to live like the air we breathe, the sun, water, and food. Since God gave us everything, we should be thankful and be giving to others. Allah is also **Ar-Raheem**, the Merciful. He helps us when we work hard and make good choices. If we make mistakes, we hope God will forgive us. Since God is Merciful, we should be forgiving to others. God is also Loving and Kind, so we should be loving and kind to others.



God is also **Al-Malik**, the Master of the Day of Judgment. He judges our actions, and so we should try to do good deeds. He is also **All-Seeing**, so we should remember we can't ever hide any bad deed from Him. He is also **All-Knowing**, so we should learn and study as much as we can about everything.

In conclusion, there is only One God, and He has the most beautiful names, so we should remember Allah and copy His qualities because that brings us closer to Him and helps us become better people.

Allah accepts my prayer

Leila Sharif/ Age 7/ York/Harrisburg

One day, I was on holiday in Brooklyn. While we were going out to the restaurant with Baba we saw a homeless man asking for some money for food. When I came back from the restaurant, I saved him some of my food and I packed it very nicely and even gave him chicken and some sauce and a napkin. Then we went outside to look for him. We looked and looked but we couldn't find him. Then I tried to find other people who might want the food. While I was standing there, I prayed to Allah that I would see that same



man again. All of a sudden, I saw him at the traffic lights. We spotted the same man and we gave him the food. The man was shocked and so happy and quickly ate the food. And then we went back inside.

That was Allah answering my prayer because I wanted to do something good and give the poor man some food, so Allah made the poor man come back. Even though Brooklyn is a massive city, somehow, I still found him again. This shows me that Allah answered my prayers, *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*



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Mahar Rasheed/ Age 7/ Cleveland

I think that Allah listens to everyone who prays with full belief in Allah. He fulfills their prayers as soon as possible. I prayed so much for a sister and He granted my wish and gave me a sister after that. I'm so happy that Allah accepted my prayers. When I pray with my heart, Allah always accepts my prayers. I love you so much, my dear Allah.



Zohaib Ahmad/ Age 9/ GA/SC

My favorite attribute is **Al-Ahad**. It means the One who has ever been alone and will always remain alone. The incomparable and the One who is the essence of Unity, the Sole One. This attribute has been mentioned in Surah Al-Ikhlās: Chapter 112 of the Holy Qur'an. "Ikhlās" is about *Tauheed* (Unity of God).



I Love Allah

Zoya ManSurah Bhatti,
Age 8, York/Harrisburg

I love Allah for many reasons. The first reason is because of all the things He has created. He is **Al-Khaliq**, the Creator. Allah has created me, the trees, and flowers. Allah is also very forgiving. He is **Al-Ghaffar**, the Forgiver. I know that I can always ask for forgiveness from Allah if I do something wrong by reciting, “I seek forgiveness from Thee, My Lord, for all my sins and turn to Thee.”



Allah is also very loving. He is **Al-Wadood**, the Most Loving. He loves me more than my family loves me. I know this because He has created me. I also love Allah because He is **Ar-Rahman**, the Most Gracious. He has given me things that I didn't even ask for. I know that if I pray to Him and I want something, if it is good for me, He will accept my prayer. In order to be closer to Allah here is a prayer to recite that the Holy Prophet (sa) taught us:

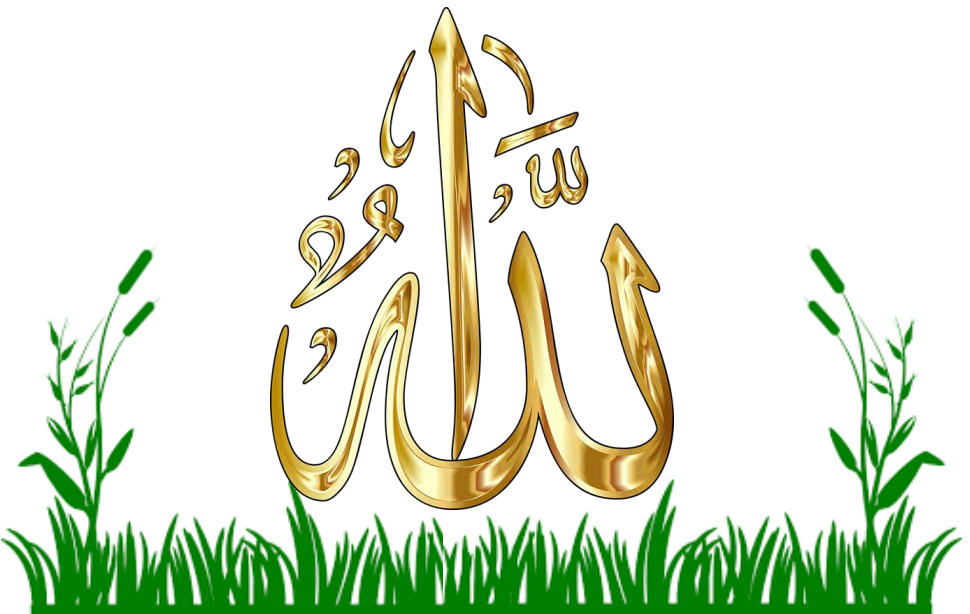
“O Allah! I supplicate You to grant me Your love, and the love of those who love You and the action which may lead me to win Your love. And make my love for You dearer to me than myself, my family and cold (refreshing) water”

(Tirmidhi Kitab-ud-Da`waat).



Zara Noon/ Age 7/ GA/SC

My Allah My Allah My Allah
My Allah the Creator of everything
My Allah the Gracious the Merciful
My Allah has the solution to every problem
My Allah forgives who repents
My Allah gives rest from pain
My Allah the Source of Peace
My Allah listens to my prayers
My Allah loves all of us
My Allah My Allah My Allah



Proof of God's Existence

Samreen Khalid / Age 15/ Baltimore

Atheists do not believe that God exists. They say that there is no God, but we have solid proof of God's existence. Everything around is proof of God's existence. Every day we wake up shows the existence of God. This universe is the proof of God's existence. There is no way this universe could have been formed out of nowhere. It's the same as saying that in your life things appear out of nowhere. People will find it as a joke and will not believe it, just like this universe can't be formed out of nowhere. There has to be some being who created it and that Creator is God.



Al-Mujeeb



Muhammad-Jahid Agha Khan/ Age 7/ Baltimore

My mom always tells me that Allah is **Al-Mujeeb**, the one who accepts prayers. I experienced it myself this summer. I went to the Virginia Safari Park. There I went to feed the giraffes. I was very excited. When I reached the feeding area the people were leaving because the giraffes were not coming. I stood there and prayed to Allah. As soon as I finished praying, all the people standing there cleared out. The giraffes came to me first and I fed them! I feel very fortunate and lucky that Allah accepted my prayer. I love Allah so much!





Allah

Taha Ahmad, Age 11, GA/SC

A *All-knowing*

L *Loving*

L *Lord of Majesty and Bounty*

A *Amazing*

H *Hidden one*

Allah the most Merciful

Rehan Ahmad Butt/ Age 13/ Kentucky



When we pray and do good deeds, angels will gather around us and bring with them the Blessings and Mercy of Allah. If we maintain ourselves throughout all the days, a veritable host of angels will leave us and return to Allah to report on whether we were doing good deeds or not, and Allah will bless us for doing good deeds. Angels urge us to do good deeds. The more time we spend in remembrance of Allah, the more angels come to such a person and the more they will constantly remind them to perform good deeds.

Gratitude to Allah is only possible when people adopt humility and when their heart is pure with the recognition of the immense Grace and Bounty of Allah, when they are in love with Allah. Then when you love someone or something, all you can do is to think about that person or thing you love. If people are like that to Allah He will bless them. We do this and we are commanded to do this because it is the only way and the best way for us to communicate with Allah.



How Allah Blessed Me



Tanzeela Iraj Akbar / Age 13 / Research Triangle

In the Holy Qur'an Allah says: *“Which, then, of the favors of your Lord will you twain deny, O men and Jinn?”* [Ch. 55, V. 14]

Whenever I recite Surah Ar-Rahman I realize how blessed we are. I want to tell you about a few of the blessings I have from Allah. I cannot count all the blessings because they're countless.

First and foremost He made me an Ahmadi Muslim girl and I know and recognize my Creator. I am not wandering around like so many people who don't know anything about God. He gave me a chance to educate myself, which so many children don't get in this world. He gave me shelter and food. He has also blessed me and my family by supporting us through hardships. Allah is always there for anyone who needs help. Whenever we have hard times Allah is always there to help us. Now Allah has blessed us with our own home and it's big enough for the whole family.

Allah has also blessed me by giving me a healthy life. A lot of people don't have a healthy body and I'm very thankful to Allah for giving me a healthy body. I'm also very thankful to Allah for giving me a family. There are many people who don't have a family to support them and I'm very thankful that I have a loving family. Allah has blessed me in many ways and I'll always be thankful to Him, *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*



Allah the Light

Nehal White/ Age 10/ Virginia North

A Light that Shines with Love and Mercy when all is
dull and lifeless.
Saves you when the time is right, uniting all together.
He creates what you are grateful for,
Shining with life and color,
Eyes on the past and All-Knowing
Made rivers of Light to discern what is right.
Graceful and full of Life, the never-ending puzzle.
Mystery of Love, colors can arise and watch.
If there was no ruler, chaos and crime
would rule the land.
But He crushed the hate and Peace unites.



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I Love Allah

Fareeha Iqbal/ Age 9/ Virginia Central

I love Allah because He created me and created the whole universe. I also love Allah because He loves us and forgives us for our mistakes. Here are some ways we can connect with Allah:

- I. Pray to Him
- II. Learn more prayers
- III. Learn more about Islam
- IV. Write to Huzoor (aba) regularly



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Allah Accepts My Prayers

Aiden Muhammad/ Age 13/ Dallas

Praying to Allah whenever I lose one of my belongings, no matter how small it is, has recently become a habit for me. *Al-Hamdu Lillah*, I have become much closer to Allah and He is now my foundation. Anything I struggle with, from something as trivial as dying in a minecraft world to an exam I had no idea existed (nor had I studied for it), I pray to Allah to be my guiding light and show me the way out of my predicament. When you have full belief in God, He will almost always listen to your prayers.



However, when Allah doesn't accept your prayers, even then try to be happy. This is why I am not only going to shed light upon how Allah accepts my prayers, but also why He sometimes doesn't. If I were to lose my phone and not be able to find it, for all I know, Allah could have been protecting me from the ill effects of technology. Maybe if, in this made-up situation, I had found my phone, I might have gone through many difficulties in my social life. Allah always has His reasons. Man is too simple-minded to even somewhat comprehend the Almighty's reasons for the way He does things. This is very important to keep in mind; that with prayer, there is always a chance that your prayers are not accepted. This does not necessarily mean that you are



being punished, but rather that Allah loves you and is protecting you. It is similar to the love of a mother. When a child sees fire and is intrigued by it, a mother does not let her child have their wish of touching the fire. Take that immense but limited compassion of a mother, and multiply it by many infinities, and you will find yourselves with Allah's limitless love for you.



