

Al-Hilal



A MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN

2007-2

US \$2

MESSAGE FROM EDITORIAL STAFF

Assalamu Alaikum, Al-Hilal Readers:

For this issue we asked youth around the country to share some of the amazing and miraculous events associated with our Promised Reformer, Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad ('alaihisslam)—be it the events associated with his arrival or important world developments he foretold through his direct and constant communication with Allah. There is no end to miracles in our lives. Everyday within our jama'at, within our families and within ourselves we experience fantastic things that are directly the blessings of Allah. Sometimes we chalk it up to luck, our own genius, or worse, something to which we are entitled. The key is to view every single thing as a blessing. The glass of milk we didn't spill. The smooth and flowing traffic on the typically congested highway. The test we did or didn't study for but still did well. If you always view the world in a positive light that reflects Allah's goodness, you cannot be disappointed and you cannot be conquered. Try it. And let us know how it works

Wassalam,
Al-Hilal Editorial Staff

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; Faheem Younus Qureshi, 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

Allah

By: Alyssa Jehan Asad / Age 5 / Silver Spring, MD

He made the earth, moon, and sun
He made me and He made you
He made all the animals in the zoo
Allah sent down the Holy Qur'an
That says to take care of the orphan
Allah tells us to say Salah
Fajr, Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha
Allah sees us and we can't see Him
Allah hears us and we can hear Him
So let's join together
And be good Muslims



By: Mishal Akbar / Age 14 / Virginia North

Allah's various powers are described by His names. That is why we see that the entire creation manifests Allah's names. Allah, therefore, tells us to remember him by reflecting upon his names and attributes. One of his many names includes Al-Waliyy, or the Best Friend.

Allah is a different and extraordinary kind of friend when compared to any human friend. Allah is the only friend who is perfect. Allah is the one who will have mercy on you, help you, protect you, appreciate you, and love you. Allah will last forever even in life after death. That is why he is known as the only *true* best friend forever.

Allah is the protecting friend of his good servants. He eliminates their difficulties and gives them guidance and



strength. Allah takes them out of darkness and into the light and enlightens their hearts. The hearts that come to know Allah, acknowledge his unity and oneness and are favored by his friendship.

For these servants of Allah, divine light shines through their faces. There is neither fear nor sadness for them, for they do not know any other friend but Allah. They fear nothing except opposing Allah's pleasure. The servants of Allah neither expect nor need anything from anyone except from Allah.

There are many miraculous incidents in which we can see Allah's love for his servants. For example, when Hadrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) was thrown into fire by opposing idol worshippers, he only recited:

Hasbunallahu wa ni'mal-vakīl [3:174]

Translation: Allah is enough for me.

With Allah's help, the fire cooled down. From this, we can see how Allah helped Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) in a way that none of his own friends could have. In fact, Hadrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) is known as *Khalilullah*: the friend of God. We should all be good friends with Allah for countless reasons, as told to us in the Holy Qur'an:

"O Prophet, say (to the believers) if you love Allah, then follow me". (3:31)

May Allah open our hearts to Him, so one day, we will all understand the friendship of Allah. *Āmīn*.



By: Ameerah Ahmad / Age 10 / Virginia North

You might have a lot of friends in this world, but there is One True Friend, your most precious Friend and that is Allah. *Ar-Rafīq* is an attribute of Allah and it means the best friend. In the Holy Qur'an (Chapter 4 verse 46) Allah says: And Allah knows your enemies well. And sufficient is Allah as a friend, and sufficient is Allah as a Helper.

You can always depend on Allah, but you are not

always sure if you can trust your friends. You can ask Allah for things, and He can provide them for you. Most of the time, Allah gives us things without us asking for them. He does not want anything in return except that we worship Him, thank Him and remember Him. But that is not the case with our friends. Allah is with you all the time, through good times and bad times, everywhere and anywhere. Your friends can turn their back on you, but Allah never does that. There is a hadith that says that if you take one step closer to Allah, Allah will take two steps towards you, if you stroll towards Him, He will run towards you.

It is therefore very important not to take this friendship for granted, and turn to Him for help not only when we need Him, but remember Him all the time, through bad times as well as good times, remembering Him everywhere and anywhere.

