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the joys of  
submission!

# radiance

LIVING AND LOVING THE YOUNG MUSLIM LIFESTYLE

*Making  
memories*

*Crazy about  
Cartoons*

*My first  
Sajdah*

*Vibrancy or  
Monotony?*



Arabian Jewellers- Front Inside  
Inside Front  
(New artwork frm  
Radiance Designer).



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# sneak a peek

ed's den

04

Ready, set, Ramadan!

comic

14

My real buddy

letter to the editor

06

Radiance kids club event

screws n bolts

16

A mixed bag of fun and frolic

radiance of the pious

08

My good and bad friends

Storynory

18

My first Sajdah

dear diary

10

Making memories



seek n solve

11

Crazy about cartoons

fresh artists

20

leading lights

22

Hadhrat Asma Bint Abi Bakar ﷺ

misty mirrors

12

Vibrancy or monotony



poetic rush

13

Sight of a blind

fresh pens

24

How can I contribute in Dawah efforts?

Why Me?



poster

26



# Ready, set, Ramadan!

*Assalamualeikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,*

It was Ramadan. More than a decade has passed yet it feels like a dream. At the age of 15 or 16, I sat in Itekaaf and how Allah ﷻ descended His infinite mercy upon me. I listened to Hadhrat Abdul Sattar sahab's bayan, I had my share of sweet whispers with my Rabb, I read the Quran day in and day out and voila! My life renewed.

The 10 days passed away in a jiffy. When the Eid moon was sighted, every heart swayed between the mixed feeling of ecstasy and sadness and they wanted to take me out for a treat. I quickly donned on a headscarf, but this time there was something more too. I also covered my face...

I remember I was in the last year of my O levels and the teachers were quite surprised on my new attire. They were, in fact, shocked and straight away told me that this new get-up wasn't part of the uniform so I rather get rid of it immediately. I respectfully told them that there wasn't any going back but well, they wouldn't agree. So my father came to school the next day to talk it out and Alhamdulillah things worked out somehow.

Not that I'm a good Muslim at all but this starter serves to depict how Ramadan has a profound effect on all Muslims around the globe. With this month, Allah ﷻ opens the doors for us to better ourselves. He closes the gates of the Hell-fire and chains up the devils. Excuses become less, and the capacity to change increases. So let's not let this month go by without telling ourselves on Eid day: "That was the best Ramadan

I've ever had."

So how can we bring about ourselves to doing it? How can we challenge ourselves to make this the Ramadan to remember for the rest of the year? For that, we have to do a few things:

## Attitude

Tell yourself, clear and loud, 'I am going to do whatever it takes to make this my best Ramadan!' Before you can accomplish anything, you need to have the mindset that you will accomplish everything.

## Clean up your time

Spending a lot of time on the internet or social media, even if visiting Islamic sites, really takes hours without notice. Minimise your internet usage by just checking emails/stuff once a week (Ok, ok, once a day). Especially no watching videos or playing games as we all know how addictive they are. The more we indulge in them, the more they attract us towards themselves.

## Say no to shopping and too much sleeping

Markets are places which attract a person towards this world. So while we reduce all other time wasters, shopping should be on top of our list. Please have all your shopping done well before Ramadan. Our pious predecessors even used to cut less their sleeping time

in Ramadan, Subhan'Allah, so as to make the most of every moment of this blessed month.

## Set long and short-term goals

Do what's in your capacity to read more of the Quran, to visit the Masjid, to stop that habit that you know is wrong or build a new, better habit. But, just to make sure that you're in check, split up your goals into weeks and days because a goal with a long deadline usually doesn't get done.

"I will finish reading 3 Qurans this Ramadan Insha'Allah, and I will do so by reading 3 juz (para) every day." A key tip for making sure they get done is writing them down, something found in the next part:

## Mark a schedule

Every day, a certain amount of progress must be made be it having read the Quran, making spe-

cial duas, especially in Tahajjud, giving in charity, memorising surahs and duas etc. Mark it all in your schedule as well as write down if you plan to attend a certain religious gathering on certain days (try to get out of your comfort zone and meet other Muslims in your community). Keeping these things on paper will allow you to visually see them and accommodate yourself accordingly so you won't compromise on your goals.

May Allah ﷻ choose us to be amongst those for whom their fasts will intercede on the Day of Judgment and say, "My Rabb, I deprived him of eating and curtailing his desires, so permit me to intercede for him." And the Quran will say: "I deprived him of his sleep, so permit me to intercede for him." To this, both will be given the permission to intercede

Was'salam,

**Bint Zahid**

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Here are the shining stars who sent in their answers to the parents questionnaire from the March issue.

Keep it up!

