



Al-Hilal

A Magazine for Children

A Special Ramadhan Issue

2006-3

US \$2

Letter from Al-Hilal Staff

Assalāmu ‘alaikum!

We have entered the blessed month of Ramadan and it is unlike any other time of year. The gates of heaven are open wide and Muslims have turned their full attention towards gaining closeness to Allah.

Perhaps you are too young to fast the entire month but you can participate in the spirit of Ramadan and receive countless blessings for your efforts, insha’llah.

Fortify yourself and “fast” from bad practices and bad company. Satisfy your spiritual appetite by performing Salat on time, reading Quran, and doing your best to be a model for the righteous. Feed someone in need, but do not feed into those spiritual and social traps such as arguing, lying, backbiting, or behaving arrogantly.

Resolve to sacrifice and struggle to do what’s right. If we have Allah’s help and support, who has the power to deter us?

May Ramadan prove to be a source of peace, blessings and a means of spiritual growth for us all, Insha’llah.

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.*

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 Zafar, National Amīr, Jama’at Ahmadiyya, USA. The publication of this magazine was launched by the late *Hadrat Sahibzadah* M. M. Ahmad (1913-2002). The members of the committee are *Maulana* Zafrullah Hanjra, Ahmadi Muslim Muballigh at Houston, TX; *Maulana* Azhar Haneef, Ahmadi Muslim Muballigh in St. Louis, MO; 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 North Dakota acting as the secretary of the committee.

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

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Front Cover Design Courtesy of Sumera Choudhary

Fasting

Allah the Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an:

“O ye who believe! fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard against evil.

The prescribed fasting is for a fixed number of days, but whoso among you is sick or on a journey, shall fast the same number of other days; and for those who are able to fast only with great difficulty, is an expiation—the feeding of a poor man. And whoso does good of his own accord it is better for him. And fasting is good for you, if you only knew.

The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur'an was revealed as a guidance for mankind with clear proofs of guidance and discrimination. Therefore, whosoever of you is present at home in this month let him fast therein. But whoso is temporarily sick or on a journey, shall fast the same number of other days, Allah desires ease for you, and He desires not hardship for you, and He desires that you may complete the number, and that you may exalt Allah for His having guided you and that you may be grateful.” (2[Al-Baqarah]:184-186)

The Holy Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, says:

“Allah, the Lord of Honor and Glory says: All other deeds of man are for himself, but his fasting is purely for Me and I shall reward him for it. The fast is a shield. When any of you is fasting he should eschew loose talk and noisy exchanges. Should anyone revile him or seek to pick a quarrel with him, he should respond with: “I am observing a fast.” By Him in whose hands is the life of Muhammad, the breath of one who is fasting is purer in the sight of Allah than the fragrance of musk. One who fasts experiences two joys: he is joyful when he breaks his fast, and he is joyful by virtue of his fast when he meets his Lord.” (Bukhari and Muslim)



Significance of Fasting

Tooba Ahmed, Age 10, Philadelphia, PA

In the Holy Quran (Chapter 2, Verse 184) Allah says:

“O ye who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may become righteous.”

Did you ever think that when Allah told us to fast, it's not just for Him, it's for our own benefit too?

By fasting we feel how poor people may feel everyday of their lives. It helps our bodies clean themselves from all the bad things we have been eating. It also prevents people from eating too much which can destroy their good health.

While we fast we should sacrifice our time and give money to the poor and the Masjid.

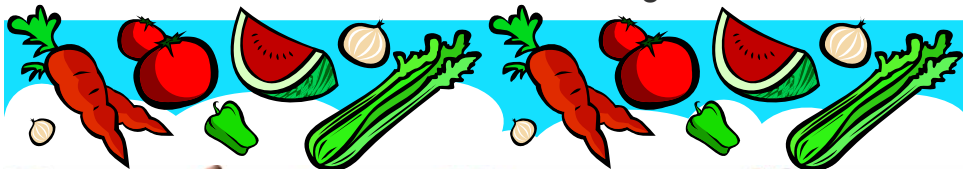
Fasting is good for both our physical and spiritual health. It promotes self-discipline and physical/moral strength. In order to get the blessings of a full fast you need to observe Salat. We do all of this for our love of Allah and to become more righteous. As you can see, Allah made this commandment for our benefit.

Many people cannot fast. If you are ill, traveling, nursing or pregnant mothers and young children cannot fast. The ill can't fast because they need their food and medicine to keep their bodies working or else they will become more ill. They should give money to feed a poor person. People that are traveling should not fast. They should make up their fast at a later date. Pregnant and nursing mothers should not fast because they won't be able to provide nutrition for their baby. Teenagers are encouraged to fast and to make a habit of



their upcoming responsibility. Teenagers when they are strong enough should fast regularly in the month of Ramadan. Children at an early age should not fast because it could affect their growth.

In closing, may Allah give us the strength to follow this pillar of Islam and may all children of the Islamic community become closer and closer to Allah as we grow older.



