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IS CALLING**

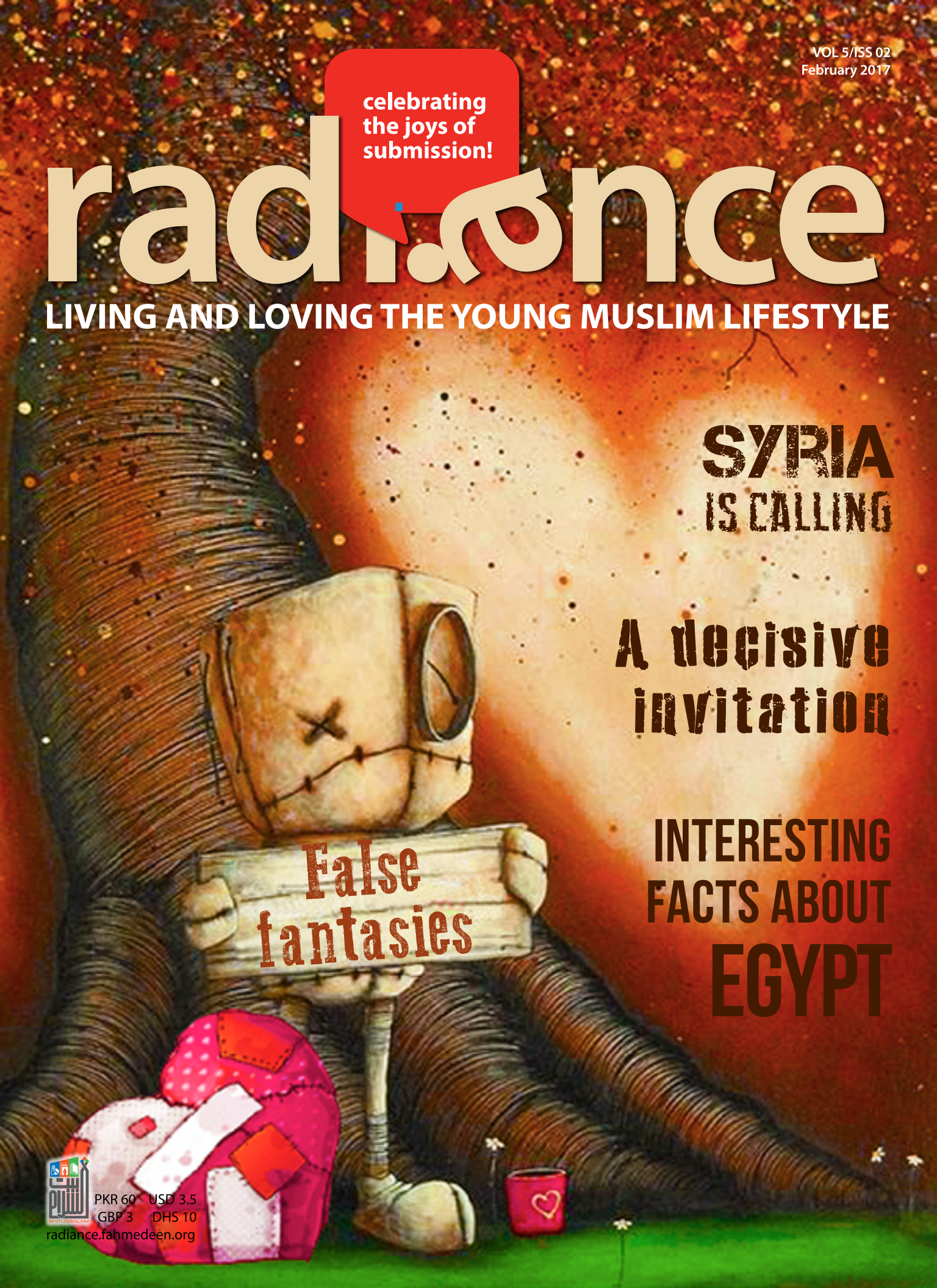
**A decisive  
invitation**

**INTERESTING  
FACTS ABOUT  
EGYPT**

**False  
fantasies**



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# Syria is calling

Assalamualeikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

A scholar in his recent trip to the Syrian refugee camps narrated a heart-warming incident: “We visited a family with nine people living in a small room. An old woman sitting in the corner was busy praying and thanking Allah ﷻ. Her son, the breadwinner, had been brutally murdered in the bombings and there was nothing to eat in the house.

We gave two toys to a little girl of around five or six years cleaning the house. She admired the toys but returned one and asked us to instead give that to the girl in the camp beside hers!”

Such are the dignified people who are witnessing the trials in Syria today, most of whom don't even have a voice - they can instead be found draped in blood, dismembered in their homes, crying over their lost mothers and fathers or covered in ashes under the heaps of bombardments.

The greatest sorrow they face is the silence of the world. How could the world watch a genocide unfold over half a decade and do nothing about it? They waited for the superpowers to act and that didn't happen.

The ‘red line’ apparently was imaginary. The leaders who kept giving empty warnings clearly were just trying to save face. Where are UNICEF and UNESCO and other human rights agencies of the ‘so-called’ civilized world?

Certainly, these children of Syria are the test of the people, and the people are their test, for their misfortune in this world came at the hands of the people, and it could be that the people's misfortune in the hereafter comes because of abandoning them.



Bernard Sanders, the American politician, suggested this week that college graduates in his land should not only have their student loans erased, but they should be provided with “affordable” houses on top of it. This can go along nicely with the free health care they require. Now is there anything else we can get them? Free massage chairs? Free tickets for holidays? A lifetime supply of roast beef burgers?