Musab Shahid  
Yusra Umer  
Abdur Rehman Qadir  
Hamza Abdul Qadir  
Faria Sheikh  
Wajeeha Arshad  
Awwaba Afzal  
Subata Afzal  
Mustafa Popatia  
Huda Tinwala  
Hamza Tin wala  
Hafsa Abdul Wahab  
Muhammad Faseeh Ovais  
Nida Fatima  
Zahra Ashraf  
Muhammad Ali Ahmed  
Hafsa Shoaib  
Falak Naz  
Muhammad Abdullah Tarar  
Fatima Noorani

Muhammad Hassnain  
Rehan  
Khaulah Noorani  
Amsa Ansari  
Eman Imran  
Umme Hani  
Eishal  
Usman Arif  
Maria Armoghan  
Sarah Kashif  
Maaz Amin



Maliha Faisal  
M Ibraheem Khan  
Bareetah Sarfaraz  
Aiman Amir  
Manaal Amin  
Sulafah Shahnawaz  
Fauziya Memon  
Bushra Irfan  
Muhammad Maaz  
Muhammad Asr  
Sahla Aman  
Haniya Amir  
SM Abdul Rahman  
Ayesha Khalid Lakhani  
Ushba Waqas  
Emaan Hassan  
Dania Irfan  
Abdullah Muhammed  
Sarah Khalid  
Amna Ahmed  
Muznah Ashfaq Bhatti  
Fatima Ashfaq Bhatti  
Falak Naz  
Farwah Tahir  
Zahra Azhar  
Maham Zeeshan  
Uswa Iman  
Muhammed Ayan Owais

# Radiance Magazine Club Event

The first few things that stood out for me when I reached the Basement (where the event was held) were the bright decorations and the cool gust of air-conditioned wave hitting me. This was welcomed as it was extremely hot that day. The expansive space was filled with children, mothers and young girls. A surge of excitement radiated in the air as I read the attractive display up on the stage, 'Ahlan wasahlan dearest radiant ummatis'.


Among the vision and inspirations that we see in the Radiance magazine, came up another creative plan actually: catering to the children of current times who constantly have gadgets in their hands and utilising this device and directing them to learn from it rather than kill time in damaging games and cartoons. Emerging with this intention, a Radiance Club Whatsapp group initiated lessons for children and has had thousands of participants from around the world in a short span of one and a half year.

This was their second event to appreciate the commendable efforts of the parents and children for persevering in memorising and sending in their audio lessons (comprising of Surahs, Ahadith, duas, Akhlaqiyaat and English creative writing) in the 6-months course.

On Saturday morning, 17th March 2018, the children who had simply heard each other finally met their teachers for the very first time (except for the old students from the first session). After the Tilawat-e-Quran and welcome note there was a little fun syllabus revision activity and the children excitedly called out the answers based on what they'd learned in the group each week. The environment was charged with enthusiasm and fun.

Then the certificate and prize distribution for the winners started. The names were called out and a few of the students were also requested to exhibit what they'd learned from the group. Little children of 3 and 4 years were especially asked to read duas, ahadith and something from the namaz that they had learned Masha'-Allah. The beautiful event was wrapped up by Hadhrat Maulana Abdul Sattar Hafidhahullah's uplifting speech.

All in all, it was a well organised event executed by an incredible team. The enthusiasm flowed not just among the crowd but among the organisers as well.



Radiance magazine proved that along with providing noteworthy creative narratives and stories for the young generation, a lot more can be done. A magazine, a club, a virtual classroom, a family of kindred spirits loving each other solely for the sake of Allah subhanahu wataala.

Below are some of the comments from the mothers who attended it and made it mesmerizingly memorable for all of us.

*Assalam o alaikum wrwb,*

*Alhamdulillah, today's Radiance kids club get together was excellent, the enthusiasm and the efforts of Team Radiance towards the wellbeing of our kids is truly commendable ... Jazaakumullahu khairan kaseeran.*

*May Allah Subhaanahu-waTaala accept this generosity and Ikhlās of Team Radiance and Baitussalam organization for the betterment of our young ummatis and reward it in the best way. Aameen.*

*Umm Muhammad Abaan Atif Khan*

*MashaAllah!! It's really impressive how you all have made immaculate efforts for the promising futures of our little flowers in both the worlds Insha'Allah. A splendid attempt!! Especially, it makes me glad to observe the change in my girl. Your loving mannerism of teachings are improving her intellectually and practically MashaAllah. May Allah bless you all with the best of both worlds. Ameen.*

*Zaini Motlani*

*MashaAllah we loved coming to the party today. May Allah pak reward you for this great deed and accept your sincere efforts, may He accept our children for His deen. Ameen summa ameen. Best of luck to all the Radiance team.*

*Umm Saad and Hassaan Puri*

*Masha Allah a wonderful experience as always. It had been a real pleasure Masha'Allah. What tremendous efforts done by the Radiance team. Way to go!! May Allah ﷻ accept your efforts and give you great ajar and may you see the fruits of such hard work in this generation and many more to come Insha'Allah. Ameen.*

*Umm Aiman and Haniya*

*It was a wonderful experience. MashaAllah tremendous effort by team Radiance. Got to learn a lot from the uplifting speeches. I suggest Radiance should have more gatherings like this. Keep it up!*

*Afia Ahmed*

*MashALLAH wonderful event and Jazakum'Allah. May Allah reward all with endless bounties of both the worlds. Ameen.*

*Umm Khawla and Fatima*

*Group admins deserve way more than anything! Their relentless efforts for the sake of Allah sobhanaho wata'ala are beyond commending. May Allah sobhanaho wata'ala bless you all. I wish there was something here in Lahore as well. I'd have loved to attend the gathering.*

*Umm Zakariya Yahya*

*Alhumdulillah for such a beautiful group management by the admins. Loved each lesson and most importantly the children get 100% benefit Alhumdulillah. Stay blessed all ... Alhumdulillah beautiful initiative.*

*Umm Maham*

*This all is because of the hard working instructors that our kids got to learn about our religion and performed well. Thanks a lot. I couldn't thank you enough. May Allah reward you immensely. Ameen*

*Ayesha Azhar*

# My good and bad friends

Do you remember who you were before the world around you told you who you should be? Company matters!

