

Al-Hilal



A Magazine for Children

2005-3

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Letter from Al-Hilal Staff

Assalāmu ‘alaikum!

This issue of Al Hilal is dedicated to the beauty and importance of truthfulness. In this issue you will find articles, short stories, poetry and much more discussing this wonderful attribute.

In the Holy Qur’an we are told of the importance of being counted among the Sadiqeen (the truthful) and we know through historical facts and present day examples, the benefits of being unafraid to tell the truth.

So hold this close to your heart and know that in ALL matters and in ALL situations, honesty is proper and beautiful. No matter what may be at stake, we must always adhere to the truth. The world may desire to heap a thousand disgraces upon you, but your final reward and blessing lies with Allah. Inshā’allāh let us all strive to make honesty and truthfulness the guiding principles in every walk of our lives.

Wassalām,

Aliya Latif, Editor

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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Front Cover Design Courtesy of Sumera Choudhary

Truthfulness

By Umara Vance, North Jersey

Islam is the only universal religion that has provided complete guidance for all aspects of life through the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Allah, the Almighty, says in the Holy Qur'an, Chapter 5, Verse 120:

Translation, *"This is a day when only the truthful shall profit by their truthfulness. For them are the Gardens beneath which streams flow; therein shall they abide forever. Allah is well pleased with them, and they are well pleased with Him; that indeed is the great triumph."*

Telling the truth is always good. Lying is bad and lying does not make anything better. Being honest is the best, and Allah likes honesty.

When the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, was breaking the idols in the Ka'ba, he recited:

Translation, *Truth has come and falsehood has vanished away. Falsehood does indeed vanish fast.*

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 17, Verse 82)

God named the religion brought by him, **Islam** and its followers, **Muslims**. Under Divine command the Holy Prophet went on top of Mount Safā and called the tribes one by one by their names. He said, *"Quraish! Were I to tell you that behind this hill, a great and powerful army was preparing to attack you, would you believe me?"*

They all answered with one voice: *"Of course, we will believe you, for you have always heard you speaking the truth."* This teaches us that the Holy Prophet

Muhammad (peace be upon him) always told the truth, and so he had gained the trust of many people.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) said, *“One who practices untruthfulness and deception is not from with my community.”* (Our Teachings)

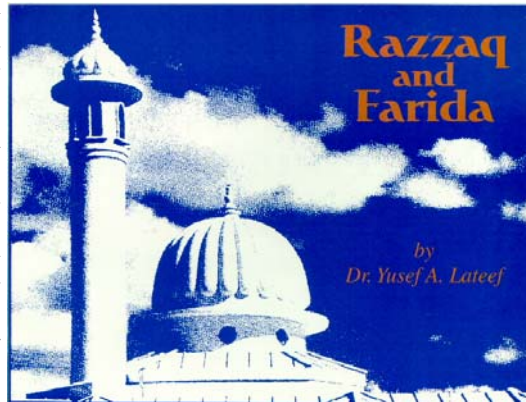
Our beloved Fourth Khalifa, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, rahimahullah, repeatedly advised us to be truthful in his Friday Sermons. On May 24th, 1996, he warned the Jama‘at in these words, *“Lying is the root cause of all evils.”* Then he advised us, *“Tell the truth, and let truthfulness be the essence of your character.”*

May Allah enable us to act on these golden teachings, follow the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, and always tell the truth.

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.



The Prophet

By: Yusuf Ahmad, Age 8
York/Harrisburg Jamaat

Muhammad, sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, was a very
good man,
He had a great stand
His stand was, “La ilaha illallahu Muhammadur-
Rasulullah”

His nicknames were ‘al-Sādiq’ and ‘al-Amīn’
He was the most truthful boy anyone had ever seen
That made him a very great being

He worshipped in Hira, the cave
He told the people how to behave
And to be only Allah’s slave
He was the best of the best
I love him more than all the rest
I pray I can succeed at this test

(‘al-Sadiq’ is pronounced as-sā-diq)



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Compiled by Lajna Imaillah, U.S.A.



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The Childhood of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be on him)

By: Ammad Bajwa Age 9
Los Angeles East

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was born in Mecca, a town in Arabia, on the 20th April, 571 C.E. His mother's name was Hadrat Āmina. His father's name was Abdullah, who died some months before his birth. So he was born an orphan. When he was six years old, his mother, too, passed away. Then, his grandfather also died. Now the child was placed under the care of his uncle, Abu Tālib.

Unlike many of the youth of that time, the Holy Prophet did not indulge in idle pastimes and led a very moral life. At all times he was satisfied with whatever was given to him by way of food and clothing. He would often work to help those in need. Regarding education, he was not able to read or write as he never had the opportunity to go to any school and learn from any teacher. It was God who was his teacher. His life was basically an open book. He was known as 'The Truthful' and lived a pure life, far before his claim to prophethood.

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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The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him)

Treatment to Children

By: Faraz Ahmed - Age 9 - Los Angeles East

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was a prophet of God. On his shoulders lay the heavy responsibility of the guidance of the world. He is the role model of the whole of mankind. The founder of Islam has told us the golden principle in the following words, “A person who does not deal with children with love and affection and does not respect the elders, does not belong to Islam.” (Tirmidhi) This means to treat children well is a part of religion.

Whenever his daughter Fatima (May Allah be pleased with her) visited him, he would stand up to welcome her, show his affection and give her his own seat. Thus it is necessary to take care of children’s self respect. He always addressed children with love and honor. He treated them with justice and never preferred one over the other without any reason.