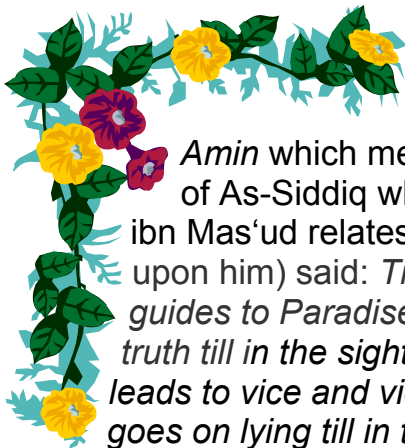
Role Model

“Verily, you have in Prophet of Allah an excellent model, for him who hopes to meet Allah and the Last Day and who remembers Allah much.”

Holy Qur’an Chapter 33 verse 22

Allah tells us that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), is the best role model for all of us. The Holy Prophet’s whole life is the greatest example for us to follow.

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), was orphaned as a young child, even then he was very calm and honorable. He did not get into fights with his friends or waste his time. As a youth he had the best morals and was very serious. Hadrat Abdullah ibn Amr ibn ‘As relates that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), did not indulge in loose talk, nor did he listen to it. He used to say: The best of you are those who have the best character (Bukhari and



Muslim). When the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) became a young man he won the title of *Al-Amin* which means The Trustworthy, and the title of *As-Siddiq* which means The Truthful. Abdullah ibn Mas'ud relates that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said: *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. 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 (Bukahri and Muslim).*

When the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) did business, he proved to be the most honest and ethical. Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said: *A hypocrite has three characteristics: when he talks he lies, when he makes a promise he acts contrary to it, and when something is entrusted to him he embezzles it (Bukhari and Muslim).*

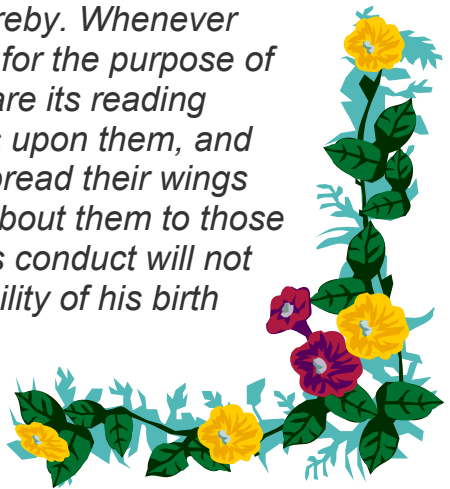
As a husband the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was the most loving, faithful and caring. He would do his household work with his own hands. As a father the Holy Prophet (peace upon him) was the most kind, caring and tender. As a friend the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was the most loyal, and cared for their needs. He never lost faith in times of hardships and never let victory make him forget Allah. He loved simplicity. He slept on a leather mat and usually ate only dates, water or barley-bread. He would spend his nights in the worship of Allah so much so that his feet would get swollen. Hadrat Ā'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) relates: *The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) stood so long during his voluntary prayer at night that the skin of his feet would crack; so I said to him: Messenger of Allah, why do you stand so long in prayer when Allah has suppressed in you in the past and for the future all inclination towards sin? He answered: then should I not wish to be a*

grateful servant of Allah? (Bukhari and Muslim)

Here he has taught us that we must worship Allah to be grateful to Him for all that he has given us and to become the righteous servants of Allah. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), taught us how to spend our time wisely. Abu Dharr relates that the Holy Prophet said: *When you get up in the morning charity is due from every one of your limbs. All glorification of Allah is charity, all praise of Allah is charity, enjoining good is charity, forbidding evil is charity. Two raka'at of prayer in the forenoon equals all this. (Muslim)*

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) taught us how to treat each other and to take care of each others' needs. Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet said: *He who removes from a believer his distress in this world will have his distress of the Day of Judgment removed by Allah. He who eases the hardship of another, will have ease bestowed upon him by Allah in this world and the next. He who covers up the faults of a Muslim will have his faults covered up in this world and the next. Allah goes on helping a servant so long as he goes on helping his brother. He who treads a path in search of knowledge, has his path to Paradise made easy by Allah thereby. Whenever people gather in a house of Allah for the purpose of reading the Book of Allah and share its reading between them, serenity descends upon them, and mercy covers them and angels spread their wings over them and Allah discourses about them to those around Him. He who is slow in his conduct will not make it proceed faster by the nobility of his birth (Muslim).*

May Allah help all of us to learn and act upon the examples the Holy Prophet has shown us and May Allah guide all of us on the right path. Āmīn.



