

AHilal

A Magazine for Children



2002-Issue 1

A Magazine for Children

US\$2

Letter from Al-Hilal Staff

Assalamu ‘alaikum, Al-Hilal Readers,

Midway through summer vacation, we encourage you to take a few minutes to smell the roses and read Al-Hilal This magazine is for you and your friends to read and share. Better yet, why not sit down to write something for the publication? Stories, poetry, art work, we welcome your contributions! Remember, the magazine can get better only with your added talent!

Wassalām,

Al-Hilal Editorial Staff

Al Hilal is a quarterly 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 Islam and Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

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Front Cover Design Courtesy of Rashid Ahmad Arshed

A Prayer from the Holy Qur'an

رَبَّنَا ءَاتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً
وَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

*rab·ba·nā ā·ti·nā fid·dun·yā ḥa·sa·na·tañw·wa fil·ā·khi·ra·ti
ḥa·sa·na·tañw·wa qi·nā ‘a·dhā·ban·nār*

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

رَبَّنَا	rab·ba·nā	our Lord
ءَاتِنَا	ā·ti·nā	grant us
فِي الدُّنْيَا	fid·dun·yā	in this world
حَسَنَةً وَ	ha·sa·na·tañw·wa	good as well as
فِي الْآخِرَةِ	fil·ā·khi·ra·ti	in the world to come
حَسَنَةً وَ	ha·sa·na·tañw·wa	good and
قِنَا	qi·nā	protect us from
عَذَابَ النَّارِ	‘a·dhā·ban·nār	the torment of the Fire

This prayer is also recited as part of salat after Durood Shareef.



Predestination

Translated from urdu by Sister Shazia Sohail,
San Jose, California

Reply to a question by

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih, ayyadahullahu ta'ala bi-nasrihil-'Aziz

Child: It is our faith that fate is inevitable; if God has already decided about everything and man will do what has been determined, then why is man held responsible?

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih: I will tell you why man is held responsible. God has also decided that man should distinguish between right and wrong and decide which path is good and which path is bad; this is also part of fate. This is how God has made destiny. When man is free to act then he will also get the reward or punishment for his action. Everyday, when you wake up, you have to make some decision. For example, should you go for Prayer or not? If you are sleepy you will say, "It's all right; I will offer it later." Tell me, who made the decision? God Almighty or you?

Child: I made the decision.

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih: Then, you will get the reward if it was a good decision and punishment if it wasn't. Like this, man makes hundreds of decisions during the day, good ones as well as bad ones. So this is also Divine decree that He has left man free to make his own decisions so that he can be rewarded for his good deeds and punished for his bad ones.

(Meeting with Atfal on November 24, 1999)

ABRAHAM

Aatifa Khan, Lajna
Baltimore, Maryland

Prophet Abraham was married to Sarah, but they were not having any children. So, Abraham prayed to Allah to have a child, and Allah promised him a child. Prophet Abraham then married Hagar and Allah bestowed upon them Ishmael. Many years later, Sarah also had a son, Isaac. Abraham had a dream that he offered Ishmael as a sacrifice, so he went and told Ishmael about this. Ishmael said, *Whatever the Lord wants is fine with me*, so Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son. But this was only a test by Allah to see if Abraham was faithful. He passed the test and Allah told him to slaughter a goat instead. Now Muslims slaughter goats every year in remembrance of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice, and his trust in Allah.

To see if Abraham trusted Allah, Allah told him to leave his son Ishmael and wife Hagar in the desert, alone and with no food or water. Abraham did trust Allah, so he did what he was told, and Allah took care of Ishmael and Hagar by providing a spring. Allah takes care of all righteous people.

During Abraham's time, people worshiped idols. Abraham tried hard to convince them to believe in one God. They rejected him and wanted to burn him but Allah made the fire cool and Abraham was saved.

