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radiance

LIVING AND LOVING THE YOUNG MUSLIM LIFESTYLE

The Chasm
through

Quran and
science quiz

A boastful
young man

Comic: Everyone
matters



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7 Blueprints for a positive change

“Change” is the vogue nowadays. “Change” is being chanted by the Presidents to rally up public support; “Change” is being demanded by the masses suffering due to skyrocketing fuel and commodity prices. But no matter what change we keep chattering about, the change that is needed is that which brings some positivity in one’s life.

For Muslims, Ramadan is the prime time for change. This month dramatically alters our routines and schedules. From tight sleep schedules, to hunger for extended hours, to a technology diet; to lengthy standing in Taraweeh prayers at night, to extensive reading of the Quran. What a change indeed!

But sadly enough, life switches gear from the prayer mode to the party mode from the very morning of Eid. It seems as if ibadah is something which was only reserved for just one month of Ramadan. But don’t you think that this is like slavery to Ramadan instead of being servants of Ar-Rahman? So let’s figure out ways to help retain our good deeds for the upcoming eleven months too for it is also wisely said that deeds which are done in this one month are easier to carry upon for the whole year round.

Ways to Boot-out Bad Habits

Ramadan offers a perfect and natural environment for moral training. Interestingly, researches from psychology have repeatedly shown it takes between 30 to 40 days to kick a bad habit and develop a new one. And in addition to the physical discipline during the month of Ramadan, the increased spiritual exercise and connection with Allah ﷻ, can transform our habits for life.

Define what is it you want to change

So while on a journey towards replacing bad habits with good ones, first of all pinpoint to your

yourself your bad habits. You also need to change your environment and resist the negative peer pressure by finding a better company of friends.

Boost your spiritual immune system

Make a firm resolve that even after Ramadan, you will continue your spiritual exercises like reading of the Quran, fasting, giving charity, Zikr (remembering Allah), joining the company of the pious – we don’t realise it but all these help in eliminating a number of bad habits. Through the spiritual light of doing noble deeds, evil ones will gradually be eradicated from your life.

Imagine yourself as a changed, different, new person

This simple psychological shift in our thinking about our own image can do wonders. Tell yourself, “I can’t continue this ill-behaviour. I am better than that. I am much stronger and wiser.”

Get help

Tell someone about your effort to change if it helps. Read books and magazines that will encourage you to do virtuous actions. Join the various programs in your local Masjid. Ladies should endeavour to join their local Taalimi Halaqaas - onsite and online. There are good and sincere people who are ready to assist. We are not an island - We are an Ummah!

Remind yourself of death and Hereafter often

Rasullullah ﷺ stated: “Remember often the terminator (or destroyer) of all the pleasures (i.e. death),” (At-Tirmidhi.)

So ensure that you follow up and imagine yourself under this ground at least once a day. It is easy to do so if we are linked to a good Allah-fearing Islamic Scholar and are constantly engaged in noble and charitable work.

Continued on pg 18

The Chasm Through



Umm Abdul Rahman's story brings home an imperative lesson: choosing between the company of bad friends or those who bow before Allah's every command

Maria! Why don't you like this picture? Isn't it good enough for you?" She really felt bad that Maria didn't give a thumbs up for her image that she posted on Facebook. She kept checking again and again, wondering that why Maria wasn't liking her story. Her feelings changed second by second. She opened up her text messages and started to type a message, but as soon as there is a 'typing...' signal from Maria, she immediately deleted her own typing message.

"Oh Alishba, are you okay? Why did you put these Islamic quotes on our status?! This is our friend's page...hurry up, remove them." 19-year-old Alishba belonged to a Muslim family. She, however, did all the acts of worship towards Allah only habitually. She never thought about what, or why, she was doing them. She prayed and recited the Quran as she had prayed from her childhood. But in few months, after joining some bad company in her university,

various bad habits channeled into her personality. She started to dislike wearing Abaya and scarf, and stopped being a fearful Muslim and instead used to show bad behavior towards her parents. No matter how much her parents tried to make her understand, she refused to comprehend the lifestyle and philosophy that Islam advocated. Her very personality was getting shaped by her friends day after day.

That day when she came back from her university, she threw her bag on the sofa and announced that there is a party in her university the next day. She planned and said to herself, 'I have to tidy up my room, then get my dress ready for the party and then I think I will study for my papers as well.' After all that, Alishba got quite tired.

The next day.....

She started to get ready. While making her hairstyle she smiled again and again because

She felt the ground slipping beneath her feet and the stall beginning to move around her in circles. With difficulty, she held her senses and started shouting and asking for help.

she was feeling excited that she will meet all her friends. She came down and asked her mother, "Mom, how do I look?" But there was no reply from her mother because she was angry with her daughter.

Alishba entered her university with all of her aloof attitude and held high her proud neck, collecting lovely comments from everyone. Alishba found her group, and they all met her warmly. The boss of her gang was giving signals to others through her eyes. One of her friends said, "Alishba, can you please come with us to the washroom area?" Alishba replied, "Yes, why not? Sure, dear!"

Her friend went in to the bathroom, and came out screaming and said, "Alishba, there is a cockroach in one of the the bathroom stalls! Can you please make it go away?"

As soon as Alishba went inside the bathroom stall, her friends locked Alishba in the bathroom, and only because they were getting jealous of her looks, as she looked pretty cute. And then they said, "Alishba, you are locked!" Alishba was still searching for that unseen cockroach in the bathroom and thought that her friends were kidding...But finally, she realised that there was no cockroach and when she pushed the door, she realised that the door was locked!