I once heard a story from an elder where he went out to dinner with a colleague and was going to go to a Walmart to buy something afterwards. Once his dinner was over, his colleague asked him to go for tea. The man responded and said he had to go to Walmart. Upon being asked multiple times to have a cup of tea, the man gave in. After the cup of tea, the same thing happened! The



colleague insisted on having another cup of tea with him as he was enjoying their meeting. At this, the man was greatly annoyed as he wanted to go to Walmart because he needed something from there. After much pestering from the colleague, the man gave in. By the time the next cup of tea was

finished, the store hours were over. The man was annoyed that he had not gone to Walmart. The next day, an article appeared on the news that there had been a shooting at a Walmart in which many casualties ensued. This was the same Walmart the man had planned to go to. If Allah were to listen to the man's wish, the man would've been a victim of that shooting. Such is the love that Allah has for us. Allah may or may not accept your prayers, but He will always act out of love and what is good for you.



Remembrance of Allah



Aiza Ahmad/Age 15/GA/SC

With assistance from Attiya T. Ghani (Mother)

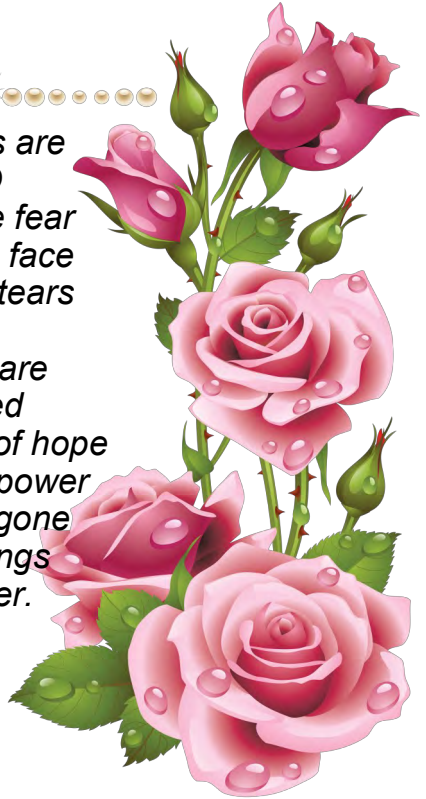
أَلَا يَذْكُرُ اللَّهُ تَطْبِئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ ﴿٢٩﴾

**“Aye it is in the remembrance of Allah that hearts can
find comfort [The Holy Qur’an, Ch.13, V. 29.]**

This verse is about those who seek Allah, the more they turn to Him the greater they find comfort and peace of mind. It reminds me of a poem that I wrote a few years ago.

Some things are
WEIRD
which cause fear
the key is to face
with faithful tears

when you are
distressed
hold the rope of hope
seek Allah’s power
fear will be gone
and blessings
will shower.



اللَّهُ
الْحَكِيمُ





Hassan Ahmad Khan/Age 9/North Jersey

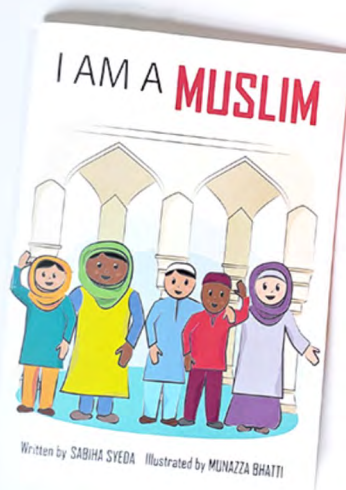
I love Allah, Allah is Love.
Allah the Most Merciful
Allah the Creator
Allah loves everyone
Allah helps me all the time
Allah the Great
I love Allah, Allah loves me

I AM A MUSLIM

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Countless Blessings

Zobia Farhan/ Age 15/ Virginia North



God is everywhere. He is inside the wind flowing through the leaves and the snow gracefully falling on the damp soil. He is in your hearts when you offer Salat and in your head when you recite the Holy Qur'an.

God was there for me when I was basically falling off the right path. Before COVID-19, I was not the best Nasirat. I wouldn't listen to everything my parents told me, I didn't read the Holy Qur'an every morning at Fajr. Sometimes I wouldn't even wake up for Fajr. I was always focused on popularity and making friends, rather than my studies. Nothing good was happening for me. But then, when my whole family was isolated in COVID-19, it was like my eyes and my mind had been opened. God looked at me and straightened me out.

I started to realize how wrong I was in everything. I always had a gut feeling that some things I did weren't the right thing to do, but my devil was louder than my angel. Allah bestowed on me countless blessings and, perhaps, some forgiveness, for I completely changed! Lying physically hurt. I felt extremely guilty if my parents looked even the slightest bit disappointed in me. The words of our Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba), left an impression on me and I made a point to listen to everything he said. It was by the grace of Allah that I changed my ways.

I think the most important thing for any Ahmadi to think about is if what you are doing is going by the rules of the Jama'at; if what you are doing really feels right, because if it doesn't, then it

probably isn't. God has made humans to be righteous. Just remember to remember Allah in everything that you do. *Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Raheem* [In the name of Allah the Gracious the Merciful] is a great prayer to bring blessings upon whatever you do.



Manal Ahmad/ Age 8/ Virginia Central

Allah has blessed me with my family and friends. He has blessed me with food, water, and shelter. Allah has blessed me in a way so that I can survive even the toughest times. I can thank Him through prayers, offering Salat and reading the Holy Qur'an. How can I pay gratitude to Allah? He has blessed me with:

Eyes, so I can see my family.

Nose, so I can smell beautiful smells.

Ears, so I can hear about the good not the bad.

Hands, so I can feel and touch things.

Taste, so I can taste all the delicious flavors.



Allah has also blessed the Jama'at with the Diamond of Khilafat, Syed Taalay Ahmed Shaheed, who taught me how much to love dear Huzoor (aba) with his last words: "Tell Huzoor I love him."

Allah

Arshia Sulaiman/ Age 8/ Virginia Central

I love Allah because He is Kind and Merciful. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Pray unto Me; I will answer your prayer” [Ch. 40, V. 61].

I had a wish to have a sister and so I prayed to God for a sister. Allah listened and accepted my prayers. After some time, my sister was born. It was a cheerful moment for me, and I was so happy. I felt closer to Allah the Almighty. Another incident which made my connection strong with Allah the Almighty was a dream in which I saw Him when I was sleeping. In my dream, I saw Him in heaven where there were rocks and waterfalls. It was a beautiful garden with pretty flowers and lakes. Next morning, I was very happy and found a closer bond with Allah. He was so kind to show me such a blessed dream.



I really love Him because He made me just the way I wanted to be. I thank Allah for the way He created me. I love Him the most because He listens to most people's prayers and saves them from their suffering and problems. I hope you all love Allah because He loves us.

Allah Listens To me

Tanzeela Khan/ Age 10/ York/Harrisburg



When I pray to Allah it is great to feel that someone is listening and granting your prayers. That's why we should always be good because Allah is always watching!

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

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

For example, one day I prayed so hard to get a kitten and Allah accepted my prayer! Two years later I got not one but two black kittens! One is named Aria and the other is Zero! They are both sisters! Another recent example is when I had strep throat and it hurt a lot. When Maghrib Salat came, I prayed that my strep throat would be gone and the next morning it was gone! I was so happy! That is my connection with Allah and it shows how much He cares about me! I feel good when I pray to Allah and believe that He will truly listen to me.



Our Living God

Tahaani Khan/ Age 14/ York/Harrisburg

Our Living God

As-Samad, Al-Khaliq, Al-Mujeeb, Al-Muhyee

The Incomparably Great, and the Answerer of prayers is always here for me.



Al-Khaliq, the Creator, is the root of our beating hearts, our walking legs, and our beautiful faces. He has created perfect plants, every shade of charming color, and all the memorable places.

Al-Mujeeb, the Answerer of Prayers hears our wishes. My vibrant red and black bike, my delicate blue polaroid camera, and my radiant friends who have helped me through it all, were once prayers, but now a reality.



Al-Muhyee, the Giver of Life has the power to sculpt out of mud our looks, our personality, our imagination, and our ability. Your bright eyes, your dazzling hair, and your

hard-working hands He created, as He kept His Nobility.

The Independent and Besought of all

The Creator

The Answerer of prayers

The Giver of Life all describe our Living God.





Taroob Rahman / Age 9 / Fort Worth

Allah is Al-Awwal and Al-Akhir

It is with Allah's name that everything in this world begins and it is with Him that everything ends.

Allah is Al-Waliyy

Allah is my best friend and He is always with me. Even if my family leaves me, I will not be alone because Allah will always be by my side.

Allah is Al-Ghafoor and Ar-Raheem

Allah is the most forgiving, He forgives me when I make mistakes. Allah is merciful and I pray for mercy for me and all of mankind.

Allah is As-Sami

He hears everything. He hears me whisper, and He hears me yell. I pray for Allah to hear all of my prayers that are in my heart.

He is Al-Khaliq

He has created everything in the universe; from every single star in the sky to every grain of sand in the desert. He has created me, my family, the things I love, and everything I see.

Allah is An-Nur

He is the light that takes the darkness away. It is with His light that we can find the right path that leads us to do good.

Allah is As-Samad

He is the One and Only. There is no one that can compare to Him. My Allah! I love Him with all my heart.

Allah Listened To My Prayer

Malaika Khan/Age 12/ North Jersey

Before COVID-19, I got second place in our 2019 Regional Waqfe Nau Ijtima. I did not know what Jama'at I was in for the Waqfe Nau Ijtima, but one day before the Ijtima my parents told me that I was going to participate. It was so hard to review everything in one day. I prayed to Allah and tried to review everything. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says:

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

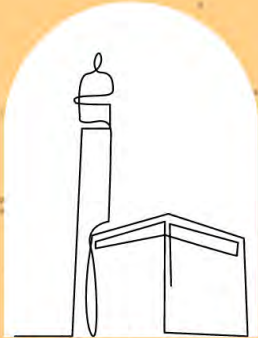


I went to the masjid and I recited all I knew to the judge. After Salat I prayed again to Allah. Then they announced the prizes for all age groups and my age group was announced. Then I heard my name for second place. I was so happy and I thanked Allah for listening to my prayer.

On my way home I thanked Allah for listening to my prayer. When I arrived home I offered Salat. I thanked Allah again!

