

AL-Hilal



A Magazine for Children

2005-2

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Letter from Al-Hilal Staff

Assalāmu ‘alaikum, Dear Readers,

Al-Hilal Magazine has been a great success with Allah’s blessings and your continued prayers. This publication is dedicated to the future of our community. Therefore we thank everyone for their contributions and encourage all of you to continue sending us your articles. This edition of Al-Hilal is devoted to preserving and beautifying our community. We all understand how important the environment is to us and to our future generation that is why it is essential that we educate ourselves in regards to this subject. You will find in this issue different thoughts that your fellow friends have about the matter. Once again many thanks to all of the people who have contributed to this edition and a humble request for everyone to continue sending us your wonderful articles.

May Allah bless us all with the opportunity to better our Community. Āmeen

Wassalām,

Mahmood Kauser

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.

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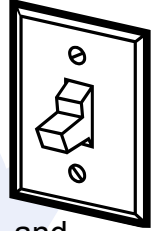
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Front Cover Design Courtesy of Sumera Choudhary

What Ways Do You Help Make Our Planet Cleaner?

Rizwan Jattala, Age 14
Los Angeles East Jama'at

The first thing that came to my mind was recycling. When I throw out the trash, I always separate the cans because I know that I am helping the world waste less metal and effort by recycling my one can. I also make my planet cleaner by conserving water and



electricity. People never really understand how vital water really is. I also try my best to use recycled paper and recycled items to save trees and stop the mass destruction of our beautiful rainforests. Whenever I buy paper products, I check to see if they have been recycled and if they have, I feel good that I am saving a tree or two.



Keeping our planet clean is rewarding for all of humanity. For one, we are restoring the beauty of our natural wonders and helping to stop pollution in some small way. Today there are even hybrid vehicles that produce zero emissions and run on both electricity and gas. With these hybrid cars, we are stopping the depletion of petroleum and ultimately helping clean our planet. Insha'allah, one day Allah will bless us by helping us restore our planet's beauty and by making the world a better place. Āmeen



Earth Day

Hena Tahir, Age 11
Central New Jersey Jama'at

Earth Day

35th Anniversary

Reuse, reduce, recycle

Try To use less fossil fuel

Help your community

Celebrate on April 22nd

Began in 1970

Senator Gaylord Nelson is the
founder of Earth Day

The History of Earth Day

Amtul Mansoor, Central New Jersey Jama'at

In 1963, former Senator Gaylord Nelson, started worrying about the planet. He knew that our planet was getting dirty and that many of our plants and animals were dying. He wondered why more people weren't trying to solve these problems, so he talked to other lawmakers and to President Kennedy. They decided that President Kennedy would go around the country and tell people about these concerns. He did, but still not enough people were interested in addressing the problem.

Then in 1969, Senator Nelson had another idea. He decided to have a special day to teach everyone about the things that needed to be changed in our environment. He advertised this idea in the Scholastic Magazine, a publication most schools received.

On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was held. People from all over the country made promises to help the environment. Everyone got involved and since then, Earth Day has



spread all over the planet! Here are some ways you can help the environment each and every day:



1. Use Less Fossil Fuel

Walk, bike, use mass transit, or carpool whenever you can.



2. Use Non-toxic Cleaning Products

Replace laundry detergents and bleaches with

biodegradable products.



3. Make Every Kilowatt Count

Install fluorescent or halogen light bulbs, and turn off the lights whenever you exit the room, even if only for a minute. Do the same with your television and other audio-visual equipment.



4. Don't Be an Apricot

Don't let showers dry out your skin like an apricot. Shorten your shower time. Turn off the shower while you soap up, then turn it on again to rinse. Also, don't leave the water running while brushing your teeth.



5. No Trash in Toilets

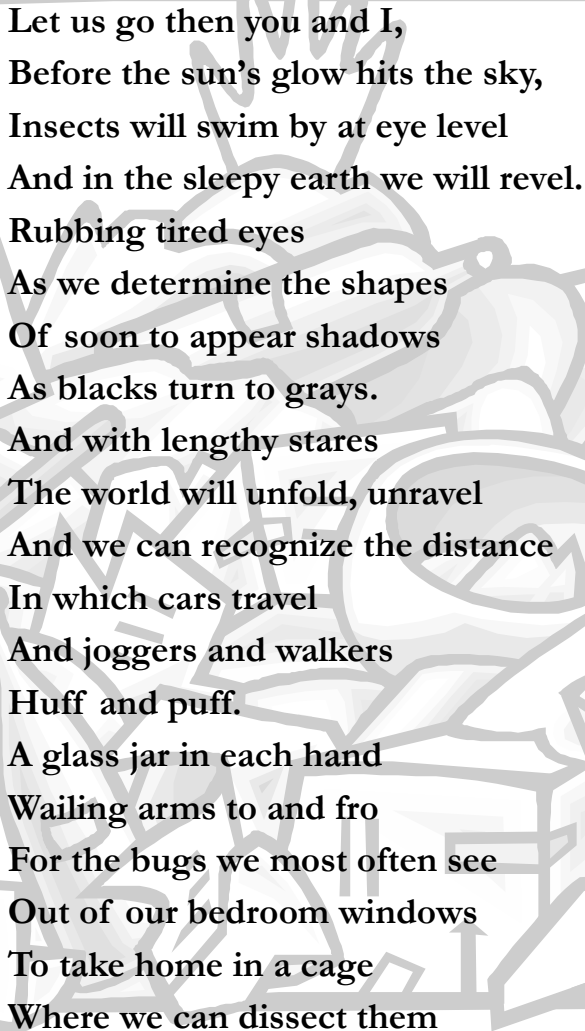
String, hair, Kleenex, etc. are tough on the sewage treatment plants. The toilet should only be used for human waste.