She felt the ground slipping beneath her feet and the stall beginning to move around her in circles. With difficulty, she held her senses and started shouting and asking for help.

After a long period of time, she heard someone's steps towards her bathroom stall. There was her teacher, and she opened the door and

let poor Alishba out. She came out with a ruined complexion as she had been crying abundantly. Immediately she began the walk to her home.

After changing her clothes, she quickly rushed to make wudhu and started praying two rakahs. Each and every part of her body was focusing and concentrating on the surah she was reciting in salah. Alishba was experiencing overwhelming peace, joy, awareness, grief, regret all at the same time. She realized the very meaning of salah. Repenting, she understood her mistake, and most of all, the thing which was lacking in her; her closeness to Allah. She vowed to never let it go.

As she finished, she saw her mother beckoning her. She said, "Alishba, you are the sweetest daughter!" With tears in her eyes, Alishba rushed once again fell into prostration, thanking Allah the Almighty.

Her mother advised, "Beta! You have to choose the right people to be friends with - there lies a chasm between those who spend their days in the company of the pious, who frequently spend time at a masjid or madrassah and who befriend people with the intention of learning how to bow before Allah's command, and there are those who have no connection with the Quran and dislike the company of Ahl-e-deen. These two groups are vastly different, and this chasm is absolute and unchangeable. So, girl, veil yourself! Make proper spiritual mentors and friends who are concerned about doing good deeds and staying away from bad habits. Don't forget repentance is our secret key."

Alishba instantly hugged her mother, crying profusely and announcing, "I have repented Mom, I have repented."

Hard riddles want to trip you up, and these ones work by hitting you with details from every angle. So let's see if you can stretch your brain to come up with a something tiny and unexpected

1. My life

You measure my life in hours and I serve you by expiring. I'm quick when I'm thin and slow when I'm fat. The wind is my enemy.

2. Egg equation

If a hen and a half lay an egg and a half in a day and a half, how many eggs will half a dozen hens lay in half a dozen days?

3. Math time

How can the number four be half of five? You might start doing some elaborate fractions but hard riddles like this are sometimes much more about word play than crunching the numbers. Think literally and the answer may just appear right before your eyes.

4. Eighteenth-century England: A riddle with a vengeance

As I was going to St. Ives,
I met a man with seven wives,
Each wife had seven sacks,
Each sack had seven cats,
Each cat had seven kits:
Kits, cats, sacks, and wives,
How many were there going to St. Ives?"

not going

they all must have been returning from St. Ives, was going to St. Ives when he met the gang, so of multiplication. But in reality, the speaker to make you think you have to do lots and lots question, throwing all of those sevens in there 4. One. This riddle is something of a trick "half" (two letters i.e. l and v) of the word five. 3. IV, the Roman numeral for four, which is

$\times 1.5 = 24.$

fold, the number of eggs increases 16 times. 16 of hens and the amount of time available four-

1. Candle

Answers



Quran and Science Quiz



This quiz includes various scientific aspects mentioned in the Quran.

Allah, in the Holy Quran, summons humanity to investigate and reflect upon the heavens, the earth, mountains, stars, plants, seeds, animals, the alternation of the night and the day, the creation of man, the rain and many other created things. Examining these, man comes to recognize the artistry of Allah's creation in the world around him, and ultimately, to know the Creator, Who created the entire universe and everything in it from nothing.

What does the Quran state about the mountains and their reason for existence?

- A. Mountains do not exist according to the Quran
- B. The Quran states that mountains are just high rises
- C. The Quran states that mountains have been created for beautification alone
- D. The Quran states that mountains act like stakes or tent pegs that hold the earth's crust and give it stability

2. What does the Quran say about the shape of the Earth?

- A. The Quran says the Earth is flat
- B. The Quran says that the Earth is not exactly round like a ball, but geo-spherical
- C. The Quran says the Earth is round like a ball
- D. There are no verses in the Quran which talk about the shape of the Earth

3. What does the Quran state about the motion of the sun?

- A. The Quran says the sun is stationary
- B. The Quran says only the moon rotates in its own axis and not the sun
- C. The Quran says that the sun, moon and all celestial bodies rotate in their own axis
- D. There are no verses in the Quran talking about the sun.

4. What does the Quran specify about the barriers in water where freshwater and saltwater meet?

- A. Quran says seawater and freshwater mix and form a new homogenised water body
- B. Quran does not talk about the barriers between water bodies
- C. Quran says there are no water bodies
- D. Quran speaks about the divider between fresh and saltwater, it mentions the existence of “a forbidding partition” with the barrier

5. Does the Quran talk about the Water Cycle?

- A. Yes, the Quran explains in detail about the complete Water Cycle
- B. The Quran talks only about rainfall
- C. The Quran talks about the evaporation process alone
- D. Quran does not talk about the Water Cycle

6. Does the Quran mention anything about the creation of the universe?

- A. Yes, the Quran talks about the creation of the universe, which in science is termed as

the Big Bang Theory

- B. Yes, the Quran says the Universe was created as an accident
- C. The Quran mentions that the universe has been existing from time unknown
- D. No, there are no mentions in the Quran about the creation of the universe