Yes sure, get them all, and turn your face away from the massacre in the rest of the world. And what do we say to the non-Muslims when the Muslims too are lacking any sense of connection with their own brothers in faith. Only yesterday out on the streets I noticed banners saying ‘Eat Karachi’ lined up everywhere. They instead seemed to be yelling out, “Eat Karachi and die of starvation Syria’. The two events coincided in time so fiercely! We actually had to do it right when our oppressed Muslim brothers are calling out for our help and even if we didn't mean it, our attitude showed, ‘Sorry, no help!’ we are busy eating.

Syria is calling. This is a time to seriously reflect on the state of our humanity and what we will do to change it. Continue to pray, give charity, and push those in power. Surely if history is ever going to rank crimes, it would put this over any other.

Mashallah tabarakallah, the Bait us Salam Welfare Trust with Hadhrat Maulana Abdul Sattar Hafidhullah reached Turkey and Syria earlier this January, being the first agency to be invited by the Turkish ministry to work in collaboration with them. May Allah ﷻ be their Helper and Protector in helping our Muslim brothers in pain. Ameen.

Oh Allah ﷻ, please come to the aid of those who have no warm place to stay in Syria, help them to endure and remain faithful, knowing that nothing can separate them from Your love. Protect the little bodies of the Syrian children and bring healing to those injured. Keep away predatory people who are looking to harm or profit from them. Bring compassionate people to watch and nurture them as they strive to survive the harsh realities in which they are living. Oh Allah, make us of those kindhearted people too who can awaken to the needs of the Syrians. Ameen

Was'salam,  
**Bint Zahid**  
Editor.radiance@gmail.com

# A Decisive Invitation

Tooba Saad's story beautifully depicts how to let go and set free from wrong influences and pointless labels

Hannah told her elder sister about what consequences would arise in school against her if she would not attend the valentine event.

Hannah returned home with a heavy heart on the day she got a Valentines Day party invitation from one of her high school friends.

Sitting and struggling with different feelings, whether to convince her family for letting her attend the party, sticking to her roots or to somehow handle the immense peer pressure that would arise on declining the invitation.

Deep into thoughts, she couldn't realise when there was a knock at the door and Asma, Hannah's elder sister walked into the room. Noticing her gloominess, Asma eventually offered Hannah her help but Hannah showed adolescent tantrums. After a little conversation, the trust developed and she felt comfortable to hand over the invitation card to Asma.

Hannah told her elder sister about what consequences would arise in school against her if she would not attend the valentine event. She ranted, "The struggle for reputation will be ruined amongst my friends and I would be labelled "old-fashioned". My friendships might expire too, but my heart is not convinced with the decision of going either because I know the party might be full of immodest acts that will make me uncomfortable."

After listening to Hannah, Asma took a deep relaxing breath. She was happy to see the values and Tarbiah their parents had invested in them were beautifully reflecting into Hannah's character.

Kissing Hannah's forehead she said, "My dear sister, I am very proud to hear

your thoughts. I have also been through many such peer pressures and influences but I have learnt that we should be more assertive in such circumstances and never forget our own selves. Hannah, do not let anyone else define you; define yourself. Don't be scared of labels. Be strong to believe in label-less genuine friendship because true friends will always respect your values and decisions."

Hannah carefully paid attention to each word that Asma uttered. This gave Asma confidence to add more, "I strongly believe there is nothing wrong if you don't wish to be a part of that immodesty. It is your prerogative to respect your body and soul. Don't be fooled by Satan disguising himself into blooming red flowers and heart-shaped balloons that attract youngsters the most but in real are an attempt to take away their haya and weaken their Imaan. The verses in the Quran have been emphasising about living a modest life and our Rasool ﷺ spent his whole life explaining to us to be protective and careful about modesty. Who can be more influential than him?"

Hannah looked totally convinced when Asma said: "Dear sister, remember, all that glitters is not gold."

The inspiring supportive sister-to-sister conversation touched Hannah's heart. Asma's words had made Hannah's vision much clearer and she felt stronger than before. She felt no bad in saying "No" to the proposal that was only to please people, have some senseless fun and make her disobey Allah. She also felt contented to distance herself from bad influences that might harm her.

May Allah protect us and all our youth from damaging their Imaan. Ameen

*An excerpt from the spiritual discourse of  
Hadhrat Abdul Sattar Hafidhabullah  
enlightens us the lethal consequences of a  
heart grounded in false love and its  
false fantasies*

## False fantasies

Sadly, some hearts are such that they are occupied by feelings and desires that are not lawful. Such a heart does not only entail that a person has a dirty heart, rather, it also entails contaminated eyes, a bobbed conscience, lost human values, the death of modesty, ruined respect of the parents and an overall mutilation of the religion and the sunnah of the beloved Prophet ﷺ.

An unlawful love can turn a perfectly good person blind; and into a loser who loses absolutely everything that has value. So, in fact, an unlawful love is a lethal disease of the heart.

How does a person catch this lethal disease? Anyone whose love for this material world and its fancies exceeds its limits is vulnerable to this disease of false love. The lethality of this disease is disastrous because it then forces a person to disobey the commands of his Lord ﷻ in multiple ways; all his strengths and his body parts are affected and start malfunctioning.

Therefore it is absolutely necessary to avoid this disease and try to protect our hearts from it.

We take much care and precaution to avoid physical diseases and then go to all lengths to treat them if we ever catch them. Even a little pimple or spot on the face which blobs the beauty of the face is taken quite seriously. Why? Because this face and our physical forms are what we present to this world and its inhabitants.

## *Anyone whose love for this material world and its fancies exceeds its limits is vulnerable to this disease of false love.*

Have we ever thought how important it is to take the blobs of our hearts seriously too? This heart is what we present to Allah ﷻ. Rather we have ignored our hearts so much that they have been turned into garbage dumps! If the eyes watch filth it is dumped into our hearts. The tongues utter all imaginable filth and it is too dumped into our hearts. The ears listen to all imaginable filth which too is dumped in the hearts.

