

# Al-Hilal

A magazine for children

الْجَنَّةُ تَحْتَ أَقْدَامِ الْأُمَّهَاتِ

Heaven is under the feet of mothers

## 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 Islām and Aḥmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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The status of mother in Islam**

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## Give thanks...

وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ  
حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ وَهْنًا عَلَىٰ وَهْنٍ  
وَفَصَّالَةٌ فِي عَامَيْنِ

أَنْ اشْكُرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيْكَ إِلَيَّ الْمَصِيرُ

And We have enjoined on man concerning his parents—his mother bears him in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning takes two years—‘Give thanks to Me and to thy parents. Unto Me is the final return.

[31 (Luqmān) :15]

Articles edited by Sahar Choudhry, Humma Asad, Nakasha Aḥmad, Nila Aḥmad, Uzma Aḥmad, Shahina Bashir, Tazeen Aḥmad.

## Prayers of Mary's mother

إِذْ قَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ عِمْرَانَ  
رَبِّ إِنِّي نَدَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ  
فَلَمَّا وَضَعَتْهَا قَالَتْ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَضَعْتُهَا أُنْثَىٰ  
وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا وَضَعْتَ وَلَيْسَ الذَّكَرُ كَالْأُنْثَىٰ  
وَإِنِّي سَمَّيْتُهَا مَرْيَمَ  
وَإِنِّي أُعِيذُهَا بِكَ وَدُرِّتُهَا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

*Remember* when *the* woman of ‘Imran said, ‘My Lord, I have vowed to Thee what is in my womb to be dedicated to Thy service. So do accept it of me; verily, Thou alone art All-Hearing, All-Knowing.’

But when she was delivered of it, she said, ‘My Lord, I am delivered of a female’—and Allah knew best what she had brought forth and the male *she was thinking of* was not like the female *she had brought forth*—‘and I have named her Mary, and I commit her and her offspring to Thy protection from Satan, the rejected.’ [3:36-37]



## ***Ḥaḍrat Sayyida Nāṣira Begum***

This July, the mother of our beloved Khalīfa, *Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad* (may Allah be his support) passed away.

*Ḥaḍrat Sayyida Nāṣira Begum*, (May Allah's mercy be on her), was the mother of our Khalīfa. She was the daughter of *Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Maḥmūd Aḥmad*, who was our second Khalīfa. She was the granddaughter of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him).

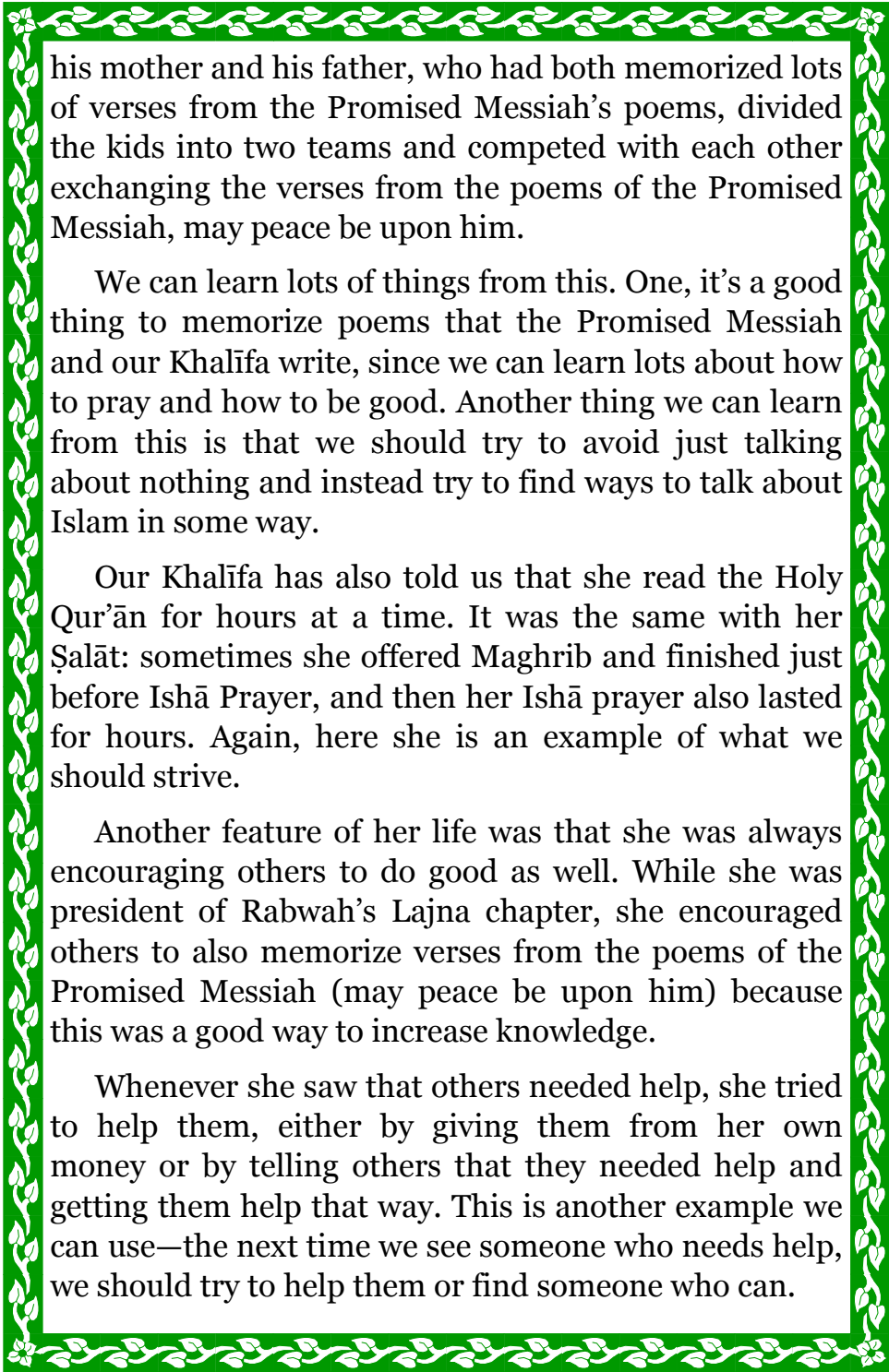
*Ḥaḍrat Nāṣira Begum* was born in October 1911 in Qadian, India. She was the oldest daughter of the second Khalīfa and *Ḥaḍrat Sayyida Maḥmūda Begum*, who is also known as Ummi Nāṣir.

Growing up, she was a good student. In 1929, she earned a Maulawī Fāḍil degree.

At the age of 23, she was married to *Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Mansoor Aḥmad* (son of *Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Sharīf Aḥmad* and also a grandson of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him). They had a long and happy marriage. They had five children.

And because she received such wonderful training from her parents, she's a really good example for us to follow, too.

One thing we can learn from her is how to spend our time wisely. Lots of times, when we go on vacation, we might talk about other people or gossip. That's not a good way to spend our time. Our beloved Khalīfa told us that when he was young and his family went traveling,



his mother and his father, who had both memorized lots of verses from the Promised Messiah's poems, divided the kids into two teams and competed with each other exchanging the verses from the poems of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him.