6. Golden Rule: Reuse, Reduce, Recycle

By reducing wasteful packaging or unnecessary products, you avoid adding to landfills. You can also save natural resources, cut pollution, and conserve energy by following this rule.

This Earth Day, hundreds of events will take place around the world. From Argentina to China, from India to Hungary, from Africa to the United States, we will show our diversity and the ability to try to return the earth to its original form, without pollution. I look forward to our participation to make this Earth Day the beginning of a global effort to protect our future. Insha'allah!

Let us go...



Let us go then you and I,
Before the sun's glow hits the sky,
Insects will swim by at eye level
And in the sleepy earth we will revel.
Rubbing tired eyes
As we determine the shapes
Of soon to appear shadows
As blacks turn to grays.
And with lengthy stares
The world will unfold, unravel
And we can recognize the distance
In which cars travel
And joggers and walkers
Huff and puff.
A glass jar in each hand
Wailing arms to and fro
For the bugs we most often see
Out of our bedroom windows
To take home in a cage
Where we can dissect them
For our biology grades.

Samra Ahmad, Fargo, North Dakota

WE CAN HELP

Aysha Khan, Age 9
Baltimore Jama'at

April 22 is celebrated as Earth Day all over the world. And there is a good reason for it. The Earth provides shelter, vegetables and fruits, and helps us in countless other ways. On Earth Day, it is our turn to return the favor. Some ways people can help are the following:

- Plant flowers and trees
- Clean up litter and put it away in the trash bin
- Create a neighborhood garden
- Recycle old plastics, paper, and cans, etc.
- Raking leaves
- Helping animals
- Hang birdfeeders
- Clean up lakes and ponds
- And much, much more!



Plants, a simple way to improve our world, do many things to help Earth:

- Provide shade and keep our environment cool
- Take in carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen
- Keep the dirt from washing away with the rain water because of their roots; helping to avoid mud slides and flooding

We don't need to wait until Earth Day to help the planet, because everyday should be Earth Day!

Did You Know?

- Less than 1% of North America's original tallgrass prairie ecosystem remains.



- More than one-half of the original wetlands in the United States have been lost or severely damaged in the last 300 years as a result of draining and filling.

- More than 95% of the lower 48 states' original primary forests are gone. The largest areas of primary forest are in the Pacific Northwest, where about only 10% of the original forests

remain.

- The Yellowstone River is the only U.S. River longer than 600 miles that is not severely changed by dams.
- Anywhere from 90 to 98% of the nation's rivers are ruined to such an extent that they do not qualify to be designated as wild or scenic.
- Dams, conversion to farmland, excessive pumping of groundwater, cattle grazing, and town growth have ruined approximately 90% of river and stream habitat in Arizona.
- In the United States, we spend about 80-90% of our time indoors so our exposure to harmful indoor pollutants can be serious. A daily walk outdoors will help us get fresh air.

Now that we are more informed about the earth and how we can help it, I hope we make the earth a more beautiful place for us and the generations to come!

“Cleanliness is a requirement of faith.”
(Hadīth)

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Our Rainforests' Rights

Massawar Ahmed

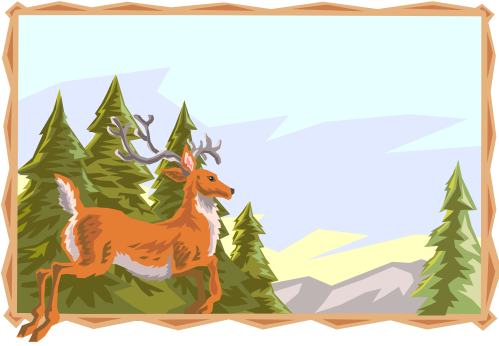
On Earth Day, we celebrate nature and are thankful for all of Allah's creatures. But there are a large amount of places in the world that are being destroyed. I want to turn your attention towards rainforests.



