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LIVING AND LOVING THE YOUNG MUSLIM LIFESTYLE

*Confessions
of a newbie Hijabi*

The torn
letter

The secrets to attaining
patience

Playing with
fear

BEFORE YOU
JUDGE HIM...



2. Arabian Jewellers- Front Inside
Inside Front (use new artwork).



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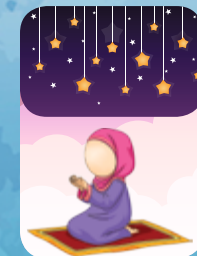


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Don't let the candy-wrapper
confuse you

Assalamu aleikum
warahmatullahi wab-
arakatuh,

'He can possibly do something even worse to any child.' These were a mother's remarks when her son got badly smashed on the eye by one of the classmates. They both are in the same grade with my son and we also know that this wasn't for the first time. The notorious boy goes around scaring the day-

Before you judge him...



lights out of everyone owing to his alarming stunts. He has received warning letters and detentions from the school but apparently to no avail as yet. All mothers are apprehensive that he is a pain and threat for the other children in the class. Some even had their child's section changed. So my son too asked for it. I knew it must be tough for school; the administration, of course, doesn't want the whole class to leave.

But for even better reasons - for trying to find some good in others instead of jumping to mistaken conclusions and thinking bad (doing badgumi) about them - I gave my son the following answer.....

"Abdullah, I know you're worried about your classmate, the one who is always showing, hitting, pinching and scratching other children. The one who snatches other kids' lunches. The one who always has to take other kids' stationery and break the pencils in half. On purpose. The one who climbed over the playground fence right exactly as the teacher was telling him to stop.

You're worried that THAT child is detracting you too. You're worried that he is really going to hurt someone someday. You're worried that "someone" might be you.

But do you know why is he like that?"

My son shook his hanging head.

I continued, "You know, a year ago, his mother died in a car accident.

Now he lives without a mother and possibly with a stepmother. Maybe he is also on heavy medication due to his aggressive behaviour and that makes him agitated. Maybe he is on an elimination diet for possible food allergies and that is why he is hungry all the time. Maybe he is very depressed and doesn't understand what happened to his mother, what death really is; he's just seven after all.

The teacher says that she has been tracking his progress since the last four months and the roughness has dropped from 5 incidents a day, to 5 incidents a week.

We don't know, there still might be many good things in him too. Maybe he kisses his grandmother goodbye every morning before leaving for school and makes her day. Maybe when he sees his baby sister crying, he rushes over with his favourite toy for her. Maybe he himself misses his mother and secretly cries at times.

And may Allah ﷻ save us all, what if we ever have to go through what he goes through. Won't we instead need some extra love and affection instead of hate and insecurity? Won't we want others to find the good, amazing, and wonderful things about us?

All of a sudden my son jumped up and hugged me tightly. Amidst our tears, both of us couldn't make out how to thank Allah ﷻ enough

Was'salam,

Bint Zahid

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Adaab of Salam



Makimul Ummat Madhrat Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanvi Rahimahullah in his book *Aadaab ul Muaasharaat (Etiquettes of social life)* has mentioned the following etiquettes of Salaam.

life skills

1. In a gathering where a talk or discussion is taking place, the person entering should not draw attention to himself by making Salaam. He should not interfere in the talk. He should lower his gaze and silently sit down. When later the opportunity arises, he can make Salaam.
2. Adopt the practice of mutual salaam. When ever meeting a Muslim, say: Assalamualaikum. In reply one must say, Walaikumus Salaam. All other ways are baseless.
3. When a person conveys the Salaams of another to you, reply: Alayhim Wa Alaikumus Salaam. This is the best. If someone replies: Walaikumus Salaam, It will also suffice.
4. One person of the group making Salaam will be a representative for the whole group. His Salaam will be adequate on behalf of the group. Similarly, if from the gathering one person replied, it will suffice on behalf of the whole gathering.
5. The one who initiates the Salaam obtains greater thawaab (reward).
6. When replying to the Salaam of a person, it should be made verbally, not by a sign of the hand or a nod of the head.
7. Better repayment for a favour will be when the repayment is somewhat more than the act of the favour rendered. Thus, the reply should be more than the Salaam (greeting). If Assalamualaikum was said, the better reply will be Walaikumus Salaam Warahmatullah. If Wa Barakaatuhu is also added it will be an added merit.
8. It is Wajib (obligatory) to reply to the Salaam which is written in a letter. This reply may be in writing or verbally.
9. The Fuqaha have said that in a reply to the Salaam which is written in a letter, one may say Alaikumus Salaam or even Assalamu Alaikum.
10. Instead of writing or saying the Salaam, to say any other term or to adopt the greeting of any other community is bidah. Such an alien greeting is in fact alteration of the Shariah.
12. A person who is engrossed in a conversation or in some work should not be greeted. The newcomer should not intrude with his hand-shaking. Such an act is uncultured and causes distress to others.
13. It is Makrooh (Abominable - disliked) to greet a person involved in deeni or natural activity.
14. It is not permissible to bow and make salaam.
15. Before entering a house or any place of privacy it is necessary to seek permission. Do not enter without permission.
16. Stand outside and proclaim the Salaam, then ask permission in any language. Use such terms which convey the full meaning. However, as far as the Salaam itself is concerned only the terms of Shariah should be used.
17. When answering the call of nature neither reply to anyone's Salaam nor offer Salaam.
18. On promising to convey a person's Salaam it becomes wajib to do so, otherwise not.
19. When making Salaam to elders, adopt a low voice. Do not express yourself in such terms which convey arrogance or disrespect