An excerpt from a spiritual discourse by  
**Hadhrat Maulana Abdul Sattar Hafidhahullah**

Translation by Bint Aftab

The Quran warns and instructs the Muslims, “O you who have believed, fear Allah and be with those who are true.” (At-Taubah: 119)

Allah ﷻ tells us to stick with those who are true in words and deeds, who are honest with themselves and with Allah ﷻ. These people, who are steadfast in their obedience of Allah ﷻ and unwavering in their journey on the Straight path, will ensure that we are inspired to be better Muslims, and one of the blessings of their company will undoubtedly be

that when we commit sins (because we are humans and even with good company the risk for sinning is as high as ever) we will be encouraged to make Tauba, to ask forgiveness of our Allah ﷻ for falling off the straight path. Redemption, after all, is only possible if a person knows that he has done something wrong, and if we adopt the company of the pious our conscience will constantly remind us what our real purpose of living is. It will remind us that there are people like us, humans, living in the same world of temptation and enticement, but who man-



age to live in obedience of Allah ﷻ.

There lies a chasm between people who spend their days in the company of the pious, who frequently spend time at a Masjid or Madrassah, who befriend people with the intention of learning how to bow before Allah ﷻ's command; and those whose names and identity cards may classify them as Muslims, but they have no connection with the Quran, they do not visit Masjids and dislike the company of Ahl-e-deen; nothing about their appearance, lifestyle or personality links them in any way with Islam. Because these two groups of people are vastly different, their lives, their ambitions, aims and ways of thinking and living are on opposite ends of a spectrum.

This is because the danger of the young generation escaping into the wrong hands, and following the wrong path, is far greater than we realise, especially in this day and age. There was a time when it would take years for a person to change their way of thinking, to revolutionise their lifestyle. Modernisation, liberalisation that would take years to happen, now happens in months, if not weeks. The child you trust so fearlessly will take only a few months of bad company to transform into someone you do not recognise and connect with.

Children, teenagers and youngsters are yet innocent, their personalities half-shaped and their minds still fresh and susceptible to influence, bad or good. And the resources available to them are

## This is because the danger of the young generation escaping into the wrong hands, and following the wrong path, is far greater than we realise, especially in this day and age

And this chasm is absolute and unchangeable. So many times a mother and a daughter, or a father and a son are unrecognizable in their relation to each other because they stand on opposite sides of a deep and wide abyss. Their lifestyles and philosophies are irreconcilable, because one of them is liberal and deeply entrenched in the matters of dunya, while the other is conservative and religious and lives in the manner of his pious friends and teachers. Two people who carry the same blood within their veins are so different from each other, because one of them was exposed to the wrong company, to the wrong environment and the wrong tarbiyah.

So dear readers, it is a necessity of this time that our children, our daughters and sons, our brothers and sisters, are given the right environment, the right company and the right tarbiyah. It is necessary that they be connected with a religious institution, a masjid or a madrassah, that they have proper spiritual mentors and friends who are more concerned about doing good deeds and staying away from bad habits, who are more concerned about the state of Muslims across the world rather than the state of the international sports leagues.

immense and unlimited. And most of the time these resources have a bad influence on their personality and character. The media in this age is slowly rotting the minds of our youth; social media and the internet is instilling in them a doubt of their religion, wearing away their Imaan until they are only left with questions and reservations about Islam. They do not trust the word of their elders, they do not trust the directives of our deen, they do not understand the lifestyle and philosophy that Islam advocates. And it is the people they follow, the teachers they learn from, the friends they make through this media that lead them to the point that they do not want to follow the deen that they were born with.

A person can be judged by the company he keeps. The people he sits and spends his time with, eats and drinks with, consults with and asks help from, will be the people who shape the way he thinks and acts. The Prophet ﷺ said, "A person is on the religion of his friend, so befriend wisely."

May Allah ﷻ bless us and our children with pious and fruitful company. Aameen!

# Making memories

After reading the bittersweet truth in this diary by Aisha Aamir, you are sure to think twice before clicking your cameras

Sometimes I really enjoy looking at the pictures I took in the long gone past. I like to touch all the long forgotten memories that I have somehow replaced with the new ones. I wonder why it is important for human beings to hold onto memories. All of us like to take pictures of the good times we spent or the goodbyes we said or our kids growing up so that we can have a look at them once we are far ahead of that time.

so. What I really think is that we all will be knowing that this is it! It's never going to be taken away from us; our life is eternal, even if would change it will only be getting better. Subhan'Allah! Our Lord will give us a life free of worry, free of grief. It's such an awesome feeling that I won't have to look back, there won't be anything or anyone missing from our lives. It would be complete contentment and the amazing feeling of 'sakinah' from our Lord.

**So how does this contrast with our eternal lives? Would we be taking pictures in Jannah too? Would we be interested in making memories?**

I think all of us realise in the back of our minds that time is fleeting. We all know that the time we are spending is not going to come back. Everything is flowing and nothing is permanent. We like to capture moments and keep them in our hearts and albums so that we can cherish them, not realising this very life is so short lived.