MY CALL FROM ALLAH ALMIGHTY

Aariz Noor Ahmad/ Age 10/ Kentucky



I am writing about an experience I had with Allah. One day I came back from school and after saying Salat, I sat on the couch like I usually do. Meanwhile, my sisters were dropping off their friend at her house. Little did I know that an accident had happened as they were doing so. Thankfully,

no one was hurt, but the car was damaged. They called everyone but no one picked up.

While I was home, I was wondering why they were taking so long so I decided to call them. When I called them the first thing they said was, "Aariz we got into a car crash. I have called both mom and dad but no one has responded." My mom was at work and my dad works night shifts so he was asleep. I immediately ran upstairs and told my dad what had happened. He asked if they were okay and I said yes and handed him the phone. We drove to them and handled the situation. Thanks to Allah they were okay.

When we got home, we were talking about how I was the one to call them by chance, and they didn't call me. My mom said that Allah put it inside me to call them. This was very eye opening. I called my sisters just because I wanted to, but I ended up helping them instead. Without Allah giving me the urge to call them, they would have struggled to find an adult to help them. This is the story of the experience I had with Allah. I thank Him every day.



Soha Ahmed/ Age 10/ Virginia Central

The attribute of Allah the Fashioner, is seen all around us in the tall trees, the glimmering lakes, and rivers. But it is also seen in ourselves. The Promised Messiah (as) said that Allah is that Fashioner who creates the body as well as the soul and who makes an image in the womb. We must go on walks to appreciate the beauty that Allah has given us. You may see the deer, birds, bunnies, even flowers and plants, the luscious colors of the sky blending and the soft green hills.

For example, in Hawaii it feels as if you are in a dream watching the tides going back and forth tickling your feet, and the beautiful puffy clouds as if you're in a painting, the sounds of people laughing in the distance and the glimmering waterfalls. Animals like turtles and dolphins, the beautiful flowers on the trees, and the wind blowing all give you a good feeling; it's all just so ethereal.

In Virginia we can see so much also. For example, in D.C. in spring you can see the cherry blossoms and the petals dancing in the wind. You can go to a flower field and see sunflowers, tulips, hydrangeas, lilies and carnations. You can go to any grassy area near a lake and have a picnic and enjoy the beautiful scenery and listen to the Holy Qur'an. All

the earth's beauty is just unbelievable if you think about it. We can smell, hear, touch, make sound, everything is just so beautiful. If you search for pictures of the Milky Way, you'll see a trillion stars that are all so pretty. We must thank Allah, the Fashioner, and be very grateful for all that Allah has given us in this world.



**Aqsa Suhail/Age 11/
Virginia Central**

Al-Khaliq, the Creator is the One who creates things from nothing. Can you imagine having four thousand teeth? Well, there's a big vegetarian animal in the ocean who does! It's the colossal whale shark. This

humongous creature is the biggest creature in the sea. How do you think it got its teeth? Well, there is only one answer. **Al-Khaliq** has given the whale four thousand teeth. We don't even need that many teeth to eat meat, never mind vegetables!

Another amazing animal is the honey badger. It's hidden power is truly a great trait. Honey badgers are immune to all kinds of venom which is why they can hunt for literally anything without any fear. Imagine! it can be injected by venom, which won't even harm it at all! Allah the Greatest has created both these unique and phenomenal animals. When we start looking at Allah's creation, it is truly amazing. These incredible creations prove that only Allah is **Al-Khaliq**.

"Such is Allah, your Lord. There is no God but He, the Creator of all things, so worship Him. And He is Guardian over everything" [The Holy Qur'an, Al-An'am Ch. 6, V.103].



Asifa Rahman/ Age 14/ Fort Worth

Allah has created everyone on Earth! Allah has blessed me with a supportive father, a caring mother, and two wonderful sisters. He has given me a beautiful house to live in, clothes to wear, and food to eat. He has given me a solid, and stable life. In my love for Allah, I say many thanks to Him.

Allah has made my hands for working, feet for walking, eyes to see, nose to smell, mouth to speak, and a mind to think. I have a heart that pumps blood throughout my body and lungs that help me breathe. Every atom of my body is a gift from Allah. I always pray to Him for everything I have.



The Holy Qur'an says:

“Those to whom men said, ‘People have mustered against you, thus you must fear them,’ but this only increased their faith and they said, ‘Sufficient for us is Allah, and an excellent Guardian is He’” [Ch. 3, V. 174].

Allah is **Ar-Rafeeq**, the (best) friend. Allah didn't promise you days without torment, distress, and tears. However, He did guarantee that He will be by your side during these harsh times. Allah is such an incredible companion that He even gives all of us blessings without us even asking.



Allah has given us the opportunity to either be born into or have the chance to convert to Ahmadiyyat. He has given us the best and the complete book to read and learn from, the Holy Qur'an. Allah has sent us the best of guidance through our beloved Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as), as well as the many prophets before them. The guidance that they provide helps to keep us under Allah's protection and love.

I implore Allah to guide us all on this spiritual path of freedom, and knowledge. May He enable us all to understand and appreciate our own love for God and find our way to Him.

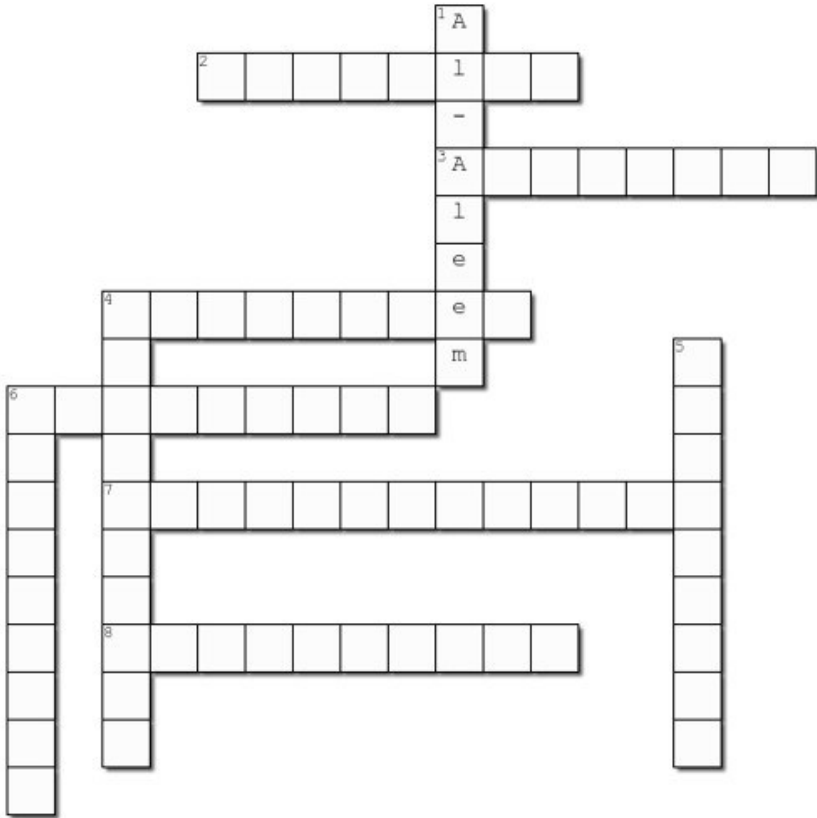


Fareedha White/Age 14/Virginia North

**A sun with bright twisting color
A leader of loving strength
The proud protecting soul of a mother
A spirit of infinity length
He fills our hearts, our eyes
And guides us on the path
The road He paves before us
He makes a special path for me!
One where I am proud and free!
Underneath His vivid light.**

ALLAN'S ATTRIBUTES

Noor Rahman/ Age 11/ Los Angeles



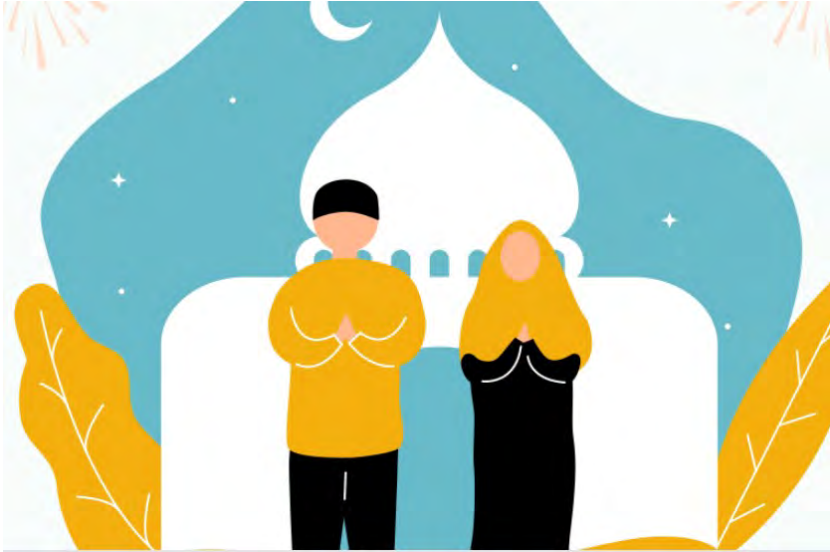
Down

1. The All Knowing
4. The Reformer, The Subduer
5. The Gracious
6. The Source of Peace

Across

2. The Sovereign
3. The Mighty
4. The Merciful
6. The Creator
7. The Exalted
8. The Holy One

Forever Grateful to Allah



Zara Ahmad/ Age 14/ Virginia South

There are thousands of things that I'm grateful for and I realize that I wouldn't have any of it without Allah. One is being able to have a good education because there are places in the world where education isn't available for women and the poor. Allah has made it possible for me to acquire knowledge, learn in a safe environment, and to advance in a career path of my choice.

Every day I wake up with a roof over my head and food on a plate. Not everyone has access to clean water and food or a place to live. Due to the grace of Allah I can, and He has enabled me to help others who need these resources. Allah has given me life, and the people around me. The people around me give me stability and allow me to have stronger mental health, and I wouldn't have any of that without Him. I am grateful for everything that Allah has provided for me, and the list is endless. Because of Allah I have been given a life with opportunities and stability, and I will be forever grateful and in debt to Him.



Zara Laiq / Age 12 / Virginia Central

If we think about it, our ordinary life experiences teach us extraordinary lessons. As a twelve-year-old girl, I know that I don't fully understand the true meaning of spirituality. I hear people talk about it and how their prayers are accepted. But when I actually experience it happening to myself, it gives an entirely different feeling and your belief is strengthened, the belief that there is a kind and loving God who is always watching out for me and who cares and listens to what I ask for. There are many incidents that make me realize His love and care but here is the one I'll share since it happened most recently.

