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LIVING AND LOVING THE YOUNG MUSLIM LIFESTYLE

The girl with the
crescent eyes

A Beautiful
bond

A precious
promise

Comic: Islam is
caring



I have
said it all!



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Assalamualeikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

It sends little shock waves through a lot of people when I tell them not to talk bad about Pakistan and that I love my country and can't ever think of leaving it, especially now when it needs us the most. There are sometimes ooohs and aaahhs, eyes get bigger and rounder; ultimately, the majority agrees and sometimes ends up saying, 'it's just innocent fun....we don't mean Pakistan-bashing!' But alas! It's not innocent. It's not fun.

Something you hold dear and which has given you regard, identity, freedom, deserves much more than some innocent funny smashing bashing, isn't it?

But it's much more than this. Apart from the sentiments that one has for one's motherland (oh yes, you can't possibly understand that exquisite feeling until you consider it your own realm and love it so – the joy, the commitment, the love, the pain, the hope, the fulfillment, the excitements, the banalities, the sacrifices, the rewards, the journey), there are some super extraordinary things about Pakistan that we need to consider and which unfortunately are kept buried by the media so as to make us feel that our country has no hope.

I could cite for you the mounds of world research proving the top ten countries with highest crime rates in Developed Nations being United States (topping the list), then United Kingdom, Germany, France, Russia, Japan, South Africa, Canada, Italy and India. And amongst Undeveloped Nations are South Sudan, Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Maldives, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago.

(<http://www.whichcountry.co/top-10-countries-with-highest-crime-rate-in-the-world/#sthash.UU0tvIKD.dpuf>). But you can do scores of such researches yourself!

I could tell you that every other person in Japan and other developed countries has tried suicide and is a depression patient, every other street has a mental hospital, and where ever you look you are at risk of destroying your gaze by looking at less than half-clad women. But these are conclusions you can draw on your own, if ever you take even a moment to think about it.

I could tell you that most Adhan at the same time is called nowhere else in the world but in Pakistan, most Namazis are in Pakistan, most Ulema who protect and guide us to deen you would find in Pakistan, most Huffaz (memorizers of the noble Quran) are in Pakistan, every year most pilgrims for Haj are from Pakistan, most people who leave their household and jobs for periods of time for the sake of dawah (spreading deen in Tableegh) to all corners of the world are from Pakistan, and even most Zakat is given by Pakistanis Alhamdulillah.

A UN's report says that Americans do most charity and after them are the Pakistanis. Like I came across a column in the Dawn newspaper titled 'Well done Pakistanis' dated July 09, 2011, where the writer says that media believes that only bad news about Pakistan are worth covering. And he continues, "But soon after I returned to Pakistan and started watching

Continued on pg 23

I have said it all!

Hira Zia sheds light upon the trepidations that one goes through in being speechless...

The least I want from myself right now is the courage to SPEAK. I want to speak about everything that I have been through. I want to talk about it badly. I don't want to feel speechless anymore. I want to give words to every agony, every pain, everything I felt, Ever! I want to talk about the trauma that rips me apart in silence.

For I feel, words, would maybe someday sew my torn heart. Maybe if I blurt it all out, the wounds shall heal. I want to SPEAK. I want to be fearless while I speak. I don't want to be scared anymore. I don't want to be needing validation for my pain from anyone out there. I don't want to feel the need for acknowledgment anymore. I DON'T WANT TO FEEL SPEECHLESS ANYMORE. I want people like me to know that it's okay. It's okay to feel so much. It's okay to cry when you are out of words. It's okay to go

through things that no one understands, because you never had a choice and they made you what you are today.

I, for once want to feel unapologetic for whatever I feel and whatever I have become. I don't want to feel guilty about being the way I am, anymore. I can't wait to come out of it. I can't wait to heave this baggage from my heart. I still have a long way to go...I am not there yet, I have just begun picking up shards of courage. I want to speak till there are no words left in me. I want my soul to be devoid of everything it went through. I want it to become like a newborn baby, who doesn't even know any trauma, heartbreak, pain, and remorse. I want to speak, till I become speechless; not because of the extent of suffering, but because I have finally said it all...



The girl with the crescent eyes

Farheen Farwa inspires us about how hijab came in her life and how it affected her.. It all started one fine summer day...

2007. I'm watching a movie when a girl draped in black comes on screen. The background song is an ode to her eyes; curved crescent moons because she is smiling too much under her veil.

Other bits of the movie are soon forgotten. The fact that it's an anti-Islamic movie with a running theme of extremism and hatred goes unnoticed by my distracted mind. Only the image of the smiling girl remains. And that aura of blissful calm.

Same year, a very close family member passes away. Death introduces itself to me. For the first time I attend the funeral and all the rites of the deceased of a close one. This situation generates a lot of feelings. I listen to angst songs. Then sad ones. I question life – and death. Where has “he” gone? What is life like over “there”? I realize that I have beliefs but

they are foggy. Everything concrete suddenly feels uncertain, ephemeral and fleeting. I try to forget these thoughts by becoming social and taking up more extra-curricular work. But I am restless.

2010. I'm crying. In Ramadan. I want peace of mind or put that “piece” of my mind somewhere else where it can't disturb me with its endless stream of thoughts.