Layla's Ramadhan

By Zeenie Sharif, Age 10, Philadelphia Jama'at

5:30 am, Saturday, July 16

Layla Ahmad yawned as she got out of bed. She made her way to the bathroom to perform Wuḍū. Today was the first day of Ramadan, the holy month for all Muslims. They must fast from dawn to dusk for 29 or 30 days and cannot eat or drink from dawn until the time the sun goes down. Layla was twelve years old, and she had decided that this year she would fast for a full day. From the time Layla was nine years old she had fasted for half the day until lunchtime.



Layla finished her ablution by washing her right foot three times and then did the same with her left foot. She went back to her room where her family was waiting. Her father was calling Adhān, and her mother and her younger sister, aged 10, were sitting on the rug. Her youngest sister, who was only four, was still asleep in her bedroom.

The family offered their Prayers together, first two rak'ats on their own, and then their father lead the next two. As Layla went downstairs to eat breakfast, she wondered how her first day of trial

fasting would come along. What would happen if she got hungry or thirsty? What if she felt like she was going to faint? Layla had so many questions about fasting, she did not know anyone that would be able to answer them all. Layla's mother seemed to read her mind. She put an arm around her daughter and said, "I know that you're nervous about your first day of fasting. But think about the rest of the hungry children in the world. Some are even younger than Iman." Iman was Layla's four-year-old sister who



was asleep. "They do not get to eat at the end of the day like we will. They go for days without food. We are very lucky,



Layla, to have food at our convenience whenever we need it. You will be fine." Layla's mother kissed her on top of her head and said, "This is your chance to eat before the day comes, so eat to your fill."



There was an assortment of breakfast items to eat. There was fruit and muffins, cereal and toast, and waffles and pancakes. Layla ate some of everything until she felt like she would burst. Layla waddled upstairs to bed, feeling full but happy. She fell asleep the minute her head touched the pillow.



12:30 pm, Saturday, July 16

Layla's stomach ached with hunger as she painfully watched her younger sisters, Maryam and Iman, eat their lunch. Maryam had just broken her fast and Iman was not even fasting. They had large glasses of cold milk in front of them and Layla wished that she could have some right now. The sun was still high in the sky and it was a bright beautiful day. Just then, the doorbell rang. It was Layla's friend, Naila. Naila was Muslim, but she was not fasting. Her parents thought that she was too young. "Layla," she said, "do

you want to have lunch at my house?” Layla did not know what to say. She was starving, but she knew that it was wrong.



She gathered up her courage and said, “No, I’m fasting, but thank you for the offer.” Naila snorted. “Fasting! You must be joking. Fasting is way too hard. I never fast. My mother said that I have to fast when I’m eighteen.” “Oh,” replied Layla, a little

surprised. “Well, I’m fasting and I will not break my fast until tonight. Assalāmu ‘alaikum.” Layla closed the door and went back to the table. Iman looked up at her sister. “Layla, why do we fast?” “Well,” Layla replied, remembering what her mother had told her in the early morning. “Fasting teaches us self-control. You know, Iman, there are children far away who don’t have any food to eat at all.” “Are they big people?” “No,” answered Layla, “they are little like you. They fast every day. Allah wants us to understand what it is like.” “Oh,” Iman answered and then was silent for a long time. “I don’t have to fast.” “That is because you are still growing and need



food. I am almost finished growing, so I can fast for longer,” Layla replied. For the rest of lunchtime, Iman and Maryam contemplated over what their sister had told them. Maryam said, “You know Layla, I will fast for a whole day next year.”



7:30 pm, Saturday, July 16

The family covered their faces with their hands before eating, and began with a du‘ā. “Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim. *We begin* in the name of Allah, the gracious the merciful,” Layla’s father said. Layla could not wait to eat. Her mother brought out glasses of cold water and dates as they broke their fast. For Iftār, Layla’s mother made lamb, spicy chicken, and rice. For dessert, there

would be Kheer. Kheer is a milky pudding with raisins and nuts. Layla took three helpings of dinner. Layla's mother noticed and laughed. "Save room for Kheer too, Layla." Layla loved Kheer. She filled her plate until she was full to the top. "It is time for 'Ishā Namāz. Perform Wuḍū everyone," ordered Layla's parents. Layla repeated what she had done that morning and tied a brightly colored pink, orange, and red scarf on her head. Her father led the Prayer again, a special Prayer during this holy month. Soon Layla was exhausted and as she climbed into bed, she said a prayer. "Thank you, Allah," she whispered. "Thank you for a wonderful Ramadan day." She closed her heavy eyelids and fell into a deep sleep.



Ramadhan

Asifa Bhatti, Age 12, York/Harrisburg

Waking up before dawn,
Feeling like you want to yawn.
You may be tired but that's okay,
This is for Allah, remember that each day.
Eat a healthy breakfast before you fast,
You won't get that hungry, the food will last.
If you forget to not eat during a fast,
Allah will forgive you and the fast will pass.
Always be truthful, especially during Ramadan,
Always loving, everyone.
If you wonder what the reward is for fasting.
It is Allah's love, everlasting.
But just because Ramadan is over that year,
That doesn't mean you forget about Allah, the
Most Dear.