Eid was just a couple of weeks away. Because of COVID, we had been confined to our homes for more than a year and we avoided going out as much as possible. This Eid was exciting because we could finally go back to the mosque after more than a year. I did not



have anything special to wear so my mom suggested I look online for something. After some searching I found one which we ordered. I was very excited to wear it on Eid. Unfortunately, after a few days my mom told me that the dress went on the wrong route and would come after Eid. I was disappointed but I knew that I could not change when it came. I thought about the power of prayer, that prayer works no matter how big or how small the task. I prayed to Allah for it to come on time and miraculously, my dress arrived on time.

I find it interesting how something that seemed impossible became possible through the power of prayer. When I need something or there is a problem, I have to be honest, I don't always think of prayers. However, when I prayed to Allah this time I saw that it makes an impact on whatever situation you are in. I relish in the fact that Allah is always listening to even the smallest of wishes, even when we're not sure if He is listening. Through this, I can feel my connection with Allah and the strong impact it had on me. It's different when someone tells you that Allah listens to our prayers, from when you actually experience Him doing something for you.



Also we must remember that our connection with Allah is important even if we are not getting something in return, because He blesses us every moment of our lives and most of the time we don't realize it.



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Why Am I Grateful to Allah?

Mayeda Awan / Age 9 / Willingboro

Why should we be grateful to Allah? In the Holy Qur'an Allah says:

“Be grateful to Allah for whoso is grateful, is grateful only for the good of his own soul. And whoso is ungrateful, then surely Allah is Self-Sufficient, Praiseworthy” [Ch. 31, V. 13].



There are millions of ways to be grateful to Allah. One way is that Allah made us all Ahmadi Muslims. I am thankful to Allah for giving me a loving family. One of Allah's attributes is [Ar-Rahman](#) which means He fulfills your needs even if you don't ask. For example, He made this world for us to live in and made everything in it that we need to survive. Last but not least, Allah gave us brains so we can invent and discover things to make our life better.

How can we show that we are grateful to Allah? We can be good Ahmadi Muslims by offering Salat and reading the Holy Qur'an. We can also be thankful to Allah for His blessings by observing *Remembrance of Allah*.

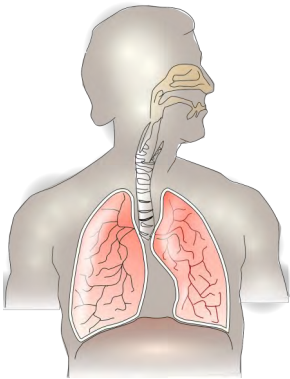
Our beloved Huzoor (aba) said in the Friday Sermon of July 13, 2012, “Allah Almighty increases His favors upon those who are grateful to Him. For an Ahmadi Muslim, the greatest favor upon them is that God Almighty has enabled them to believe in the Imam and Mahdi of this age, who has come to guide the entire world. Every Ahmadi must make every effort to understand this topic of gratitude, so that they may become the recipient of God's favors, and not become someone who is ungrateful to God, and thus become the recipient of God's wrath.”



Gratitude to Allah

Asifa Murtaza Malik/Age 10/Austin

Have you ever tried to count all the blessings you have? You can name the main things, but you can't count every blessing you have. From all the cells in our body to the oxygen we breathe, there are many things we have that we don't even realize. In the Holy Qur'an Allah says:



“And remember also the time when your Lord declared, ‘If you are grateful, I will, surely, bestow more favors on you; but if you are ungrateful, then know that My punishment is severe indeed.’” [Ch. 14, V. 8].

The Holy Prophet (sa) also said, “He who is not grateful to people is not grateful to Allah” (Abū Dāwūd). That means if someone does something for us we should be grateful to them, because if we do not show gratitude, in a way we are also not showing gratitude to Allah Who brought about the opportunity and ability for someone to help us.



Allah Accepts My Prayers

Aleena Ahmed/Age 9/Brooklyn

Allah accepts my prayers when I do good things and when I offer Salat. Allah often listens to kids' prayers more than adults' prayers. Salat is one way you can talk directly to Allah. Offering Salat especially helps you and your family when something is wrong. Through Salat, Allah takes you on the right path and also accepts a lot of your prayers.

My mother had breast cancer and I was so worried and sad. She lost all her hair and she had to wear a beanie to cover her head. I prayed to Allah every day to cure her and make her better. Allah listened to me and my two brothers and my sister. My family had prayed so much, we were blessed that she got better.

Before the first day of my school I felt nervous and I hoped it would be a good day. I woke up early and prayed Fajr and prayed that the teacher and my classmates would be nice and it will be a good year. Now I have friends and my teacher thinks I'm a good student.

Every time I want something I pray to Allah to grant it if it is best for me. Allah has no partner and can do everything He wants. Be respectful and listen to your parents and be grateful. I am grateful that Allah has created me and I was raised well.



I LOVE ALLAH

Taha Chaudhry/Age 11/Fort Worth

I love Allah for many reasons. One of the many reasons is because God has provided shelter, food, water, and clean clothes for me. I always keep in mind that a lot of people don't have any of that, and live on the streets. If you are angry that your house is small, or that you never get new clothes, always remember that there are people out there with none of those things and that you are very blessed.

I love Allah because He keeps me safe from harm and He listens to my prayers. One time I was not feeling well and kept praying to Allah to make me feel better, and then I got better and my stomach aches went away! Allah is the protector and will protect you. If you pray to Him regularly then if you find yourself in a bad situation, Allah will help you.



We should never get jealous of people that are more fortunate than us and should always remember that there are people who look up to us. Remember that many people out there look up to you and want your life. You should consider yourself very lucky if you have all your basic needs like shelter, food, water and clothes because the majority of the world is poor. Always love Allah, especially if you are privileged.

My Experience with Allah Almighty

Aieza Ahmad /Age 14/ Kentucky

With the help of Allah I have successfully reached my freshman year of high school with good grades all around. I study as hard as I can day and night to pass all of my exams. Allah always rewards my hard work. However, sometimes things become quite stressful for me. My days are so busy that at night I become so restless that I struggle to fall asleep. This has become an issue for me.

I was determined to find a way to stop my disrupted sleep. Moreover, I wanted to figure out how to help my problem. I tried many things from limiting my screen time, turning off all my lights, reading a little bit, and more. None of these helped me. Then I remembered the prayer for going to sleep. I noticed that I had mistakenly forgotten to recite it at night. So one night I laid in bed and recited the du'a [prayer] along with Durood Sharif. **“O Allah! In Your name I die (sleep) and I become alive.”** I woke up the next morning, slightly in shock. The moment I prayed to Allah, He immediately helped me. Ever since then I have always recited the prayer for sleep and Durood Sharif before I sleep at night.





ALLAH

Sabaha Qureshi
Age 10, Cleveland

With assistance from Nadia Ahmad
Painting on Canvas

The Acceptor of Repentance

Fizah Ahmad / Age 14 / GA/SC



Fizah
Ahmad
Georgia

التَّوَّابُ

The One who continuously turns in forgiveness to those who turn to Him in repentance, the One who forgives.

The One who grants us the ability to repent, directs our hearts toward Him, then accepts our sincere repentance and forgives our errors. The One whose forgiveness and mercy have no bounds.

The One who turns to us when we turn to Him.



I Love Allah

Mishaal Khan / Age 8 / Philadelphia

I Love Allah. Allah has created all of us. Allah is the greatest Creator. Allah has created everything! He has created the heavens and the Earth. Allah created human beings so



beautifully, and no one else can make anything like Him. Allah is **All-Knowing**. He knows everything in the heavens and the Earth. Our knowledge is limited no matter how smart we are, but Allah's knowledge is

unlimited, and nothing is hidden from him.

Allah is **As-Salam**, the Source of Peace. Whenever I feel scared or restless, I pray to Allah, and Allah the Almighty grants me peace. Only Allah can give us true peace and happiness. Praying to Allah and offering Salat is the key to happiness and peace. I love my Allah more than anyone else.





Jaziba Manshad/ Age 9/ Dayton

With assistance from Tehmina Manshad (age 15)

Allah tells us why He has created humans in Sura Al-Dharyyat of the Holy Qur'an:

“And I have not created the Jinn and the men but that they may worship Me” [Ch. 51,V. 57].

It is necessary to worship Allah to find His love and closeness to him.

Dear brothers and sisters! Allah has given us hands, feet, and other body parts He has given us the world with all sorts of blessings without us asking, and He has opened the gates of His mercy and favors to us. Is it not obligatory on us to worship Him and sing songs of praise in return for His many rewards?



Our beloved master, The Holy Prophet (sa), was at the forefront of all humanity in the worship of Allah. The Holy Prophet (sa) used to perform Nawafil Prayers all night long. He was engaged in the worship of

Allah, undisturbed by tiredness and fatigue. Hazrat A'ishah (ra) asked, “Allah has given you the good news of paradise in the next world, then why you pray and remember Allah all night long?” He responded: “May I not thank Allah for His Favors?” He used to recite the following prayer to seek the love of Allah:

“O Allah! I supplicate You to grant me Your love, and the love of those who love You and the action which may lead me to win Your love. And make my love for You dearer to me



than myself, my family and cold (refreshing) water” (Tirmidhi Kitab-ud-Da`waat).

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (rh) repeatedly told Ahmadis to recite this prayer in his sermons. Similarly, we have a pure example of the Promised Messiah (as), who was in love with Allah and said:

“Our paradise lies in our God. Our highest delight is in our God, for we have seen Him and found every beauty in Him. This wealth is worth procuring though one might have to lay down one’s life to procure it. This ruby is worth purchasing though one may have to lose oneself to acquire it” (Noah’s Ark, p. 21).



“May Allah’s love keep growing in our hearts. May you enjoy the pleasure of Allah’s blessings pouring down on you” (Kalam-e-Mahmud).

May Allah help us to ask for His Love and His Grace in our prayers, Ameen!

I love Allah

Ali Ahmad Khan / Age 10/ North Jersey

I love Allah because He is the most Merciful and He is the Creator of everything. I love Allah because I was born in an Ahmadi Family. I love Allah because He gave me eyes to see things that I love. I love Allah because when someone disobeys Allah, He is given many chances to repent and when someone obeys Allah, he is rewarded at once.



I love Allah because He listens to my prayers. I love Allah because Allah’s love is greater than you can imagine. I love Allah because He is the most Gracious and He is Merciful and He is the Creator of everything.

Attaining Nearness to Allah

Jaziba Ahmad/ Age 12/ Austin

It is important to attain nearness to Allah and to establish a connection with Him. A strong bond of closeness with Allah is the source of all blessings, guidance, peace, and contentment.

Salat is a means of getting close to Allah. But we have to say Salat with full attention, saying every word properly, and deeply thinking about the meaning of what we are saying. We have to say Salat as if we are right in front of Allah. We should pray in our own words to Allah during sajdah as that's when we are closest to Him.