How sad a state is that! It's a heart that was meant to receive and entertain the blessings, light and guidance from its Lord ﷻ! Imagine an old deserted house! No one went into it for ages. All sorts of snakes and scorpions and stench and garbage are in there. Such a scary house, isn't it? No one would want to enter it.

Our hearts have been turned into such haunted places for ages! And there is no wonder that our hearts are now filled with all kinds of fears. There are serpents of discomfort and restlessness because the environment in there is so very suitable for them to dwell in. Nothing good was ever put into these hearts so they host only these monsters of hopelessness and fear.

Allah ﷻ says:

(الرعد: 28) أَلَا يَذْكُرُ اللَّهُ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ

“Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find contentment.”

What kind of a dwelling place would be a heart like this! A place that has been receiving the light and blessings of the remembrance of Allah ﷻ for ages! Why wouldn't it then have the perfumes and happiness and contentment!

So a heart that is attached to everything and anything but the remembrance of its Lord ﷻ (who deserved its attachment the most), is a heart that would be filled with filth and dirt. Meanwhile, the same heart has the potential to become the fountain of eternal peace and success:

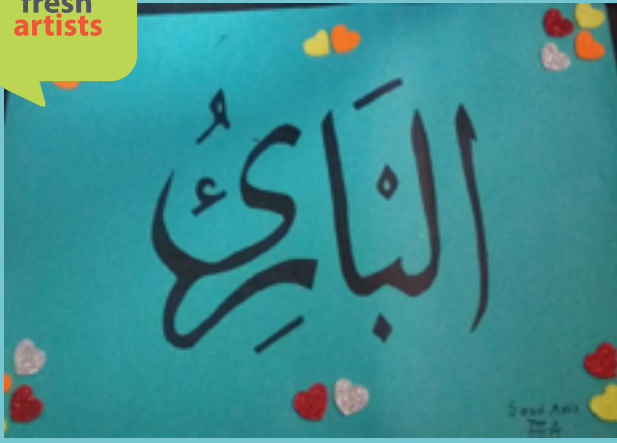
The day on which property will not avail, nor sons...

“Except him who comes to Allah with a heart free (from evil).”  
(Ash Shu'ara: 88, 89)

SubhanAllah! The one who'll reach his Lord ﷻ with a heart that was protected against all of these lethal diseases of false love and attraction, will be blessed with an eternal life of peace, tranquility and success – just because this heart was void of unlawful and untamed love and attraction of this world and its beauties, this person's worship was accepted. Otherwise, the worship remains empty gestures without a soul; failing to give any pleasure in this world and any benefit in the Hereafter.

May Allah ﷻ help us take care of the real health of our hearts and save them from these killer diseases of false love. Ameen

fresh artists



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Education Bay School



Sumayyah  
5 years  
The rising star montessori school



Juwariah Humair  
7 years  
Newworld International school

Muznah Ashfaq Bhatti  
4 years  
China



Abdullah Bin Sheraaz  
7 years  
The Intellect School







Minaal Omar  
Bayview Academy



Noor ul ain  
Fatima  
The Educators  
Rawalpindi



Thread drawing by  
Huda Imran

Huda Wajid Khan  
Dar al Faisal  
International school  
Al baha

Javeria Salman  
8 years  
The Intellect  
School





Hasan, Arif and Salman are tired after traveling all day and check into a hotel. When they get to reception, they find out they'll have to walk 75 flights of stairs to get to their room because the elevator is out of order. Hasan suggests that they do something interesting to pass time while they walk the 75 flights. Hasan will tell jokes, Arif will read Naats, and Salman will tell sad stories. So, Hasan tells jokes for 25 flights, Arif read Naats for 25 flights and Salman tells sad stories for 24 flights. When they reach the 75th floor, Salman tells his saddest story of all: "Guys, I left our room key at the reception."

## Riddles

By: **Haniya Naveed**  
The Intellect School  
Age 10

1. An electric train is going one way and the wind the other way. Which way is the smoke going?

Ans) It's an electric train, it does not have a chimney for burning coal.

2. Three men went diving into a river but only two got their hair wet. Why?

Ans) The third man was bald.

3. A plane is flying from Canada to America and it crashes on the border. What side will the survivors be buried on?

Ans) They did not die. They were survivors! So why burry them?

5. What is harder to catch the faster you run?

Ans) Your breath.

Child: I put twelve bananas in front of an elephant. It ate eleven. Why didn't it eat the twelfth?

Man: The elephant's stomach must have been full.

Child: No, the twelfth banana

was made of plastic. OK, now again I put twelve bananas in front of an elephant. This time it didn't eat even one. Why?

Man: All the bananas must be of plastic.

Child: No, this time the elephant was a plastic one. But now the bananas were also real and the elephant was also real, but the elephant didn't eat a single one. Why?

Man: Why, O wise one?

Child: The elephant was on TV and the bananas outside. OK, this time a real elephant and real bananas both were on TV but still the elephant didn't eat a single banana. Why?

Man: Now why?

Child: Both were on different channels.



## Energy Transfer through Balls

What you'll need:

- A large, heavy ball such as a basketball or soccer ball
- A smaller, light ball such as a tennis ball or inflatable rubber ball

Instructions:

- Make sure you're outside with plenty of room.
- Carefully put the tennis ball on top of the basketball, holding one hand under the basketball and the other on top of the tennis ball.
- Let go of both the balls at exactly the same time and observe what happens.

What's happening?

If you dropped the balls at the same time, the tennis ball should bounce off the basketball and fly high into the air. The two balls hit each other just after they hit the ground; a lot of the kinetic energy in the larger basketball is transferred through to the smaller tennis ball, sending it high into the air.

While you held the balls in the air before dropping them they had another type of energy called 'potential energy', the balls gained this through the effort it took you to lift the balls up, it is interesting to note that energy is never lost, only transferred into other kinds of energy.

