

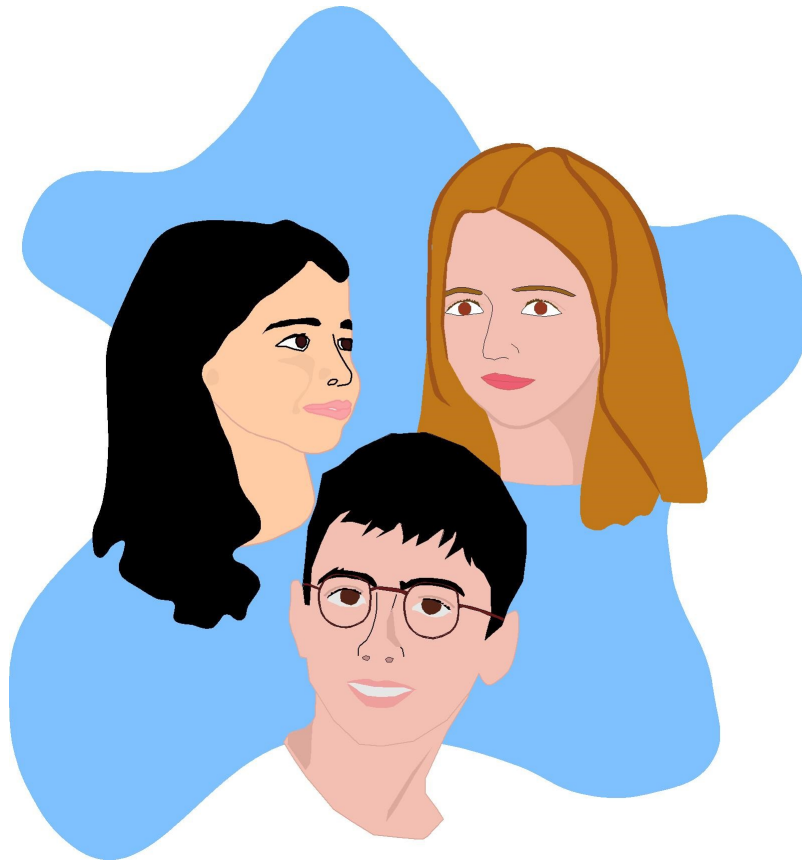
Exploring Islam



Ra-id Abdulla, MD

Course Two

**Fifth Edition
2014**



Exploring Islam

Islamic Studies for Children

Course Two

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Fifth Edition

2014



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Fifth edition 2014

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Teacher's Guide Introduction

This book provides teachers with an outline of the educational goals of this textbook. The elementary level 5 textbooks series was specifically designed to teach Muslim children in Western based cultures their religion in a language and environment they are familiar with.

Each textbook consists of 5 recurring subjects, these are:

- **Quranic Studies:** the complete series of 5 textbooks covers the suras of the 30th juzi' of the Quran. Unit one includes the following suras: 1, 105-114
- **Life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (Sira):** this textbook covers the outline of the life of the Prophet. This Sira is repeated in more details in Units 3&4. Unit 2 reviews the events surrounding other prophets while Unit 5 reviews notable individuals from the companions of the Prophet.
- **Belief (Iman):** Aspects of belief in Allah, His angels, Messengers, the Hereafter as well as other aspects of belief are reviewed in tis textbook
- **Worship (Ibadat):** Basic acts of worship are outlined in this textbook, this includes wudu, athan, prayer, zakat and pilgrimage.
- **Islamic Manners and Conduct (Mu'amalat):** Children are exposed to scenarios they may encounter in their daily lives. These are presented through stories children can relate to. The purpose is to learn the Islamic take on how to handle what they may face in their daily lives as they live among Muslims and non-Muslims.

Teachers and parents are encouraged to review the entire curriculum in the 5 units series prior to teaching each book as they are structured to introduce various

topics in a crescendo manner where there is increase in depth and complexity of the subjects presented as the child matures through the years of elementary education.

Each school will decide whether to teach Quran separately from Islamic studies. At Universal School in Bridgeview, a suburb of Chicago where this textbook series was devised and taught Quran was taught as a separate subject. In Quran classes memorization of Quran was emphasized, whereas in Islamic studies the meaning was the focal point of teaching. Schools may decide to combine both into one class.

We thank the Kind Lord for allowing us to present these series of textbooks for our children's education and ask him to forgive our sins and shortcomings.

Ra-id Abdulla, MD

Preface

In the name of Allah ﷻ Most Merciful, Most Compassionate. Praise to Allah ﷻ, the Knowledgeable, the Guider. Peace upon his Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, his household and his companions ﷺ.

Writing any book is hard, writing a children's book is a nightmare. Will they understand the concept? Are the words too difficult for that particular age group? Am I making any sense at all? And on and on goes the questions in one's mind. It would not have been possible to embark on such an important endeavor if it wasn't for Dr. Amine's request, encouragement, and unrelenting persistence.

This book is a unit of a larger plan. Prior to writing these books, a committee of educators from Universal School in Bridgeview, Illinois devised a curriculum for Islamic Studies for grades 1-12. The hope was to produce a single textbook for each educational level, similar to other subjects taught in elementary, middle and high school.

In writing these books I avoided the typical preaching style of listing things "to do" and "not to do". Instead, these textbooks mostly deliver their teachings through stories. It is hoped that this format will be more interesting to young children who are more attentive when a story is narrated to them. Each story includes Islamic teachings through its events as well as a hadith or Quran relevant to the topic. It is interesting to note that more information could be packed this way, not to mention making it more fun to read.

The issue of how to best transliterate Arabic names remain difficult to solve. There is no consensus amongst writers. We hope that with future editions this issue could be resolved.

I am grateful to my children Muhammed, Zaineb and Maryem. Each contributed with numerous hours editing and perfecting this edition. I am very pleased to see all three of them use their linguistic and artistic gifts, bestowed upon them by Allah to

serve in his sake.

Mrs. Ata, the Islamic Studies teacher of elementary levels at Universal School was instrumental in the success of using this series of books. She has been able to provide valuable contribution to improving the books through her suggestions and addition of questions after each chapter. We pray that Allah reward her on our behalf and bless her and her wonderful family.

Many years ago, Dr. Abdul Sahib Hashim, my father in law, wrote the first series of Islamic books for children in English. The textbooks he produced over several years quickly became the cornerstone of Islamic education for children in the United States. His dedication in producing magnificent texts that speak to the minds of children, adolescents and adults sparked the production of numerous educational resources over the past 3 decades. The volumes produced by my father in law were a great inspiration for me to continue in the path he laid. His books continue to be in print and provide an important source of Islamic knowledge for children and adults alike. May the merciful Lord bless him for his monumental efforts in educating generations of American Muslims and paving the path for many authors to continue in his footsteps.

I am indebted to my wife, Janaan, whose support and critique were most valuable. Furthermore, I would like to thank my three children, Muhammad, Zaineb and Maryem (ages 13, 12 and 11 years at the time the books were written) who let me know if the stories were worth listening to.

و الحمد لله رب العالمين و الصلاة و للسلام على أشرف المرسلين.

Ra-id Abdulla, MD

Dedication

To

My son Muhammed

رحمةُ الله عليه

May Allah forgive his sins and grant him the everlasting Paradise for his efforts in editing this book. His loving and happy nature was a fresh breeze Allah ﷻ graced us with during the 22 years of his life before he returned to his Lord.

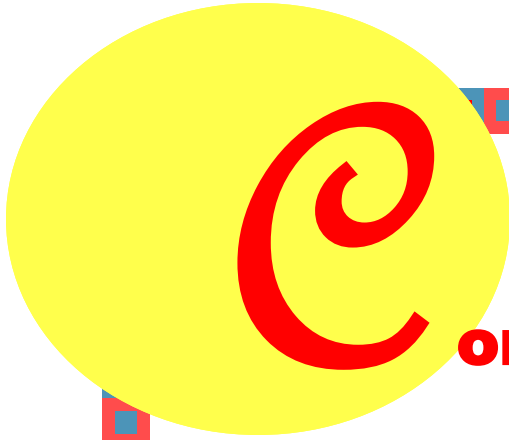
&

My parents:

Muhammed Abdulla & Zainab Alhijazi

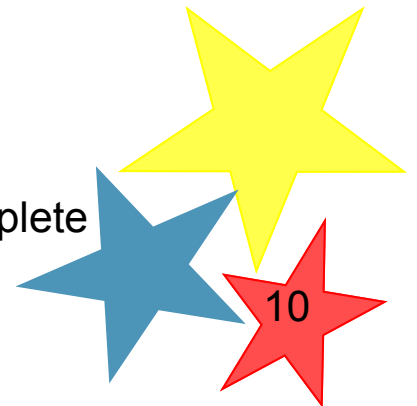
Words fail to express my love and gratitude to my parents, the two most wonderful gifts Allah ﷻ bestowed upon me. Their endless support and guidance is a beacon of salvage in this world and the Hereafter.

I ask Allah ﷻ to reward my parents and Muhammed with goodness and mercy.



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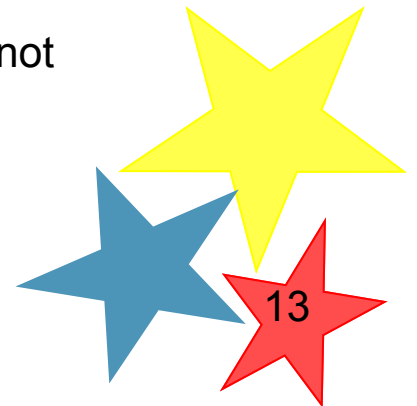
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العصر 103 Ala'sr

Once upon a time, a group of friends went to the woods for a stroll. They walked for a very long time, talking and playing as they went through the woods. They were having a lot of fun, until one of them said, "I'm tired! Let's go back," he looked around, and then added: "Does anyone know the way back home?"

They all stood there, looking around, not knowing which direction to go. They were terribly frightened! Crying and screaming,



they ran around and around, not knowing their way back home.

Everyone was panicking, except one. She held a piece of paper in her hand and looked at it. Finally, she looked up and said, “Stop running around like a bunch of lunatics! I have a map in my hand; my mom gave it to me. If we follow it we’ll be home in no time.”



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. By the time of all ages

وَالْعَصْرِ

2. For sure people are in
loss

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ

3. Except for those who
believe in Allah and do good
deeds, and encourage each
other to be truthful and
patient

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَّصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ
وَتَوَّصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ

At first no one would listen, and all the kids cried for their parents for help, but no one could hear them that far away.

Slowly, more and more boys and girls listened to the girl with the map and followed her as she started to walk back home, following the map. Everyone walked with the little girl through



the paths in the forest, but some were quite impatient.

“Are we there yet?” One of the kids yelled out.

“We must be patient,” answered the girl.

This kept going on, until they got out of the woods, and saw their houses ahead. The kids were happy, and ran towards their homes.

Like these children, all of us feel lost in this world. We too can find the right path by following the teachings of Allah ﷻ .

Words

Lunatics: crazy people.

Deeds: things you do and say.

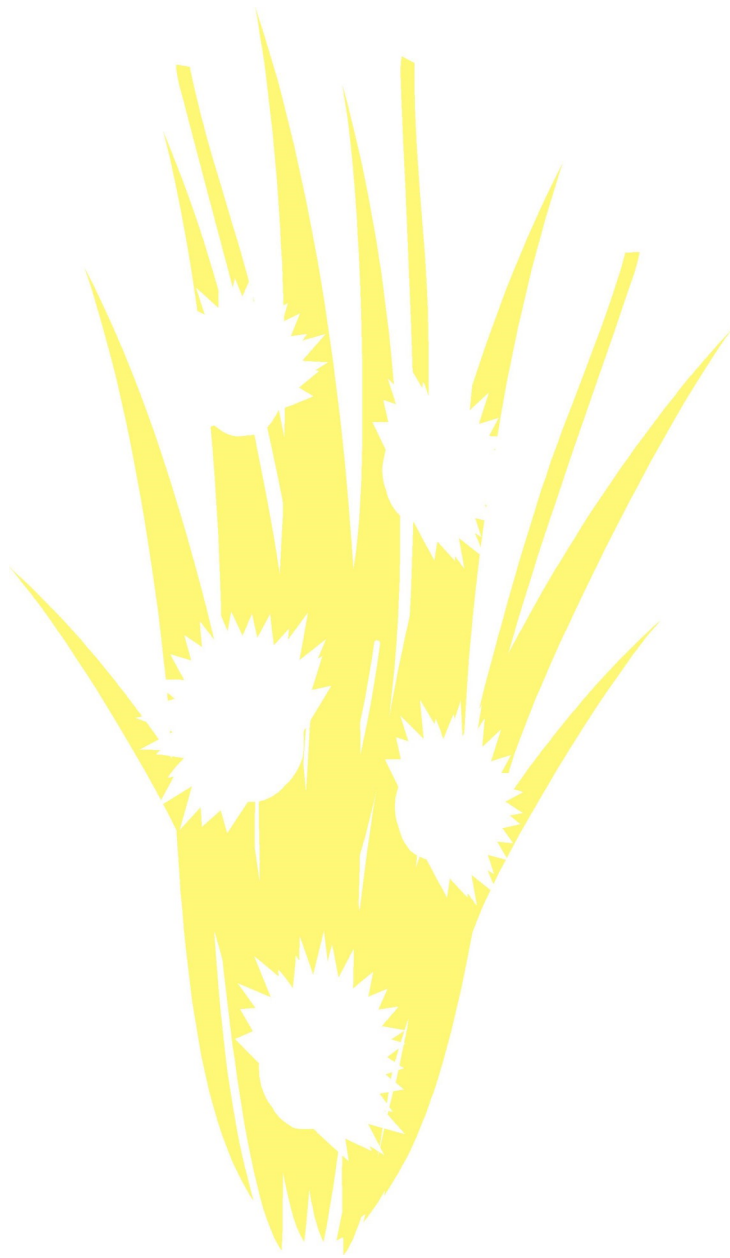
Patient: wait and not be in a hurry.

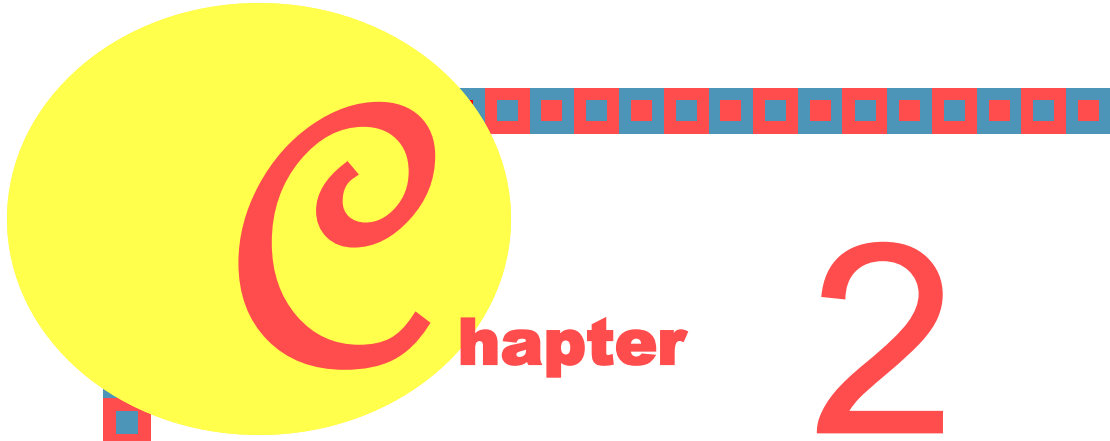
Impatient: opposite of patient, to be in hurry and not want to wait.

Remember

- *Allah ﷻ is always with you.*
- *When you feel lost, ask Allah ﷻ for help.*
- *It is important to always stay calm.*
- *Allah ﷻ always knows the right path.*
- *Muslims should believe in Allah ﷻ and do good deeds, encourage each other to hold onto the truth, and to be patient.*

The Quran and the teachings of prophet Muhammad ﷺ are like a map for Muslims. It is not enough to believe in Allah ﷻ, and then do nothing about it; instead we have to understand the teachings of Allah ﷻ, do good acts, follow the truth, and be patient when facing difficulties.



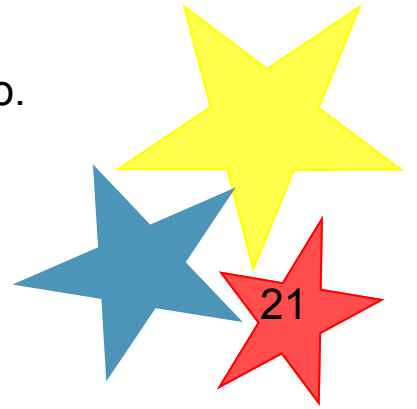


2

Adam عليه السلام

A long, long time ago, long before anybody was around, Allah سبحانه decided to create people! He created the first man ever and called him Adam, and then he created a wife for Adam, her name was Hawa. Allah سبحانه created Adam from clay, and he taught Adam things the angels never knew.

The angels were Allah's creatures, too. Angels live in paradise and they worship and obey Allah سبحانه all the time. The



angels were surprised to find out that Allah ﷻ had created a man. They asked Allah “Why would you create people who may do bad things and kill each other when you have us to glorify and worship you all the time?” Allah ﷻ told them that he knew what they did not.

Allah showed the angels Adam, and they saw for themselves how this man knew things they did not know. Allah



ﷺ then asked the angels and the jins to bow to Adam, and show respect to what he had created. All obeyed, except for Shaitan , who was one of the jin.

Allah was very upset at Shaitan, “What made you disobey my command?” asked Allah ﷻ.

“You created me from fire and created him from clay,” answered Shaitan with arrogance. “I am better than this creature you made.”

Words

Created: made something out of nothing.

Jin: creatures Allah created just like angels and people..

Shaitan: devil, also called Iblis.

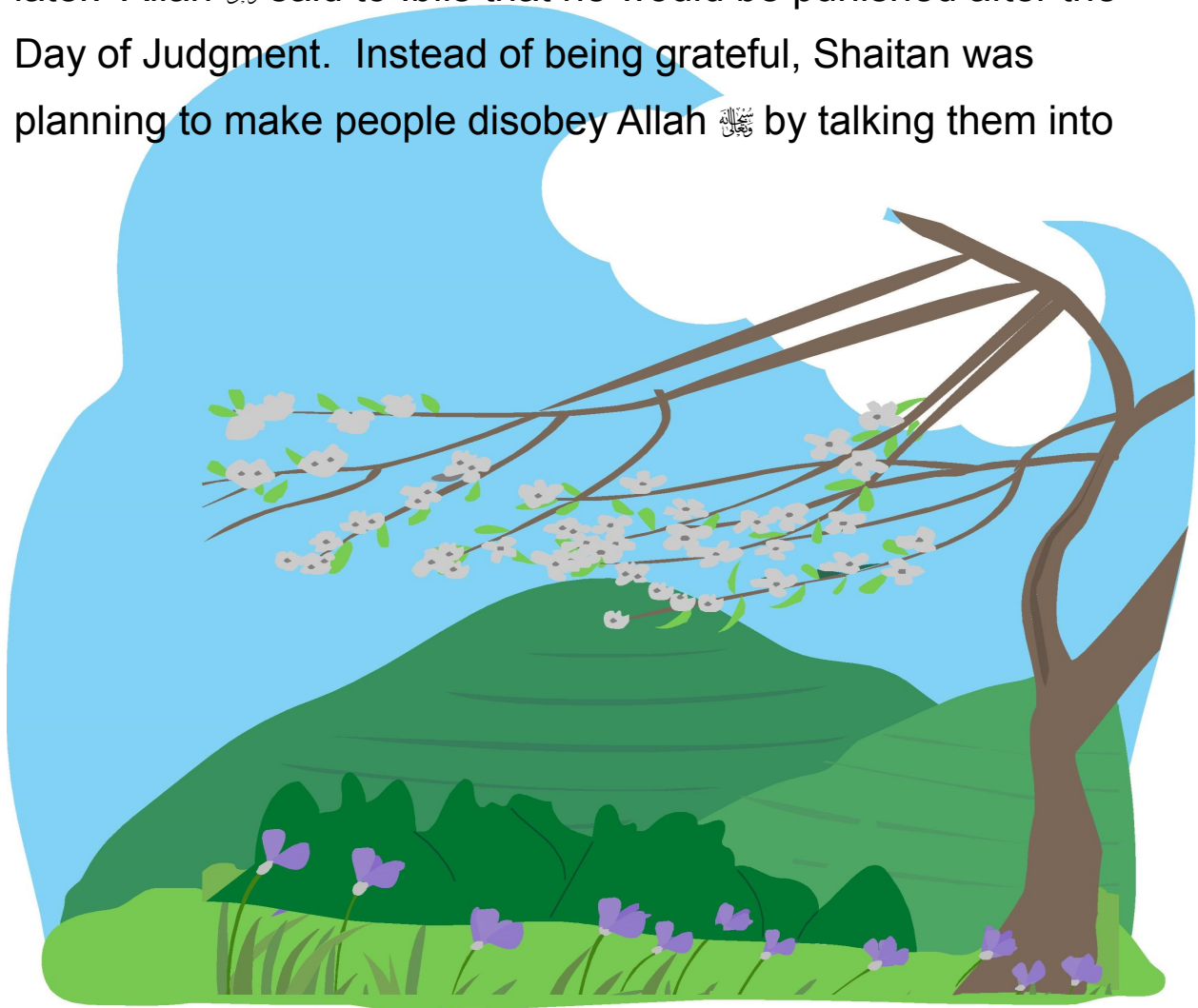
Shed blood: fight and kill.

Grateful: thankful.

Glorify: pray to Allah.

Forgive: not be upset with someone, act and feel as if no wrong was done.

Allah ordered Shaitan to leave paradise and swore that he would punish him. Shaitan asked Allah ﷻ if he would punish him later. Allah ﷻ said to Iblis that he would be punished after the Day of Judgment. Instead of being grateful, Shaitan was planning to make people disobey Allah ﷻ by talking them into



Quran

Al-Baqara البقره , aya 30

Allah said to the angels "I will create man on earth.". The angels said "Why should you create people on earth who would do evil and shed blood while we praise you. We always are grateful to you and glorify you.". Allah replied "I know what you do not know"

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

told Adam and Hawa that they may do as they please in Jenna, except for eating from one particular tree. Adam and Hawa obeyed Allah ﷻ, until one day, when Shaitan approached them and said, "Why don't you eat from this tree? It would make you

being disobedient to our creator.

Allah ﷻ promised Shaitan and those who follow his evil ways to enter the Hellfire for punishment.

Meanwhile, Adam and Hawa lived in paradise and they were very happy together. Allah ﷻ

kings or make you live forever.”

Adam and Hawa listened to Shaitan, forgetting what Allah ﷻ had asked them not to do. They ate from the tree and immediately realized that they had disobeyed Allah ﷻ and felt very bad for having done so.

Adam and Hawa asked Allah ﷻ for his forgiveness. Allah forgave them and told them that they will have to go and live on Earth, instead of Jenna. Allah told them that he would give them guidance of how to best live on Earth to please him. He also told them that those who follow his guidance will be able to go back and live in Jenna forever.

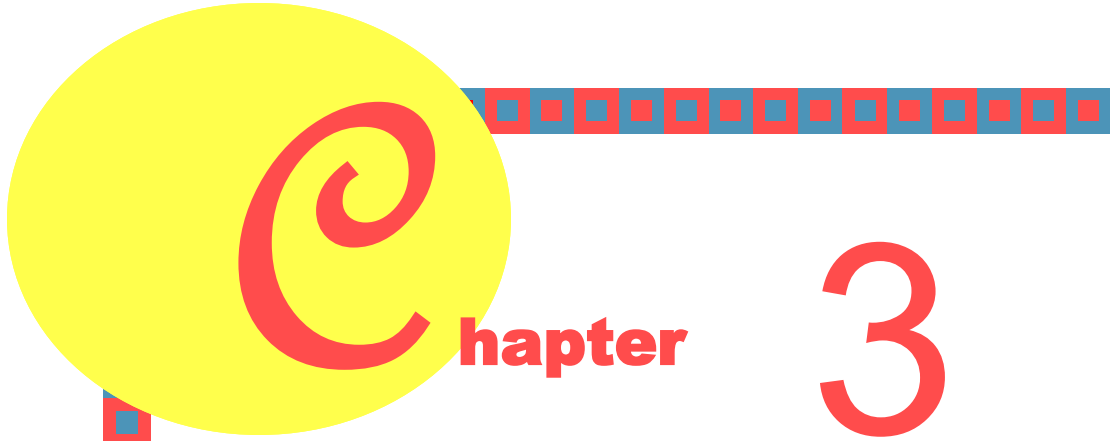
Then he warned them that whoever disobeys his guidance will end up with the Shaitan in Hellfire.

Adam and Hawa learned from their lesson and lived the rest of their lives on earth. They taught their children to worship Allah, and not to listen to Shaitan. Adam and Hawa knew that

Iblis would always try to get their children in trouble by making them think that it is cool to do things which upset Allah. Adam and Hawa had learned that it is better to live the way Allah ﷻ wants us to live, and to stay away from the Shaitan who only wants to get us in trouble and hurt us.

Remember

- *Allah ﷻ created Adam and Hawa.*
- *Allah ﷻ asked the angels and the jin to bow to Adam*
- *All obeyed the angels and jin obeyed Allah, except for Shaitan, who was one of the jin.*
- *Allah ordered Shaitan to leave paradise*
- *Shaitan is the enemy of all people and he want them to disobey Allah*
- *Adam and his wife disobeyed Allah by eating from the tree*

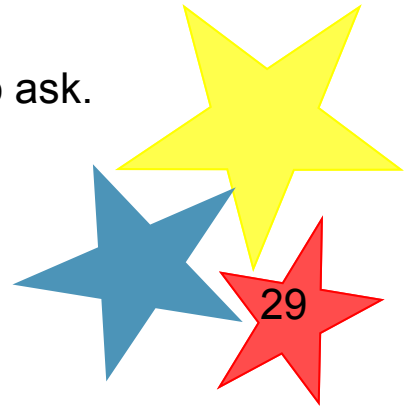


3

Allah ﷻ

“Does Allah have a secretary?” BunnyQ asked his mother.