Another way we can get closer to Allah is by reading and obeying the Qur'an. We must recite the Qur'an attentively, ponder over its meaning, and implement its commandments in our daily lives.

Serving mankind is another means of getting close to Allah. Some ways of serving mankind are helping your neighbors, volunteering at a shelter, donating food to the local pantry, and donating money to a charity. Let's try our best to attain nearness to Allah.



Allah, the Most Merciful

Sundas Aiman/ Age 8/ Virginia Central



Even though I can't see Allah, He gives me everything I need. I know that Allah can see us and hear us. Allah has created us. He listens to our prayers. I prayed that I wanted to meet dear Huzoor (aba) and Allah listened to my prayers and blessed me. I, along with my parents, went to London for the UK Jalsa in 2019, where we met with Huzoor (aba). I love Allah and say thank you to Allah by saying a prayer after meal times and offering my daily Salat. I also attend Tahir Academy so that Allah will be pleased with me.

HOW WE CAN SEE ALLAH



Muneefa Khan / Age 8 / Houston (with the help of parents)

Sometimes we get to see that Allah exists when He shows us signs.

Huzoor (aba) mentioned one time that when he was living in Africa he and his wife had no milk for their children. They prayed and after a little while a man gave them milk, not just enough for one day but for a whole month! Huzoor (aba) said by this example, we can see that God listens to our prayers.



Once I asked Allah for some snow and He gave me a lot!

Allah's Beautiful Names

Sabeeka Ahmad/ Age 10/ Austin

Allah has ninety-nine beautiful names. Each name represents one of His attributes.

Ar-Rahman, the Most Gracious, is one of Allah's names. Allah blesses all His creation with everything that is needed for survival and progress.



Ar-Raheem, the Merciful, is another of Allah's names. Allah is the One who bestows mercy on all His creatures. He gives the best reward for all the good deeds and thoughts.

Another name of Allah is **As-Salam**, the Source of Peace. Allah is above and beyond all sorts of weakness or deficiency. His attributes and actions are perfect. It also means that Allah is the One who can bestow safety, security and inner peace.



Allah is also **Al-Ghaffaar**, the All- and Oft-Forgiving. He forgives our faults and sins. He accepts our repentance and gives us a chance to reform ourselves.



I Love Allah

Taha Qureshy/ Age 9/ Chicago
With assistance from Nauman Qureshy

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says,
“Say, ‘If you love Allah, follow me: then will Allah love you and forgive you your faults. And Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful’” [Ch. 3, V. 32].

I love Allah because He is **Ar-Rahman**, the Gracious, and **Ar-Raheem**, the Merciful. He created all of us so we can worship Him and be kind to His creation. Allah listens to my prayers and He solves my problems. Whenever I ask Him for help He responds and solves my problems.

I love Allah because He guides me so I can be good to others. I love Allah because He protects me from evils. Jabir narrates that he heard the Holy Prophet (sa) say, **“The best remembrance is to declare there is no God but Allah. The best supplication is to declare all praise is due to Allah”** (Tirmidhi). Allah always listens to children's prayers because He loves children.

I love Allah because He gave me loving parents and family members, and friends who always look after me.

I love Allah because whenever I get sick He helps me recover from my illness.

I love Allah because He gave me food and drink so I can take care of my body.

I love Allah because He listens to my prayers whenever I sincerely turn to Him.



The Protector

Ifrah Hareem Shams/ Age 7/ Baltimore

Allah loves us and I believe that Allah is always there for us. He is **Al-Muhaymin**, the Protector. He also comforts us when we are scared. I want to share a personal story where I felt Allah's protection and I was reminded of how close I am to Allah. One day, when there was cloudy weather, I was reading the Holy Qur'an with my mother and my younger brother, who was playing with my toys.



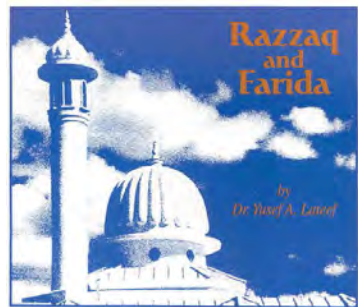
Suddenly there was a thunderstorm! That scared me! The rain and wind were banging on my window, and my brother and I started to cry because we were so scared. My mother told

me to continue reading the Holy Qur'an. Then Allah removed the storm and protected us.

Razzaq and Farida

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Allah's Love and Guidance

Hamile Mubashir/ Age 13/ GA/SC

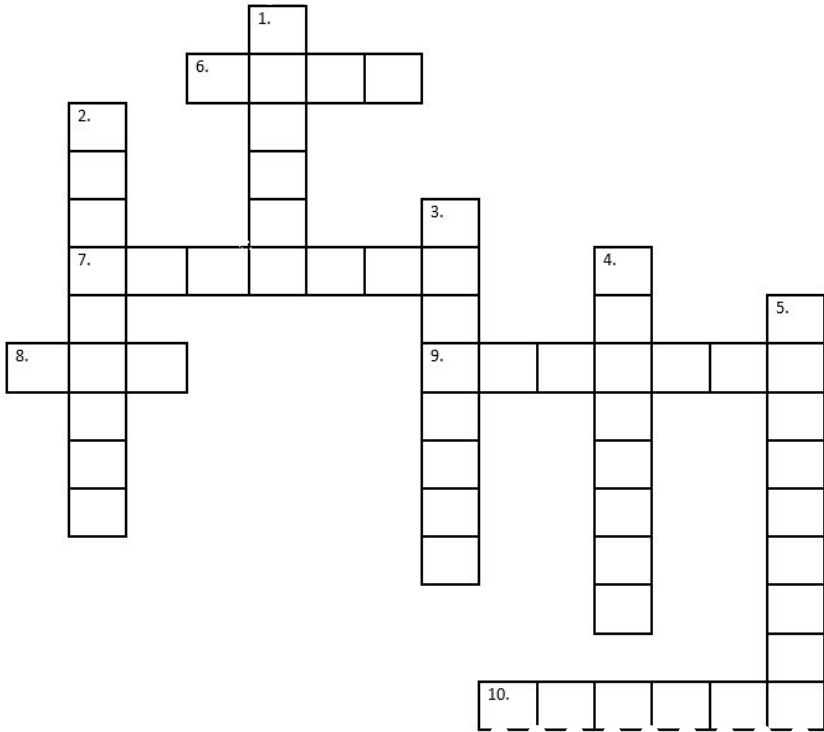


My way to Achieve
Alla's Love

Quran

Attributes Of Allah

Shafiya Munir/ Age 8/ Virginia North



DOWN

1. Al-Aziz
2. Al-Musawwir
3. Ar-Rahim
4. Ar-Rahman
5. Al-Muhaymin

ACROSS

6. Al-Malik
7. Al-Quddus
8. English name of Allah.
9. Al-Khaaliq
10. Al-Shaafi

Answers: 1.Mighty, 2.Fashioner, 3.Merciful, 4.Graceous, 5.Protector, 6.King, 7.HolyOne, 8.God, 9.Creator, 10.Healer.



Allah Accepts My Prayers

Anabia Malik/ Age 10/ Austin

Allah is our One and only God. I know this because it is the first pillar of my faith, Islam. In the declaration of faith, the Kalima, we say:

“I bear witness that there is no God but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhmmad (sa) is His servant and His messenger.”

Allah is the only one who can answer our prayers at any time. One of Allah’s attributes is **As-Sameen**, the All-Hearing. This shows that He listens to our prayers. Prayers may take some time to be fulfilled. I know from my own experience. When I prayed for a laptop, it took a while to be fulfilled, but eventually it was fulfilled. So, I thanked Allah for fulfilling my prayer.



When our prayers are fulfilled, we should give thanks to Allah. I always thank Allah and say *Al-Hamdu Lillah*, all praise belongs to Him, when my prayers are fulfilled. If we have committed a sin or any bad thing then we should ask forgiveness from Allah because Allah always knows everything! (I suggest to never do the bad thing or sin again for which you were just forgiven). Allah is **Al-Ghaffaar**, the Forgiver and He is the only One who can forgive us.

Allah- The Best Friend

Bashir Emanuel Ahmad/ Age 9/ Austin

We make many friends in school, in our neighborhood, and at our masjid. We trust them, and sometimes we look up to them. Friends are people who like you and you like them. They are those we can bond easily with and they are always there for you. They share their happiness with us, and we share our happiness with them. When we are sad, they cheer us up.



In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says:

“Allah is the friend of those who believe; He brings them out of darkness into light” [Ch. 2, V. 258].

This verse tells us that one of the attributes of Allah is that He is a friend of believers. When we believe in Him and open our hearts to Him, He becomes our Friend. And while our school friends might be busy, or stop being our friend at times, Allah is always there for us. He is always our Friend, and we can reach out to Him when we need Him to comfort us and help us be happy.



But no friendship is one way, and you don't become someone's friend just because you say so. You must do the work to grow that friendship. To be Allah's friend, you must believe in Him, pray to Him, and do the things that pleases Him. Also, we should remember Him both in

times of prosperity and adversity. To build a good friendship with Allah we must talk to Him in private. Offering regular Salat is a good way to do that. Just like we should be worried about not making our friend unhappy or mad with us, we should also be careful not to do or say things that makes Allah unhappy with us. This way our friendship will grow and while all our other friends may be with us only for some time, Allah will always be with us, *In Sha Allah*.



The Holy Qur'an

Joya Agha, Age 14, Silicon Valley

The Holy Qur'an

The perfect pages filled with answers

From big to small, it has it all

Passed down from many generations

But not a single change has been made

The beautiful recitations are heard all around

During the holy month there should be no other sound

Can't leave the house without reciting it

Filling the house with its beautiful sounds

Like a spell that protects you in every way

It is there for you in your time of pain

The perfect pages filled with answers

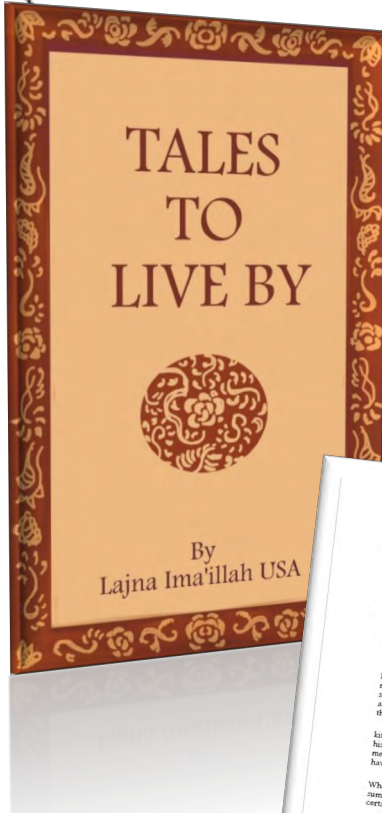
From big to small it has it all.