Confessions of a newbie Hijabi

Zobra Noushin Ahmed muses on how Hijab came into her life, a seed that prepared her to bloom for all times

Dear Diary,

I never thought I would ever take the hijab. It always seemed such a foreign concept to me; something entirely from another world. I had always imagined women who wore it to come from extra-conservative households, unable to decide their own futures and unaware of the vast world outside of their four walls. I never dreamed that I, too, would one day wrap a cloth to cover my hair and neck; that I, too, would take to wearing loose fitting and extra long shirts on a daily basis. If you had told me in the year 2015 that I would soon be covering my hair and wearing clothes with sleeves up to my wrists, I would have laughed you out the door. I would have deemed you paranoid, like those over-zealous aunties I preferred to avoid at parties who love to sit one down and lecture on the evils of this world. I would have avoided you like a plague. Yet, here I am; just one year short of my first hijab anniversary.

What happened? I'm not quite sure how best to explain. It was an extremely random idea that

popped into my head nearly a year ago as I sat at my workplace. I immediately told dad, "We should go for Umrah!"

He looked at me as though I had taken leave of my senses. The season was already in full swing, yet here I was excitedly telling him to contact a travel agent as though we were planning a trip from Karachi to Hyderabad. I will never forget the vague feeling that I got deep inside that despite the highly slim chance; we would be flying to Saudi Arabia very soon. I just knew somewhere deep down, that this was not going to be just another trip. The fleeting thought crossed my brain that Allah ﷻ was calling me, and this trip was for me, but I shook it off and went back to work.

Less than a week from that moment we were in Medina, staying just a stone's throw away from Masjid-e-Nabawi. I will never forget the absolute peace that took over me the minute I stepped through the Masjid's gates and walked towards the main doors of the ladies' entrance; it was as if all the sins

of the world got washed away, and I was clean again; completely renewed.

For my mother, who has lived in Saudi Arabia for more or less

If you had told me in the year 2015 that I would soon be covering my hair and wearing clothes with sleeves up to my wrists, I would have laughed you out the door. I would have avoided you like a plague.

13 years, the hijab was a mere piece of cloth; just another part of the Arab culture. For me, it became my identity. I cherished the sense of camaraderie and love that blossomed wherever we went. Regardless of culture, skin colour or nationality; our mutual hijabs would provide a sense of comfort and unity. For the first time in my life, I realised how large the Muslim Ummah really is. When we prayed the Jummah prayers inside the Masjid-ul-Haram, we had to wait for half an hour after the prayer had finished, because the large crowds pouring out into the square scared my mother and I – we were afraid of getting crushed. Yet, that remains one of my fondest memories of my hijab journey.

Today, I hear numerous loaded remarks most places I go,

regarding my decision to take the hijab; from “the hijab is not mentioned anywhere in the Quran” and “the hijab is not religious; it is simply a part of the Arab culture” to “you have your entire life ahead of you...”; most of which I choose to ignore, simply because none of these individuals are the reason why I’ve taken the hijab.

To put it simply, the hijab is an identity. It is a mark of being a Muslimah. It does not make me superior to the person next to me; it simply identifies me from afar as a Muslim woman. It states that I do not wish to confine to what is “normal”, because I know this is what pleases Allah, and I would rather choose this path in order to please Him. The hijab is not just a cloth wrapped around my hair and neck; it is a dec-

laration that I would prefer to work just a little harder for the next life than I previously did. It has given me purpose, a sense of belonging, confidence and, most importantly, peace within myself.