BunnyQ was a little bunny rabbit that always had plenty of questions to ask. It didn't matter if it was day or night, sunny or stormy, hot or cold, because BunnyQ always had a question to ask. His Mama didn't mind his questions, because they were all good questions.

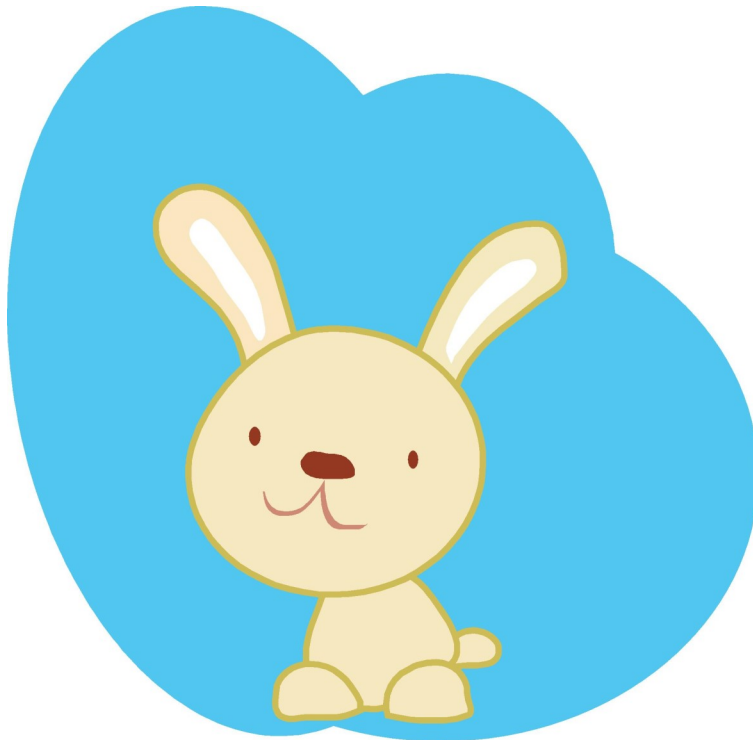


“No, honey, Allah does not have a secretary,” answered his mother.

“How about a mother?” asked BunnyQ again.

“No, dear. He has no mother, father, wife, or children. And certainly not a secretary,” answered his mother.

“But that won’t work, Mama!” exclaimed BunnyQ.



“What won’t work, BunnyQ?”

“If he doesn’t have anybody to help him then who watches over the sun, the moon, the earth, and all of us if he would like to take a nap or go to sleep or something?”

asked BunnyQ with his eyes wide open.

“God does not need to sleep, eat, drink, or any of the things we need to do, because he is not like us,” answered his mother. “Sleeping, eating, breathing, and all the other things people need to do are necessary for us to stay alive,” explained his mother. “But Allah is the creator of all of us and he does not need to do the things we have to do.”

“Can we see Allah?” asked BunnyQ.

“No dear, we cannot see him or talk to him,” answered his

Words

Secretary: someone to help with minor tasks at work.

Plenty: many.

Heavens: all the skies and what is in them.

Throne: the chair that kings sit on.

Supreme: the greatest and most powerful.

Allah, there is no god but he, the living, who needs no help from others. He lives forever and never sleeps. He has everything in the heavens and on earth. Who can ask Allah for favors except with his permission? He knows what we hide and what we show to others, and we do not know anything about Allah, except for what he had let us know. The throne of Allah is so large that it is as big as the heavens and earth. Allah will never get tired from protecting the heavens and earth, and he is the highest and most supreme.

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

mother.

“Then how come we know so much about him?” asked BunnyQ.

“Allah sent many prophets and messengers to tell people

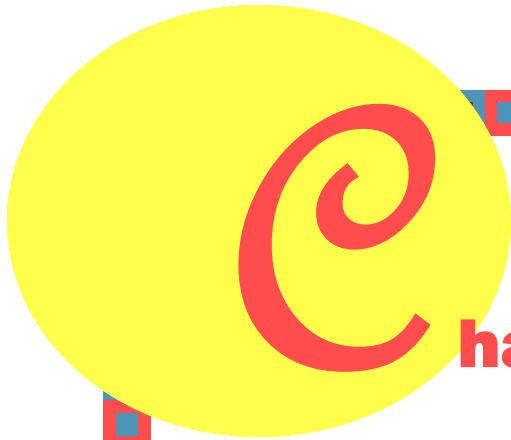
about himself,” answered his mother.

“Oh!” said BunnyQ.

BunnyQ’s mother smiled. It seems that he was out of questions, but she knew it wouldn’t last long.

Remember

- Allah ﷻ is not like humans. He was not born; he does not grow older; he does not eat, drink or sleep.
- Allah ﷻ knows everything all the time.
- Allah ﷻ is one and he has no helpers.
- Allah ﷻ will protect heaven, earth and everything on it and will never get tired of doing so.

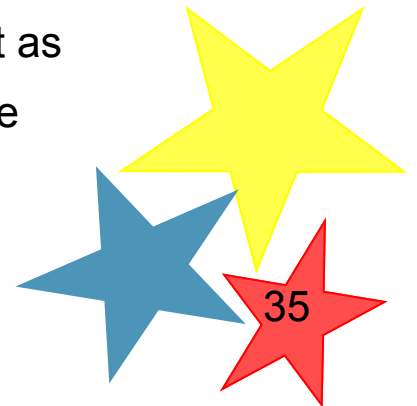


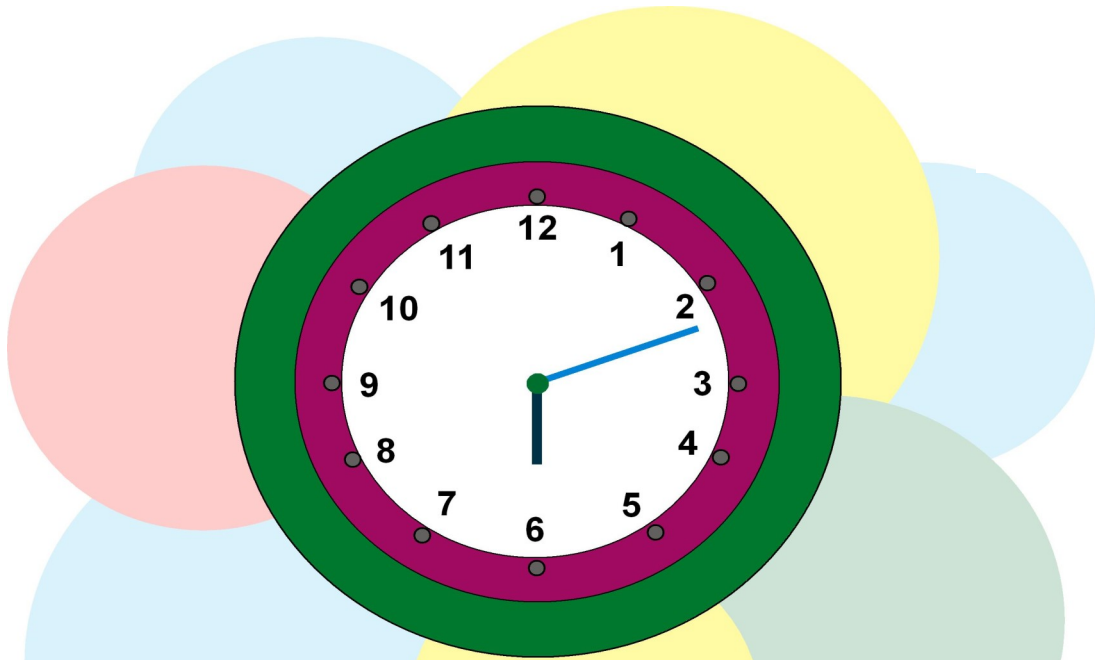
Chapter

4

Sarah and Omar are fasting

It was 6:27 in the evening, and Sarah and her brother Omar sat at the dining room table. They stared at the food in front of them, but did not eat. Every now and then, they would look up at the clock as it slowly ticked. Then, all of a sudden, as the clock struck 6:30, Sarah and Omar attacked their food. They ate as fast as they could. They ate, ate, ate, and then ate some more.





Minutes later, Sarah and Omar laid down on the floor, with their stomachs really full.

“Ahhhhhhhhh!” whined Sarah.

“Uhhhhhhhhh!” added Omar.

“I think I ate too much,” said Omar.

“I think I ate too fast and too much, and now I can hardly breathe,” said Sarah.

“Uhhhhhhhhh!” said Sarah and Omar together.

“I wish I was still fasting, because my stomach wouldn’t be hurting so bad!” said Sarah.

“I fasted to know how poor people feel,” said Omar.

“Me too, but then I ate soooooooo much, now I know how

Words

Guidance: showing the right thing to do.

Fast: to stop eating and drinking during the day.

Iftar: breaking fast, time to be able to eat and drink.

The month of Ramadan, in which Allah has revealed the Quran, which gives guidance to people. In the Quran there are signs for guidance and truth. All who can fast this month should do so, but those of you who are sick or traveling should fast at another time. Allah wants to make things easy for you and does not want to make things hard for you.. Finish fasting the month and make sure to glorify Allah for guiding you and for this you must be grateful.

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُم وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

greedy people feel,” said Sarah.

“You’re right!” replied Omar, “We should have eaten just enough to stop being hungry, just like the Prophet ﷺ did!”

“What did he do?” asked Sarah.

“He used to eat only when he was hungry and when he ate, he ate just enough,” said Omar. “And when he broke his fast, he ate just a date or two, then made salat, and afterwards finished his meal.”

“Now you tell me!” said Sarah. “You should have said so before we started eating like pigs!”

“Well, today was the first day of Ramadan. We have 29

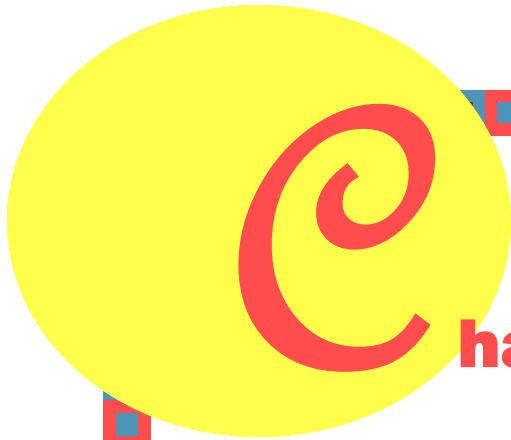


Remember

- *In Ramadan, we fast from sunrise to sunset.*
- *When we fast, we feel hungry, just like poor people who do not have money to buy food.*
- *At sunset we break our fast. When eating we should eat just enough and not too much.*
- *Allah ﷻ rewards those who fast.*

more days to go. From now on, we will eat just enough to stop being hungry, and then we will do our salat.”

Sarah and Omar were able to fast the rest of Ramadan. They ate just enough, and not too much at iftar, and when salat time came, they were ready to do their prayers without being too full to move.



Chapter

5

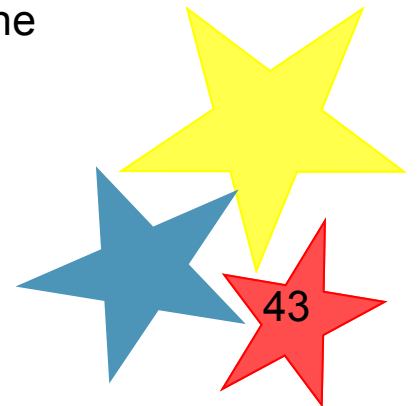
Scruffy and Scratchy

“I told you to stop lying!” said Scruffy to Scratchy.

“I’m not lying!” Scratchy yelled back.

Scruffy and Scratchy were good friends. They were two mice living with their parents in the basement of an old house. They were good kids, except for one thing - they liked to tell fibs.

“It’s not a lie, I was just fooling you.



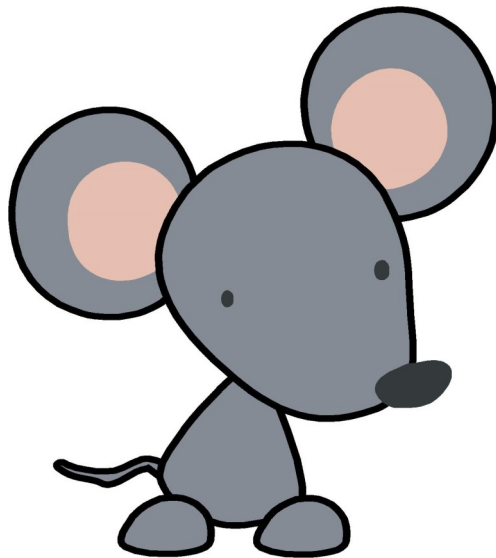
It's nothing but a small, little, puny, harmless fib," said Scratchy.

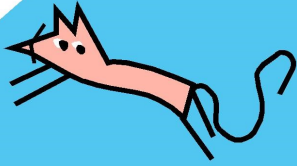
The problem was that they never believed each other. They always thought that the other one was fibbing, and more often than not, they really were lying!

One day Scruffy came running to Scratchy

"Run, run, run away, there is a cat in the house!" yelled Scruffy.

"A cat!" said Scratchy, "No way! You're lying again. Liar, liar,





pants on fire!”

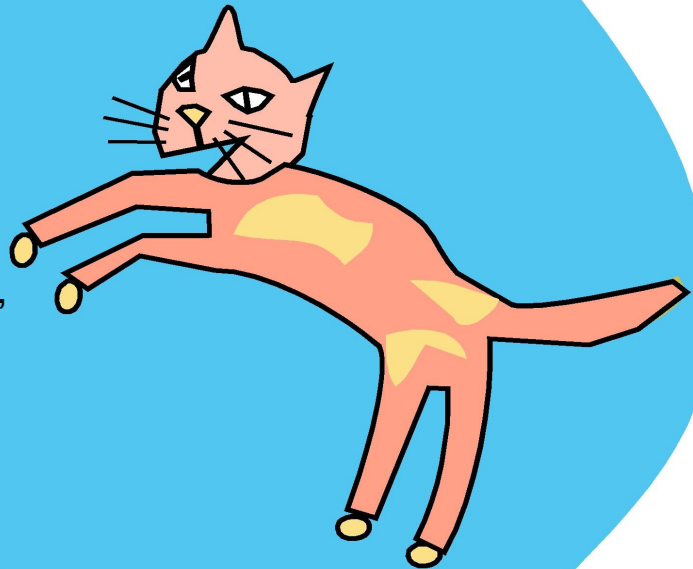
Sure enough, Scruffy was fibbing again, there was no cat in the house.

The next day Scratchy came running towards Scruffy
“Run, run, run away!!! A cat is chasing me!!!” screamed Scratchy.

“You must think that I am stupid,” said Scruffy. “You’re copying the fib I made yesterday.”

But not two seconds later, the meanest, ugliest and biggest cat he had ever seen came running towards them.

Scratchy and Scruffy ran



Hadith

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“There are three signs of a hypocrite: If they say something, they lie. If they promise, they do not keep their promise. And if they are trusted with something, they betray the trust.”

but the truth for as long as I live!”

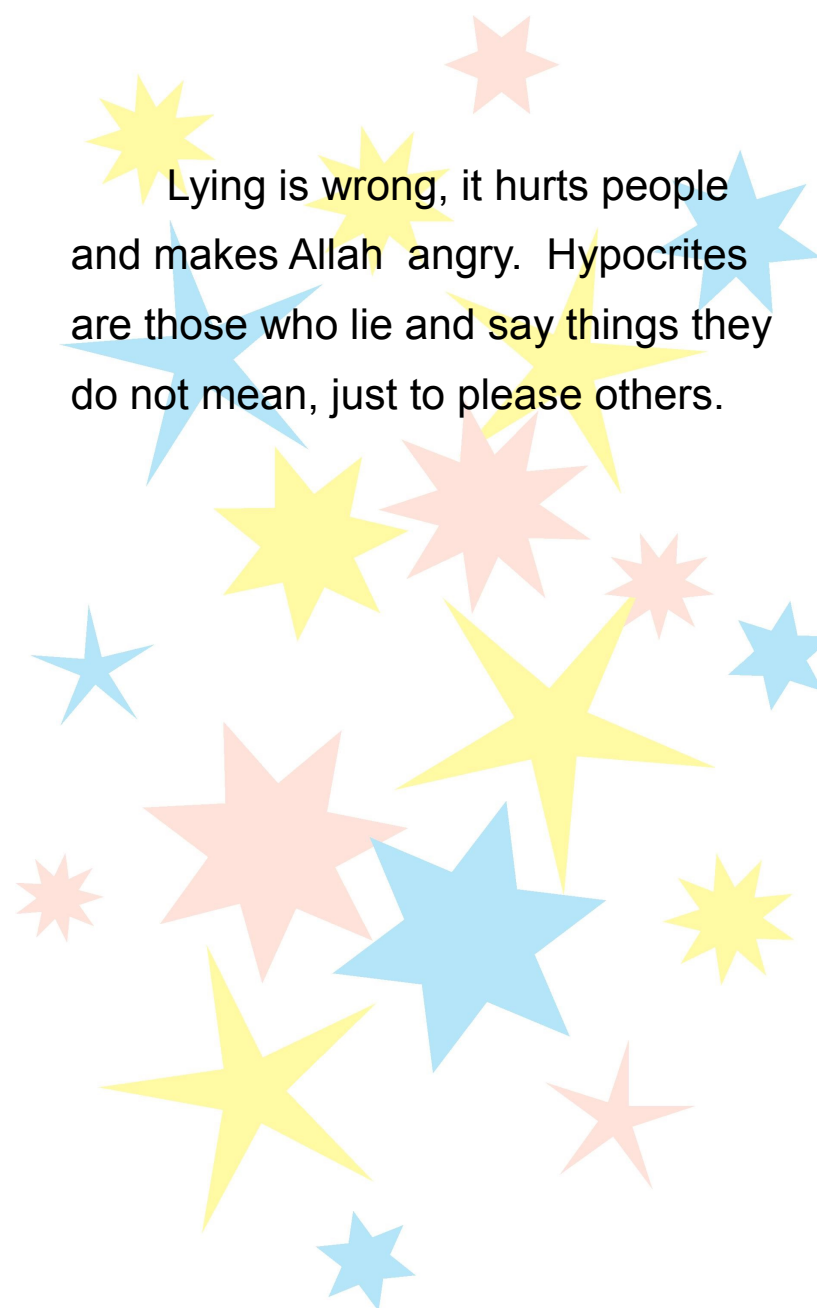
“So do I, brother! So do I!” agreed Scratchy.

Scratchy and Scruffy remained good friends, never said a lie, and lived happily ever after.

like they never did before. *Woooosh*, they entered through a small crack in the wall just before the cat would have caught them.

“Whew!” sighed Scruffy.

“I swear to Allah, that I will not fib, lie, or say anything but the truth, the whole truth and nothing



Lying is wrong, it hurts people and makes Allah angry. Hypocrites are those who lie and say things they do not mean, just to please others.

Remember

- *Lying is haram. It is wrong to lie.*
- *People who lie make Allah ﷻ angry at them.*
- *People do not trust those who lie, even when they say the truth.*
- *When someone lies many times, people will stop believing what they say.*

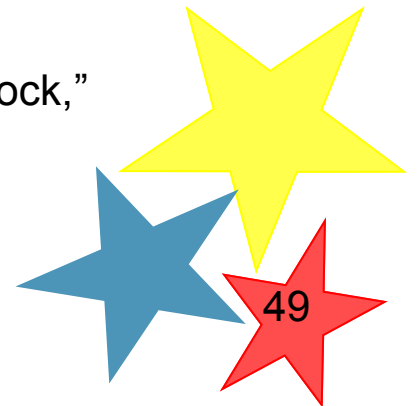


التكاثر 102 **Altakathur**

“What would you think of a bunch of people in a park having a party?” asked Amr. “They are playing and laughing. Would you want to be with them?”

“Sure! That sounds like lots of fun,” answered Hassan enthusiastically.

“But, what if there was this big huge rock,” continued Amr. “As big as the biggest building, falling from the sky straight





towards the people in the park. Would you still want to be at that party?”

“No way!” said Hassan.

“So what if I tell you that there is actually one person with those people in the park who keeps telling them: ‘Look! Look! There is a rock falling from the sky. Stop playing and let’s get out of here.’ But no one would listen or stop playing because they were having so much fun.”

“Boy! What a bunch of losers,” said Hassan. “Playing

Words

Strike: hit or happen.

Altaqathur: Arabic word, means more and more of something.

Exclaimed: said in a loud and excited voice.

Joys: good things.

without a care when disaster is about to strike.”

“And just like those people in the park, many of us are like that,” said Amr. “Allah ﷻ sends messengers to people telling them about right and wrong, just like in surat Altakathur. Allah ﷻ warns us of being too busy enjoying this life and forgetting all about his teachings.”

“You’re right!” exclaimed Hassan. “And one day we will face

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. O people you keep yourselves busy with getting more and more of everything

أَلْهَاكُمْ التَّكَاثُرُ

2. Nothing will stop you from wanting more but your death

حَتَّى زُرْتُمُ الْمَقَابِرَ

3. But soon you will learn the truth

كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ

4. Oh yes! Soon you will learn the truth

ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ

5. Soon you will know the absolute truth

كَلَّا لَوْ تَعْلَمُونَ عِلْمَ الْيَقِينِ

6. You will see the Hellfire

لَتَرُونَ الْجَحِيمَ

7. You will for sure see it with your own eyes

ثُمَّ لَتَرُونَهَا عَيْنَ الْيَقِينِ

8. Then, you will be questioned about all the joys in the world which kept you busy from Allah

ثُمَّ لَتُسْأَلُنَّ يَوْمَئِذٍ عَنِ النَّعِيمِ

Remember

- *Muslims must always think of Allah ﷻ and what he has given us,*
- *It is wrong to be too busy with our lives and not think about what will happen after we die.*
- *Allah ﷻ wants us to enjoy life and at the same time think about what will come after this life.*
- *Altakathur means getting more and more of things, like money, children and other things we like to have.*

Allah and be judged by what we did. So it is important to listen to Allah's teachings and do as he asked us so that we can, God willing, be happy in this world, and in the hereafter."

"You're getting to be as smart as I am," said Amr jokingly. "And since you're so brilliant, recite Altakathur for me."

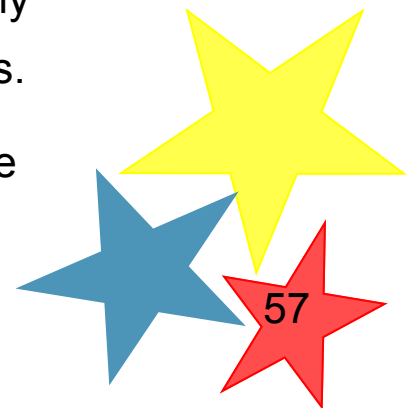


Chapter 7

Prophet Nooh عليه السلام

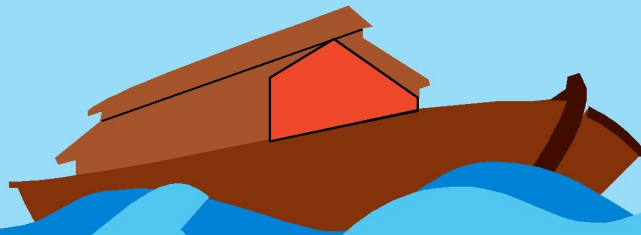
Prophet Adam عليه السلام taught his children about Allah ﷻ, and they, in turn, taught their children about Allah. People worshiped Allah and followed his teachings and knew right from wrong. Over time, though, people started to forget Allah's teachings. They made statues from stone, and worshiped them as if they were gods. Many people forgot about Allah and his teachings.

Allah ﷻ, in His mercy, wanted to guide people back to the right path. He sent





Prophet Nooh عليه السلام to tell them right from wrong. Allah gave people the chance to believe in him, the only one God, and to stop worshiping idols that could do them no good or harm.



Only a small number of people listened to Prophet Nooh and followed the teachings of Allah ﷻ. Those people believed in Allah and did good and stayed away from evil. The rest of the people did not want to believe in what Prophet Nooh was telling them. Nooh warned them that if they continued to do evil things, then Allah would punish them for their behavior. They just laughed at Nooh and his followers and told Nooh that they did not believe in his God or any of his threats.

Prophet Nooh was sad. He wanted so much for his people to see the truth and believe in Allah ﷻ. The harder he tried to convince his people of the truth, the more the non-believers made fun of him. Nooh kept trying to convince the non-believers for 900 years but very few believed.

Allah ﷻ told Nooh not to feel bad. Allah told him that the rest of his people will never believe in him, no matter how hard or how long he tried. He then instructed Nooh to build a large boat, called an arc. Allah told Nooh that there would be a flood, which

would cover all earth with water and the only way for people to be saved was to be on board the arc Nooh was building. Allah also asked Nooh to take with him a couple of each of the animals, a male and a female, to save them as well.

The non-believers laughed at Nooh ﷺ for building an arc when there was no water around. This did not discourage Nooh, who finished the boat, and did what Allah instructed him to do.

After Nooh was done, it started to rain. Nooh gathered the believers, along with two of every animal on board the arc. Nooh

Words

Idols: statues made of stone and wood, people pretended that idols were gods.

Convince: make people see the truth (or something else) and believe in it.

Arc: a big boat.

Worry: feel sad and think a lot about something.

Allah told Nooh that the rest of his people would not believe in him no matter how hard he tried.

“Do not feel sad for what the non-believers are doing,” Allah told Nooh. “And build a large arc and no longer worry about those who do evil, they will all drown in the flood.”