Same year, I end up going on an unplanned trip to a remote area where the cable was so bad that it makes my eyes hurt. And the only book available for reading was a religious travelogue. However little did I know that it would become an unexpected sanctuary of sorts.

I start praying. zuhr, asr and maghrib are easier to come by. Then I start my fajr. In this remote area, you have to wake up with the sun.

The only book available for reading was a religious travelogue. However little did I know that it would become an unexpected sanctuary of sorts.

Isha is the hardest, but just a day before leaving, I'm praying all five. After years of not praying, seven days is all it takes to make me regular. I am exhilarated.

2011. New year. New beginning. I continue with the prayers and everything that's disrupting the prayer needs to be fixed, including my poor sleeping schedule! If screen time has to be sacrificed for it, then be it! If I have to go cold-turkey on technology and live in stone-age, bring it on! I gradually stop listening to music too, because I want to experience my true emotions rather than the feigned feelings it produces.

The image of the girl with crescent eyes is still in my mind. I meet a lot of girls draped in black (and other colors!) or maybe I notice them more now. They give off the same feeling of blissful calm. They are “happy”.

I want this for myself. But how? I'm not ready for social isolation, and just thinking of any negative remarks, as expected from both family and otherwise, puts my stomach in knots. Many times I put on the hijab and take it off before anyone can see me.

New semester begins. I miss the first day. My friend calls me up to make sure I “wear a hijab” during Islamic studies class, as it has been “made compulsory by that weird professor.”

The next day, before entering the class, I peek inside, just to be sure. Every girl is wearing a hijab. Relaxed, I too don the hijab for the first time in front of everyone, too thrilled to stop myself from grinning during the lecture.

I gradually wear it for longer and longer periods of time, sometimes not taking it off until I come back home. And then on some other days too, when there is no Islamic studies class.

People begin to notice. Some say I'm taking that class “too seriously”. More imaginative ones ask me if I'm getting married or if my parents are forcing me to wear it.

One girl compliments me, however. Says I'm “daring”. Another says I look much more serene now. And another tells random people who don't even know me how this has inspired them. Yes, hijab has that effect on people, I can testify to that.

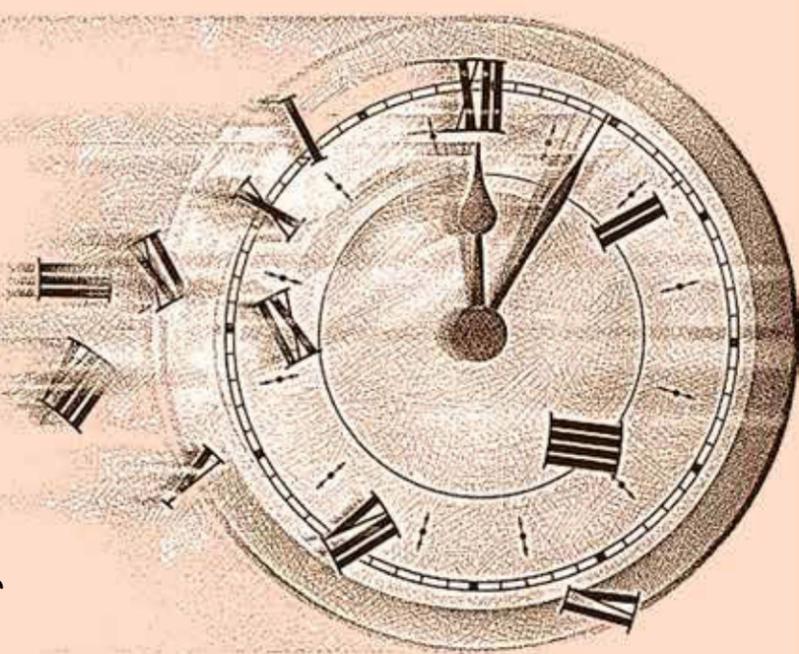
My usual group of friends starts hanging out with other people. I feel a bit hurt. But I make new connections and my social circle expands. I also have so many other “draped” friends whom I had never considered befriending before. Ha! Joke's on me!

2021. It's been a decade and it's been a long journey. Hijab is a part of me now. I have been rejected, and respected, because of my hijab. I have been avoided, and admired, because of it. But, as the saying goes, people's reaction to hijab, whether positive or negative, says more about them than it says about you.

The girl with the crescent eyes inspires me to this day. And no, I'm definitely not always “smiling too much” in my hijab. I have laughed and I have cried in my hijab. I have felt despair and I have felt exhilaration in it. I have felt a whole range of feelings. But I have also felt something that I hadn't felt before. Contentment. A very simple kind of happiness. Blissful calm

Fascinating facts about Time

Compiled by a Staff Writer



Did you know that a day on Earth used to be around six hours shorter than it is today? Or that Julius Caesar once implemented a 445-day-long year? Learn those fascinating facts about time and more in this list.

Every person on Earth is living in the past.

This may sound like the plot to some sci-fi, time-travel thriller, but it's actually a fact of human biology and the trickiness of time. Our brains don't perceive events until about 80 milliseconds until after they've happened. This fine line between the present and the past is part of the reason why some physicists argue that there's no such thing as "now" and that the present moment is no more than an illusion.

