

AR-RASHID



2002-Issue 2

A Magazine for Children

US\$2

## Message from Editorial Staff

Assalamu ‘alaikum, Al-Hilal Readers:

As we close out 2002, the Al Hilal Editorial Staff would like to make the following new year’s resolution for 2003: to provide its readership with an enriching reading experience. As a reader of Al-Hilal, we hope you’ll join us in 2003 by making this publication well-written and well-read. Please share your thoughts and ideas with your fellow Ahmadi Muslim brothers and sisters. Insha’allah with your help we can make this a magazine for all ages.

Wassalām,

Al-Hilal Editorial Staff

Rabia Chaudhry, Editor (Lajna)

### *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 Islam and Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

Al-Hilāl (The New Moon) is published by the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, under the auspices of the Children’s Magazine Committee, and directed by Dr Ahsanullah Zafr, National Amir, Jama‘at Ahmadiyya, USA. The members of the committee are

Maulana MA Cheema, Ahmadi Muslim Muballigh (Missionary) at the National headquarters in the Washington DC area; Maulana Azhar Haneef, Ahmadi Muslim Muballigh (Missionary) in Philadelphia; Shanaz Butt, Sadr of Lajna Imaillah, USA; Naseem Waseem, Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, USA; Tazeen Ahmad of Maryland; Musa Asad of Maryland; and Syed Sajid Ahmad of Idaho acting as the secretary of the committee.

### Al-Hilal Editorial Staff

Tahir Ahmed (Khuddam), Rabia Chaudhry (Lajna), Sultana Wali (Lajna)





بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

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*Front Cover Design Courtesy of Nila Ahmad, Kansas*

## A Prayer from the Holy Qur'an

رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ وَ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي رَبَّنَا وَ تَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِ @

rab·bij·'al·nī mu·qī·mas·sa·lā·ti wa min dhur·riy·ya·tī  
rab·ba·nā wa ta·qab·bal du·'ā

My Lord, make me observe Prayer, and my children *too*.  
Our Lord, *bestow Thy grace on me* and accept my prayer.

(14[Ibrāhīm]:41)

رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي	rab·bij·'al·nī	My Lord, make me
مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ	mu·qī·mas·sa·lā·ti	observe Prayer,
وَ	wa	and
مِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي	min <u>dhur·riy·ya·tī</u>	my children.
رَبَّنَا	rab·ba·nā	Our Lord,
وَ	wa	and
تَقَبَّلْ	ta·qab·bal	accept
@ دُعَاءِ	du·'ā	my prayer.

## **Sad Demise of Sahibzadah M. M. Ahmad**

*He supervised  
the launch of  
this magazine  
and proposed  
the name Al-Hilal for it.*

Sahibzadah Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad was very particular about the training and proper upbringing of our younger generation. He often spoke on the subject in jama'at meetings.

When he was approached with a proposal to start a magazine for children, he immediately sought the opinion of the heads of the lajna and khuddam organizations in the United States. Both of them were naturally supportive of such an endeavor and provided their ideas on the structure and flow of the publication and the administrative strategy for this task. After examining their inputs, he formed a committee of highly motivated and deserving members of the community to administer and oversee the publication.

A long list of names for this publication, suggested by members, was submitted to him. He chose two of

them of which one, al-Hilal, appears on the publication today. His selection of this name points to his strong affection for the language of the Quran and the familiar parallels given for the great prophet of Arabia over the past many centuries.

He was an economist and administrator. His services were indispensable to the progress of Pakistan. His signatures appeared on Pakistani currency. He was also appointed Acting President once. He would have contributed to the future of Pakistan much more if the rulers of Pakistan had not sacrificed the well being of Pakistan to appease the mulla for political convenience. By ignoring such selfless servants, successive rulers broke the basic Islamic principles of equity and fairness, thus bringing to the country despair after despair, leading to the present-day chaos and turmoil.

He played an important role at the World Bank as one of its directors.

He was 76 years old when he was given the grand responsibility of heading the US jama'at. His experience proved to be a great asset in contributing to the success and progress of the Ahmadiyya community in the US.

May Allah bless and exalt his soul and be a source of solace for his near ones. Āmīn.

# Allah or Humans?

Who made it?

Next to each item, please write Allah or Humans.