The hijab is not a sign of suppression, but rather, a sign of defiance and rebellion. In a world where women are constantly judged for their beauty; the hijab forces society to respect a woman for her brain, and not otherwise. It is a sign of affiliation, of undying love for the Creator and, most importantly, a sign that we proudly belong to the largest family system in the world: the entire Muslim Ummah, comprising nearly 1.6 billion people on the planet. For me, it is who I am; and I cannot imagine ever living without it



An epilogue to Ayesha Marfani's story of the defeat that Shaitan and his companions encountered through the young savers of the world

The evil settling inside us

Part 4 of 4

Good Deed quivered inside as he knew it was a grievous matter. He sighed and thought why the humans are always falling prey to the filthy creatures from the Treacherous Land? He went and sat in seclusion thinking of the damage 'The Scavengers' could cause to 'The young Savers.'

Hope, a lovely faced creature overheard the discussion and said to the three of them, "Don't worry as good will surely supersede evil. We will take some action."

The good Nafs said agonisingly, "The mission of the Young Savers vanished in the midst of their initial fight. The evil has now settled within them, it is time that we must act."

All the creatures nodded in acceptance. They were aggrieved. Their bowed heads showed the burning pain that they felt. Some were even hiding in the corners and weeping. Some were deep in thoughts as if lost. It was heart-wrenching to see the virtuous land mournful.

Suddenly Hope voiced with high spirit, "When Al-

lah ﷻ has kept open the doors to repentance then why do you people worry, let's rush to save the Young Savers."

The words of Hope felt like magic and all the creatures felt the spur of energy. They quickly jumped on their feet and sat on their beautiful flying horses. The horses immediately soared into the sky and took them to the garden where the Young Savers had gathered for a final goodbye to each other.

The Young Savers meet the beautiful creatures from the Virtuous Land

The Young Savers were sitting aggrieved with tensed expressions. They were deciding to say final goodbye to each other. None of them had the courage to speak. Muaz, the famous communicator was at a loss for words too. They were sitting glumly with no one ready to break the ice when a mystical sight caught their attention. It seemed like an illusion. Everyone thought that they were solely experiencing the love-

They were sitting glumly with no one ready to break the ice when a mystical sight caught their attention.

ly illusion but all of the Young Savers saw the flying horses that were mystical in beauty. Their wings were strong and their skins looked gleaming white.

On the horses, some marvelous creatures were seated. They looked divine. One of them had a half body but he was glorious with beautiful half lips, a cute half nose and a shiny half face. He spoke, "I am your companion. My name is Good Nafs. See, the evil that is settling within you, it wants you to go astray. Feel the power of goodness and search for your mistakes and then everything around you will brighten up." The illusion ended and each of them was left spellbound.

Savers on the Road to Repentance

In those sensitive moments, they reflected on their deeds. Hassan quoted their favourite teacher's speech spontaneously, "Pride is what makes people feel superior and think of others as inferior. Anger can destroy all the intellect and make us do things that we would mourn forever. Then the third destructive thing is the jealousy that makes us unhappy and depressed all our life. Lies are what seem to us as the escape ways and safety routes in the beginning but they surely embarrass us on various moments. The other evil is cheating and dishonesty. The evils are many but the most devastating to human relation is backbiting and speaking ill of others. They settle within us with the help of Shaitan, Sin, and Nafs."

The group was transfixed. Their eyes were turning into rivers. All was washed and cleared out. Their shortcomings were now apparent to them. They knew about the evil settling inside them; the evils

that settle in every human being at various points in time. They brainstormed on killing the evils that had settled within them and found the following helpful:

Do zikr and be consistent in good practices. Avoid sins and be strong against Nafs. Do ablution to make Shaitan stay away. Ask for forgiveness daily.

The savers repented over their ways and started their mission with new aspirations and hopes.

Full Blow for Scavengers

The scavengers were all lost. They had a great fight and a blame game amongst themselves that made them hurt each other so badly that they became more meagre than ever.

They shouted for help but all of them were ailing with their own sufferings.

However, Shaitan, as always, gave them the hope: "Dear friends, don't worry and be one; we will soon find another target!"

New Message of Savers to the World

The savers completed their second project and launched a book titled: 'The evil settling inside us.' The scavengers, when grabbed the book were shattered, all their hopes died down as now they were exposed to the world in this book written by the Young Savers.

Dear readers, all evil sources must be angry at you too for reading this story as now the scavengers and their fiddly ways are revealed to you as well. So let us get ready to fight them all and become the next young savers for the world, Insha'Allah



Our six-year-old daughter, Terra, has a need to ask questions ... lots of questions. Finally, one day, my wife had had it.

"Have you ever heard that curiosity killed the cat?" my wife asked.

"No," replied Terra.