Once the father of Nu‘man Bashir came to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and asked him about the gift he’d given his son. He asked have you given the same gifts to all your children? The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said, “Fear Allah and apply justice among your children.” Whenever the founder of Islam passed by children he always said, “Assalamu Alaikum” to them. He dealt with children with utter affection. Sometimes he would ask his grandsons to stand on his feet and then he would ask them to rise and thus would indulge them in play. Sometimes when the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) offered his prayer, children would get on his back during sajdah (prostration) and he remained in sajdah till they got off by themselves. He taught manners with great kindness.

I pray for all parents, “May Allah enable them to treat their children kindly and in the same way, according to the Holy Prophet’s teachings and may Allah shower his great blessings and peace upon them.”

The Holy Qur'an on Truth

And whoso obeys Allah and this Messenger of His shall be among those on whom Allah has bestowed His blessings, namely, the Prophets, the Truthful, the Martyrs, and the Righteous. And excellent companions are these. (4[Al-Nisa]:70)

O ye who believe! Fear Allah and be with the truthful. (9[Al-Taubah]:119)

The believers are only those who *truly* believe in Allah and His Messenger, and then doubt not, but strive with their possessions and their persons in the cause of Allah. It is they who are truthful. (49[Al-Hujurat]:16)

And those who believe in Allah and His Messengers *and* they are the Truthful and the Witnesses in the sight of their Lord. They will have their reward and their light... (57[Al-Hadid]:20)

The Holy Prophet Muhammad on Truth, peace and blessings of Allah be on him

Truth guides to virtue and virtue guides to Paradise. A person persists in telling the truth till in the sight of Allah he is named Truthful. (Bukhari and Muslim)

Leave alone that which involves thee in doubt and adhere to that which is free from doubt, for truth is comforting, falsehood is disturbing. (Tirmidhi)

It is enough to make a person a liar that he should go on repeating all that he might hear. (Muslim)

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The Teachings of Islam on the Love of Allah

By Mishal Akbar - Age: 13 - Northern Virginia Jamaat

In order to love Allah, we must develop Taqwa in our hearts. Taqwa means righteousness and fear of Allah. This describes the kind of feeling you have when you love someone a lot and you want to please them. So, you try to make them happy all the time and are afraid to do anything to displease them. This is what Taqwa is like, which also makes you a righteous person.

The love and worship of Allah is so important, that the Holy Qur'an says,

I have created men high and low, that they may worship me.
(5:57)

So to worship in the way Islam teaches, such as through prayer, fasting, and the remembrance of Allah, is the way to love and worship Allah, and it is the purpose for which Allah created us.

A Companion of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) relates that he said: Whoever possesses three qualities, tastes the sweetness of faith:

1. That he should love Allah and His Messenger above all else.
2. That he should love someone solely for the sake of Allah.
3. That he should abhor reverting to disbelief after Allah has rescued him from it, as he would abhor being thrown into the Fire.

In the same way, the Promised Messiah, 'alaihissalam, has explained that the purpose of man's life is to love and worship Allah. Although people give themselves various worldly purposes for their own lives, according to the Holy Qur'an, a person must devote his life to



the worship of Allah, as the Holy Qur'an says:

Translation: "Say! If you love Allah follow me; *then* will Allah love you and forgive you your sins."

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) had such deep love for Allah that one day a landowner near Qadian came to his father. He asked him, "I have heard that you have a younger son too, but I have never seen him." Upon this, his father replied with a smile, "Indeed, I have a younger son. But he is like a newly married bride who is seldom seen. If you want to see him, you may find him in some corner of the mosque, for he remains mostly in the mosque, and takes no interest in worldly affairs."

Let's also see what the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) has taught us. One of his most beautiful passages on this very subject is as follows:

"Our God is our paradise. Our highest delight is in our God for we have seen Him and have found every beauty in Him. This wealth is worth procuring though one might have to lay down one's life to procure it. This ruby is worth purchasing though one may have to lose oneself to acquire it. Oh ye, who are bereft, run to this fountain and it will satisfy you. It is the fountain of life that will save you. What shall I do, and how shall I impress the hearts with this good news, and by beating what drum shall I make the announcement that this is your God, so that people might hear? What remedy shall I apply to the ears of the people so that they should listen?"

So man should devote himself to Allah's worship, obedience, and love with all his faculties. As the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) said that he received so many favors from Allah that it was impossible to count them, and says, "There was a time when the crumbs fallen from the table of others was my food. But today, by the Grace of Allah, whole families are being entertained at my table."

All these stories, verses, and poems make it obvious to know how important the Love of Allah is! We should create a love for Allah especially by performing Salāt and Zikr (Remembrance of Allah). May God guide us to the right path.

Allah

Tasneem Waliullah - Age 12 - York/Harrisburg

He has made you to do good deeds,
Do not disappoint him and stray.
You will easily be trapped by Satan,
Complete your duties and pray.

He has blessed you time and time again,
He will bless you even more.
Be positive you've offered Salat,
And he will bless you again, for sure.

Watch out who you're friends with,
It could affect your assertion.
Be acquaintances with the virtuous ones,
It won't affect your conviction.

An Example of Truthfulness

Taimur Hamid—Age 12—Brooklyn

One day the Promised Messiah's (peace be upon him) beloved son, Mubarak Ahmad, was very ill and running a very high fever. He kept asking for kulfi (ice

cream). He was not to be given ice cream in fever. He was given ice cubes instead and to appease him,

was told that it was ice cream, but he did not accept them. At last, the

Promised Messiah (peace be upon him)

was requested that as the child trusted him, if he gave him the ice cubes in the name of ice cream, he would accept them. The Promised Messiah

(peace be on him) approached his son, and said, "Mubarak Ahmad, here are ice cubes, accept them

as ice cream at this time." The child responded,

"No, I want to have the ice cream." The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, said, "Accept them as ice cream at this

time." The child continued with his insistence but the Promised Messiah did not like to trick his son even once.