1. TREES \_\_\_\_\_
2. SUNGLASSES \_\_\_\_\_
3. WATER \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
4. BOOKS \_\_\_\_\_
5. FISH \_\_\_\_\_
6. GEL \_\_\_\_\_
7. AIR \_\_\_\_\_
8. SHOES \_\_\_\_\_
9. SPIDERS \_\_\_\_\_
10. FABRIC \_\_\_\_\_
11. COMPUTER \_\_\_\_\_
12. FOOD \_\_\_\_\_

Should we worship humans for making things like toys, roller coasters, or houses, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_

Why should we worship Allah? \_\_\_\_\_



# *Hadrat Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad*

*Saira Khawas Bhatti, Age 9*

*Virginia*

My grandfather, Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, served Ahmadiyyat, the true Islam, for over seventy years. He held many important offices and completed many tasks. He was the Amir of the East Africa region of the jama'at for twenty seven years. Here Allah granted him the honor of translating the Holy Quran in Swahili. This work took a period of ten years to complete. It has helped many East Africans to learn about Islam and accept Islam as their religion. He also translated the famous book, *Gardens of the Righteous*, into Swahili. In addition to this he wrote many books. He was also the Amir and Missionary in charge of the United Kingdom jama'at. Allah Ta'ala granted him success here, too. His last official duty was to serve as Amir of the United States jama'at. The main reason that *Hadrat* Khalifatul-Masih IV, ayyadahullahu binasrihil-aziz, sent him here was to build new mosques and mission houses. *Hadrat* Khalifatul-Masih IV, ayyadahullahu binasrihil-aziz, once mentioned that building mosques was my grandfather's specialty. By the grace of Allah he was very successful in this task and was able to raise millions of dollars to build about thirteen mosques and mission houses, al-hamdu lillah.

My grandfather strongly believed that Allah listens to our humble prayers. He always asked me to pray as well. I saw him praying until the end. He loved the Promised Messiah (alaihissalam) and his jama'at and he worked for it until the last days of his life. My grandfather was a wonderful man. He loved children very much. Our Imam, ayyadahullahu binasrihil-aziz, said that my grandfather was a Mujahid of the jama'at who spent his life as a Mujahid. May Allah help us all to follow his good deeds and may Allah grant him a high station in paradise. Āmīn.



# *Jokes Anyone?*

Ayesha Shakir  
Georgia

**Q:** What did one strawberry say to the other?

**A:** If you weren't so fresh, we wouldn't be in this jam.

**Q:** Why can't the Dalmatian hide from her Mom?

**A:** Because she's already been spotted.

**Q:** What do you get when you mix a bird, an automobile and a goldfish?

**A:** A flying car-pet

**Q:** When is the best time to go to the dentist?

**A:** Tooth-thirty (2:30).



# Bear Country

Nida-ul-Nasr  
Washington, DC

This story is about when my parents and I visited three different places in the same state. This event took place in South Dakota. This experience was fun and exciting and the thrill of my life. This story will describe my roller coaster adventure and the good times and the bad.

It all started when my parents decided we should go somewhere exciting during the summer. My parents argued about whether we should go or not and after much conversation we decided to do it. We started packing the necessary equipment that we would need.

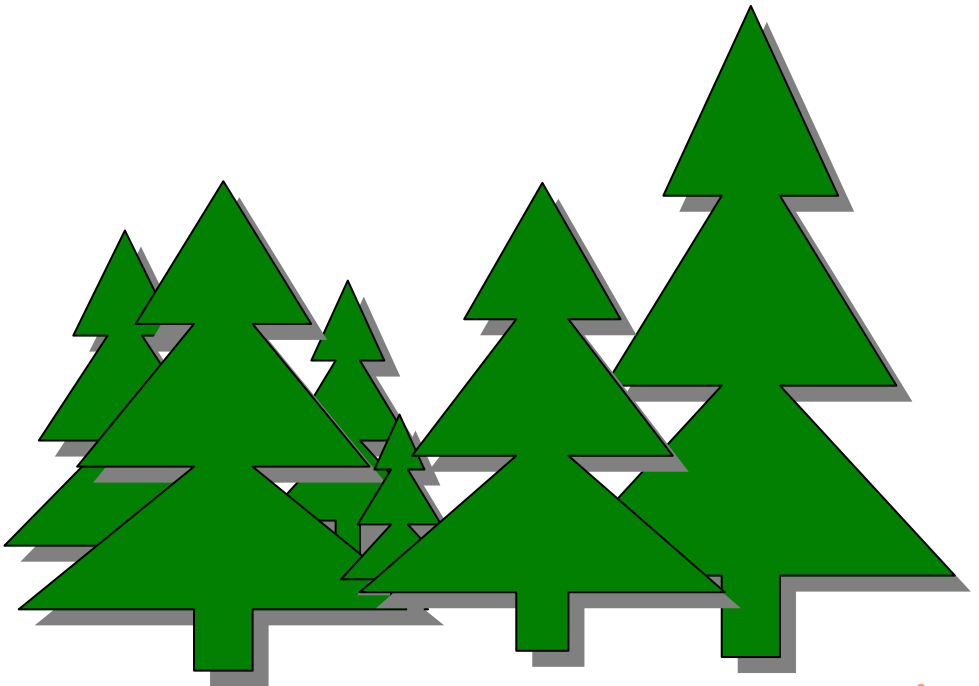
Our first stop was in Bear Country. As we approached Bear Country there was a sign warning us to beware of bears and to keep our car windows up. As we entered we couldn't help but notice how peaceful, quiet and charming it was here. As we entered bear country and drove around looking at the beautiful view, something shocking happened. A big, tall, furry black bear blocked our way. The bear was trying to get in so he kept on scratching the window with his sharp claws. At that time my parents were as shocked as if they had been hit by a rock. All the while, the people in front of us were staring and taking pictures. The bear tried until he got tired and settled off into the woods. After that we saw no sign of him