Tips on Avoiding Peer Pressure

Maulana Syed Shamshad Ahmad Nasir

Silver Spring, Maryland

Presented in English by Arshad Ahmad,

Phoenix AZ

Some time back I spent 2–3 days in the Camp with the Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya and learned about the problems they face in their daily lives.

In their discussion groups, the children talked about what is happening in the schools, and the Un-Islamic activities their school fellows invite them to. I advised the children on how to stay away from bad influences. I summarize my comments here for everyone's benefit.

1. Children should develop love of Allah in their hearts. Start to love Allah. This is the first step. Love of Allah will keep Un-Islamic habits away. It is the love for Allah that makes people do good. When you love Allah, then it becomes very easy to be good.
2. How is the love of Allah generated? With worship. Offer your salat on time. Offer your salat while understanding your words and actions during salat. Learn the meanings of the words you say in the salat so that you know what you are saying.
3. Get in the habit of praying. There are special prayers (du'as) for everything we do in life, memorize these prayers.
4. Before doing anything, think if Allah likes that act or not. If it is something Allah likes, then do it. If Allah does not like you to do this, then do not do it.

Remember that Un-Islamic influences are working strongly

around us in the schools and in our neighborhoods. I will now tell you how to protect yourself and stay away from such influences.

Whenever someone, a grownup or a child, asks you to do something bad, say “a‘oodhu billahi minashshaitan-ir-rajeem,” (I seek refuge from the rejected Satan) and “la haula wa la quwwata illa billahil-‘azeem” (There is no strength and power except for Allah). Then make every effort you can to keep a distance from the mischief of these people and the un-Islamic effect of their company. Later, when you see this person in an appropriate circumstance, tell him about the good things Allah wants us to do so that he can also become good. Reciting these prayers and inviting people to do good will help you to keep away from all evils. If you persist in this practice, you will not be influenced by others, but you will also be able to save your friends and neighbors.

Before I finish my advice, I would like to ask you to make full use of du‘a (prayer). Without Allah’s help you cannot do good work and without His help you can not stay away from evil.

There is a story of a wise and noble man who lived in a city. A student came to this wise man to learn from him. When this student had finished his studies and was ready to leave, the wise man decided to give the student a test.

The wise man asked the student, “Now that you are going home, tell me if Allah is present in your country.” The student said that Allah is everywhere. The wise man asked, “And what about Satan?” The student said, “Satan is also there.”

The wise man asked, “If you are offering your salat and Satan comes and tries to pull you to evil, what would you do then?” The student said, “I would get far away from Satan.” The wise man said, “OK, you get away from Satan and start your salat but Satan comes to you again. What will you do now?” The student said, “I



will push him away again.” The wise man said, “You moved away from Satan a second time but he comes back again. Now what?” The student said, “I would challenge Satan and move away from him.” The wise man said, “You would be so busy moving away from Satan that you will not have time to offer your salat.” The student asked the noble man for help in solving this dilemma.

The wise man said, “Let us say you go to visit a friend. When you are about to ring the doorbell, his dog comes and stops you from ringing the bell. What will you do?” The student said, “I would frighten him away.” The wise man said, “What if the dog attacks you again when you try to ring the bell a second time? What if the dog bites you?” The student said, “I would frighten the dog, beat him and push him away.” The wise man said, “You may be able to push the dog away a second time but when you try to ring the doorbell, the dog attacks again. What will you do now?” The student said, “I would call out my friend that I wanted to visit him but his dog was preventing me from ringing the doorbell. I will ask my friend to restrain the dog.” The wise man said, “This is exactly how you can get rid of Satan.”

We all know that Satan is Allah’s dog. This dog is trying to stop us from ringing Allah’s doorbell and does not allow us to speak with Allah. To get close to Allah, we should call on Allah for help.

May Allah protect all of us and help us do good work and keep us safe from Un-Islamic actions. Ameen.

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Jalsa

Maariya H. Bajwa

Jalsa Salana is one of the highlights of my year. I love traveling to the Jalsa, staying at hotels that are “taken over” by Ahmadis for the weekend, listening to inspiring speeches and seeing my friends again. I can’t wait to go again this year.