Remember the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) has told us that on any occasion you should always tell the truth.



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The Beauty of Truthfulness

Naila Ijaz - Age 12 - Southern Virginia Jama'at

Tell the truth, always,
Never tell lies.
Lies bring bad days,
And more tears in eyes.

Lying has roots,
Where happiness doesn't grow,
Truth brings fruits,
If you did not know.

Tell the truth for your own smile,
So dark days do not come.
Truth has its own cool style,
Where all the beauty comes from...

Truthfulness

By Farah Azam - Age 11 - Research Triangle North Carolina

It is very important to be truthful, because if you are not truthful, people won't trust you anymore. We should always be truthful no matter what, even if we know our parents will be angry with us. We should never try to hide our mistakes or lie about them. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was so truthful that everyone, even his enemies, used to call him Sādiq, which means the truthful one. He was the most truthful person.

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an, Chapter 2, Verse 43:

“And confound not truth with falsehood,
nor hide the truth knowingly.”

This verse means that you should never hide the truth when you know that what you are saying or doing is wrong and you should not confuse truth with falsehood.

There is a story about truthfulness:

Once, there was a young boy who used to take his sheep to the mountain for grazing. While the sheep were grazing, he would get bored. One day, he thought it would be fun if he cried wolf. So, he cried, “WOLF! WOLF!” When people in the valley heard the boy's screams, they grabbed different farm weapons and ran up the mountain to save him. When they got there, they did not see any wolf. The boy started laughing and said that he played a trick on them. The farmers became quite upset. They told him not to do it again and went back to work. The next day, the boy thought about how much fun he had crying wolf yesterday so, again, he cried, “WOLF! WOLF!” People came up again and saw no wolf. The third day, while the boy was watching the sheep, a real wolf came! He cried, “WOLF! WOLF!”



very loud, but no one came and the wolf ate all his sheep. The moral of this story is in a Hadith of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him):

“Truth saves, Falsehood destroys.”

There was an incident about truthfulness in the life of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him):



Once, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) sent a manuscript for publishing. He put a letter in the envelope with his publication and sent it. At that time, there was a rule that said: no one was allowed to send a letter with a publication. If you did you would have

to pay a fine or spend time in jail. The person who received the envelope told the court that the Promised

Messiah (peace be on him) had done something

illegal. The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) was called to court.

While he was going to the court, his lawyers advised him, “Just say you didn’t do it.” When he reached the court, the Promised Messiah was

asked if he had sent the letter. The Promised Messiah answered, “Yes, I did. It was part of the publication. I didn’t know that it was illegal to send it together.” The judge was very impressed by his honesty and dropped all of the charges against him.

You can tell by this incident that the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) was very honest and was not afraid of facing the consequences.

There is another incident:

There was a man who did many bad things. He went to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and asked, “How can I stop doing bad things?” The Holy Prophet answered, “Always be truthful.” A few days later, the man was going to drink alcohol, but he thought, “What if the Holy Prophet asks me if I drank? I can’t lie.” So he didn’t drink. The next



day, he was going to steal something, but he thought, “What if the Holy Prophet asks me if I stole anything? I can’t lie.” So he didn’t steal it. Slowly the man stopped doing all of his bad things just by having to tell the truth. That’s how important telling the truth is.



We should never tell a lie because Allah does not like people who tell lies and will not help us if we do. Allah helps and likes people who tell the truth. May Allah help us to always be honest like the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). Āmeen.

A Truthful Life

Massawar Ahmed, Age 14, Queens NY

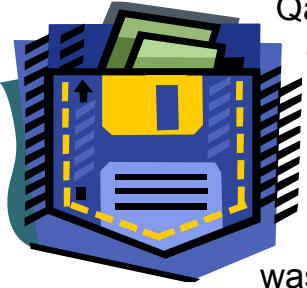
Truthfulness plays a major role in the life of all Ahmadi Muslims around the globe. Allah the Almighty has stressed truthfulness in so many ways. Hadrat Abdullah bin Mas’ood (peace be upon him) relates that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said, “Truth guides to virtues and virtues guide to paradise. A person who persists in seeking the truth, goes on till in the sight of Allah, he is named truthful. Lying leads to vice, and vice leads to the fire and a person goes on lying till in the sight of Allah, he is named a liar.” —Bukhari and Muslim. This hadith is saying that those who speak and convey the truth will be guided to paradise and will be considered truthful people. But those who lie will eventually be led to fire and will be considered liars. Allah also declares in chapter 9 verse 119 of the Holy Qur’an, “O ye who believe! Fear Allah and be with the truthful.”

Another Hadith of the Holy Prophet is, “As-sidqu yunjee wal-kadhibu yuhliku. Truth saves, falsehood destroys.” This hadith is saying that when you speak the truth you will be saved, but when you lie you will be in danger.

Hadhrat Abdul Qadir Jilani

Mir Zulqernain - Age 12 - Chicago East

I am going to tell you a story about how telling the truth can change lives. This is a true story about Hadhrat Abdul-Qādir Jīlānī, May Allah have mercy on him, a very famous Muslim scholar. Hadhrat Jilani lived in Arabia. He was very young at the time of this story.



Hadhrat Jilani was migrating to a different place for educational purposes. He was going in a group. His mother gave him 80 dinars for the journey and his education. She hid the dinars in a hidden pocket of his coat. During the journey some bandits attacked the caravan, and robbed everyone. One thief asked Hadhrat Jilani if he have any money. He truthfully answered that he has 80 dinars in his hidden pocket. The bandits were so impressed by his honesty that they took him to their leader.