and were relieved. It was starting to get dark so we decided to set up our tent nearby to Bear Country.

Our second stop was Black Hills. We set up our tent and suddenly it started raining hard. By the time we reached the car we were soaking wet and the whole night we had to sleep in the car.

The next day was a fresh new start. Our last stop was Michelle City. There were lots of things to see but the place my parents decided to pick was corn palace where inside and outside everything was made of corn. The paintings were splendid and excellent. So basically it was a huge palace of corn and paintings of corn. Isn't that cool? I wonder how long it took them to make such a palace.

Visiting the three different places was the most exciting moment in my life because it was fun and thrilling. If you read my story closely you can feel as though you are really there. I hope one day you visit these places. Trust me, you will have fun.



# Amtul Rashid Shaukat Malik

Anam Malik, Age 9  
Virginia

My Grandmother's name is Amtul Rashid Shaukat Malik. She was born in Qadian, India in 1919. Her mother was a companion of the Promised Messiah ('alaihissalām). My grandmother was married to Malik Saifur Rehman, who was Mufti-i-Silsila (jurist of the community) and Principal of Jami'ah Ahmadiyya (missionary training school at Rabwah).

My grandmother was a very kind, loving sweet and soft-spoken woman. She was educated in the Holy Quran and religious studies. She taught in school for more than 40 years and was Editor of the Lajna monthly publication, Misbah. She served as a local Lajna president for many years in Rabwah and Calgary. She traveled to many countries. She moved to Canada in 1984 and died in January 1999 in Calgary. One month before she died, she traveled to Qadian and Rabwah to visit holy places.

Once in Qadian in 1946 when she was very young, *Hadrat* Musleh Mau'ūd told her, "Shaukat, how will you feel when you



will make a speech in London wearing burq‘ah?” My grandmother couldn’t believe it because she couldn’t even imagine going to London, much less giving a speech there. But after 30 years, in 1977, this saying of *Hadrat* Musleh Mau‘ud was fulfilled when she went to London and made a speech to the Lajna there.

She visited me many times in Virginia. She taught me Qa‘ida (how to read) and Holy Quran. My middle name Shauket is after her name.

May Allah bless her soul and may Allah make me a good Ahmadi Muslim like her. Āmeen.

## **We want to hear from you!**

Children are encouraged to send their writings for publication in this magazine. Please mention 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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# True Friendship

*Written by Nasiratul-Ahmadiyya, Zion, IL*

## Scene I:

### *Outdoors in the Rain Forest of Peace*

Ladybug, Butterfly, and Cat are walking to school through the rain forest (laughing, joking and talking together).

### *At School:*

Cat leaves to go meet with a teacher.

Butterfly and Ladybug are alone in hallway.

**Butterfly:** Hey, did you know that Cat picks her nose?

**Ladybug:** Eeewww, she does?!

**Butterfly:** And guess what else? She is also baldheaded and wears a wig!!

**Ladybug:** You mean she picks her nose and is baldheaded?!!!  
That is so disgusting!

(Both Butterfly and Ladybug leave the room laughing.)

## Scene II:

### *Recess*

Ladybug and Cat talking

**Ladybug:** Guess what Butterfly said about you? She said you picked your nose and was also baldheaded!

**Cat:** That is not at all true! You can pull my hair to see if it is real if you want.

(Ladybug pulls Cat's hair.)

**Cat:** Ouuucch!

**Ladybug:** You really do have hair! Butterfly is not being honest.

**Cat:** Well, Butterfly gets Fs in all her classes and she doesn't do



her homework!

**Ladybug:** Are you serious?!!

(Both laughing and giggling as recess ends.)