So how does this contrast with our eternal lives? Would we be taking pictures in Jannah too? Would

If only we truly believe that this world and this life is going to come to an end, no matter how many memories we make, our real destination is the best of the abodes, then we won't be so obsessed about making memories which will be wiped as soon as we leave this world, for it is part of nature to forget and to be forgotten. May Allah ﷻ grant us 'kamil' (complete) realisation and make us from amongst the eternal residents of Jannat ul Firdous. Ameen

# Crazy about Cartoons

**Q: Assalamualeikum, I have a question that I don't watch TV much but just cartoons. I would call myself cartoon crazy so I had to ask that are we allowed to watch cartoons in Ramadan?**

**A:** Waleikumussalam. Whatever one watches or reads, impacts one's mind and heart. Apart from wasting our previous time on this earth, cartoons also take one more towards

meant to bring our attention upon Allah and lessen our day-to-day worldly burden.

It is to free the entire family from the chores of cooking

ment until he is asked about five things: about his life and what he did with it, about his youth and what he wore it out in, about his wealth and how he earned it and spent it upon,

**Cartoon and animated films are also very brain-washing especially nowadays with most of them containing hidden messages**

worldly desires, watching obscene things and not to mention the conversations which follows with friends.

Cartoon and animated films are also very brainwashing especially nowadays with most of them containing hidden messages like mockery of Islam and monotheism, their concepts contrary of deen and containing the beliefs of non-Muslims.

This was the general ruling on watching cartoon, Ramadan or no Ramadan. However, in Ramadan, a person is naturally more inclined towards Allah as this sacred month of fasting is

food and to use the free time, during the day, to undertake suitable religious activities. It is a period specially earmarked for religious focus.

Teenagers must invest their time in fruitful things, seeking beneficial knowledge and other important matters and issues in order to benefit the Islamic nation. The Prophet says in the Hadith reported By Imam Tirmithi:

Ibn Mas'ud رضي الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said: "The feet of the son of Adam shall not move from before his Lord on the Day of Judg-

and what he did with what he knew."

So lets all use our precious time in Ramadan to engage with Allah and do self-introspection; spend time in prayers; or even practice silence. Let us make effort not to speak ill of others or tell lies or waste our time on festivities.

Let us connect with Allah, one way or another, during this Holy month. So even picnics, partying and gatherings can wait for another time, as for watching cartoon? Well, lets bid goodbye to them for good.

# Vibrancy or Monotony?



Faria Adil's musing urges us to find our hidden potentials and use them for the betterment of the ummah

Do you ever imagine, ever wonder? What if all of a sudden all the colours of this earth vanish, what if the earth is made up of only one colour? What if the concept of vibrancy and flamboyant colours diminish all at once? What if all the flowers become the same? How boring, tedious and mind-numbing it would be, indeed. No longer this earth, its colours, its flowers, its fragrances would be fascinating. We will find monotony and uniformity everywhere.

If we do not like monotony in the world, in its components, its flowers, then how can we expect monotony in ourselves? In our capabilities, in our perspectives, in our attitudes and in our appearances? How can we expect everyone to be either a doctor or an engineer etcetera, when Allah ﷻ has created every human being different from the other? How can we constrain kids to become doctors when Allah has given them a different potential, that may not be apparent to us just yet.

“Do you think that you were created uselessly?”  
(Al-Muminun: 115)

The point is that Allah has created none useless. If Allah ﷻ willed, He would make every person

in the universe as intelligent as Albert Einstein or Al-Khwarizmi. But no, He makes every person on this universe unique, with different ambitions, with different passions. And as a matter of fact, this is the very realisation that will allow us to keep moving on with this life peacefully.

Hence, if we continue to persuade our children, our siblings to opt for subjects which are not of their own accord, then they would be seriously on the horns of dilemma and we will be responsible for rusting and demolishing their potentials and abilities.

Just like the flowers, which sprout out of the same soil possessing different colours and fragrances, we, humans, are also made from the same soil, but have different potentials and capabilities.

We are to recognise our potentials and aptitudes for the betterment of the Muslim Ummah. We are to make the best of this Muslim Ummah because remember, Allah ﷻ has created none in vain. Everyone and everything in this universe has an objective; a purpose. Now it is up to us to bring out the best from within ourselves and also, provide everyone around us with the same liberty

# Sight of a Blind

by Javeria Farooq

Life is too short!  
Live it now,  
Though it's difficult,  
But I will tell you how!

If you look around yourself,  
You will see the blessing showers,  
If you feel the environment,  
You will smell the scent of flowers.

If you notice carefully,  
God gave you father and mother,  
If they are no more,  
You still got sister and brother.

If you get confused in life,

And have no path to choose,  
Pray to Allah, believe in Him,  
He will never let you lose.

If you feel alone,  
And have no one who cares,  
Close your eyes, peek inside,  
You will find Allah there.