The leader asked him, “Why did you tell us where the money was?” Hadhrat Jilani replied, “ Because my mother told me to tell the truth no matter what happens.” The bandits were so impressed that they gave up their bad habits and became righteous people. So my dear friends, we can not only change our lives but other people’s lives as well, just by telling the truth.

The Vase

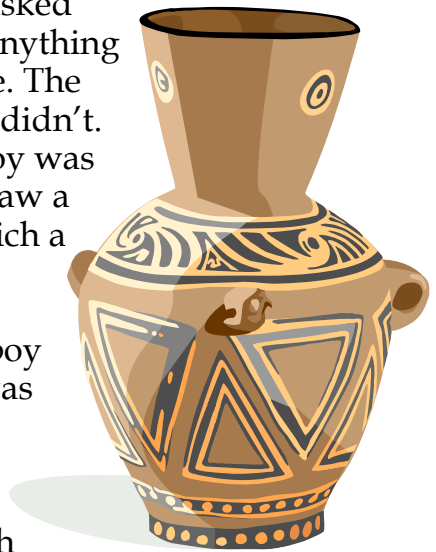
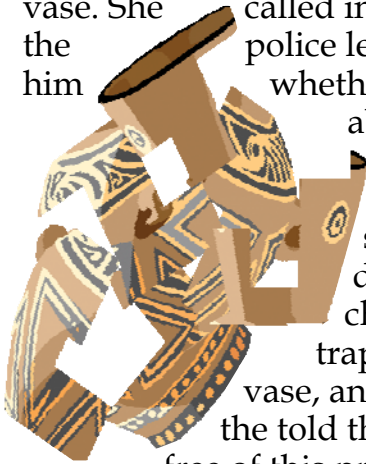
Mustafa Ollaye - Age 11 - Chicago East

One should always tell the truth because as the saying goes, "The truth shall set you free." This statement is definitely true during this story.

Once upon a time there was a boy who broke a very rare and expensive vase while playing in his house. He hid the broken pieces of vase. When his mother saw the vase missing, she thought that someone broke in and stole the vase. She called in police to investigate the matter. After the police left his mom asked him whether he knew anything about the vase. The boy said he didn't.

While the boy was sleeping he saw a dream, in which a child was trapped in a big vase, and when the boy told the truth he was free of this prison. In the morning, the boy told his mother the truth. Even though his mom was yelling at him, he still felt much more light-hearted and free.

So, we should all tell truth because truth could set us all free, from the prison of evil.



Sandeena
Ahmed,
North
Jersey

Truthfulness

Why do we lie?
lie to ourselves
Why do we cry?
cry to ourselves
When the world doesn't see me
I slink away
Beneath all my acting, they can't see
that I hurt inside: heart soft as clay
Look as I might
All glamorously dressed
I still hurt inside
Crying out of spite
Why do I try?
Try to tell the truth
Why do I fail?
Fail from my belief, shoot...
my eyes are cursed
For they cannot see
that beauty lies
Deep within me
Truth I speak
And I shall be free
Cry no more
No tears for me!
Truth I speak, Truth I speak

Truthfulness

Rizwan Jattala Age 14 Los Angeles East

Telling the truth is always superior to all actions. Lying is appalling and the root-cause of all sins. It causes one to lose the trust and admiration of others and is displeasing to Allah.

In Chapter 9 verse 119 of the Holy Qur'an Allah says:
yā ay-yu-hal-la-dhī-na ā-ma-nut-ta-qul-lā-ha
wa kū-nū ma-'as-sā-di-kīn

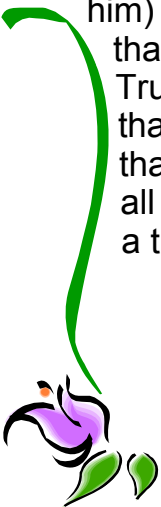
'O ye who believe! Fear Allah and be with the truthful.'

Allah reminds us to become righteous and truthful in all of our daily matters.

Of all moral ills, lying is the most horrible. Our Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said that there are three signs of a hypocrite, one of them is; when he speaks, he lies.

As has been related, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was himself so rigid in his standards of truthfulness that he was known among his people as "The Trustworthy" and "The True." He was equally anxious that Muslims should adopt the same level of truthfulness that he displayed. He regarded truth as the foundation of all virtue, goodness, and correct conduct. He taught that a truthful person is one who is so set in truth that God counts him among the truthful.

Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allah be pleased with him) once wrote: "Every Ahmadi child should be especially protected against it. Lying has a variety of



causes, some of them very perplexing. Given the causes, or some of them, a child is bound to contract this vice as a matter of course. A child is highly imaginative. Whatever it hears, it turns it into a kind of reality. When my sister was a child she used to relate a long dream every day. We would wonder how she could manage to have a dream every day. Later, the truth came out. What happened was that in her mind, dreams meant the ideas and pictures that crossed her mind just before falling asleep. To a child every image is real. Thus, gradually it picks up this habit (falsehood). A child should be helped to realize the difference between fact and fiction. A child can be saved from this habit (falsehood) if the nature and meaning of thinking can be brought home to it.”

We are Ahmadi Muslims. We are the future of our Jama'at. It is very essential and vital that we always tell the truth and never lie about anything, great or small. It doesn't matter how small a sin's essence may seem, it is still wrong to commit one. Let us pray and pledge that we will always speak the truth. Āmeen.

قُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا

qū·lū qau·lan sa·dī·dā

Say the straightforward word.