"Well, there was a cat, and he was very inquisitive. And one day, he looked into a big hole, fell in, and died!" Terra was intrigued: "What was in the hole?"

"Where is Pearl Harbor?" I asked my fourth-grade history class. "Here's a hint: It's a place where everyone wants to go."

One student blurted out, "Candy Land!"

I should have known better than to take my four-year-old son shopping with me. I spent the entire time in the mall chasing after him. Finally, I'd had it. "Do you want a stranger to take you?!" I scolded.

Thrilled, he yelled back, "Will he take me to the zoo?"

Our friend tells everyone that he began losing his hair while serving in Vietnam. His granddaughter incorporated that information into her grade school history report on the war. She wrote, "My Grandpa went to Vietnam and got his hair shot off."

PUZZLE PAGE CLEANLINESS

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FEET
INTENTION
HANDS
ARMS
FACE
KHALAL
BEARD

MOUTH
MISWAK
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EARS

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NECK
FINGERS
WHOLE BODY
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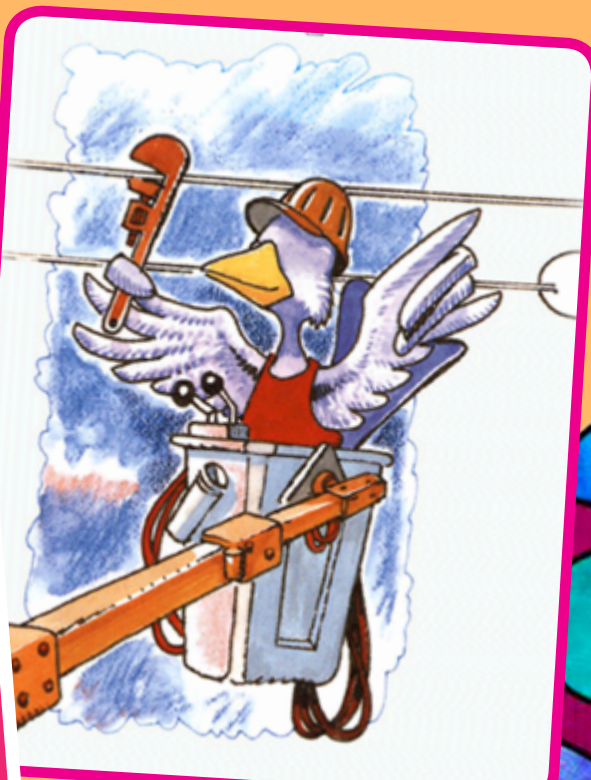
Why don't birds get shocked when they sit on wires?

That does seem surprising. Birds sometimes sit on wires carrying thousands of volts and held up high by big towers.

Living things, like birds and people, can get shocked by touching two different wires or by touching one wire and the ground. Then electricity has a way in and out, and can flow through a body and give a dangerous shock.

For example, you will notice that the cord to an electric lamp or an electric motor always has at least two wires to carry electricity in and out.

A bird on an electric wire is safe and happy—unless it makes the mistake of touching another wire at the same time. Then it's a dead bird.



Missing artwork pages no 12

★ CONGRATULATIONS ★

poetic
rush

to the winners of the Acrostic poem competition held for the Radiance Club members.

An acrostic poem is a type of poetry where the first, last or other letters in a line spell out a particular word or phrase.

So here is an ode to the champions with their poetries showcased. And no sad feelings for the ones who couldn't make it to the top this time. Allah Taa'ala surely has in store better victories for you Insha'Allah. Loads of duas for you all who took part Masha'Allah. May you always shine nice and bright and may Allah pour barakah in your ilm and amal. Aameen.



Rumaisa Naveed



Aatika Khalid



Syed Sauban Hasan



Aiman Aamer



My Dear Prophet ﷺ

by **Aatika Khalid**
Nakhlah School
8 years

Muhammad ﷺ is our beloved Prophet
Yes, he is the last Prophet,

Disciplined and decent,
Exemplary and humble,
Ameen and saadiq,
Really, he is the best Prophet.

Polite and perfect,
Reliable and respectable
Our beloved
Pious Prophet ﷺ
Honest and honourable,
Everything lovable,
Truthful and trustful,

My dearest Prophet ﷺ.

Mother

by **Rumaisa Naveed**
9 years
Jamia Bait ul salam, Karachi

Most loving
Outstanding beauty
Truly helpful
Heat so pure
Endless love
Real for sure.

Parents

by **Aiman Aamir**
7 Years
D A Public School Seaview

People I love most
And they love me too
Respect them forever, I do
Every day they give us light
Never ending shining bright
They are the greatest blessing
Surely from the Allah Almighty.