We can learn lots of things from this. One, it's a good thing to memorize poems that the Promised Messiah and our Khalifa write, since we can learn lots about how to pray and how to be good. Another thing we can learn from this is that we should try to avoid just talking about nothing and instead try to find ways to talk about Islam in some way.

Our Khalīfa has also told us that she read the Holy Qur'ān for hours at a time. It was the same with her Ṣalāt: sometimes she offered Maghrib and finished just before Ishā Prayer, and then her Ishā prayer also lasted for hours. Again, here she is an example of what we should strive.

Another feature of her life was that she was always encouraging others to do good as well. While she was president of Rabwah's Lajna chapter, she encouraged others to also memorize verses from the poems of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) because this was a good way to increase knowledge.

Whenever she saw that others needed help, she tried to help them, either by giving them from her own money or by telling others that they needed help and getting them help that way. This is another example we can use—the next time we see someone who needs help, we should try to help them or find someone who can.

May Allah continue to raise her status and may our prayers continue to benefit her.

## My Mentor

*Khafia Choudhary (age 9) Central Virginia*

**M**y Mentor

**O**utstanding teacher

**T**akes care of me

**H**elps me when I am in need

**E**ager to teach me all the things in the world

**R**emarkable woman she is indeed





## **The advice of Luqmān, may peace be upon him**

And We bestowed wisdom on Luqmān, saying, ‘Be grateful to Allah:’ and whoso is grateful, is grateful only for the good of his own soul. And whoso is ungrateful, then surely Allah is Self-Sufficient, Praiseworthy

And remember when Luqmān said to his son while exhorting him, ‘O my dear son! associate not partners with Allah. Surely, associating partners with God is a grievous wrong.’

And We have enjoined on man concerning his parents—his mother bears him in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning takes two years—‘Give thanks to Me and to thy parents. Unto Me is the final return.

‘And if they contend with thee to make thee set up equals with Me concerning which thou hast no knowledge, obey them not, but be a kind companion to them in all worldly affairs; and in spiritual matters follow the way of him who turns to Me. Then unto Me will be your return and I shall inform you of what you used to do.’ [31 (Luqmān) :13-16]

## Paradise Lies Under the Feet of Mothers

The Ḥadīth (sayings of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad) that states “Paradise lies under the feet of mothers” is a well-known Ḥadīth related in Aḥmad and Nasa’ī, two books of Ḥadīth.

An incident that shows how the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) explained importance of serving one’s mother is when a man consulted the Prophet regarding taking part in a military campaign. The Prophet asked the man if his mother was still living. When told that she was alive, the Prophet said, “[Then] stay with her, for Paradise is at her feet” (Tirmidhī).

Another similar incident occurred when a man came to the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to ask his permission to go to war against the enemy. The Prophet asked him if his mother was alive. He replied in the positive. The Prophet told him to stay with his mother and serve her. The man asked again and the Holy Prophet gave him the same advice. When he asked a third time, the Prophet said to him, “Stick with her feet for that is where paradise lies” (Ibn Māja).

## Obligations towards mothers

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once said, “Allah has forbidden that you neglect your obligations towards your mothers,...” (Bukhārī).

A man asked the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), “O Messenger of Allah! Who has the most right to the best treatment from me?” The Prophet replied, “Your mother.” The man asked, “Then who?” The Prophet said, “Your mother.” The man asked again, “Then who?” The Prophet again said, “Your mother.” The man asked again, “And After that?” The Prophet replied, “Your father” (Bukhārī and Tirmidhī).

Another incident that shows the extreme respect that Muslims should have towards their mothers is when a lady asked the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) whether she should help her idolater mother and be kind to her. The Prophet replied, “Yes.” The Prophet gave a similar response when a man asked his advice concerning his idolater mother (Bukhārī). A companion asked if he should be beneficial to her idolater mother, the Prophet responded, “Yes, be beneficial to your

mother” (Bukhārī).

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also stated that a mother’s sister has the same standing as a mother (Tirmidhī).

Furthermore, we are told that mothers can continue to benefit by the prayers of their relatives, even after their death. A person asked the Prophet that his mother had died, and could he benefit her through charity? The Prophet replied in affirmative (Bukhārī).

It has been reported that when various persons asked the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) if they could complete the pending fasts of their deceased mothers, he informed them that they could, and added that the loan owed to Allah has greater right that it be paid after a person passes away (Bukhārī).

Another incident that relays the importance of mothers is when a lady told the Prophet that her mother had passed away and had not performed Hajj. She inquired whether she could perform Hajj on her behalf. The Prophet said, “Yes, Perform Hajj for her” (Bukhārī and Tirmidhī).



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## Respect for mothers

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) showed great respect for mothers. He stated, “During Prayer when I hear a child crying, I shorten my Prayer in apprehension of the trouble to the mother” (Tirmidhī).

He also said: “When I stand in Prayer, I intend to lengthen it. Then I hear the crying of a child, I shorten my Prayer disliking lest I make it hard for the mother” (Bukhārī).

He said at another time, “When I start Prayer, I intend to extend it, but when I hear a child crying, I shorten the Prayer as I perceive the anxiety of the mother of the crying child” (Bukhārī and Ibn Mājah).

A companion relates that a lady came and the Prophet spread a sheet for her to sit down. After she left, the companion was told that the lady was the suckling mother of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). (Tirmidhī)

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once said, “One who separates a mother from her children, Allah will separate his dear ones from him on the Day of Judgment” (Tirmidhī).

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once mentioned the spread of fifteen undesirable habits among Muslims leading to troubled times for them. One of the habits he mentioned was that husband will obey his wife but disobey his mother (Tirmidhī).

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once said, “It is the greatest of the great sins that a man curse his parents.” He was asked as to how a man curses his parents. The Prophet replied, “A man abuses the father of another man. Then the other man abuses his father in return and also abuses his mother” (Tirmidhī).

From the incidence sited above, we can see how our Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) gave such importance to the status of mothers. We should try our best to follow the teachings of the Holy prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and give proper respect to our mothers. When we do this, we will see how Allah blesses our lives where we can truly say that “Paradise lies under the feet of mothers.”



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## Honesty

People are naturally born with honesty. This is why a baby, who has not gotten into any bad habits, dislikes taking anything belonging to another child. Babies do not like to get milk from anyone, but their own mother. If we really think about this, we realize that this is because honesty and integrity is part of every child. No one can be called truly honest unless his heart hates to take anything that does not belong to him just like a baby. This is a very natural quality that everyone has at birth. A baby is not choosing to do the right thing; it is only doing what comes naturally.


Honesty and integrity can only be called moral qualities when a person chooses to be honest.

(Adapted from the writings of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him)



## A Mother's Natural Love

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) tells us that a mother never expects a payment or reward for being kind to her child. Everything she does is done out of love alone. There is no other reason for her to love her child. A mother is like a river of mercy for her child because the child comes from her and is nourished by her.





## Prophet's wives are as mothers to believers


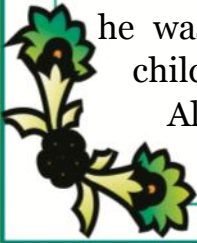



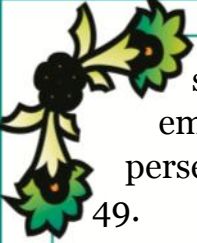
Allah, the Almighty, declares in Sūra Al-Aḥzāb:

“The Prophet is nearer to the believers than their own selves, and his wives are as mothers to them. And blood relations are nearer to one another, according to the Book of Allah, than the rest of the believers from among the Helpers as well as the Emigrants, except that you show kindness to your friends. That also is written down in the Book.” [33:7]

The wives of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, played a critical part in the early days of Islam.