Fasting in Ramadhan

Afia-Baria Qureshi, Age 11, York./Harrisburg Jama'at

Yā ayyuhalladhīna āmanu kutiba ‘alaikumūṣṣiyāmu kamā kutiba ‘alalladhīna min qablikum la‘allakum tattaqūn. (2:184)

“O ye who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may become righteous.”

In this verse Allah is telling us that it is important that we fast. The month of fasting is called Ramadan. All Muslim adults, who are healthy, have to fast. You cannot eat or drink anything when fasting. You have to start your fast at dawn and end the fast at sunset.

Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him said, when Ramadan arrives, the gates of paradise are opened and the gates of Hell are locked up and satans are put in chains. (Bukhari and Muslim)

Fasting helps us become closer to Allah and helps up to get away from bad things. Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him said: He who observes the fast during the month of Ramadan out of sincerity of faith and in hope of earning merit will have his past sins forgiven him. (Bukhari and Muslim)

This means if you fast with good intentions and for Allah’s sake, Allah will forgive you for the bad things you have done.

Fasting also reminds us to think about the poor who don’t have food or water and it helps us to be grateful to Allah for all we have. Fasting is also healthy for you.



Dinner at the Karims

Are you truly grateful for being given food and family? When you fast you are reminded what it's like to be without food. As children we don't fast the entire month but we can still show we are grateful by behaving kindly and respectfully, especially at meal times.

Characters: Mother, Father, daughter Naila and son Numan

Scene: *Mother has prepared dinner for the children and has called everyone to come.*

Mother: Dinner is ready!

Naila: I'm on the phone! Give me five minutes.

Mother: You said that ten minutes ago, come to dinner now.

Numan, turn off the T.V. and come to dinner!

Reluctantly both children come to the table.

Numan: What are we having?

Mother: We're having leftovers from dinner last night.

Both children groan loudly.

Naila: I don't want food from last night. I don't like lamb, can't we have chicken?

Numan: Ewww, who wants chicken? Why can't we order pizza?

Mother: I'm sorry, but there is too much food leftover to waste.

Naila: Well can I have some different rice? I hate when they have those big black things in it. I always bite them by mistake and it makes my tongue burn.

Numan: I need more bread, it's too spicy.

Mother: Well I'm running short on bread. I didn't get a chance to go to the store today.



Numan: Why not?

Mother: I was busy, just like everyday.

Naila: Do we have any dessert?

Numan: I can't eat dinner without dessert.

Naila: Me neither!

Mother: Well if you eat everything on your plate,
you can have dessert.



Naila: What kind of dessert do we have?

Mother: Cake, I think. Now let's stop all these
questions and eat.

Numan: I want ice cream. We can't eat cake without ice cream.

Mother: Please eat. I can go and get some ice cream after dinner.

Naila: Are those peas? I can't eat peas. Why did you make them
again? You know I hate peas!

Mother: Naila, you need to eat a vegetable once in a while.

Naila: I hate vegetables. I am not eating that! (*pushing her plate
away*)

Mother: Please eat just a few peas.

Naila (*puts her head on the table*): My stomach hurts.

Numan: Mom, I'm thirsty, can I have some soda?

Mother: Will you finish your dinner?

Numan: Yes! What kind of soda do we have?

Mother: The same kind from yesterday. I didn't go to the
store.



*Numan frowns and begins playing with his food. Naila holds her
stomach and groans softly.*

Mother: Well what kind would you like?

Naila (mumbles): I want Coke.

Numan: I want Sprite, but I don't want ice in mine. It always melts
and makes the soda taste watery.

Mother sighs loudly and gets up to get the soda. ☹️ ☹️ ☹️ ☹️
Father enters.

Father: Assalamu 'Alaikum! I'm home.

Everyone: Wa 'Alaikumus-Salam!

Both children run and hug their father.



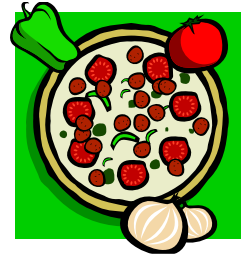
Mother: How was your day?

Father: Fine, fine. Why the long faces kids?

Children: We are having leftovers again!

Father: Again! Not tonight. Let's order pizza!

Children (jumping up and down): Yeah!!!!



Conclusion: The Facts about the Karims

This skit is probably all too familiar for just about everyone reading it. The Holy Quran Chapter 7, Verse 32 states:

O Children of Adam! adorn yourselves at every *time and* place of worship *with garment of fear of Allah*, and eat and drink, but exceed not the bounds; surely, He [Allah] does not love those who exceed the bounds.

Also, the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, has said,
“In all things, Moderation is Best.”

We know from the Holy Prophet's example that he was always very simple when it came to food and never complained or demanded rudely. When we are told to be moderate that means we accept what is given and are not overbearing and difficult.