Hanya Nauman



Muhammad Bilal Humair



Muhammad Faseeh Ovais



Umamah Gauhar



Ayesha Khalid Lakhani



Pencil

by **Ayesha Khalid Lakhani**
6 years
The Generations School

Pick any colour
Example blue and red
Nice to work and express
Come up with an idea, to write
In your head
Long or short, as you like.

Mango

by **Hanya Nauman**
5 years

My favourite fruit.
And yummy to eat.
No other fruit can compete.
God's blessing for all.
Ooh! I want them all.

Stars

by **Umamah Gauhar**
6 years
Suffah Saviour School

Stars are bright,
Twinkling in the night,
Allah has made them,
Ready for us to guide.

Radiance Club

by **Syed Sauban Hasan**
7 years
Al Huda School

Ready to evolve
And fly high
Doing your homework
Is the best when time goes by
Arrogance is very sad
Nice first lesson taught,
Curious you make me
Education is not now bought.

Children lets gather
Lets join our hands
Under our great club's shade
Because it is so grand!

Eid ul Fitr

by **Muhammad Bilal Humair Shaikh**
6 years
New World International School

Excited day for all Muslim Ummah!
Ilove the day of Eid ul Fitr,
Day that brings all Muslims closer to each other,
Upon us the blessings of Almighty Allah ﷻ,
Leave for Eid Salah early to Eidgah,
Families and friends greet each other,
Indeed the best day of the year,
Time to share and care for the poor,
Right from the morning till night, we make
the day bright!

Islam

By **Muhammad Faseeh Ovais**
6 years

Iman on Allah and Prophet ﷺ
Salah offered five times a day
Lets read the Holy Quran
Always pay the compulsory charity
Make a pilgrimage to the house
of Allah!



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The secrets to attaining patience

misty
mirror

Dr Shayma Tariq informs us of some wise ways in which we can control our emotions both for the benefit of our deen and dunya



Since childhood, in every bad situation, all we heard from elders and loved ones was: have patience. It's like an automatic reflex to say this as soon as we hear something not so pleasant. But do we really know what patience really is? Why patience is so important in Islam. Why has Allah mentioned it again and again in the Holy Quran?

Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"O you who believe, seek help in patience and As-Salat (the prayer). Truly, Allah is with As-Sabirin (the patient ones)." (Al-Baqarah: 153)

Being patient is not easy, but once you attain it, all your problems start fading away. Patience is directly related to Tawakkal in Allah (trusting in Allah no matter how impossible things are). When we start trusting Allah, patience becomes easy. We know that Allah will fix our problems. We know He won't leave us alone.

Patience is not only tawakkal, it's also not losing hope. It's being like a young plant that stands firmly even when the wind is outrageous.

It's being happy with what Allah has decided for us; being content with Qadr. It's all about saying Al-humdulillah when a river of tears is flowing down your tired eyes. It's sleeping hungry, hoping that tomorrow warm food will be provided. Patience is burying your loved ones, knowing you will see them again in Jannah Insha'Allah.

Allah loves patience. He knows it's hard for His slaves. And that's why He makes it easy, but only for those strong hearted slaves of His who make an effort, who trust Him and His decisions and who have hope instilled in their hearts. With patience also comes peace and tranquillity. When a believer attains patience, his heart also becomes peaceful; anxiety and depression vanish. He smiles, smiles when his heart hurts, when his eyes cry and when his soul is tired.

"And certainly, We shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits, but give glad tidings to As-Sabirin (the patient ones)." (Al-Baqarah: 155)

We will be tested, that's what this world is, a test. And to go through

this harsh world, we need to be patient. We need to know that we are rewarded tremendously for showing patience during hard times.

Patience is also controlling your Nafs when it's telling you to commit sins. Lowering your gaze, wearing hijab and controlling one's desires and temptation are examples of patience. Leaving your all time favourite songs, avoiding movies of your favourite movie star and avoiding all forms of temptations when the whole world is busy indulging in those very sins, is patience. Being patient with your kids and spouses when things get hard, forgiving one another, is patience. Being the first one to end an argument especially when you know you are right, is patience. Not saying uff to your parents, even at times when parents are being aggressive, is patience.

Patience has many forms. But it's only attained by a true believer, who has firm unshakeable faith in His Lord and who believes that with hardship comes ease. Who knows that Allah is Just, His Plans are the best, and that after every dark night comes a bright new day!

He saw the torn pieces of the letter. Crestfallen, he picked them up and tried to join the pieces together. His hands felt shaky and he felt the taste of tears that reached his lips. He went back home and sat on the bench in his garden. The beautiful chirping birds didn't soothe him that day. He read the jigsaw puzzle of his letter:

Dear Saram:

Asslamualikum, my fascination prompted me to write this letter to you. You are such a mastermind and I am impressed by your skills at mathematics and drama. From the day I saw you, I wished to befriend you. I couldn't speak of my wish to you directly but am sending this written

tion of passer-bys.