Individual people can experience time differently, too.

You've probably noticed how time seems to speed up when you're racing against a deadline or having fun, and how it tends to drag when you're bored. This is because when you're focused on something, like a big work project or a party, your brain pays less attention to how time passes. But when you're bored, or your brain is less stimulated, you become more aware of the passing of time, making it feel

slower. One study proposed that dopamine—the neurotransmitter and hormone that helps us feel happy—may be an additional culprit. It showed that increased dopamine production, which happens when you're enjoying something, may slow down your body's internal clock, making time feel like it's flying by.

Science has a number of different ways of defining time.

To cover just a couple: There's astronomical time, which is measured in relation to how long it takes Earth to rotate on its axis. In astronomical time, a second is 1/60th of a minute. And then there's atomic time, which dictates the numbers that you'll see on a clock. According to atomic time, one second equals 9,192,631,770 oscillations of a cesium-133 atom. Measuring the vibration of an atom—which, in simple terms, is the gist of what oscillation is—is the most accurate way to track time.

Gravity's effect on time isn't limited to intergalactic travel.

Here on Earth, gravity can vary for a number of reasons, including your altitude, since you're changing your distance from the cen-

ter of the Earth. That means if you put a bunch of synchronized atomic clocks at various altitudes, eventually those clocks would fall out of sync. A clock at the top of Mount Everest and one at sea level would, over the entire 4.5 billion year history of the planet, have diverged by about a day and a half.

Gravity is also the reason why our days are getting longer.

Over a billion years ago, a day on Earth lasted around 18 hours. Our days are longer now because the moon's gravity is causing Earth's spin to slow down. In Earth's earlier days, the moon wasn't as far away, which caused Earth to spin much faster than it currently does. Longer days also mean shorter years—kind of. The time it takes the Earth to orbit the sun hasn't changed, but the amount of days within a year has. Back when the dinosaurs ruled 70 million years ago, days were only around 23.5 hours long, and a year was made up of 372 of those slightly shorter days.

There are two ways to think of the length of a day on Earth.

Though you probably learned that one day on Earth is 24 hours, it actually takes the planet 23 hours, 56 minutes, and 4.0916 seconds to rotate on its axis. This is the difference between a solar day and a sidereal day—a solar day is 24 hours, whereas a sidereal day is roughly four minutes shorter. We measure solar time based on the sun's position in the sky; a sidereal day is measured based on the location of the "fixed" stars. In other words, a sidereal day is the time it takes for a distant star or constellation to appear on the same meridian.

Because astronomical time and atomic time don't always line up, every so often, we get a

leap second.

Earth's spin speed can be a bit unpredictable. Atmospheric winds, Northern Hemisphere winters with heavy snow, and other big weather systems can affect how fast the planet rotates. In order to keep the difference between astronomical time and atomic time to less than .9 seconds, the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service will occasionally announce the need for a leap second.

Most people won't notice a leap second, but they can be a huge pain for tech companies. Because leap seconds are added irregularly, developers have no way of working them into their codes, which has caused websites like LinkedIn and Reddit to crash in the past. A bug caused by 2012's leap second created so much chaos on Qantas's servers, more than 400 flights wound up being delayed.

Time zones can still be a bit complicated

Big countries like Canada and the United States have multiple time zones, whereas China, another large country, only has one. China adopted the Beijing Standard Time to foster unity, but the effect can feel a bit uncanny—two cities in the country can be at roughly the same latitude, but experience sunrise hours apart, according to their clocks. In some parts of China, for example, the sun doesn't rise until nearly 10 a.m.

Though a lot of people believe daylight saving time was adopted to keep farmers happy, that's a myth.

The first person to seriously advocate for daylight saving time was an entomologist who wanted more sunlit hours to look for insects after work in the summer. He proposed his idea to a scientific society in New Zealand in 1895



Seerat Quiz

1. What was the name of Prophet's ﷺ mother?

- A. Aaminah
- B. Zuhrah
- C. Safiyah
- D. Haleema

2. Prophet ﷺ was born in _____ subtribe of Quraish.

- A. Banu Abd Shams
- B. Banu Makhzum
- C. Banu Hashim
- D. Banu Abd Manaf

3. What was the name of Prophet's ﷺ grandfather?

- A. Abdullah
- B. Abu Talib
- C. Hashim
- D. Abdul Muttalib

4. Prophet Mohammad ﷺ belongs to the family of Prophets:

- A. Ibrahim AH & Ismaeel AH
- B. Ibrahim AH & Is'haq AH
- C. Is'haq AH & Yaqoob AH
- D. Yaqoob AH & Yusuf AH

5. Which year Battle of Trench took place?

- A. 2 Hijri
- B. 3 Hijri
- C. 5 Hijri
- D. 8 Hijri

6. Prophet ﷺ was named as "Ahmad" by his _____.

- A. Mother
- B. Uncle
- C. Allah
- D. Grand Father

7. What was the age of Prophet ﷺ when his father died?

- A. 1
- B. 6
- C. 8
- D. Before his birth

8. At what age Prophet ﷺ got married with Khadija ﷺ?

- A. 20
- B. 25
- C. 30
- D. 35

9. At what age Prophet ﷺ got Prophethood?

- A. 20
- B. 25
- C. 30
- D. 40

10. The pledge sworn to Prophet ﷺ by his Sahaba to avenge the rumored death of Uthman bin Affan ﷺ is called:

- A. First Pledge of Aqaba
- B. Second Pledge of Aqaba
- C. Pledge of Ridhwan
- D. None of the above