وَأَوْحِيَ إِلَى نُوحٍ أَنَّهُ لَنْ يُؤْمِنَ مِنْ قَوْمِكَ إِلَّا مَنْ قَدْ آمَنَ فَلَا تَبْتَئِسْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ
وَاصْنَعِ الْفُلَكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَّوْحَيْنَا وَلَا تَخَاطِبْنِي فِي الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا إِنَّهُمْ مُعْرِضُونَ

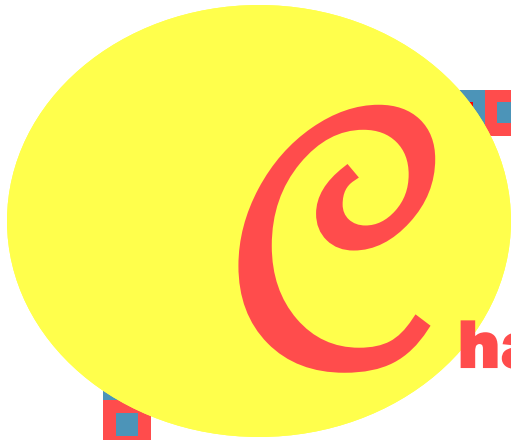
then asked his son, whom he loved dearly, to join the believers on board the arc. But Nooh's son was not a believer, and he told his father that he would go up to the top of the tallest mountain, and be safe from the flood.

It rained and rained and fountains poured water from inside the earth, and very soon there was no land to be seen.

Everything was covered with water, even the tops of all the mountains! All the non-believers drowned, even Nooh's son. But with the grace of Allah, Nooh, the believers, and the animals were saved from the flood.

Remember

- Allah ﷻ taught Prophet Adam to believe in him, but years later people forgot about Allah.
- Allah ﷻ sent Prophet Nooh عليه السلام to teach people about Allah.
- Very few people followed the teachings of Prophet Nooh.
- Allah ﷻ made the skies rain hard and long to flood the earth and punish the non-believers.
- The rain was so much that all the earth was covered by water.
- Nooh عليه السلام and the people who followed him were saved from the flood because they were on the arc (boat) that Nooh built.

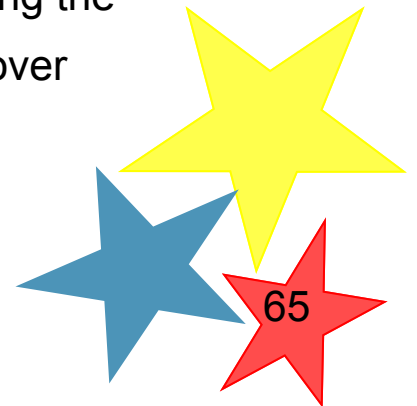


Chapter

8

Who's My God?

A long, long time ago, thousands of years ago, before there were any cars, internet, TV or even schools, there was a young man who lived with his father, mother, and sister. They had land to farm, and sheep to herd. The boy's name was Hara, and his sister was called Hala. Hara and Hala helped their parents by taking the sheep every morning to have them graze over the nearby hills.



One day Hala and Hara sat around a fire they had started to stay warm while herding the sheep.

“What are you looking at?” asked Hala.

“The fire,” answered Hara “It glows so strong and gives so much heat. It must be the god who created everything.”

“You really think so?” asked Hala.



“I am not sure,” answered Hara.

All of the sudden it started to rain. Hala and Hara got a large piece of animal skin and put it over their heads to protect them from the falling drops of water. The rain didn’t last long, but it lasted long enough to put out the fire.

“Rain is more powerful than fire!” said Hala. “It must be our god!”

“But the cloud that poured down the rain is more powerful

Words

***Graze:** animals eating grass in the fields.*

***Herding:** walking animals in the field to graze (eat).*

***Harm:** hurt.*

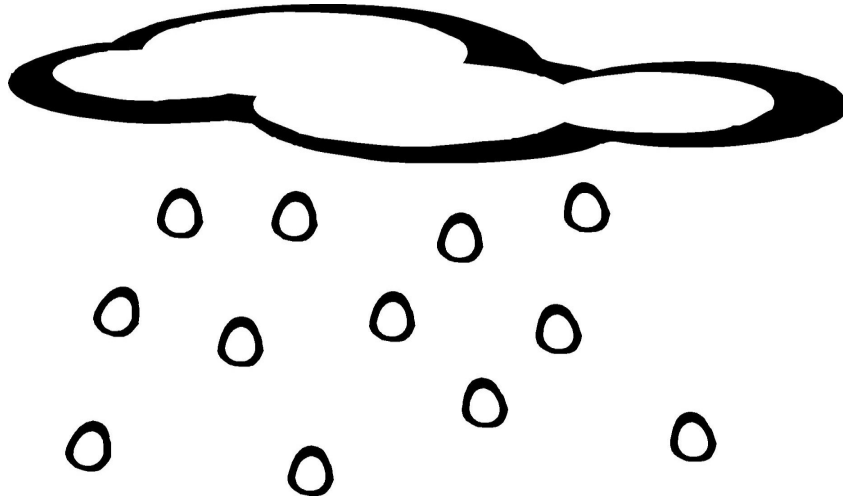
***True nature:** the way something really is.*

Say, who is the Lord of heavens and earth? It is Allah. So do you worship gods other than Allah? Those gods can do you no good, nor any harm. Is it the same to be blind and to be able to see? Or, is it the same to be in a very dark place or in a bright place? Say, who is the Lord of heavens and earth? It is Allah. So do you worship gods other than Allah? Those gods can do you no good, nor any harm. Is it the same to be blind and to be able to see? Or, is it the same to be in a very dark place or in a bright place?

قُلْ مَنْ رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ قُلِ اللَّهُ قُلْ أَفَاتَّخَذْتُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ لِأَنْفُسِهِمْ نَفْعًا وَلَا ضَرًّا
قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَى وَالْبَصِيرُ أَمْ هَلْ تَسْتَوِي الظُّلُمَاتُ وَالنُّورُ

than the rain itself,” said Hara. “Could it be our god?”

“I don’t think so,” said Hala. “The wind can blow the clouds left and right. No! Clouds cannot be God.”



“Well if the rain is stronger than the fire and the clouds are stronger than the rain and the wind is stronger than the cloud, then the wind is our God,” said Hara, hoping that he has finally reached the end of their search for a god.

Hala thought for a little while and then said, “No, that cannot be. You and I and everyone alive can breathe the wind!”

“If the fire, the rain, the clouds, the wind are not gods, who then is God? Don’t tell me that you’re about to say that we are the gods,” Hara said with a sigh.

Remember

- *Allah ﷻ is our God. He is one and has no helpers.*
- *We worship Allah only and no one else.*
- *Everything we see around us was created by Allah ﷻ and nothing is as powerful as him.*
- *People know in their hearts about Allah ﷻ, even without being told about him.*

Hala laughed, “No, it surely cannot be us. We are born and we die, so a true God cannot be us. But you know something, Hara, the true God must be always there, and cannot be put off like fire, or be blown away by wind. The true God must be stronger than everything. He must have not been born, nor will he ever die”

“So where do you think is this God?” asked Hara.

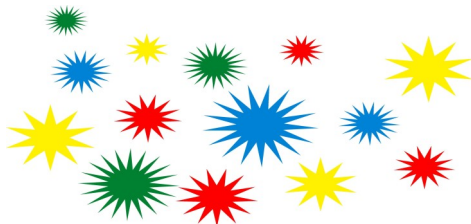
“Here, there and everywhere. A true God should be able to hear everything and know everything. The true God gave us food to eat and water to drink. I do not know

Did you know?

Muslims are those who submit to God's will and by doing so live in peace. Muslims believe in the one and only one God who was not born, did not have children and there is no one like him.

his name, nor can I see him with my eyes, but he is there," said Hala.

Hala and Hara sat down quietly. They knew the true nature of Allah ﷻ, even without having heard of him. Allah ﷻ makes us know, even without being told, that there must be one and only one God: a God who loves us, and protects us.





Chapter 9

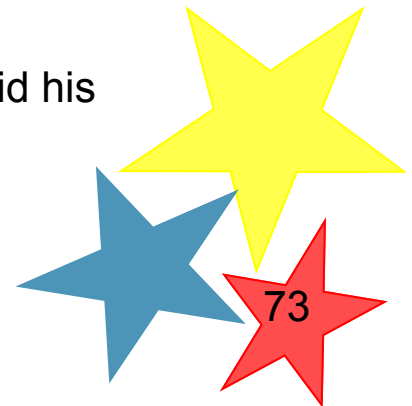
Taraweeh

It was the beginning of Ramadan. After iftar, Rami's father was getting ready to go to the masjid for Isha' and Taraweeh prayer. Rami, a second grader, asked his father if he could go with him to the masjid.

"You're too young," said his father.

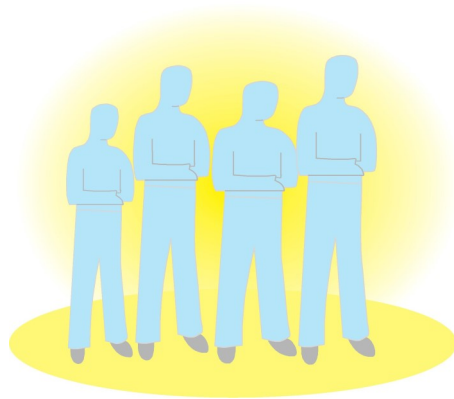
"But many of my friends go there," insisted Rami.

"This is not a regular Isha' prayer," said his father. "We will first pray Isha' and then Taraweeh. Do you know what Taraweeh



is?”

“Yes, Baba!” said Rami enthusiastically. “You do two ruka’a at a time, and you do four of these two ruka’a prayers so that it will be eight all together and then you do three more at the end, so that’s eleven.”



Words

Taraweeh: night prayer during Ramadan.

Ruka’a: one part of prayer, morning prayer has 2 parts, or 2 ruka’a.

Juzi: one part of the Quran. There are 30 juzi’ or parts in the Quran.

Throughout: during all of.

Quran

Alinsa الإنسان, aya 26,

And during part of the night pray and make sujood and glorify Allah throughout the long night. And during part of the night pray and make sujood and glorify Allah throughout the long night.

وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَاسْجُدْ لَهُ وَسَبِّحْهُ لَيْلًا طَوِيلًا

“That’s right Rami!” said his father, surprised. “Where did you learn all this?”

“At school,” said Rami. “Yesterday, we did pretend Taraweeh and I led the prayer.”

“Well,” said his father. “I guess you’re ready to come with me, but one more thing.”

“Yes?” said Rami.

“Do you also know that each ruka’a is very long because the Imam reads many verses from the Quran?” asked his father.

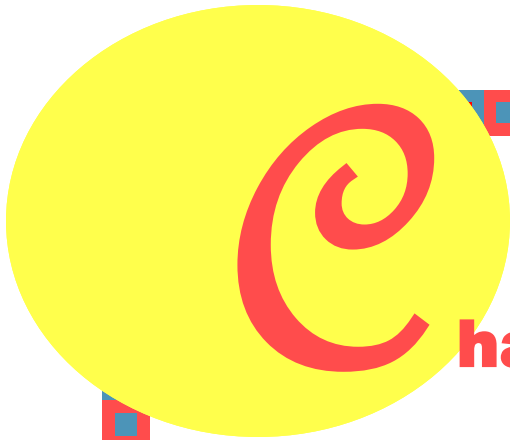
“Yes!” said Rami, “The Imam reads half a Juzi’ or even one

Remember

- *Taraweeh is a prayer done after isha' during Ramadan.*
- *During Ramadan, Muslims go to the masjid to pray Tarweeh.*
- *Taraweeh prayer can be done alone, or with a group of people.*
- *Allah ﷻ asks us to pray part of the night and glorify him.*

whole Juzi' every night. This way, you get to finish reading the whole Quran during Ramadan, and that's called khatma."

"You seem to know everything Rami," said the father. "Let's go!"



Chapter

10

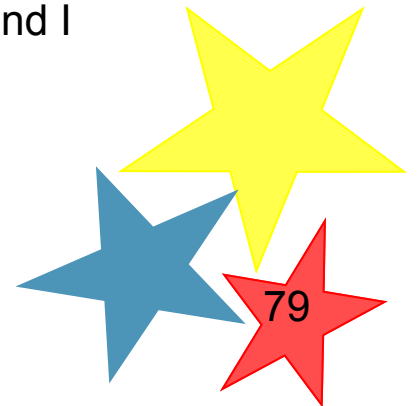
The Truth!

Samira and Yusuf were playing together in the living room. Their parents were getting ready to visit their neighbors.

“Your father and I will be next door,” their mother said. “Stay inside the house and we’ll be back soon.”

“Okay, Mama,” said Yusuf. “Samira and I will play with my ball.”

“No, Yusuf,” said the mother, “You

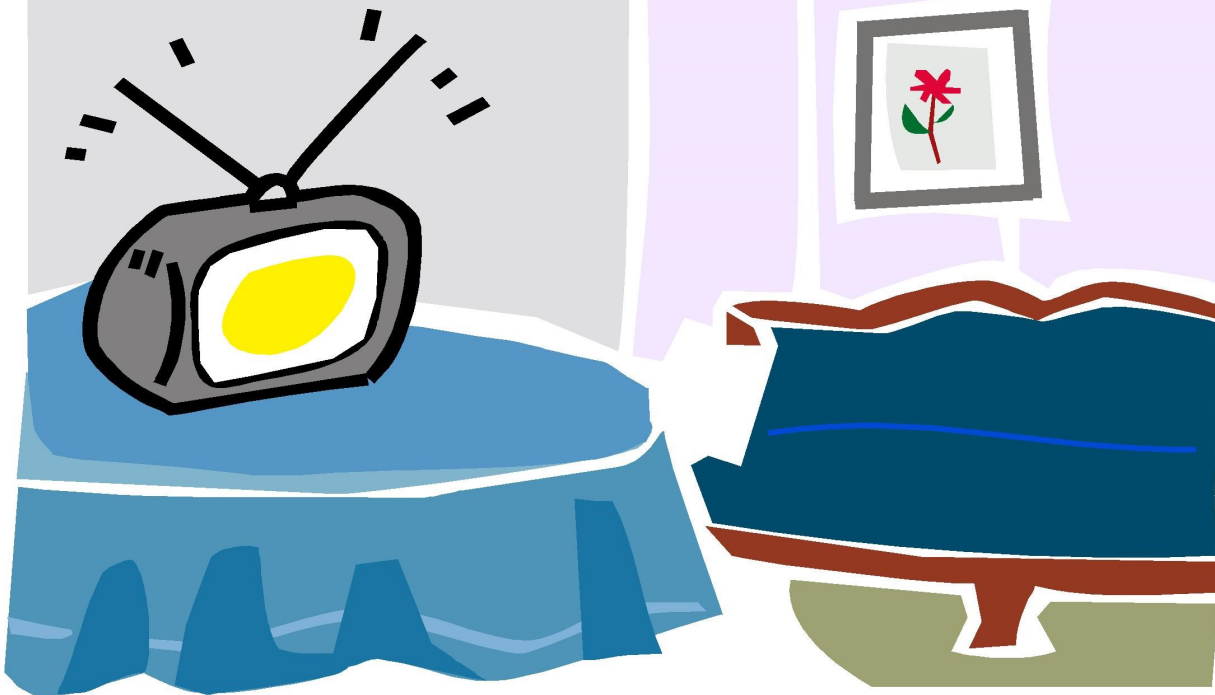


cannot play ball inside the house, and it is too dark to play outdoors. You can do something else.”

The parents left and Samira and Yusuf watched TV for a little while but there was nothing good to watch.

“There is nothing to watch on TV, let’s play ball!” said Yusuf.

“But Mama said not to go out or bring the ball inside,” said



Samira.

“But, it’s booooooring!” Yusuf complained. “We’ll play with the ball and when we hear Mama and Baba coming we’ll put it away.”

Samira didn’t want to disobey her Mama but she was really bored. So she and Yusuf got the ball from the backyard and played with it.

Yusuf and Samira were having lots of fun throwing the ball to each other. Samira was making fun of Yusuf for missing the ball when he tried to kicked it, so she took the ball from him and said, “This is how you kick a ball.” She then kicked the ball so strong that the ball bounced off of the wall and went straight to the TV and *KABOOOOOM!* it smashed the TV screen into millions of pieces!

Yusuf and Samira stood there frozen, looking at the mess and did not know what to say.

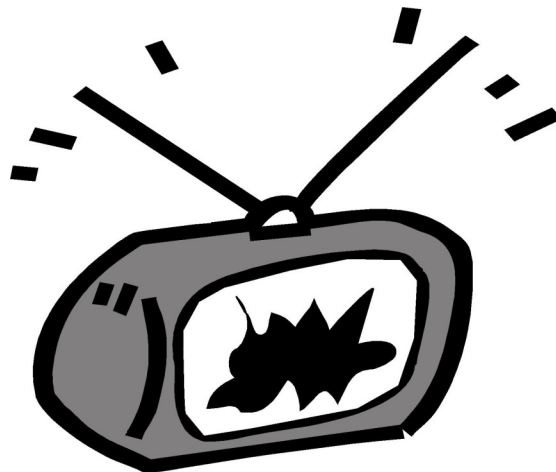
“Mama is going to be so mad!” said Yusuf.

Samira, still stunned, did not know what to say.

“What if we tell Mama and Baba that the TV fell by itself and broke?” said Samira.

“No one would believe that!” said Yusuf.

“How about we say a robber broke in the house,” said Samira, “And you and I hid inside the closet. Then, when we came out and he saw us, we threw a book at him, which missed



him, broke the TV and scared him, so he ran away!”

“Hey! That’s a good story,” said Yusuf.

At that moment Yusuf and Samira’s Mama and Baba walked in, only to discover the TV scattered all over the living room floor.

“What happened?” demanded their mother.

“Mama! Mama!” screamed Samira and Yusuf together, and told their parents the lie they made up.

Their mother and father looked long at both of them and after a minute or two of silence, their father said, “Okay children, we believe you.”

Samira and Yusuf were relieved that their parents believed their story and they went to their rooms to get ready for bed.

Late at night, Samira woke up and got out of her bed. She couldn’t fall asleep. The house was dark and Samira was scared

Quran

Altawbah, التوبه aya 119,

Oh you who believe, fear Allah and be amongst those who are truthful. Oh you who believe, fear Allah and be amongst those who are truthful.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ

but she tiptoed to her brother's room. Samira entered Yusuf's room and she saw that he was lying in bed but not asleep.

"You can't fall asleep either?" asked Samira.

"No, I feel bad for what we did," said Yusuf.

"I even feel worse because Mama and Baba actually believed us," said Samira.

"Let's go and tell them the truth," said Samira.

Yusuf agreed with his sister and they both went to their parents who were getting ready to go to sleep. They told their parents about what really happened.

“I am really sorry for disobeying you and on top of it lying,” said Yusuf.

“Me too,” added Samira.

“I am glad you decided to finally tell the truth,” said their father.

“Does that mean you knew all along?” asked Yusuf.

“It was clearly a strange story, but we wanted you two to tell us the truth,” said their father.

“We deserve any punishment you give us, and we promise

Words

Fear Allah: follow what Allah taught us, do good and stay away from bad things to do.

Truthful: be honest and say and do what is right.

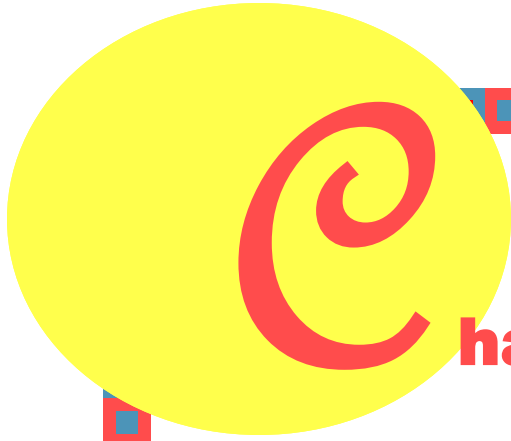
Disobeying: not following the rules or what we are told by parents and teachers.

not to ever lie or disobey your instructions,” said Samira.

That night Samira and Yusuf went to bed happy, not bothered by their punishment. They felt relieved. Samira and Yusuf promised themselves that they would never lie again and they both knew that there was nothing worse than feeling guilty for telling a lie.

Remember

- *Muslims tell the truth.*
- *Lying is always wrong.*
- *People who lie to get out of trouble, get into more trouble.*
- *If you make a mistake, say “I am sorry,” do not lie.*
- *Lying makes things worse for everyone.*
- *Allah ﷻ loves those who tell the truth.*

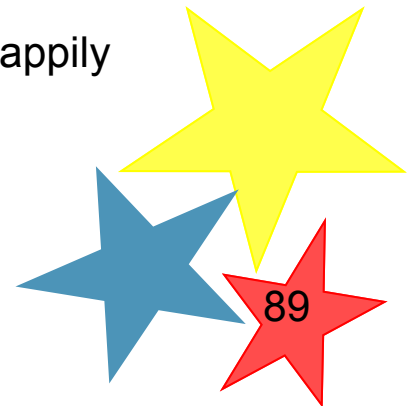


Chapter

11

Alqariah القارعه 101

At the end of time, there will be a day where everybody is confused. People will be running around, scared, and not knowing what is happening. That will be the Day of Judgment! After the confusion, Allah ﷻ will judge everyone for what they did. Those who did good will be rewarded by Heaven, to live happily ever after there. But those who did mostly bad will be sent to the Hell Fire, a



punishment for the bad they did.

Allah ﷻ gives us many chances to be good, and he will reward us for helping other people and obeying his rules. A Muslim can do a lot of good by following Allah's rules. Believing in Allah ﷻ and worshiping no one but him, being kind to everyone, and helping those who need it will, insha'Allah, take us to Paradise.

Words

Commotion: everything is a mess, nothing going the way it should.

Scattered: things everywhere, nothing where it should be.

Moths: butterfly like insects.

Pleasant: nice and beautiful.

Abyss: a hole with fire where there is no way out.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. The day of fear and commotion!

الْقَارِعَةُ

2. What is the day of fear and commotion?

مَا الْقَارِعَةُ

3. And do you know what this day of fear and commotion is?

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْقَارِعَةُ

4. It is the day when people are scattered all around like moths.

يَوْمَ يَكُونُ النَّاسُ كَالْفَرَاشِ الْمَبْثُوثِ

5. And the mountains will be like puffed wool.

وَتَكُونُ الْجِبَالُ كَالْعِهْنِ الْمَنْفُوشِ

6. For those whose scales are loaded with good deeds.

فَأَمَّا مَنْ ثَقُلَتْ مَوَازِينُهُ

7. They will live a pleasant life.

فَهُوَ فِي عِيشَةٍ رَّاضِيَةٍ

8. But for those whose scales are light with good deeds.

وَأَمَّا مَنْ حَقَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُ

9. Will be thrown into the abyss.

فَأُتْمُهُ هَاوِيَةٌ

10. And do you know what this abyss is?

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا هِيَ

11. It is a fierce raging fire.

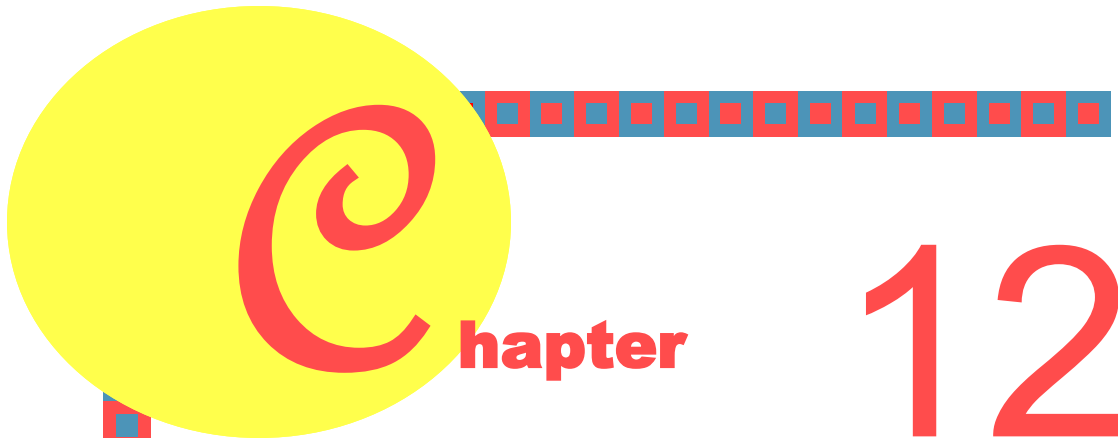
نَارٌ حَامِيَةٌ





Remember

- *Those who do good go to Heaven.*
- *People who go to Heaven stay there for ever and ever .*
- *Those who do bad most of the time got to Hell Fire.*
- *Hell Fire is a horrible place to be in. No one would want to be there, not even for one second.*

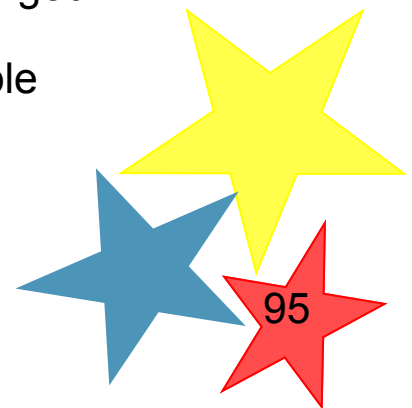


Chapter 12

Ibrahim عليه السلام

Ibrahim عليه السلام could never understand why people all around him were praying to idols, which they called gods. How could anyone think that a statue that cannot move or talk be a god? How could his people think that a statue they made with their own hands could be a god?

Ibrahim asked his father and his people about their strange way of worshiping. No one had a good reason for what they





were doing. People were imitating what their parents did before them. Ibrahim kept on asking, and this got everybody angry. They asked Ibrahim to be quiet and show respect to their gods!

Ibrahim عليه السلام could not get his father or anyone else in his town to see what they were doing was silly and wrong. So, one day he got an ax, and destroyed all the idols except for the largest one of them. Ibrahim then took the ax and tied it around the neck of the only remaining idol.

Did you know?

Muslims believe in all the prophets sent by God to mankind, the first of prophets was Adam ﷺ and the last and seal of prophets was Muhammed ﷺ.

Later, people came and saw what had happened to their idols. They were mad and they knew Ibrahim had something to do with it. They called Ibrahim and asked him, “Did you do this to our gods?!?”

“Why don’t you ask the big idol!” replied Ibrahim. “He has the ax around his neck!”

They knew that idols could not talk or destroy each other, but they couldn’t admit this to Ibrahim. After all, how could they admit that they were praying to gods who could not even protect themselves from a falling axe?