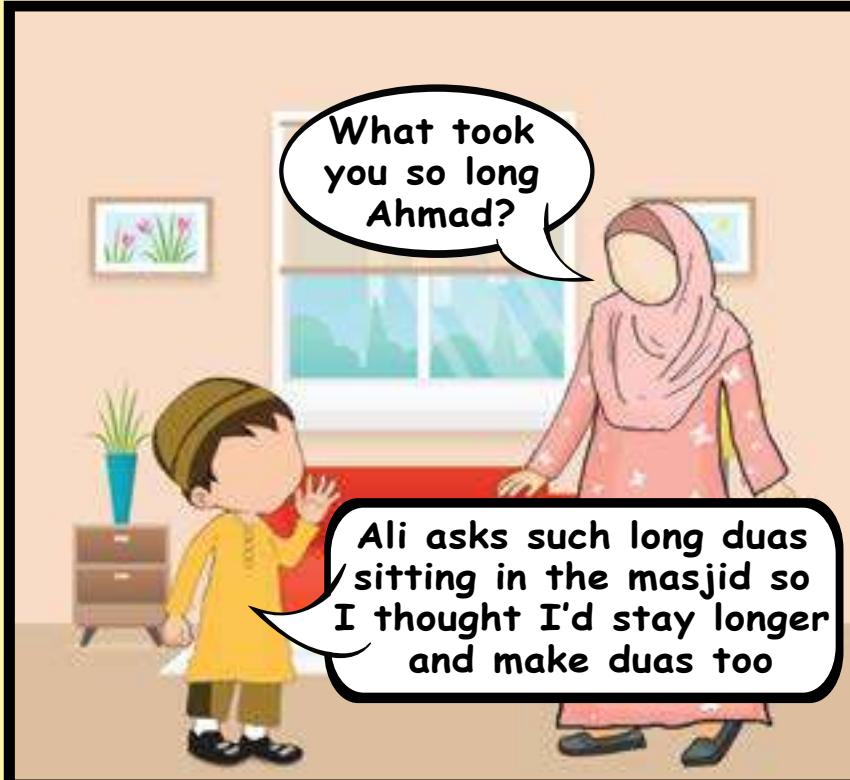
If you feel hopeless,  
And it seems that you will loose,  
You still have a way to go,  
Stand up and tie your shoes.

If you still feel amused  
How to get this inspirational mind  
Just see and observe the world  
As you have been blind

# My Real

Concept by Z

Artwork by Zaw



# Buddy

Zawjah Zia

Jah Jahangir



am  
you  
Ali.



Are you  
already back from  
the masjid dear?



dan  
mer  
rice  
ou



....Oh I just know the  
friend with whom I want  
to stick from now on  
In sha'Allah.

# giggles

## No kidding

Q: What do you call an iPhone that isn't kidding around?

A: Dead Siri-ous

## Somebody Stop Me

You know you're texting too much when...  
...you're happy when you get stopped at

a red light.

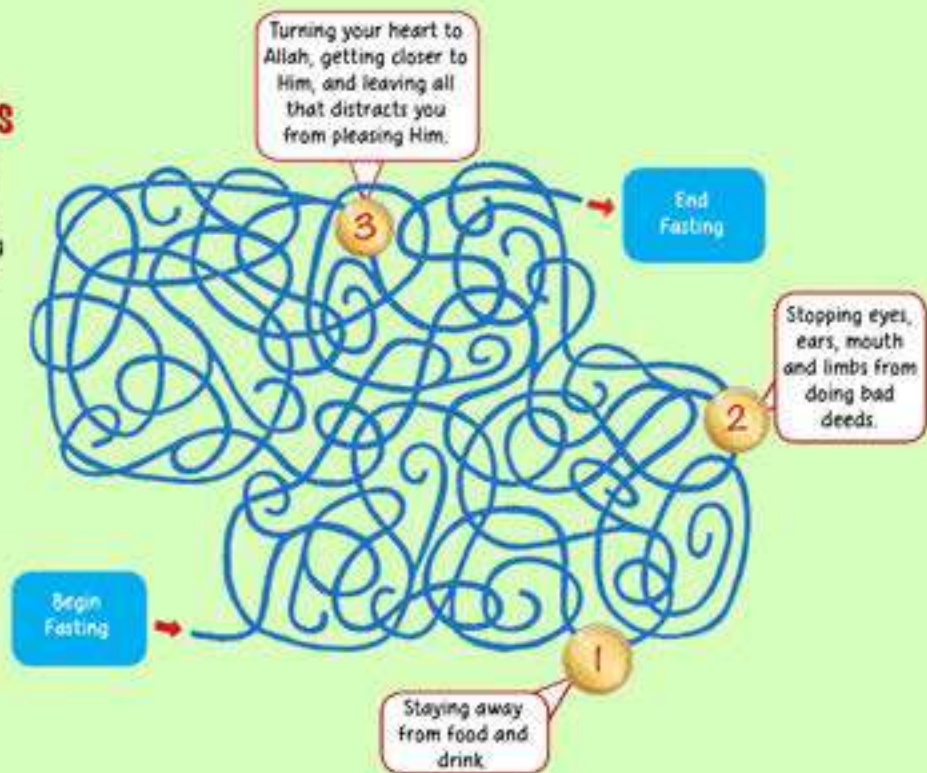
## Catch a train

A man asks a farmer near a field, "Sorry sir, would you mind if I crossed your field instead of going around it? You see, I have to catch the 4:23 train."

The farmer says, "Sure, go right ahead. And if my bull sees you, you'll even catch the 4:11 one."

## INNER DIMENSIONS

Ahmad knows there's more to fasting than just not eating or drinking. Help Ahmad make his way through the levels of fasting to find the real purpose behind this special act of worship!







# Separating salt and pepper

What's the quickest way to separate salt and pepper? Let static electricity do the work! One of the classic static electricity experiments, this salt and pepper separation demonstration will fascinate you. Even better, everything you need can probably be found in your kitchen.

## What You Need:

- Salt
- Pepper
- Plastic spoon
- Wool cloth or clothing

## What You Do:

1. Measure about a teaspoon of salt and a teaspoon of pepper. Then, use the spoon to mix them together as well as you can.
2. Rub the plastic spoon on a piece of wool cloth. As we rub the spoon, we are giving the plastic spoon a negative charge. Something that's negatively charged will attract the positive particles in different objects.
3. Hold the spoon about an inch above the pile of salt and pepper. Both salt and pepper will be attracted to the spoon, but pepper is lighter, so if you hold the spoon in the right place, the pepper should jump up and cling to the spoon!