7. What does Quran say about the honey bees?

- A. Thy Lord taught the bee to build its cells
- B. Then (He inspired it) to eat of all the produce (of the earth)
- C. There issues from within their bodies a drink of varying colors wherein is healing for men.
- D. All of the above

8. What does the Quran mention when it says, “We made everything from _____”. (21:30)

- A. Light
- B. Energy
- C. Water
- D. All of the above

9. Which animal does the Quran mention when it says in Surah Baqarah, “Allah is not ashamed to mention a parable even of a _____.” (2:26)

- A. Spider
- B. Mosquito
- C. Ant
- D. Bees

Answers

8-C	9-B	4-D
7-D		3-C
6-A		2-B
5-A		1-D

Beam of Light



Author: Adeen Ahmed
Age: 11 years
Eposide: 4

The kids at school are playing American Football. The almond-shaped ball dashes around. It's a girls versus boys game, and everyone has picked sides and cheering their teams. I usually love to play, and I'm the star player, but I shook my head and sat down firmly on the bleachers when Amy Anderson asked me to play. I don't feel like it. I look at the game now, Keiko Carter dashing past Shane Dagson and scoring another goal. Leyla scores another. Then Adam Johns scores. It's monotonous to see the game - teams score goals after another. I know a time when I didn't feel that way, but the game reminds me too much of Kiran.

"Hey, Kiran!" Julie Brown waved at the both of us, sitting in the topmost bleachers. "There you are! I was looking for you. Where's Leyla? She's usually hanging out with you two."

"She has the flu," I told her, "she said she'd be back to school in two days, on Wednesday."

"Okay," Julie nodded affirmatively. "Hey, they're starting up a new game of American Football. Nafees Baber is the captain of the opposing team. Me and a couple of girls want you to be the captain of the other team, Kiran." she looked pointedly.

Kiran shook her head. "Sorry, I - I can't play."

Julie's sunny face distorted in a frown. "Why? You okay?"

Kiran nodded. "I'm fine. Just - I feel a little tired."

"Oh," Julie turned away. "Hope you feel better in a while! Can you play, Mera?"

I shook my head. "I'll watch the game."

Julie shrugged her shoulders and ran down the bleachers, taking the news with her.

"Are you alright?" I asked Kiran, concerned. "You never pass up a game!"

"I don't," she sighed. "I wished I didn't have to. But Mama's worried. She doesn't want me to lose my health. Especially now. Because -"

"Because what?" I interrupted, because she'd paused.

"Because -" she sighed again. "Well, here it is in plain language - the doctors say there's not much hope."

"What?" My voice was full of disbelief, but my heart was full of dismay and unhappiness. It just wasn't possible. She'd been making such good progress. We'd almost completed the bucket list. Dr. Lawson had been pleased. How could this happen? It was all too much to take in.

Before Kiran could reply, my phone's ringtone shook me. With trembling hands I took it out.

“What?” I shrieked so loud two children behind me jumped in alarm. “Why?”

It was my mother. I slid the green button. “Yes, Mama?”

“Mera, can you get yourself excused from the secretary? I need you to come home quickly.”

“What?” Seriously, they were never wrong when they said the world was full of surprises. “Why? Of course I can. But why?”

“We’re flying to Atlanta,” came the reply.

“What?” I shrieked so loud two children behind me jumped in alarm. “Why?”

My mother’s voice came back through the cell phone in a worried tone. “Your Dadi’s had an accident. She went to the store today, and suddenly she keeled over and blood was everywhere. She’s been sick for days.”

“Did Jafir Chacha take her to the hospital?” My paternal grandmother lived with my uncle and aunt in Atlanta. Nothing like this had ever happened before.

“Yes. It’s very serious.” My mother’s voice wavered, and it had nothing to do with the connection. “We’re all going to see her. I’ll tell you more when you come home. Your cousins Maria and Muaz are picking you up from school.”

“But Mama -” I had so much more to say, but Mama had shut the phone and I had no other option.

“Are you okay?” asked Kiran, concern on her face and in her grey cloudy eyes. “Is everything alright?”

“Yes,” I swallowed and nodded. I don’t even remember clearly what happened next. Sure, I dashed off to the secretary and told her I needed to leave school. Sure, my cousins signed

the permission slip as they were over eighteen. And I rode back in their car, with them talking to me, telling me everything was going to be fine, that Dadi Jan will be alright, but it was all such a blur.

I didn’t know who I was worried about more, Kiran or my Dadi Jan. For one, Kiran was going to die. My best friend was going to die. She was going to leave this world, win the race to Jannah and leave this world forever. For another, right when my best friend needed me, when I needed her, my Dadi Jan got sick. It was like a double nuclear bomb thrown on me, twisting my heart to nothing, ceasing my brain to work, and shattering my soul.

The next five hours passed in a flurry of exhilaration. And it was NOT the good kind. The good kind is when something wonderful is going to happen. This was the opposite. Something good was NOT going to happen.

Flights were booked for six PM sharp, and Mama packed everything for everyone, while Maryam Phuphi quickly whipped us food to eat on the plane. Abba went to book different sorts of things, from hospital requirements to wills, while Maria sat on the phone informing everyone about Dadi, and Muaz dashed around doing all the odd jobs.

And me?

You don’t want to know.

But after a whole square hundred and fifty hours, a piece of my life had fragmented horribly. Sharply. Tearing me apart.

The thing about leaving something behind for the last time is that you don’t realize its value, ever, until it’s gone

Continued Insha’Allah...