“Burn Ibrahim in a fire!” the idol worshipers demanded.

And sure enough, they made a big huge fire and threw Ibrahim in it to burn! But Allah ﷻ, in his mercy, made the fire cool, and it did not hurt Ibrahim. Everyone was amazed!

Ibrahim got fed up with his people and their evil ways, so he left them and lived elsewhere. All this happened when Ibrahim was a young man. Ibrahim then moved to another city and married Sarah. Ibrahim and Sarah loved each other a lot, but they did not have any children. Sarah knew how much Ibrahim wanted a child, so she suggested that Ibrahim should marry



another woman. Ibrahim married Hajir, an Egyptian woman. Ibrahim and Hajir had a son. Ibrahim took Hajir and Ismail to live in the desert, which later became a city known as Mecca. Back then, it was an empty desert with no buildings in it.

When Hajir and Ismail were left by Ibrahim in the desert there were no water or trees. Baby Ismail was thirsty and started to cry. His mother did not know what to do; she ran from one hill to another looking for someone to help, but there was no one

Words

***Sacrifice:** give up something important, sacrifice an animal is to kill the animal as ordered by Allah to feed people.*

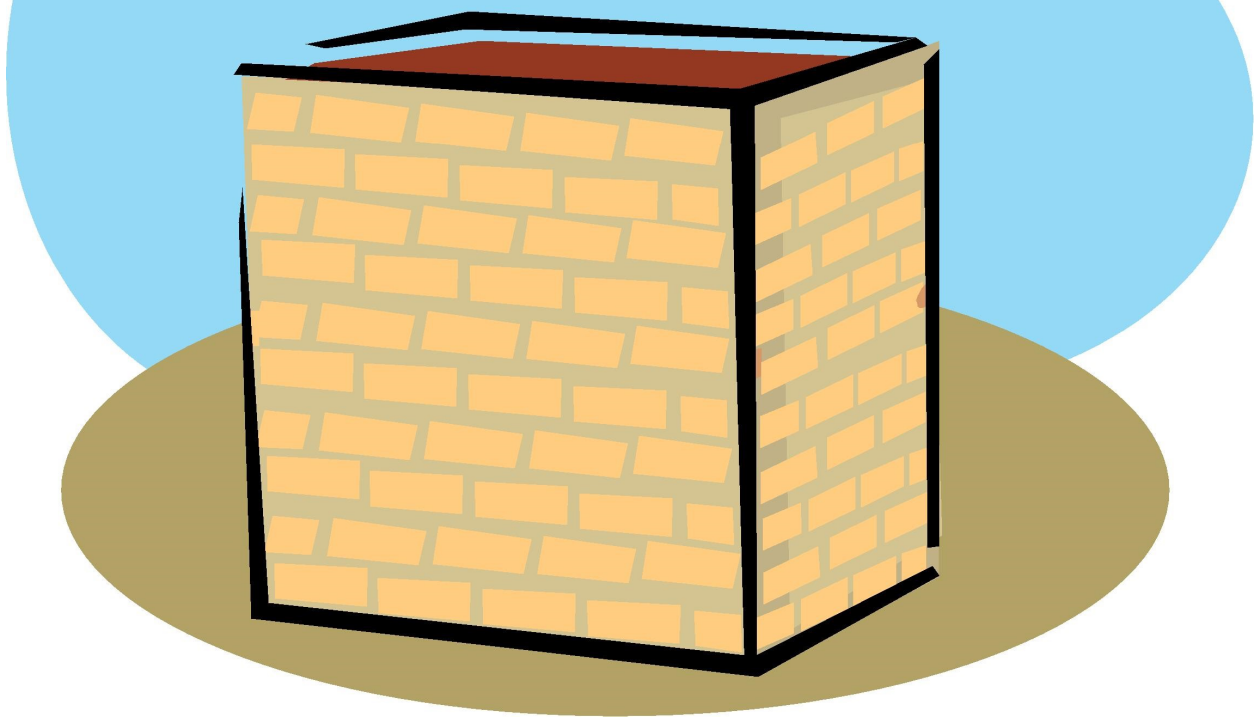
***Having faith in:** believing.*

***Doubting:** not believing.*

***Miracle:** like magic, Allah allows his prophets to have miracles to convince people to believe in Allah..*

***Gush:** come out strongly.*

around. Baby Ismail hit the ground with his hands as he cried, and in a miracle Allah ﷻ made water from a well under the ground gush out to save Ismail and his mother Hajir from dying of thirst. The two hills Hajir ran between are called Safa and Marwa. People who go to Hajj run between Safa and Marwa just



like Hajir did many years ago.

He visited Hajir and Ismail frequently. One day, after Prophet Ibrahim and Sarah got old; angels looking like regular people came and told Ibrahim and Sarah that they will have a child! They were really surprised. How could they have child when they were both so old? The angels told Ibrahim that there is nothing too difficult for Allah ﷻ to do! Later, Sarah had her first boy, whom they named Is-haq (Isaac).

Ismail إِسْمَاعِيلَ

When Ismail إِسْمَاعِيلَ was a young boy, his father, prophet Ibrahim إِبْرَاهِيمَ, was ordered by Allah ﷻ to sacrifice him. Ibrahim was very sad. How could he kill his own son whom he loved so much? Ibrahim told his son Ismail about his dream. Ismail had trust in Allah ﷻ and told his father not to worry and to do what he

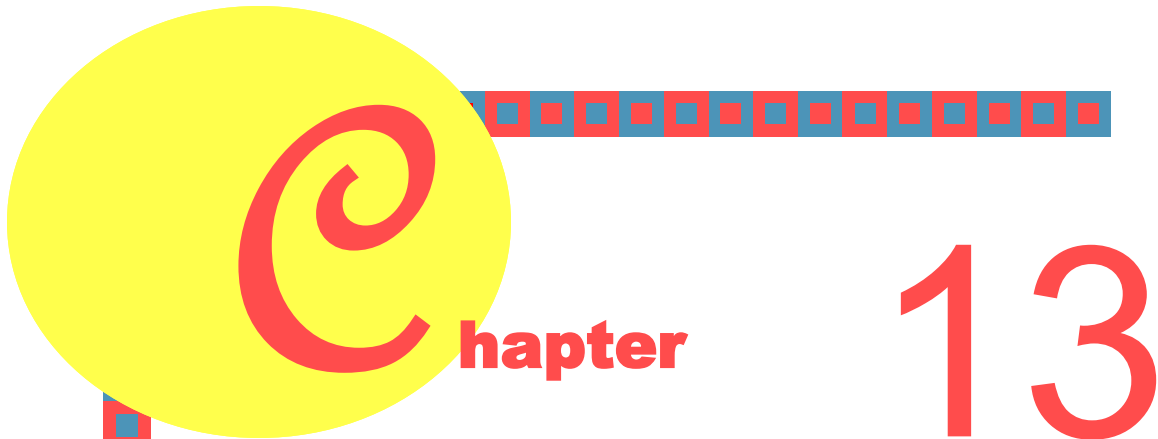
was told.

As Ibrahim was just about to sacrifice Ismail, Allah ﷻ ordered him to stop. Just then, a ram was sent by Allah ﷻ to be sacrificed instead of Ismail. Allah ﷻ was very pleased with both Ibrahim and Ismail for having faith in him and not doubting his mercy. Muslims celebrate every year in Eid Alfitr this occasion by sacrificing an animal and giving its meat to the poor.

Ibrahim and Ismail built the Kaaba, which represents the house of Allah ﷻ and still stands today in Mecca. Muslims from all around the world face towards Mecca when they pray and millions of Muslims go there every year to perform Hajj and worship Allah ﷻ.

Remember

- Ibrahim عليه السلام told his people that what they were worshiping could not hurt them or help them.
- Ibrahim called his people to the worship Allah ﷻ, the only one God.
- The people of Ibrahim did not like what he was telling them and they wanted to burn him in a fire.
- Allah ﷻ saved Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام from the fire.
- Prophets Ibrahim and Ismail obeyed Allah when he ordered Ibrahim to sacrifice Ismail. They were not afraid to follow what they were told by Allah ﷻ.
- Prophets Ibrahim and Ismail built the Kaaba.



Chapter 13

Dua'a

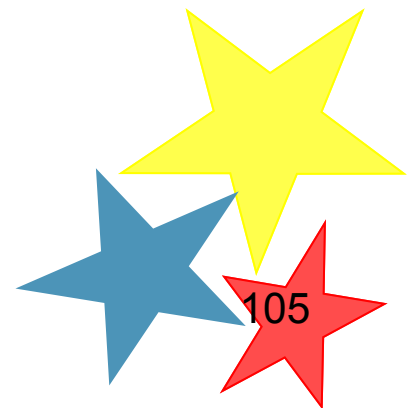
“I don’t know what to do!” exclaimed Zaineب.

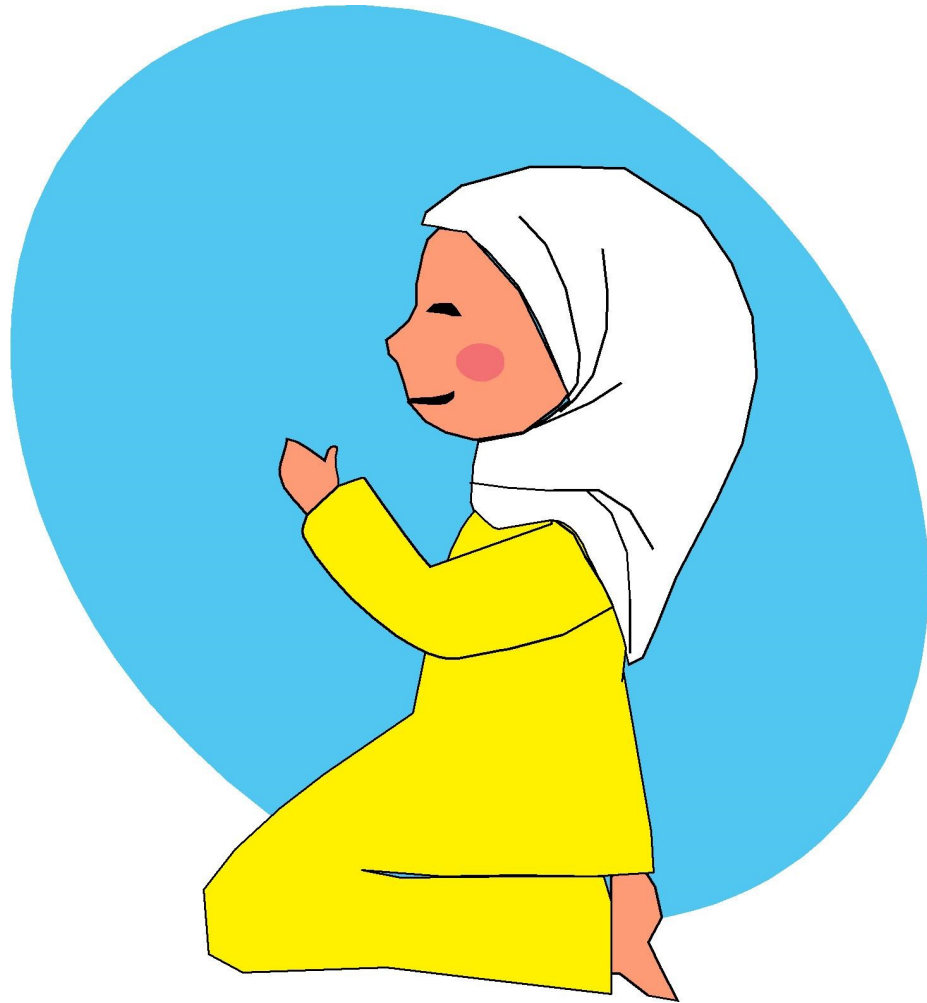
“What’s the problem?” asked her mother.

“I can’t find the homework I did,” said Zaineب with tears in her eyes. “My teacher is going to be mad at me!”

“Did you look in your backpack and in your room?” asked her mother.

“I looked everywhere!” cried Zaineب.





Her mother sat down on a nearby chair and said to Zaineb in a calm voice, “Come here sweetheart,” Zaineb approached her mother and sat on her lap. “Do you really want to find it?”

“Yes, Mama,” replied Zaineb, fighting tears as they were starting to flow down her cheeks.

“Well I know of a sure way you can find it,” said the mother.

“You know where it is?!” asked Zaineb with much excitement. “Tell me! Tell me!”

“I don’t know where it is,” replied her mother. “But I can tell you of someone who does.”

“Who, Mama? Who?” asked Zaineb anxiously.

“Allah ﷻ, my dear, Allah knows everything,” answered her mother.

“But how can I ask Allah?”

“That’s easy,” said her mother. “Allah ﷻ is always near us.



If there are two people in a room, then he is their third, and if there are three people in a room, he is their fourth. Allah ﷻ can hear us and see us all the time. Allah promised us that he will answer us if we ask him for things.”

“How should I ask Allah, Mama?”

“That’s easy, too,” answered her mother. “The best way is

to make wudu and pray Maghrib, since it's time to do so. After you're done, make dua'a, and ask Allah ﷻ to help you find your homework."

"Do I ask Allah during salat?" asked Zaineb.

"The best time to make dua'a is between athan and iqama, and during sujood."

Zaineb hurried to the bathroom. She washed her hands then her face and then her arms. She then wiped the top of her

Words

Approached: came close.

Excitement: becoming very happy.

Dua'a: praying and asking Allah for something.

"my servants": Allah ﷻ uses this term in the Quran to mean people because we do what pleases Allah.

Alhamdu lillah: Arabic words, means thanks to Allah, or thank God.

Quran

Albaqarah, البقره اya 186,

And if my servants ask you, I am nearby to hear their prayer and I will give to those who ask me in prayer what they need.

So let them follow my guidance and believe in me, this will guide them to the right path.

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

head, and behind her ears, and then washed her feet, first the right, then the left. Zaineb then dried herself, and went to her room, and stood up in the direction of Qibla and started salat. First, she did Maghrib, then two ruka'a of sunna.

During her sunna

prayer, Zaineb made dua'a during sujood, just like her mother told her.

“O'Allah, please let me find my homework,” she said in her dua'a. “I worked really hard for it.”

Zaineb finished her dua'a and was already feeling better.

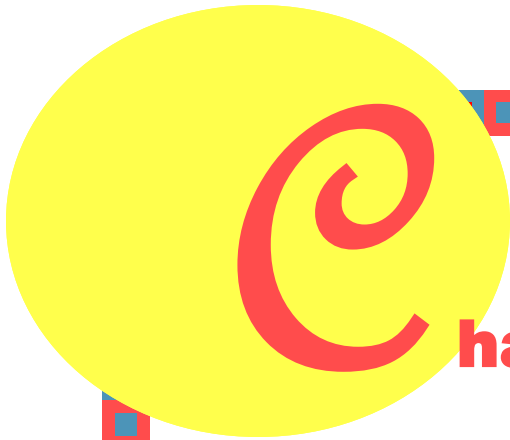
As she got up from praying she remembered that she put her homework on top of the refrigerator, so her baby brother, Yaseen, would not find it and tear it. Zaineb was very happy! She ran downstairs and yelled to her mother, “Mama, Mama, I found it! I found it!”

Zaineb was very happy., not just because she found her homework or that Allah answered her dua’a, but because she now knew that Allah ﷻ would always be there to help her.

“Alhamdu lillah!” she said to herself.

Remember

- *Allah ﷻ is near us all the time.*
- *Allah ﷻ hears our dua’a and gives us what we need.*
- *We can talk to Allah ﷻ and ask him for help during and after salat and at anytime we want to.*
- *Allah ﷻ loves those who ask for his help and helps those who believe in him and pray for his help.*



Chapter

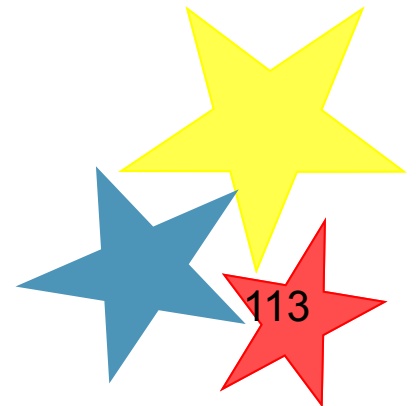
14

A Great Job to Complete

Halima hurried as she was getting out of the car. She had just come back from school. Halima ran upstairs to her room in a hurry. Her mom wondered what was going on.

“Where is Halima?” her mother asked Amina, Halima’s sister.

“She’s upstairs in her room,”



answered Amina.

“Is she feeling okay?” asked her mother. “I wonder if she is feeling tired from fasting the first day of Ramadan.”

Halima’s mother went upstairs and knocked on the door.

“Come in!” called Halima.

Her mother walked into the room and saw Halima wearing her headscarf, sitting on a prayer rug with the Quran in her hand.

“I was worried about you,” said her mother. “You ran up to your room right after you came back and have been here since

Words

Recite: read.

Wisdom: being smart.

Compassion: doing something with care and love.

Path: road or way, following the right path means doing the right way.

then. Is everything all right?”

“Everything is fine, Mama!” said Halima. “I am catching up on my Quran reading. I have to finish a whole Juzu every day.”

At that moment Amina, who was two years younger than Halima came into the room and asked her sister, “What is a Juzu?”

“The Quran is divided into 30 parts,” said Halima. “And each part is called Juzu.”

“How come Halima has to read a whole Juzu everyday?”



Quran

Alnaml, النمل aya 92,

Recite the Quran. Those who follow the right path are only doing themselves a favor. And tell those who stray away from the right path that you were sent to warn them.

وَأَنْ أَتْلُو الْقُرْآنَ فَمَنْ اهْتَدَىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ
ضَلَّ فُقُلًا إِنَّمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُنذِرِينَ

Amina asked her mother. “Is it part of her homework?”

Their mother looked at Halima and said, “Why don’t you explain to your sister?”

“During Ramadan,” said Halima. “We should read one Juzu every

day so that by the end of the month of Ramadan we would have finished reading the whole Quran.”

“But Mama,” protested Amina. “Halima doesn’t even know Arabic. How can she understand what she is reading?”

“Of course it would be better to understand what one is reading,” explained the mother. “But even if you don’t understand Arabic it is still important to read it in Arabic, this way

you get to memorize it and when you learn Arabic you'll get to know what it means."

"Also you get *ajir* when reading it in Arabic," added Halima.

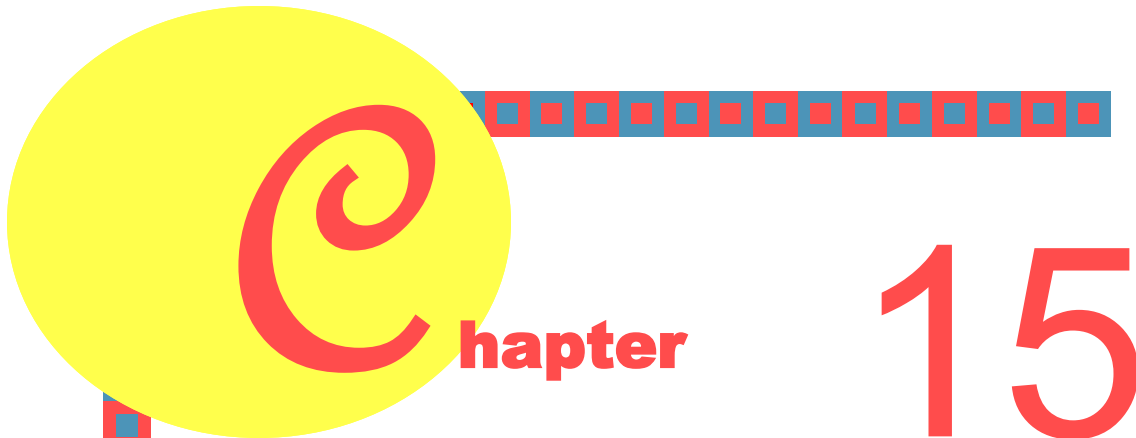
"What is *ajir*?" asked Amina.

"*Ajir* means reward Allah gives for doing something good," answered Halima.

"Okay," said their mother to Amina. "Let's leave Halima alone to finish her Juzu."

Remember

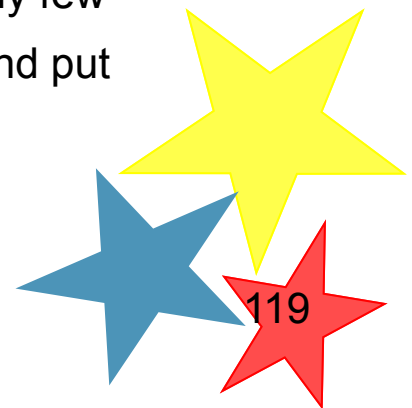
- *The Quran was sent by Allah ﷻ to guide us in this life.*
- *The Quran is the words of Allah ﷻ.*
- *The Quran we have is the exact same one sent to prophet Muhammed ﷺ. Nothing in it has changed.*
- *Muslims try to finish reading the whole Quran during Ramadan.*
- *Muslims read Quran all the time, not just in Ramadan.*



Chapter 15

The Race

It was Saturday, seven o'clock in the morning, when Mustafa rushed down the steps and ran into the kitchen. He poured himself a glass of milk and gulped it down in no time. He then put a piece of cheese in between two slices of bread and ate the whole sandwich in only few bites. Mustafa hurried out of the kitchen and put on his running shoes and jacket and was about to dash out of the house when his



father called, “What’s the hurry? It isn’t a school day you know.”

“Good morning, Baba!” Mustafa greeted his father.

“Usama and I will be running a 3K race this morning. First place gets a trophy and \$1,000!”



“ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS?!” exclaimed his father. “And what do you plan to do with all this money, if you win? A new bicycle perhaps?”

“Oh no!” said Mustafa. “We plan to give it to the orphanage



we visited on a field trip the other day.”

“That’s great, Mustafa,” said his father.

“Pray that we win!” yelled Mustafa as he ran out the door.

Mustafa arrived to the starting line. Usama was already there. He was stretching to get ready for the race.

“Assalamu alaikum “Mustafa greeted Usama.

“Wa alaikum assalam “answered Usama.

“How does the competition look?” asked Mustafa as he took off his jacket.

“I think we can do well, except for that guy over there. I saw him warming up; he’ll be tough to beat.”

“That college kid over there?! Don’t worry. Nobody can beat you, Usama,” said Mustafa. “Remember, you’re faster than lightening!”

“I certainly hope that we can win,” said Usama. “I would love to win that money for the orphans.”

“Insha’ Allah we will,” said Mustafa with confidence.

Soon everybody gathered by the starting line. The referee gave the signal to start and everyone raced ahead. Usama and Mustafa had already agreed on a plan. They decided to run fast the first kilometer, then take it easy for the next kilometer, then

Words

3K: three kilometers.

Assalamu alaikum: Arabic words, used to say hello between Muslims, it means peace be with you.

Wa alaikum assalam: Arabic words used to reply to those who say “Assalamu Alaikum”, it means and peace be with you too.

Intentions: what we want to happen when doing something.

Hadith

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, "What counts most when doing things are the intentions."

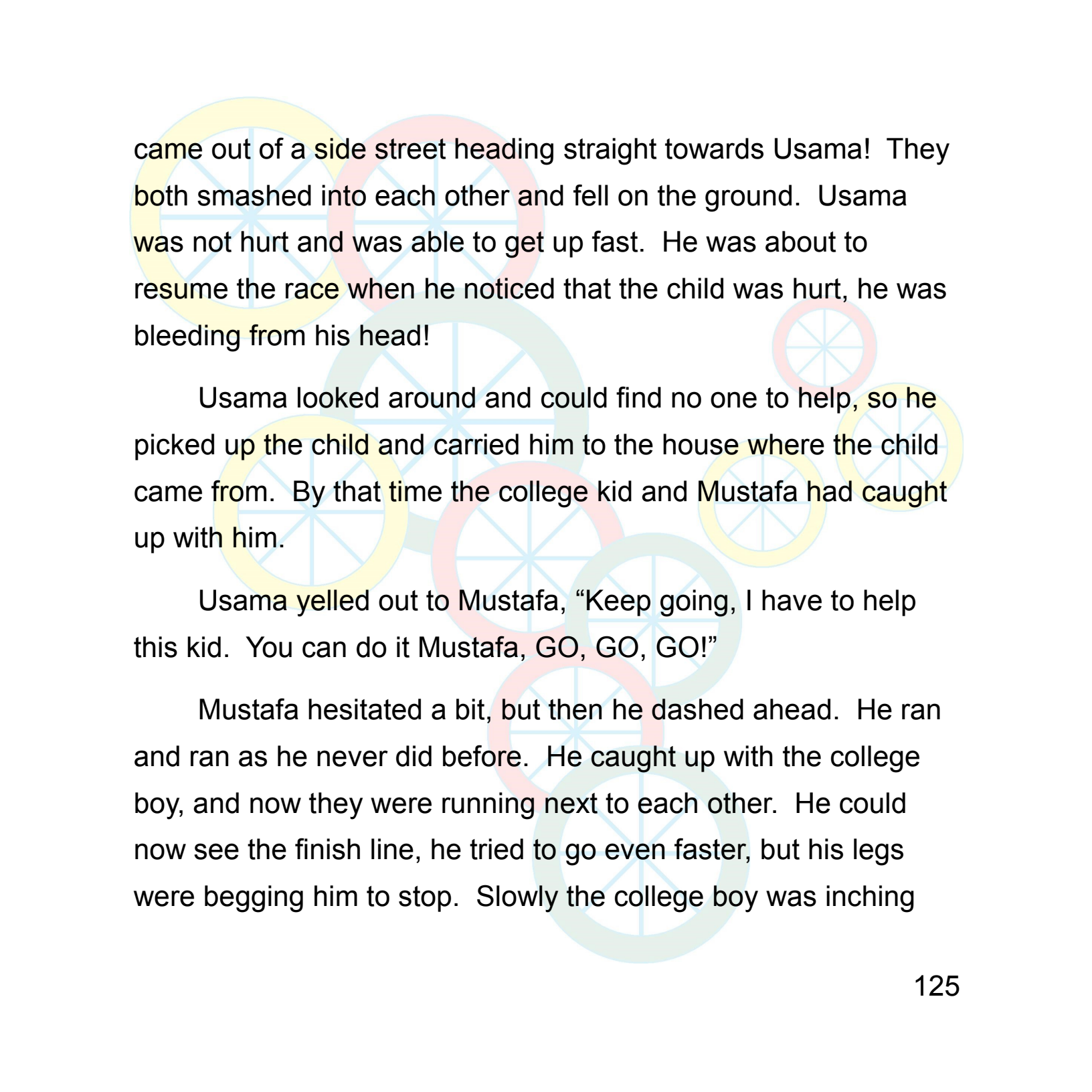
قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم:
إنما الأعمال بالنيات.

run as fast as they could for the last one.