# Interesting Facts about Egypt

Egypt has the largest Arabic population in the world.

Pharaoh Pepi II (2246-2152 B.C.) had the longest reign in history—94 years. He became Egypt's king when he was only 6 years old.

On average, only an inch of rain falls in Egypt per year.

The famous Great Pyramid at Giza was built as a burial place for King Khufu (2589-2566 B.C.) and took more than 20 years to build. It is built from over two million blocks of limestone, each one weighing as much as two and a half elephants. It stands about 460 feet (149 m) high—taller than the Statue of Liberty. The base of the Great Pyramid takes up almost as much space as five football fields.

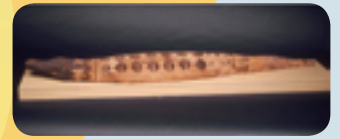
The shape of ancient Egyptian pyramids is thought to have been inspired by the spreading rays of the sun.

Mexico, not Egypt, has the largest pyramid in the world in terms of volume. The Cholula Pyramid was built around the year A.D. 100.

Though it is 40% the height of Egypt's Great Pyramid of Cheops at Giza, it covers an area of 39.5 acres. In contrast, the Great Pyramid is 480 feet high and covers 13 acres. Additionally, the Mexican pyramid has a volume of 4,300,000 cubic yards, while the Great Pyramid has 3,360,000.

The pyramids of Egypt are not only the oldest of the seven wonders of the ancient world, they are the only ones to survive today.

Ancient Egyptians kept such good flood records on the Nile that scientists today use their data to better understand rainfall patterns.



Ancient Egyptians mummified not only people but animals as well.

Archaeologists discovered a 15 foot (4.5-m) long mummified crocodile.

Compiled by  
**Umm Ibrahim**



The Sahara Desert at one time was lush grassland and savannah. Overgrazing and/or climate change in 8000 B.C. began to change the area from pastoral land to desert. Now it is the world's largest hot desert at over 3,630,000 square miles—roughly the size of the United States.

The ancient Egyptians were the first people to have a year consisting of 365 days divided into 12 months. They also invented clocks.

- Ancient Egyptians needed to predict when the Nile would flood, which led to the development of the world's first calendar.

Egypt's Nile River is the world's longest river, running 4,135 miles (6,670 km). Ancient Egyptians would measure the depth of the Nile using a "nilometer."

In France, a glass pyramid stands outside the famous Louvre museum as a tribute to the ancient Egyptians and their amazing world.



## Hadhrat Musa ﷺ in Egypt

Many celebrated Prophets of Islam were sent to Egypt. Hadhrat Musa ﷺ is mentioned in the Holy Quran more than any other Prophet and he confronted the tyrant Pharaoh of Egypt.

With regards the end point of the life of the Pharaoh, Allah Taa'ala makes mention in the Holy Quran in Surah Yunus: "We brought the tribe of Israel across the sea, and Pharaoh and his troops pursued them out of tyranny and enmity. Then, when he was on the point of drowning, he [Pharaoh] said: "I believe that there is no god but Him in Whom the tribe of Israel believes. I am one of the Muslims."  
(Yunus: 90)

However, this last-minute conversion was not accepted, for it was not sincere. Allah further exclaimed: "What, now! When previously you rebelled and were one of the corrupters? Today we will preserve your body so you can be a Sign for people who come after you. Surely many people are heedless of Our Signs." (Yunus: 91-92)

The Quranic statement about preserving Pharaoh's body would be in total agreement with the fact that his body has survived in a mummified form. It was discovered in 1881 among a group of royal mummies that had been removed from their original tombs for fear of theft. His mummy is preserved and is currently on display in the Royal Mummies Chamber in Cairo Museum, Egypt.



## Rasulullah's ﷺ message for Egypt

Rasulullah ﷺ appointed Hatib bin Abi Balta'ah to carry the following letter to the Maqauqis, the Ruler of Egypt: "In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. This is a letter from Muhammad bin Abdullah to the Maqauqis, the head of the Copts. Peace be upon the followers of truth. I invite you to the religion of Islam. Embrace Islam so that you may remain safe (from the wrath of Allah). Embrace Islam so that the Almighty may grant you two rewards. And if you turn away your face from Islam you will be responsible for the sins of the Copts as well." (Seerah-i Halabi, vol. Ill, page 280; Durr-i Manthur, vol. I, page 40 and A'ayan-i Shi'ah, vol. I, page 142)

Hatib was received in audience by the king, who opened the letter, read it and pondered over its contents for some time. Then he raised his head and addressed the ambassador of Islam in these words: "If Muhammad is really a Prophet of Allah, why were his opponents able to turn him out of his birth-place and why was he obliged to settle in Madina? Why did he not curse them so that they might have been destroyed by Allah."



## Hadhrat Yusuf ﷺ sold in Egypt and made its Governor

Hadhrat Yusuf's ﷺ brothers plotted to kill him, but they amended it to exiling him. This happened to Hadhrat Yusuf ﷺ while he was a little boy only. He was sold into the slave market in Egypt, where he was bought for a nominal sum.

The events of his life explained in beautiful detail in Surah Yusuf in the Holy Quran relates how he later ended up becoming the governor of Egypt.

Allah Subhanahu waTaala tells in the Quran: "And he raised his parents to the throne and they fell down before him in prostration. And he said: "O my father! This is the interpretation of my dream of old! My Lord has made it come true! He was indeed good to me, when He took me out of prison, and brought you all here out of the Bedouin life, after Satan had sown enmity between me and my brothers." (Yusuf: 98-100)

Consider his feelings now that his dream had come true. He prayed to Allah: "My Lord! You have indeed bestowed on me of the sovereignty, and taught me the interpretation of my dreams; The only Creator of the heavens and the earth! You are my Wali (Protector) in this world and in the Hereafter, cause me to die as a Muslim (the one submitting to Your Will), and join me with the righteous." (Yusuf: 101)

Hadhrat Yusuf ﷺ asked the king's permission for his family to settle in Egypt. He was an asset to the kingdom, and the king was happy to have him remain with his household there.