The following Hadith is a great example of the Holy Prophet's good manners when food was served.

Jabir relates that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) asked for sauce and was told there was nothing but vinegar. He called for it and began to eat his food with it, exclaiming, “What excellent sauce is vinegar; what excellent sauce is vinegar. (Muslim)

So instead of making the cook feel uncomfortable that they didn't have more to offer, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) complimented them by referring to the vinegar as not only a sauce but an excellent one at that.

Finally, the characters in the skit had a problem with communication. The mother could have been more assertive with the children, telling them to try be grateful for the food they were given. And the father should have consulted with the mother about the dinner plans and been satisfied with the leftovers.



My Parents' Home

Aisha Maryam Ahmad, Fargo ND

Spices, halva, into the family room.
The men's section, poorly lit with laughter
dining room and living.

We parade across shalwarred shins
mothers smelling of sheik/chic perfume.
Heads too close together,
We follow the leader into the kitchen.

This is a trail of other children behind me.
Boys in white dress shirts and blue or black
slacks.

Some have ties. Girls Sunday dresses or
shalwar kamiz.
Plastic cups and baby bottles filled with cola.

It's Indian cooking
Briyani that nibbles back
Don't bite on a clove.

It'll send incense to your nose.

Etiquettes of Eating

Daanyal Qureshi, Age 8, York/Harrisburg

Allah has given us everything therefore we must remember him at all times. This is why we should always say **Bismillahi wa ‘Ala Barakatillahi** before we begin eating. This means, **I begin in the Name of Allah with the Blessings of Allah.** By saying this we are remembering Allah and we are asking him to bless our meal. But don't forget that we have to wash our hands before eating.

The Holy Prophet sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam said,

“Kul biyameenika wa mimma Yaleeka,”

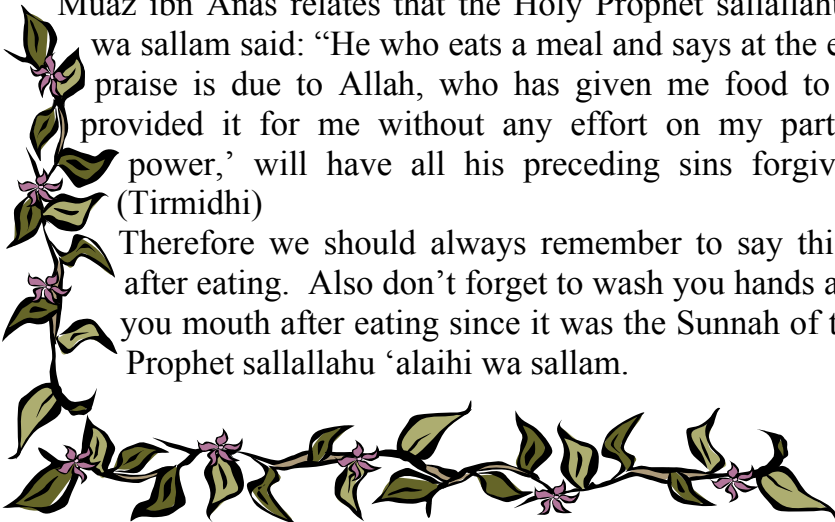
which means, “Eat with your right hand and eat what is in front of you.”