11. Pledge of Aqaba took place in:

- A. Before Hijrah
- B. 5 Hijri
- C. 6 Hijri
- D. 7 Hijri

12. Battle of Tabuk took place in:

- A. 2 Hijri
- B. 3 Hijri
- C. 6 Hijri
- D. 9 Hijri

13. Makkah was conquered by Prophet ﷺ after _____ year of Hijrah:

- A. 4
- B. 6
- C. 8
- D. 10

14. Who accepted Islam first among the children?

- A. Zainab ﷺ
- B. Ruqaiyah ﷺ
- C. Jafar ﷺ
- D. Ali ﷺ

15. Which Masjid was built by Prophet ﷺ during Hijrah in outskirts of Madina?

- A. Quba
- B. Masjid an-Nabawi
- C. Qiblatain
- D. Al Ahzab

16. First Wahi "Iqra Bismi Rabbika" is in Surah _____?

- A. Falaq
- B. Alaq
- C. Fateha
- D. Muzammil

17. _____ became the head of Muslims (first Khalifa) after the departure of Prophet ﷺ

- A. Abu Bakr ﷺ
- B. Omar ﷺ
- C. Uthman ﷺ
- D. Ali ﷺ

Answers

1) A	2) C	3) D	4) A	5) C	6) A	7) D	8) B
9) D	10) C	11) A	12) D	13) C	14) D	15) A	16) B
17) A							

Written by Zawjah Junaid Mukaty

Hadhrat Salamah bin Akwa رضي الله عنه



Hadhrat Salamah was also known as Hadhrat Sinaan but he is more famous by his grandfather's name as his full name is Hadhrat Salamah bin Amr bin Akwa رضي الله عنه. He belonged to the tribe Banu Aslamah that was situated in the whereabouts of Marruz Zuharan. Hadhrat Salamah embraced Islam in the sixth year of Hijra and migrated to Madinah with his family, leaving behind his clan and friends.

Hadhrat Salamah reports himself that he participated in seven battles that were fought under the commandment of Hadhrat Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم and nine other skirmishes. But his major and prominent skirmish out of all these, which gave him the title of Sahib e Ghaaba, is the one that he faced at Ghaaba, a forest and a small village connected to it at a distance of twelve miles from Madinah.

Hadhrat Zar bin Abu Zar Ghiffari رضي الله عنه had taken the camels of Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم to graze in the pastures of this forest. A disbeliever, Abdul Rahman Fazari, accompanied by forty horsemen martyred Hadhrat Zar and fled away with twenty camels. Just as a coincidence, Hadhrat Salamah and Hadhrat Ribah came there and

found the happenings complicated. Hadhrat Salamah sent Hadhrat Ribah back to Madinah to inform Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم about the situation and to reach back with help while he himself chased the bandits.

The main attributes of Hadhrat Salamah was that he was an amazingly skillful archer and could run faster than a horse. Whenever he was made to race with a horse, he won. That day he chased the mischiefs and no doubt he reached them in a blink of an eye and quickly started throwing arrows one after another on them. Abdul Rahman and his company could not resist this sudden lone attack and ran away leaving behind the camels, their own spears and clothes that were wrapped around them.

The fleeing party met Hadhrat Akhram Asadi who was coming from Madinah to help. Abdul Rahman Farazi managed to martyr him but Hadhrat Miqdad and Hadhrat Qatadah joined Hadhrat Salamah and the trio killed many of the looters. How brave were these companions of our dear Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Not for a moment he hesitated to face the forty crooks all alone. This was all because they believed in Allah whole-

Hadhrat Salamah was so much full of emotions then that he pledged thrice on Prophet's صلى الله عليه وسلم hands to take revenge of Hadhrat Usman under the tree.

heartedly and did not fear death. They were always ready for martyrdom because they knew this is one of the best kinds of deaths.

Another most remarkable event of his life was the Pledge of Ridwan. Hadhrat Usman who went inside Makkah to hold a talk with the polytheists while the Muslims waited outside the city, was assumed to be martyred by the people of Makkah. This news spread great anger among the Muslims. Hadhrat Salamah was so much full of emotions then that he pledged thrice on Prophet's صلى الله عليه وسلم hands to take revenge of Hadhrat Usman under the tree.

Later the Muslims came to know that the news was fake and Hadhrat Usman was safe and sound but they had to go back to Madinah without performing Umrah. Not only this, they had to sign a treaty which had all the points that favoured the polytheists. This was quite a depressing moment for the Muslims but they did what Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم ordered them to do. That first night on their way back to Madinah, Hadhrat Salamah asked Hadhrat Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم to give him permission to guard the Muslim troop all alone. He was permitted to do so and in return, Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم gave him many duas.

In the seventh year of migration, he went

towards Banu Kulaab with the Muslim troop headed by Hadhrat Abu Bakr Siddique رضي الله عنه. Once again, one lionhearted Hadhrat Salamah رضي الله عنه was enough for dozens of enemy. He showed his warfare tactics in the field with a lot of valour and bravery.