The intelligent and judicious ambassador of Islam replied: “Prophet Isa ﷺ was a Prophet of Allah and you too acknowledge him to be so. Why did he not curse the Children of Israel when they plotted to kill him so that Allah might have destroyed them?”

The ruler, who did not expect such a prompt reply, yielded to the strong logic of the ambassador and praised him saying, “Bravo! You are a wise man and you have brought a message from a wise and a fully accomplished person.”

The ambassador was emboldened by the cordial reception accorded to him by the Ruler of Egypt and spoke thus with a view to invite him to embrace Islam: “Before you a person (the Pharaoh) ruled over this country; he oppressed the people for a long time. Allah destroyed him so that his life might be a lesson for you. However, you should endeavour that your life like his may not serve as a lesson for others.” Hatib ended his words with explaining the sublime qualities of the Prophet.

The Ruler of Egypt said to him: “These are the signs of prophethood. However, I was under the impression that he would appear, not in the Hijaz but in Syria, which has been the centre for the appearance of the Prophets. But O Ambassador of Muhammad! You should know that if I embrace Islam the Copts will not cooperate with me. I hope that the power of this Prophet will extend to Egypt and his companions will come to our land and gain victory over the local forces and over the false beliefs. And I desire you to keep this conversation secret and none of the Copts should know about it.”

He wrote a letter for the Prophet ﷺ and sent him many presents on receiving which the Prophet ﷺ said: “He has not accepted Islam on account of fear for his rulership, but his rule and authority will come to an end soon.”



## Islam reigns in Egypt

In December 639, under the orders of Hadhrat Umar رضي الله عنه, ‘Amr ibn al-‘As رضي الله عنه left for Egypt with a force of 4,000 troops. However, soon Hadhrat Umar رضي الله عنه reconsidered his orders, thinking it foolhardy to expect to conquer such a large country as Egypt with a mere 4,000 soldiers. Accordingly, he wrote a letter to ‘Amr رضي الله عنه commanding him to come back.

The messenger caught up with Amr رضي الله عنه at Rafah, a little short of the Egyptian frontier. Guessing what might be in the letter, Hadhrat Amr ordered the army to quicken its pace. Turning to ‘Uqbah رضي الله عنه, Hadhrat ‘Amr said that he would receive the caliph’s letter from him when the army had halted after the day’s journey. ‘Uqbah, being unaware of the contents of the letter, agreed and marched along with the army. The army halted for the night at Shajratein, which Hadhrat ‘Amr knew to be beyond the Egyptian border. ‘Amr then received and read Hadhrat Umar’s letter and went on to consult his companions as to the course of action to be adopted. The unanimous view was that as they had received the letter on Egyptian soil, they had permission to proceed.

When ‘Umar received the reply, he decided to watch further developments and started concentrating fresh forces at Madinah that could be dispatched to Egypt as reinforcements. On Eid al-Adha, the Muslim army marched from Shajratein to El Arish, a small town lacking a garrison. The town put up no resistance, and the citizens offered allegiance on the usual terms. The Muslim soldiers celebrated the Eid festival there



I DON'T CARE

ABOUT

VALENTINE'S



BUT I DO CARE

ABOUT

SYRIA AND  
PALESTINE

Valentines Day  
Not my day

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# *You Are Not Alone*

*by Rumaisa Kamran  
The Avicenna School*

Do you ever feel like you can't breathe?  
Do you ever feel as if you're beat?

Everyone is just ready to leave  
They don't even know your grief

No one cares,  
It's just you who bears

Do you ever feel your blood pumping,  
Your body rumbling,  
Your confidence crumpling?

Do you ever feel like you're drowning?  
The memories keep on unfolding

The past is just so wounding

You're afraid of what you don't even know!  
Don't know why, don't know who,  
It feels something's about to happen soon.

You feel like crying,  
But the tears won't leak.  
You gave up trying,  
Because you thought you're too weak.

Please know that many feel the same  
So stop feeling bad, stop feeling lame!

Uncertainties, confusions and broken trusts  
All of us face them, all hearts get crushed,

Just ask the healer of our hearts, the One  
who's above  
Watching us, caring for us, with endless love.

## *The Spelling Bee*

*by Fatima Haris  
9 years  
The Intellect School*

The spelling bee is a learning experience  
It teaches teamwork and being assiduous,  
Even though we lost we still have hope  
Even though we didn't win but I am still happy,  
I represented my school and my family  
So try and try again and never lose hope,  
We got to learn so many spellings  
And next time we can certainly win, Insha'Allah.



# THE EVIL SETTLING INSIDE MAN

## PART 2

*A story by Ayesha Marfani revealing the ways of the evil and how to combat them hands on*

The Scavengers and the young savers were both planning. Here are some excerpts from the book by the young savers.

Page 1

Allah of a blind boy - Akram

My Allah is beautiful. I feel him like bright colours which I imagine but cannot see.

Allah of a boy with a limp - Siobhan

My Allah is powerful. I feel he is more powerful than the fastest of all things.

Allah of a deaf girl - Maria

My Allah is soothing. I feel him like a calm voice that makes me believe I can hear.

Allah of a boy with Down syndrome - Ahsan

Allah is one that is what mummy says. I feel he understands my problem. I love Allah.

Allah of a dumb girl - Sobia

Allah is like some miraculous words that make me

want to learn more and more. Allah, please help me learn.

Allah of a hunch back - Saad

I feel Allah is the best posture that could exist. When I feel him I think myself as the tallest and grandest of the beings.

Allah of a poor boy – Akram

When I am hungry or without shoes or when I see my torn clothes, I feel Allah sees me and is happy with me and this makes me happy.