**Scene III:**

***Hallway***

Ladybug and Butterfly are standing together.

**Ladybug:** Guess what Cat said about you? She said you don't do your homework and have really bad grades!

**Butterfly:** (angry) That is not true!!! I'll bring my report card tomorrow to prove that Cat is not telling the truth!

**Scene IV:**

***Next day***

Walking to school together

Cat and Butterfly are not speaking to each other, only to Ladybug.

Cat and Butterfly are making faces to each other. (They are not being friendly at all.)



***Recess:***

Cat and Ladybug jumping rope together.

Butterfly walks up to them.

**Butterfly:** Tell Cat to get all of her toys from my house.

**Cat:** Tell Butterfly not to call me anymore because she is a liar.

**Butterfly:** Be quiet or I will hit you!!!

(Butterfly and Cat are face to face now with hands up and about to fight.)

**Ladybug:** (moving in between them) Girls this has got to stop! (her hands up to keep them separated)

**Giraffe [teacher]:** (walks over) What is going on here?!

(other students gather around)

**Ladybug:** They were about to fight!

**Giraffe:** Fight about what?

**Cat:** Butterfly is a liar.

**Butterfly:** Cat told a lie about me too.

**Giraffe:** We better go inside and talk to get to the bottom of this story.

**Scene IV:**

***Classroom***

**Giraffe:** Cat, what is your side of the story?

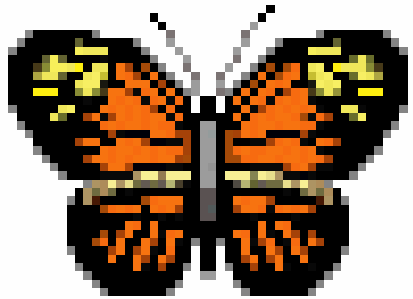
**Cat:** (crying) Butterfly said that I pick my nose and am baldheaded.

**Giraffe:** Oh, is that true Butterfly?

**Butterfly:** (sobbing) Yes... it's all true. I did say those things about Cat. But she said that I don't do my homework and get Fs on my report card. Here is my report card with all As to prove it.

**Giraffe:** How did you two hear of such horrible things about each other?

(Both Cat and Butterfly point directly to Ladybug)



**Giraffe:** It seems to me you all have behaved badly and been dishonest about each other. Each one of you has done something wrong. Now everyone's feelings are hurt.

**Giraffe:** Butterfly, since you started all of this, what did you do wrong?

**Butterfly:** I should have not lied on my friend Cat in the first place.

**Giraffe:** And what did you do wrong, Cat?

**Cat:** Just because Butterfly lied on me, didn't mean I had to tell a lie on her. I should have talked to Butterfly about what she said to me first.

**Giraffe:** Ladybug, what could you have done differently?

**Ladybug:** I should have not laughed at the lies and help to spread them.

**Giraffe:** I hope everyone has learned that lying is never right because it hurts people's feelings and destroys friendships.

(Group hug) (Stage bow)



**The End**

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# Why the Sky is So Far Away

*Samra Khalid, Age 15 and Mashal Thariani, Age 15*

*New Jersey*

A long, long time ago when man did not know how to create fire, the sky blessed the land and kept the people elated. It helped in serving many purposes, as it was only a few feet above the ground. But sky's primary duty was to fulfill the dietary needs of man. Therefore, it was the main meal of the day as well as the snack. Its various color changes symbolized the different foods it offered as the day went on. For example, the yellow-orange sky at the time of sunrise had a fruity flavor and tasted like juicy, ripe oranges. The clear pale blue sky was like a rich slice of cheesecake topped with whipped cream and a side of fresh strawberries. The reddish sky at sunset was considered to be the main meal of the day and tasted different everyday of the week, from roast turkey with mashed potatoes and warm gravy on the side to tender chicken sticks. The sun acted as a heating device for the food. Its magnificent rays kept the food warm and the moon kept the food refrigerated and fresh. The dark blue and purple night sky was dessert, from ice cream to creamy, rich chocolate fudge brownies. The puffy white clouds were flavored cotton candy. When the sky felt the need to be generous, the rainbow sprinkled the land with skittles. The rain showered down upon the humans and they were able to drink fresh water. Right after dinner and before bed there were stars present to make your breath minty and fresh. The sky's benevolent actions were well appreciated. However, the sky was incredibly repulsed by the people's ability to misuse and mistreat its generosity. Nevertheless, the sky continued to serve the people with plenty of

food despite their ungratefulness.