Traveling to the Jalsa is one of my favorite parts of the experience. I love the rush of trying to get ready; all of the ironing and packing to do! I love choosing my favorite outfits, and looking forward to wearing them. Before we leave our driveway, we always collectively pray for the success of the Jalsa and for everyone to stay in Allah’s protection during the three days. We especially pray for protection during the three days. We also deeply pray for the Jalsa workers and organizers. When we are finally ready to go, my three brothers and I begin to fight over which seats in the van we will be occupying, and then we end up in the same seats as the year before. I always get the back of the van, which I think is the best place, because I can sleep comfortably there. We traditionally also argue over who will listen to which CD player, and in what order. Luckily, I have my own to use. My CD player helps me to sleep so

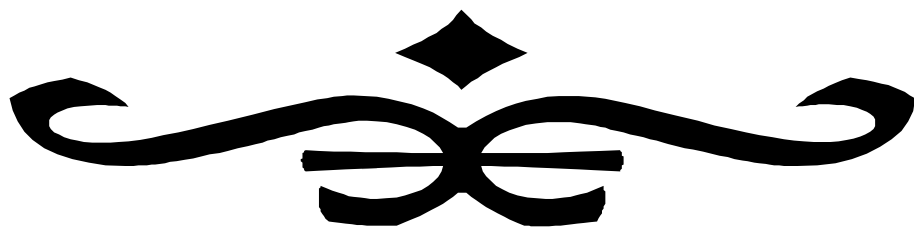


I'm not grumpy and I don't get so car-sick. My mother works hard making sure we all have everything we need to be comfortable and also have our favorite snacks. We almost always stop at the same restaurants on the way and stay at the same hotel when we arrive. If my cousins from California come to Jalsa then they stay at the same hotel as we do. This year we are truly blessed because my Nanijan and cousins, insha'allah, will be attending from London.

Seeing many of my friends is another great part of Jalsa. Walking around, talking, eating and just being a part of the crowd is special. I especially like seeing my friends who live in different states, like my friend Sumia who was on duty with me last summer. We were "security guards" and message carriers. It was my first time, even though I was only 11. It was a real challenge in the heat, but I felt proud to be part of the team. I helped out in the tent where my mother worked, too. Last year, she worked in Hazri Nigrani, where I helped her with simple duties, like sorting and passing out badges.

The speeches always help me learn and understand more about my faith and make me want to do better as an Ahmadi Muslim.

I pray that I earn many blessings during my trip to Jalsa this year. It is a time to learn many new things and be grateful for being an Ahmadi. The worst part is having to go to school the next day (I attend year-round school and my four-week summer vacation starts the week after Jalsa, unfortunately). But at least on the journey home, I can enjoy all my memories and look forward to next year.



Good Night Moon

With the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach
I stretch desperate fingers
to the Heavens
Caress the wind
Sky canoe of shaded shimmers
I whisper good night moon...
Piercing cry of lone bird of flight
Cast shadow to moon
So dip
Your wing in tears
In rage scream fire-new
Yet let wind caress you
And smell stars burnt out
From moon's bright light
Breathe in starlit night
Vastness before you, a clear
path of sight.
Whose silence wakes my song...
Good night Moon.
Wise clear light
loved long
instinct with spirit seem
a tongue of light, a fit of flame
Good Night Moon.



by Nadia Qazi



The Life of Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad

Haseeb Ahmad, Age 10
North Haven, CT

Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad was born on January 12, 1889. He was the Second Successor to the Promised Messiah. The Promised Messiah had gone to Hoshiarpur, India to pray for 40 days and was told by God that he would have a pure son, Musleh Mau'ud, within nine years. This Promised Son was born to the Promised Messiah three years after receiving this prophecy. The prophecy about Musleh Mau'ud had also specified some special qualities of the Promised Son. For example, it was foretold that he would be extremely intelligent and highly learned. His fame would spread to the ends of the earth and nations would be blessed through him. When the Promised Messiah passed away, Hadrat Musleh Mau'ud was only 19 years old. On this critical occasion, he stood by the body of his deceased father and made the pledge, "Even if all the people should abandon you, I will stand alone against the whole world not caring for any opposition or enmity."