The Holy Qur'an (33[Aḥzāb]:71)

Why Should We Be Truthful?

Before I begin, I have a question for the reader: Are you truthful? If not, you should really become truthful. First off, you are lying, which is a sin. Second of all, what good does lying do, anyway? These are among some of the topics I will discuss.

If you are truthful person, you always speak freely. You have nothing to hide. All you do is make your life easier. On the other hand, if you lie you always have something to hide. This makes it harder for you to lie about it. You also make life harder for you and everybody else. You know the truth will be found, one way or another, so what exactly is the point of lying. You're just wasting your time and breath. Even if you do lie and get away with it, Allah will know the truth, for He is the All-knowing. You will still feel guilty.

In the end it is far better to turn to truthfulness than it is to turn to falsehood. As is written in the Holy Qur'an: "*And say, truth has come and falsehood has vanished. Falsehood does indeed vanish fast.*" (17:81) Let us pray that we will all become truthful and righteous Ahmadis. Āmeen.

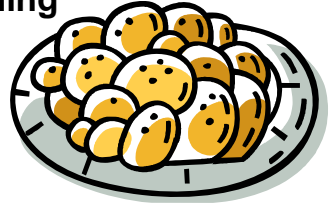
What Would You Do?

Jaffer Ahmad Age 14 Long Island

Pop quiz.

You're in your kitchen and you're feeling hungry. You want some cookies but you're not supposed to eat them.

You do anyway. Your parents find that there are cookies missing. They ask you if you took them.



What do you do?

There are two choices for this matter. Lie or tell the truth. If you lie, they won't know what happened. But how do you explain the missing cookies? This lie will lead to another, and another. You'll dig yourself into a hole that you can't get out of. Allah will let them know that you lied and you will be punished by your parents and Allah. But if you tell the truth your parents may punish you, but Allah will be pleased with you. So it's a no-brainer. Always tell the truth. Not only is it a good idea, but it is a command of God. Allah says in the Holy Quran,

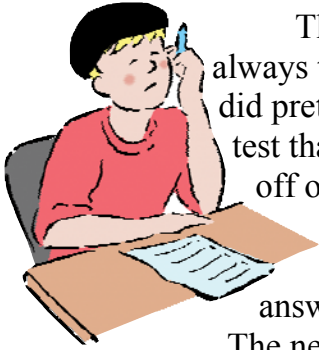
“O ye who believe! Fear God and be with the truthful!”

Allah is commanding you to tell the truth. By lying, not only are you deceiving the people you're lying to but also you are disobeying Allah. If you lie, the lie will stay with you for the rest of your life. You will then start to lie more often and create larger, more serious lies. No one will trust you. More importantly Allah will not trust you. But if you keep in the habit of telling the truth, everybody will trust you. Allah will be pleased with you and you will easily be on the straight path. To lie or not to lie? I've just answered it for you.



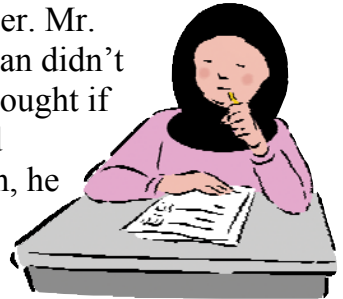
The Exam

Shanawar Lune - Age 14 - Detroit MI



There once was a boy named Jordan who always told the truth. He was in the fifth grade and did pretty well in school. One day he was taking a test that he didn't study for and he decided to copy off of the girl's paper next to him. This girl was really smart and always got good grades, so he looked at her paper and copied all her answers.

The next day he got his test back and saw that he'd gotten an 'A+'. But soon the teacher, Mr. Durand, began to suspect that someone had copied off of the girl's paper. Mr. Durand asked Jordan if he'd copied and Jordan didn't know whether to tell the truth or to lie. He thought if he tells a lie he would have a good grade and wouldn't get in trouble but if he told the truth, he would have a bad grade and get in trouble. He thought to himself, "What is the **right** thing to do? Soon he decided he would be brave and tell the truth, no matter what.



The next day Jordan told Mr. Durand that he had copied off of the girl and Mr. Durand was so happy that Jordan had told the truth, he gave him an A+ anyway, just for being honest. In the end, He didn't end up getting into trouble and promised never to cheat again. That's why from that day on, Jordan knew that telling the truth is **always** the best thing to do.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Allah, the Gracious

Mishal Akbar, Virginia North

Allah is very gracious, or grateful to us in many ways that we don't even realize. He gave and gives us things that we didn't even ask for. Allah is most gracious, or *Ar-Rahmān*. Allah has given us things that many other people don't have that we probably don't even know until it is taken away from us. We usually don't thank Him as much as we should to tell Him how thankful we are for receiving these things.

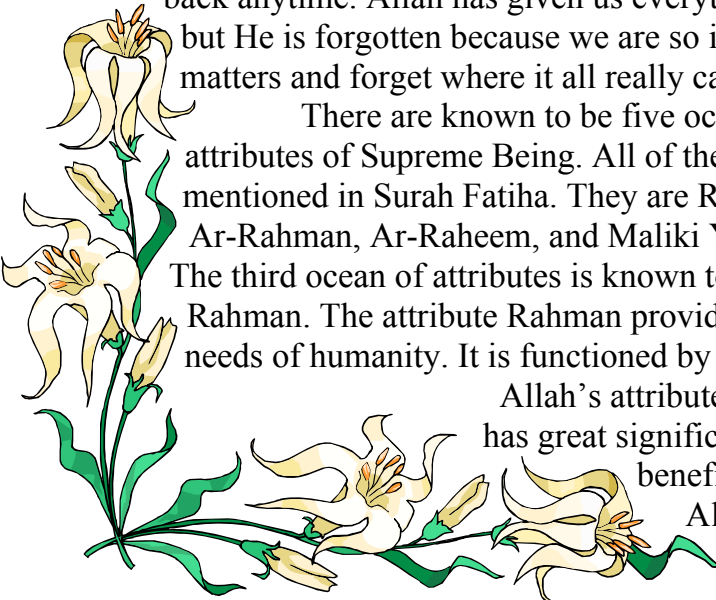
“Surely Allah is grateful to men, but most men are not grateful”
2:245