He took in his custody their women who fled and brought them back to Madinah. Hadhrat Salamah got possession of a beautiful woman of Banu Kulaab as his booty. Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم asked him to return the woman so that she could be sent back to Makkah in exchange of many imprisoned Muslims there. How could this devoted companion decline the request? He immediately returned the woman.

Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم had different ways to give respect and show his love for his blessed companions. He made Hadhrat Salamah sit behind on his she-camel while returning from the battle of Zi Qard and on return from Battle of Khyber, Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم was holding his hand. His closeness to Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made him narrate seventy seven Ahadith.

He emigrated to Rabza after Hadhrat Usman was martyred and married there. In seventy fourth year of Hijra he returned to Madinah and died there at the age of eighty

Keep it simple!

Can you read the hidden message in the paragraph below? Hint: Keep it extremely simple...

“F” or “H”
“E” or “S”
HEW
I / They
Estos
E.E

Bridge crossing

Amna has to cross a rope bridge, but she’s very nervous. The bridge has 20 creaky planks, and every time she steps forward 5 planks, she then steps backwards four planks. How many times must she do this in order to reach the other side?

On and off

There are 3 switches outside a room, and 3 light bulbs on the inside. All the switches are off and the door is closed. You have to figure out which switch opens which light bulb. You may turn any switches on or off, but only before you open the door and go in the room, and you can do this only once. How can you tell by one try which switch controls which bulb when you enter the room? Hint: there’s more than one way to tell if a bulb has been on.....

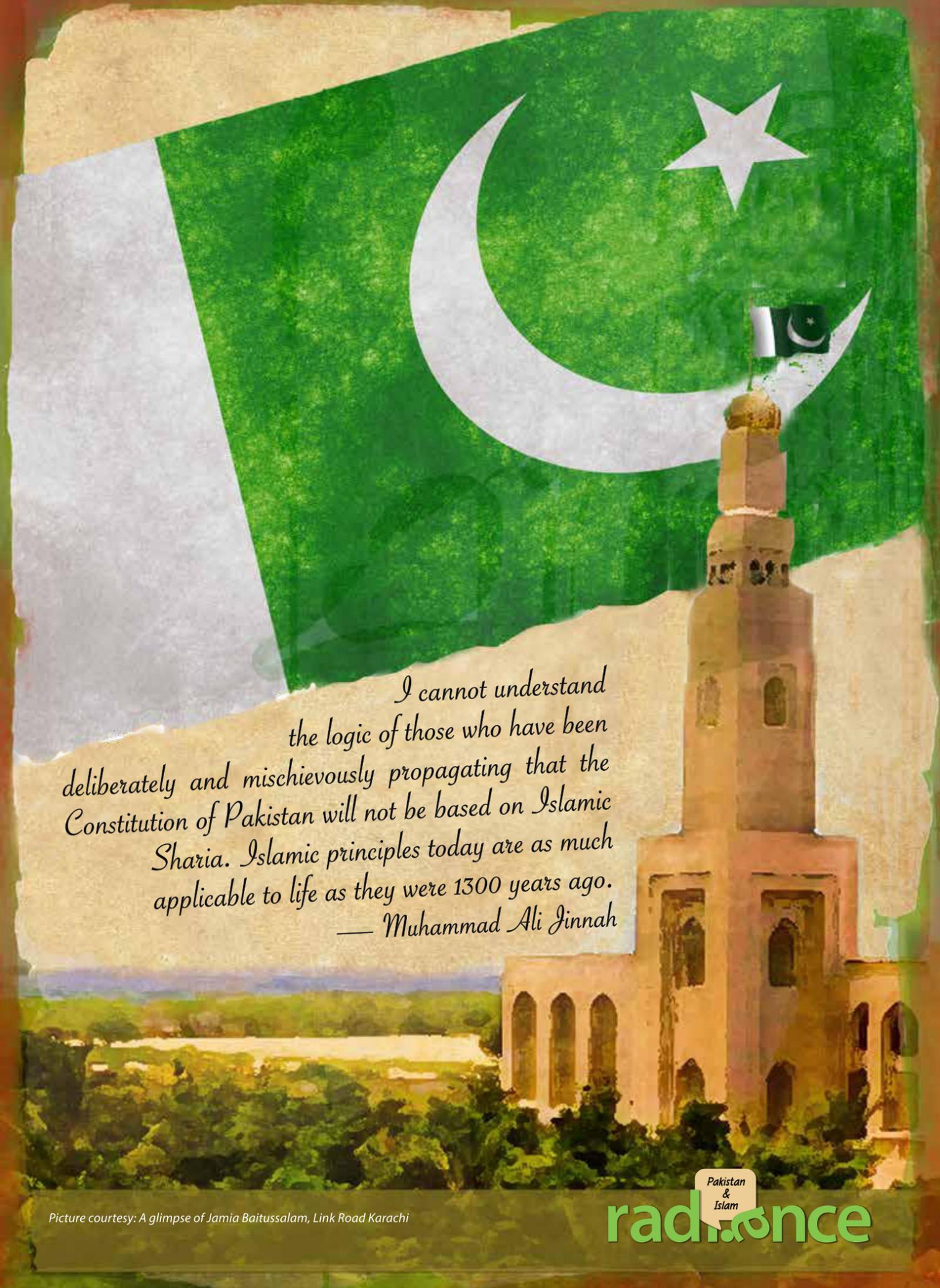
On and off
Turn only two switches on, then turn one off after about thirty seconds. When you go into the room:
• The switch that is on controls the bulb that is on.
• Feel the other two bulbs. The one that is warm is controlled by the switch that you switched off after thirty seconds.
• The last bulb, the cold one, is controlled by the switch that you left untouched.