By: Daanyal Qureshi/Age 10/York Harrisburg , PA

What Religion Means to Me



By: Shumaila Ahmad/Age / 14 / Virginia North

When I was younger, I was never keen to discuss my religion, or any other religion for that matter, with my school friends. My friends from Nasirat class, however, would often discuss religion and other things relating to it. As I grew older, I began to think that perhaps I should try to at least have a small conversation with my friends about religion. So one day at school, gathering up some courage, I asked one of my close friends from school what her religion was. She replied that she was a Muslim. Sensing that our conversation was going well, I became excited and began telling her about everything related to Islam—the five daily prayers, fasting, even about my Sunday Classes. It was when I stopped to take a breath, that I saw the look on her face. It was that of overwhelmed confusion. When I asked her what was wrong, she said somewhat hurriedly that I knew a lot about Islam. I laughed and told her that this was just the beginning. She shook her head and said, "Well I don't know that much about being a Muslim; all my mom has told me is that I have to fast in Ramadan and go to the mosque on special days."

After our conversation had ended I went home and genuinely thought about what she said. I kept

wondering why she didn't care that much about Islam, at least as much as I did. As I grew older, I began asking my other friends about their religions. Most of the answers I received were similar to the response I had gotten from my Muslim friend. I finally came to the conclusion that most of my friends basically did not seem to care about their religion. It seemed to be something that their parents had told them they had to do.

The definition of the word *religion* from Webster's New World Dictionary and Thesaurus is:

Religion: 1. belief in and worship of God(s) 2. a specific system of belief, worship, etc., often involving a code of ethics.

For us however, religion is the most important element of our lives. For us, it is not just a dictionary definition, it is our life. Without religion we would be nothing. Islam teaches us everything we need to know to live our lives; from waking up to offering the five daily prayers to how we should dress to what we can eat. Islam has a set of rules that we go back to everyday. Most importantly, Islam guides us towards the right path; the path leading towards Allah and paradise. Islam is so important in our lives that even our behavior is modeled on it. Our religion makes us strong inside, and helps us succeed. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an, chapter 5, verse 36:

Believers, seek refuge in Allah, solicit his favor, and struggle for his cause, so that you may attain your goal.

This verse explains to us, that without Allah's help and our religion we would not be able to succeed like we are now. Islam unites us Ahmadi Muslims together in a community. It defines our behavior and helps us separate right from wrong. To conclude, I have to say that my religion is everything that I know, I want to know, and what I need to know.

By: Anum Malik / Age 13 / Virginia North

Many kids my age don't even think about what religion really is. To them, religion is just something you are born into, and what your parents make you follow. I believe religion is much more than just that. People without a religion are like plants without sunlight, or lamps without posts. They have nothing to guide or support them.

Religion is guidance for us. It helps us distinguish between right and wrong, and what we should, and should not do. Following the guidance of religion we become better people. It also brings commandments from Allah, such as offering five daily prayers. It provides a way for us to interact with Allah. Since religion makes better people and better people make better communities, so religion is important not only for the individual but also for a healthy community.

Allah through his prophets tells us what to believe in and how to live a proper life. Allah tests his favorite religious people from time to time, spiritually, morally, and physically. An example is that back in the Holy Prophet's (peace be upon him) days, Muslims were tortured and beaten up. They could have easily said that they did not believe in Islam, but instead chose brutal beatings, sometimes even death. Religion gives us strength and shows us the right path. It also makes our life more structured by showing us how to spend our time wisely. We have to do our five daily prayers, read the Holy Qur'an, and pray to Allah whenever we can. Religion also protects us. For example it stops us from drifting in all different directions and helps us make good decisions. We also learn to respect nature and all of Allah's creatures. .

In conclusion, religion means so much to me. It is more than something you are born into, but something that guides you to grow up to be a complete person, which helps you to follow the right path. We are very fortunate to have found the religion of Islam, which brings us so many blessings, and teaches us the way of life.



Miracles of The Promised Messiah



The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) performed multiple miracles. Most of the miracles were prophecies that came true.

One of the miracles had to do with the prophecy regarding the death of Pandit Lekhram. This stated that his death was going to happen because of his comments against the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It said that he would die on the day after

Eid-ul-Adha within six years as of February 20th, 1893. On March 6th, 1897, he was killed by an unknown assassin.

The next miracle I want to mention is when Amatullah Bibi was cured of a disease called the inflammation of the eyes. She came to the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) telling him that her eyesight was very weak and soon she would go blind. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) used his saliva and put it on her eyes and prayed for her. After this incident, Amatullah Bibi's eyesight became good and she lived a very long life.

Another miracle is the prophecy of the Plague on February 6th, 1898. He stated that through a vision, he saw the plague was going to spread to the Punjab. At this time, the plague was not even close to the Punjab, so nobody believed him. But in the next winter plague spread to two cities of the Punjab.