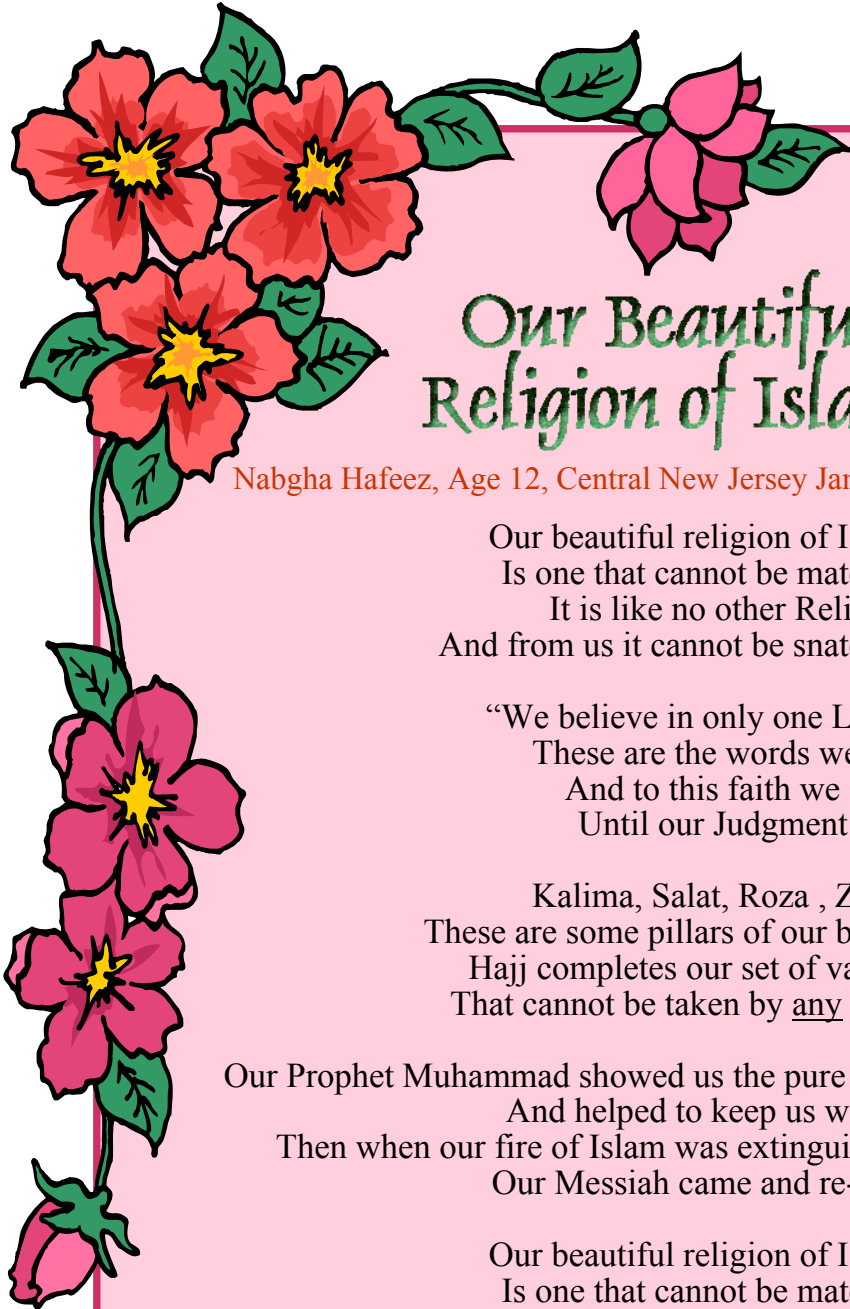
By this Hadith we learn that we must always use our right hand for eating. We should not play or talk while eating. Even Huzur has mentioned that children should not be picky or complain and should eat whatever is given to them.

Also it is very important that we say “Alhamdu Lillahilladhi At‘amana Wa saqana Wa ja‘lana Minal-Muslimeen,” when we are finished eating. This means, “All praise belongs to Allah who has given me food to eat and to drink and who made me a Muslim.”

Muaz ibn Anas relates that the Holy Prophet sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam said: “He who eats a meal and says at the end, ‘All praise is due to Allah, who has given me food to eat and provided it for me without any effort on my part or any power,’ will have all his preceding sins forgiven him. (Tirmidhi)

Therefore we should always remember to say this prayer after eating. Also don't forget to wash you hands and rinse you mouth after eating since it was the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam.





Our Beautiful Religion of Islam

Nabgha Hafeez, Age 12, Central New Jersey Jama'at

Our beautiful religion of Islam
Is one that cannot be matched
It is like no other Religion
And from us it cannot be snatched

“We believe in only one Lord”
These are the words we say
And to this faith we stick
Until our Judgment Day

Kalima, Salat, Roza , Zakat
These are some pillars of our belief
Hajj completes our set of values
That cannot be taken by any thief

Our Prophet Muhammad showed us the pure path
And helped to keep us with it
Then when our fire of Islam was extinguished
Our Messiah came and re-lit it

Our beautiful religion of Islam
Is one that cannot be matched
It is like no other religion
And from us it cannot be snatched

Roza: Fast

Aysha's Eid-ul-Fitr

Munazza Bhatti, Age 12, York/Harrisburg

One morning at 4:00 a.m. Aysha woke up like she always did. Same routine over and over again, wake up, offer Fajr salat, eat breakfast, and get ready. But today was different. Aysha could feel this was not an ordinary day. After offering Tahajjud salat Aysha realized it was the last day of Ramadan, tomorrow would be Eid-ul-Fitr. Aysha was going to keep a full fast today. She couldn't wait till tomorrow. That night Aysha went to bed very excited. She had wonderful dreams about all the gifts she would get on Eid.

When Aysha awoke the next day, she got up, and started getting ready. She put on her best clothes for Eid and she and her family went to the masjid. In the car, Aysha told her parents the dream she had about Eid and all the wonderful gifts she would get. After hearing Aysha's dream, her mother said, "Aysha, Eid-ul-Fitr is not all about the gifts." "It isn't?" asked Aysha confused. "No it isn't," replied her father, "It's more about giving than receiving and spending time with your family. You should be grateful you do get gifts from your cousins, some don't even get that much," continued her father. Hearing this Aysha felt a little embarrassed.