Indeed, this is true. Allah has given us countless things, but we don't respond gratefully. Everything Allah has given us has even spoiled us. So, we should thank him in our daily prayers. We need to remember that everything He has given us, He can take it back anytime. Allah has given us everything to survive, but He is forgotten because we are so into worldly matters and forget where it all really came from.

There are known to be five oceans of attributes of Supreme Being. All of these are mentioned in Surah Fatiha. They are Rabbil-‘Alameen, Ar-Rahman, Ar-Raheem, and Maliki Yaumiddeen. The third ocean of attributes is known to be Ar-Rahman. The attribute Rahman provides for all of the needs of humanity. It is functioned by *Rahmaniyyat*.

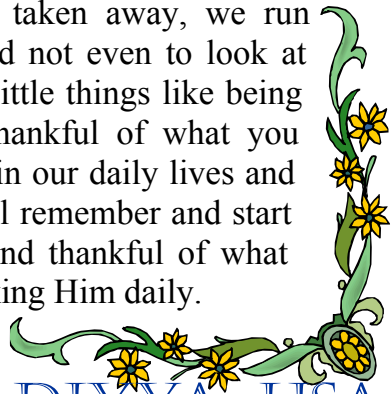
Allah's attribute, *Rahmaniyyat*, has great significance of beneficence and grace.

Allah has created the sun, the



moon, water, and air all for the benefit of mankind. He has provided all without our asking and for everyone. We take full advantage of these things, and by doing this, we should be grateful to Allah (Commentary of the Holy Quran, Volume I).

We can even show Allah in our daily lives that we appreciate everything He has given us by eating different foods and eating of everything which he has provided us. Allah is so gracious that He has made the Earth a cradle for us, the sky a roof and waters that flow before us that we use each and everyday. But, when we do get one of these things taken away, we run towards Him crying, when we bothered not even to look at Him before. Remembering even these little things like being picky about our food, or not being thankful of what you already have can become so important in our daily lives and when we come forth to Allah. Let us all remember and start a habit to become more appreciative and thankful of what Allah has given us by praying and thanking Him daily.



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- Ahmadiyya Magazine go to Ahmadiyya.us and/or MKAusa.org.



The Research Triangle North Carolina Nasirat present...

An "A" Student



It's always good to tell the truth, but we have to be careful not to brag or boast, even if it's true.

Arrogance is not the sign of a good Muslim or friend.

Characters: Mother 1 (Salma), her daughter Saboora (Sarah), Mother 2 (Adeelah) and her daughter Nadia (Sofia).

Scene:

Two mothers (Salma and Adeelah) are sitting at junior high graduation ceremony waiting for the event to start. Their children (Saboora and Nadia) are lining up with the rest of the class.



Mother 1 (Salma): I can't believe Saboora is graduating already!

Mother 2 (Adeelah): I know, before we know it they'll be done with high school and on to college!

Mother 1 (Salma): Yes, my Saboora wants to be a doctor and I know she'll do it. She's the smartest girl in her class. She's giving the graduation speech today.

Mother 2 (Adeelah): Oh that's wonderful.

Mother 1 (Salma): Yes, she makes me so proud. She's in the math club, the science club, the literary club, the diversity club, the chess club, the Frisbee club, the poetry club and young zoologists of America club. Oh, and she's an "A" student.

Mother 2 (Adeelah): You must be so proud.

Mother 1 (Salma): Oh no, no. It is a blessing from God. But many people think she takes after me.

Whenever I get her report card, I have to take her out on a shopping spree you should have seen the bill last



month! But it's worth it. Did I mention she is an "A" student?
Mother 2 (Adeelah) (says quietly): Well actually you did... Oh!
Here come the girls now!

Both girls approach. Saboora is digging through her purse and Nadia is nervously wringing her hands.

Nadia (Sofia): Hey Mom. I'm so nervous. I feel a little dizzy, like I'm going to faint.

Mother 2 (Adeelah): Don't worry! It'll be great.

Nadia (Sofia): But what if I mess up? What if I trip? I hate being in front of people. I can't do this.

Mother 2 (Adeelah): You'll be fine. You're just walking up to the stage and walking back. It's easy.

Nadia (Sofia): Yeah, but look at all these people. I just know something bad is going to happen and they'll all be laughing at me. I think I need an inhaler.

Mother 2: Nadia, you don't have asthma! Look at Saboora. She looks so calm and she's giving a speech today.

Saboora continues digging through her purse and pockets.

Saboora: Mom, where is my lipstick?

Mother 1 (Salma): Oh it's right here, Saboora dear.

Saboora: Not that one, I want the red. (Applies the lipstick) How do I look?

Mother 1 (Salma): Very, very pretty. Like an "A" student.

Saboora: Do you have a mirror?

Mother 1 (Salma): Yes, yes right here.

Saboora: Hurry! I'm going to be on stage soon.

(Looking into mirror) I wish I had some eyeliner.

Mother 1 (Salma): Well you are only 13... maybe...

Saboora: Ugh! I am old enough to wear makeup!