1. *Ḥaḍrat* Khadija, may Allah be pleased with her. She was a business woman from Mecca who was twice widowed. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) took her merchandise for trade in a caravan. *Ḥaḍrat* Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her) noticed that he was a very kind and trustworthy gentleman. She was so impressed by his character that she sent a proposal of marriage to him. He accepted, and they were married in the year 595. They were married when he was 25 and she was 40. They had seven children together. *Ḥaḍrat* Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her) was the first person to accept Islam. She





supported him morally and emotionally during the days of great persecution in Mecca. She died when he was


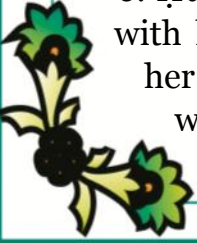
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2. *Ḥaḍrat Saudah*, may Allah be pleased with her. She was a widow. He married her after the death of his first wife, *Ḥaḍrat Khadija*.



3. *Ḥaḍrat Ā'isha*, may Allah be pleased with her. She was the daughter of *Ḥaḍrat Abū Bakr* (may Allah be pleased with him), the best friend of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). She was highly knowledgeable about Islam and narrated many of the sayings of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). She died in AH 57.

4. *Ḥaḍrat Ḥafṣah bint Umar*, may Allah be pleased with her. She was the daughter of *Ḥaḍrat Umar* (may Allah be pleased with him). She was a widow. He married her when he was 52. She had the honor of keeping the manuscript of the Holy Qur'ān in her custody.

5. *Ḥaḍrat Zainab bint Khuzaimah*, may Allah be pleased with her. She was a widow. She died in AH 20 at age 53.



6. *Ḥaḍrat Umm Salama*, may Allah be pleased with her. She was a widow when he married her. She was the last of his wives to expire when she was eighty-four.

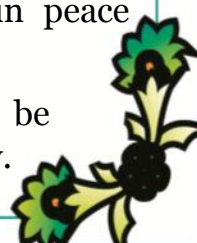



7. *Ḥaḍrat* Juwairiyah, may Allah be pleased with her. She was the daughter of the tribal chief, Harith. She was a widow. She died in AH 50 at age 65.

8. *Ḥaḍrat* Zainab bint Jaḥsh, may Allah be pleased with her. She was divorced. She died 2-3 months after the marriage. She was the second of the two wives who died in his life.

9. *Ḥaḍrat* Umm Ḥabībah, may Allah be pleased with her. She was the daughter of Abū Sufyān, who was an enemy of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) for the longest time until he became a Muslim during the conquest of Mecca. She was a widow. Her marriage to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was conducted by Negus, the King of Abyssinia.

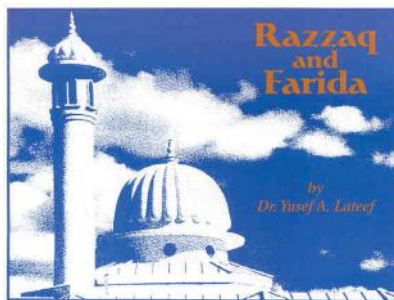
10. *Ḥaḍrat* Ṣafīyyah, may Allah be pleased with her. She was a widow. She was the daughter of the chief of a Jewish tribe, Banū Naḍīr. She was taken as a prisoner of war at the Battle of Khyber when both her husband and father were killed. While amongst the Muslims she learned about Islam and became a Muslim. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) married her so that the Jews and Muslims may live in peace together. She died in AH 50.



11. *Ḥaḍrat* Maimūnah, may Allah be pleased with her. She was a widow.

She was the sister-in-law of the Holy Prophet's (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) uncle *Ḥaḍrat Abbās* (may Allah be pleased with him). He was the one who suggested the marriage and the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) married *Ḥaḍrat Maimūnah* (may Allah be pleased with her). She passed away at the age of seventy-three years. She died in AH 51.

12. *Ḥaḍrat Ummi Ibrāhīm* (Mary, the Copt), may Allah be pleased with her. She was from Egypt and was a Coptic Christian. She became a Muslim and married the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Together they had a son whom they named, *Ibrāhīm*. He died as an infant at the age of eighteen months.



### **Razzaq and Farida**

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## **Ḥaḍrat Khadija**

May Allah be pleased with her

*Ḥaḍrat Ā'isha*, may Allah be pleased with her, relates that after the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, received his first revelation, he returned with the Inspiration and with his heart beating severely. Then he went to Khadija bint Khuwailid and said, "Cover me! Cover me!"

They covered him till his fear was over and after that he told her everything that had happened and said, "I fear that something may happen to me."

Khadija replied, "Never! By Allah, Allah will never disgrace you. You keep good relations with your Kith and kin, help the poor and the destitute, serve your guests generously and assist the deserving calamity-afflicted ones."

Khadija then accompanied him to her cousin Waraqa bin Naufal bin Asad bin 'Abdul-'Uzza, who, during the pre-Islamic period became a Christian and used to write from the Gospel in Hebrew as much as Allah wished him to write. He was an old man and had lost his eyesight. Khadija said to Waraqa, "Listen to the story of your nephew, O my cousin!" Waraqa asked, "O my nephew! What have you seen?" Allah's Apostle described whatever he had seen. Waraqa said, "This is the same one who keeps the secrets (angel Gabriel) whom Allah had sent to Moses. I wish I were young and could live up to the time when your people would turn you out."



Allah's Apostle asked, "Will they drive me out?" Waraqa replied in the affirmative and said, "Anyone (man) who came with something similar to what you have brought was treated with hostility; and if I should remain alive till the day when you will be turned out then I would support you strongly." (Bukhārī)

When the days of persecution did come, *Ḥaḍrat* Khadija was there to fully support the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, Khadija is the leader of the women in paradise. Once Gabriel said to the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, to convey to *Ḥaḍrat* Khadija greetings of peace from himself and from Allah, the Almighty. Another time, Gabriel asked the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, to give her the glad tidings to her that she will have a house in the paradise, made of pearls.

*Ḥaḍrat* Khadija, may Allah be pleased with her, was born in AD 555. She was widowed two times before her marriage to the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. He had all his children with *Ḥaḍrat* Khadija, may Allah be pleased with her, except for Ibrāhīm. They had three sons, Qāsim, Ṭāhir and Ṭayyab, and four daughters, *Ḥaḍrat* Zainab, *Ḥaḍrat* Ruqayya, *Ḥaḍrat* Umm Kalthūm and *Ḥaḍrat* Fāṭima, may Allah be pleased with all of them. All the sons of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, passed away during their childhood.

## Ḥaḍrat Ammāñ Jān

May Allah be pleased with her

Sayyida Nuṣrat Jahāñ Begum was born in 1865 in Delhi to Mir Nāṣir Nawāb and Sayyida Begum. She was their only daughter. She had two brothers, Mir Muḥammad Ismā'il and Mīr Muḥammad Ishāq. The whole family was very pious and spent their lives in the service of faith. May Allah be pleased with all of them.