Hadhrat Abu Al A'as bin Rabi' ﷺ

Fortunate were those who enjoyed the company of the auspicious Prophet ﷺ and became the blessed companions. One among them was Hadhrat Abu Al A'as bin Rabi' whose story we are reading today with Zawjah Junaid Mukaty

Hadhrat Abu Al A'as bin Rabi' was the nephew of Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ first wife, Hadhrat Khadija tul Kubra. He was quite near and dear to his maternal aunt who loved him like a son. He was not only the apple of the eye of his family, but the whole Makkah liked and respected him due to his honesty, integrity and trustworthiness. He was a rich man and a skillful merchant with great manly looks. Makkans had also given him the title of "Lion of Hijaz" for his acts of bravery. All in all, he was endowed with many blessings of Allah.

Apart from all these blessings, there was one extremely precious gift; he was the son in law of the righteous Prophet ﷺ. Hadhrat Zainab bint Muhammad ﷺ entered his household a little before the advent of prophet hood. When Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ received his first revelation, his family including Hadhrat Zainab embraced the new faith but Hadhrat Abu Al A'as declined the invitation. Although

he did not convert, he never participated in any acts of persecution which were done day and night to the defenceless Muslims. So much so that Abu Lahab ordered both of his sons to divorce the daughters of Prophet ﷺ and forced Hadhrat Abu Al A'as too to break his relationship with his wife but he declined to do such a heinous act.

The oppression and harassment of polytheists reached to its heights and they banished Hashimites to put pressure on Banu Hashim to withdraw its protection from Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ. This boycott forced them to move to a deserted area called Shaib Abi Talib where they had to eat leaves and plantains for their survival. These were arduous and tough days for Muslims which lasted for approximately three years. During this painful time Hadhrat Abu Al A'as risked his life to supply food items whenever possible. Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ praised him for this act of sincerity.

After a year or two of migration, the Muslims faced the polytheists on the grounds of Badr in which Exalted Almighty blessed them with a glorious victory, revealing that faith prevails. Hadhrat Abu Al A'as was also present there from the Makkan side although he did not wish to fight but he was compelled to do so.

This boycott forced them to move to a deserted area called Shaib Abi Talib where they had to eat leaves and plantains for their survival.

At the end of the campaign he was taken prisoner by Hadhrat Abdullah bin Jubair, an Ansari companion. Hadhrat Zainab ﷺ sent a necklace that had been a wedding gift from her mother, Hadhrat Khadija, as the ransom amount for her husband. The sight of the necklace saddened Prophet ﷺ and he remembered his precious wife and daughter. He asked his companions if they felt appropriate to return the necklace, then to send it back to Hadhrat Zainab as it was her mother's emblem. The ransom for Hadhrat Abu Al A'as was then decided as to send his wife off to Madinah once he returned.

Hadhrat Abu Al Aa's fulfilled his promise and prepared for his wife to travel to Madinah. He mounted her on a camel and asked his younger brother, Kanana, to go with her. They both had not gone far when the Makkans surrounded them. One of them, Hibbar bin Aswad, threw a spear which hit Hadhrat Zainab and she fell from her animal. Kanana got angry and tried to retaliate but Abu Sufyaan who was yet a polytheist tackled the situation wisely and asked Kanana to return back to Makkah and leave after a few days.

He knew well that the Makkans had lost the battle badly and would do anything to harm Prophet ﷺ. Kanana returned with Hadhrat Zainab and left for Madinah at night after a few days.

One of the narrations also reports that Prophet ﷺ sent Hadhrat Zaid bin Haritha with Hadhrat Abu Al A'as to bring back her daughter. Hadhrat Zaid stayed back at Batan while Kanana brought her there after a few days. Hadhrat Abu Al A'as loved Hadhrat Zainab and the uncoupling with her made him disconsolate. During those miserable days he found an opportunity to visit Syria with a trade car-

avan. On their return journey near Madinah, they were met by Muslim raiders who seized the merchandise, much of which belonged to different Makkans and captured the members of the caravan. Hadhrat Abu Al A'as managed to escape and secretly slipped himself into Madinah at night. He crept into Hadhrat Zainab's house and asked for protection which she straightaway provided.

At Fajr, she pronounced in a loud voice, "O Muslims! I have given protection to Abu Al A'as bin Rabi'." The devoted companions of Prophet ﷺ accepted this protection and for the sake of gaining pleasure of their beloved Prophet ﷺ, they returned the merchandise too. Hadhrat Abu Al A'as immediately returned to Makkah with the goods and gave them back to their owners. He then pronounced Kalima Shahada and accepted Islam. He also announced that he would have converted in the presence of Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ but he did not do so because he didn't want anyone to understand that he wanted to rob off the Makkans of their property.

After his acceptance of Islam the couple could live together only for a year approximately. Hadhrat Zainab departed this world and left her husband sad once again. With Prophet's ﷺ permission, he migrated back to Makkah and carried on with his business.

He did not participate in any battle except an expedition which was led by Hadhrat Ali. He died in 13th Hijra while another tradition relates that he got martyred in the Battle of Yamama which was fought during the caliphate of Hadhrat Abu Bakr ﷺ.