A few minutes later, Usama was in the lead followed by the college kid who was not far behind, followed by Mustafa with the rest of the runners. All the runners were taking it easy at this point, trying not to get too tired.

There was a hill, not too steep, but still tough to run up as everyone was getting tired. Usama knew that they were about one kilometer away, so he planned to pick up his pace and go faster as he went down the hill. Once he reached the top, he dashed downwards as fast as he could.

Suddenly, and out of nowhere, a small child on his bicycle



came out of a side street heading straight towards Usama! They both smashed into each other and fell on the ground. Usama was not hurt and was able to get up fast. He was about to resume the race when he noticed that the child was hurt, he was bleeding from his head!

Usama looked around and could find no one to help, so he picked up the child and carried him to the house where the child came from. By that time the college kid and Mustafa had caught up with him.

Usama yelled out to Mustafa, “Keep going, I have to help this kid. You can do it Mustafa, GO, GO, GO!”

Mustafa hesitated a bit, but then he dashed ahead. He ran and ran as he never did before. He caught up with the college boy, and now they were running next to each other. He could now see the finish line, he tried to go even faster, but his legs were begging him to stop. Slowly the college boy was inching

ahead. Mustafa tried to catch up, but the college kid was faster. Finally, the college kid ran across the finish line, followed by Mustafa who was only a couple of feet behind.

Usama finally arrived to the finish line after helping the child. He saw Mustafa sitting on the ground with the second place medal in his hand, looking very disappointed. The college boy was standing not too far talking with some of his buddies with a trophy in one hand and a \$1,000 check in the other.

“It’s okay Mustafa,” said Usama. “We tried our best.”

“Unfortunately, that’s not good enough!” said Mustafa. “I just wish we could have given this money to the orphans.”

“And you still can!” said a voice from behind them.

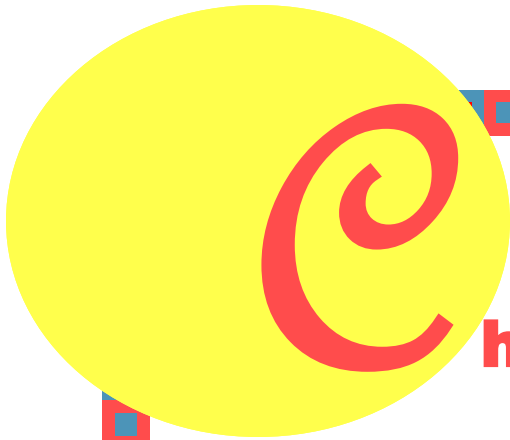
Mustafa and Usama turned around to see the college boy with a huge smile on his face. He handed them the check, and said “I overheard what you guys were planning to do with this money, that’s great!”

The college boy patted them on the shoulders and walked away. Mustafa took the check, he and Usama stared at it with their mouths open, not knowing what to say. It wasn't until few seconds later that they both said in one breath, "Alhamdu lillah."



Remember

- Allah ﷻ knows what we think and what is in our hearts.
- Trying our best is all that Allah ﷻ wants from us.
- Allah ﷻ is pleased with those who try their best to do good.
- If Allah ﷻ wants something to happen it will, no matter what we try, so we must do our best and leave the rest to Allah ﷻ.



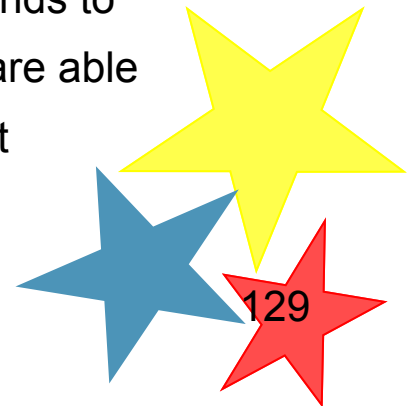
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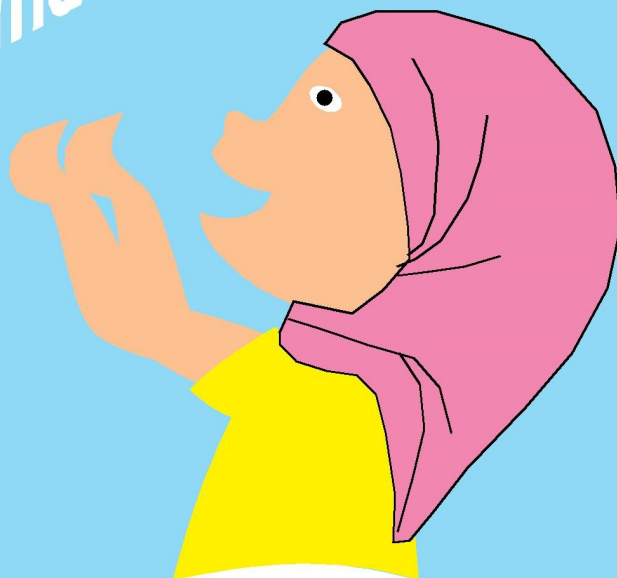
Aladiyat العاديات 100

Being grateful to those who help us is important. When a kind person helps us, we thank them for their kindness, and try to please them in return.

Allah ﷻ gave us parents to take care of us and love us. He gave us minds to think with and hands to work with. With our minds and hands we are able to find food, build houses and make all sort of things that we enjoy in this life. Allah ﷻ



alhamdu lillah !



is more generous to us than anyone else in the whole world, which makes it important to be thankful to him.

Allah ﷻ reminds us in this sura to be grateful to him. He starts it with an oath by one of his creatures, the horses. Then tells us how on the Day of Judgment, all people who ever lived will be awakened by him. We will see and remember everything we ever did in this life. That is why it is best to behave well while

Words

Hooves: bottom part of horses' feet.

Grateful: saying thank you, or feeling thankful.

Ungrateful: someone who is not thankful.

Eventually: sooner or later.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. By the snorting horses,
which are used in war.

وَالْعَادِيَاتِ ضَبْحًا

2. Which makes sparks with
their hooves as they run.

فَالْمُورِيَاتِ قَدْحًا

3. And surprise the enemy by
attacking early in the
morning.

فَالْمُغِيرَاتِ صُبْحًا

4. Making a cloud of dust as
they run towards the enemy.

فَأَثَرُنَّ بِهِ نَفْعًا

5. When they attack, they go
straight in-between the
enemy horses and soldiers.

فَوَسَطْنَ بِهِ جَمْعًا

6. People are not grateful to
their Lord.

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنُودٌ

7. And Allah is a witness to this ungratefulness.

وَإِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ لَشَهِيدٌ

8. People are very much in love with the good things in this world.

وَإِنَّهُ لِحُبِّ الْخَيْرِ لَشَدِيدٌ

9. But do people not know that all of us will eventually wake up from our graves.

أَفَلَا يَعْلَمُ إِذَا بُعْثِرَ مَا فِي الْقُبُورِ

10 And all that we knew in our lives will come out and be known.

وَحُصِّلَ مَا فِي الصُّدُورِ

11. Allah will surely know on that day everything about us, and what we did in our lives.

إِنَّ رَبَّهُم بِهِمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ لَّخَبِيرٌ

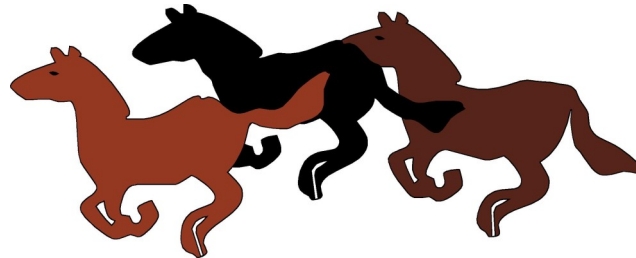
Remember

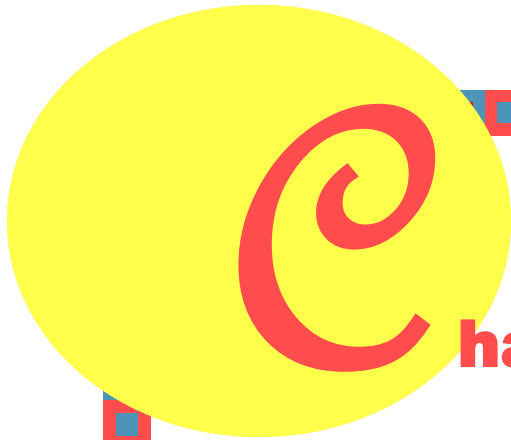
- Allah ﷻ gave us everything we have.
- Muslims thank Allah ﷻ for what he has given them.
- At the end of time, when everything dies and disappears, we will return to Allah ﷻ.
- We must always remember all the great things Allah ﷻ has given us.

alive in this world.

This way Allah ﷻ would be pleased with the good things we did, and reward us with Jenna إن شاء الله

Allah ﷻ is kind to us and Muslims are grateful to Allah ﷻ for his great many gifts he gave us.





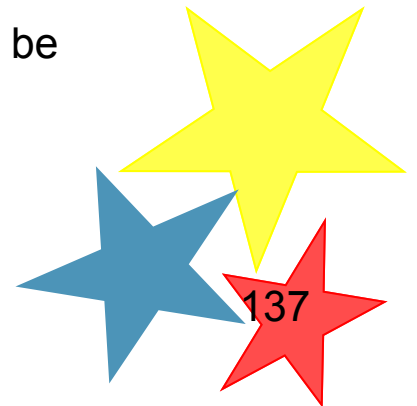
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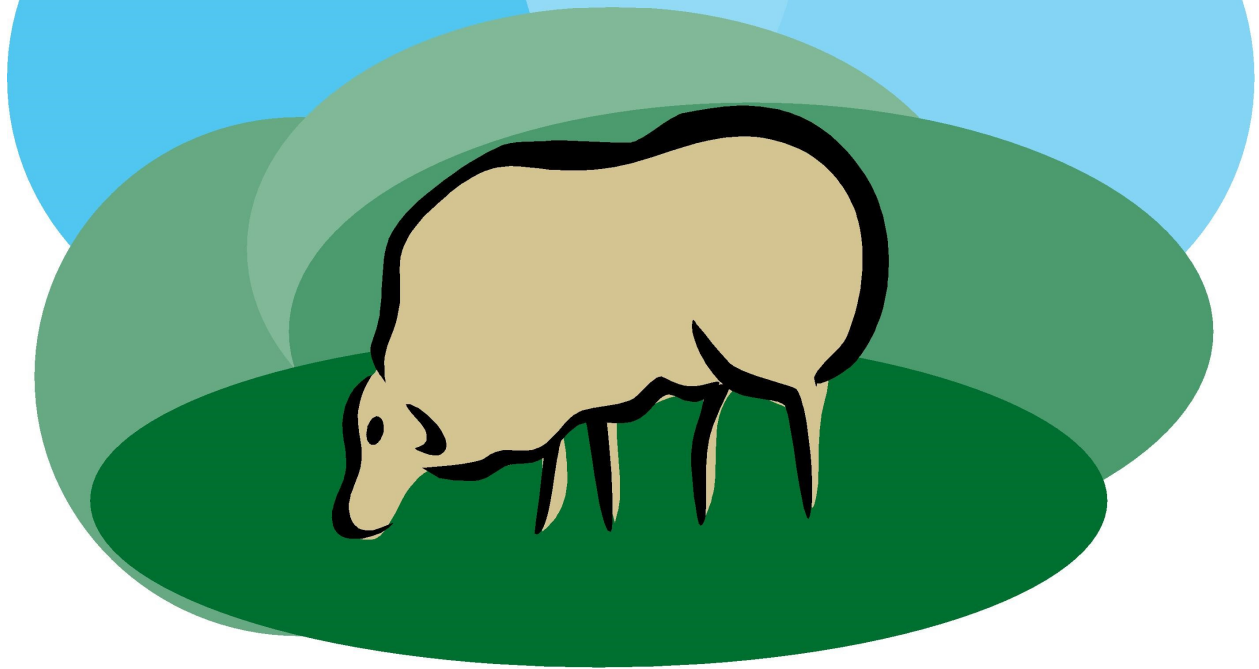
Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام

Yusuf had a dream that the sun, the moon and eleven other planets were kneeling in respect to him. Yusuf, being a young boy, did not understand the meaning of his dream, but his father prophet Yacoob عليه السلام did. Yacoob warned his son Yusuf not to tell his brothers about this dream. Yacoob was afraid that they would be jealous and might hurt Yusuf.

Yusuf's brothers thought their father



loved Yusuf more than he loved them; this made them jealous of Yusuf. One day, they came up with a plan to get rid of Yusuf. They took him along while herding their sheep. Then, when there was no one around, they threw him in a well and went back home telling their father that a wolf ate Yusuf. To prove to their father that they were telling the truth, they showed him Yusuf's shirt after smearing it with sheep's blood, but telling their father



that it was Yusuf's blood.

Yacub عليه السلام was sad. He knew that his children were lying to him and he missed Yusuf very much but he had faith in Allah سبحانه and was a very patient man. He knew that Allah would protect Yusuf.

Later on, some people found Yusuf. They got him out of the well and took Yusuf and sold him as a slave to an important man in Egypt. This man became Yusuf's master; he treated Yusuf well and raised him in his house.

Years later, the master's wife accused him of trying to attack her. The master soon found out that his wife was lying, but Yusuf preferred to go to jail than stay with this woman who might try to hurt him again. Yusuf went to jail and stayed there for many years.

While in jail, two people staying with Yusuf had a dream. They told Yusuf about their dreams. Allah سبحانه gave Yusuf عليه السلام the

ability to understand the meaning of dreams, so he explained to them what their dreams meant. Yusuf told one of them that his dream meant that he would soon be released from jail and work for the king and sure enough that dream came true! Yusuf asked his prison companion to ask the king, once he started working for him, to get Yusuf عليه السلام out of jail, but Allah سبحانه made this person forget his promise to Yusuf عليه السلام.

One day, the king had a dream but nobody could tell him what it meant. The person who had been with Yusuf in jail



remembered how Yusuf عليه السلام was able to understand dreams and he told the king about him. The king had Yusuf brought to him and asked him to explain his dreams. The king had dreamt that there were seven fat cows and seven stalks of wheat full of grain being eaten by seven thin cows and seven stalks with very little grain on them.

Yusuf عليه السلام told the king that they would have seven good years with plenty of food, but this would be followed by seven hard years during which time there would be very little food. He



Yusuf's family came to Egypt and he provided them with a home and told them enter with Allah's permission to Egypt and reside there in piece.

And Yusuf asked his parents to sit on the throne and his eleven brothers kneeled down to Yusuf and his parents in respect. Yusuf turned to his father and said "O' father this is the dream I saw as a child, Allah made it come true. Allah have been kind to me, he made it possible for me to come out of jail and brought you from the desert after the Shaitan had made my brothers hate me. Allah understands everything, He is all knowing and wise."

فَلَمَّا دَخَلُوا عَلَى يُوسُفَ آوَىٰ إِلَيْهِ أَبَوَيْهِ وَقَالَ ادْخُلُوا مِصْرَ إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ آمِنِينَ

وَرَفَعَ أَبَوَيْهِ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ وَخَرُّوا لَهُ سُجَّدًا وَقَالَ يَا أَبَتِ هَذَا تَأْوِيلُ رُؤْيَايَ مِن قَبْلُ قَدْ جَعَلَهَا رَبِّي حَقًّا وَقَدْ أَحْسَنَ بِي إِذْ أَخْرَجَنِي مِنَ السِّجْنِ وَجَاءَ بِكُم مِّنَ الْبَدْوِ مِن بَعْدِ أَن نَزَّغَ الشَّيْطَانُ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَ إِخْوَتِي إِنَّ رَبِّي لَطِيفٌ لِّمَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ

Did you know?

Muslims believe in all prophets of God and all holy books revealed by God to his messengers, such as the Bible and Torah.

also advised the king to save food when they had plenty of it so that they could use it when the seven hard years came.

The king was very pleased with Yusuf and he put in him in charge of distributing food.

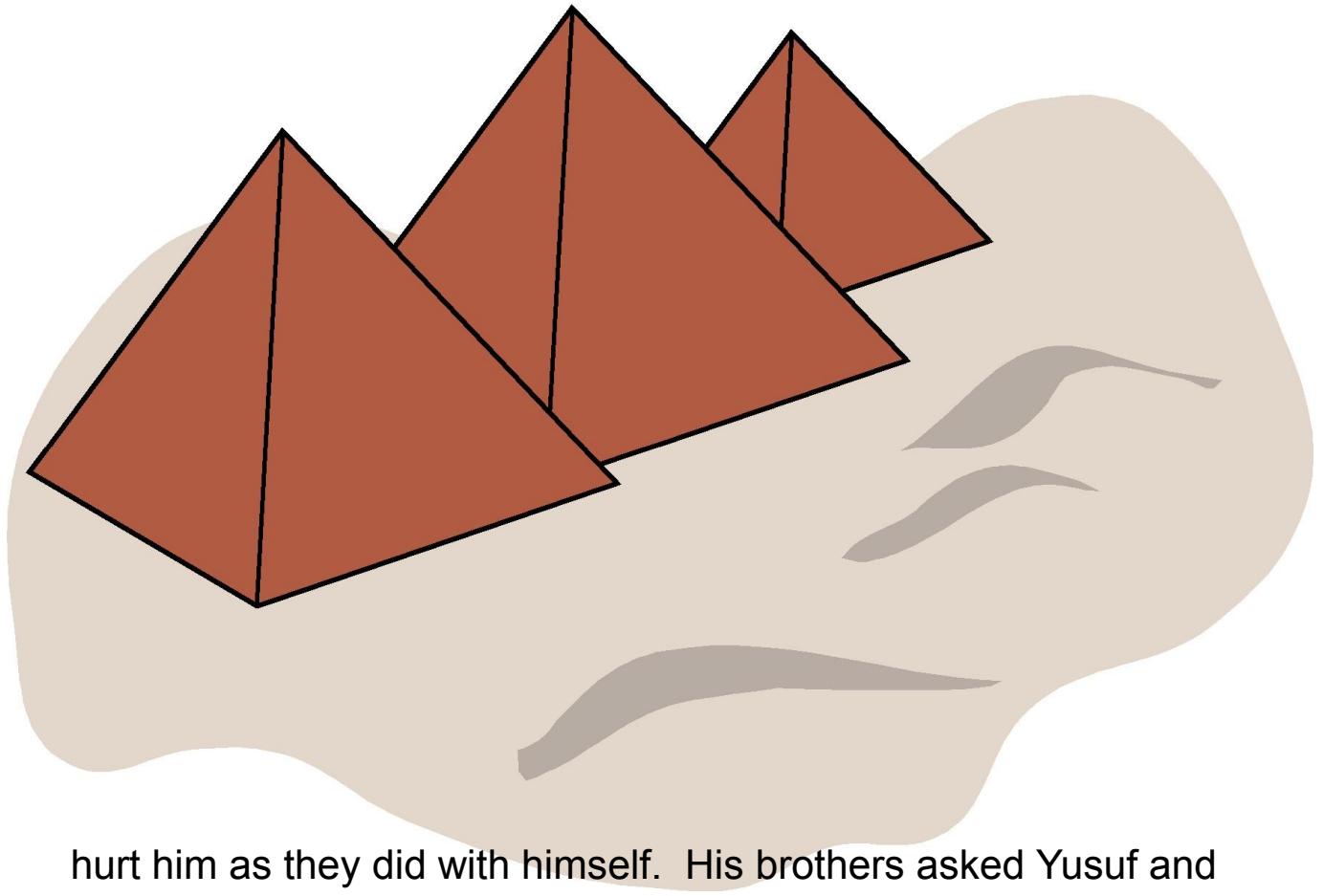
By the time the difficult years came, Yusuf ﷺ managed to save a lot of food and people from all around came to take food for their families. One day, Yusuf's brothers came to him, asking for food to take to their family. Yusuf ﷺ immediately knew who they were, but they did not recognize him. Yusuf ﷺ had a plan; secretly he hid, without anyone knowing, a piece of the king's jewelry in the saddle bags of the camel which belonged to their youngest brother. Yusuf ﷺ then accused them of stealing the

Remember

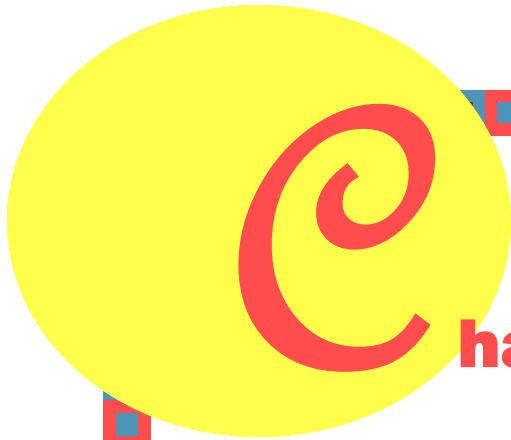
- *Yusuf عليه السلام and his father Yacoub were both prophets.*
- *Allah ﷻ gave Yusuf the gift of being able to understand what dreams mean.*
- *Allah saved Yusuf when his brothers threw him in a well and again when he was in jail.*
- *Yusuf helped the king save food for the people of Egypt and saved thousands of lives.*
- *Yusuf عليه السلام became an important person in Egypt and he was able to bring his parents and brothers to live with him.*

jewelry and he took the younger brother pretending to put him in jail. His brothers went back to their father and told him that they lost their youngest brother, just like they did with Yusuf many years ago.

Yusuf عليه السلام sent for his father and brothers and explained to them that he wanted to keep his youngest brother with him for fear that his brothers may also



hurt him as they did with himself. His brothers asked Yusuf and their father for forgiveness and promised to obey Allah ﷻ and not do evil things. Yusuf forgave them and they lived happily together in Egypt.



Chapter

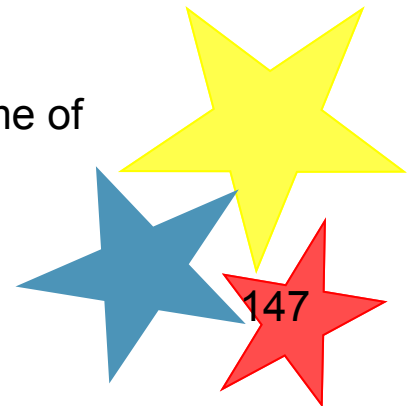
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Salat: Things To Do and Things Not To Do

The first grade class was practicing how to do salat. Ahmed was leading the students as the Imam. There were two rows of boys and two rows of girls.

“How come the girls have to pray behind the boys?” asked Iman.

“That’s how Muslims prayed at the time of the Prophet ﷺ,” answered their teacher



Ms. Muhammad. “It is so that boys and men do not get distracted when seeing girls and women praying in front of them.”

“Does that mean that girls are better than boys because



they don't get distracted?" said Sahar.

"No one is better than the other" said Ms. Muhammad,
"Allah ﷻ does not like us to hurt each others feelings by saying
that one is better than the other."

The students did four ruka'a for dhuhr. Then Ms.
Muhammad said: "All of you did a very good job, but let me make
some comments." Ms. Muhammad went and sat on her chair
and the students went back to their own seats and listened to
Ms. Muhammad.

Words

Does not count: as if you did not do it.

Imam: leader, imam in salat is the person standing ahead of everyone
leading the prayer.

Silently: quietly, without making sound or noise.

Stand still: stand without moving.

Did you know?

Allah is not the God of Muslims only; he is the same God of Moses, Jesus and all Prophets. Allah asked followers of all Messengers to worship him and pray for him alone

“I heard some talking during salat,” said Mrs. Muhammad.
“Is this okay to do during salat?”

“No, it’s not,” said many of the students in one voice.

“You’re right! One should stand still and think of what he or she is saying,” Ms. Muhammad said, “Also, are we allowed to move around while doing salat?”

Ahmed raised his hand, as many others did. Ms. Muhammad pointed to him to answer her question. “No, we are only supposed to move when making ruku or sujood, but not for any other reason,” he answered.

“Right!” said Ms. Ahmed, she then added, “Okay! So we

are not supposed to talk or move about when doing salat, instead we should think about what we are saying and be respectful of Allah ﷻ. Remember, when we pray we are standing in front of Allah ﷻ, so we have to be properly dressed and have good Muslim manners.”

“Last year,” said Maha. “When we went to meet the governor with my father, Mama had me wear my Eid dress to look nice; does that mean that I have to wear a nice dress like my Eid dress when I do salat so that Allah will see me in my best dress?”

“It is important to be well dressed but we don’t need to wear fancy clothes,” said Ms. Muhammad. “It’s important for boys and girls to wear proper Muslim clothing, which means that boys should cover as much of their body as they can, especially from the belly button down to their knees and the girls should cover all their bodies, including their hair, but they can leave their hands and face uncovered.”

Remember

- *The Prophet ﷺ showed Muslims how to pray and how to behave.*
- *When praying in a group, men pray in the front rows and women pray behind them.*
- *Wudu is washing before salat.*
- *Muslims should not move or talk during salat.*
- *When praying Subh, Magrhib and Isha' we read out Quran in a heard voice, while during Duhr and Asr we read Quran to ourselves without it being heard.*

Ms. Muhammad then looked at her students and asked, “What is the one thing that Muslims should do before salat, and if they don’t do it their salat does not count?”

“I know! I know!” yelled Omar as he raised his hand. Ms. Muhammad gave Omar permission to speak.

“Wudu ,” he said. “We all have to have wudu before salat.”