Allah of a lonely rich boy – Huzaifa

When all the riches and luxuries around me couldn't add comfort in my life and all I need is love and feeling of being cared, I can feel him around me; loving me and showering me with His blessings.

After attending the meeting held by the young savers, the two invisible characters returned to the virtuous land. They were beaming with delight and were welcomed by their tribe who appeared anxious to hear about the plan of the young savers. They in-

# When the Scavengers saw the power of Shaitan and his resemblance to them, they immediately befriended him.

quired: “Asslamualaikum, Good Nafs and angle of Goodness, how was your trip to the meeting of the young savers.”

They replied warmly, “Walaikumassalam, it was great and we are happy to tell you that the young savers are very spirited to bring good in the world.” Just when they were blissfully discussing the plans, one of their angel friends entered in a perturbed mood. When enquired of his uneasiness, he told them what he overheard when he was crossing the treacherous land and this made everyone edgy. The anxiety was able to eat their happiness away, but then one of the creatures with an alluring and angelic face spoke, “Goodness will surely prevail and let the young savers fight with evil as it will make them stronger.”

Nafs achingly voiced in, “I know the other bad part of me and how he could dupe and destroy them. If he befriends the Scavengers, it will make it disastrous.”

Strength, the creature with determination and fortitude said, “We will give them the strength and will help them when the situations will become dire enough and it will be sensible to contravene. For now, let us all celebrate the mission of the young savers by thanking Allah ﷻ.”

The Scavengers on the other side were thinking of something completely weird. They were ready to go to every length to destroy the young savers. They had lit a huge pot containing the ugliest potion and were about to jump into it, giving the potion the strength of their bodies.

They were singing, banging, dancing and muttering the following words:

Put pride to begin the disaster  
Make it even stronger with anger  
Jealousy if added will make it tastier  
Garnish it with lies to make it stronger  
Ill words and backbiting work like binders

Lets jump into it to cause the disaster  
We are best known as ‘The Scavengers’.

After that they really jumped into the steaming pot, turned into steam and tiny droplets were formed instead of each creature.

They were so desperate to cause catastrophe to the young savers that they even demolished themselves for the struggle. The steam flew and reached the town of the young savers.

The droplets then started to find their own destination and were waiting to find their way into the bodies of the young savers.

With great effort, the leader of the Scavenger gathered all the vapours and addressed them with force, “You filthy droplets, listen, you need a loophole to attack the bodies of the savers. Oh, losers! I won’t accept failure this time.”

The drops all moaned and wailed, “Oh you the leader of evil, we have given up our existence, don’t name us as losers.”

They went to Umar’s room who was busy reciting some Arabic verses that forced them out. Those verses were the last four surahs of the holy Quran. They reached Asim’s place who was rolled up in bed reciting istaghfaar. When they reached Muaz, he was busy reflecting upon his past deeds. He was thinking what he had done wrong and tried to forgive all those who had caused him pain. All the others were involved in pleasing Allah by either pleasing their parents, studying or doing good deeds.

Then erupted a mind racking argument amongst the Scavengers and after the fight, there was a silence. This silence was not the symbol of peace at all. It was an alarm that something evil was about to happen.

They were settling for days without any hope when

***Continued on pg 21***

# Zakah and Tazkiyah



Ever wondered how disposing of a certain percentage of one's wealth can make the wealth healthy and wealthy? Read on for an interesting insight by *Ayesha Marfani*

I heard my teacher say, "Those who always keep saving money and do not pay Zakah for the Tazkiyah (Purification) of their wealth, will never find barakah in their wealth. They would be made to wear all their wealth in the form of a thick chain around their necks and their wealth will be melted in the fire of hell and they will be burnt from it."

I walked back home scared and confused; wishing to know how zakah could be tazkiyah for the wealth. Tazkiyah to me apparently meant purifying and cleansing. Moreover, such a depressing punishment made me ponder even more over what my teacher said.

My heart made a silent prayer to Allah ﷻ to help me understand this divine wisdom!

In the following days, Allah ﷻ started opening it all up for me

through certain routine incidents which I never before saw in the same light.

I was walking towards the buzzing shopping mall, full of colours and light; imagining what I was going to purchase – 'I needed a nice dress and matching jewellery and I would love eating Mini melts and...'

The train of my thoughts was disturbed by a beggar child begging people sitting in their cars, to get their windshields cleaned in return for money. The shoeless feet, the tired eyes with dying desires in them and the malnourished body made me shiver. I saw the beggar child as a scar on the purity of humanity and the words kept on screaming inside me: 'This is how zakah is tazkiyah because if we would have paid the zakah then there would have been no beggar child pleading for some

pennies. It does the tazkiyah of the society and economy.'

While online, a tweet about a dying child caught my eyes. Her eyes were pleading for food and even her silence screamed of the cruelty of mankind. I saw an ugly gaping wound separating the lavish lifestyle that I and many like me had and the way she was dying for a grain.

I overheard one of my mother's acquaintances boasting that she donated enough in the NGO's funds so she was not liable to pay zakah as she believed it was not important to follow the method of charity prescribed by Allah ﷻ. I didn't realise the wrath of her doings until one day when I heard that all her valuables were robbed at gun point. The voice in my head said: 'zakah is tazkiyah as it makes your wealth safe and

The shoeless feet, the tired eyes with dying desires in them and the malnourished body made me shiver. I saw the beggar child as a scar on the purity of humanity.

sound from getting looted or wasted.'

I saw that one of my friends was very happy one day and when I enquired the reason, she said that her father had made a great return on investment in his business and he was flourishing with the grace of Allah ﷻ. When I asked about the secret to this success, she answered that her father always paid his Zakah and then I

knew that zakah is tazkiyah as it purifies the wealth and this pure wealth becomes the source of barakah.