Bridge crossing
16. On the 16th time she steps off the bridge so she doesn't step backwards.

Keep it simple!
'For he or she with eyes to see'; Ignore all the punctuation and styles, just write out the letters in a line!

Answers

Adapted from 'Logic Puzzles' by Simon Tudhope



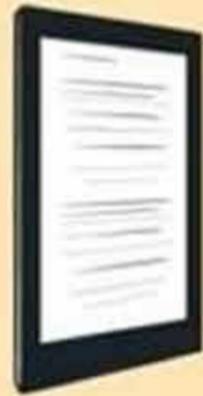
I cannot understand the logic of those who have been deliberately and mischievously propagating that the Constitution of Pakistan will not be based on Islamic Sharia. Islamic principles today are as much applicable to life as they were 1300 years ago.
— Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Picture courtesy: A glimpse of Jamia Baitussalam, Link Road Karachi



E-Books

VS



Paper books

by M. Binte Hanif
South Africa

Some things are precious... just like books. You just don't feel like letting them go. But sadly, books have vanished from shelves and ornaments have appeared instead. Our hands have been replaced by E-Books, most unfortunately overpowering Paper Books. Surprise overcomes me as I witness this global change.

I am unequivocally certain that every single one of my beloved readers have witnessed this change. Well, many of us have become deeply transfixed, appreciate Kindles and E Books while others; mostly the older generation regarded it as indigestible. Have we ever thought about what will truly happen to the future youth when they will see Kindles instead of paper books?

There are advantages and disadvantages to E Books replacing Paper Books. Before I list a few, let me make it clear that I still adore paper. It might sound weird but books and family mean the same to me. Well, I can't live without either.

When I compare carrying five books for an

eighteen hour flight and a Kindle with thousands than I would lodge for the Kindle. Flights usually have a set baggage allowance and sometimes books weigh more than three kilograms. Do not get me wrong, I am not being a hypocrite there, but I cannot ignore the pros as well. Fonts can be changed, read aloud features, night mode, easy updates and rare books found which are not available at the market. It is like actually carrying a mobile library!

Were we all not surprised at this which seemed impossible to our grandparents and great grandparents centuries ago and yes, many of them still don't agree to this idea until today.

I repeat once again, has the thought come across our minds that if we abandon Paper Books for E Books then what impression will it leave on our children?

Growing up in a house with a little modern library seeing mom or dad with a cup of cappuccino and a book on a Sunday morning, sitting on the veranda would be wholly unlike to view

On a lighter note, unlike an E Reader you can slam the cover shut super loud with a grin on your face just to make sure everyone around you knows that you just finished a book. For some of us, the best part of physical books is that their covers let people see what you are reading.

them with a kindle and lying on their beds with coffee.

As parents and teachers children should be left with lasting impressions. E-books may tend to make the young an addict to technology. A study of young children between the ages of three and five revealed that kids had lower comprehension of the story when their parents read to them from an E-Book as opposed to a print book.

Moreover optometrists recommend that the least possible time should be spent on the screen. An E Book is no exception to this advice. Battery life will eventually be drained on an E Reader, whereas a Paper book can be passed onto generations.

On a lighter note, unlike an E Reader you can slam the cover shut super loud with a grin on your face just to make sure everyone around you knows that you just finished a book. For some of us, the best part of physical books is that their covers let people see what you are reading. You should try, whenever possible, to read books on the bus or on the subway that show off how intelligent you are, with titles like "Advanced Mathematics for Literal Geniuses" or "History of Molecules and Politics Volume 3."

Laughter, sadness, beauty, memories are all sometimes infused within one book. That one book which holds tons of memories and is on the shelf for the past twenty years. Unfortunately no memories associated with an E-Book.

Ultimately, it all comes down to the reader's personal preference. Ebooks are certainly convenient and save people time, but many prefer the feel of paper in their hands. It's also more environmentally friendly to go with printed books since you're not contributing to the demand for trees (which are needed to make books). There are pros and cons to each option, but the decision is ultimately up to you. You should also take into consideration the type of book you're looking for since a children's book is going to be different from a cookbook or a colouring book. E-books and print books serve different purposes. Ebooks can be shared with friends on social media, downloaded from the internet at any time, and viewed from a computer or mobile device. Printed books are very hard to share but are great for reading in bed, lending to others, and storing in small spaces within your home. Choose whichever one is right for you!

Lastly, a "Digital Book" cannot be infused with smiles, cannot press flowers in between its pages. It cannot contain spilt tears or coffee stains; No! Only a real book can do these things.