In 1877, a man named Ralia Ram sued the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) because he had placed a letter inside a parcel, which was against the law. The lawyers of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) had told him to lie and say that he did not put the letter inside of the parcel. However, he put his trust in Allah and told the truth and was

acquitted of the charge by the blessing of Allah.

The last miracle that I am going to talk about is when the Promised Messiah made the prophecy of the First World War. He wrote a poem in Volume 5 of Barahīn-i-Ahmadiyya which gives a description of a “promised earthquake.” Part of this poem states that *“Even the mighty Czar would find himself in miserable condition, when that hour will approach.”* The prophecy did come true and also the King of Russia (Czar) did have a miserable fate.

Along with these few miracles, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) had many more miracles and prophecies that also came true.

By: Mubaahil Ahmed / Age 12 / Dallas, TX



Allah's Blessing

One day Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mehmud Ahmad (May Allah be pleased with him) and his brother Hadrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad were at the dinner table debating about which was better: wealth or education. They argued and argued. Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him) said that education was better while Hadrat Mirza Bashir was saying that wealth was better. Then, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) came and, hearing the debate, said to his children. Neither education is better nor is wealth, just Allah’s blessing.

This means that you will have an education because of Allah's blessing. And if you have Allah's blessing you will have wealth.



By: Babar Ahmed / Age 11 / Philadelphia, PA





Allah- The Best Friend

First of all, I want to tell you a little about best friends. Best friends are friends that are there for you at times when you need them the most, at ordinary as well as special or unusual occasions. They are the ones that understand you and help you through hard times or just when you do not understand something. But there is one thing in this friendship that you should always remember and that is that you also have to do your part in order to call it a true friendship.

Allah is the best friend, and He does all these things and more. When you are in trouble Allah is the one who helps you. If you lose a loved one, Allah is the one who gives you patience and strength to deal with the sorrow. When you pass an exam, you pray to Allah to help you. There are many more ways Allah fulfills your friendship with him. But, He asks for one thing and that is praying, reading the Qur'an and offering prayers five times a day. Allah does not need our prayers. We are the ones who need it. In this way He is better than any ordinary relationship.

I know that Allah is my best friend because when I was stuck in Hurricane Katrina, He helped my family and I in every possible way. First He saved us while the hurricane was over our heads and then the three days we were stuck in the flood after the hurricane. A few days later we went to Houston, Texas, and we heard Hurricane Rita was coming. With the grace of Allah, the hurricane changed its path. But I also honor this friendship with Allah by reading the Qur'an more than usual and performing Ṣalāt. It is almost a year since that hurricane, but Allah has helped us start a new life in a new place. The Qur'an also has many verses about Allah



as a friend; here are some of them.

[Chapter: 2](#) (Al-Baqarah) [Verse: 121](#)

And the Jews will never be pleased with thee, nor the Christians, unless thou followest their creed. Say 'Surely, Allah's guidance alone is the true guidance,' And if thou follow their evil desires after the knowledge has come to thee, thou shalt have from Allah, no friend nor helper.

[Chapter: 2](#) (Al-Baqarah) [Verse: 258](#)

Allah is the Friend of those who believe; He brings them out of all kinds of darkness into light. And those who disbelieve, their friends are the transgressors who bring them out of light into manifold darkness. These are the inmates of the Fire, therein shall they abide.

[Chapter: 3](#) (Āl 'Imran) [Verse: 69](#)

Surely, the nearest of men to Abraham are those who followed him and this prophet and those who believe in him, and Allah is the Friend of the believers.

[Chapter: 4](#) (Al-Nisa') [Verse: 76](#)

And why should you not fight in the cause of Allah and for the rescue of the weak men, women and children—who say, 'Our Lord, take us out of this town whose people are oppressors, and give us a friend from Thyself and give us from Thyself a helper.'

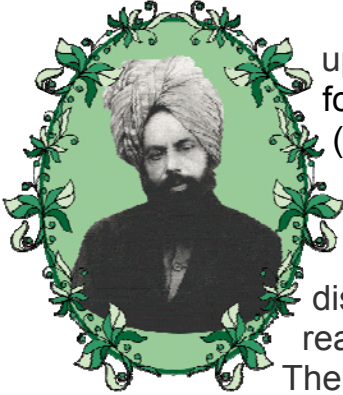
[Chapter: 4](#) (Al-Nisa') [Verse: 120](#)

'And assuredly I will lead them astray and assuredly I will arouse in them vain desires, and assuredly I will incite them and they will cut the ears of cattle; and assuredly I will incite them and they will alter Allah's creation.' And whoever takes Satan for a friend instead of Allah, he certainly suffers a manifest loss.