# Her First Sajdah

Up and close with her Rabb, Rabia Khalid Lakhani's story has vital lessons for all the weary and misplaced souls

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ

“My servants ask you concerning Me, then surely I am very near....” (Al-Baqarah: 186)

The words of Hamna's Islamiyat teacher trailed off as her train of thoughts took over. “Why don't I feel this closeness, why can't I relate to this ayah? I never miss any prayers, I do all the acts of worship religiously, why can't I feel the nearness? Why do I get depressed over silly things? Why can I not get rid of this feeling of loneliness? Why?”

“Mom!” Hamna called as she came home from university. “I am back!” There was no reply. “Mom?” She called again. There was no reply again.

‘She might be praying..’ Hamna thought and walked up to her room. As she threw her bag on the bed, she saw a note pinned to her mirror. It said:  
“Gone to the mall with dad  
Had some important work to do  
Lunch is in the kitchen  
Will be back by five  
Love,  
Mom”

Hamna changed her clothes and had lunch. Then, she performed wudhu and prayed Zuhr. ‘I am so tired, and I have to tidy up my room after I pray namaz. I think then I will go to sleep. I have to study for my test tomorrow, too.’

Oh! I will complete my level in Candy Crush. Yeah! Gotta get ahead of Maria. AssalamuAlaikum Warahmatullah!’ Hamna's thought trailed on and on...

20- year old Hamna was born in a Muslim family and was a practising Muslim. She, however, did all the acts of worship habitually. Never thought of what she was actually doing, what she was saying, she just prayed as she had prayed from her childhood. Just recited Quran, because it was a habit.

After Hamna prayed salah, she went to sleep as she was really tired. As soon as her eyes closed, the landline rang. Hamna awoke with a start. It took her a moment to realise that the landline was ringing. She jumped off her bed, annoyed at the caller who had disturbed her sleep. As she picked up the receiver, noting the unknown number as she did so, she heard



an urgent male voice at the other end.

“Hello? Is this Mr.Saleem’s house?”

Hamna hesitated for a second before answering, her sixth sense screaming at her that something was wrong. She could hear ambulance sirens and people screaming behind him.

“Yes, I am his daughter speaking.” Her voice trembled slightly.

“Your parents have met an accident. They are in a very critical condition and they seem to be connected with life through a thread only. Please, come quickly, they are in the emergency ward in Healthcare hospital, near Kids World Mall.”

make dua to Allah ﷻ.

When she arrived at the hospital, there was chaos. Hamna quickly rushed to the inquiry desk and asked about her parents. The lady sitting there directed Hamna to an old doctor. Making her way as fast as she could out of the crowd of people, she approached the doctor.

As if reading her mind before she reached him, the doctor told her, “Your parents were in their car when a truck came at an exceedingly fast speed and the driver did not see them and crashed right into their car. They are in a very serious condition and the only hope for their survival lies in duas.”

Hamna quickly rushed to the

awareness, grief, joy, regret all at the same time. It was as if she was performing prostration for the first time in her life. She promised herself and to Allah that this would not be the last. She realised the meaning of salat. Hamna understood her mistake, the thing which was lacking, which prevented the closeness to Allah. She vowed to never let it go.

As she finished her salah, she saw a nurse beckoning to her. She followed her as the former led her to the doctor. She approached the doctor; unexpectedly he was smiling. He informed her that her parents were well out of the danger zone now. Hamna couldn’t believe her ears. With tears in her eyes, she rushed to once again fell into prostration, thanking Allah

**For the first time in her life, every particle of her body seemed to be concentrating on whatever she was reciting in salah.**

As she heard this, Hamna felt the ground slipping from beneath her feet and the room began to move around in circles. With difficulty, she managed to say thank you and put the receiver back in its place. She gripped the telephone table firmly, and the world righted itself.

Slowly, the news sank in. As soon as she got hold of her senses again, she grabbed her abaya and dashed out of the front door. Hailing a rickshaw, telling him to go as fast as possible, she started to

prayer room and started praying two rakahs of salah-tul-hajat. For the first time in her life, every particle of her body seemed to be concentrating on whatever she was reciting in salah. Her mind was focused on the words she was pronouncing. She was suddenly aware that she was in front of her Lord, Allah.

As she did sajdah, all of a sudden she felt peaceful. She knew her Rabb was close. Hamna was experiencing overwhelming peace,

for His infinite mercy.

Two important lessons dawned upon her that day. One, that Allah was always there to help, waiting until for you to ask Him. The other lesson was that one should pray with all your mind, heart and soul and pay your utmost attention to what you are uttering in your salah to observe the essence of it all. Today she was gifted with the lives of her parents and the awareness of the presence of her beloved RABB!!

fresh  
artists



**Aiman Amir**



**Yusuf Ali Khan**  
5 years



**Arsalan Adil**



**Umm Hani**



**Fauziya Memon**



**Zakariya Yahya**



**Awwaba Muhammad Afzal**



**Javeria Fatima**



**Saad Rasool**



**Muhammad Hassan Ali  
10 years**



**Hafsa Rasool**



**Eeshan Akbar**

# Hadhrat Asma bint Abi Bakar رضي الله عنها

*Zawjah Junaid Mukaty tells us about a daring young girl who endured the harshness of Abu Jahal yet didn't tell him where Rasulullah ﷺ was hiding during migration. It was none else but Hadhrat Asma bint Abu Bakar رضي الله عنها*

Hadhrat Asma bint Abi Bakar رضي الله عنها was one of those fortunate Muslim women whose father, grandfather, husband and her children all were companions of Prophet ﷺ. She was the daughter of the first Caliph, Hadhrat Abu Bakar rta and elder half-sister of Hadhrat Aisha رضي الله عنها, mother of the believers. She was amongst the top twenty who accepted Islam.