Ohhh! How do I help it? Don't get me wrong, I am not that old Aunty, however I still adore paper books and will continue to do so

*Books give a soul to the universe
Wings to the mind
Flight to the imagination
And life to everything.*

A Beautiful bond

by Haiqa Haris

Let me tell you,
Let me tell you,
Of a beautiful bond of father and son,
A bond of sacrifice,
They can sacrifice anything for Allah,
The Quran called them Khalilullah n Zabihullah,
But most of us call them,
Prophet Ibrahim ؑ and Prophet Ismail ؑ.
One day Ibrahim ؑ said to his son,
I had a dream that I have to sacrifice my dear-
est thing,
Ismail ؑ replied, "But the most dearest to you
is me,"
Let's go to Mina so you can slaughter me,
Slaughter me, there is no loss,
I will get the gift of heaven in exchange of this
world,

And I will meet Allah when I leave you here."
They started their journey to Mina,
And then Iblees started to stop them,
But their love of Allah was so pure,
He could not stop them,
They threw pebbles at him and reached the
place,
Ibrahim ؑ blindfolded himself and got ready to
sacrifice his son,
And tried three times in vain.
When he tried for the fourth time,
He heard a voice of a sheep bleating -
He opened his fold and was surprised,
There was a sheep that was slaughtered by
him,
And Ismail ؑ was smiling at the mercy of Allah.
Let me tell you,
Let me tell you,
A beautiful bond of Allah and His servants.

How To Create Your Own Climbing Rainbow

Supplies:

Sandwich sized plastic food container
Markers
A small wooden dowel or pencil
Paper towels
Scissors
Tape
Water

Cut a strip of paper towel approximately 2x5 inches in size. On a short edge, use markers to make a strip of blocks in the colors of the rainbow. (We used this opportunity to talk about ROYGBIV.) Let the marker dry. (We found that if the paper towel is still wet with the ink the experiment does not work as well!)

The next step can be done two different ways. You can tape the top of the paper towel to a vertical surface and put only one end in the dish.

Or you may opt to create an arch using a small wooden dowel or pencil. Rest it lengthwise across an empty sandwich sized plastic container. Drape the paper towel strip across the dowel with the colored edges just touching the bottom of the container. (This way requires both short ends to have colored edges.)

Gently pour water into the bottom of the container and watch what happens!

As the paper towel absorbs the water, the capillary action will carry the water along with the marker ink up the paper towel. After the colors climb up or meet in the middle, you have your very own rainbow!



Variations

Don't want a rainbow? Use just two or three colors and watch how they mix.

Experiment to see which brand of paper towel lets the water travel the fastest or slowest.

After the experiment, let your paper towel dry out. Laminate it to make a cool bookmark or Suncatcher.



KIDS CORNER



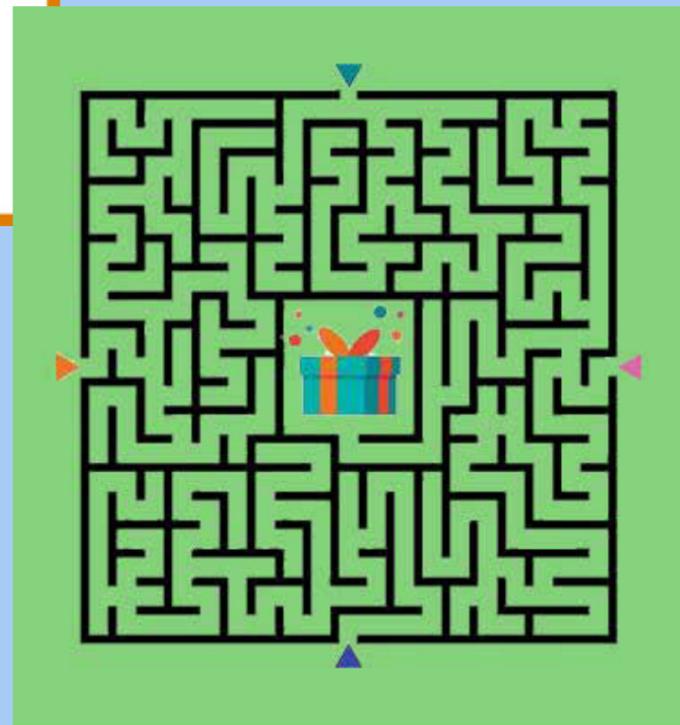
JOKES

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The Rise of Islam

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 J A O K D H B B Z G H T X R D K P L U J T H Y W
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 D C Q Y V J R Z A M G D P T L G E C N V Z C C Y
 Q H P V F J L G M H T K M T D C O W T I W U T T

Umayyad dynasty	Mecca	Ramadan
Hajj	camel	Kaaba
Muhammad	Arabian Peninsula	minaret
mosque	Shi'i	Sunni
caliph	muslim	Qur'an
islam	steppe	



The teacher of the earth science class was lecturing on map reading. After explaining about latitude, longitude, degrees and minutes the teacher asked, "Suppose I asked you to meet me for lunch at 23 degrees, 4 minutes north latitude and 45 degrees, 15 minutes east longitude...?" After a confused silence, a voice volunteered, "I guess you'd be eating alone."

"Isn't the principal a dummy!" – said a boy to a girl.
 "Well, do you know who I am?" – asked the girl.
 "No." – replied the boy.
 "I'm the principal's daughter." – said the girl.
 "And do you know who I am?" – asked the boy.
 "No." – she replied.
 "Thank goodness!" – said the boy with a sigh of relief.