Lajna Ima'illah USA

Presents

New Children's Publications

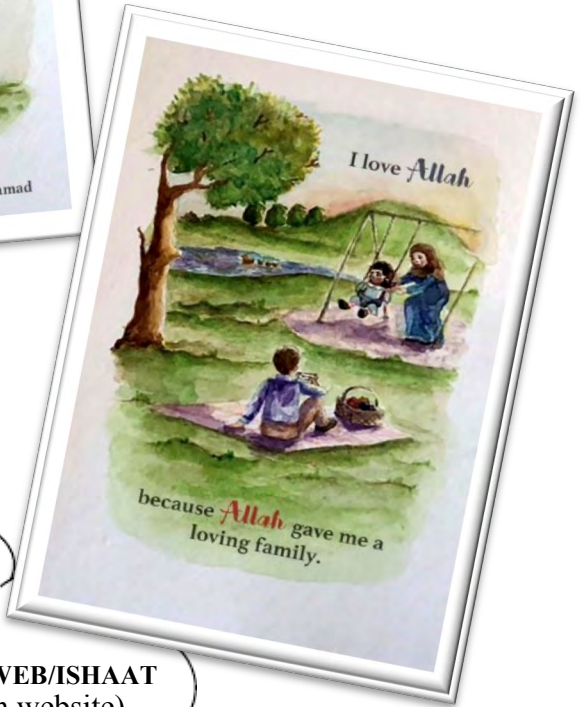


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Al-Lateef

*Aroob Latif/ Age 11/ Houston
With assistance from Anees Latif (Father)*

“Does He Who has created you not know it? He is the Knower of all subtleties, the All-Aware”

[The Holy Qur’an Ch. 67, V.15].

My favorite attribute of Allah is that He has knowledge of the hidden. One of many names of Allah is **Al-Lateef**, the Sublimely Subtle. This attribute of Allah tells us He has knowledge of the unseen. Our prayers asking for guidance connect us to Allah and His knowledge of the hidden. We have five chances to ask for His help through our daily prayers. Istikhara prayer is a special prayer where we ask His guidance before making a decision.

I am happy to know Allah has given us a way to always reach Him through prayers and to benefit from His knowledge.



My Way to Achieve Allah's Love is Salat

Azka Mubashir/ Age 12/ GA/SC



Who is Allah?

Aariz Ahmed/Age 11/ Virginia South

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

"He is Allah, the Creator, the Maker, the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifies Him, and He is the Mighty, the Wise" [Ch. 59, V. 25].

What I know about Allah is that the word "Allah" is basically the word God but in Arabic. I also know that He has no physical shape, He is in us and outside of us. He created the heavens and the earth. He has ninety-nine attributes. Yet there is still a lot to be discovered about our Creator.

The simplest way to know Allah is through His attributes. There are ninety-nine attributes of Allah the Almighty that help us to know Him. Let me describe some of them:

The Source of Peace

The Gracious

The Merciful

Master of the Day of Judgment

These are some of the main attributes of Allah. There are many more, we can use them in times of need, or to increase our relationship with Allah. Let's hope we all practice these attributes and increase our relationship with Allah the Almighty, *Ameen*.



How Allah has Blessed me Personally

Areeba Ali/ Age 14/ Buffalo

Do you ever ask yourself, why hasn't Allah blessed me like He blessed everyone else? This is a question that we might have all asked ourselves at least once in our life and the answer to it is simple. He has. I think we take for granted the fact that Allah has blessed us with so much since the day we were born and we didn't even ask for any of it. For



example, if someone is born without one of their five senses or they aren't as strong as everyone else their other four senses become heightened or above average. Personally, I feel so blessed that

I have everything I've asked for and more and that Allah has blessed me with a healthy family, a roof over my head, food and water, and just overall happiness. In the Holy Qur'an Allah says:

“And if you try to count the favors of Allah, you will not be able to number them. Surely, Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful” [Ch.16, V.18].



In this verse it states that we have infinite blessings from Allah the Almighty and such favors increase with prayers and by completing our duties as Ahmadi Muslims. I always look around and see people who aren't as fortunate and people who sleep on the sidewalks who don't have proper clothes or homes, and every time I pray that they find happiness and receive blessings from Allah because He is most Forgiving and most Merciful.

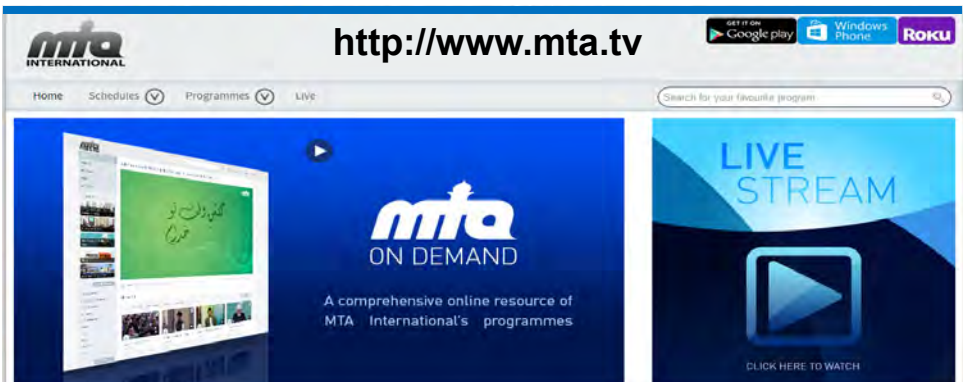
ALLAH

Sophia Chaudhry / Age 12 / Virginia Central

As Muslims we believe in Allah. He guides us to the right path, and He always knows what is best for us. We should remember that Allah is always watching over us as He is All-Knowing, and He knows our intentions. If we ask for something that's not good for us, Allah will not accept what we are asking for because He knows that it will have a negative impact on our lives. We should have trust in Allah and be steadfast in our prayers as He can make something else good happen for us.



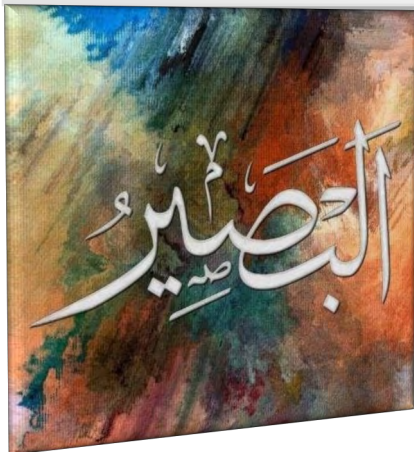
If we stop praying, then that means we don't have faith in Allah. Allah is extremely merciful, and Allah will forgive us if we ask for forgiveness from Him. Allah has many names such as **Ar-Rahman**, the Gracious; **Ar-Raheem**, the Merciful; **Al-Khaliq**, the Creator, **As-Salam**, the Source of Peace. These are just a few of His ninety-nine names. These names are important because it is impossible to describe Allah with only one word.



The screenshot shows the MTA International website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MTA International logo, the URL <http://www.mta.tv>, and platform availability icons for Google Play, Windows Phone, and Roku. Below the navigation bar, there are menu options for Home, Schedules, Programmes, and Live. A search bar is present with the placeholder text "Search for your favourite program". The main content area is divided into two sections: "MTA ON DEMAND" featuring a video player with Arabic text and the description "A comprehensive online resource of MTA International's programmes", and "LIVE STREAM" with a play button icon and the text "CLICK HERE TO WATCH".

ALLAH'S AMAZING ATTRIBUTES

Hamdan Ali/Age 10/Bufalo



There are ninety-nine attributes of Allah mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. The amazing attribute I chose is **Al-Baseer**, the All-Seeing.

“So seek refuge in Allah. Surely He is the All Hearing, the All-Seeing”

[The Holy Qur'an Ch.40,V.57]

The reason I chose this attribute is because it reminds us of the fact that whether a person sees us doing good deeds or committing sins or not, there is always the One, Allah, Who sees us. He is always watching us while we do good or bad deeds. This attribute reminds us that we can hide from the world but we can't hide from Allah. He is the One Who has eyes on even the most hidden action in this universe.

This attribute also tells us that Allah not only has insight on our outer thoughts, but also our inner thoughts. He is aware of what we are thinking of doing and not doing.

This attribute also reminds us that we should keep our thoughts and actions as pure as possible and always try for Allah to see the best of us.

There are many other attributes of Allah that remind us of His existence. But this one attribute sums it all. That is why I decided to discuss this amazing attribute of Allah.

Gratitude to Allah

Aneelah Kauser / Age 14 / Houston

Have you ever said thank you? To your teacher for answering a question, to your mom for cooking a great meal, to your dad for buying you something, to a person who helped you, or to a friend for



giving you a gift? There is a Hadith that states, “He who does not thank the people is not thankful to Allah” (Sunan Abi Dawud).



When you thank people you thank Allah but that is still not enough. Whenever you get the chance you should say, “Al-Hamdu Lillah” or “Allahu Akbar” or “Subhan Allah.”

Allah has given you everything you have including your parents, house, money, your family, your school, your



friends - every thing. Just simply remembering Allah is a good way to express your thanks. During the moment of

silence at school you can do this by saying *Durood Sharif* in your mind. It is a good way to start your day.

Allah's Blessings

Bareera Agha Khan / Age 7 / Virginia Central

Look around you and you will find Allah's blessings all about you, from your loving and caring parents to the food you eat, clothes you wear, the house you live in, and the loved ones in your life who make you feel special!



It is always good to keep Allah's gifts and blessings in your mind. He blesses us in so many ways. He has given us a family, happy town, and country. Allah loves us more than our mothers. We should always spread Allah's name. I always share with the people in my neighborhood and people at school that I am an Ahmadi Muslim, and then people ask me about Islam, and I love sharing things about Islam such as our celebrations and the way we meet and greet people. Mostly, people do not know what *As-Salamu 'Alaikum* means. I have told several of my friends what it means and they are surprised. Allah loves those who are grateful to Him!



Who is Allah?

Ather Ahmed Rehan / Age 12 / Fitchburg

With assistance from Atya Naz, Mehboob Ahmed Rehan



Who Is Allah?

In the Arabic language, Allah is the name of God Almighty. Allah is the unique name of God. He has no shape, or body. Allah does not have a family, nor is anything equal to Him. He created us, the universe, the galaxy, everything we see and things we don't see. Allah the Almighty has ninety-nine attributes, and will live forever. Allah controls everything. He controls the weather, the Earth, how planets move, etc. He can make anything happen anytime, and anywhere.