His 52-year khilafat was filled with great achievements and landmarks that show Divine help. He possessed a unique combination of qualities such as leadership, genius, trust in God, courage, depth of knowledge in many fields and personal magnetism. No doubt, his 52-year khilafat represented a golden period in the history of Ahmadiyyat. Moreover, the prophecy regarding Musleh Mau'ud was fulfilled to perfection.

During his khilafat he had an extremely heavy work load. His health conditions worsened over time and on November 8, 1965, at the age of 77, he passed way.

May God Almighty bless him and make all of us his good followers. Ameen.

Spending In The Way Of Allah

Spending In The Way Of Allah

Umar Razzaq, Age 10
Hebron, CT

In chapter 2 verse 273 of the Holy Quran, it is written,

“And whatever of wealth you spend, the benefit of it will be for yourselves, for you spend not but to seek the favors of Allah...”

It says further in verse 275,

“Those who spend their wealth by night and day secretly and openly, have their reward with their lord; on them shall come no fear, nor shall they grieve.”

It is the obligation of all Muslims to spend in the way of Allah because it is within this where our salvation lies. A Muslim should never worry about giving up some of his hard earned money. Money spent in the way of Allah is always multiplied for the person and never wasted.

Khauzam bin Fatik relates that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

“Whoever spends something in the cause of Allah is rewarded seven hundred times over.”



We are told that if we spend in the way of Allah that He will not only extend His blessings on us, but also save us from the many calamities and ills which may otherwise befall us. There are many different ways of spending in this cause, such as zakat, Tehrik-i-Jadid, Waqf-i-Jadid, etc., but let us learn mostly about sadaqa.

Sadaqa means money (or goods) voluntarily given to the poor to win Allah's pleasure. It must be given out of one's lawfully earned wealth and its receivers should by no means be put under any obligation or reproach. Giving sadaqa is particularly significant because it goes directly to those in dire need.

Giving even small amount of sadaqa weighs heavily with Allah. For someone who has no money, the giving of a date weighs equally to a wealthy man giving large amounts of money.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once said,

“Give charity to save yourself from the fire even if it be by giving a portion of a date.”

In his 1/11/02 Friday sermon, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih related that one should not look at the wealth of others and therefore consider himself poor and not give anything. Moreover, a poor man should think about those who are even less fortunate than he and give whatever he can.

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih related an incident where he was traveling on a train. At the station he was approached by a very poor man who gave Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih what he could in chanda and by a rich man who had not given any chanda, but had invited Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih to dinner. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih declined the latter's invitation and said, *I would rather eat at the house of a poor man who has given whatever he had in the cause of Allah rather than a rich man who has given nothing.*

If we spend in the way of Allah, Allah will provide for us and never let us go hungry.

Giving sadaqa and other contributions should be taught at a very early age. Our beloved Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih has often related how, when he was small, his father would give all the children some money which they were to keep safely for a day or so. They would then be asked to give that money back for sadaqa or chanda so as to develop the quality of giving in them.

At certain periods in our jama‘at’s history there may be times when we are required to give sadaqa for a special cause, which is called sadaqa jariyyah. Last year for example, the USA Lajna gave sadaqa jariyyah for the construction of an orphanage in Rabwah. This year, they plan to give sadaqa jariyyah towards the new London mosque.

Hadrat A’isha relates that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once said,

“A generous person is close to Allah, close to the people and close to paradise but far away from hell, an ignorant person who is generous is better than a worshipping miser.”

We would all do better to try and live up to these wise words.



We celebrate Eid

We celebrate our Eid today,
In a very special way.
Happiness and all that's good,
Spirit of peace and brotherhood.