With a heavy heart, he entered his house and tried to move swiftly to his room so that his Grandpa may not notice him. He knew he has that art of making people discuss their woes with him. He knew of his Grandpa's wonderful competence of putting everyone at ease but he just thought 'not this time, I am embarrassed to death... I can't face anyone anymore in life'. He succeeded in entering his room unnoticed and was about to turn the lock when the warm voice greeted him, 'Asslamualikum Ya ibni'.

He loved that voice but at that moment he dreaded it. He turned and softly greeted him back by saying Waliakumassalam. He turned back immediately

The Torn Letter

Umm Ahmad astounds us with the beautiful lessons that can be pursued from the life of our Beloved Prophet ﷺ

note. I dream of us praying and fasting together. I desire you being kind to people and I dislike when people label you as a bully. I know our friendship could do wonders.

Regards,

Abdullah

He knew that the envelope on which he had written 'to be read in private' might be lying in the middle of the school ground, catching the atten-

and opened the door hastily forgetting that the pieces of the letter he was holding were now scattered on the ground. He went inside, closed the door, plopped upon the bed and cried. Grandpa was taken aback by this strange attitude but then his wisdom told not to be critical as he knew his grandson was a good child with the nicest manners. Just when he was about to move; the scattered pieces of the letter caught his eyes and he picked them up.

He instantly knew what the problem was. He also thought of never discussing this matter with the boy as it would be against his esteem. He hurried

He knew of his Grandpa's wonderful competence of putting everyone at ease but he just thought 'not this time, I am embarrassed to death... I can't face anyone anymore in life'.

back to his room with an idea creeping into his mind. He wanted to reframe the idea.

After dinner, took out the Seerah book as it was a ritual in the house and told everyone that he would be telling something different that day. All eyes glued onto him and he spoke mesmerisingly in a clear and crisp tone that was soothing to hear:

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was always wishing for the leaders of the varied tribes to accept Islam. Thus he decided to make his message reach far-away places. For this purpose, he wrote the letters to the different leaders inviting them to the religion of peace.

Grandpa eyed his grandson who seemed almost impatient to listen to the story...

Prophet's ﷺ excellence in sending the letter

Our Prophet ﷺ sent the letters in the best of manners. He prepared the delegators who were to deliver the letters with extreme care. He ensured that they knew the language of the region and were acquainted with the political conditions. He also knew that he was sending messages to the kings so he prepared all the things keeping it in mind.

Courteous replies from some Monarchs

Three kings replied with due grace and respect. They were Heraclius, Negus and Muqauqis. Heraclius even further enquired about the ways and conduct of Muhammad ﷺ and asked Abu Sufyan رضي الله عنه, who had not yet entered Islam but still could speak nothing but praise for Prophet Muhammad

ﷺ and his message.

The arrogant man

Chosroes was an arrogant man. He tore the letter into pieces, saying, "My slave dares to write me thus!" He was a tedious and ungrateful man with tormenting manners. In his ignorant rage, he even seemed to forget that he was a king and ignored the communication etiquettes of the royals.

The end of the arrogant man

Chosroes Empire, of which he was proud, was soon torn to pieces and he was destroyed.

Grandpa ended the discussion by saying, "Things in life seem cruel and heart-breaking at times, but if we become patient and enduring, then Allah ﷻ rewards us. Those who hurt others are also hurt by someone. This is the rule of life."

Abdullah felt at ease. He knew that now he needed not to worry about the torn letter. He, however, was bewitched by the fact that how his Grandpa could reach out to his problems every time. He searched for the torn letter and smiled. He knew his Grandpa never talked in person to him about the letter to save his self-esteem, so he decided not to discuss it either.

After a couple of weeks, he saw a gathering in the ground. When he reached near enough to see, he saw Saram bleeding and his very close friend was shouting arrogant words at him. They apparently have had a bad fight.