While visiting a country school, the chairman of the Board Of Education became provoked

While visiting a country school, the chairman of the Board Of Education became provoked at the noise the unruly students were making in the next room.

Angrily, he opened the door and grabbed one of the taller boys who seemed to be doing most of the talking. He dragged the boy to the next room and stood him in the corner.

A few minutes later, a small boy stuck his head in the room and pleaded, "Please, sir, may we have our teacher back?"

Teeth said to tongue, "If I just press you little hard, you will get cut."
 Tongue replied, "If I misuse one word against someone, then all the 32 of you will come out at once."

A man telephoned an airline office and asked, "How long does it take to fly to Islamabad?"
 "Just a minute," answered the clerk.
 "Thank you," he said and hung up.

The missing horse

by Daniyah Barry

12 years

UAE

“Good job, girl,” I said. I was riding back from school and reached my home. My parents owned a set of stables near our small farm in Mirpurkhas, with the local town fifteen minutes away. I always used my horses for going back and forth the town, especially for school. I loved living at our farm, with nature and beauty everywhere.

As I was taking Amelia the horse back to her stable, I got a nudge of hello from my horse. After I put Amelia into her room, gave oats and water, I checked on every horse if they had enough food and water. Everything was fine... but, where was Thunder? Where was my best horse?

At once I put my school bag on the floor and ran towards Flash, the other horse, put the saddle on him, climbed on it and clicked to him with my tongue. He was very obedient and galloped at once.

I barely stopped when I told a caretaker where I was headed right after school. I clicked again and Flash galloped. He jumped over the gate even though it was quite high, for he was the best jumper amongst my horses.

We raced onto the road, and in the distance, I saw a truck which is used to carry horses. As I came near, I heard a familiar whinny and stamping. Thunder! My heart jumped with joy. But... There was a problem. How on earth can I free her from a truck which is moving and a cage which is locked?

An idea clicked in my mind and I made Flash run faster. I reached so near the truck that I could touch the lock. I grabbed the lock and with the help of my pocket knife, I opened the lock! And out jumped Thunder! “Thunder!” I cried with happiness. I grabbed Thunder’s rein and hugged her. But there was no time to celebrate. The truck driver saw us and turned the truck towards us! I ran on my horses, clutching at thunder’s rein. But the driver could still follow us because we were on the road.

I turned my direction towards a rock path. But the driver was so keen to get Thunder that he didn’t notice that he was going off-track. But soon he had to stop, for one of the truck’s tires popped and it flipped over.

“Hooray!” I cheered.

I headed towards my stable, wondering who would do such a thing. Of course, it must be Akram, the new groom we had hired for Mirpur Stables. I thought. I made up my mind to ask him some questions.

I reached home and patted Flash.

“Good job, Flash,” I said, while ruffling his favorite spot.

I gave him and Thunder their favorite meal. I went back towards my home, my stomach rumbling angrily.

I went into my house, telling my parents about my extraordinary adventure.

After I ate some food, I took Thunder with me to Akram’s room. I knocked on his door and he came outside, and his jaw dropped open for he saw Thunder besides me!

Continued from pg 04

our own news channels more intently, I found, much to my horror, that our own TV journalists were doing the same. Sadly, there is hardly a TV news channel which gives coverage to the excellent work that some charities are doing in Pakistan.”

Then the records of Huffaz in Pakistan: Saudi Arabia’s Rabita Alam-e-Islami conferring its highest award on Pakistan’s largest madressah board Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al Arabia Pakistan for producing over 60,000 Huffaz in a year!

All being said, the bad news is that we do not live in a perfect world. Why else do you think is the world filled with such pain and hurt? So if you feel Pakistan is flawed and fragile then remember that every country is flawed and fragile because it’s only the flaws of the people that make any country fragile. The good news is that there’s still time to change. And I really hope we do. I’m sure you do too.

Pakistan needs that change within us. It needs

“Who planned Thunder’s abduction?” I demanded “I.... I....I didn’t do anything!” He rattled.

“Then why were you surprised when you saw Thunder with me? If you don’t tell the truth I will be forced to call the police,” I inquired

“Okay, okay, I planned it all. When you were gone to school, I loaded her into a truck and was going to sell her in a high price. But ... you found it first,” Akram confessed.

“With my father’s permission, I will fire you out!” I said in rage.

My father gave me permission and I threw him out and my horses and I had a fun time ahead of us

our help. But the question is, are we willing to provide that much needed aid? Or are we going to continue blighting it with harsh words and actions? The enemies of Islam have their eyes set on our homeland. They want to crush it like they have done to much of the world already. Nonetheless, Pakistan is most disheartened at the wounds caused by its own people. The madressah and Ulema are doing their devoted work impeccably mashAllah, people from all over the world come to study in our madressahs, even some Imaams of the Holy Kaaba acknowledge that they have been students of Pakistani Qaris. However, the corruption is at the level where the privileged people of our country are sitting. This further goes out to say how essential it is for us to prove true to our precious promise of lailaha illallah, as only this can save our dear homeland from all evils and threats...Insha’Allah!

Till next time,

Was’salam,

Bint Zahid

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