Through the month of Ramadan,
Muslims everywhere do bond
To perform their daily fast
This day has arrived at last.

A festival of joy
For each girl and boy
Our best clothes we wear
Sweet perfume fills the air.

We celebrate our Eid today,
In a very special way.
Happiness and all that's good,
Spirit of peace and brotherhood.

With *Eid mubarak* we will greet,
To each Muslim we do meet,
We stand before Allah to pray,
And thank Him for this special day.

A festival of joy
For each girl and boy
Our best clothes we wear
Sweet perfume fills the air

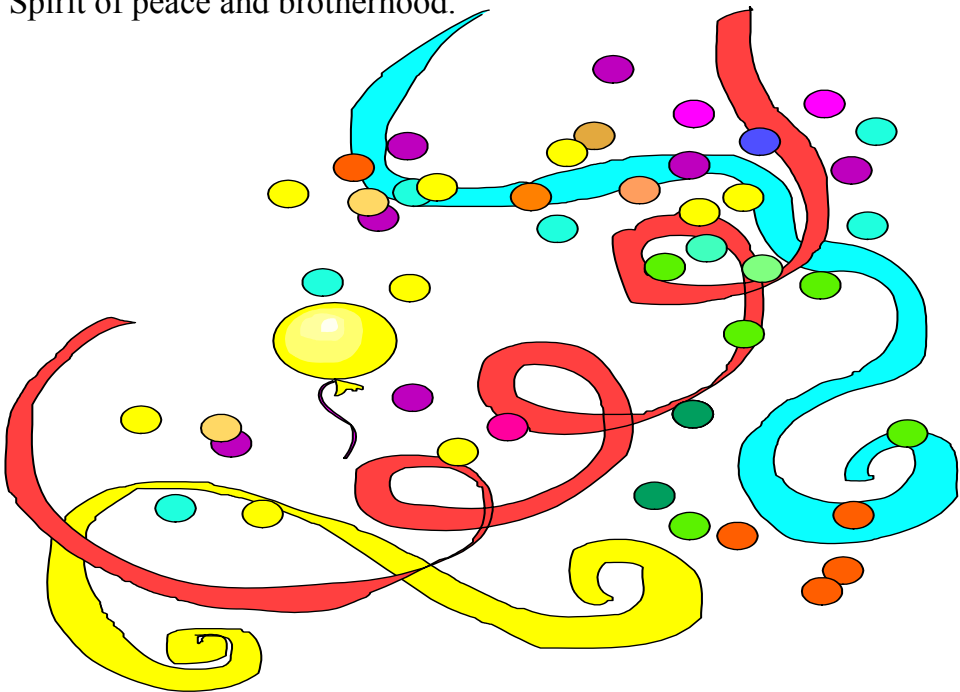


Sister Jameela Ali
Milwaukee, Wisconsin





We celebrate our Eid today,
In a very special way.
Happiness and all that's good,
Spirit of peace and brotherhood.



Eid Questions

1. How many additional times “Allahu-Akbar” (Takbīr) is repeated in the first raka‘at of Eid Prayer?



2. How many additional times “Allahu-Akbar” (Takbīr) is repeated in the second raka‘at of Eid Prayer?



3. How many raka‘ats does the Eid (‘Īd) prayer consist of?

4. What Arabic phrase is repeated four times in the Takbīr on Eid day?

5. What is the name of the Eid that follows the holy month of Ramadan?



6. What is not called by the Mu’adh-dhin before the Eid Prayer that is normally called before the five daily Prayers?



- 7.



7. After the Eid sermon, what is collectively offered by the gathering?

8. How many Eids are there in one year?

9. What is the name of the Eid Prayer commemorating the sacrifice by Hadrat Ibrahim ('alaihissalam) and Hadrat Isma'il ('alaihissalam)?

10. Who was the first person to celebrate Eid ('Īd)?



11. What is the obligatory chandah (contribution) that must be paid by each Jama'at member prior to the Eid Prayer?

12. What activities are Muslims prohibited from carrying out on Eid-ul-Fitr that they were carrying out in the previous month?