Rainforests are one of Allah's most beautiful places and we are continually destroying them. It is estimated that **one and a half acres of rainforest land is cleared every second**. You might not know it, but the trees in these rainforests actually support human life and without them the human race may die out. When humans breathe, they let out excess **Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)** into the air. When plants perform the process of photosynthesis to make food, they also let out extra carbon dioxide. When CO₂ is released into the air, it traps heat. This is called the **Green House Affect**. The trees absorb the excess CO₂ and store it in their trunks. This helps maintain the amount of CO₂ in the air. But when trees are chopped down and entire forests destroyed, they release a huge amount of Carbon Dioxide in the air which may even cause the temperature to rise.

In South America the situation has gotten so bad

that scientists predict that the temperature may rise 7 degrees Fahrenheit over the next few years because of the destroyed forests.



These circumstances that we are encountering are a big threat to all forms of life. Animals are also becoming endangered and extinct due to land-clearing in the rainforest.

Scientists predict that 168 animal and plant species go extinct every week. If we do not act now to preserve forests and trees, we may lose one of Allah's most precious gifts to mankind.

THANK YOU

Thank you Allah for all these things... clothes to keep me warm, food so I won't starve, water for when I'm thirsty, blankets to keep me warm, games to have fun with, family to play with, a school to learn in, video games to play on, friends to play with, places to go so all people can have room, a house to live in, for a baby sister (Iman), that I prayed for, books when I read and sports to play outside.

Again, thank you Allah for all these things.



Hasan Mujeeb Ahmed, Age 8, West Des Moines, Iowa

VOLCANOES

Kashif Munir Malik, Age 13, Phoenix Jama'at

One of the Earth's most destructive and astonishing landforms is the volcano. Most volcanoes are really just mountains that become taller each time they erupt lava. Lava is a word for magma when it erupts to the surface. There are two types of lava:

1. **A'a**: A Hawaiian word used to describe a lava flow whose surface is broken into rough angular fragments.
2. **Pahoehoe**: A Hawaiian term for lava with a smooth, billowy, or ropy surface.

A'a travels very slowly and cools much faster than Pahoehoe. Once dried its surface texture is very rough. Pahoehoe travels faster and therefore remains hot. Once dried the surface is smooth and ropy.

There are 1,500 known volcanoes on land and an estimated 1,000 under the ocean. Most volcanoes are 10,000 to 100,000 years old. The oldest volcano is Mount Etna and it is 350,000 years old. You might think that all volcanoes are shaped like mountains but there are some volcanoes that are flat. They look like deep lakes and they have huge eruptions that make the ground sag down.

To show how hot it gets in a volcano I have made a chart that shows the degrees Celsius. In a volcano it all depends on the color of the magma.

The country with the most volcanoes is Indonesia. This is also the place where the biggest eruption occurred. In 1882 in Indonesia the volcano called Krakatau created one of the biggest natural disasters. Most of the deaths came from neighboring islands. How? Because of the force the volcano

caused a huge tsunami that affected many people along the shores of the neighboring islands, just like the tsunami that occurred this past December.

Magma Color	Degrees Celsius
Yellowish-White	1150-1350°
Orange	1000-1150°
Bright Red	800-1000°
Dark Red	650-800°
Brownish Red	500-650°

I would like to end by saying most volcanoes are located on the ring of fire which runs along the edges of the Pacific Ocean.

JOKES

Mir Ahmed Zulqarnain Chicago East Jama'at

Why don't ghosts have money problems?

😊 **Answer: They don't have to worry about the cost of living.**

What did the foolish guy do?

☀️ **Answer: He sat on the television and watched the couch.**

What is ghostly and hops?

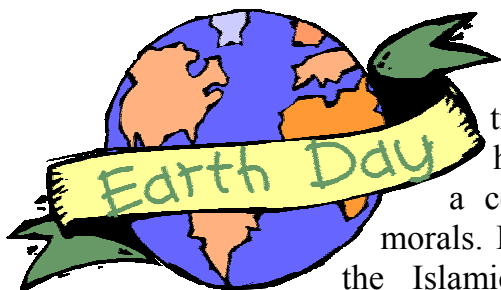
🌙 **Answer: A Boo-frog**

Why did the baseball player bring a ghost to the match?

🌸 **Answer: His coach told him to show some spirit.**

Islam and the Environment

Osama Ahmed and Ovais Kahloon, Age 14, Baltimore Jama'at



Eid is a joyous day for Muslims; full of smiles. Nevertheless, to be truly happy when the Eid comes, one has to have lived the previous year in a certain manner; abiding by Islamic morals. Eid, like every other major event in the Islamic calendar, is meant to remind Muslims of their duties and uplift their spirits for the coming year. An Ahmadi Muslim should live an active life as taught by Islam. A life where he sees special days in a year as reminders of his duties.