Why you should love Allah?

We should love Allah because He has given us a lot of things that we have never even asked for! Allah gave us this life, He gave us a family, food to eat every day, a house to live in, and much, much more. Some people have never even had the things that we have. They have never studied in school, they barely have enough food to eat, and some are homeless. With all the things we have, we don't even notice the blessings that Allah has given us.

How do we give thanks to Allah?


We should thank Allah by saying *Al-Hamdu Lillah* [All praise belongs to Allah] when we get something new, or when we realize how many blessings Allah has actually given us. We shouldn't ever be ungrateful for what we have. For example, if we pray to Allah to give us a worldly thing, and then our prayer is not accepted, we should still be grateful. Another way to thank Allah is by following His teachings. Offering our Salat and reading Qur'an, staying attached to the Jama'at, making Allah happy, and following the five pillars of Islam, are all part of following Allah's teachings.



What will happen when you love Allah?

A lot of good things start to happen when our hearts fill with love for Allah. We will get closer to the Jama'at, Allah Himself will start to love us, Allah will protect us, and we will come one step closer to Allah. In a hadith, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) tells us what the benefit of loving Allah is. He says:

“I will declare war against him who shows hostility to a pious worshipper of Mine. And the most beloved things with which My servant comes nearer to Me, is what I have enjoined upon him; and My servant keeps on coming closer to Me through performing Nawafil Prayers till I love him. When I love him I become his sense of hearing with which he hears, and his sense of sight with which he sees, and his hand with which he grips, and his leg with which he walks; and if he asks something from Me, I grant it to him, and if he asks for My protection, I protect him” (Bukhari).



**We Want to Hear
from You!!!**

Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication.

Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original.

If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

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

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



**Malaika Awan/Age 12/ Willingboro
Painting on Canvas**

Gratitude to Allah

Rameen Noor / Age 9 / Virginia Central

During the pandemic, me, my brother, and my mom would have friendly competitions and write down all the things we were grateful for in two or three minutes. Allah the Almighty commanded us to be grateful for Him and all His blessings and try to be grateful all the time for what He has provided. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah the Almighty says:



“Therefore remember Me. I will remember you, and be grateful to Me and do not be ungrateful to Me” [Ch. 2, V. 153].



As a Muslim girl, I am grateful to Allah because He has provided us so many things, including different types of foods, water, shelter, clothes, money, and so much more. We all should be grateful that Allah has given so many things; more than can you imagine. We shouldn't



We shouldn't complain if our meal tastes bad or if our clothes are itchy. I try my best not to complain about such things because that shows that you are grateful for all the blessings Allah has provided. So please remember: always be grateful!



The Blessings of Allah

Sitwat Rasheed / Age 12 / Austin
With assistance from mom and sister



Allah has granted us countless blessings. If we start to think and observe we will realize how blessed we are. We will feel a strong connection with our Allah. He granted us unlimited gifts and blessed us with the light of the teachings of Islam and strong belief. He guided us with His messengers and the Holy Qur'an, and He granted us the bond of Khilafat.

He not only created us but also gave us the best and most organized physical, skeletal, nervous, and all other systems among all other living organisms. Then for our existence and sustenance He gave us delicious food. He granted us love and care in the form of parents and decorated our lives with the ornaments of family and friends. He gave us the candle of education, and the guidance of teachers are all His blessings. The beauty of this universe reveals unlimited blessings of Allah. The blue sky with the sun, moon, stars, and the galaxies are all for us. The beauty is all around us in the form of running streams, rainfall, fresh air, forests, green fields, desserts and magnificent glaciers. Allah asks in the Holy Qur'an: ***“So which of the favors of your Lord would you deny?”*** [Ch. 55, V. 17]



Allah grants us comfort in pain, guidance in darkness, and accepts our prayers. He is **Ar-Raheem**, the Most Merciful; **Al-Ghafoor**, the Forgiving; **Al-Haleem**, the Forbearing; **Ar-Ra'oof**, the Compassionate; **Al-'Afuww**, the Pardoner, **Al-Saboor**, the Patient; **Al-Tawwab**, Acceptor of Repentance; **Al-Wadood**, the Most Loving and **Al-Wali**, the



Protecting Friend. All His attributes are reflections of His blessings.

The Promised Messiah (as) said, “Our paradise is in our God... It is the fountain of life that will save you” (Noah’s Ark).

We are here due to His blessings. We should be thankful to Allah Almighty. We should try to build a strong connection with Him. The main source of connection with Allah is to observe our five daily prayers along with performing both *Haqooq ul Allah* [rights of Allah] and *Haqooq ul Ibad* [rights of people]. May Allah be our Helper and make us among those who are blessed, Ameen.



Anum Latif/ Age 8/ Houston
With help from Maleeha Latif (Mother)

“Allah – There is No God but He, the Living, the Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining. Slumber seizes Him not, nor sleep. To Him belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and the earth” [The Holy Qur’an Ch. 2, V. 256].

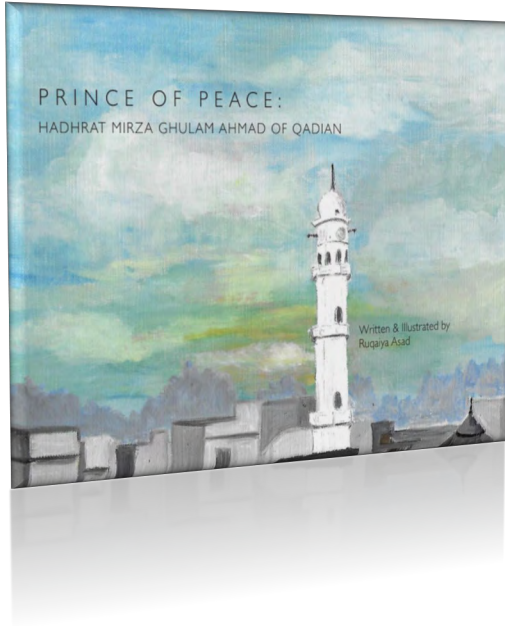
Allah is the Lord of the Worlds, the Gracious the Merciful. He is Wise, the Knower of the unseen and the All-Powerful. I always remember Allah before doing anything like eating my food, leaving the house, or taking a test. We should always remember that prayers will be accepted by perfect love, attention, and truthfulness.



We must seek forgiveness from Him all the time and thank Him for everything He has given us.

New Children's Book

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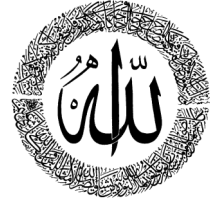


ALLAH KNOWS EVERYTHING



Faria Mahmood / Age 9 / Willingboro

Allah is **Al-Alim**, meaning He knows everything! He knows when you're good, bad, happy, sad, what you whisper and so much more. He even knows what you do when no one is looking.



For example, if you are eating ice cream secretly and no one is looking, Allah will see you and He will know you are eating ice cream! Allah knows everything. He even knows what you think. He also knows what's going to happen in the future when we don't!

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says: **"He knows the treachery of the eyes and what the breasts conceal"** [Ch. 40, V. 20].

Allah is the **All-Knowing** and we cannot hide anything from Him.



Allah, the One



Duniya Aimun Ahmad / Age 11 / Phoenix

The King of Mankind
 The God of Mankind
 The One who puts us on the earth
 The One who lifts us from the earth
 The One who gave me eyes to see
 The One who gave me a mouth to eat
 O Allah! Please receive all my good deeds



HOW I KNOW GOD EXISTS

Sara Choudhary / Age 15 / Virginia Central

I specifically remember this one experience I had when I was in second grade. I had worn my boots to school but forgot my sneakers in the car. I was super worried that I would get yelled at by my gym teacher for not wearing my sneakers to gym class. Just as I was walking to gym class, I prayed really hard for Allah to let some miracle happen. Maybe my parents would notice I left my sneakers in the car



and would drop my shoes off at school, but I really doubted that miracle would happen, and I wasn't confident that Allah would answer my prayer. As I walked down the ramp to the gym, I dreaded facing my gym teacher and having to borrow sneakers that don't fit from the shoe rack.

Then a classmate turns around and tells me that class is canceled! We don't have to do anything for the whole entire gym class. At that moment I felt absolutely shocked; never has our gym class been canceled! Why would it be canceled? There was no reason for it to be cancelled. I knew immediately Allah had answered my last-minute prayers and I've never forgotten the experience, and the reassuring feeling that Allah really exists.



But imagine if we lived in a world where we didn't believe in God? What would life look like then? How would

we go about our daily lives? Even in our everyday life we are constantly surrounded by people who believe in God. It goes against our human nature to not believe in a Supreme Being because we live in such a complex world where everything fits together perfectly like a puzzle.



People still question the existence of God even with knowledge of the evidence that God exists and I'm sure we have all encountered such questions and asked ourselves the same things. How do I know that God exists? It's a question that plagues many people's lives and as Ahmadi Muslims we are blessed that we don't have to look far or spend our lives trying to answer this question. I know God exists because whenever I feel alone or I face a difficult problem or situation, whenever I need help, I pray, and my prayers are answered, sometimes in ways I don't expect. Sometimes it takes years and sometimes it happens in a matter of seconds, but they are always answered.

We may go through ups and downs in our life. We may face trials and problems both spiritually or just small trivial things in our everyday life. If you pray to God and ask God for help, Allah will answer you and it may not always be the answer you're looking for but it is the answer you need. There is one Hadith that I always like to keep in mind during times of difficulty.

“When a servant of Mine advances towards Me a foot, I advance towards him a yard, and when he advances towards Me a yard, I advance toward him the length of his arms spread out. When he comes to Me walking, I go to him running” (Bukhari).





I KNOW THAT GOD EXISTS

Amatul-Noor Ayla Khan / Age 11 / Virginia Central

I was sitting in my living room and enjoying the weather, birds, trees, and people coming and going and doing their chores. Suddenly a question came to my mind, “How Do I Know That God Exists? I thought of the inventors of things, like the maker of the first telephone, or the person who invented cars or computers etc. If everything has a creator, then this world also has a creator, some being who is All-Powerful and can create all these things.

Everything is working in perfect order. For example, we have several different systems within our body. Every system is working in perfect order. I don’t need to worry about my blood cells, because it’s an automatic system of red and white blood cells. I don’t need to worry about my breathing, because I never stop breathing, even for a few minutes.

These systems don’t get mixed up with each other. They are perfectly synchronized with each other. I noticed a powerful creator within our body. No one else can create such a perfect system as the human body. We are the living example of Allah’s existence. Allah says in the Holy Qur’an:

“He is Allah, the Creator, the Maker, the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifies Him, and He is the Mighty, the Wise” [Ch. 59, V. 25].