When they arrived at the masjid, Aysha went to go find her cousins. When she did she was about to ask them what they got her for Eid, but remembered what her father said about some people not receiving any gifts at all on Eid-ul-Fitr. Soon it was time for the Eid Prayers. After salat there was the Eid sermon, which Aysha found very interesting. It was about the first Eid-ul-Fitr. The speaker reminded everybody that when they fast they learn how the misfortunate feel when they have nothing to eat or drink. After the sermon everybody greeted each other with Eid Mubarak and soon went home to spend Eid with their families. Aysha was going to her grandparents' house along with her cousins. There they ate dinner and exchanged gifts. Aysha didn't get what she expected but was grateful just to receive gifts and spend time with her family.



LOVE RAMADAN

Labeeqa Mir, Age 9, Jama'at: Willingboro, NJ

Ever since I was a little girl, the month of Ramadan has been very special to me.

Not because it was the month before Eid (which I LOVE), but because during Ramadan there is a different routine. Everyone wakes up early in the morning when it is still dark. They offer tahajjud Prayers and recite the Holy Quran. Then it is time to eat "sehri." Although, I was not fasting I would get up and join salat and eat "sehri." I really wanted to fast but my parents told me that I was too young.

They said I could join the spirit of Ramadan by offering prayers regularly, reciting the Holy Quran, being obedient to my elders, nice to other people, and always telling the truth. On the weekends, we went to the mosque for "Iftāri," Maghrib, Isha, and Taraveeh Prayers. I liked going to the mosque because I met my friends there.


Then last year I fasted for the first time. It wasn't so bad staying hungry. But it made me think

about people who don't have food to eat and now I try not to waste my food. This year I plan to fast more than last year.

May Allah help me become a better Muslim. Ameen.

Eid Day

Naila Syed, Age 11, Willingboro, NJ



When I think about Eid...
It makes me feel so happy.
Eid is the time people spread their joy
And share their love.
Our hearts are filled with the meaningful words
of the Eid Sermon,
Those words are a powerful message to lead
us on the right path.
After the sermon we have the chance to greet
old friends
And make new ones.
There is no discrimination,
Only love and friendship are present in the
mosque.
So when I think about Eid,
It's when a group of loving people come
together.

**The Holy Prophet, Muhammad,
salallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said:**

Start the fast with observing the new moon and terminate it with observing it. If you are unable to observe the new moon at the end of Ramadan, observe the fast for the thirtieth day. (Muslim)

Importance of Eid

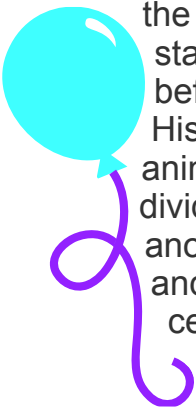
Alam-Noor Tariq, Pittsburgh, PA

Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adḥa are Muslim holidays that celebrate sacrifice, giving and patience. Most of us don't give much attention to why we are celebrating these two holidays. Many children may not even know the names of the two holidays. They call these two celebrations "little Eid and big Eid" or just "Eid". So if you keep on reading you will learn why and what Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha are all about.



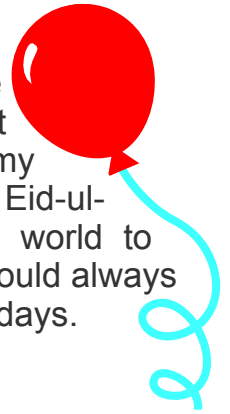
Let's start with Eid-ul-Fitr. This holiday is a celebration that rewards and encourages fasting for 29-30 days. A celebration like this is a great get-together for Muslims to worship and thank Allah for all his blessings.

Eid-ul-Adha is an important holiday too. Here is the story behind the Muslim celebration of Eid-ul-Adha. Prophet Abraham ('alaihissalam) saw a dream in which he was slaying his son Prophet Ismaeel ('alaihissalam). For this reason Prophet Abraham ('alaihissalam) thought that Allah wanted him to sacrifice his son. Prophet Ismaeel ('alaihissalam) agreed that whatever his father had to do for the sake of Allah, he should. The Prophet of Allah started to prepare the sacrifice of his dear son, but before he could, Allah accepted his sacrifice and told His Prophet Abraham ('alaihissalam) to sacrifice an animal instead. The meat of the sacrificed animal is divided into three parts. One part you give to the poor, another part you share with your friends and family, and the last one you keep for yourself. Eid-ul-Adha is a celebration of sacrifice, sharing, and giving. This holiday teaches us to follow the paths of all our



prophets by sacrificing what you can.

Hence, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha are important Muslim holidays that celebrate the spirit of Islam: sacrifice, giving and patience. In my opinion these two holidays are very rewarding. Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha help Muslims around the world to become better people. As Ahmadi children we should always give due importance to both of these blessed holidays.



Ramadhan

Naila Saqib, Age 9 Willingboro Jamaat

Each year we celebrate Ramadan so that we can be reminded about human suffering when our own stomachs are empty. We celebrate Ramadan for one lunar month which is twenty-nine or thirty days. A lunar month starts with a new moon and ends at the next new moon. During this month we observe the fast which means we do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset. We refrain from all bad habits and try to practice good things. During this month, we should pray earnestly and ask for forgiveness. People should try to go to the mosque to break their fast and pray with other jama'at members. This helps to bring everybody closer and makes it enjoyable for everybody. This is how we celebrate the month of Ramadan!