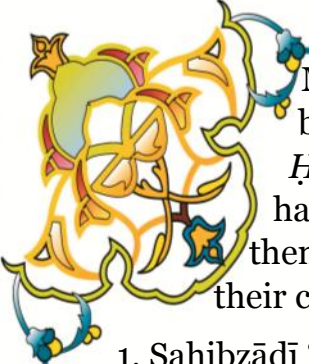
She was married to the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, in November 1884. Their children were signs of God's mercy and support to the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him.

When the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, passed away, she gathered all her children and said to them : "Children, seeing the home empty, do not think that your father has not left anything for you. In the heaven, he has left a huge treasure of prayers for you which will benefit you in times of need." (Translated from Urdu)

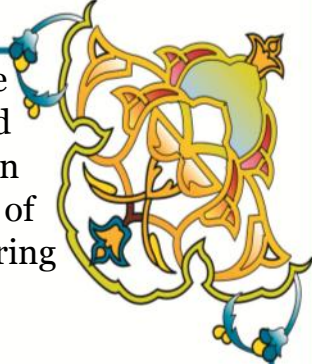
Standing at the foot of the body of the Promised Messiah, she said:

"Angels used to descend in my home because of you." (Translated from Urdu)

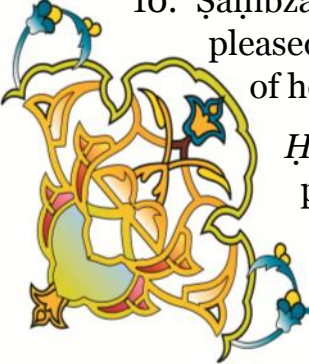
The Promised



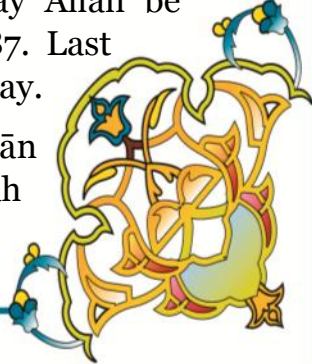
Messiah, may peace be upon him, and *Ḥaḍrat* Ammāñ Jān had ten children. Five of them passed away during their childhood.



1. Şahibzādī 'Işmat: 1886-1891.
2. Şahibzāda Bashīr Awwal: 1887-1888.
3. *Ḥaḍrat* Mirzā Maḥmūd Aḥmad, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II, may Allah be pleased with him: 1889-1965.
4. Şahibzādī Shaukat: 1891-1892.
5. *Ḥaḍrat* Mirzā Bashīr Aḥmad, may Allah be pleased with him: 1993-1963.
6. *Ḥaḍrat* Mirzā Sharīf Aḥmad, may Allah be pleased with him: 1895-1961.
7. Şahibzādī Nawāb Mubāraka Begum, may Allah be pleased with her: 1897-1977.
8. Şahibzāda Mirzā Mubārak Aḥmad: 1899-1907.
9. Şahibzādī Amatun-Naşīr: 1903-1903.
10. Şahibzādī Amatul-Hafiz, may Allah be pleased with her: 1904-1987. Last of her children to pass away.



*Ḥaḍrat* Ammāñ Jān passed away in Rabwah in 1952.



## ***Ḥaḍrat Ammāñ Jān***

***By Nila Aḥmad***

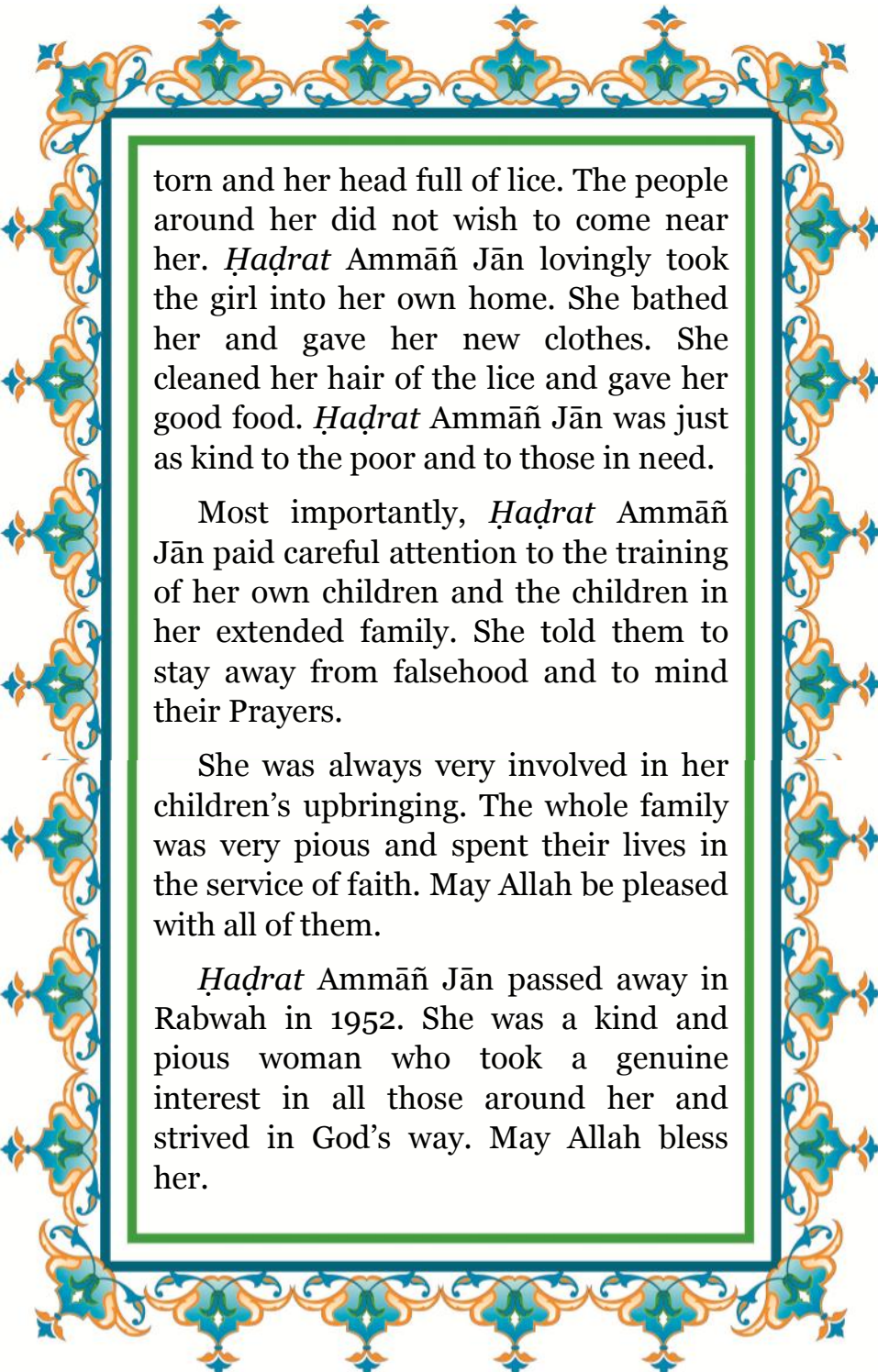
*Ḥaḍrat Ammāñ Jān* was known for her hospitality. People came from all over the country to visit the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him. Poor and rich alike came to eat at the table of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him. She was always very attentive to everyone's needs.