May Allah shower his blessings upon Hadhrat Abu Al A'as ﷺ and may we meet him in Jannah. Aameen

The Light of Mankind

Umme Kulsoom Mohammad

12 years

Leicester, UK

From birth to manhood, pious was He.
A display of nobility.
He tried to make everyone see their wrong ways
So that they may be forgiven by the Almighty,
Yet, they did not listen even though he spoke
the truth.
They thought his message was uncouth,
Even though this divine revelation was to save
them, the makhlooq, the creation.
This message that he brought was fine,
It was clear, beautiful, divine.
They did not believe him.
They started to tease him.
They spread lies,
About his yearning and his cries,
Although there were some individuals that
thought about his claim,
Including Abu Bakr, Ali, Umar and Dhun-Noo-
rain.

The Prophet's character, it was of the highest
position.
In fact, it was his actions that caused everyone's
transition.
When he arrived at Taif at his destination,
He was brutally injured, and they rejected his
proclamation.
He could have destroyed the entire nation.
However, he refused to cause them devastation.
Even though they caused him complete humili-
ation.
He was in a tough situation.
Isn't it a complete travesty?
That they didn't recognize Allah's Majesty.
When Khadija ﷺ his beloved wife passed away,

He was in pain and he remembered her every
day.
She was not one of those people who had gone
astray.
The gardens of Jannah is where she will stay.

When Rasulallah ﷺ died,
Every single one of the sahabah cried.
They loved him so much from his beloved feet to
his beloved eyes.
Even the kuffar used to say,
I have never seen anyone love someone with
such affection as they.
Is there anyone in our lives that we would die for?
Someone we would love to the core.
The sahabas' love for Rasulallah Sallallahu alaihi
wa salam used to soar.
There is no one they would love even more.
They would give up everything for him even
though they were so poor.
What does this show us? About the Rasul of Al-
lah ﷺ.
His beauty, his character.
His humility, his nobility. His honesty.
How trustworthy was he?
How lucky we are to be his ummatis.
On Qiyamah he will hold onto His throne and
bow down to the Almighty.
Looking at his life we should see how our char-
acter needs to be.
I want to follow the sooner to the best of my
ability.
I want my character to be like the character of
my dear Nabi.
Salalaho Alaihi Wassalam.

LAYLATUL QADR

TIME MANAGEMENT

1. Aspirations

ASPIRATIONS - GOALS - PLANNING



2. Sadaga

SADAGA TO REACH IT'S RIGHTFUL PLACE



3. Ghusl



4. Salaatul Maghrib & Isha



5. Iftar

SURAH AL QADR

Ask for Sujood at the time of Iftar doors of heavens open (wells removed)



6. Salaa Of Laylatul Qadr

- 2 Rakats Salaa
- Al Fardha & 76 at Ikhisa in each.
- 70x Astaghfirullah Wa Astoubaytu



7. Dua Tawba

- 1) Acknowledging sins
- 2) Remorse
- 3) U Turn
- 4) Need help not to return to sinning
- 5) Make this ultimate repentance.



8. Dua Makerimul Akhlaq

- 1) Compromise Einnah (Trust)
- 2) Priorities that connected to Allah's
- 3) No arrogance
- 4) Long life but righteous
- 5) Relationship with others based on Rahma
- 6) Report to du'a in time of need



9. 3 Qur'anic chapters

SURAH AL ANKABUT (29)
Bolted covered
Fragility of the human being & his ego system.
SURAH AL RUM (30)
Perfections
Silber & Self-esteem
SURAH AL DUKHAAN (24)
Qur'an revealed on a blessed night. Warnings.

10. Qur'an & Ma'sumeen

ACKNOWLEDGING AWESOMENESS OF QUR'AN (Placing on hand)
Verbalizing names of the talking Qur'an (Ma'sumeen)



11. Duas Before Sehri

DUA ABU HANZA THUMALI
MUMMALAT INAMI ALI (PBUH)
JAWSHAN KABEER



12. Sehri

SURAH AL QADR



13. Salaatul Layl

TAHAJJUD
NAWAZ - E - SHAH



A night better than a lifetime

14. Salaatul Fajr



PEACE
ALL AFFAIRS OF THE YEAR RATIFIED



radiance

One Step Forward

Kitlak Imtiaz's story enumerates the beauty of how if we take one step forward towards Allah, He comes ten steps forward to us

"Hmmm whatever. But please don't advise me again and again because you know I don't like to wear shawls and veils at all," Jawairiya replied with her rolling eyes.

"Being modern isn't bad at all but staying within the boundaries of our deen is very important, consider this Jawairiya," Nimra was explaining. Nimra was eating a banana while Jawairiya was eating an apple. Nimra continued, "Look at this banana. It is soft and fragile that's why Allah ﷻ gave it a cover to protect it. Similarly a woman has delicate temperament and she is very precious in Islam. For example, if we have a pearl. We won't show it to anyone because we know if we display it, it can be stolen or it can be ruined. That is why Allah ﷻ has addressed the women in Quran: "To cover yourself from all bad eyes and lower down your gaze. Are we not as special and precious as gold and diamonds? Or are we good enough just for show off? And these are orders from Allah ﷻ. We don't have any other option," said Nimra. She was concerned for her friend.

"I know everything but why don't you understand I want a free lifestyle. I don't like res-

trictions," said Jawairiya. She pressed her lips tightly with frowns on her head. "But, but can we change the topic please. So did you prepare for the test for tomorrow?" Jawairiya asked Nimra.

"Not yet I'll do it before bed." Nimra replied and stared at the red silky apple which she picked up from the basket. She began to enjoy its juicy, soft and crunchy taste.

Ding Dong!