## Before Hijrah

When Prophet ﷺ and Hadhrat Abu Bakar were forced to hide in Cave Thaur during their migration to Madinah, Hadhrat Asma served them very courageously. She tore her nitaq, the clothing that women in those days tied on their waists, into two and hid the food in those belts and carried it at night to the cave. Prophet ﷺ made a dua for her and said that May Allah replace these two pouches that you have brought with the two from Paradise. Since then she was known as Zat ul Nitaqayn (She of the Two Belts).

Kuffar wanted to know about the whereabouts of the Prophet ﷺ. That day Abu Jahal stopped her way and forced her to tell about the hiding place of her father on which she kept silence. Abu Jahal got furious and slapped her brutally such that her necklace fell down but this brave and steadfast woman bore all the pain and did not tell him about the Prophet ﷺ and her father.

Abu Quhafa, her grandfather had not accepted Islam before Hijrah. He had not liked Hadhrat Abu Bakar leaving his family behind in Makkah. He asked his granddaughters what their father had left behind for them. Hadhrat Asma رضي الله عنها quickly brought a tray full of stones covered with a velvet cloth and put her old, blind grandfather's hand on it to prove him that there were gold coins to take care of them. There is no doubt she was a great woman. May Allah grant us the little bit of goodness that these people had.

She married Hadhrat Zubair bin Awwam رضي الله عنه shortly before Hijrah.

# But the real courage that Hadhrat Asma رضي الله عنها showed was when she was hundred years old in 73 Hijrah

## As a Wife

Hadhrat Zubair bin Awwam was a poor man. He had left everything behind in Makkah and the only thing that he had was a horse. But Hadhrat Asma was very happy to be with him as he was a very good man who looked after her very well. She served her husband with her heart and soul. She prepared the hay for the horse and fed it ground date-stones. She brought these date-stones from her husband's land, which was two miles away from her house and then grinded them. She also went to fetch water and brought it back on her head. She was not good at making bread but Hadhrat Zubair never complained. She once said that the women of Ansaar were very helpful, they used to prepare the bread for her. She was an example of a hard working woman. After the conquest of Makkah, Hadhrat Zubair was blessed with a lot of wealth and it is said that he died a rich man.

Her first son Abdullah was born after Hijra and he was the first child to be born after Hijra. She would do such good tarbiah of her children that people used to give examples of her upbringing of children.

## A Generous Woman

Her generosity mostly affected her slaves. Whenever she fell sick, she used to free her slaves. She never kept the wealth to herself but made sure to distribute it as soon as possible. Hadhrat Abdullah, her son, once said that my mother and my aunt never waited for excess to give charity as there will never be excess, give what you have and the excess will come.

Her mother was a non-Muslim. Once her mother

came to Madinah with gifts for her. Hadhrat Asma refused to accept them as she didn't accept gifts from non-Muslims. Her mother forced her to take them so she went to her sister, Hadhrat Aisha رضي الله عنها, to ask the Prophet regarding what she should do. Hadhrat Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم gave her the permission to accept the gifts and it was only then that she took them.

## A Courageous Woman

Hadhrat Asma participated in the Battle of Yarmouk with her husband and son. The women in those days used to go with their men to give them moral support, serve them and take care of their wounds and bruises. She played an important role in this battle serving the Muslims.

But the real courage that Hadhrat Asma رضي الله عنها showed was when she was hundred years old in 73 Hijrah. At that time, the pain and agony that she endured was shocking. Her son Abdullah was facing Hajjaj bin Yousuf's army. Hadhrat Asma supported her son and advised him to be steadfast. Hadhrat Abdullah fought bravely until he was martyred. She kept herself composed though she was at a very old age.

This daring lady died ten days after her son in Makkah. Her grave is in Makkah's famous graveyard, Jannat ul Mu'ala. It is reported that she had not lost her memory and had a full set of teeth at this age too. She is said to be the last one among Muhajireen to leave this world.

May Allah shower his blessings upon these great personalities and may Allah help us to follow their footsteps. Ameen

# How can I contribute in dawah efforts?

**2nd prize winner**

**Age category: 10-14 years**

**Written by Maria Armoghan**

**12 years**

**The Intellect School**



Everything in this world has some purpose for its creation. Crops are grown for mankind to eat from them. Animals are also created for the same purpose. Trees are created for us to provide shade. The sun is created to give us light in the daytime. The horizon is created to give us shelter, shade and rain for our crops. The rivers and lakes are made to provide us with fresh water to drink and for other purposes. Same way there are millions of other things on earth which we even do not know but Allah has created them for some purpose because He knows everything of His creations as the Quran Kareem says: "Indeed it is He (Allah) who is the Hearing, the Knowing." (Al-Anfal: 61)