She treated everyone equally, whether they were young or old. If *Ḥaḍrat Ammāñ Jān* saw a young child, she asked the child how s/he was doing. She could be depended upon to give good advice and she was always concerned for people's welfare.

*Ḥaḍrat Ammāñ Jān* brought up many orphans. She took children into her home and educated them and when they were of age, arranged for their marriage.

One day, a small girl came to her house. The girl was dirty, her clothes





torn and her head full of lice. The people around her did not wish to come near her. *Ḥaḍrat* Ammāñ Jān lovingly took the girl into her own home. She bathed her and gave her new clothes. She cleaned her hair of the lice and gave her good food. *Ḥaḍrat* Ammāñ Jān was just as kind to the poor and to those in need.

Most importantly, *Ḥaḍrat* Ammāñ Jān paid careful attention to the training of her own children and the children in her extended family. She told them to stay away from falsehood and to mind their Prayers.

She was always very involved in her children's upbringing. The whole family was very pious and spent their lives in the service of faith. May Allah be pleased with all of them.

*Ḥaḍrat* Ammāñ Jān passed away in Rabwah in 1952. She was a kind and pious woman who took a genuine interest in all those around her and strived in God's way. May Allah bless her.

## The Birthday Gift

*Ḥaḍrat Şahibzādī Amatul-Ḥafīz* was the youngest child of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). She was very wise and kind.

One time, she and her family were visiting their lands in Sind, Pakistan. During this visit, it was the fourteenth birthday of her daughter Fauziya. Now, at a birthday, many mothers will buy their children presents or get a cake but *Ḥaḍrat Şahibzādī Amatul-Ḥafīz* was very wise. Instead of doing any of these things, she wrote a beautiful letter to her daughter which her daughter has kept safely to this day. In this letter she gave her daughter Fauziya some very valuable advice. First she wrote that the fourteenth year is a very important year for a girl. She wrote that it is important because it is time for her to turn her attention to some responsibilities. She advised her daughter to make prayer her habit and pray for her own virtuous fate. She told her daughter to depend only on Allah and have no expectations from any other human being. *Ḥaḍrat Şahibzādī Amatul-Ḥafīz* went on to tell her daughter to make it a practice to always treat Allah's creatures with kindness and to never cause any harm or sadness to another human being either with her words or with her actions.

What better birthday present can a mother give her child? If we follow this beautiful advice, Allah will be happy and people will be happy as well. May Allah help us do this.

Children, if you all follow this beautiful advice and do the three things *Ḥaḍrat Şahibzādī Amatul-Ḥafīz* told her daughter to do then it will be a true birthday. (Excerpt adapted from "Dukht-i-Kirām, by Fauziya Shamīm)



## *Ḥaḍrat* **Ummi Ṭāhir**

*Ḥaḍrat* Ṣaḥibzādī Sayyida Maryam Begum was the wife of *Ḥaḍrat* Mirzā Maḥmūd Aḥmad, the Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) and the mother of *Ḥaḍrat* Mirzā Ṭāhir Aḥmad, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allah's Mercy be upon him). She was known as Ummi Ṭāhir (Mother of Ṭāhir).

*Ḥaḍrat* Ummi Ṭāhir was an extremely generous and kind woman. She cared deeply for the poor and disadvantaged people around her. She always spent her money to help anyone who needed help. She also cared greatly for the Jamā'at and worked tirelessly in the service of the Jamā'at. She donated to Jamā'at a portion of any money she received.

*Ḥaḍrat* Ummi Ṭāhir had four children, one boy and three girls. She taught all her children the importance of working for the Jamā'at. From an early age, whenever her children received any money, she insisted that they donate a portion to the Jamā'at and a portion to someone in need. By doing this, she instilled the habit in her children at an early age to give generously to both the Jamā'at and to those in need. This habit stayed with her children throughout their lives. They passed on these same teachings to their children.

By showing them with her own example she made her children aware of their responsibility to do Allah's work by working for the Jamā'at and helping their fellow human beings. May we learn from her example and May Allah continue to elevate her status in Paradise, Āmīn.

## A son's Promise to his mother


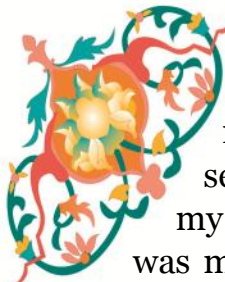
*Ḥaḍrat* Abdul-Qādir Jīlānī (AD 1077–1166), may Allah's mercy be upon him, was a great scholar and saint.

He was born south of the Caspian sea in the area of Gilān in Northern Iran. His mother raised him to be a godly young man.

The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, related the story of this great saint in the following words:



Reality is that righteousness affects others too, and Allah, the Almighty, does not waste the righteous. *Ḥaḍrat* Sayyid Abdul-Qādir Jīlānī ... had a pure self. Once he said to his mother, "My heart is not interested in the world. I want to search for a sage who may guide me to peace and tranquility." Mother agreed... She sewed forty dinars under the side of his jacket and told him to take them out after arrival at a safe place and use them as necessary. Sayyid Abdul-Qādir asked his mother for advice. She said, "Son, never tell a lie. It will result in great blessings." ...

It so happened that some thieves lived in the forest he passed through. The thieves used to loot the travelers. They saw Sayyid Abdul-Qādir from far away. When he arrived near them, they found him to be a simple darwaish. One of the thieves asked him jokingly, "Do you have anything?" He



had just heard his mother's advice to not to tell a lie. He replied ..., "My mother has sewn in forty dinars in the side of my jacket." The thief thought that he was making fun of him. He gave the same

reply when enquired by another thief and continued to give the same response to all the thieves. The thieves took him to their chief and told the chief that each time, he provided the same response. Their chief told the thieves to look inside his jacket. On searching the jacket, they found the forty dinars. They were surprised to see what kind of a person he was. They had never seen anyone like him. The chief of the thieves asked him, "What is the reason that you disclosed your property like this?" He said, "I am on my way in search of guidance from God. My mother advised me not to tell a lie when I departed. This was the first test. Why should I have lied?" Hearing this, the chief thief cried. "Alas! I have not complied even once to the directives of God, the Almighty." He addressed the thieves, "His story and his steadfastness has changed me. I cannot be with you any more. I repent." Other thieves also repented on the encouragement from their chief. (Malfūzāt, Vol. 1, Pages 49-50)



*Ḥaḍrat* Abdul-Qādir Jīlānī, may Allah's mercy be upon him, studied at the Niẓāmiya school in Baghdad. He died a great scholar, reformer and saint of Islam. Futūḥul-Ghaib is one of many scholarly works he left behind as his fine memory.

## **“My Mother”**

***Book Review  
by Sahar Choudhry, Lajna Member,  
Central VA***

Muḥammad Zafarulla Khan, may Allah be pleased with him, was a very learned, and pious man, and a very devout Aḥmadi Muslim. He held many positions of leadership including foreign minister of Pakistan, judge and president of the International Court of Justice, and the president of the General Assembly of the United Nations. He wrote many books on Islam and among his masterpieces is his book “My Mother,” in which he talks about his mother.

His mother was very pious lady and had incredibly strong faith in the Oneness of God. She raised Muḥammad Zafrulla Khan to be a very accomplished man.

In his book, he talks about the trials she faced living in a community where setting-up equals with God (Shirk) was widespread. He relates her strong relationship with Allah and her devotion and loyalty to the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community.