Earth Day is such a special day. Just its mention should bring a smile on an Ahmadi's face as his mind floods with pleasant memories. Memories that stand witness to his efforts in establishing a better relationship with his environment and Creator.

Abū Mālik al-Ash'arī reported: The Messenger of Allah, may peace be upon him, said: Cleanliness is half of (one's) faith...

If one keeps this Hadīth in mind, every Earth day will enable him to continue to march forward to attain Allah's pleasure. It is one of the countless favors of Allah that He has perfected a planet for us to thrive in and fulfill our purpose for creation—Allah's worship.

Like a single cell in our body, the earth is a biological system. Its wildlife, its forests, its civilizations, its atmosphere and every grain of dirt it possesses are all part of its Ecosystem. Unfortunately, humans, proving themselves selfish as the Qur'an describes, have tried to take whatever they can from the earth without returning anything back.

We as Ahmadis must reset the bar that Islam raised 1400

years ago. We must prove the religion of Allah to be perfect in every sense. When Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, has declared half of a person's faith to be missing if he is not constantly aware of cleanliness, we must give great attention to our own cleanliness and our environment's as well. Adopting highways, organizing blood drives, collecting food and the like are relatively bigger tasks. One can start small by making sure personal hygiene is taken care of.

Something our Prophet, peace be upon him, did with great regularity is referred to as his Sunnah. One should make sure that s/he tries to follow every Sunnah of our Holy Prophet, including the ones that have to do with cleanliness.

On a larger scale, one can make sure the place he lives in is as tidy as possible. Then he can work on places he often visits like the mosque, his classrooms, even the pathways he often walks on. In this way, a very extraordinary example can be set for others to follow.

The physical environment is one part of our Earth. Civilizations, as mentioned above, are also a big part of this planet. In fact, people are the most important part on this planet according to Islam. Donating any amount of money to Humanity First can be a great accomplishment by a Tifl or a Nasirah, anywhere in the world. Humanity First will then send volunteers and supplies so our earth and its inhabitants can benefit. Recently Humanity First has been working with flood relief efforts in Guyana and tsunami relief in Indonesia. We as Ahmadi Muslims should think of a variety of ways to please Allah by benefiting his creation.

Our Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, also said: "The best action in the sight of Allah is that which is done with regularity, be it small." If every Ahmadi remembers this, they will be more likely to perform their duties as an Ahmadi Muslim more efficiently. This planet is not our creation nor is it our possession. It is Allah's



gift to us. To thank Him, we must keep it clean and protect it from harm. As a child loves his mother and cares for her when she is sick, so must we love and care for Earth.

Like Eid reminds us of our past and focuses us on the future, so should Earth day and every other day of the calendar. We must spend each day of our lives aware of what we have done and will do, physically and spiritually, to better ourselves and the world around us. It is our duty!

ATFAL-UL-AHMADIYYA, USA

For the past months, children all across the USA have had the privilege of reading and enjoying the wonderful articles sent in by various Atfal in the TIFL POST and AL-HILAL magazines. Every three months an excellent TIFL POST magazine is prepared with the articles sent in by Atfal all across the United States. After four years of publishing magazines the staff and I have created a Souvenir for the National Majlis Khuddam-ul Ahmadiyya Ijtema in New York City including all the articles written by Aftal which were unable to be published in the 2005 magazines. Please email ehmk2k@yahoo.com to get your copy of the National Ijtema Souvenir 2005.



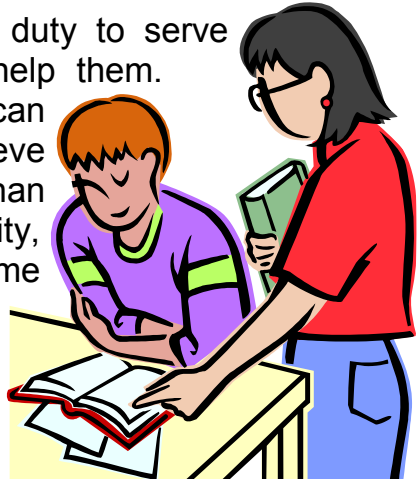
To view
this Atfal-ul- Ahmadiyya Magazine
go to Ahmadiyya.us and/or
MKAusa.org.



A Muslim's Duty

Labeeda Malik, Age 15, Virginia Jama'at

As an Ahmadi Muslim it is my duty to serve others in any way that could help them. There are several ways I can achieve this. Some people believe that serving Islam is different than serving worldly matters. In reality, these two are about the same because it is an Islamic deed to serve anyone in need, as well as serving your religion by either helping in the mosque or helping out by volunteering.



This year, I tried finding ways to help others—and I did. I started out by realizing that in order to do khidmat-i-khalq (social service), I must help others voluntarily and without pay. Lucky for me, a friend of my mother had a son who needed help in math, so I told her that I could help him. Not only did I feel good about helping the young boy, he gained more knowledge and began to understand how to solve problems more easily.