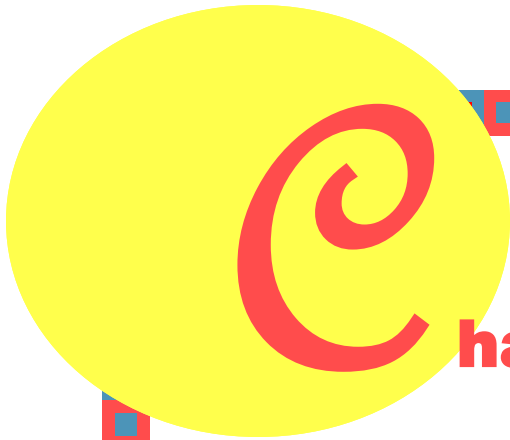
“You are right!” said Ms. Muhammad.

“Should we read out loud when doing salat or just to ourselves in whisper?” asked Ms. Muhammad.

No one knew the answer to the question, so Ms. Muhammad said, “In some prayers such as Fajr, Maghrib and Isha’ we say our prayers with a soft voice which can be heard, but Dhuhr and Asr prayers are said to ourselves in a whisper without it being heard.”

“So how come we just did Dhuhr out loud?” asked Sumaya.

“That’s an excellent question,” said Ms. Muhammad. “We did so because we are learning how to do it but once you all know how to do salat, you will have to do Dhuhr and Asr silently.”



Chapter

19

Muslim Competition

One day Ms. Sayed asked her students: “Are you ready to present your projects?”

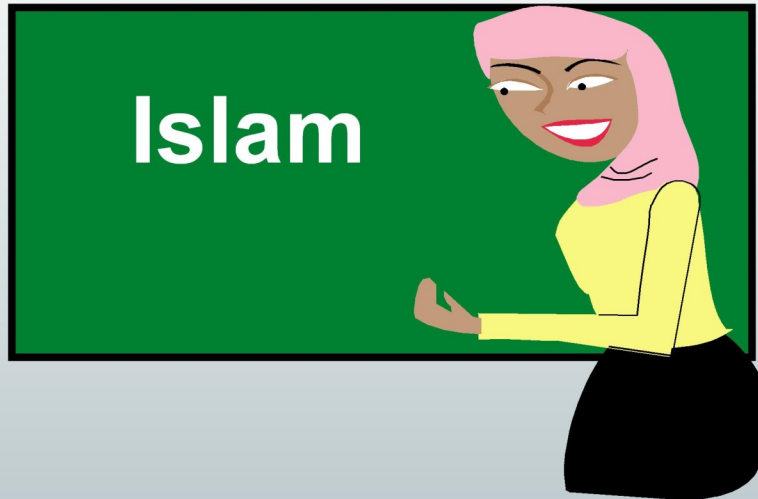
“Yes!” said the students in unison.

“Okay, I want the leaders of each team to come up here and tell us what they did,” said Ms. Sayed.

The teacher had divided the classroom into two



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teams and she asked each team to decide on the best way to tell non-Muslims about Islam. Then, the students were to talk to non-Muslims from their friends and neighbors about Islam. Afterwards, each team had to tell the class what they did.

Fatima and Suhaib came to the front of the class to talk about what they did; each one of them came from a different

team.

Suhaib started. “My team looked at the difference between Islam and Christianity,” said Suhaib. “We wanted to know what the differences are so when we talk to non-Muslims we would know what to say.”

“That’s very good,” said Ms. Sayed. “Tell us what you found out and what did you do after that.”

“Well” said Suhaib “We found out that Christians believe that Isa عليه السلام or Jesus as they call him, is God and also the son of God, and not a prophet like he really was. We were a little confused: how could a person be God and the son of God at the same time. But worse! They believe that those who didn’t believe in Isa عليه السلام and his message killed him. They say that the bad guys nailed him to a cross and that he was tortured and died after many hours!”

“Do you want to tell the class what really happened to

Prophet Isa عليه السلام?’ asked Ms. Sayed.

“Yes, of course. Muslims know from the Quran that prophet Isa عليه السلام was taken by Allah سبحانه up to heaven before the bad people took someone else who they thought was Isa and put him on the cross.”

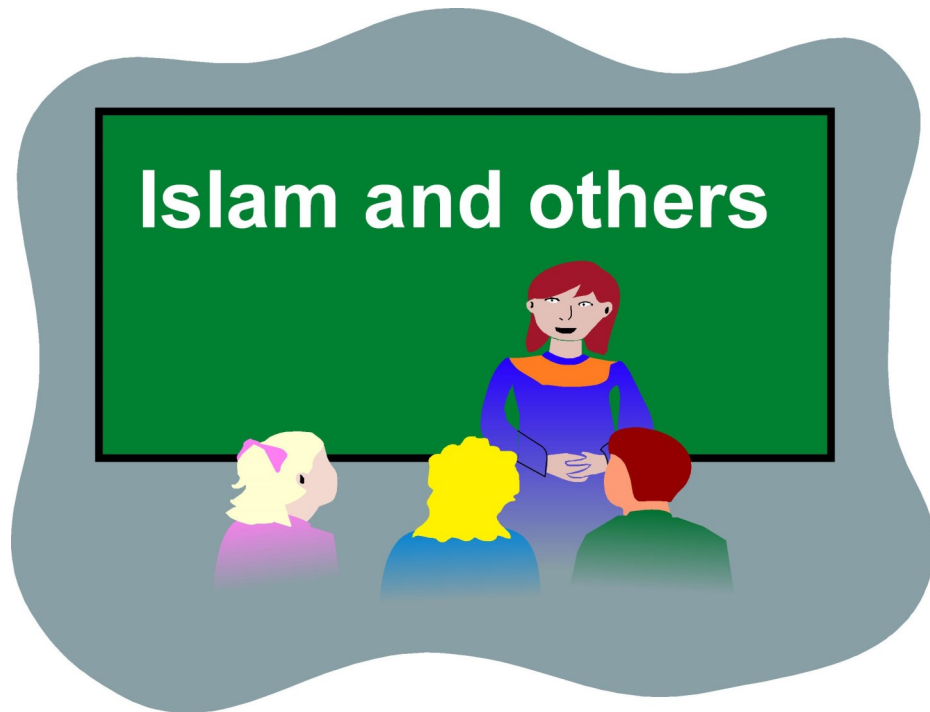
“That’s right Suhaib, and then what did you guys do?”

Asked Ms. Sayed

“Our team then chose me to talk to a kid our age that lived next door to us about the truth about Isa عليه السلام. So one day while I was playing with our neighbor Steve, I asked him if he knew the truth about Jesus. I then told Steve that Christians got it all wrong, they think that Jesus could be the son of God and his own father at the same time and then although he is a mighty god, some bad people managed to torture him and kill him. Steve then got mad at me for saying this stuff about their god and went crying like a baby to his mother.”

“Did you make Steve understand what Islam is all about?”
asked Ms. Sayed.

“How could I?” said Suhaib, “If he believes a bunch of
baloney and then cries like a baby.”



Did you know?

Jews and Christians who live in mostly Muslim countries are a living proof that Islam does not force others to become Muslim. Unlike Spain after the inquisition, when all non-Christians were killed, forced to leave the country or be converted to Christianity.

“Do you think that after what you did, Steve still likes you?”
asked Ms. Sayed

“No,” said Suhaib in a low voice.

“And I bet that he does not like Islam or Muslims either, because you used what you know as a Muslim to make fun of him,” said Ms. Sayed. “It is very important that when you talk to anyone you must be polite and never insult the other person or make them feel bad. And if you do so, they would then not like you or what you are trying to tell them.”

Ms. Sayed then looked at Fatima and said, “Why don’t you tell us about your team.”

“We also studied Islam and Christianity,” said Fatima. “But because many of us were made fun of in the past for being Muslim, we knew that it was important not to insult other people’s religion. That would just make them feel bad and not like us or Islam.”

“That sounds right,” said Ms. Sayed. “So what did you guys do?”

“One day, I had a party at our house and invited all my team members as well as some of the kids from our neighborhood,” said Fatima. “While we were eating ice cream I told everyone about the book of stories of prophets we have at school. One kid, who is a Christian, asked who are the prophets we believed in. I told everyone about Adam, Nooh, Ibrahim, Musa and Isa. My non-Muslim friends were really surprised because those are

Remember

- *Muslims must be nice to all people.*
- *Being nice will make people like us as Muslims and think well of Islam.*
- *Allah ﷻ sent all the prophets to people to show them the right way. All prophets believe in the only one God, Allah.*
- *Being nice to others when you talk to them will make people want to hear you and believe you.*
- *Being nasty to others when you talk to them will make them not like you and not believe in what you say.*

the same prophets they believe in. So we got to talk about all the different prophets of Allah and our favorite stories about each one of them.”

“That’s fantastic, what happened then?” asked Ms. Sayed

“Everyone had a good time, and some of the kids who were not Muslim said that they thought that we believed in some weird god called “Alla.” But we

explained to them that it is Allah and not “Alla,” that Allah is the Arabic word for God, and that we believe in the same God they believe in.”

“That’s very good!” said Ms Sayed.

“And now that the other kids think well of Islam, we can tell them in a nice way about the things which we Muslims think of which are different than what they think.” said Fatima. “We found out that it is better to tell non-Muslims about things we have in common first and then talk about other things later.”

“That is certainly a good way of going about it.” said Ms. Sayed. “Did anyone ask questions which you found difficult to answer?”

“Well,” said Fatima. “John asked if we also thought that Jesus was the son of God.”

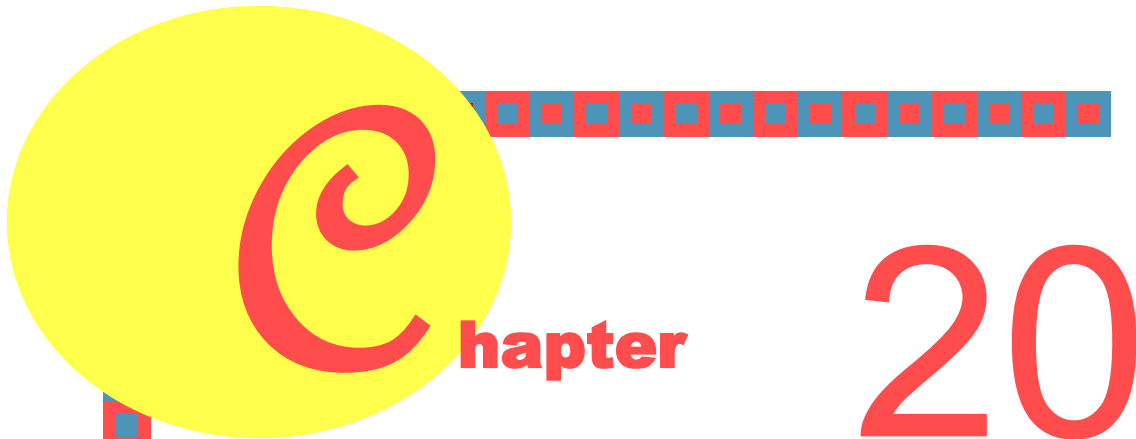
“How did you answer that question?” asked Ms. Sayed, anxious to know how they handled it.

“We told them that Isa عليه السلام was born without a father, which was a miracle,” said Fatima. “Then I said that Prophet Adam عليه السلام was also born without a father. So I asked John if he thought that made him the son of God also.”

“What did John say?” asked Ms. Sayed.

“He said he didn’t know,” said Fatima. “And he added that that makes him see what we, Muslims, mean by Jesus being a prophet and not son of God.”

“Good job!” said Ms. Sayed.

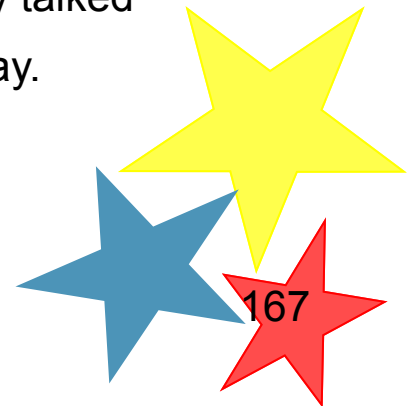


Chapter 20

What the Tree said to the lamppost

Once upon a time there were two best friends. They were not boys or girls or even animals. They were a tree and a lamppost! It may sound strange but it's true! They stood next to each other in a park for many, many years and when everyone was gone at night they talked to each other about what happened that day.

“Hey there!” called the tree to the lamppost one day.



“Hey!” yelled the tree again.

The lamp post was asleep, but finally woke up.

“I thought you would never wake up!” said the tree, “You must have slept for a million hours.”

“I know,” said the lamppost. “I was really tired, but what’s all the excitement about. What happened?”

“You wouldn’t believe what happened!” said the tree, all excited. “I was standing right here, just like I do all the time, minding my own business when I saw this boy standing around the playground. He was not playing but seemed to be watching the others play.”

“That’s sad,” said the lamppost. “I hate it when some kids get excluded from playing with the others.”

“That’s what I thought at first,” said the tree. “But then I saw this boy going to where the other children had left their jackets on

the ground, he picked up one of the jackets, took out one of those electronic games from it and put it in his pocket!”

“What?!” exclaimed the lamp post. “You mean to tell me he stole it?!”

“He certainly did!” said the tree. “But that’s not all!”



“What else?” asked the lamppost.

“He saw that one of the kids had seen him take the game so he ran towards me, turned around and hid the electronic game in between the leaves on one of my lower branches. The other kids caught up with him and told him to give back what he stole.”

“Then what?” asked the lamppost.

“It was a mess,” said the tree. “Kids and parents came from all around and searched the boy but of course they didn’t find a thing.”

“Of course not, because you had it. Why didn’t you shake your branches and make it fall.” asked the lamppost.

“I was really surprised by all what was happening and did not know what to do,” answered the tree. “But now I have a great plan!”

“What is it?” asked the lamppost.

“You know how we are not supposed to talk or move in front of people except in emergencies? Well, this is one!”

“Are you planning to tell whoever comes by what happened?” asked the lamppost.

“No, no, no. You know how people are, they get all freaked out when a tree or a lamppost talks to them. They’ll just end up screaming and running away. My plan is better than that. I’ll wait for that bad boy to come back, and I am sure he will, to take the game he stashed away in my branches. Then I will grab him with my branches and scare the living daylights out of him. This ought to teach him a lesson he will never forget.”

The tree and the lamp post waited and waited. Finally, the boy showed up. He looked to his left, then to his right and when there was no one around he climbed the tree and got back the game he stole earlier that day. And just as he was climbing down, the branches moved and held him tight. The boy was

Did you know?

On the Day of Judgment all good we have done on earth is weighed against all bad we have done. Those who did more good than bad enter Heaven and those who did more bad than good enter Hellfire.

scared; he didn't know what to think or what to do. He squirmed and moved to try to get himself loose, but the tree branches held him tight against its trunk. The boy then heard someone talking.

"I saw you stealing the game!" said the tree in a deep and scary voice.

The kid looked all around to see who said that.

"There is no one around. It is me, the tree, talking to you," said the tree in its deep voice.

"You did many wrong things today," said the tree. "You stole something that does not belong to you and then lied on top of it. You also hurt me by throwing the game into my branches."

"I'm sorry! I am very sorry," said the frightened boy with

tears flowing down his cheeks. “I’ll never do this again as long as I live.”

“You better not,” said the tree. “Do you know what happens to thieves?”

“They go to jail?” answered the terrified boy.

“Worse!” screamed the tree. “They make Allah upset and get punished by going to the Hellfire. And remember, even if no one saw you stealing, not even a tree or a lamp post, Allah can always see.”

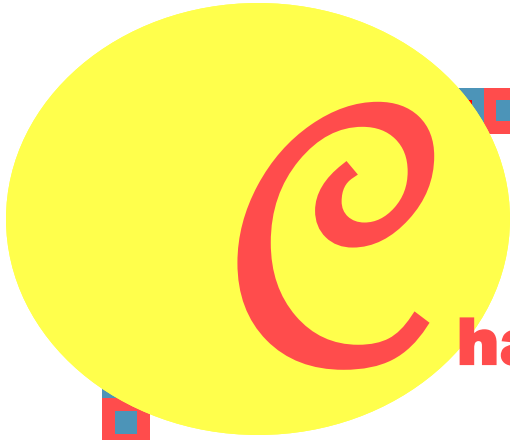
“I learned my lesson, Mr. Tree,” said the boy pleading. “I will

Remember

- *Allah ﷻ always sees what we do.*
- *Muslims do not steal or lie because they want to please Allah.*
- *Stealing, lying, cheating are all haram and make Allah mad at us.*
- *If you want to play with a toy that belongs to someone else, you must ask if it is okay to do so first. Never, ever take away something that does not belong to you.*

go right now to return this game to its owner.”

The boy took the game to the boy he stole it from and asked for forgiveness. The two boys became close friends and played a lot with the electronic game together. The boy who stole the electronic game never mentioned what happened to him with the tree. He knew no one would ever believe him, and after all he really did not know whether it really happened or it was all a very bad dream.

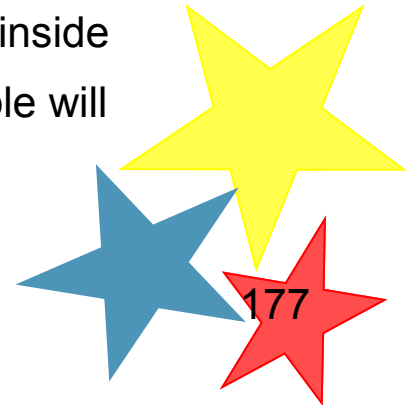


Chapter

21

Alzazala الزلزله ٩٩

Everybody knows that we cannot live forever. But do you know that even this world will come to an end one day!!! Allah ﷻ tells us in the Quran, how this will happen. No one knows when this will happen, but when it does, the earth will shake as it does in an earthquake, but so much stronger. Things will come out from inside the earth as if it is turning inside out. People will be very surprised and will wonder what is



going on. Then the strangest thing will happen! Everything on earth will tell of what they saw over the many, many years. Rocks, trees, mountains and everything will say to Allah ﷻ what



people did and said.

After that people will come in groups. Every person will see with their own eyes, as if watching a movie in a theater, the things that they did and said while they were alive. People will get to see all the good things and all the bad things they did, even the tiniest of little things will be shown to them.

Remember

- *At the end of time the earth will shake as if it a very strong earthquake.*
- *Everything on earth will tell Allah ﷻ about everything that happened on earth.*
- *People will come in front of Allah in groups and they will see, as if watching a movie what they did during their life.*
- *People will see on that day every good they did and every bad they did*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. When the earth shakes
like it has never done before

إِذَا زُلْزِلَتِ الْأَرْضُ زُلْزَالَهَا

2. And the earth throws out
what was inside it.

وَأَخْرَجَتِ الْأَرْضُ أَثْقَالَهَا

3. People will wonder what is
the matter with earth.

وَقَالَ الْإِنْسَانُ مَا هَآءَا

4. On such a day, earth will
tell about all what had
happened on it.

يَوْمَئِذٍ تُحَدِّثُ أَخْبَارَهَا

5. Earth will do so, because
it was ordered by Allah.

بِأَنَّ رَبَّكَ أَوْحَىٰ لَهَا

6. And people will walk out in groups to see for themselves what they have done during their lives.

يَوْمَئِذٍ يَصُدُّرُ النَّاسُ أَشْتَاتًا لِّيُرَوْا أَعْمَالَهُمْ

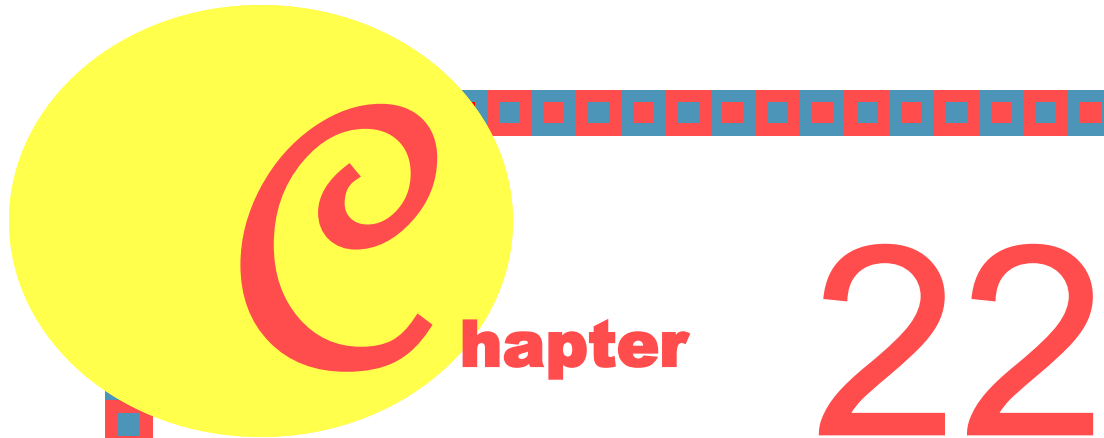
7. On that day, people will see even the tiniest amount of good they did.

فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ

8. And they will also see the tiniest amount of evil they did.

وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ





Chapter 22

Musa عليه السلام

A long, long time ago in a place called Egypt, there was an evil king. His people called him Pharaoh. Pharaoh hated the Jews. There were many Jews who lived in Egypt. They were the great, great grandchildren of prophets Ibrahim and Yusuf. Pharaoh hated them so much; he wanted all their children to be killed. He was afraid that they were getting to be too many, and he had heard that one day a



child of theirs will be born who would grow up to be a new prophet. The king did not want anybody to know about Allah ﷻ, because he had forced people to worship him, as if he was a god. So Pharaoh ordered all newborn children of those people to be killed.

Musa's mother was sad that her son would be killed once he was born, but soon after Musa's birth Allah ﷻ sent a message to her to put him in a basket and put the basket in the river. Musa's mother was afraid that Musa will drown, but she knew that if she did not do so, then the men of Pharaoh would kill Musa. She believed in Allah and trusted him, so she put Musa in the basket and let it float in the river.

The basket floated in the river until it reached the shore near Pharaoh's palace. Pharaoh's wife saw the child in the basket and immediately fell in love with Musa and decided to raise him as her own son.

Musa's mother was happy that her son was saved, but she was also sad because Musa was no longer with her. But Allah ﷻ, in his mercy, made baby Musa refuse to nurse from any woman. Pharaoh's wife was worried that Musa would starve to death if he was not to eat. She kept looking for a lady from whom Musa would nurse. Musa's sister came to Pharaoh's wife and told her that her mother would like to try to nurse baby Musa. Musa nursed from his mother right away and Pharaoh's wife was



happy to see him feed. Pharaoh's wife asked Musa's mother if she would take care of the baby until he got older. This made Musa's mother very happy because now she could keep Musa with her and not be afraid that he would be killed.

Musa grew up in the palace of Pharaoh. He did not like Pharaoh because he was an evil king and did not believe in Allah ﷻ like Musa did.

Words

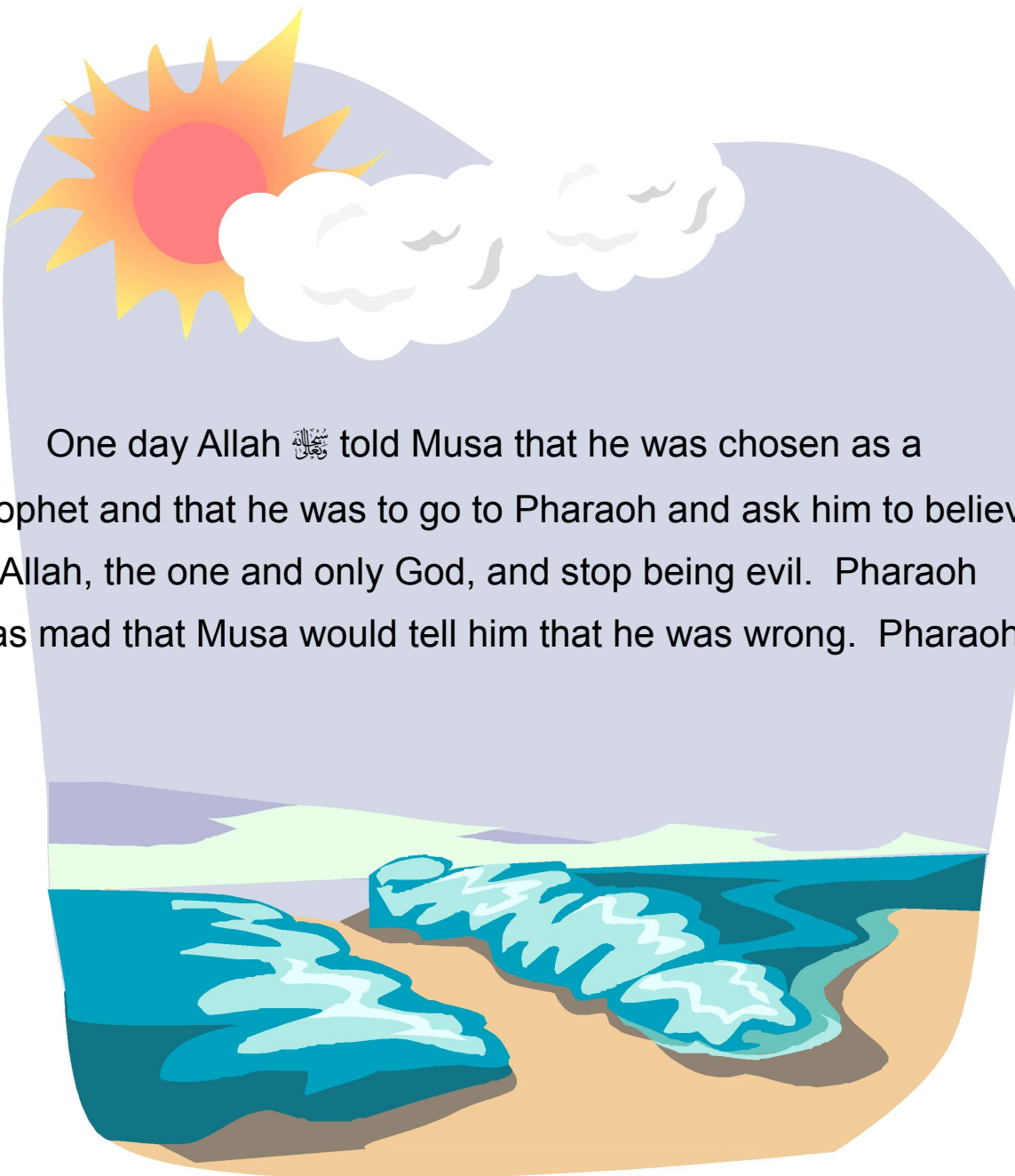
***Drown:** go under water and die.*

***Magicians:** people who do magic tricks.*

***Nurse:** drink milk from mother's breast.*

***Reject:** refuse or not believe in.*

***Signs:** proof, the proof that Musa was really a prophet was the magic Allah made him do.*

A stylized illustration of a landscape. The top half features a bright sun with yellow and orange rays on the left, and two white, fluffy clouds on the right, all set against a light purple sky. Below the sky is a green horizon line. The bottom half shows a body of blue water with white-capped waves crashing onto a sandy beach. The entire scene is framed within a rounded, light purple shape.