Likewise, Allah has created prophets to spread his message to the rest of the world, e.g. Hadhrat Nuh was sent to preach to the people of Nuh, Hadhrat Hud to the people of Aad, Hadhrat Musa to the people of Bani Israel. Allah's last messenger, Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent to Ummat e muhammadiya to teach them Allah's commandments and the right way to live as the Quran outlines. He was sent as the last and most beloved messenger of Allah to guide and preach the ignorant people towards deen. Allah says to His most beloved in the Holy Quran: "So preach (O Muhammad) you are only a preacher." (Al-Ghashiya: 21)

When Muhammad ﷺ himself is assigned such a great errand to preach to the people and guide them towards Islam then it is a sunnah for all his Ummah to spread the message of Islam as well. We should teach about Islam to our friends, relatives, in our neighbourhood, and to non-believers also as much as possible. So inviting someone towards Islam is on the whole known as dawah. One who takes part in doing dawah is rewarded like the Holy Prophet ﷺ has said: "Allah, His angels and the inhabitants of heavens and earth; nay, even the ant in its hole and the whales in the sea, pray for the one who teaches people what is good." (Tirmidhi) But friends, the question that turns up in our minds is that how can we contribute to dawah efforts?



We think that we cannot go to other countries to preach Islam there. That's true but there are simpler ways to do dawah as well. Let's look into them:

First of all, dawah can be done verbally as well as non-verbally. From verbally I mean to say to talk about Islam in gatherings like dars, bayan, some Islamic speech or debate etc. In these areas we speak about Islam, make others realise about this beloved religion and we also tell, share or discuss what Islam teaches us, like we see in the eye-opening spiritual discourses of Maulana Tariq Jamil and Maulana Abdul Sattar Hafidhahullah and how in them they talk about Holy Prophet's ﷺ life beautifully co-relating it to ours and enumerating the areas where we lack. They have a lasting impact on people's hearts.

The other and most major way is doing dawah non-verbally. This mainly includes our actions and how we utilise our blessing to do something good. In our actions, everything is kept in consideration e.g. our doing something according to the Sunnah or teachings of the Quran. I'll give you more examples. If I offer salat very calmly and slowly, with full attention then that salat of mine will also be accepted as well if anyone's around and they see me, they can get inspired and do the same. So I'll get the reward and dawah from my part would also be done.

Another example is when someone sports a beard keeping in mind that I am only doing this to earn Allah's pleasure and following the sunnah so that person earns a great reward. And wherever that person goes, his face is always glowing with the Noor of sunnah and his beard can turn out to be a source of dawah for anyone who gets inspired by this great sunnah which will earn him a reward. He is doing this dawah 24/7 MashAllah, without even realising it. Same way if a girl is doing pardah, anyone can get motivation from it and that girl will have spontaneously done dawah.

So any good deed we do and others get inspired by it and start doing the same can result in making someone else step a little further into Islam. So why not avail this opportunity of doing that tiny deed too which can earn us the big rewards of doing dawah?

# Why Me?

**3rd prize winner**

**Age category:  
10-14 years**

**Written by  
Omer Noman  
10 years**



I read a story 'The Wise Young man' in one of the issues of the Radiance Magazine. It told a story of a wise, young man who had three pets. A donkey, a dog and a hen. One day, the hen got killed by a fox. The wife of the young man cried over it. The man consoled his wife by saying that "Everything happens for your own good". Few days later, the fox killed the donkey. Again, the wife of the young man cried over it. The wise man repeated the same words that "Everything happens for your own good". Few days later, their dog died. Once again the man's wife cried over the loss but the man repeated the same words "Everything happens for your own good". After many days, some enemies attacked the town and made everyone prisoner except the man and his wife. Enemies located people through their pets; barking dogs, crowing hens and braying donkeys. Since the man and his wife had none of these pets, they remained safe.

This story touched me deeply as a young boy, it made me realise the little things that happen in our life which we don't understand. We rarely look for the wisdom behind our fate and the events which occur on a daily basis. From something as trivial as getting late for a party to something as distressing as falling sick, our minds revolve around the reasons behind an indignant, 'Why me?'

This made me work hard on myself in thinking positively in every situation even if it becomes hard at times - I am just a ten year old boy after all! But the baby steps can turn into long strides and Allah helps those who try their very best. Insha'Allah

# The Do's and the Don'ts of Ramzan

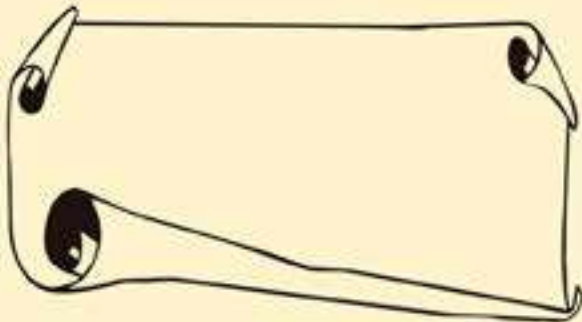


Recite and learn the holy Quran

Give Sadqa and help the needy



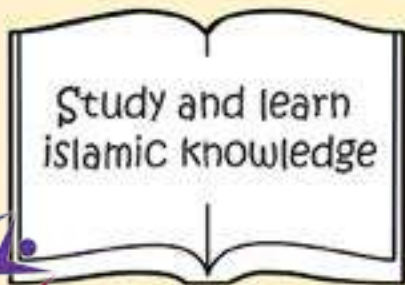
Make lots of Dua



Do Lots of Zikr



Study and learn Islamic knowledge



No Eating or Drinking in public



No Swearing, Lying and Backbiting

Stay away from Arguments and Fights



Do not listen to Music

Lower your Gaze



Don't waste time on useless activities



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