I always try to volunteer at the mosque or any religious event. For example, I help fold prayer mats at the mosque after Jumu'ah or other prayers. After Sunday classes, my friends and I join together to clean the masjid. It is the house of God and should be maintained; as the Hadith states:

“Cleanliness is a part of Faith”.

At our Ijtema here on the East Coast, there was a lot to

be done on the last day. Even though my duty was to vacuum the prayer area, I also helped those people who weren't locals in clearing their stalls. Whenever someone asked me to help, whether it was moving tables or clearing the stage, I always would reply yes and then actually do it.

There was a lot of work to be done to prepare for Jalsa Salana USA 2004. I was part of the registration crew and would go to my uncle's home (who is in charge of registration) to help him register people, make badges, and get them stamped and ready to mail to families.

I personally feel that serving people should start at your home by serving your elders and younger ones. I help my mom at home in many ways, for example; cooking, cleaning, taking care of my younger sister and teaching her different things.



Serving your elders in any single good act is the best whether big or small. Grandparents are some of the most important elders in our lives. I always do what they ask from me and I ask them if they need anything. I helped my grandmothers by assisting them in walking or helping them up and down the stairs and a variety of other things.

We are told in the Holy Qur'ān, to help others in acts of righteousness and piety. Allah surely helps those who help others and always remember this Hadīth:

“God helps a person who helps his brother (in mankind)”
(Bukharī)



If Allah thinks I have done my duty, he shall help me in this life and I pray that He gives me more opportunities in serving others for the rest of my life. (Āmeen).

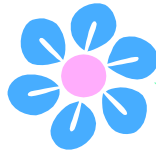
Protecting ALL Allah's Creatures

Fahad Naeem, Miami Jamat

Earth Day is a special time of the year when people come together and start to take action against pollution, help protect our animal species, and keep the earth healthy. The planet is not an infinite resource and conservation is a must in today's society. Recycling is one activity that must be done to ensure the safety of God's creatures, not only humans, but all animals, and we need to start doing so today.

First of all, animals are a sense of comfort and warmth to people. For example, cows provide many essentials such as clothing and dairy products. Horses are still used to carry large burdens and to transport people. These and other animals provide a great many uses to us on a daily basis. It is our responsibility to ensure the safety of these animals and not allow them to die out because of our lack of regard for the earth. Garbage that is tossed away can injure and even kill some of these animals, causing us to lose some of the essential resources they provide.

Second, God gave us animals as a gift to be cherished not to be abused. Many people own pets



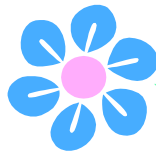
including birds, fish, dogs and cats. If such devotion goes into taking care of our pets then we can apply the same care to other animals as well. Lions and tigers are cats and deserve to be protected because they are powerful and majestic animals. No animal created by God is a waste otherwise it would not have been placed on this earth. Each animal has its own beautiful qualities and should be admired and protected. Cutting down and burning these creatures' homes is like rejecting a gift from God and we cannot allow that to happen.



Third, recycling not only benefits animals and plants that can be harmed from dangerous side effects of waste, but it is also beneficial to humans. We are able to reuse items that normally we would think of as useless. Aluminum cans and paper are reusable and we can make new soda cans for drinks or new newspapers to read. And all the while we are saving the environment!



In conclusion, Muslims and non-Muslims alike should take all necessary steps to take care of our environment. Protecting animals and saving our essential resources, appreciating the gifts of God, and recycling are all ways we can help make the earth a better place to live and enjoy.



The Muslim Horse

Retold and Submitted by Sister Aliya Latif

Once upon a time there was a shrewd businessman who was looking to add another horse to his large collection. He already owned over 100 horses—carefully bred and selected from all over the world. What he now wanted was to find a very unique horse; one that would impress his many friends. In fact, he was very competitive and loved to display his wealth. His favorite past-time was inviting guests over to see his stables and compliment him on whatever new horse he'd purchased. Day after day he would search for a horse but nothing seemed more beautiful than the horses he already possessed. After looking for weeks he was ready to give up his search, when a young girl approached him.

“Would you like to buy a Muslim Horse?” the girl shyly asked.

“A Muslim horse!?” the man exclaimed, “I've never heard of such a thing! I am Muslim and I deserve a Muslim horse. How much is it? Actually money is of no importance. Just tell me what makes this particular horse a Muslim?” the man inquired.

The girl replied, “I too am Muslim and I trained this horse myself. Whenever you want this horse to go faster you must say ‘Alhamdulillah’ and the horse will run faster in praise of Allah. When you want the horse to stop you must say ‘Subhanallah’ and the horse will quickly stop. But, dear sir, you must always treat this horse correctly because it is a very special animal. I love it more than words and would never think to sell it, except my family is very poor and we cannot afford to keep him.” The man was intrigued by the uniqueness of the horse and paid little attention to the rest of the little girl's story. “No one will believe I have a Muslim



horse”, he thought to himself and purchased it right away.