One day Allah ﷻ told Musa that he was chosen as a prophet and that he was to go to Pharaoh and ask him to believe in Allah, the one and only God, and stop being evil. Pharaoh was mad that Musa would tell him that he was wrong. Pharaoh

Then we sent Musa to Pharaoh and his followers with our signs, but they rejected them. See what happened to those who rejected the truth

ثُمَّ بَعَثْنَا مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ مُوسَىٰ بِآيَاتِنَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ فَظَلَمُوا
بِهَا فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُفْسِدِينَ

accused Musa of being a liar, and challenged Musa to prove that he really was a prophet. Musa accepted the challenge and he went to meet Pharaoh's magicians for a duel.

In front of many people, the magicians of Pharaoh threw their sticks and made them look like they were snakes, crawling all around. Allah ﷻ instructed Musa to throw his own stick, which Allah changed into a large snake. Musa's snake was much larger than the magicians' snakes. It attacked the other snakes and ate them! The magicians immediately knew that Musa was not a magician, but a prophet. No magician can perform such a

trick, so they bowed in respect believing in Allah. This made Pharaoh angrier than ever. He ordered all the magicians to be killed for believing in Allah without his permission.

Musa was afraid that Pharaoh would kill his followers. So Allah ﷻ ordered him to leave Egypt and escape. Pharaoh learned of this plan and followed Musa

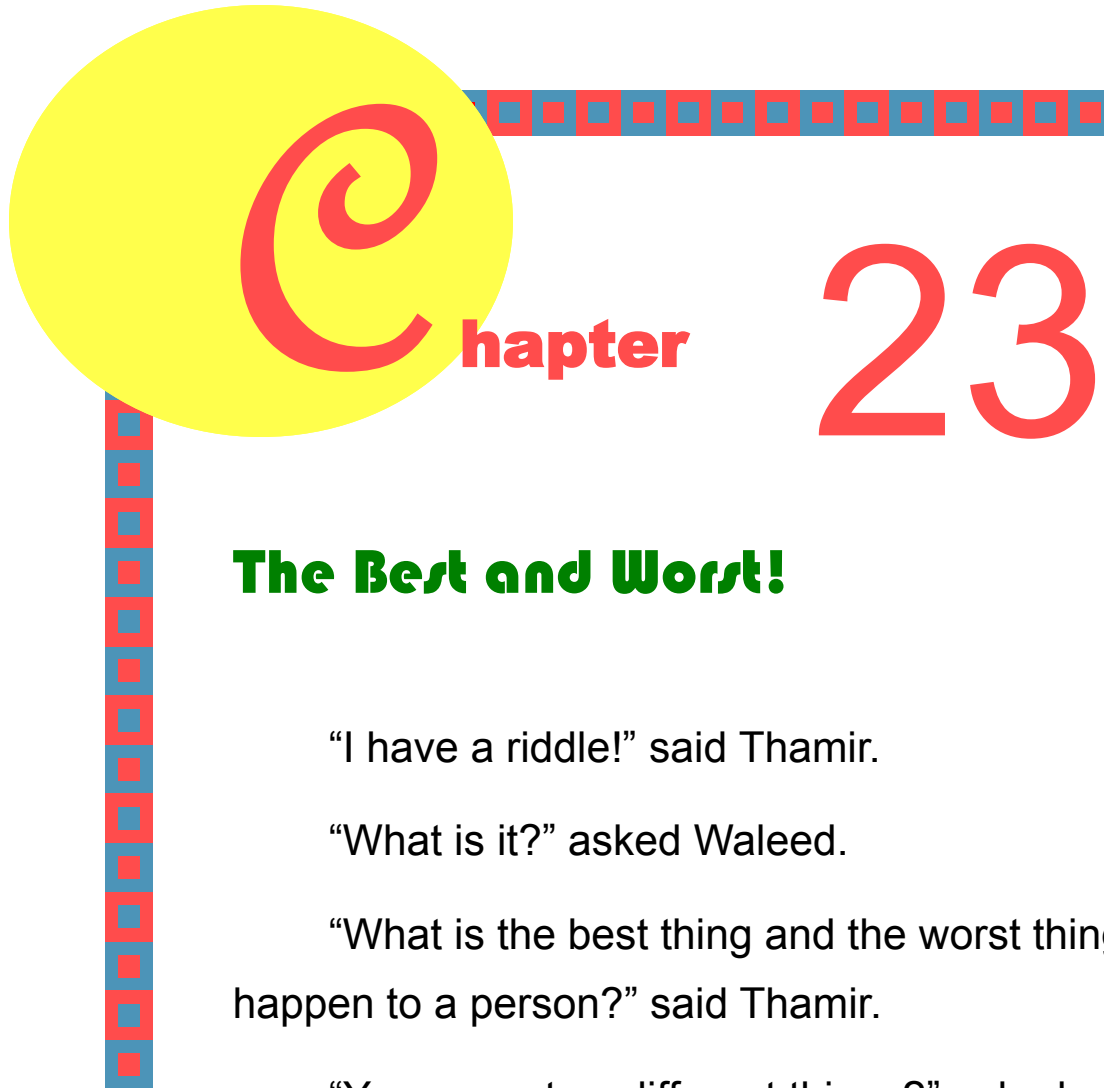
Remember

- *Musa ﷺ was a prophet sent by Allah ﷻ to guide the children of Ibrahim and Yusuf (Jews) to the right path.*
- *Pharaoh hated the Jews and wanted all their children to be killed.*
- *Allah ﷻ saved Musa from being killed as a child.*
- *Allah gave Musa the power of magic for people to believe in Allah.*
- *Allah ﷻ made the sea part open so Musa and his followers can escape from Pharaoh who wanted to kill them.*
- *Pharaoh drowned and died in the sea when Allah closed the water on them.*

and his people to kill them.

As Musa and his people were leaving Egypt they arrived at the sea, and Allah ﷻ opened the sea for them. The water in the sea moved to either sides, opening a path in the middle. Musa and his people were able to cross. When Pharaoh and his army arrived, the sea closed upon them and Pharaoh's army drowned.

Allah ﷻ sent to Musa instructions of how those who believe in him should live. Allah I told them what they were allowed to do and what they should not do. Some of Musa's followers obeyed Allah's orders, but others disobeyed. Later, people forgot about Allah's orders and did what they want and not what Allah ordered them to do. This is why Allah ﷻ sent other messengers such as Isa u and Muhammad r to teach people about Allah and how best to behave.



Chapter 23

The Best and Worst!

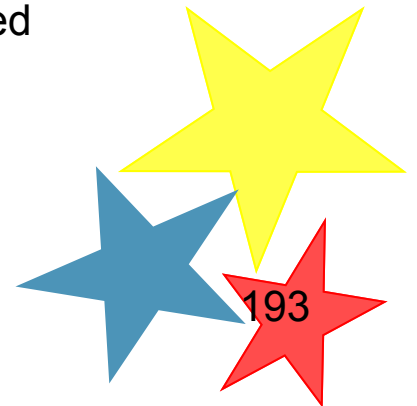
“I have a riddle!” said Thamir.

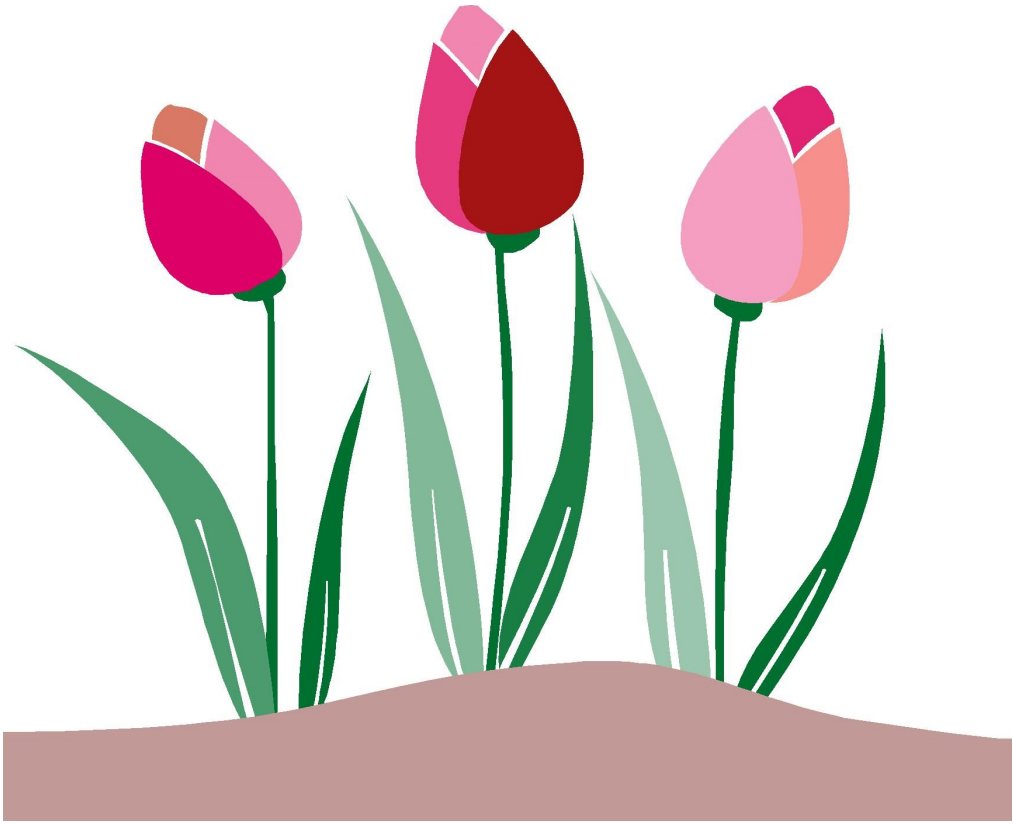
“What is it?” asked Waleed.

“What is the best thing and the worst thing that could happen to a person?” said Thamir.

“You mean two different things?” asked Waleed.

“No it’s the same thing,” answered





Tell those who believe in Allah and do good things that they will go to Jenna with rivers flowing underneath it. Every time they are given fruits to eat they would say “Wow, this is just what ate before!” But they would be happily surprised that it is different, but still very tasty. They will also have companions who are pure. Such people will live in Jenna forever and ever.

وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ كُلَّمَا رُزِقُوا مِنْهَا مِنْ ثَمَرَةٍ رُزِقُوا قَالُوا هَذَا الَّذِي رُزِقْنَا مِنْ قَبْلُ وَأَنُؤُوا بِهِ مُتَشَابِهًا وَهُمْ فِيهَا أزْوَاجٌ مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَهُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

Thamir.

Waleed thought for a little then said, “I give up!”

“It’s dying!” said Thamir. “If you were a good Muslim and did all the things Allah asked you to do, you’ll go to Paradise (Jenna), so dying will be a good thing! But if you were bad and disobeyed Allah ﷻ, then you go to Hellfire (Jehanem), and dying

Did you know?

Muslims believe that there will be a Day of Judgment when all people will be resurrected and judged for what they have done during their lives.

in this case will be a bad thing!”

Waleed thought for a little bit, and then asked, “How long do we stay in Jenna?”

“For ever and ever,” said Thamir. “And you never get bored or tired of it because it’s so much fun.”

“How about if you go to Jehanem?” asked Waleed.

“I am not sure!” said Thamir with some hesitation. “But, I think I heard Baba say that if one believed in Allah ﷻ, but did bad stuff, then he goes to Jehanem first. And after a while, Allah ﷻ may forgive the person and put him in Jenna.”

“Well, I guess it wouldn’t be that bad to be in Jahanam for a short time,” said Waleed.

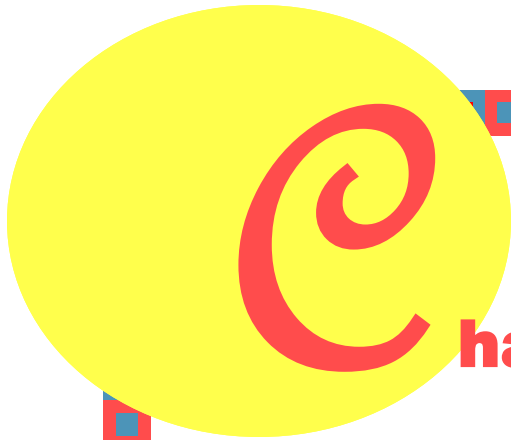
“OH NO!” exclaimed Thamir. “That would be horrible! I heard that even seconds in Jehanem would make you forget all the wonderful times you had on earth.”

“I didn’t know that,” said Waleed thinking. “I guess I better do my best to go straight to Jenna.”

“Me too,” said Thamir, “Me too.”

Remember

- *Those who believe in Allah ﷻ and did good during their lives will go to heaven (Jenna).*
- *Those who enter in Jenna will stay there for ever.*
- *Jenna is the most wonderful place to be in, everything there is great and much better than we have ever seen before.*
- *Hellfire is a horrible place, no one would ever want to be there, not even for one second.*



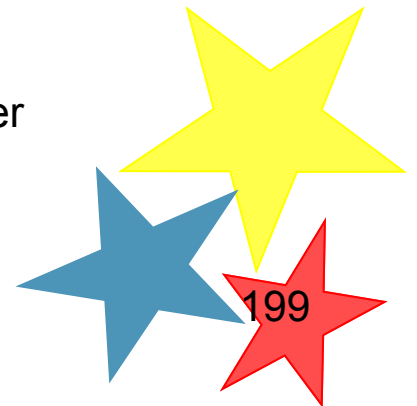
Chapter

24

Think of 70 Excuses

Asifa finally saw her mother! She was anxiously waiting for her at the end of the school day. Asifa ran towards her mother and threw herself in her arms and immediately started crying. She wanted to cry all day long, but held it in because she did not want to cry in front of her friends.

“What’s wrong sweetheart?” asked her mother as she stroked Asifa’s hair.



“I hate her and I don’t want to talk to her ever again!” said Asifa.

Asifa’s mother knew that she wouldn’t be able to make much sense out of what her daughter was trying to say, so she put her arms around Asifa’s shoulder as they walked towards the parked car.

Asifa was in no mood to talk and she just sat quietly in her seat. A few minutes later the car was pulling into the driveway of their home. Asifa’s mother held her daughter’s hand as they walked into the house. Her mother went into the kitchen and Asifa followed her. Very soon there was a nice hot cup of hot chocolate in front of Asifa. That always made her happy. She sipped from it for few moments, and then her mother asked gently, “Can you tell me what is bothering?”

“Asma!” exclaimed Asifa. “She pretends to be my friend, but then she steals my hair band!”



“What makes you think she stole it?” asked her mother.

“I showed her my new hair band, the one Baba got me from Baghdad,” said Asifa. “And she kept saying how pretty it was. Then I put it in my backpack, but later during recess I couldn’t find it anywhere, I looked, and looked and looked everywhere but it was gone!. Then Suha told me that she saw it with Asma. She *took* it! She liked it so

much, she *stole* it!”

“What makes you think she stole it, maybe there is another explanation,” said her mother soothingly. “Did you ask her?”

“No!” Asifa said firmly. “I was so mad. I didn’t want to cry in front of everyone.”

“There could be many reasons why Asma would have your hair band,” said her mother. “Or Suha may be mistaken.”

Asifa’s mother was quiet for a while, then she said, “Do you know that prophet Muhammad ﷺ said that we should find 70 excuses for a Muslim brother or sister if we thought they did something wrong? We should do this before accusing anyone of doing something bad.”

“What does that mean, Mama?” asked Asifa.

“Well!” continued her mother. “It’s like this; I want you to think of as many reasons as you could think of why Asma would

Hadith

A man asked the Prophet ﷺ, "Give me an advice." The Prophet said: "Do not get angry." The man repeated his question many times, and every single time, the Prophet ﷺ would answer the same way, "Do not get angry."

سأل رجل الرسول صلى الله عليه و سلم:
أوصني. قال: " لا تغضب".
فردد مراراً، قال "لا تغضب".

ones.”

“Well,” said Asifa thinking. “May be she took it to show it to her father so that he can buy her one like it.”

“What else?” Her mother asked.

“Or may be she wanted to put it in a safe place so that no

be seen with your hair band.”

“One good reason is that she liked it so much so she stole it,” said Asifa.

“No dear,” said her mother. “Think of good reasons for which she could have had the hair band, not bad

one would steal it,” added Asifa.

“And what else?”

“Or she saw somebody stealing it and she took it from them to give it back to me,” said Asifa.

“These are excellent reasons,” said her mother. “I am sure it must be something like that, because Asma loves you and would never hurt you.”

“I guess so,” agreed Asifa.

Just at that moment, the telephone rang and Asifa’s mother picked up



the phone and talked for a little while then hung up. She then turned to Asifa and said, “That was Asma’s mother. She wanted you to know that Asma found your hair band on the floor next to where your backpack was. It must have fallen when you tried to put it in your backpack. She tried to find you to give it back, but you had already left.”

Asifa was quiet

Remember

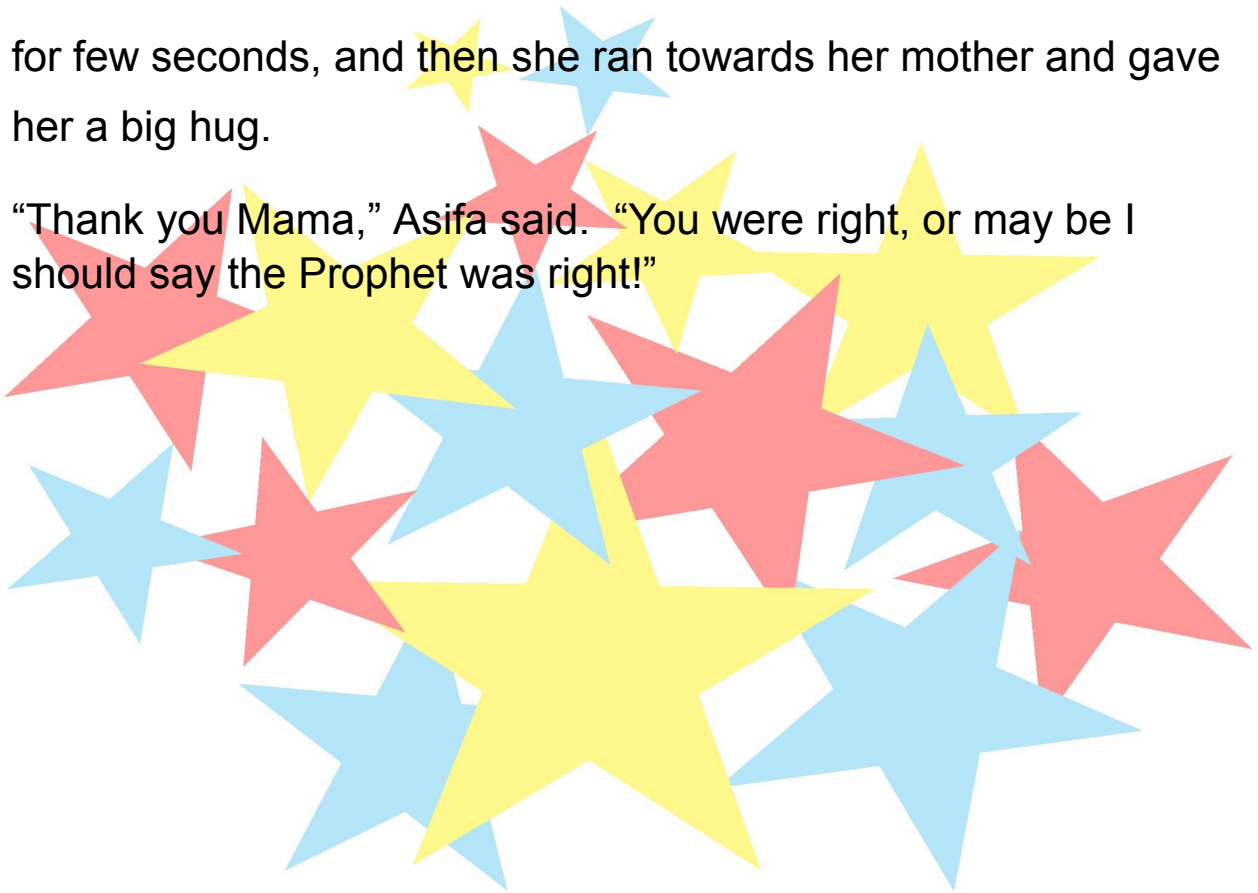
- *A Muslim should try his best not to get mad.*
- *When we get mad we cannot think right.*
- *Someone who gets mad, may think that others did bad things to hurt them.*
- *If something goes wrong, talk to people and find out what really happened.*
- *Getting mad at people will make us think that they did bad things.*
- *By being kind to others and finding out what really happened, we can stop ourselves from getting mad.*

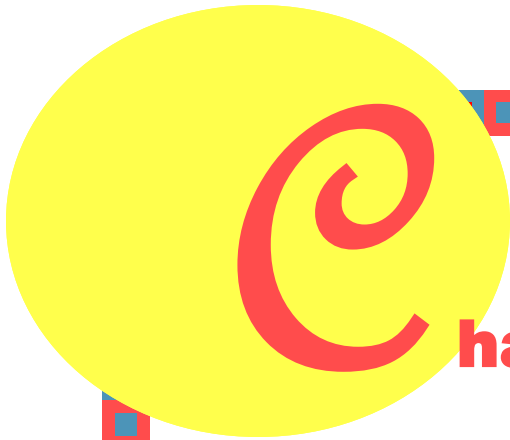
Did you know?

The mercy of God far exceeds his wrath.

for few seconds, and then she ran towards her mother and gave her a big hug.

“Thank you Mama,” Asifa said. “You were right, or may be I should say the Prophet was right!”





Chapter

25

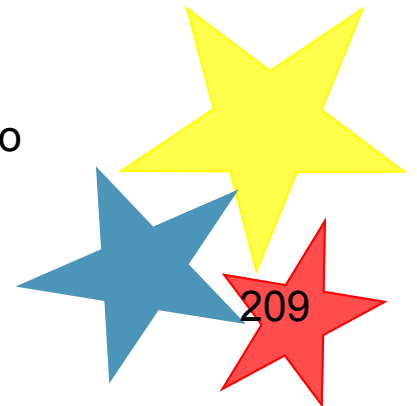
Stopping Wrong

“Yesterday,” said Ali. “I asked a boy in the park to stop bothering a kid much younger than him.”

“And did that make him stop?” asked Ms. Hatem.

The class was discussing the teachings of Islam to encourage others to do good and to stop others from doing wrong.

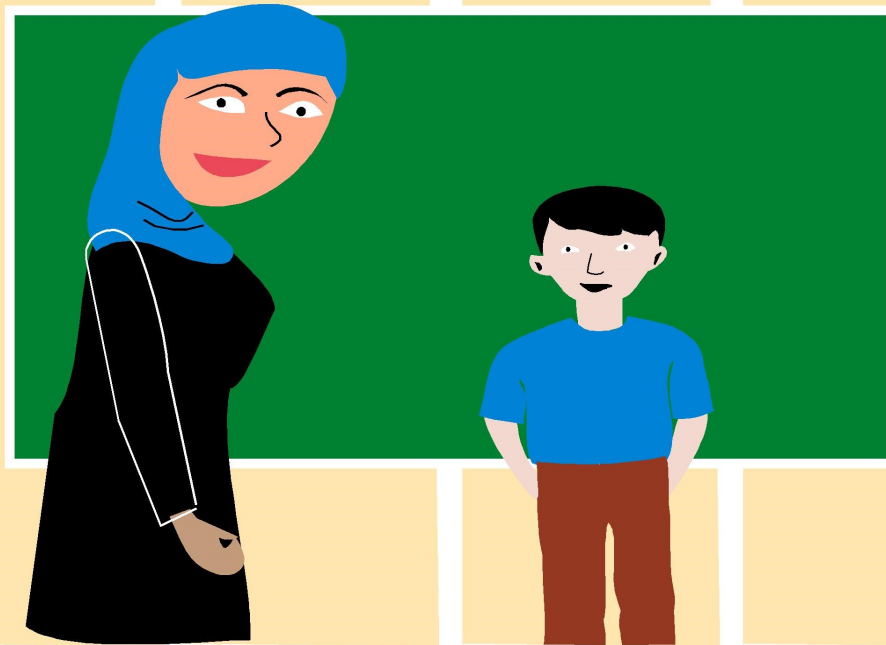
“No, he didn’t stop,” answered Ali. “So I stood between him and the little boy,



then I walked the little kid back home.”

“That was the right thing to do,” said Ms. Hatem. “But what if that boy was bigger and stronger than you?” Ms. Hatem asked Ali.

“I guess I would just talk to him, and if he didn’t listen then I



Hadith

Prophet Muhammad r said, "Who ever sees evil being done, they should try to stop it. But if they cannot do so, then they should try to talk whoever is committing evil to stop. And if they cannot do so then they should just wish that whoever is doing evil would stop. And to just wish is the weakest of faith.

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه و سلم: " مَنْ رَأَى مِنْكُمْ
مُنْكَرًا فَلْيُغَيِّرْهُ بِيَدِهِ. فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَبِلِسَانِهِ. فَإِنْ لَمْ
يَسْتَطِعْ فَبِقَلْبِهِ. وَ ذَلِكَ أَوْعَفُ الْإِيمَانِ "

would stop, and go and get help from a grown up," answered Ali.