13. How many days does Eid-ul-Adha last for?

14. Fasting (Saum) is the _____ pillar of Islam.

Send your answers by mail to
Rabia Chaudhry, 55 Lester Avenue #12, San Jose, CA 95125

Or by e-mail to chaudhry_rh@yahoo.com

Basketball at the Mosque

Omair Mirza, Age 12

Houston, Texas

Assalamu-'Alaikum,

During Ramadan, members of the Jama'at pledged money for the basketball court in our Masjid. The basketball court will benefit the Jama'at in many ways.

The young Atfal will not be in the masjid after class or the meetings running or dropping the drinks. Also, the Ansar will be pleased with the kids outside rather than inside. Some parents would like their kids to be more involved with the other Atfal. The basketball court will result in all the Atfal being together and having fun.

The Atfal that sit at home and watch TV can now come to the masjid and participate in the classes and afterward have fun playing basketball.





Construction of the al-Ghalib (The Dominator) Basketball court is near commencement. Our total pledge was \$5,578. I paid money that I got for my birthday. Some Atfal used their 'Id (Eid) gift money and gave it to the basketball fund. Please pray for the success of this project.

May we excel each other in all types of goodness and may Allah bless us all. Ameen!

Interview with Nasir Mahmood Malik

Adeel Ahmad, Age 14

Detroit, Michigan

Nasir Mahmood Malik is the President in the Detroit Jama'at. He has 4 children; 2 boys and 2 girls and has been an Ahmadi since birth. He also belongs to the Majlis Ansarullah auxiliary organization.

He holds a lot of jama'at offices such as the President of the Detroit Jama'at, National Tarbiyyat Secretary of USA Jama'at, and Sadr Ansarullah USA.

He says that there are many beauties of Islam, which other religions don't have. The major ones are that Islam is the most natural religion, and Islam has the best guidance. It is the code of life. One could live their whole life off the teachings of Islam.

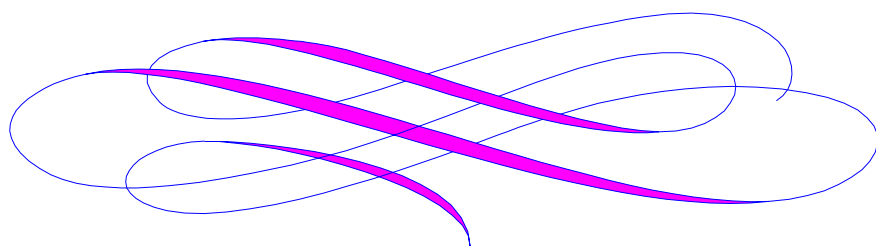
Parents should keep a few things in mind for the proper upbringing of children. First of all they should set their own examples as role models. They should make sure that there is proper training for the children. Lastly, they should pray for their children, because nothing is more powerful than prayer.

Children should listen to their parents and should also respect the parents. They should also pray for parents as they pray for you.

Nasir Malik Sahib has advice that the children should follow. Children should get in the habit of making the best use of their time, as well as do what Allah, the prophets, and the khulafa say we should do. Ahmadi children should set examples for other non-Ahmadis to follow. Ahmadi children should be the most truthful and respectful so everyone respects them and thinks good of them.



As kids we should make sure that we do not get bad reputations. We as kids should not get bad reputations. Children think that the meetings are for adults and everything but the adults mostly do it to ensure a good future for the kids. Kids should make sure to attend all the programs and jama'at meetings that are happening. If they know that there is a program on Saturday, then they should do their homework on Friday. Also they should be willing to do whatever is asked or assigned to them, even if an elderly asks them to get them a glass of water.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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God Help Us

Naila Sulaiman, Age 13

Long Island, New York



I stand erect and scared;
I wonder if its true.
I see people running,
I hear terrified screaming,
I want peace to come back.
I stand erect and scared.