Here is an excerpt from the book:

“I was forty-five when she died, and forty-three years have since passed. Life, by Allah’s grace, has been full, but the under-current of yearning and remembrance continues to flow as strongly as ever. Maternal tenderness never fails to move me and lack of filial consideration hurts deeply. In the midst of the distracting turmoil of life I am upheld by the comforting hope of reunion with my parents and all the righteous. That hope derives from the divine promise: In the case of those believers whose children follow in their footsteps in the matter of faith, We shall join their children with them, and We shall not in any way reduce the reward of their work (52.23).

Lord, shower the blessings of Thy mercy on the graves of my parents, Admit them, of Thy perfect grace, into Thy House of Bounties. Amen.” (My Mother, Muḥammad Zafrulla Khan, London, 1981, pp. 106-107)



A decorative border with a repeating floral and scrollwork pattern in shades of green, blue, and orange, framing the text.

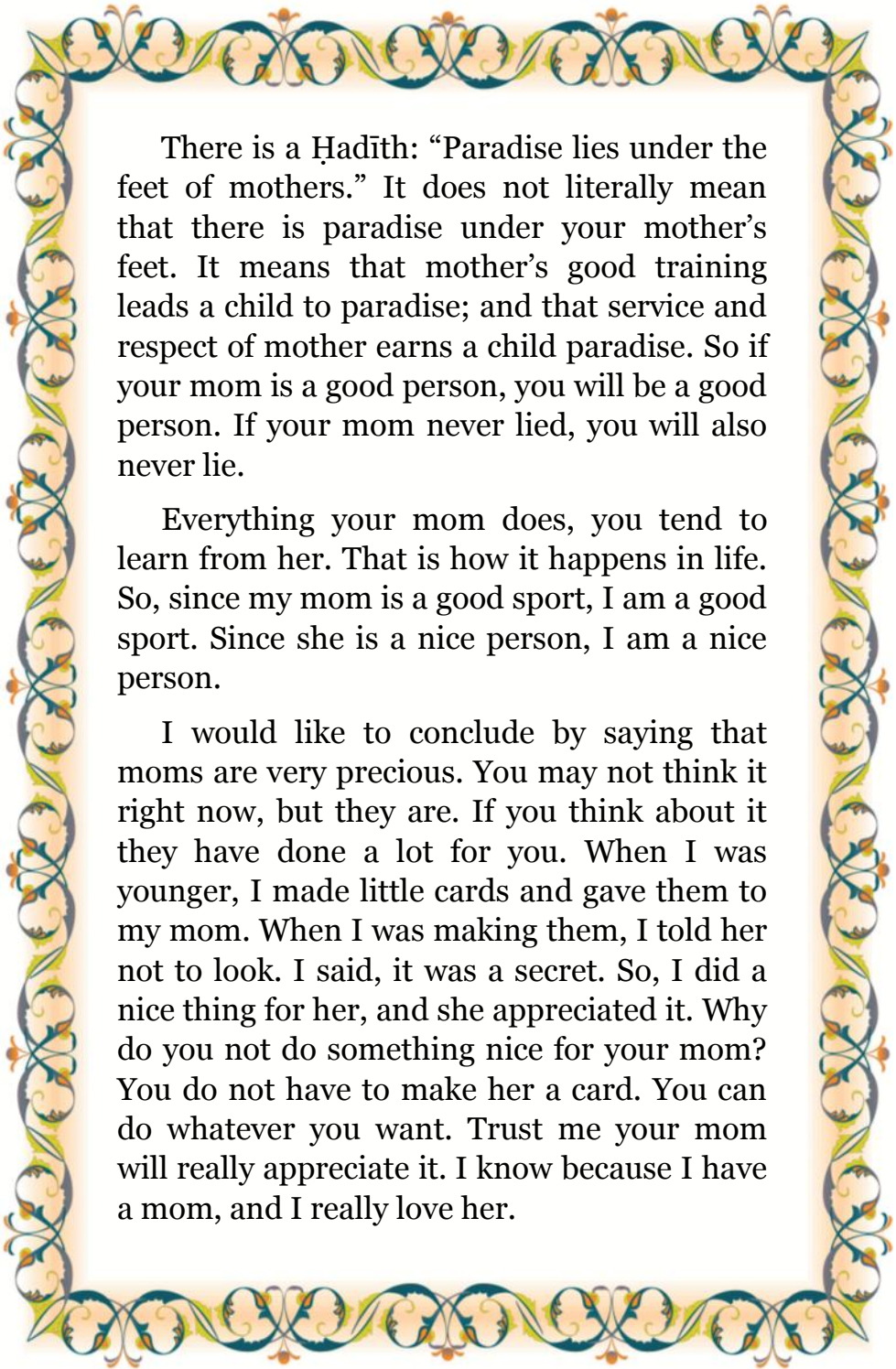
## My Mother, My Teacher

*By Saamia Bashir (Age 11) Potomac*

My mother is a very nice mother. Ever since I was a little kid, she helped me with things. When I was younger she helped me change my clothes, go to the bathroom, and brush my teeth. Now she gets my clothes ready and I do the rest on my own. She is the one who taught me all these basic things. She gets all my meals ready. She takes me to and from school. She does not have a job, but I do not think she needs one. She is a hard-working mom. I always help her clean the house. Even if I do not want to clean the house or anyplace, I still help my mom. She never complains about anything. She is a good teacher. She not only teaches me just basic everyday math and so on, but she also teaches me Islamic knowledge, which is very valuable.

She is a knowledgeable person. You can ask her anything and she knows the answer. She also consults other people before she makes a decision. If she were in a position where she has to make a decision right on the spot, she mostly makes the right one.





There is a Ḥadīth: “Paradise lies under the feet of mothers.” It does not literally mean that there is paradise under your mother’s feet. It means that mother’s good training leads a child to paradise; and that service and respect of mother earns a child paradise. So if your mom is a good person, you will be a good person. If your mom never lied, you will also never lie.

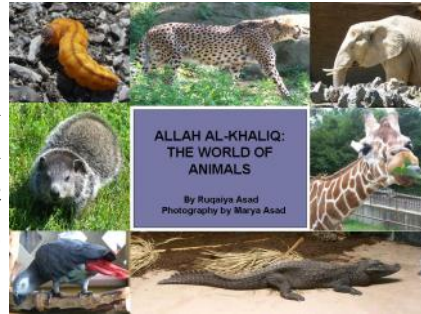
Everything your mom does, you tend to learn from her. That is how it happens in life. So, since my mom is a good sport, I am a good sport. Since she is a nice person, I am a nice person.

I would like to conclude by saying that moms are very precious. You may not think it right now, but they are. If you think about it they have done a lot for you. When I was younger, I made little cards and gave them to my mom. When I was making them, I told her not to look. I said, it was a secret. So, I did a nice thing for her, and she appreciated it. Why do you not do something nice for your mom? You do not have to make her a card. You can do whatever you want. Trust me your mom will really appreciate it. I know because I have a mom, and I really love her.

# Allah Al Khaliq: The World of Animals

*Written by Ruqaiya Asad*

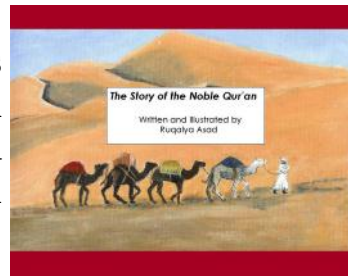
This is a book for children. The book contains original photos and simple text with Qur'anic references and scientific facts that appeal to children's natural interest. Purchase at: [islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com](http://islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com).