A car honked. "Look at the door Nimra, it must be my father." Saying this Jawairiya put the "daily news" aside, took her bag, hang it over her shoulder and walked towards the door.

"I have to go now, see you tomorrow dear," announced Jawairiya.

"Allah Hafiz dear, have a safe way home," cried Nimra. After this, Jawairiya sat in the car and waved her hand at Nimra. Nimra also waved in return. The car turned, went out through the gateway and towards its destiny.

“Yeah I know about you and your boring choices,” said Jawairiya dozing off, throwing her head down on the desk.

The next day, two girls with totally different outfits entered in the class room. Tight bottom light blue jeans with polka dot pink shirt and short body jeans jacket on it, holding two books in her hand and a bag hanging on the shoulder. She was Jawairiya. On the other hand, a girl who was wearing a large gown till her feet. She was also wearing a hijab on her head, bag hung on shoulder and books in hand. She was Nimra. They sat in the first two chairs of the first row of the classroom. They always sat together. The teacher entered the class. Everyone stood up to greet Ms. Zahra.

“You all know that Allah is the only who has created everything in the world. We have strong belief on this, not even a single leaf moves without His permission. Everything is only in His hands. We believe in Him, His holy books, His prophets and on His angels who serve Him all the time. Also Angels never do anything against Allah’s orders. And this is also obligatory on all of us to follow the orders of Allah ﷻ. The best way to love Allah is to worship Him and follow His commands.” Teacher was telling the students about “Monotheism”. It was the lecture of Islamiyat studies.

“Nimra isn’t it the most tiresome class?” Jawairiya commented.

“I don’t think so, rather I like it!” Nimra replied.

“Yeah I know about you and your boring choices,” said Jawairiya dozing off, throwing her head down on the desk.

Tringggg! (Class over bell).

“Thank God!” said Jawairiya with dropped shoulders.

At the canteen, both friends bought sandwiches for lunch. “Yummm...! Delicious, don’t you think Nimra?” “Yes you are right. It’s really yummy.”

“Little spicy, little salty, little sour and sweet, creamy, saucy and tender.” Jawairiya was commenting on the taste of the sandwich. After they had finished their lunch, Nimra started learning her lesson of Islamiyat studies.

“Again? Aghh! Why do you like this boring subject? Jawairiya asked with an irritated expression.

“Because I love Allah, to know and follow the commands given by Allah. You should also love this as a Muslim.” Nimra looked relaxed.

“As a Muslim I also know it all. I recite Quran and fast in Ramadan, sometimes I pray also. What else to do?” asked Jawairiya.

“But these type of short and fitted dresses are not the way in Islam Jawairiya. Deen is not only about fasting, reciting or praying, it’s being obedient to Allah ﷻ.”

“But I can’t leave the society. Dress up like you! How weird!” retorted Jawairiya making crooked faces.

“Who is asking you to leave the society? Listen! You love challenges right? If I give you a challenge to look like me just for one week then? Will you accept it?” asked Nimra.

“No! It isn’t possible.” Jawairiya shook her head in denial.

“Just do it as a challenge please. I promise I will not force you again to change your attire. You should experience my style one time.” Nimra

tried to convince her.

Jawairiya thought for a while then she nodded her head and accepted the challenge.

The next day as Jawairiya entered her class. She gave a random glance at everyone. Their eyes popped out at this hilarious change. “How is that possible? Is this Jawairiya? Look at her! What’s wrong with her? Am I dreaming?” Everyone started talking about her changed attire. They all were very shocked. But Jawairiya didn’t bother herself since she never cared for what others say or perhaps she was concerned about the challenge she has taken with Nimra.

Days passed one after the other. She noticed hijab had brought some extra respect and consideration from fellow students, in fact it gave her a stronger feeling of security which she had never experienced before. She started getting used to it with the passage of time. She was adopting the colour of Nimra’s Islamic lifestyle.

Finally, the last day of completion of her challenge had come. But she didn’t seem happy rather she looked little upset. She couldn’t feel the happiness for completing her challenge. The day passed. Next day when she entered the class, Nimra got the shock of her life. “What happened Jawairiya? I also noticed your behavior yesterday. Why are you sad? And why you didn’t come in your previous dressing? Your challenge has been completed.”

Jawairiya looked at her friend with a faint smile and said, “Nimra today I realised how wrong I was. I had always made fun of you. But now I also don’t feel comfortable in my previous attire. It was easy to come to it but now it’s difficult to go away from it. I realise its safety and satisfaction of soul with it. I realise that Allah ﷻ’s orders can never be wrong. I feel like I want to continue this because after one step forwarding to Islam I understand your words in their true sense. I’m sorry Nimra.”

As Nimra listened to Jawairiya calmly she said,

“Ohh my dear! I’m so glad to hear this that you want to change your lifestyle in accordance to the commands of Allah ﷻ. You can’t imagine my happiness, I dreamt to see you with me side by side not only in our classes rather to stay best friends with you in Jannah also. Your heart and mind changed by forwarding only one step to Allah ﷻ.” With smiling face and tears in eyes, Nimra expressed her feeling of contentment.

“There is always khayr in what Allah has chosen for us. If we try one step forward to Him, He will come ten steps forward to us. He is the turners of Hearts. There is a beautiful Dua I have started asking Allah ﷻ,

يَا مُقَلِّبَ الْقُلُوبِ ثَبِّتْ قَلْبِي عَلَى دِينِكَ

‘Ya Muqallib al-Quloob, Thabbit Qalbi ‘Ala Deenik O Controller of the hearts make my heart steadfast upon Your religion.”