I touch my cold torch;
I worry it might go out.
I feel only piercing pain,
I cry for the twins, a river of sadness flowing,
I pretend they didn't collapse.
I stand erect and scared.

I understand the truth, my heart drops down;
I say, "God, help us."
I try to stay standing, not cry,
I dream of the happy days, laughter,
I hope it will stop, please.
I stand erect and scared.





We want to hear from you!

Children are encouraged to send their writing for publication in this magazine. Please give your full name, age, city and state. If you want to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you want the original back, please write your address on the back of the artwork with the note: "Please send this back to" followed by your address. The Children's Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amir, Jama'at Ahmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

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Madrasatul-Hifz

A School to Memorize the Holy Quran

Syed Sajid Ahmad

Boise, Idaho

Since 1957, almost 200 students have memorized the Holy Quran at the Madrasatul-Hifz. This school is located at Rabwah in Pakistan.

The record for the fastest memorization of the Holy Quran goes to Hafiz Safeer Ahmad Virk of Rabwah. He memorized the Holy Quran in ten months. Next is Nāsir Manzur of Gujranwala in Pakistan. He memorized the Holy Quran in one year, five months and 23 days. Hafiz Nāsiruddin from Rabwah, Pakistan, memorized the Holy Quran in one year and six months while Hafiz Quadratullah of Rabwah, Pakistan, in one year, seven months and 25 days.

Hifz means to memorize. A Hāfīz is a person who has memorized the Holy Quran. Huffāz is plural of Hāfīz.

Since its revelation fourteen hundred years ago to the Holy Prophet, Muhammad, sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, the Holy Quran has been memorized by thousands of Muslims of every age. Being the word of God, it is made easy to learn, remember and memorize.

Holy Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, was the first hafiz of the Holy Quran. All of his first four successors were huffaz. He said, *A person, whose heart does not carry a portion of the Holy Quran, is like a deserted house.*

During the fourth year of his migration, the Holy Prophet, Muhammad, sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, sent seventy huffaz to teach Islam to a tribe. All of them were martyred by the opponents of Islam by deceit. This number shows that a large number of Muslims had memorized the Holy Quran during the early days of

Islam.

Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah, had the desire to start a class for this purpose. Hafiz Class was established sometime before 1920. Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, the third khalifa, rahimahullah, completed the memorization of the Holy Quran from this class in 1922 at the age of thirteen. There were thirteen students in this class at that time.

After the creation of Pakistan, this class moved from Qadian (India) to Ahmad Nagar (Pakistan) and then to Rabwah.

The name of the Hafiz Class was changed to Madrasatul-Hifz in 1976. Presently six huffaz teach the class.

The school has its own building, with five class rooms. Sixty-six students were enrolled in the year 2001 while eighty-five in 2002. Twenty-one students graduated in 2002. The coursework lasts three years with six months for revision.

The students are served milk during their classes. The school has a library. Sports facilities are also provided for students' physical well being.



Can you figure out the inscription? Ask for help if you cannot. Art by Aftab Ahmad, LA

Under one God

Halimat Aina, Age 10
Baltimore, Maryland

We are different not the same,
Different languages different names,
From different places around the globe
Different dreams, different hopes.

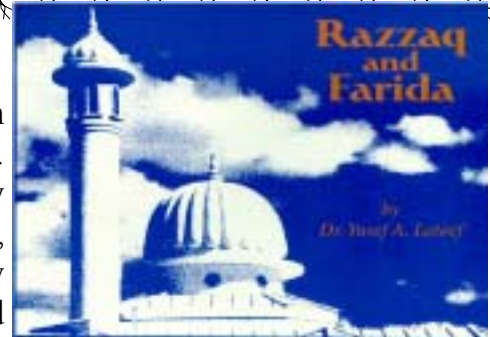
Yet we share our special earth,
This precious planet of our birth,
We are one family under one sky,
Let's celebrate our common tie.