Jabir narrates that he heard the Holy Prophet (sa) state, ***“The best remembrance is to declare there is no God but Allah. The best supplication is to declare all praise is due to Allah”*** (Tirmidhi).

The Promised Messiah (as) said, ***“Our God is that God Who is alive even now as He was alive before. He speaks***



even now as He used to speak before. And even now He hears as He heard before. It is a false notion that in these times He only hears but does not speak” (The Will, pg. 12). We should be thankful to Allah for our healthy bodies. He gave us everything we need to live our lives.



Allah has many attributes, and one of His attributes is **Al-Hadi**, the Guide. He has many ways of guiding us to the right path. One guide is our beloved Holy Qur’an, which tells us how to be better humans. One of the ways to be a better human is by educating yourself. In Islam it is said that a human needs to acquire intellectual knowledge (through the application of reason and logic) and develop spiritual knowledge (derived from divine revelation and spiritual experience). Also, in the Holy Qur’an it says:



“Recite: In the name of thy Lord who created man from a clot. Recite: And thy Lord is the Most Generous Who taught by the pen, taught man that which he knew not” [Ch. 96, V.1-5].

This shows how much Allah wants us to obtain education in our life.

Another form of guidance is our parents. Our parents are the ones who tell us about our purpose in life, they explain to us how Ahmadi Muslims live their lives in this world, and what they say always benefits us. That is why we should always follow the guidance of Allah because He knows what is best for us.



Al-Mutakallim

Sajeela Ahmad / Age 10 / Virginia South

Allah has many attributes, and one of them is **Al-Mutakallim**, or the One who speaks to His servants. In this article, I will be showing you some examples of this amazing attribute!

Allah talks to those who He loves, and when Prophets or other good people were in trouble, they always asked Allah for help, and Allah would help them. Sometimes, He would speak to them.

When the Promised Messiah's (as) father died, he felt very hopeless and was worried that poverty and pain would come to him soon. But Allah was near and said, **"Is not Allah sufficient for His servant?"** This reminded the Promised Messiah (as) that Allah would always be there to take care of his needs and Allah could manage all things.



The Holy Prophet (sa) got revelations from Allah through Angel Gabriel, and that was the Holy Qur'an. Over time, the Holy Prophet (sa) also got Divine messages from Allah telling him what to do. For example, three years after the Holy Prophet (sa) started to preach in secret, Allah told

him to start preaching to the Quraish tribes openly.

Prophet Moses (as) got a revelation while they were running away from Pharaoh and his people. Allah told him at that time what to do and saved them, while drowning the others. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

“Then We revealed to Moses, saying, ‘Strike the sea with thy rod.’ Thereupon it parted, and every part looked like a huge mountain. And We made others approach that place. And We saved Moses and those who were with him. Then We drowned the others” [Ch. 26, V. 64-67].

Allah will always be there to help His servants when they need it, and Allah is the being you can talk to and ask Him to fulfill your good wishes. He is **Al-Mutakallim**, the one who speaks to His servants.

ALLAH IS WONDERFUL

Safiyya Hudson / Age 8 / Willingboro
With assistance from Hanna Zafar

Allah is Wonderful! He created the entire universe. That is amazing because the universe is vast and full of planets and bright stars. If you were to see a map of the universe the Milky Way galaxy would be a speck. He also created the earth which is full of wonders.

He helps people who pray to Him and listens to their prayers. Without Him nothing would exist. Thousands of people pray to Him at the same time. I



wonder if He has a million ears? It is wonderful that He accepts our prayers.

He chose the Prophets and the Khalifa. It is wonderful because it was not people who voted for the Prophets but God chose them. He chose the ‘right’ people. It shows that God cares about mankind and the universe.



Pray to Allah

Mairah Husna Kauser / Age 11 / Houston



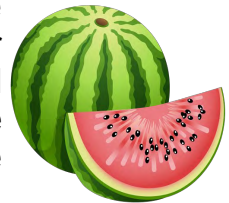
Whenever we want even the smallest things we pray to Allah. Allah is the only One who can accept our prayers. Even when Allah does not accept our prayers He still does what is best for us. For example if we pray to Allah to make school easy and be the most popular person. Allah may not accept it because it may not be best for you. When praying to Allah we are not ordering Him but asking Him. We should pray for Allah to do what is best for us and not specifically what we think is best. What we can do to make Allah accept our prayers is observe Salat. In Salat, *sajda* is the best time to pray to Allah in our own words. When we follow Allah's commandments He will answer our prayers.

In conclusion, Allah can make any of our prayers come true if we understand how to ask Him, and He is the only One who can accept our prayers and Who we should be praying to.

WHO IS ALLAH?

Daniyal Ahmad / Age 8 / Dayton

Have you ever wondered where everything around you came from? It was Allah. Allah is most Gracious, most Merciful. It is He, who created the city, the country, the continent, the world, the solar system, the sun, the moon, the galaxy, and the whole universe. Everything you see, the trees, the stars, even a WATERMELON, were



created by Allah. It was Allah who made all the dinosaurs and dimetrodons go extinct, but for a reason. All giant, harmful creatures are gone so humans and animals can live!

The Holy Qur'an, a book of Allah's guidance, brought by angel Gabriel, told to the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (saw), is the only Holy Book that people have not changed, thanks to the protection of Allah. A prophet is a person that Allah chooses, because that person never in his life ever told a lie, and he believes in Allah. Hazrat Muhammad (saw) was the best of mankind.



How Allah Blessed Me

Noreen Elahi / Age 12 / Research Triangle

Allah has blessed me with countless things. I will mention a few.

First, I am very thankful that I was born as an Ahmadi Muslim girl and my parents are Ahmadi where we learn every day about our religion. Our Huzoor (aba) guides us in every part of life. The more we learn about our religion the more we are able to thank God.



Allah also blessed me with good health because there are so many kids in this world who are deprived of these things. And I am really thankful that I can walk, run and do everything I want to do.

Allah also blessed me with such a wonderful family where my parents look after me and my sisters love me. So in every way of life, I am thankful to God, *Al-Hamdu Lillah!*



Saba N. Rahman/Age 12/Fort Worth

I love Allah with all my heart. He has blessed me with everyone I love and everything I own: my parents, my sisters, our house, our cat, the food we eat, the clothes we wear and the toys we play with. Allah has also made me an Ahmadi Muslim; this is the greatest blessing of all. I have been blessed with all of this without even having asked Allah for any of it. I am very thankful to my Allah every day. We can't ever repay Allah for all of His blessings, but we can try to come close to Him. We must pray to Allah every day. By offering Salat and du'a regularly, we can establish a friendship with Allah.

We can achieve a deeper relationship with Allah by being able to let go of worldly things. When we leave worldly things, we are able to enter the spiritual form of humankind. We can use our free time to learn more about God, His books, His Angels, Prophets, and to study everything He has created. Our prayers and knowledge will help us improve our spiritual stage in life.

In order to become spiritual and enter into paradise, we must have a good connection with Allah. We must love Allah



and fear losing His blessings. The next generation of kids are more into gaming and social media. Because of TV, YouTube, social media, and other things, many kids these days don't want to sit and read the Holy Qur'an or say Salat on time. However, a true Muslim shows Allah their gratitude. We have to make the time to build our connection with Allah firmly. We also need to encourage those who are younger than us to do the same. It is our duty as Muslims to follow in the footsteps of our master, Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) and establish the best relationship with Allah. We must be a good example and offer prayers and read the Holy Qur'an to stay on the right path. It is by following the pillars of Islam, that we can come close to Allah and achieve paradise.



“Guide us on the right path.

The path of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy blessings, those who have not incurred Thy displeasure, and those who have not have gone astray” [Holy Qur'an Ch.1, V. 6-7].

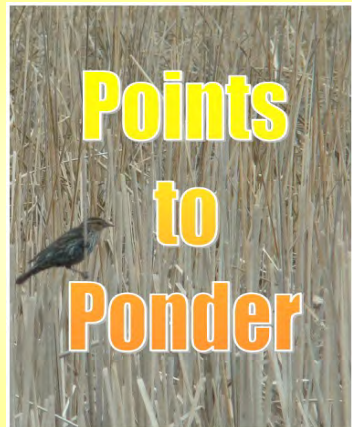
May Allah the Almighty grant us the wisdom and knowledge to do so, Ameen.

Points to Ponder

A collection of stories told by
Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II,
may Allāh be pleased with him.

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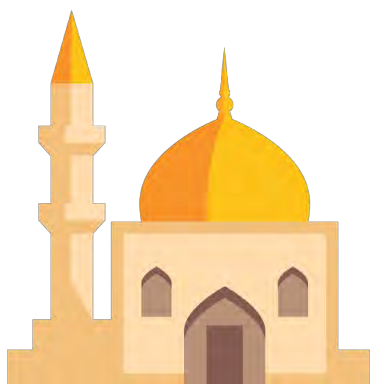


7 ways to get closer to Allah

Sarmed Ahmad / Age 9 / Virginia South

Allah is our God and if we want to go to heaven then we must be good and be close to Allah and be Allah's friend. In order to do that, here are some easy and simple ways to be Allah's friend.

1. Offer Salat and pray to Allah for your needs or not to be influenced by Satan (which is anything that is bad or unpleasant).
2. Read the Holy Qur'an every day along with translation and strive to follow what it says, because it is Allah's Book.
3. Give Zakat and help the people in need.
4. Understand the message of the Prophets and the instructions of the Khulafa.
5. Go to the mosque as much as you can to offer prayer.
6. Avoid bad things or what makes Allah angry (e.g. arrogance, hitting, making fun of others, etc.). If you do, then you can ask Him for forgiveness and to correct your mistake.
7. Be grateful for what you have. It is very common for people to get something and then not express gratitude. Allah doesn't like this and neither does the person himself. Because they spent money, time, and effort to get the thing and give it to you.



My Gratitude to Allah

Kanwal Ahmed / Age 14 / Philadelphia

I really appreciate You,
You're helpful, in so many ways,
Your generous heart
Your unselfishness.

I thank You for Your kindness,
I will never forget;
You're the nicest of people
I have ever met.

In a distracted world,
full of craziness and uncontrolled chaos,
when You look at me,
You focus, listen, care,
the comfort and pleasure You create
is priceless.

Thanks for doing what You always did;
You are kind beyond belief;
Your help and caring calmed me down,
And gave me a soothing type of relief,
I will be forever thankful.



Glossary

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

Adhan: The call to prayer

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.)

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

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

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

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

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

Iftār فطار: breaking the Islamic formal fast at sunset

Iftārī فطاری: eating to break Islamic formal fast.

Ijtima: gathering

Jalsa Salana: Annual Convention

Jama`at: Community

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

Sadaqah صدقة alms

Tabligh: Preaching

Wudu: Ablution



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