Abdullah walked away thinking of the truth in Grandpa's words: 'those who hurt others are also hurt by someone.' Abdullah felt bad for Saram and prayed for him

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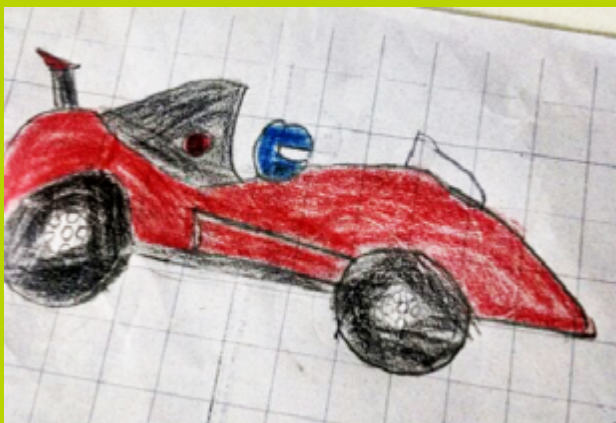
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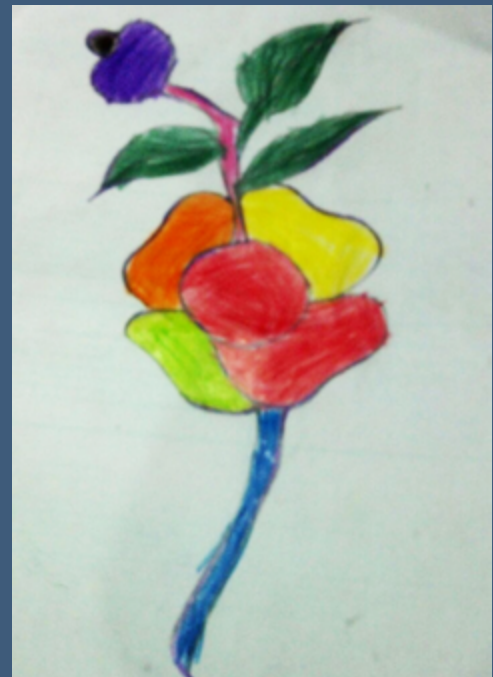
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Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit رضي الله عنه

Zawjah Junaid Mukaty
inspires us with the details of
the life of a beloved Sahabi –
Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit رضي الله عنه

We are lucky to be the followers of the religion which positively affected every caste, creed, colour and age. It is obvious that the older age group evaluated Islam, with their experiences, to be the righteous religion, but the children could also see the shower of blessings in it. One of the young, talented eleven years old among those children was Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit رضي الله عنه.

Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit was an orphan who lost his father at the age of six. He along with his mother, Nawaar bint Malik, accepted Islam when Prophet Muhammad ﷺ migrated to Madinah.

Two years later Muslims had to face the polytheists of Makkah in the battlefield of Badr. Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit also wanted to take part in it but Prophet ﷺ did not let him participate as he was under age. Hadhrat Zaid was very upset but it could not deter him from serving Islam. His mother knew how much her son loved the Prophet ﷺ, therefore she gave him an idea to please Muhammad ﷺ differently. She asked him to learn the Holy Quran. Thus Hadhrat Zaid acted upon it and was a Hafiz of seventeen surahs of the Quran before Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ returned from the Battle of Badr. His age never hindered him from achieving big goals in life.

Brilliant Learner

His mother took him to Prophet ﷺ and defined the educational qualities of her son. She said he could write and read better than the best of writers. These were some rare attributes in those times. Prophet ﷺ asked him to read and was extremely pleased to know that his mother was cent percent right as the boy had a powerful recitation.

Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ was far-sighted, therefore he told him to go and learn the Hebrew language which was the language of the Jews as there were many of them living in Madinah and Muslims were facing difficulty in interacting with them. Would you believe how much time did he take to master the Hebrew language? Just fifteen days. Yes, just fifteen. Likewise, on

the Prophet's ﷺ order he mastered Syrania, another language, within seventeen days. This breathtakingly amazing learner was also an expert of Roman and Persian languages. This also proves that Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ has encouraged us to learn as many languages as possible because language is one of the most powerful tools in spreading the religion.

Kaatib e Wahi (Scribe)

Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit ؓ became Kaatib e Wahi: one who wrote the revelations. As soon as any revelation descended on the Prophet ﷺ, he wrote it on different kinds of materials like skins of animals, parch-

The debate was on when Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit ؓ got up and became the first to pledge allegiance to Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ.

ments and slates. He was also given the responsibility of writing letters for Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ which were sent to different kings and governors.

Astounding Hikmat

In his life, this young man took some very sensible decisions which were full of Hikmat. Let me tell you one of them. When Prophet ﷺ departed from this world, there was a dire need for a caliph who could immediately take over the tremendous responsibilities. Ansar wanted Hadhrat Sa'ad bin Ubadah to be the first caliph while Muhajireen thought that Hadhrat Abu Bakr is more suitable for the post. The debate was on when Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit ؓ got up and became the first to pledge allegiance to Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ. He explained that the beloved Prophet ﷺ was a muhajir so let the caliphate be in muhajireens while we are ansars, the helpers, we will help the caliph. And thus the debate ended with a perfect solution.