Mother 1 (Salma): Yes, yes of course. If you are old enough to be an "A" student you are old enough for makeup (smiles and laughs awkwardly at other mother).

Saboora (Digging through her purse): Do you have my speech?

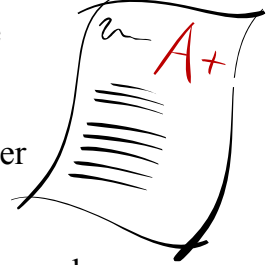


Mother 1 (Salma): Yes, I finished it this morning and put it in your purse.

Saboora: It's not here! Where is it?

Mother 1 (Salma): Let me look. (Searching her own purse) Here it is!

Saboora snatches the speech and rushes off to the stage.



Mother 2 (Adeelah): You were right. You daughter is very sweet.

Mother 1 (Salma): Oh yes! She is and she's a wonderful speaker. She's been giving speeches since she was seven years old. I have them all saved in a binder at home. And did I mention she's an A student?

The Facts: We all know that bragging and arrogance are not characteristics of a good Muslim. It is one thing to vie with each other in good works or to share an accomplishment. But to go to the extreme and boast is wrong. We should remember that Allah has the power to take away everything he's given us, so we should be grateful and humble, not proud.

Chapter 53, Verse 33 of the Holy Qur'an says:

“Ascribe not purity to yourselves.

Allah knows best him who is truly righteous.”

Also the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

Hadith: “He who acts so as to boast among people will have his defaults talked about, and he whose motive is to show off will be recompensed accordingly.” (Bukhari and Muslim)

The daughter Saboora was materialistic and rude to her mother. We all know the Hadith **“Paradise lies under the feet of the mother.”** This means that children must respect their mothers and treat them with love and kindness. Finally the Hadith, **Modesty is all Virtue** also relates to Saboora. All virtue comes from being modest. Wearing lots of makeup at such a young age, without wearing a scarf is the exact opposite of modesty.

HONESTLY . . .

Samia Arain, Age 11, Northern Virginia Jamaat

My name is Samia Arian and I'm trying to become a better friend each and every day. Over the last few years I've been in school I've learned how important it is to be a good friend and have a good friendship with someone. I wrote an acrostic poem describing how you should treat your friends.

Friendly

Respectful

Include your friends in your prayers

Especially be kind to your elder friends

Nice

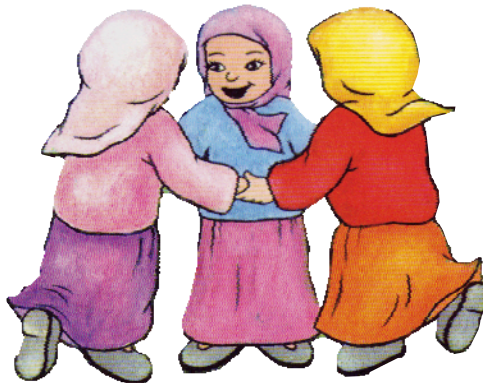
Decent

Sweet

Have fun

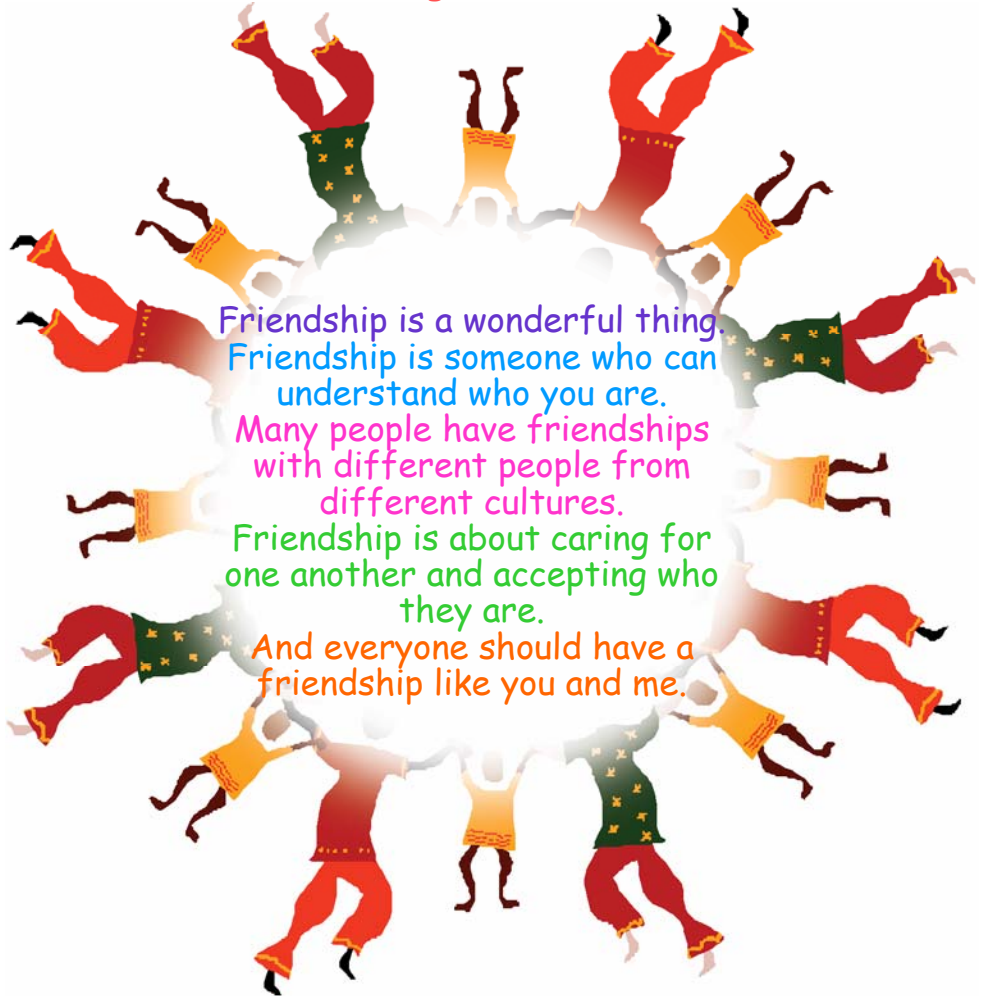
Introduce your friends to new people

Polite



True Friendship

Bisola Kamara - Age 10 - Laurel, MD Jamaat



Friendship is a wonderful thing.
Friendship is someone who can
understand who you are.