(Jami` at-Tirmidhi 3522) Javeria concluded with teary eyes

Continued from pg 04

Develop a relapse strategy

To ensure not to return to our bad habit we are trying to change, we may put some specific penalties for ourselves. Some people donate money to a good cause every time they return to sinning or a bad habit while some read extra nawafil or keep fasts. This reminds them of the ‘cost’ of going back to old bad habits.

Ask Allah for Help (Dua)

Do so sincerely, even begging and crying, like a child does when he or she really wants something. Allah is Ever-Willing to help and respond to our needs, but it is us who must take the first step towards Him.

So lets make this Ramadan the month of “Change”... are we ready for it??

Was’salam,

Umm Abdullah

Editor.radiance@gmail.com



KIDS CORNER

HAHAHA!

What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

Same middle name.

- Did you know you can actually listen to the blood in your veins? You just have to listen varicosely.
- What's the opposite of irony? Wrinkly.
- I was kidnapped by mimes once. They did unspeakable things to me.
- I finally decided to sell my vacuum cleaner. All it was doing was gathering dust!
- When you die, what part of the body dies last? The pupils...they dilate.
- A friend of mine went bald years ago, but still carries around an old comb. He just can't part with it.

RAMADAN ACTIVITY

I SPY Ramadan

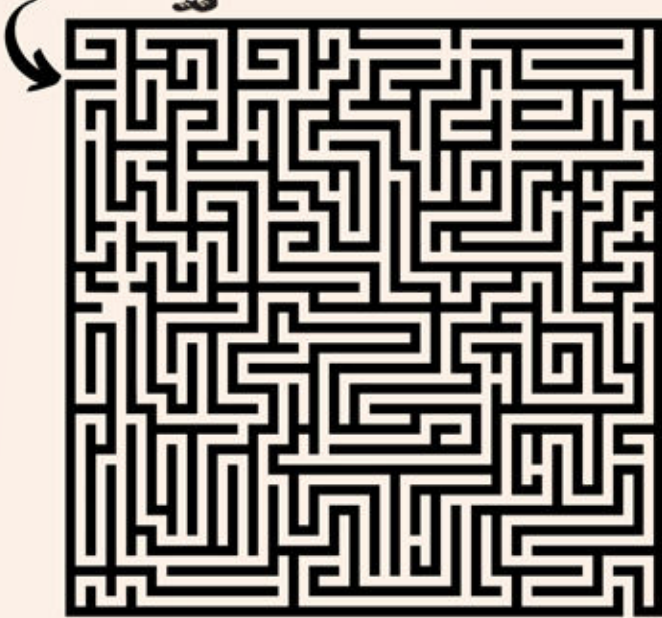
2	⌚	4	🕌	4	👤	5	🌙	4	🌟	5	🔪	7	🌙	4	🏠	6	👤	5	👤
1	🌙	6	🕌	7	👤	1	🌙	3	🔪	6	📱	7	🌙	4	🔪	7	👤	5	🕌
3	🕌	3	📱	4	🔪	6	👤	2	📱	7	🔪	5	🌙	9	📱	6	👤	3	🔪

BE A'MAZED!

Rasulullah ﷺ said: "Prayer in Jamaat (congregation) is better than prayer alone by twenty seven degrees."
(Ṣaḥīḥ AL-Bukhārī 619)



Start here!



So you see Ahmad is a Wise boy for he always prays in the Masjid Masha'Allah.



Word Scramble

Directions: Unscramble the letters to find the words.

1. qruna _____

2. sulimm _____

3. jjha _____

4. quemos _____

5. sifatgn _____

6. die _____

7. ytarhic _____



MashAllah beautiful Gratitude trees made by our lovely students of the Ahadith course. Some of them surprised us by mentioning Radiant Tarbiyah as something to be grateful for too

Muhammad Umar



Hannah-Emaan Asad, UK



Aisha Adnan



Hassana Fathima, India



Muhammad Hammad



Ushba Waqas





fresh pens

Aisha Adnan
11 years

The beauty of *Haya*

“Ting Tong!” The doorbell rang, seems like Haya is back from the school thought Rasheeda Begum.

“Mama! Mama!” Haya came rushing to Rasheeda Begum.

“Yes dear!” She answered while smelling the aroma of Biryani.

“Mama, what is meant by my name?” she asked curiously.

“Go and change, I’ll tell you after lunch and be fast.”

Haya did as directed by her mother.

“Now mama, tell me!” She was now on Rasheeda begum’s lap while she was using the phone.

“Dear Haya, Please tell me when you are in washroom would you like someone to come?”

“Obviously no mama!”

“This is called Haya.”

“Any other examples?”

“Yes Haya in talking,”

“OK! But how can we get shameful while talking?”

“It does not only mean getting shameful, it also means to take care or respect others while talking so your words are not as harsh as a cold

wind.”

“Oh wow!”

“Narrated by Abu Huraira رضي الله عنه: The Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم said, ‘Faith consists of more than sixty branches (i.e. parts). And Haya is a part of faith.’”

“Great! I think our Sahaba had immense Haya,” Haya commented.

“Yes surely, especially Hazrat Usman Ghani رضي الله عنه.”

Let me tell you one short story about his modesty,” she stopped for a while.