As we are aware, with every advantage comes a disadvantage and people began to severely abuse the privileges the sky offered. They broke off more of the sky than they could eat, and when they were content and satisfied with the meal they threw the remaining on the ground, polluting the environment. People constantly wasted the food the sky offered and these actions hurt the sky and made it feel very small and unloved. Eventually, more of the sky was on the ground than in the air. The sky was very distressed and decided to run away. While planning to escape the sky realized how it would miss the humans. It recognized that the highlight of the day was watching all the humans acting up, stressing out, and fighting. Without people the sky would have nothing to do and no one to satisfy. Deep down, the sky enjoyed serving the people, therefore, it decided to warn the humans and give them one more chance. The next morning the sky informed all the humans of its offended feelings and said, "If one more of you breaks off a piece too big and throws it on the ground, I will leave and you will have to work to make food!" Because of the sky's harsh warning humans became a little more considerate toward his feelings. They broke off small pieces of the sky instead of huge ones. They decided to consume less and convince the sky not to run away. Also, they disposed of the pieces of sky that were on the ground. In this way, humans continued to be privileged by the sky's presence.

But, as time went by, humans began to disregard the sky's warning and abuse the sky once again. People started mistreating the sky and wasted the food that was given. The people became gluttons. As days past, the sky noticed that even young children abused their privileges. Little children were influenced by the adult's wrong doing. One day a young boy broke off a piece of the sky that was bigger than the child itself. The sky was appalled by



he child's behavior. Actions like this enraged the sky so much so that it devised a plan and ran far away so no human could ever abuse it again.

Today, the sky is still high above us. Sometimes when the sky is depressed, it tries to deceive us and get revenge by sending some "fog" down to the ground. When a human walks through the fog and tries to take a bite it disappears. In this small way the sky seeks revenge for human ungratefulness. However, because of the sky's bad eyesight he cannot see humans trying to take a bite out of nothing. Hopefully, the sky will forgive us selfish humans who abused it and come back to where it originally belonged. But, many years have passed and the sky has not returned.

There are many myths about the sky. Some people say that it is dead, having lived a very brief life after leaving the humans. Some say it will never return and others say thunder and lightening occurs when the sky is in a rancorous mood. It tries to scare the people and remind us of our cruel actions. Yet others believe the sky visited an optometrist and bought a pair of glasses before it ran away, so now the sky is thousands of feet above us laughing and ridiculing us. Several optimistic people say the sky is rebuilding itself and will return. When? No one knows what the sky is really doing at this very moment. We can only hope that one day the sky will return.



## What does your name mean?

To show our obedience to Allah, many of us name our girls as servants of Allah. What better service is to serve the cause of Allah?

A·ma(h) (امة) means a slave girl, she-servant, and i·mā (اماء) is its plural. All Ahmadi Muslim ladies and girls are members of Lajna Imā'illah, meaning the league of the lady-servants of Allah.

After ama (امة) we can use the word Allah or one of His attributes. Thus, we have Amatullah (امة الله): servant of Allah. Amatul-Qayyūm (امة القيوم): servant of the All-Sustaining. Amatul-Hadi (امة الهادي): servant of the One Who Guides. Amatul-Bari (امة الباري) servant of the Maker. Amatur-Rahman (امة الرحمن): servant of the Gracious. Amatur-Rahim (امة الرحيم): servant of the Merciful. Amatur-Rabb (امة الرب): servant of the Lord. Amatul-Karim (امة الكريم): servant of the Generous. Amatul-Majid (المجيد) (امة): servant of the Glorious. Amatul-Quddūs (امة القدوس): servant of the Holy One. Amatus-Salam (امة السلام): servant of the One who is the Source of Peace. Amatul-‘Alim (امة العليم): servant of the All-Knowing. Amatul-Hafiz (امة الحفيظ): servant of the Preserver. Amatul-Hakim (امة الحكيم): servant of the Wise. Amatul-Wudūd (امة الودود): servant of the Loving. Amatul-Wali (امة الولي): servant of the Protector. Amatul-Hamid (امة الحميد): servant of the Praiseworthy. Amatul-Hayy (امة الحي): servant of the Eternal. Amatul-Ghani (امة الغني): servant of the Self-Sufficient. Amatunnūr (امة النور): servant of the Light. Amatush-Shakūr (امة الشكور): servant of the Appreciative. Amatul-Wasi (امة الواسع): servant of the All-Embracing. Amatus-Sami (امة السميع): servant of the All-Hearing.