Al-Khaaliq The Creator

Manahil Malik, Virginia North

“He is Allah, the Creator, the Maker and the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifies Him, and He is the Mighty, the Wise. (Holy Qur’an, 59:25) Our Lord has many more names than just Allah. He has over 100 beautiful names. My article today is about Al-Khāliq, the Creator.

According to the Holy Quran, the main objective of our creation is to worship Allah, our creator. Allah has given us everything in our lives, and we should be thankful towards him. He has created the whole Universe, and created everything in our lives. That is why we call him Al-Khaliq, the Creator. This attribute of Allah falls under the second category of the three categories of Allah’s Attributes—Attributes concerning the creation of the universe. These attributes are related to the creation of the universe and indicate the relationship between Allah and His creatures and His attitude towards them. Al-Khaliq falls under this category.

This is only one of the many Names of Allah. We should remember Allah everyday, and remember he has created everything for us; He is Al-Khaliq, the Creator.

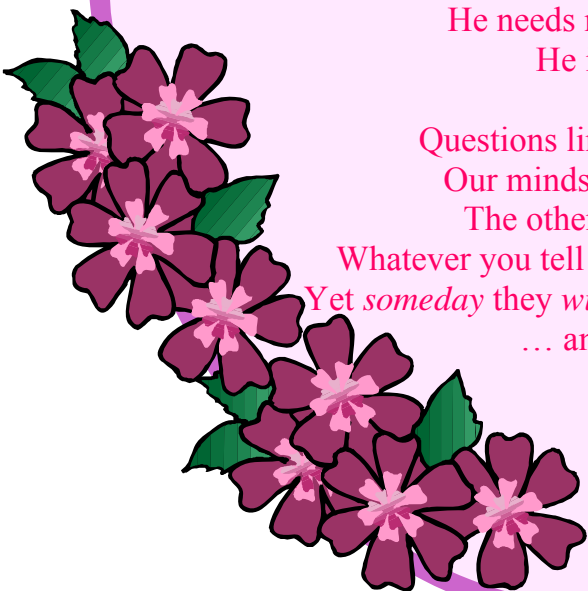
Allah, the Creator

Shumaila Ahmad, Virginia North

Nothing comes into this world by itself.
There is a beginning to everything.
But who is the beginning, or what is?
Our answer is the same, isn't it?
My creator, your creator, everyone's creator...
... is Allah.

The heavens, the earth... everything,
He created.
Yet nor does he have any needs, nor any partner,
for he is Allah.
He needs no support, no help.
He is our master.

Questions linger in others' minds.
Our minds are clear as crystal.
The others are disbelievers.
Whatever you tell them, they will not believe.
Yet *someday* they *will* realize who the creator is...
... and He is Allah.



Attributes of Allah The Creator

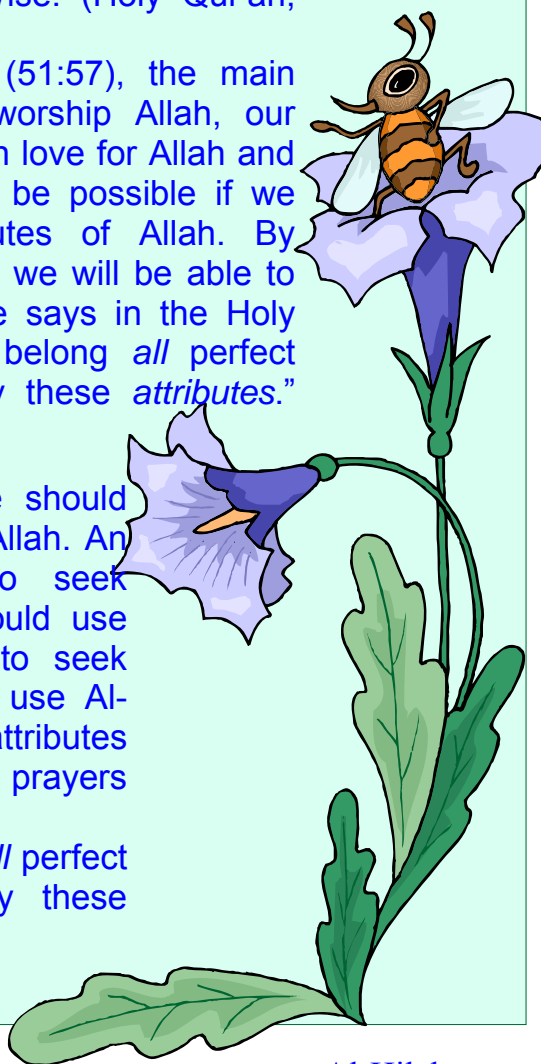
Samia Arain, Virginia North

“He is Allah, the Creator, the Maker, and the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifies Him, and He is the Mighty, the Wise. (Holy Qur’an, 59:25)

According to the Qur’an, (51:57), the main reason we are living is to worship Allah, our Creator. Islam says to establish love for Allah and his creatures, and it wouldn’t be possible if we didn’t understand the attributes of Allah. By knowing the attributes of Allah we will be able to gain spiritual love for him. He says in the Holy Quran: “And to Allah *alone* belong *all* perfect attributes. So call on Him by these *attributes*.” (Holy Qur’an, 7:181)

While we pray to Allah we should invoke the suitable attribute of Allah. An example is, if you want to seek forgiveness from Him, you should use the attribute, Al-Ghaffār, and to seek protection from Him we would use Al-Muhaimin. If we use the attributes correctly, Allah will accept our prayers abundantly.