“Yes, I am listening,”

“On one occasion, the Holy Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم was lying down in a room when suddenly Hazrat Usman رضي الله عنه entered. The Holy Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم instantly sat up and began adjusting his clothes. Later when Hazrat Aisha رضي الله عنها asked the Holy Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم about this, he replied, ‘Should I not show modesty to one whom even the angels show modesty.’ This Hadith is quoted from Sahih Al Bukhari.”

“Subhan Allah! What an amazing story,” Haya remarked.

“Now go for a nap so you could complete your homework later.”

“OK Insha’Allah.”

A boastful young man

by Zainab
Zulfiqar



There was a young man who had decided to sell away his motorbike. Since it was still in excellent working condition, he knew that he would be able to sell it at a good price.

Before going to the market, he had to pass by his neighbour's house. He was an old man who liked to sit at the front of his house on his favourite chair, watching the people go by.

The neighbour asked, "Assalaamu alaykum, my good neighbour. Where are you off to?"

The young man responded, "I'm going to sell my bike today, Uncle. There's a demand for motorbikes like mine these days. I'll earn plenty of money. And I'm going to use it to open a little business."

"Son, don't forget to say, 'In shaa Allah,'" the thoughtful neighbour reminded him.

"What for? I'm going now already. Why should I say In shaa Allah? I have my motorbike right here. I am going to a very busy market with many interested buyers and my motorbike is in excellent condition! My bike type is also very

popular. I am sure to sell it today!" The boastful young man replied.

His kind and elderly neighbour just stared at the neglectful neighbour who did not understand the importance of saying In'sha'Allah.

With a smirk on his face, off the arrogant man went to the market to sell his motorbike.

"What a silly old man," he mocked.

Afternoon had come.

The young man stood there, at the market, waiting for hours for possible customers. Nobody seemed interested in his motorbike. Some people just looked at his bike for a few seconds and then walked on. He was getting upset and disappointed. The day was almost over.

Finally, near the end of the closing time, an excited customer looked at his motorbike and observed it for more than a couple of minutes.

"How much are you selling this bike for?" asked the customer.

When we say 'In shaa Allah', we should, at the same time, also be fully convinced that we cannot make it happen by ourselves.

"This is my chance!" thought the seller silently in his heart.

"\$2 500!" he told the potential buyer. Obviously, he gushed with excitement as he said the price.

"Let me test it first, then I will decide," the man offered.

"Sure!" he quickly passed him his helmet and key, "I'm sure you are not going to be disappointed."

The overjoyed buyer got on the motorbike and rode away. The young man felt confident that he would not be returning home empty-handed that day.

Half an hour passed. One hour passed. Two hours passed. The customer was nowhere to be seen!

The young man waited and waited until the market stalls had all been packed up and all the shopkeepers had gone home. It was starting to get dark but the young man decided to wait for a few more hours. He got so tired that he started to fall asleep on some rocks.

COCKLE-DOODLE DOO!!!

He was awakened by the crowing of roosters that lived on a farm nearby. It was already morning!

SubhaanAllah. The man sat up and looked around. There was still no sign of his motorbike.

With tears rolling down his eyes, he finally real-

ised that he had been cheated.

On his way home, he met the nice old neighbour again. He was curious as to what had happened.

"So, my son, how did it go? Have you got your money?"

With his head down, the heart-broken young man cried as he replied, "In shaa Allah, I went to the market. In shaa Allah, someone tested my motorcycle. In shaa Allah, I waited for a long time. In shaa Allah, my bike didn't return. In shaa Allah, I walked back home."

"Hey, hey, hold on, what's wrong, my son? What happened?" the old man was truly concerned.

"I regret not saying 'In shaa Allah'. You were right, Uncle."

"Listen, my boy, it's not the phrase 'in shaa Allah' that determines our success. Only Allah can determine if one succeeds or fail. By saying 'In shaa Allah' and believing that Allah will decide it for us, we are proving to Allah something. We are proving to Allah that we are not sure if our plan will work or not. And if it does, it's only because Allah has willed it to happen. When we say 'In shaa Allah', we should, at the same time, also be fully convinced that we cannot make it happen by ourselves. We are leaving it for Allah to decide, we are leaving the result to Allah, we show Allah that we understand that He controls the situation. He can make the thing happen or not. It's up to Him. Not us."

Everyone matters

Concept and artwork by Adeen Ahmed



Joining
Hands
for Nation-Building
through
Education



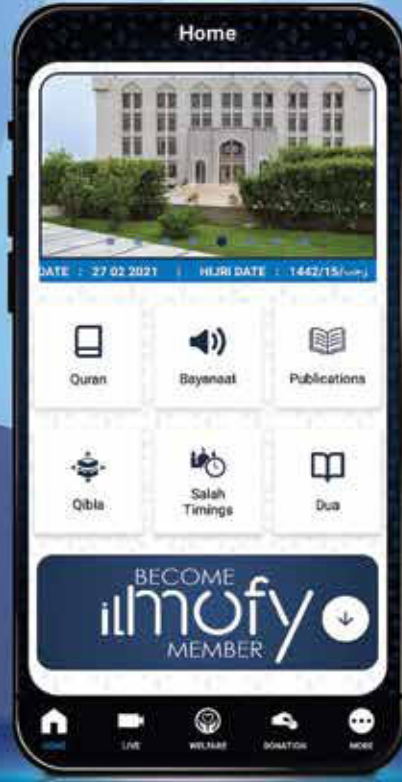
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