He meticulously inspected the horse and could detect nothing out of the ordinary. In fact the horse was not a beautiful creature at all. It was small, thin and very plain. Poor breeding, the man mumbled to himself. The animal seemed hungry and sniffed his hands and pockets for a treat. But the man was much more interested in seeing if the horse was special. He mounted and gave its side a gentle kick, but the horse would not move. He began kicking the horse again and again with his sharp boot heel yet the horse refused to budge. Its only response was a feeble snort and gentle whimper.

“You stupid beast!” he growled and found it hard to control his anger. He could not wait to get down and find that deceitful girl.

“She’ll pay for trying to trick me!” he yelled to no one in particular.

Then remembering her words, he whispered “Alhamdullilah” and the horse took off at a quick trot. The more the man said Alhamdullilah, the faster the horse would go. He’d never ridden an animal so agile and quick! They were galloping through the countryside at an amazing pace. Hearing the commotion, people came out of their homes to see this him flying by on his swift little horse.

“What a quick horse! It is indeed a blessing!” they remarked as he galloped by. He felt immediately proud and urged the thin little horse on. He was so preoccupied with the people watching he didn’t notice the terrain was changing. Finally, he saw a cliff approaching in the distance. He pulled back on the reins but the horse would not respond. As they neared the edge he began to yell, “Stop, stop!” but to no avail.

At the very last moment he remembered the young girl’s instructions and called out, “Subhanallah!” and the horse stopped, right at the edge of the high mountain cliff. The man was overcome by relief and wiping his brow, said, “Phew!— Alhamdullilah!”

SALAT PUZZLE

DAANYAL QURESHI, Age 8, York/Harrisburg

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

NAMAZ	WUDHU	ADHAN
IMAAM	IQAAMAT	TAUJEEH
TAKBIR	QIYYAM	RUKU
QOOMAH	SAJDAH	JILDA
QADAH	TASLEEM	PRAYER RUG

HEAD COVERING

New York Jama'at's Rafting Trip 2004

Massawar Ahmed, Queens NY

Have you ever been rafting? It is a great and fun experience. The Queens Majlis held its annual White Water Rafting Trip again this year. Forty of our Atfal and 15 of our Khuddam participated in this event. The schedule was to leave the mosque at 6:00 a.m. and arrive in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania around 9:00 a.m. The cost of one person was \$17, which is a bargain because without a group admission costs \$52. After we arrived and made our payments we were shown all the safety procedures and how to use the paddles. Then we loaded three buses and drove down to the river.



After we boarded our rafts, we were off! All the members of the Jama'at basically stayed together but my raft took off for the lead. We were each

given a paddle and our rafts all had buckets and jugs for tossing water onto other people's rafts. After having many water fights, going through many rapids and under one of the bridges, we made it to the lead. Now all of the other rafts started playing rough and tried to soak us. Every Tifl on my raft jumped or fell into the water (in the shallow sections) at least once. A few times, somebody fell into deep water and almost went under the raft. We had some difficulties like bumping into other rafts and getting stuck on top of big rocks. During the ride we had to stop at a halfway point and eat lunch. Some Atfal started swimming and some sat to get dry.

The second half of the day, we relaxed and took it easy. It was mostly rapids so we didn't paddle that much. But at the very end my raft started paddling hard and we made it to the lead. We were the first raft to finish! We all had a fun experience and all the Atfal said that they wanted to come back next year. After we all dried off, we went for a barbeque at a nearby park. Overall the experience was really exciting and everyone had a spectacular time.


Programs for Atfal

Look for information in Mujahid Jr or contact Muhtamim Atfal
(Tahir Ahmad at 847 362 2157)

951 Ellsworth Drive Grayslake, IL 60030 R-847-548-4175

MY TRIP TO PAKISTAN

Dureajam Ahmad
Oshkosh, WI, Jama'at

Almost every year my family and I go to Pakistan, but this was the first year we went in the summer. Since it was the summer we were able to do more sightseeing as compared to the winter. Some of the places we went to this year were  K h e r a - Gali, Murree, and best of all Naran.

We left on June 9th. Our flight was around 9 pm from the Chicago airport. The flight to England was about seven hours long. We stayed there for about five days for my cousin's wedding. After the wedding we got a chance to meet Huzoor (ayyadahullahu binasrihil-aziz). I always enjoy meeting Huzoor (ayyadahullahu binasrihil-aziz), because I like to see him in person (and he also gives us candy!). Then we took a flight to Pakistan, which again took seven precious hours.