# Camp Bismillah, A Cool Place to Be

*Evie Hakeem*

*Illinois*

Salma Ghani, Lajna’s National Tabligh Secretary, traveled from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the second year in a row, to assist the Zion Jama‘at with Camp Bismillah. She brought a young sister with her who made many new friends, assisted the younger girls and helped with the production of the play “The Rain Forest of Peace”. Although the auditorium proved to be as hot as an oven, it was the giving spirit of the instructors and helping hands of other members that made the Camp a cool place to be. Dr. Amtul Ahmad, Zion’s Lajna President, attended the opening of the Camp and returned to talk with the children about the importance of relationships. “Good character and living a moral life are common to all religions, so no religious teaching was done. This was a community service done in good faith,” commented Dr. Ahmad.

Aunty Salma shared, “I was impressed with the fact that there were many new children who attended this year, which says that people in Zion and surrounding cities had heard good things about Camp Bismillah and wanted their children to attend. There were also many alumni campers who returned.”

Secondly, more fathers were involved with their children this year, dropping off and picking them up. We made a huge impact on parents as they returned each day to pick up their children by offering them a cool drink or ice cream sandwich. A look of deep appreciation came over their faces and many expressed how thoughtful they felt we were.

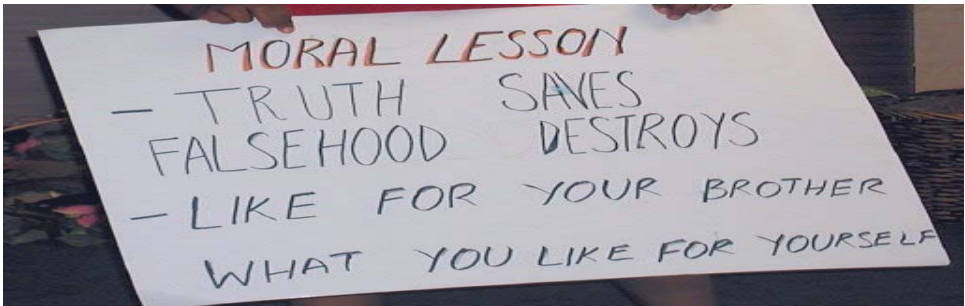


Thirdly, I found out there were two parents who didn't send their children to Camp this year, for whatever reason, who attended our Awards and Cookout Ceremony Saturday following the camp. I joked with one of the parents about not bringing her child, and she responded by saying, "You all are so warm and friendly, I just wanted to come and be with you."

Fourthly, I want to express my appreciation to the members of Zion Jama'at who came out to lend a hand. It wasn't just an effort from the instructors and volunteers who had signed up to help at the Camp, but the members who came to me and offered to give as little as one hour and as much as a whole day to assist in making sure the Camp was a success."

From interactive discussions on the negative impact of drugs on children and their families, to dental hygiene; from teaching the children how to create macramé and beaded necklaces, bracelets and key chains, to engaging the young girls in a rap session about the importance of good communication, treating one another with dignity and understanding, the importance of modesty in their lives; from demonstrating hands on experiences with wind and percussion instruments made from regular household items, too. Another member faithfully transported the camp principal to and from Kenosha, Wisconsin, several days during camp.

May Allah Ta'ala bless the sisters who participated in camp activities every morning and who prepared the young Nasirat to



perform a play on moral character for the camp children, entitled, “The Rainforest of Peace.” A well-deserved break came when the children participated in a nature walk and other activities at the park. As lunchtime rolled around, it became a family affair, with three generations of one family transporting lunch and drinks to the park for approximately 60 children and volunteers.

And where would we have been without the help of our team leaders? Young people, who were too old to participate in the camp activities, came anyway and became positive role models for the younger children, keeping track of their charges by taking them to and from the restroom, water breaks, assisting them with projects during craft activities and while they were at the park. Khuddam and Ansar volunteered by participating in cleanup, transporting equipment and supplies, playing baseball and basketball with the young boys, and providing security.

On the final day of Camp Bismillah 2002, the parents, thrilled with the positive reports and improved attitudes of their children, shared their thoughts regarding the camp. “My two granddaughters attended the Bismillah Camp and they loved it, especially the activities and Rap sessions. Hopefully, they will return next year. The Camp was wonderful!” interjected Mrs. Stewart. The father/grandfather of three other campers, Mr. Patterson, articulated the feelings of many other parents when he made it clear that, “The Camp was a great learning process.” He added, “My son returned to the camp this year and my two grand sons came for the first time. They can’t wait until next year!”

Sister Salma expressed her appreciation to the President of Zion Jama‘at, Hasan Hakeem, for his vision and continued support of Camp Bismillah, both with his presence and through funding.

All praise belongs to Allah, Lord of all the worlds!