Contributions of Hadhrat Zaid ؓ

He was a Scribe and expert of many languages along with an authority on the Holy Quran. He was one of those who had the most knowledge of the Book. Once Hadhrat Umer ؓ addressed the Muslims and said, "O

people, whoever wants to ask about the Quran, let him go to Zaid bin Thabit."

Hadhrat Zaid was a man of logic. He had a great insight in the knowledge of inheritance. There are many contributions from him in this field too.

He is also the narrator of ninety-two Ahadith.

Trustworthy

Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit had a mature and responsible attitude. He was a person who could bear immense burdens on his shoulders. He was often appointed

as a substitute of the caliphs while they were away. Hadhrat Umer ؓ did this in 16th and 17th Hijra while he was away for Hajj and Syria and Hadhrat Usman did it while he went for Hajj too.

Compilation of the Quran

During Hadhrat Abu Bakar's caliphate, arose the need of compilation of the Holy Quran. He appointed Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit, who was a noted expert of the Quran, to compile the sacred revelations in the form of a book. He thus started collecting the Quranic material which was then in form of slates and parchments etc. He also made sure that he accumulate the verses from Huffaz too.

For this enormous duty, Hadhrat Zaid was given seventy-five companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to help him. He had remarkable management skills too and finally achieved the goal.

By Hadhrat Usman's ؓ era people had started reciting the Quran in different dialects of the Arabic language. This could have made Muslims differ about the Quran in days to come, therefore, the caliph again

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I blinked several times to make sure I wasn't dreaming. The receptionist handed my father five tickets to the world's best animal conservation park where one could see almost every endangered species kept for protection.

Our tour guide walked up to us, 'Minnie', it read on the pin she wore. Adrenaline waves went up my spine making me shiver with excitement. Nothing was going to let me down; not even our vague tour guide who seemed to be talking Greek. Once we reached the main area, my father handed me and my brother Rs.100 each and told us to explore.

Soon I came up to a door, without noticing the 'NO ENTRY' sign,

I stepped inside a room which looked more like a grassland surrounded by glass walls. I started walking, hoping to see something interesting and little did I know what was ahead of me.

A while later I saw my family outside one of the glass walls. I waved to them, but strange enough, they just stared at me with shocked eyes as a whole crowd gathered around; their faces plastered with the same expressions. I heard a twig snap behind me, I turned around and..... GASP!!

I stood face-to-face with a fully grown brown bear!

I started walking backwards slowly towards the door but that made it come even closer. I tripped and fell back. My face was dripping wet and my whole body trembled with fear... I closed my eyes and waited...that's strange. ...As I opened my eyes, the bear took out his tongue and quite literally licked my face off. My parents breathed a sigh of relief as the bear sat down quietly then.

At first, the crowd smiled, then covered their mouths and a few seconds later all you could hear was the people's laughter.

Soon some men in uniform opened the 'No entry' doors that I had entered and took me outside as I waved goodbye to my new friend, the kind bear



Playing with fear

by Aisha Ali
12 years
Maktabatur Rabia,
South Africa

A SISTER'S PRAYER

by Aiman Aamir

7 years

DA Public School, Karachi

Once upon a time, there lived a little girl named Ayesha. She was very kind hearted and loving. She never hurt anyone. One day her brother became so sick that the parents had to take him to the hospital in the middle of the night. Ayesha was left alone with her dadi.

Later at the time of Tahajjud prayer, Ayesha's eyes opened up themselves. She looked around her room, just her dadi was there reading Namaz. This meant her parents and brother had still not returned.

She felt scared but then remembered that in every difficulty we should read Salah and ask Allah for help. He listens to us more when we read namaz and make dua after reading prayers. So she started praying. At the end of her namaz, she prayed: "Oh Allah please grant a speedy recovery to my brother."

After her prayer, she felt protected. She opened the window. There she saw her parents standing in the moonlight with her brother. As soon as they entered the gate, she rushed to them and hugged her brother. He had a big smile on his face and seemed all fine Alhamdulillah. She knew her prayer had been answered

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turned to Hadhrat Zaid bin Thabit and asked him to make copies of it. Again a team was under his charge who used the dialect of Quraish to write the Quran. Standard copies were made and send to every Muslim province.

Death

After serving Islam in many ways he died at fifty-six. His tremendous services were much more than the age he had. Without a doubt, he got an ample share of Barakah in his life.

His devotion since a very young age is a very nice example for the youngsters. May Allah ﷻ help us to follow in the lives of these great men and make it easy for us to follow their foot-steps. Ameen



Don't let the candy-wrapper confuse you

Concept by Zawjah Zia

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