Razzaq and Farida

A story for children
written by Dr. Yusef A.
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Glossary

- Aḥmadi احمدى : A follower of Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad, the Promised Messiah, peace be on him.
- Aḥmadiyyat احمديت : Muslim sect believing Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad to be the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, peace be on him
- 'alaihissalam: peace be on him
- Ameen: see Āmīn
- Āmīn: amen, so be it.
- Amīr, Ameer: امير Commander, Head
- Ansār انصار : Helpers. Members of Majlis Ansarullah.
- Assalamu 'alaikum: peace be on you
- Atfāl اطفال : Members of Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya.
- ayyadahullāhu ta'ālā binaṣrihil-'azīz, العزیز بنصره العزیز : May Allah support him with His Mighty Help
- Chanda: چندہ Monetary contribution, donation.
- Du'a دعا : prayer, supplication
- Eid: See 'Īd
- Hadīth حدیث : Saying of the Holy Prophet Mohammad, sallallahu alaihi wasallam.
- Ḥaḍrat, Hazrat: حضرت : His Holiness
- 'Īd: عید Muslim religious celebration, festival.
- 'Īd mubarak عيد مبارك : Felicitation of 'Īd.
- inshā'allah: God willing : May Allah be pleased with him.
- Islām: peace, submission
- Jalsa Salāna جلسہ سالانہ : Annual Convention
- Khalīfah: vicegerent
- Khalīfatul-Masīh خليفة المسيح : Successor to the Promised Messiah, 'alaihissalam.
- Khatamannabiyyīn: Best of the prophets (Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be on him)
- Khilāfat خلافت : Succession
- khulafā خلفاء : Plural of khalifah.
- Majlis مجلس : Society, organization.
- Majlis Atfāl-ul-Ahmadiyya مجلس اطفال الاحمدية (society of Ahmadi children): The organization of all Ahmadi boys up to the age of 14.
- Mu'adhhdhin مؤذن : caller. Person who calls adhan.
- Muṣliḥ-i-Mau'ūd, Musleh Mau'ood: مصلح موعود (The Promised Reformer): Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashiruddin Maḥmud Aḥmad (1889-1965), Khalīfatul-Masīh II, raḍiyallāhu 'anhu, who fulfilled the prophesy of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, about the advent of a Reformer.
- Ṣadaqah صدقه : alms
- Ṣadr صدر : President.
- Ṣāhibzadah صاحبزاده Son of a respected person, respected gentleman.
- ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wasallam صلى الله عليه وسلم : peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.
- ṣalāt صلوة : Formal Prayer offered according to a prescribed procedure.
- tarbiyyat, tarbiyyah تربيت : training
- wassalām (was-sa-lām) والسلام : and (greetings of) peace.
- Zakāt زكاة : Prescribed alms.

What does your name mean?

Syed Sajid Ahmad, Boise, Idaho

Allah, the Almighty, created us. We all are His creation. We are His servants. He is our Master. We owe obedience and servitude to Him. Many of us have names which show our relationship to Him.

The name of the father of our beloved prophet, Muhammad, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, was 'Abdullah. 'Abdullah is made of two words, 'abd and Allah, meaning servant of Allah, as the word 'abd means servant, slave.

Allah has many attributes. In his Friday sermons (khutbas), Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih, ayyadahullahu ta'ala binasrihil-'aziz, is explaining the meaning of these attributes of Allah. These attributes are often used in our names, like, 'Abdur-Rahman, servant of the Gracious, 'Abdur-Rahim, servant of the Merciful, 'Abdul-Karim means servant of the Noble, Abdus-Sami, servant of the All-Hearing, Abdus-Salam, servant of the One who is the Source of Peace, Abdul-Hadi, servant of the One who Guides, 'Abdus-Malik, servant of the Master, 'Abdul-'Aziz, servant of the Almighty, 'Abdur-Razzaq, servant of the Provider.

What is your name and what does it mean? What does your name mean to you? Send us a story about your name and we may print it for the readers to enjoy.

Al-Hilal
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