To review, my essay explains how you should be a friend in general and then it describes how to be a friend to Allah. It also tells a little bit about my life and the way Allah and I have kept our friendship.

Asma Ahmad / 13 / Virginia North

Miracles of the Promised Messiah



The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was sent by Allah to help the followers of Islam. He is the Hakam (Judge) and 'Adl (Just) of this time.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) once lost the feeling in the lower half of his body. After looking the disease up in a Greek Medicine book, he realized he had a symptom of a stroke.

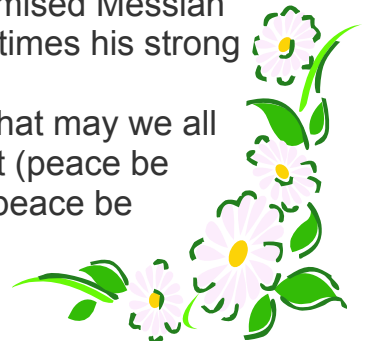
The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) said to Allah that the enemies of Islam would love to see him perish this way. Allah gave him a revelation in which he said that he would not disgrace his true believers. Later, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was overcome by sleep. After resting for eight long hours, he awoke to find that nothing was left of the illness he felt before.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) had told the people of an outbreak of plague in India revealed by Allah, and that his followers and the ones in his house would be safe. Later, when his young son, Hadrat Mirza Sharif Ahmad, fell ill with a high fever, alarmed that the people might think that his son had the plague, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) performed Salat. In Salat, he prayed for his son's health. By the grace of Allah, after Salat his son got well.

These are just a few of the miracles of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) has proven many times his strong connection with Allah.

In conclusion I would like to say that may we all follow the examples of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him).

Tahir Malik / Age 11 / Dallas TX



MIRACLES

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) made a descriptive prophecy of the First World War. The prophecy took about four years (1904-1908) to be published. His prophecy stated that a tremendous earthquake was going to occur. He also said that the earthquake may not be exactly an earthquake but a large impact on earth. It would cause numerous deaths and destruction.

The way the Promise Messiah explained it was not about an earthquake, he was basically explaining a war. In his own words he said,

“Alarms and bewilderment would be caused in the whole world and travelers will be put to great trouble, calamity would come all of a sudden. Young men will be turned to grey by the shock. Mountains will be blown up and many people would go mad. The whole world will feel its effects but the Czar of Russia will be particularly miserable. The foundation of governments will be shaken; naval fleets will be on the lookout for enemy fleets and will scour the seas in search of enemy vessels; there will be naval duels; the world will be turned upside down and God will appear with his hosts to punish transgressors and the oppressors. The calamity would also affect the birds in the air. The Arabs will prepare for war and the Turks will be defeated in Asia Minor but recover a portion of their lost territory. Signs of this calamity would appear in advance but God will delay it for a time. In any case, it will overtake the world within sixteen years but not during his (that is, the Promise Messiah’s) life time.”

This was the perfect explanation of World War I. And then, six years after, the war had begun.

I think of this as a miracle because it is proof of the truth of Islam and the Promised Messiah. It shows how prophets can communicate with Allah and give us warnings of good and bad things to come.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about one of the very many miracles of the Promised Messiah.

By: Musawir Chaudry / Age 10 / Boston, MA

Justice Prevails

Ehsan Ahmad / Age 12 / South Virginia



A false case of attempted murder was registered in a court of law, against the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), by the Christian missionary Dr. Henry Clark, to avenge his defeat at the hands of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), in an earlier debate known as, The Debate of the Holy War. It is interesting to note that a false case was registered against the earlier Messiah, that is, Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) due to a conspiracy of the Jews of his time. However, the magistrate Pilate found Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) not guilty of any charges that were leveled against him, but he was afraid of the Jews. He reluctantly gave orders to put Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) on the cross.

In contrast, the magistrate in the case of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), whose name was Capt. Douglas, a deputy commissioner, was so inclined to do justice that he disregarded the opinion and feelings of Christian missionaries, who were the same religion as he himself, and acquitted the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) completely of all false charges. In this way, the magistrate Capt. Douglas became a very important person in the history of Ahmadiyyat.



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The Eclipses of the Promised Messiah

Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him), the Promised Messiah, was born in 1835 in Qadian. The Promised Messiah was the servant of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was also the founder of the Ahmadiyyat Movement in Islam.