## The Story of the Noble Qur'an

*Written by Ruqaiya Asad*

This is a book for children. It tells the story of the Qur'an's revelation and significance in a simple, child friendly story. All original, oil illustrations. Purchase this book at: [islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com](http://islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com)



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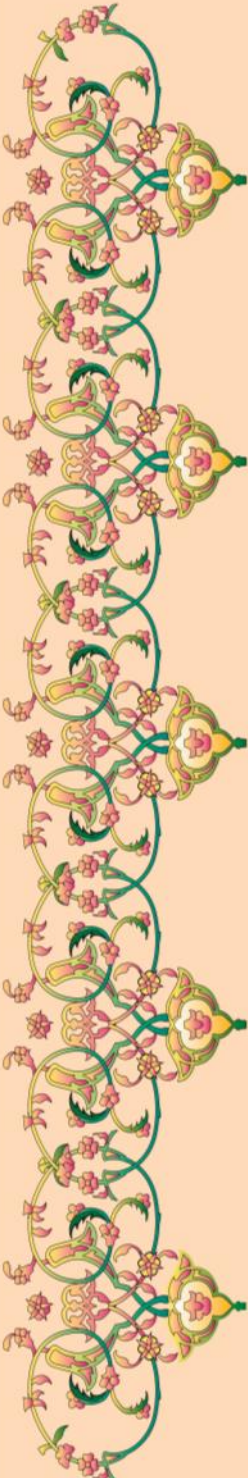
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## Paradise Lies Under the Feet of the Mother

*Aden Ahmad (Age 10) Potomac,  
MD*

**P**ARADISE LIES UNDER THE  
FEET OF THE MOTHER

**A**LLAH CREATED PARADISE

**R**EMINDING US TO RESPECT  
OUR MOTHER

**A**LWAYS DO AS MOTHERS  
SAY

**D**OING WHAT OUR MOTHER  
SAYS IS THE PROPER WAY  
OF RESPECT

**I**F YOU DO WHAT YOUR  
MOTHER SAYS, YOU GET  
BLESSINGS

**S**O CARE FOR YOUR  
MOTHER

**E**VEN IF YOU ARE MAD AT  
HER

# We Want to Hear from You!!!

Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication. Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

The Children's Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amīr, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

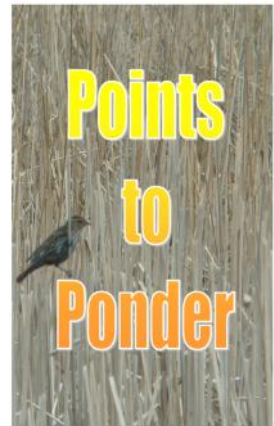
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# My Mentor

*Sidra Malik*

What is a mentor? According to Answers.com it is a wise or trusted counselor or teacher.

My mentor is my mom. She is my mentor for many reasons. One of the reasons is that she is always there for me and will always be there for me. Another reason is that when I have a problem I go to her for a solution and she always has one. Another reason is that she is that she is an example for me and I look up to her.

Being the only Muslim girl in the school, sometimes it is very difficult. I would not have gotten through it without support from my mother. Now that I have worn scarf for a little over two years, it has become a habit, and sometimes I do not even remember that it is there. I would never get this feeling if it were not for my mom. Since my mom wears a scarf on her head, wearing a scarf on my head makes me feel less abnormal or different.

If it were not for my mother, it would have been a lot harder to go through school wearing a scarf on my head. Not only did my mentor help me wear a scarf but she also taught me the ways to dress fashionably but still modestly. She taught me ways to make American clothes more modest and covering. She taught me not to be influenced by other girls who wear make-up all the time.

My mother taught me Ṣalāt and the Qur'ān. She helped me become a well-rounded person by signing me up for sports such as baseball, soccer, softball, and basketball. My mentor also encouraged me to study hard and do the best that I can do. If my mother had not been there to encourage me to keep trying then I would not be the person I am today.



## Mommy

*By Zenab Amatullah*

*Age 11—LA—East Jamā‘at*




My mommy makes me smile,  
Every once in a while.

Whenever I have a dirty jacket,  
She'll make a huge racket.

My mom's hair is grey,  
And it's my fault, she'll say!

She still doesn't like it when I make a fuss,  
But she'll still love me like she always does.



## My Mother

“Nothing now that I ever see that has the edge of gold around it - the change of a season, a jewelled bird in a bush, the eyes of orchids, water in the evening, a thistle, a picture, a poem - but my pleasure pays some brief duty to my mother... I absorbed from birth, as now I know, the whole earth through her jaunty spirit.” Laurie Lee 1914 – 1997



## My Mother

*Seemal Aḥmad—7—Syracuse Jamā‘at*

My mother has been my teacher and friend. For me, she is a source of motivation and a reminder of what true love really means.

She does almost anything to help when it came to education. She taught me how to offer Prayer and taught me all the prayers in the Ṣalāt.

She taught me many Du‘ās (prayers) which I daily offer, like, after waking up, before eating, before going to bed, and more.

She is a truthful mother and always teaches me and my brothers to speak the truth. She helped me prepare a speech and project about truthfulness. I not only won first prize at the Nāṣirāt Ijtimā but also learned the real meaning of truthfulness from the example of the life of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and from the life of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him).

She takes care of me when I am sick and when I am happy. She is the best loving mother. When I told her, “Mother, you love me so much,” she made me realize the presence of God, and helped create love for God in my heart by telling me that God loves me more than seventy mothers. I want to be like my mother when I will grow up. In Shā Allāh.

## Mecca: Mother of Towns

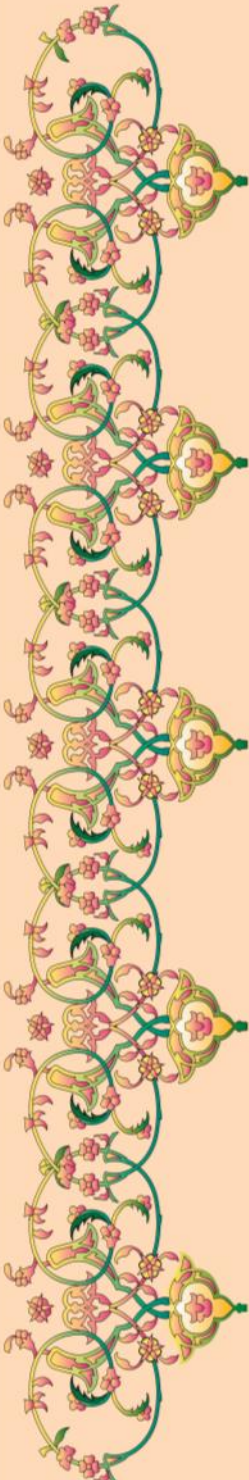
The town of Mecca, where Islam was born, is called the mother of towns in the Holy Qur'ān:

And this is a Book which We have revealed, full of blessings, to fulfill that which preceded it, and to enable thee to warn the Mother of towns and those around her. And those who believe in the Hereafter believe therein and they keep a watch over their Prayer. (6:93)

Thus have We revealed to thee the Qur'ān in Arabic, that thou mayest warn the Mother of towns, and all around it; and *that* thou mayest warn *them* of the Day of Gathering whereof there is no doubt: A party *will be* in the Garden, and a party in the blazing Fire. (42:8)

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, lived in Mecca. Ka'ba is located in Mecca. The Holy Qur'ān says:

Surely, the first House founded for mankind is that at Mecca, abounding in blessings and a guidance for all peoples. (3:97)



!مرحبا العالم! Hallo Welt!  
Hej Värld! Hello World!  
Ciao Modo  
ハローワールド!  
¡Olá mundo! 世界您好!  
Salut le Monde!