We arrived at the Islamabad airport, where my grandma and grandpa picked us up. We spent three days in Islamabad, and then went to Khera-Gali (a mountain area near Murree), where my grandpa owns a house.

We stayed there for one night and drove to Naran the next morning. Yet another seven hours (every place seems to be seven hours away) drive through wavy, winding, nauseating and the most scenic roads I had ever been on. When we arrived, I was surprised to find that we were staying in a four-bedroom house, next to the Naran river, nestled snugly between tall mountains.

The next day we went to Lake Saif-ul-Malook. The scenery was really cool because there is a lake, then behind the lake there is



a group of mountains on the left side, and a group of mountains on the right side, making a V shape in the middle. But the coolest thing was the water; it was so clear that you could see the snow capped mountains around it clearly inside the water.

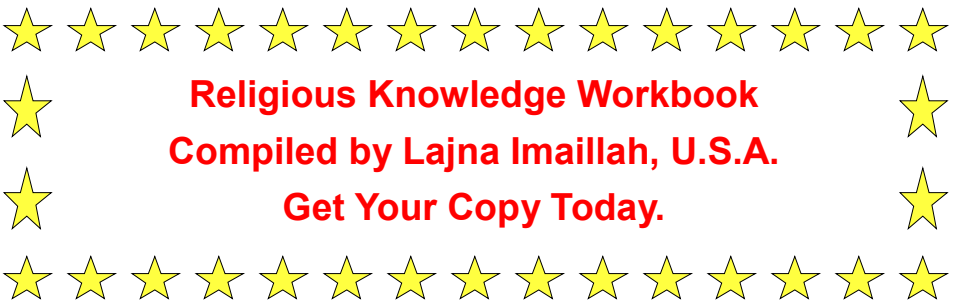
We spent whole day there and came back in the evening in jeeps. The jeep ride was also fun since the roads these jeeps drive on are only pathways and not actual roads.

We had the most fun on our last day in Naran. Everybody went trekking in the mountains. We climbed the side of a hill and sat there for awhile taking in the beautiful views around us. We also crossed a stream. Since it was glacier water, it was freezing and fast. The way we crossed it was a lot of fun. There were two small streams to cross. The first stream had a flat log to cross, but our ankles got wet anyway. The second stream didn't have a bridge, but it did have a few rocks that you had to jump over. I can easily say that I was both thrilled



and cold
a f t e r
crossing the
stream.

I had some fun in Islamabad, but I had the most fun in Naran. Naran is probably my favorite place in Pakistan.



Religious Knowledge Workbook
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A Summer of Service

Mueezay Khan
Virginia Jama'at

I love to serve people. I love to help those who are in trouble. I like to make people smile when they have tears in their eyes. I want to visit people when they are sick and I offer them my help. I like to give company to a child when she is lonely. I run to serve a person who is disabled or old. Why do you think I do all this? Do you want to know? It is because my name is Mueezay which means 'Madad gār' or a helpful person.

Summer vacation was a lot of fun for me. There were no studies, no homework, no getting up early for school! I got to do the things I really wanted to do. And yes, I served people in many ways.

My mom is my favorite personality and she usually avoids my help in the kitchen. One day she was down with the flu so I got the opportunity to serve her. I made a cup of tea, warmed up the bread slices and boiled an egg for her. I also did other household chores. My mother was so happy and proud of me.

Then another day when my father came home from his job he was very tired, but the lawn needed mowing. I decided to help him by picking up the sticks and branches from the lawn.

One day my uncle came from Canada. There was so much to do at home that my mom got worried. I lessened her burden by cleaning up all the rooms and making up all

the beds. All this made me feel good.

I willingly helped my sister, Momina by making her do her summer school homework. I also helped my brother (with pleasure) clean his room.

One day I went to the mosque and happily picked up the trash from the rooms. I also spent time with a girl who was sitting all by herself and had no friends to talk with. I told her a joke and brought a smile to her face!

I served Allah Ta'ala and my Jama'at by listening to all the Friday Sermons and attending the Ijtema. So this is how I spent my Summer Vacation serving others.

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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Sayyi-dul qaumi khaa-dimu-hum

The chief of the people is the one who serves them

Shumaila Ahmad, Age: 12, VA Jama'at

When we think about serving other people, we think about serving outside our house. We think about going to a homeless shelter, mowing the neighbor's lawn, etc. But do we ever think about serving the people in our own home? You can do something small such as helping your mother with household chores or your younger sibling with his or her homework. These are things you might think of as not serving others but, they are very good deeds in the eyes of Allah.

Mu'avia ibn Jahima, May Allah be pleased with him, relates that Jahima came to the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, and said:

"O Prophet of Allah! I have come to seek your approval to join you in the fighting against the disbelievers."

The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, asked: **"Is your mother alive?"**

He replied, "Yes."

The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him said,

"Then go serve your mother, as paradise lies under her feet."