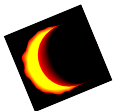
One of the signs of truthfulness and the arrival of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) is the lunar and solar eclipses which are explained in the following Hadith narrated by Hadrat Imam Baqir Muhammad bin Ali (may Allah be pleased with him):

“For our Mahdi (Divine Reformer) there are two signs which have never appeared before since the creation of the heavens and the earth, namely the moon will be eclipsed on the first night in Ramadan (that is, on the first of the nights on which a lunar eclipse can occur) and the sun will be eclipsed in its middle (that is, on the middle day of the days on which a solar eclipse can occur), and these signs have not appeared since God created the heavens and the earth.”

(Dar Qutani, Vol 1, page 188)

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon comes between the earth and the sun. A lunar eclipse occurs when the earth comes between the moon and the sun. The prophecy was fulfilled and these eclipses are signs that Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmed (peace be upon him) was truthful and was the Promised Messiah. The lunar eclipse occurred on March 21, 1894 (13th of Ramadan) and the solar eclipse occurred on the 28th of Ramadan (April 6, 1894).

All praise belongs to Allah and may the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) be blessed.



Haaris Munir / Age 11 / Detroit, MI



Taqwa (righteousness)

Sana Solangi / New Orleans Jama'at

Nasirat South East Regional Ijtima 1st place in the 11-13 age group.

Taqwa means righteousness. It also means to protect the 'self' (*nafs*) from sin. This also entails at times to abandon what is generally allowed, like abandoning what is pure and acceptable during the month of Ramadan.

Taqwa is a tool provided by Islamic teachings to help keep a Muslim on the path of goodness. The word "Taqwa" can best be defined as the "fear of Allah." However, that is not to say that one should live in dread of the Almighty, or that he is a dreadful being. Rather, it should be regarded as the fear of the loss of Allah's love. Allah's love for his creatures is limitless, but a Muslim should be aware that if he/she disregards his commands, he/she may lose his protection and his bounty. No one can become truly righteous until Taqwa has entered every aspect of their daily lives.

Hadrat Ubayy bin Ka'b, a companion of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), explained Taqwa by comparing the righteous to one who walks through thorny bushes, taking care that his clothes are not caught in and torn by their branches. In other words, a righteous person is one who is ever on his guard against sin and takes God for his shield against temptation.

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), also tells us: "Khairuz-zādit-Taqwa," that is, the best provision is righteousness.

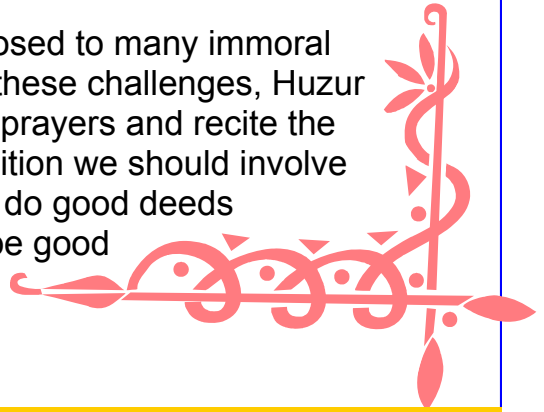
Thus, if you remember that Allah sees your every action, and hears your every word at all times, you would steer clear of wrongdoing. All kinds of problems can be avoided or resolved if every action taken is based on Taqwa. Taqwa can be demonstrated in daily life if simple values are

constantly practiced, such as sympathy, tolerance, humility, kind speech, gentleness, patience and truthfulness.

Surah Al Hujurat (49:14) in the Holy Qur'an is replete with the mention of the word Taqwa. In the Nikah (Muslim Marriage) Sermon alone, the word is mentioned five times. Taqwa within marriage results in good effects on the children born in the marriage. Here is a verse from the Qur'an.

[49:14] O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female; and We have made you tribes and sub-tribes that you may know one another. Verily, the most honorable among you, in the sight of Allah, is he who is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.

We are constantly exposed to many immoral things in this world. To meet these challenges, Huzur has instructed us to offer our prayers and recite the Holy Qur'an everyday. In addition we should involve ourselves in our Jama'at and do good deeds collectively. We should also be good examples in the society we live in. May Allah give us the courage to do so.



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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What Does My Name Mean?

By Naimul Quloob / Age 7 / Virginia North

I belong to the Northern Virginia Jama'at. I am a seven year old Nasirah. My name is Naimul Quloob Iftikhar. It consists of two parts. One part is Naim (Ni'm) and the other part is al-Quloob (al-Qulūb). Together they make Naimul-Quloob.

Both these words are from the Holy Qur'an. Naim means, how excellent! Quloob (plural of qalb) means lots of, or many hearts. So Naimul Quloob means someone who is most excellent of hearts, best of hearts.