After these incidents, I could almost see the two words 'zakah and tazkiyah', floating before my eyes whenever I saw wealthy people in distress of their wealth being looted, when I noticed beggar children losing hope of their future, people dying of hunger and the arrogant

rich people passing by without noticing their worries.

Muslims understand the wisdom behind the payment of zakah and thus realise that it is completely opposite to the prevalent views of the capitalist societies. We should thus strive for precision when fulfilling this duty as to who should it be given and avoiding any dubious intentions and paying purely for the sake of Allah ﷻ.



### **Maulana Rumi Rahimahullah's**

answers to questions asked by a disciple:

What is poison?

He replied with a beautiful answer - Anything which is more than our necessity is poison. It may be power, wealth, hunger, ego, greed, laziness, love, ambition or anything.

What is fear?

Non-acceptance of uncertainty.

If we accept that uncertainty, it becomes an adventure!

What is envy?

Non-acceptance of good in others.

If we accept that good, it becomes an inspiration!

What is anger?

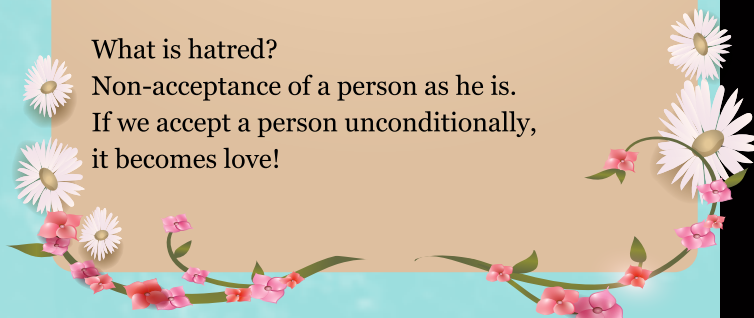
Non-acceptance of things which are beyond our control.

If we accept them, they become tolerance!

What is hatred?

Non-acceptance of a person as he is.

If we accept a person unconditionally, it becomes love!



### **Continued from pg 19**

one day they heard a very ugly voice; he called all of them, "Oh you an army of destruction! Worry not, your greatest friend is here. I will exhale around you the threads of victory and then we will surely celebrate."

This voice was of Shaitan. This is the greatest art of Shaitan. He makes everyone lose contact with reality and thus deceives all of them with his words.

Shaitan was so gross looking that the mere description would make one shudder. He was filthy with fire, burns, and darkness. However, he had something different and that was a trunk like that of an elephant.

When the Scavengers saw the power of Shaitan and his resemblance to them, they immediately befriended him. He was officially announced as the new leader.

Now Shaitan along with his army set off to destroy the young savers. He said to the vapours, "As soon as I move my trunk near the hearts of the young savers, you can enter their bodies from any one of the organs like eyes, ears, nose or mouth."

### **Continued Insha'Allah...**



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# THE NEW HOUSE

fresh pens

By *Aisha Ali*

12 years

*Maktabatur Rabia, South Africa*

Time seemed to drag on as Sobia leaned back into the car seat. She gazed out the misty window with sad brown eyes. Every passing second made her feel further away from her old friends, her neighbours and most of all her school.

“Mama, when are we going to arrive?”

“Hmm, let’s see,” her mother said glancing at her watch, “a minute or so.”

A while later, a gigantic house comes into view...

With her cat curled up in her arms, Sobia followed her parents up the steps. Sobia cringed in fear, her body covered in goosebumps. The house was spooky; as big as a mansion with countless doors and windows.

By morning the fog had cleared out and the rain had stopped.

Her father was having breakfast and her mother was cleaning, when Sobia thought it was the perfect time to explore the house. After walking up and down several times, it turned out that there were eight splendid rooms each with a big bathroom, two grand kitchens and an enormous backyard. Realising that there was nothing more to do around the house, she pulled on her sneakers and decided to take Chip, her cat, out, that way she would be able to see the neighbourhood too.

The neighbourhood thankfully looked amazing. Sobia could smell lavender and rose planted nearby, but as she stopped to pick some for her mother, she heard someone wincing. She followed the voice round the corner and was startled to see a teenage girl pushing another girl of Sobia’s age against the alley wall. Sobia watched in fear.

“Leave her alone!” Sobia managed

to say, gathering her courage.

Both girls turned to look at Sobia, wide-eyed. The elder girl smirked and said scornfully, “You must be new here, I can treat anyone, anyway I want, and you must keep that in mind too.” And with that she walked away.

“Thanks for saving my life,” the other girl said in a whisper.

“It’s my pleasure, I’m Sobia,” Sobia said, helping the girl to her feet.

“Oh, I’m Haleema,” the other girl said, smiling.....

Sobia grinned back and thought that she need not be sorry about parting from her old friends anymore. By showing concern and kindness for a total stranger, she had found a new friend now and that was something that mattered a lot

One day my father decided to take me to the zoo. On Sunday, we got ready, I put my lunch and water bottle in my bag and then we all sat in the car. It was such a long way to the zoo. When we reached there, we took out our bags and gave ticket to the uncle and went inside. I first saw a giraffe, it was very tall. I tried to touch it with a leaf but I couldn’t. Next we went to see a monkey. One monkey was doing funny things and laughing with his mother and father. Monkey’s mother was climbing up the cage. Monkey’s father was swinging on the tire. It looked like a truck’s tire.