## Arabic is the mother of all languages

The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him

... Arabic is the mother of all languages and ... many Arabic words are to be found in all languages. The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam, 2010, page 41.

... Words of Arabic have issued from the mouth of God and that this is the only language which is the language of the Most Holy God and is the most ancient tongue, and is the fountainhead of all types of knowledge, and is the mother of all languages, and is the first and last throne of Divine revelation. It is the first throne of Divine revelation because Arabic was the language of God that was with God since the beginning. Then that language came down to the world and people converted it into their respective languages. It is the last throne of Divine revelation, inasmuch as the last book of God, which is the Holy Qur'ān, was revealed in Arabic. The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam, 2010, pp. 147-148.



## Mothers

*By  
Shamyla Malik (Age 14)  
Potomac*

“Al-Jannatu Taḥta Aqdāmīl-Ummahāt,” that is, “Paradise lies under the feet of the mothers.” This is a Ḥadīth of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Mothers are very important in the eyes of their children. They help them through many things. The way a child behaves is a reflection on how his/her mother taught him/her to act.

Children are never good or bad on their own; they are always influenced by someone else. Children act based upon what they see in their households. This Ḥadīth is saying that your mother is a good person who has had experience and is trying to help you do the right thing all the time.

Children should always respect their mothers, because they raised them, and help them throughout their whole life.



A large, ornate, symmetrical floral border in shades of green, yellow, and orange, framing the text. It features intricate patterns of leaves and flowers, with a central floral motif at the top and bottom.

# My Mother

*By Anisa Asad*

*(Age 9) Potomac*

My mother is very helpful because she helps me learn very good things. She makes sure that someone is outside when I am doing chalk. She makes sure I eat the right food and stay healthy. She helps me when I need help and she feeds me when I need to be fed. She is the help I need and will always get.

# Dear Mom

*By*

*Yared Tesfaye (Age 14)*

*Potomac*

When I was born, my mother said that she was truly blessed.

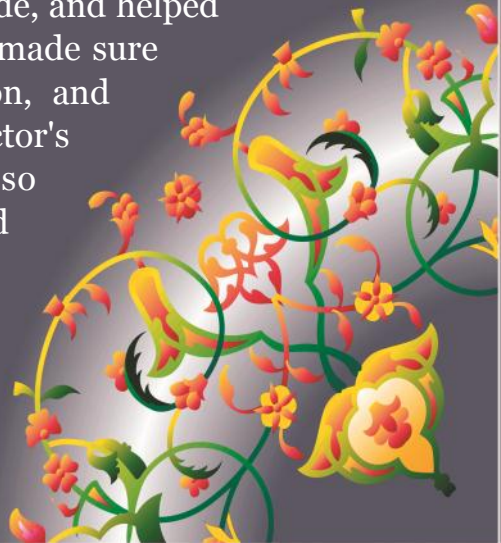
Although we argue a lot, we love each other very much.

I have promised her that when she gets old, I will take care of her.

When I almost drowned, my mom spent every moment in the hospital. She even quit her job to take care of me.

And then when she had the car accident, I was right there by her side, and helped her through recovery. I made sure she took her medication, and reminded her of her doctor's appointments. I also constantly encouraged and reminded her of her speedy recovery.

I just love her a lot.





## My Mom

*By Waleed Malik (Age 13)*

*Potomac*

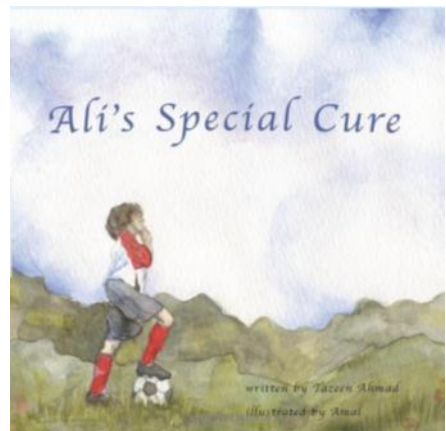
The one I love  
The one who really cares  
The one who's hair smells of a  
dove soap bar  
If you weren't here in this world  
I would be so sad  
That is just the truth  
About you,  
And most of the stuff that you do.  
I am just so glad that you are my  
mom,  
With your love and all.

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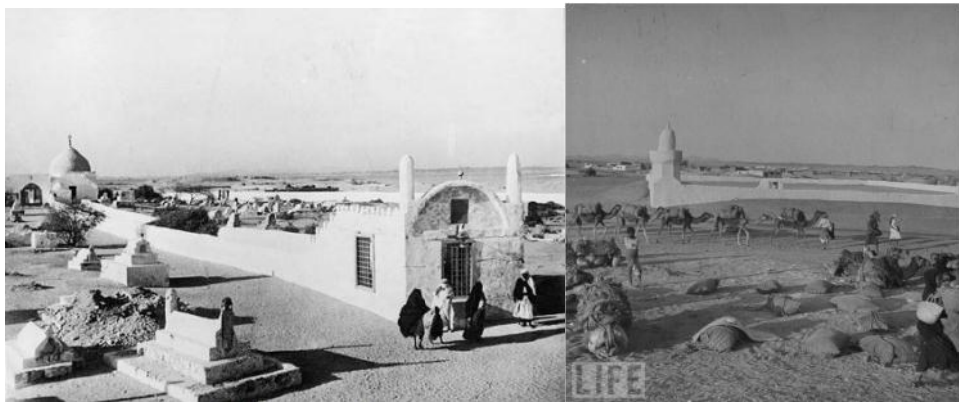
# The Heroism of the Average Mother

“How many thousands of heroines there must be now, of whom we shall never know. But they are there. They sow in secret the seed of which we pluck the flower, and eat the fruit, and know not that we pass the sower daily in the streets. One form of heroism—the most common, and yet the least remembered of all—namely, the heroism of the average mother. Ah! When I think of that broad fact, I gather hope again for poor humanity; and this dark world looks bright... because, whatever else it is not full of, it is at least full of mothers.” Charles Kingsley (1819 – 1875)

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## Jeddah

Jeddah is a town located south of Mecca along the shores of the Red Sea. Jiddah or Jeddah is the second largest city in Saudi Arabia. It is the largest sea port on the Red Sea. It is the gateway to Mecca and Medina.

Jiddah means grandmother. It is said that Jiddah (grandmother) is named after the grave of Eve located there. Some old pictures of the grave of Eve are shown on this page.



Sublime piety is that you be beneficent to the human beings as a mother is beneficent to her child. Her beneficence is due to natural fervor and not due to some obligation. There is no intention in her heart that the child reciprocate for her beneficence.

The Promised Messiah  
Chashma Ma'rafat  
Page 17

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