## Hundred Years Ago

One hundred years ago, the Promised Messiah, alaihissalam, was on one side defending Islam, clarifying misunderstandings, presenting to friend and foe the wisdom and the signs bestowed on him by the Almighty. On the other side, not only the non-Muslims but also the orthodox Muslims had stood up against him with full force to prove him wrong, to have him debased or even killed. In these circumstances, his followers, guided from the heavens, were helping him by standing by him through thick and thin, supporting him with their lives, pens, tongues, time, and wealth. Institutes had been established in Qadian to promote the cause of the advent of the Messiah. Guest House (langar khāna) entertained the host of visitors from near and far. Ta‘limul-Islam School provided pristine education to youth. The publication of the Review of Religions had been initiated. In these circumstances, the Promised Messiah, ‘alaihissalam, asked members to make obligatory for themselves the contributions of a fixed amount every month in the way of Allah to keep establishments running smoothly. In his pamphlet of March 5, 1902, in this regard, he further added, “A person who does not determine an amount for contribution, and neither does support the community through physical effort, is a hypocrite.”

The Promised Messiah, peace be upon him, had prophesied the spread of a plague on February 26, 1898 on the basis of one of his dreams. When a plague started claiming lives, the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, again warned mankind to mend its ways on March 17, 1901. The world did not pay attention to his warnings. One hundred years ago, in 1902, the plague was at its heights. Villages and neighborhoods were wiped out by the scourge while the followers of the Promised Messiah, ‘alaihissalam, saw safety and security fulfilling the promise made to him by the Almighty.



## **East Coast Ijtema 2002 Remembered**

*Maham Anwar, Age 13*

*Maryland*

I could go on and on about how much I enjoyed this year's East Coast Ijtema. It was really fun, although I can only share it with you from a Nasirah's point of view, since the activities for Lajna and Nasirat were separate. Nasirat activities were so interesting and exciting. They taught so much, and at the same time were really fun. Activities such as the trust walk, not only were fun, but taught us things we didn't know. In the trust walk, one Nasirah had to guide her blindfolded partner over an obstacle course. Sounds fun, right? While we were either struggling to keep our partners from falling and breaking their necks, or (as the blindfolded victims) struggled to keep faith in our leaders to keep us safe, we learned about the leadership qualities of the Holy Prophet (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam). The Holy Prophet (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) was a brave, patient, and loving leader. He didn't

just deliver the message of Allah to the people; he followed it in every waking moment of his life. He set the truest example for us! We need to follow in the footsteps of our beloved Prophet so others can see his example.

We really enjoyed the sports activities as well. The Nasirat got into groups according to Jama‘at (yaay Maryland!!) and competed in sports like the relay race. Then, later in the evening, we played volleyball. This was a lot of fun, too; volleyball nets were set up in the back and there were two games going at one time.

Another activity we had fun with was a workshop on improving family relationships. We picked candy M & M’s out of a plate. What we didn’t know though, was that however many we took, we would have to say the same amount of ways we would change to improve our family relationships. This was really fun, and everybody got to share ways they would like to improve themselves.

Finally, the last workshop was “Striving to practice Islam in the face of cultural and social challenges.” This was a very important workshop that I am sure helped many of the Nasirat personally. We learned how to practice Islam in a country that is full of un-Islamic practices through a very hands-on technique. All the Nasirat lined up to take turns whacking a piñata. Even after a hundred whacks, the piñata held strong. We figured out the correlation between the piñata activity and the workshop. Hardships are going to come in our way all the while we are here on Earth, so we keep “whacking” away at them until we get to what is important—Allah (or in this case—candy!)

Ijtema was a great success, and I’m sure that everyone who came would agree. Next year will be just as fun, Insha’llah, and anyone who wasn’t lucky enough to participate, hopefully will get the chance next year!



## Story of a Saint

*By Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad,  
Khalifatul-Masih II, radiyallahahu ‘anhu  
(1889-1965)*

Kings do not matter to the ones who have found God. Prophets though are at quite a different level, even their servants and slaves attain to such a status that kings lose standing before them.

Nazāmuddīn Auliya, a saint from Delhi, was the sage of many saints. Through him, enlightenment spread far and wide in India.

Some action of Nizamuddin Aulia antagonized a king of the Tughlaq dynasty who ruled India at that time. The king was going on a journey at that time. The king said that he would punish Nizamuddin Aulia after his return.

The followers of Nizamuddin Auliya were worried on learning this. The worry increased as the king started his journey back.

They suggested that as the king is on his way back, an effort for conciliation should be undertaken before the king’s arrival in Delhi. Nizamuddin Auliya responded, “All is in the hands of God. What can I

do? Whatever God desires, He will do so.”