During my summer vacation, I spent most of my time helping my mother. Of course we all help our mothers but the reason for my helping was a bit different. Since my mother has had her back operation she can't do all of the things she used to do. So Allah has given me an opportunity to serve her. I helped my mother with household chores such as washing dishes and vacuuming. I also served others in the mosque each Sunday class. I helped pass out the pizza and helped pick up the crumbs. The last day of the Ijtema I helped vacuum and took the chairs and tables outside. I also helped take down the posters that were on the wall.

If you really think about it you can serve others wherever you are. After you eat and you put your plate away instead of leaving it on the table, that's serving others even though it doesn't seem like a big deal. Each year, we have an opportunity at our Jalsa Salana to serve others, so let's make an effort to never waste it, Insha'allah.



Our City forest

Sister Asma Malik San Jose, California

The first Earth Day celebration took place over thirty years ago. It began with a single idea from a Wisconsin Senator who was very concerned about the state of our environment. He began to organize a movement to save the environment by speaking to President Kennedy, and by traveling to schools and various other audiences across the country to get the word out that the Earth needs our help. Eventually, with tremendous work and perseverance, the idea took hold, became part of the national agenda, and the very first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22nd, 1970.

Since then, many environmental organizations have formed to get the message out that we need to clean up our planet. It's the only one we've got! Our City Forest (OCF) is one of these organizations. In 1994, Rhonda Berry, president and CEO of Our City Forest, realized that the City of San Jose needed a tree program to help increase tree canopy and encourage people to plant trees for their neighborhoods, schools, and parks. She knew that in an urban environment such as San Jose, there was a great need for this type of program to bring people and trees together. In fact, "People and Trees Together," is the motto of Our City Forest. Citizen involvement is the key. Our City Forest maintains that it is important for people to dig and plant trees with their own hands to feel a sense of kinship and stewardship with the tree and the environment. Neighbors come out and meet each other, plant

together, and then have lunch together after the plantings are over. Our plantings are a fun and inspiring way to connect with people and with nature.

My job title at Our City Forest is “Neighborhood Project Coordinator”. Project Coordinators are the ones that make these projects happen! OCF plants every Saturday from 9 am-12 pm, with the exception of July and August, when it is too hot to plant trees. The process of coordinating a planting begins with a phone call. We contact the neighborhood organizer (the one who requested the trees) and we do a walk-through of the area (school, park, neighborhood streets). During the walk-through, we decide where we can plant trees where they can grow to reach their maximum potential, so they can spread their beautiful canopy and provide the most amount of shade.

The next step is to choose the tree species. A list of desirable trees is provided and we discuss and provide our professional input as to what tree would be best in the particular area. From there, we order our trees through a wholesale nursery in Sunol, CA. Some of the trees are evergreen (they keep most of their leaves year-round), and some are deciduous (lose their leaves during the fall season).

And finally, the day before the planting, we drop off our trees at a designated safe spot. The next morning at 9 am, the Project Coordinator’s day is quite busy! We first conduct a brief tutorial on “How-To-Plant-A-Tree.” All the volunteers and the neighborhood residents gather around to watch. The tutorial

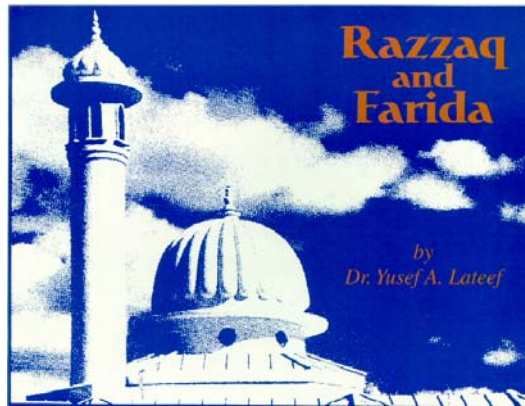


consists of step-by-step proper planting methods to ensure that our trees survive and thrive in the harsh urban environment. From there, we instruct the volunteers to break up into groups and plant throughout the area. After the planting, the Project Coordinator inspects all the trees to make sure they are all planted properly. And finally, everyone cleans up and gathers for lunch and snacks. This is the fun time when all the work is done and we all get to know each other and socialize! Our events are designed to be a memorable and joyful experience for all. The legacy of the trees planted are our gift to the community.

Razzaq and Farida

A story for children written by Dr. Yusef A. Lateef. Published by Majlis Ansarullah, U.S.A. Children and new Muslims, all can read and enjoy this story. It makes a great gift for the children of Ahmadi, Non-Ahmadi and Non-Muslim relatives, friends and acquaintances. Every page of the story is accompanied by a colorful drawing.

Send \$1.50 per copy to Chaudhary Mushtaq Ahmad, 15000 Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905 with your mailing address.



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الْحِلَال

Tirzah Khan

Age 5, from Baltimore Maryland



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