Also the word Naim has been used for some prophets in the Holy Qur'an. My parents suggested this name for me.

By: Zoya Malik / Age 11 / Virginia North

I am going to talk about the meaning of my name. Our names are more significant than some other western names. It is because our names have meanings. My name is Zoya. It is taken from the word Zia (Ḍiyā ضياء) which means light. This is a special light that took place 1400 years ago. That was when the world was in darkness and people lost their social and moral values. They worshipped idols, gambled, and buried their baby girls alive. Then the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was born and spread the light of Islam. That is the light I am talking about. Centuries after that, when darkness was slowly spreading again, Allah sent the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), a servant of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), to show the light of Islam again. We are blessed with Khilafat today which is guiding and helping us spread the light of Islam in the world.

By: Naijla Rehman Faizi / Age 15 / Charlotte, NC

My name is Naijla Rehman Faizi. Naijla is the feminine form of the Arabic name Nail. Hadrat Naila was the wife of Hadrat Uthman. Hadrat Uthman was the third Caliph of Islam. Hadrat Naila tried in vain to prevent her husband's murder. The meaning of Naila is to attain or to achieve something. In the dictionary the definition for attain is, "To arrive at, by virtue of persistence or the passage of time." My middle name, Rehman means gracious. My last name, Faizi means to be victorious.

Allah - The Loving

By: Aansa Haroon Virk / Age 8 / Virginia North

The Islamic name of God is Allah, which means, The One Supreme Being. This name cannot be used for anyone else. Allah has many beautiful names that signify His attributes. It is very important to know all the attributes.

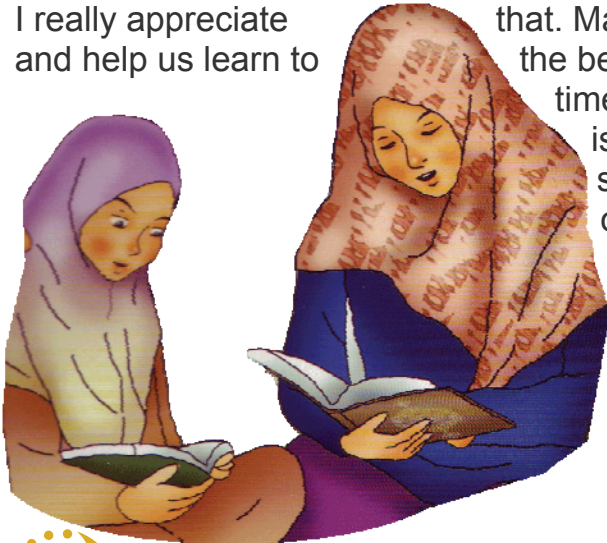
The Loving or Al Wadūd is one of the many attributes of Allah. This attribute shows that Allah loves his creations. If we look around, we will know that there is an expression of his love all around.

He has provided us with all that we need without any effort on our part. Allah loves his people and has, throughout history, sent thousands of Prophets and reformers to show the people the right path. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is reported to have said that Allah's love for man is greater than his own mother's love. As a mother takes care of her child and tries to protect him from dangers, Allah does that too but His love is far greater than that of a mother. He loves us unconditionally. We must not take it for granted and do our best to please him, because it is then we will be worthy of his love. May Allah help us and may he become our friend forever. Āmīn.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED ?

By: Saira Bhatti / Age 14 / Virginia North

Nasirat class is a big part of who I am. There are so many things that it has taught me, not just religious knowledge, but knowledge about general things in life and how to deal with problems that may arise. Nasirat class has taught me so much from how to properly offer the Salat, to what the Conditions of Bai'at are. As a Waqf-i-Nau child, I have also learned a lot from those classes as well. Nasirat class has kept me in order and always reminds me that religion and faith come first. Allah has blessed me with an abundance of knowledge from these classes as well as a sense of faith. I also think that all of us Nasirat have been blessed with the best of teachers. There cannot be a good class without a good teacher. Yes, they may get mad at us sometimes, and yes they may get a bit strict once in a while, but these are the hard working Lajna that take time out of their very own lives to help us make the best of our lives, and I really appreciate that. May Allah bless them and help us learn to the best of our abilities. My time remaining a Nasirah is very short now, and soon I will be heading on to become a Lajna, but the knowledge I have gained will stay with me forever, insha'allah.