“And to Allah *alone* belong *all* perfect attributes. So call on him by these *attributes*.” (Holy Qur’an, 7:181)



A Hundred Years Ago

Iran has a unique place in the history of the world. Mention of Chosros or Kisra brings to mind the Persian empire and the present day Iran. The Promised Messiah, ‘alaihissalam, received a revelation on January 5, 1906 in Persian language,

تزلزل در ایوان کسری فتاد

ta·zal·zal dar ai·wān-i-kis·rā fu·tād,

meaning, the palace of Chosros has been shaken.

Fath Ali Shah, who ascended to the Persian throne in 1797, established the Qajar dynasty. By 1906 it was a more than a hundred year old kingdom. At the time of the revelation, Shah Muzaffaruddin Qajar had been in power since June 1896.

The Shah was forced to accept a constitutional reform initiated in 1905 allowing for a parliament, Majlis. Majlis started functioning in 1906. The Shah died in 1907. His son, Mirza Muhammad Ali, ascended to power on January 21.

A bomb was thrown on the coach of the new Shah in February 1908. The Shah had the parliament besieged and bombed on June 24, 1908. The members of the parliament were killed or captured. The captured leaders were hanged or exiled.

The Shah saw significant opposition from traders and other sections of the society. He was forced to take refuge at the Russian embassy in 1909 leading to his exile in Russia. His teenage son was put on the throne.

Troubles continued and an army officer, Reza Khan, established a military dictatorship in 1921. Reza Khan was elected to lead the country as Shah in 1925, ending the rule of Qajar family and establishing the Pahlavi dynasty, which was overthrown in 1979.

So as you can easily see the truth of this prophecy revealed to the Promised Messiah. Iran was severely shaken despite the fact that it's empire seemed stable, strong and firmly established at the time of the revelation.

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 Amīr, Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

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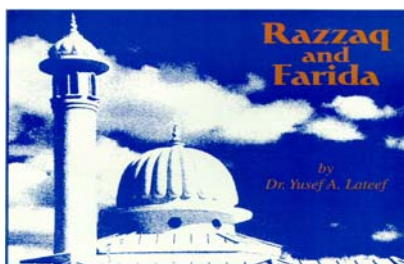
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Razzaq and Farida

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.



Glossary

aftār افطار : breaking the Islamic formal fast at sunset

aftāri افطاری : eating to break Islamic formal fast.

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.

‘alaihiṣṣalām عليه السلام : peace be on him

al-ḥamdu lillāh: All praise belongs to Allah.

Āmīn [Āmeen] آمين : So be it. Amen.

biryānī بریانی : Spiced rice dish including meat and/or vegetables.

Fajr فجر : The dawn-to-sunrise Islamic formal worship.

‘Īd عید : Muslim religious celebration, festival. Eid.

‘Īd mubarak عيد مبارك : Felicitation of ‘Īd.

Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

inshā'allāh, ان شاء الله : God willing.

‘Ishā: Late night formal Islamic worship.

Ḥaj حج : Formal pilgrimage to Mecca during appointed time of the year.

lailatulqadr ليلة القدر : night of destiny. A special night during the month of Ramadan falling on its odd dates of its last ten days.

maghrib مغرب : West. Sunset. Islamic formal worship after sunset.

Namāz نماز : ṣalāt

qamīḍ, kamīz, kameez قمیض : upper garment.

raka‘āt: Plural of rak‘a(h)

rak‘a(h): A section of the prescribed Prayer. Plural: raka‘āt

Ramadān, Ramadhān, Ramazān, Ramzān رمضان : Islamic lunar month reserved for prescribed fasting.

roza روزه : fast

ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wa sallam صلى الله عليه وسلم : peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

sahar سحر : early dawn, time before daybreak

sahur سحور : last (light) meal before daybreak during Ramadan

shalwār شلوار : lower garment with separate covers for each leg.

tahajjud تهجد : Predawn Islamic worship offered after sleeping during the night.

taraviḥ تراویح : An alternative to tahajjud offered after ‘Isha in congregation during Ramadan.

Zakāt زکوة : Prescribed alms.

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Al-Hilal
(Published by The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, U.S.A.)
15000 Good Hope Rd, Siver Spring MD 20905
Postmaster: Send address changes to
P.O. Box 226, Chauncey, OH 45719

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