When the king had proceeded further, the worry of the followers of Nizamuddin Auliya increased. They again indicated that not much distance was left. Nizamuddin Auliya said, “Do not worry, Delhi is still far away.”

Finally, the king reached very near. It has been the way of the Islamic kings that they did not enter the city at night. As a matter fact, the tradition of the Revered Prophet, sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, was the same and the kings acted upon it. So, as the king arrived near the city, he stayed outside the city, and an announcement was made proclaiming his entry into the city the following day.

The followers of Nizamuddin Auliya again said that the king was about to enter the city. Nizamuddin Auliya again replied, “Delhi is yet far away.”

As the daylight spread, his followers were very anxious as to what reprisal might befall. But instead the news came that the king had died in some accident. The king’s body entered the city in his place.

So, whoever becomes of Allah, even the kings are insignificant against him, because the true happiness reaches only those who have relation with the Almighty.

Translated by Syed Sajid Ahmad, Boise, ID



## Puzzling Puzzles

*Waleed Ahmad, Age 13  
Boston, Massachusetts*

Q1: GOD IS NOWHERE.

It is incorrect and meaningless. Please correct without changing any letter. Let it remain in order as it is. Only one line is required.

Q2:

NO15	NO16	NO17
		Security

There is a dangerous animal in one of the above locked three rooms. By looking at the room numbers, see if you can figure out where the animal is hiding.

### *Solutions*

A1: GOD IS NOW HERE. (Move the space before the word *where* to after the letter *w* in the word *where*.) It is correct and meaningful now.

A2: Animal is in room NO17 and that is *LION*. (Turn over the page, upside down, and NO17 reads LION.)

## Glossary

- Aḥmadiyyat احمديت : Muslim sect believing Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad to be the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, peace be on him  
Aḥmadi احمدی : A follower of Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad, the Promised Messiah, peace be on him.  
'alaihissalam: peace be on him  
Amīr, Ameer: امير Commander, Head  
Assalamu 'alaikum: peace be on you  
Bukhārī: بخاری : The most reliable source of the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be on him.  
Ḥadīth حديث : Saying of the Holy Prophet Mohammad, sallallahu alaihi wasallam.  
Ḥaḍrat, Hazrat: حضرت : His Holiness  
inshā'allah: God willing  
Khalifatul-Masih خليفة المسيح : Successor to the Promised Messiah, 'alaihissalam.  
Majlis مجلس : Society, organization.  
raḍiyallāhu 'anhu: رضى الله عنه : May Allah be pleased with him.  
Ṣadr صدر : President.  
Ṣāḥibzadah: صاحبزاده Son of a respected person, respected gentleman.  
sallallāhu 'alaihī wasallam صلى الله عليه وسلم : peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

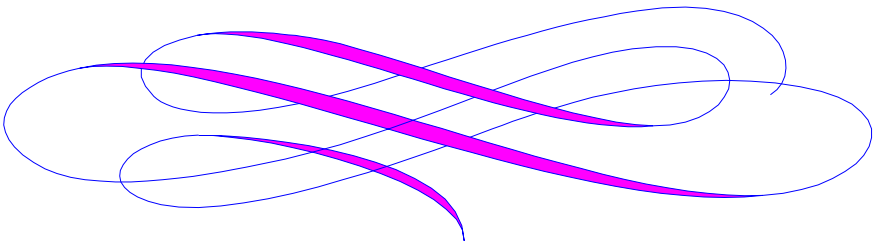
# What I like to do during my summer holidays

*Shahzaib Anwar, Age 15  
Texas*

I am 15 years of age, and like any other teenager of my age, I like to play video games and go swimming during my summer holidays. I like to wake-up late and have no work to attend to, nothing to do around the house, no taking care of my sister, etc...

But other than all these things there are also some duties that I have to attend to, like any other Ahmadi Muslim. I still have to offer my five times daily Prayers and also watch MTA and recite the Holy Quran. During the summer I have the chance to attend Jumu'a Prayers and meet with my cousins and other friends, this way we can get together and plan to watch a movie or do other fun things. I can sleep over at my cousins' house and play games till we pass out, since there are no worries of school the next day.

When I am with my friends, I like to go shoot some hoops. My friends say I can't play well, but I think I get better and better everyday. Since I sit home all day and play videogames, when I am out with my friends I can get some of my muscles back. We play football often as well. Since I am from Texas, and Texas has the





Sahibzadah M. M. Ahmad, world renown administrator and economist, passed away on July 22, 2002, at the age of 89. He headed the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United States from 1989 to 2002. He held executive positions in both the government of Pakistan and the World Bank.

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