Many people have friendships
with different people from
different cultures.

Friendship is about caring for
one another and accepting who
they are.

And everyone should have a
friendship like you and me.

Programs for Atfal

Look for information in Mujahid Jr or contact Muhtamim Atfal
(Tahir Ahmad at tahirsoofiahmed@yahoo.com or
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951 Ellsworth Drive Grayslake, IL 60030

Closeness to Allah

Yousef Malik—Age 10—Boston, MA



The Holy Qur'an says:

**“And confound not truth with falsehood
nor hide the truth knowingly.”**

(Chapter 2, Verse 43)

I begin with an important saying of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him):

As-sid·qu yu·nji wal·ka·dhi·bu yuh·li·ku.

Truth saves and falsehood destroys.

The Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, was the most truthful man of all time. They called him Al Sādiq—the Truthful one (pronounced as *as sā diq*).

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), was also an extremely truthful man in Islam. When he faced possible jail time for a mistake mailing a package he did not listen to his lawyer, who wanted him to lie. He went to court and told the truth, saying he was not aware of the law and agreed to pay the fine. As soon as the Judge heard this, the case was dismissed without the fine.

In this incident it explains that even in cases that could harm you it is better if you speak the truth instead of lying.

In Islam, truthfulness is one of the most important aspects, and lying is one of the greatest sins. That's why it's better to stop lying when you are young. If you are a truthful person it helps to make friends and makes other people trust you.

But the main reason why you should be truthful is because it brings you closer to Allah, who is all Truth and who sends the truth through His messengers.

I close with the Holy Qur'an from chapter 23, verses 2 and 9:

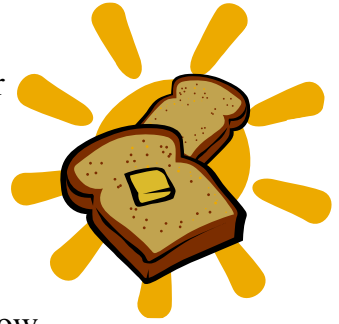
**“Successful indeed are the believers ...
Who are watchful of their trusts.”**



My Beloved God

Salma Azam—Age 13—Research Triangle North Carolina

The Provider of all,
Who picks you up after a fall.
Who gives you your butter
and your bread,
And puts intelligent
thoughts within your
head.



Who causes the bright,
beautiful flowers to grow,
And all the lovely lights in the sky to
show.

Someone special,
Someone neat,
Someone sensational,
Someone sweet.
Someone who loves you and me.
Someone kind, who you can't see.
If you were very disobedient or
extremely bad,



But ask for forgiveness, he has mercy and
doesn't get mad.
Towards him are
the roads we must
trod,
He is the Mighty,
the Wise, the All-
Aware, the
Majestic God.



Glossary

- Aḥmadiyyat احمديت, Aḥmadiyyah, Aḥmadiyya: Muslim sect believing Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad to be the Promised Messiah (second coming) and the Mahdi awaited by Muslims, peace be on him.
- al-Hilāl الهلال : The new moon.
- Amīr, Ameer: امير Commander, Head
- assalāmu ‘alaikum السلام عليكم : Peace be on you. (The formation assalam-o or assalam-u is incorrect as there is no waw و after mīm م, hence the abbreviation AoA or A.O.A. or A-o-A is also incorrect.)
- Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness
- Jamā‘at جماعت : Community, Organization
- Ka‘ba (sakūn on ‘ain) كعبه : a cube. House of God in Mecca. Also Ka‘aba (fatha on ‘ain) and Kaaba.
- khalīfah, khalīfa: Vicegerent. Successors to Hadrat Muhammad, sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, and the Promised Messiah, ‘aliahisalam. Also calif, caliph, kalif, kaliph, khalif.
- Maulana: our master, our lord, our chief. Title of respect for Muslim religious scholars. Revered person.
- Muballigh مبلغ : bearer of news, notifier, informer, messenger. A missionary in Ahmadiyya community.
- Majlis Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya مجلس خدام الاحمديه : (Organization of Servants of Ahmadiyyat): The organization of all Ahmadi men from 16 to 40 years of age.
- Quran, Qur’an, Koran: recitation, a book most read. The Holy Book revealed to Muhammad, ṣallallāhu ‘alaihi waṣallam.
- ṣallallāhu ‘alaihi wa sallam صلى الله عليه وسلم : peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.
- Sunnah سنه : practice of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam.
- Tirmidhī ترمذی : Tirmidhi’s collection of ahadith.

الحق

Truthfulness

I don't lie because people won't trust me and won't be my friends. If I want to be a good Muslim I have to be very truthful. Being truthful is a part of Islam because if everybody lied nobody would know if they are lying or telling the truth. Lying is a bad deed. You should try to be truthful everyday.

Hamza Ahmed - Age 8 - Detroit MI

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