-  - Nasirat has taught me to be a good Ahmadi girl
-  - Ahmadiyyat is what I learn in class
-  - Salat is what I am supposed to do everyday
-  - Islam is the most perfect religion for me
-  - Religion teaches me to be good and be a believer
-  - Abuse is a sin
-  - Truth is the best thing any person can say
-  - Cleanliness is very essential to us Muslims
-  - Lajna is what I will be when I'm older
-  - Always believe in only One God
-  - Some sins are back biting, dishonesty and stealing
-  - Spending time in my Nasirat Class is what I love to do

By: Lyba Khan / Age 10 / VA North

Hundred Years Ago

John Alexander Dowie was ... born in Edinburgh in 1847 and studied for the Church in his early years. ... In 1888 he went over to the United States of America and started the publication of a paper called Leaves of Healing. In 1896 he founded the Christian Catholic sect. In 1901 he started building a town in the State of Illinois which he called Zion City. ... In the same year he claimed to be Elijah III.

Dowie was a bitter enemy of Islam and of the Holy Prophet, peace be on him. He gave repeated expression to his hostility towards Islam in his speeches and writings which were published in the Leaves of Healing... Being provoked by his reviling of Islam and the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, and his eagerness to destroy Islam and the Muslims, Ahmad confronted him with the following challenge in September 1902:

... Dowie ... has repeatedly declared in his paper that his god Jesus has told him that all Muslims will be destroyed and not one of them will survive, except those who should acknowledge the son of Mary as their god and Dowie as the apostle of that artificial god.

We have a message for Dowie that he need not be anxious to destroy all the Muslims. How can they acknowledge the godhead of the humble son of poor Mary, especially as in this age the tomb of Dowie's god has been discovered in this country and there is present among them the Promised Messiah, who has appeared at the end of the sixth and the beginning of the seventh millennia, with whose advent many Signs have been manifested? ...

As regards the Muslims, we wish to point out respectfully to Mr Dowie that there is no need for the fulfilment of his purpose to subject millions of Muslims to destruction. There is a very easy way of determining whether Dowie's god is true or our God. That way is that Mr Dowie need not repeatedly announce his prophecy of the destruction of all Muslims, but should keep me alone in his mind and should pray that of the two of us, the one who is false may die before the other. ... I am sure that through the adoption of this course a way shall be opened for Mr Dowie and all the Christians for the recognition of the truth.

... I am the Promised Messiah, who is being awaited by Mr



Dowie. The only difference is that Mr Dowie says that the Promised Messiah will appear within twenty-five years, and I proclaim that he has appeared already and that I am that person. ...

... But if Mr Dowie does not respond to this notice and offers a prayer according to his boasts and then is removed from this world before my death, this would be a sign for all the people of America. The only condition is that the death of either of us should not be compassed by human hands but should be brought about by illness or by lightning, or snakebite or by the attack of a wild beast. ...

... I am an old man of more than sixty-six years of age. I suffer from diabetes, dysentery, migraine, and deficiency of blood. I realize, however, that my life depends not upon the condition of my health but upon the command of my God. ... [Review of Religions, Urdu, Vol. I, No. 9, pp. 342-8].

The challenge of the Promised Messiah was given great publicity in the American Press, in some organs of which its substance was published almost verbatim, among them the Literary Digest of 20 June 1903, the Burlington Free Press of 27 June 1903, the New York Commercial Advertiser of 26 October 1903.

Dowie gave no reply to Ahmad's challenge but announced in the Leaves of Healing of 14 February 1903: 'I pray to God that Islam should soon disappear from the world. O God, accept this prayer of mine. O God destroy Islam.'

... Mr Dowie announced in the Leaves of Healing of December 1903: In India, there is a Mohammedan Messiah who keeps on writing to me that Jesus Christ lies buried in Kashmir. People ask me why do I not send him the necessary reply? Do you think that I should answer such gnats and flies? If I were to put my foot on them I would trample them to death. The fact is that I merely give them a chance to fly away and survive.

Thus the issue was squarely joined between Ahmad and Dowie. ... In 1905 he suffered a severe stroke of paralysis ... His wife and children deserted him and he was charged with diverse illicit and immoral practices. On 9 March 1907 he died a miserable death. The prophecy of the Promised Messiah was truly and completely fulfilled.

(Summarized from Ahmadiyyat, the Renaissance of Islam, Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, pp. 96-102)

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100 Years of Khilafat



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- 1st & 2nd Khulafa - [9/15/07]
- 3rd & 4th Khulafa - [12/15/07]
- The 5th Khalifah - [3/15/08]
- A Guide to Qadian - [6/15/08]

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Al-Hilal

(Published by The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, U.S.A.)

15000 Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring MD 20905

Postmaster: Send address changes to

P.O. Box 226, Chauncey, OH 45719

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