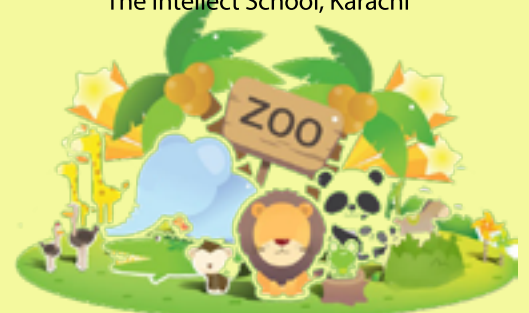
Then I was feeling hungry. I sat on the grass and started eating lunch with my family. Then we saw an elephant. People were taking ride on the elephant. But now it was time to go back home so we didn’t ride on the elephant. I enjoyed a lot at the zoo. My father said he will bring us back here soon. I love animals very much

## A visit to the zoo

by **Muhammad Yahya Fahim**

7 years

The Intellect School, Karachi



Many lives took incredibly remarkable turns and reached fantastic destinations under the light of our beloved Prophet ﷺ, let's peek into one such beautiful life with **Zawjah Junaid Mukaty**

# Hadhrat Tufail bin Amr Dausi رضي الله عنه

A man of dignity and power entered the city of Makkah with the intention of performing Umrah. He was a noble chief of the Dausi tribe, an eloquent poet and a man of his words. He was highly respected by his own people as well as the others.

He found himself surrounded by different pagan chiefs of Makkah welcoming him to their city. After hospitalities, they told him that they were really worried because of a man belonging to their city preaching a new religion. They said: "He has magic in his words. Whoever listens to him, accepts what he says."

"He himself is a magician. One who just hears him starts believing in him. His believers are cutting off ties between a son and his father, a man and his wife."

"He is misguiding our young and old, even our slaves."

"He says our gods are false. He preaches that there is only one God."

"Our dear friend, we have sympathy for you, therefore we are just warning you that while you are here, please don't ever listen to what he says."

The chief of Dausi tribe listened to these statements of the people who were equivalent to him in status and he got so frightened that he would stuff cotton in his ears before leaving his house. He did not want to listen to what Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ was preaching. One day he went for tawaf in Haram where he saw a figure doing different acts of worship. He liked his way of worshipping and thought:

"O Tufail, you are an intelligent and sane man, how can you believe someone else's words. The man in front of you looks dignified and completely sane. You are so good with your own words how can somebody play the magic of words on you? Better go and see for yourself and differentiate between right and wrong. If this man is right, take what he says and if you feel wrong, leave it."

Hadhrat Tufail threw away the cotton from his ears, went towards the Prophet ﷺ and listened to what he was reciting. Amazing, yes it was truly amazing. Yes, this was for sure nothing from this world. These words were from no human. He asked Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ to please recite it once again and intently listened to those words. He took no time to void



what he heard from his people about Rasulallah ﷺ. He was a wise man who knew that he should analyse the situation himself and not see with the eyes of others.

Hadhrat Tufail ﷺ immediately forwarded his hand to Prophet ﷺ and accepted Islam. No doubt he was an insightful man, he did not lend an ear to the vicious rumours.

He then told the Prophet ﷺ that he was a man of credibility among his people and he wanted to spread Islam. He asked the Prophet ﷺ to make dua for him that Allah would make a sign for him which would help him in his mission. Thus Allah enlightened the tip of his stick. Because of this sign he was known as Zun-Nur.

Hadhrat Tufail threw away the cotton from his ears, went towards the Prophet ﷺ and listened to what he was reciting.

This ingenious companion of the Apostle ﷺ then reached his tribe where he met his family who trusted him and his thoughts. He presented the new faith to them upon which his parents and his wife immediately accepted Islam. The next step was to introduce Islam to the people of his tribe. Against Hadhrat Tufail's ﷺ hopes, only one person embraced Islam who is very famously known as Hadhrat Abu Huraira ﷺ. Hadhrat Tufail kept on preaching but then came a time when he got discouraged and he took Hadhrat Abu Huraira ﷺ with him and approached the court of the Prophet ﷺ.

He asked Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ to make dua for his people. The Prophet ﷺ offered two rakah Salah and raised his hands and made dua for the Dausi tribe and then said to Hadhrat Tufail Zun-Nur ﷺ to go and preach them graciously. This time many people of his tribe accepted Islam.

In those days Kuffar's persecution on Muslims was at its peak. They didn't leave the Prophet ﷺ even. In those difficult moments, Hadhrat Tufail ﷺ requested Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ to come along with him to the fort of their tribe. He promised that they would sacrifice their lives but save him. But as it was not what Allah wanted so the Apostle

ﷺ did not go with him.

After Prophet's ﷺ migration to Madina, Hadhrat Tufail Dausi ﷺ joined him with 80 men in the battle of Khyber and stayed with Muhammad ﷺ till the conquest of Makkah. He then participated in Ghazwa e Taif with 400 men.

Before Islam, every tribe had their own idols who they thought had all the powers. Hadhrat Tufail Dausi ﷺ demolished the idol of Daus known as Zul-Kafayn with fire.

After the beloved Prophet ﷺ left this world, Hadhrat Abu Bakr ﷺ became the first caliph. He then faced three main problems out of which one was the emergence of the claimant of false prophethood, Musay-

limah Kazzab. He had to be dealt with immediately, therefore, the first caliph sent an army towards Yamama where the final battle with Musaylimah was fought. Hadhrat Tufail ﷺ and his son were also among the soldiers.

One night he saw in his dreams that he got bald and a bird flies away from his body and a woman hides it in her belly. His son runs behind him but a shield comes in between. He told this to his fellow soldiers who were surprised on this dream. Hadhrat Tufail ﷺ smiled and told them that he knew what it meant. Getting bald meant he would receive martyrdom, a bird flying away from him meant that his soul would depart from his body and the woman hiding him meant he would be buried. His son running after him meant he also wished for martyrdom but he would not be martyred in this battle but would keep on seeking it in the other battles.

How true his dream was. Exactly the same way it all happened. He fought valiantly the next day and killed many of the enemies and got martyred.

May Allah rest such faithful souls in Jannat ul Firdous and may we follow their footsteps and be their companions in Akhirah. Ameen

# Take my apology not my good deeds

Concept by Zawjah Zia  
Artwork by Zawjah Jahangir





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