"Excellent!" Said Ms. Hatem. "That's exactly what you should do."

will go and tell a grown up."

"That's right again!" Exclaimed Ms. Hatem.

"Okay, what if you were afraid to even tell him to stop because he was a big_mean bully?"

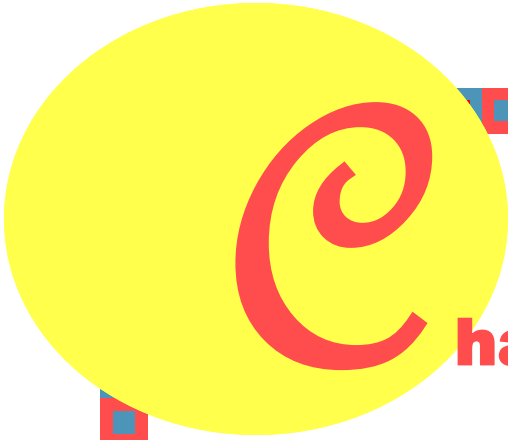
"Then I would just wish that he

Remember

- *If a Muslim sees something wrong they should make it stop.*
- *If they cannot make it stop, then they should talk to whoever is doing wrong to make them stop.*
- *If that does not work, then they should at least wish in their hearts that the person doing wrong will stop.*
- *Allah ﷻ wants us to always do good and stop people from doing bad as much as we can*

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, “Who ever sees evil being done, they should try to stop it. But if they cannot do so, then they should try to talk whoever is committing evil to stop. And if they cannot do so then they should just wish that whoever is doing evil would stop. And to just wish is the weakest of faith.





Chapter

26

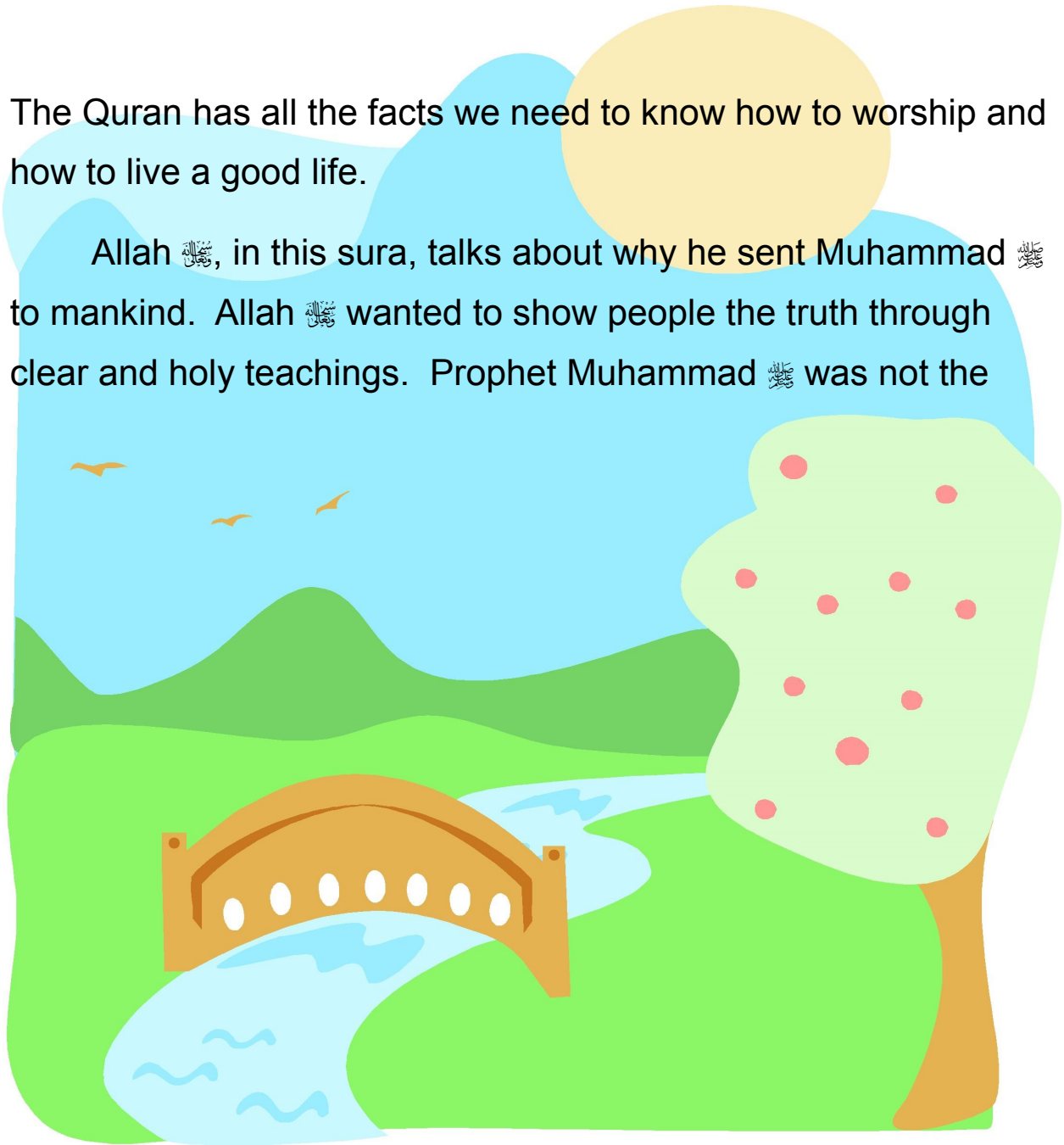
Albayina البيّنة 98

Allah ﷻ created us. He knows us very well. Allah ﷻ wants all people to have a good life and be happy in this world and in the hereafter. To be able to live a good life Allah ﷻ sent messengers to us teaching us how to worship him and how to behave with each other. Allah ﷻ taught us through many prophets and messengers he sent us. The last of these messengers is prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Allah ﷻ sent the Quran to Muhammad ﷺ.



The Quran has all the facts we need to know how to worship and how to live a good life.

Allah ﷻ, in this sura, talks about why he sent Muhammad ﷺ to mankind. Allah ﷻ wanted to show people the truth through clear and holy teachings. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was not the



first messenger Allah ﷻ sent. In this sura Allah ﷻ tells us how he sent messengers before, but some people did not believe them and instead argued with these messengers instead of trying to learn about the right path.

Allah ﷻ also tells us that as Muslims we are not the first to be asked to worship him, be sincere in our devotion to him, be truthful, establish prayer and give regular charity. Allah ﷻ has instructed many other people before us to do the same.

Finally, Allah ﷻ informs us, as he frequently does in the

Words

Hereafter: life after we die.

Charity: give the poor.

Creatures: living beings created by Allah such as people, animals, angels and everything alive.

Sincere in our devotion: truthful in our love.

Remember

- *Muslims must worship Allah ﷻ and no one else.*
- *Muslims must be truthful and give charity to those who need it.*
- *Albayina means clear.*
- *People who worship Allah and follow his teachings go to Heaven.*

Quran, that those of us, who follow his teachings and believe in the truth, will be rewarded with paradise to enjoy forever. But those who do not believe in him and his teachings will be punished in the Hellfire.



RIGHT



~~WRONG~~

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. Those who do not believe in the truth from the people of the book or those who worship many idols will not change their way of thinking until they are given clear evidence.

لَمْ يَكُنِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ
وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ مُنْفَكِينَ حَتَّى تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَةُ

2. Such as a messenger from Allah, who reads to them from pure and holy books.

رَسُولٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ يَتْلُو صُحُفًا مُّطَهَّرَةً

3. In these books are sound and valuable teachings

فِيهَا كُتُبٌ قَيِّمَةٌ

4. The people of the book (Christians and Jews) who received revelations (books) from Allah differed among themselves after they received similar evidence.

وَمَا تَفَرَّقَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا
جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَةُ

5. They were ordered nothing more than to worship Allah, be sincere in their devotion to him, be truthful, establish prayer and give regular charity. And that is the right and straight religion.

وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ
حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ
الْقَيِّمَةِ

6. Those who refuse to believe whether they were from the people of the book (Christians and Jews) or non-believers will go to Hellfire, and stay in it for ever, and such people are the worse kind of creatures.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي
نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أُولَئِكَ هُمْ شَرُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ

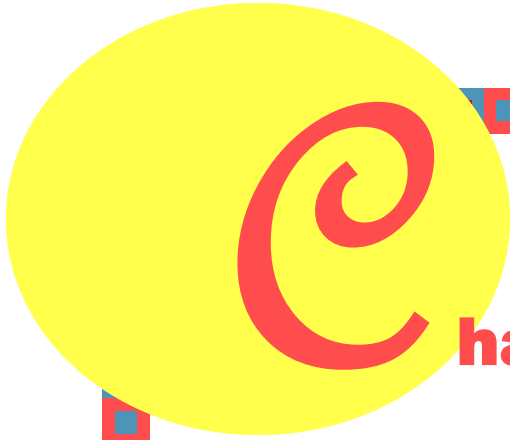
7. On the other hand, those who believe and do good deeds are the best kind of creatures.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمْ
حَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ

8. Their reward from their Lord is paradises, underneath which rivers flow. They will live in paradise forever, and Allah will be pleased with them and they will be pleased with Allah. Such a reward is for those who fear their Lord.

جَزَاءُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ
ذَٰلِكَ لِمَنْ حَشِيَ رَبَّهُ





Chapter

27

Maryem عليها السلام

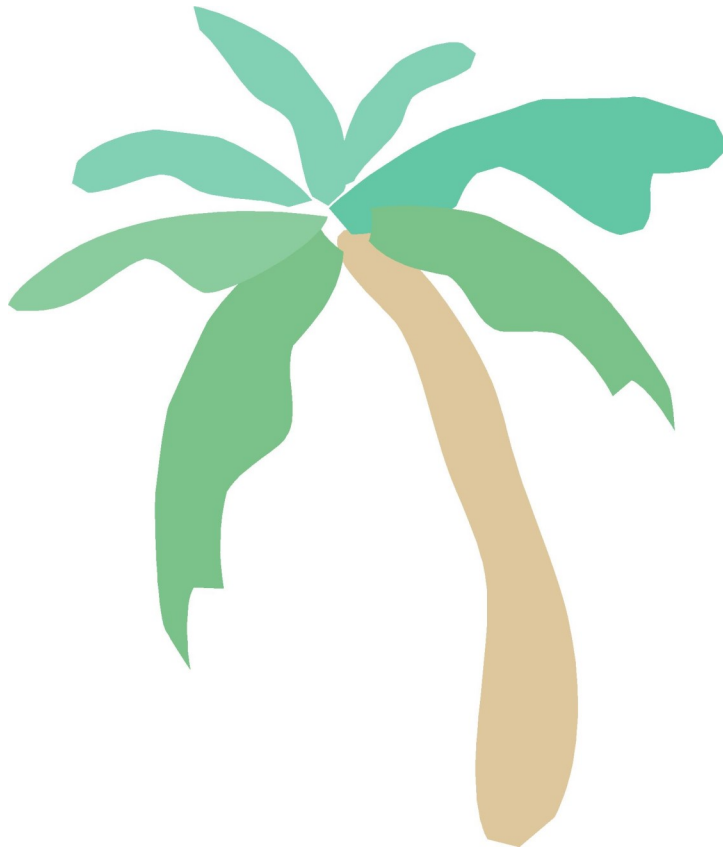
Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, there was a very nice young lady called Maryem. Maryem loved Allah ﷻ a lot and always prayed to him. Allah ﷻ was very pleased with Maryem and planned for her to be the mother of a very important prophet and messenger.

One day while Maryem was praying, an angel came to visit her. This angel looked very much like a regular man. At first, she was



afraid, but the angel told her not to be afraid.

“I am a messenger from your Lord to give you a child,” said the angel to her.



Maryem was afraid and surprised, “How could I have a child and I am not even married?” she asked the angel.

“This is what your Lord has decided,” the angel answered. “And it is very easy for him to do what he wishes.” Then the angel added, “And this child will be a miracle for all people to see and a mercy from God.”

Maryem was very concerned. What would people say when they see her with a child when she is not even married? So she went away from her village to a far away place.

Words

***Blessed:** has blessings from Allah, blessings are good things we would love to have in this life or hereafter.*

***Concerned:** worried.*

***Pleased:** happy with.*

Quran

Maryem, aya 29-30

Maryem pointed to the newborn baby, so that they would ask him their questions. The people around Maryem asked, "How can we talk to a newborn?"

Isa answered them, "I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the book and made me a prophet."

فَأَشَارَتْ إِلَيْهِ قَالُوا كَيْفَ نُكَلِّمُ مَنْ كَانَ فِي الْمَهْدِ صَبِيًّا

قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ آتَانِيَ الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا

tree and fruits will fall, eat from it and drink from the water Allah has given you and do not be afraid."

Maryem took her son Isa back to her village. People were very surprised to see her with a newborn baby.

Maryem carried her new child and when it was time for the baby to be born she sat down by a tree and was very scared.

Maryem heard a voice talking to her, "Do not be afraid," an angel said to her. "Shake the

Did you know?

Maryem was honored by having a sura named after her and by being the only women mentioned in the Quran by name.

“Maryem! How could you do such a thing?” They asked her.

Maryem did not answer, but pointed to the child wanting people to ask the baby instead of her.

“How could we talk to a baby?” they asked.

And then, and to the surprise of everyone, baby Isa spoke and said, “I am the servant of Allah, he gave me the holy book and made me a prophet. Allah had blessed me and ordered me to pray to him, and to give in charity to those in need and to be kind to my mother.”

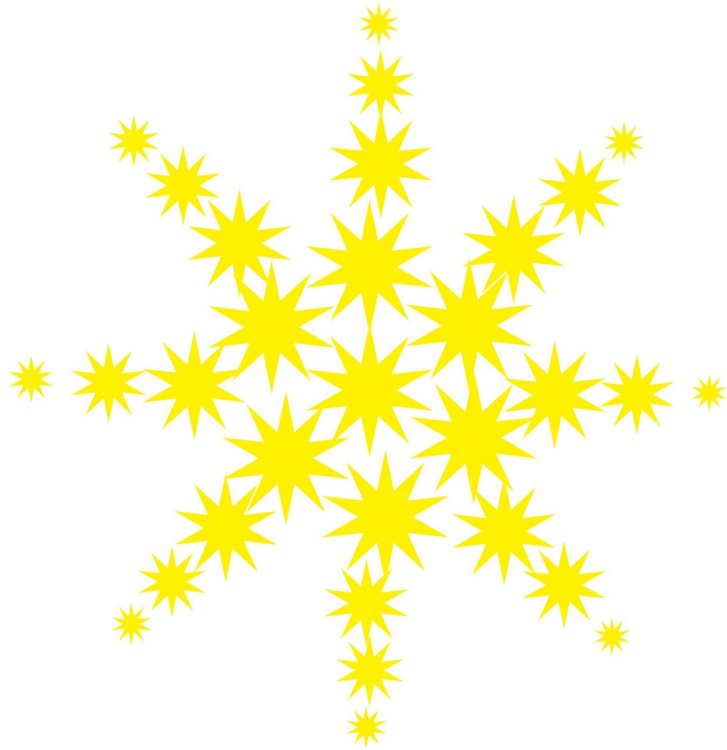
No one knew what to say. It was clearly a miracle. No baby

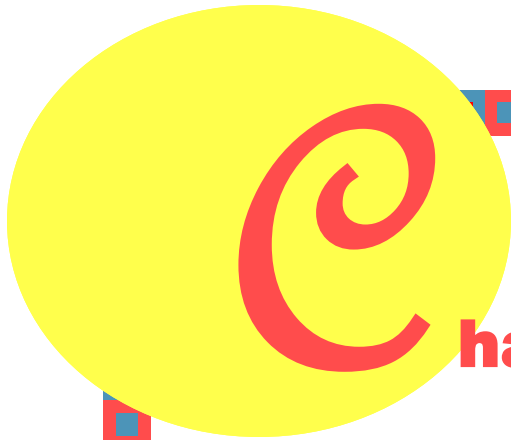
Remember

- *Maryem عليها السلام loved and worshiped Allah ﷻ.*
- *Allah choose Maryem to be the mother of Prophet Isa عليه السلام. She had Isa even though she was not married.*
- *Isa spoke to people, telling them about Allah even when he was a baby.*
- *Prophet Isa عليه السلام taught people about Allah ﷻ and how to worship him.*

has ever talked like this one did. It was clearly a sign from Allah ﷻ.

Maryem took her son Isa عليه السلام and left the village to raise him. When Isa got older he became a prophet and told people about Allah ﷻ and how to best please him. People back then knew about Allah from previous prophets and messengers, but they had changed many of Allah's teachings and were disobeying Allah's rules. Prophet Isa عليه السلام showed them the wrong they were doing and how to best behave.





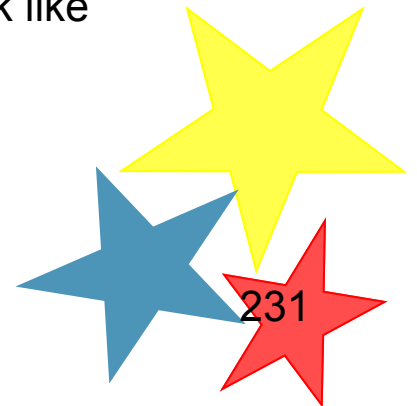
Chapter

28

An Angel!

One day while prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sitting with his companions, a man came. No one knew him. He had fair skin and dark black hair. The man was wearing bright white clothes. People thought that he might be a stranger from out of town, but he did not look tired and his clothes were tidy and clean, he did not look like he just came from out of town.

The man sat very close to the Prophet ﷺ.



“Tell me about Islam,” the strange man asked the prophet.

“Islam is to declare that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is his messenger. A Muslim must pray, pay zakat, fast Ramadan and if it possible, perform pilgrimage,” answered the Prophet ﷺ.

“You are telling the truth!” said the stranger.

The Muslims sitting there were really surprised. They couldn’t understand why this man asked a question, as if he needed to know the answer, and then agreed with the Prophet as if he already knew the answer to his own question.

Words

Declare: say out loud.

Worship: pray and believe in.



The man then asked, “Tell me about belief ”

“One must believe in Allah, his angels, his books, his messengers and in the Day of Judgment,” answered the Prophet.

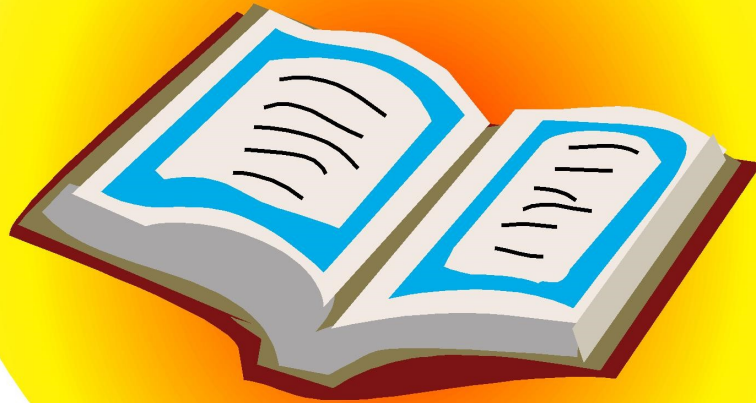
“You are telling the truth again,” said the man.

“Tell me about right action” asked the stranger.

“One should worship Allah as if we see him, because if you cannot see him then we should at least remember that Allah can see us,” answered the Prophet.

“Tell me about the Day of Judgment,” asked the man.

“I do not know about it any more than you do,” answered



the prophet.

The man then asked, “Tell me about the signs that happen before the Day of Judgment.”

“It is when the slave would give birth to her mistress,” answered the Prophet. “And when the barefooted and poor people compete in building large houses for themselves.”

The man then stood up and left.

The Prophet turned to Omar Bin Alkhatib and

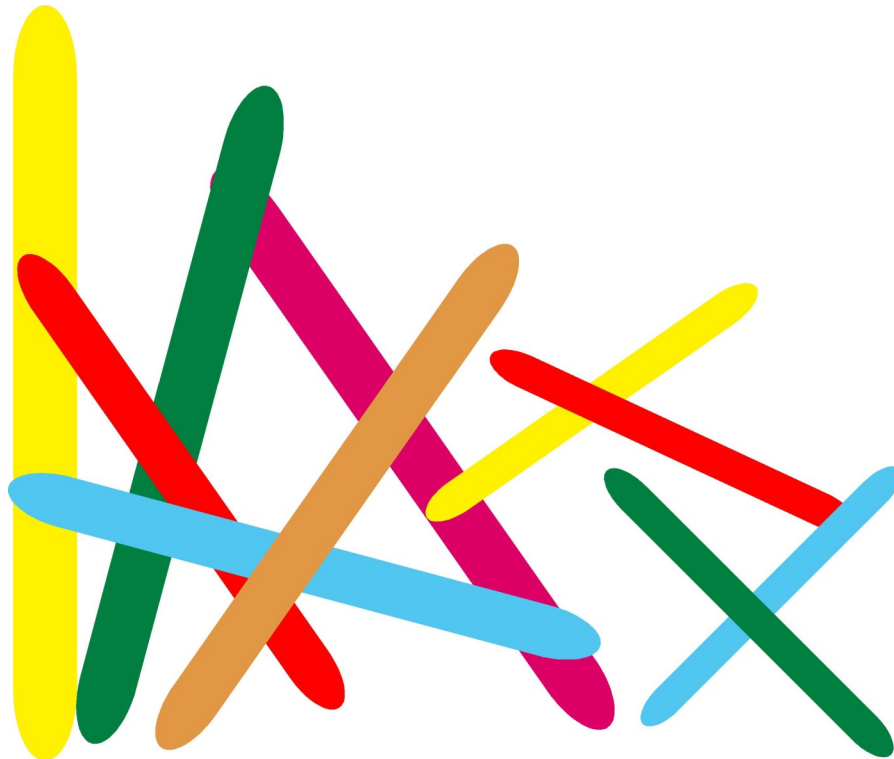
Remember

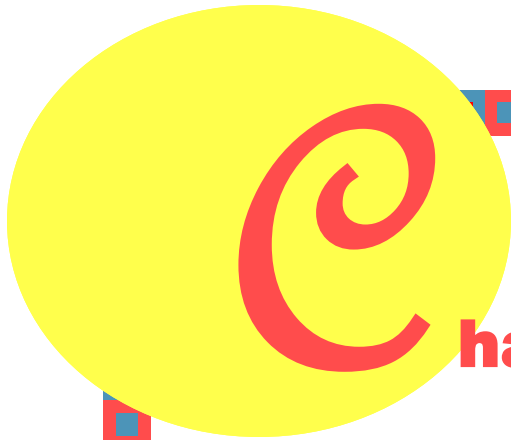
- *Islam is to declare that there is no god but Allah and the Muhammad is his messenger.*
- *A Muslim must believe in Allah’s books, messengers, angels and the Day of Judgment.*
- *Muslims must worship Allah as if we see him, and if we cannot see, we should remember that he can see us.*
- *Angel Jibril taught prophet Muhammad ﷺ the Quran and how to be a Muslim.*

asked, “Do you know who that man is?”

“Only Allah and his messenger would know,” replied Omar.

“He is angel Jibril. He came to teach all of you our religion,”
said the Prophet.





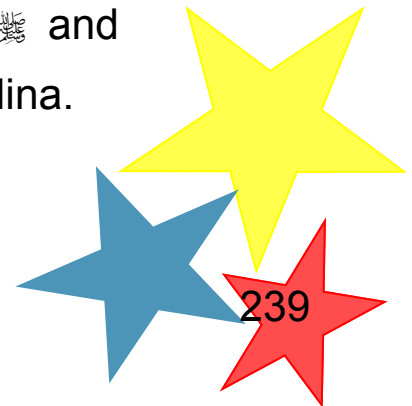
Chapter

29

Muslim Calendar

The month of Ramadan is one of the most blessed months of the year. In this month Allah ﷻ sent his angel Jibril to prophet Muhammad ﷺ for the first time to reveal verses from the Quran.

The Islamic calendar, called Hijri calendar started from the time prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his companion Abu Bakr left Mecca to Medina. The Islamic calendar, just like the western calendar has twelve months, but each



months is shorter by one day.

The months of the Islamic calendar are:

1. Muharem محرم
2. Safr صفر
3. Rajab رجب
4. Shabaan شعبان
5. Ramadan رمضان
6. Shawal شوال
7. Thul-Kuda ذي القعدة
8. Thul-Hijja ذي الحجة
9. Jamad-Ala'wal جماد الأول
10. Jamad-uthani جماد الثاني



11.Rabi'-Ala'wal ربيع الأول

12.Rabi'-uthani ربيع الثاني.

The Hijri year contain about 354 days, the number of days in each year change from year to year. The western calendar contains 365 days and 366 in a leap year.

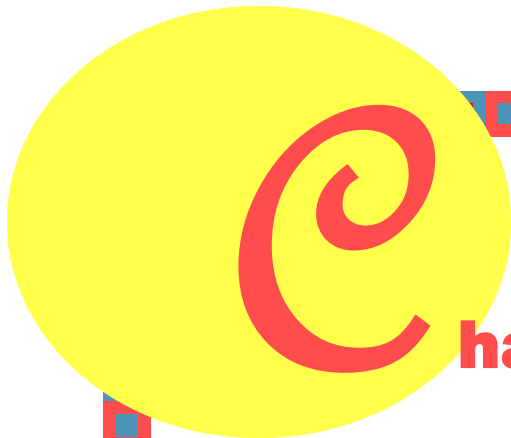


Remember

- *The calendar year for Muslims is called Hijri.*
- *The first month of the Hijri calendar is Muharam.*
- *Ramadan is the fifth month of the Hijri calendar.*
- *The Hijri calendar has 12 months.*

Muslims fast in the month of Ramadan, and fasting means to stop eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset. When Muslims fast, they also must not lie, cheat or hurt others.

Muslims were not the first people to be asked to fast. Allah ﷻ asked many peoples before Muslims to fast, such as Christians and Jews.



Chapter

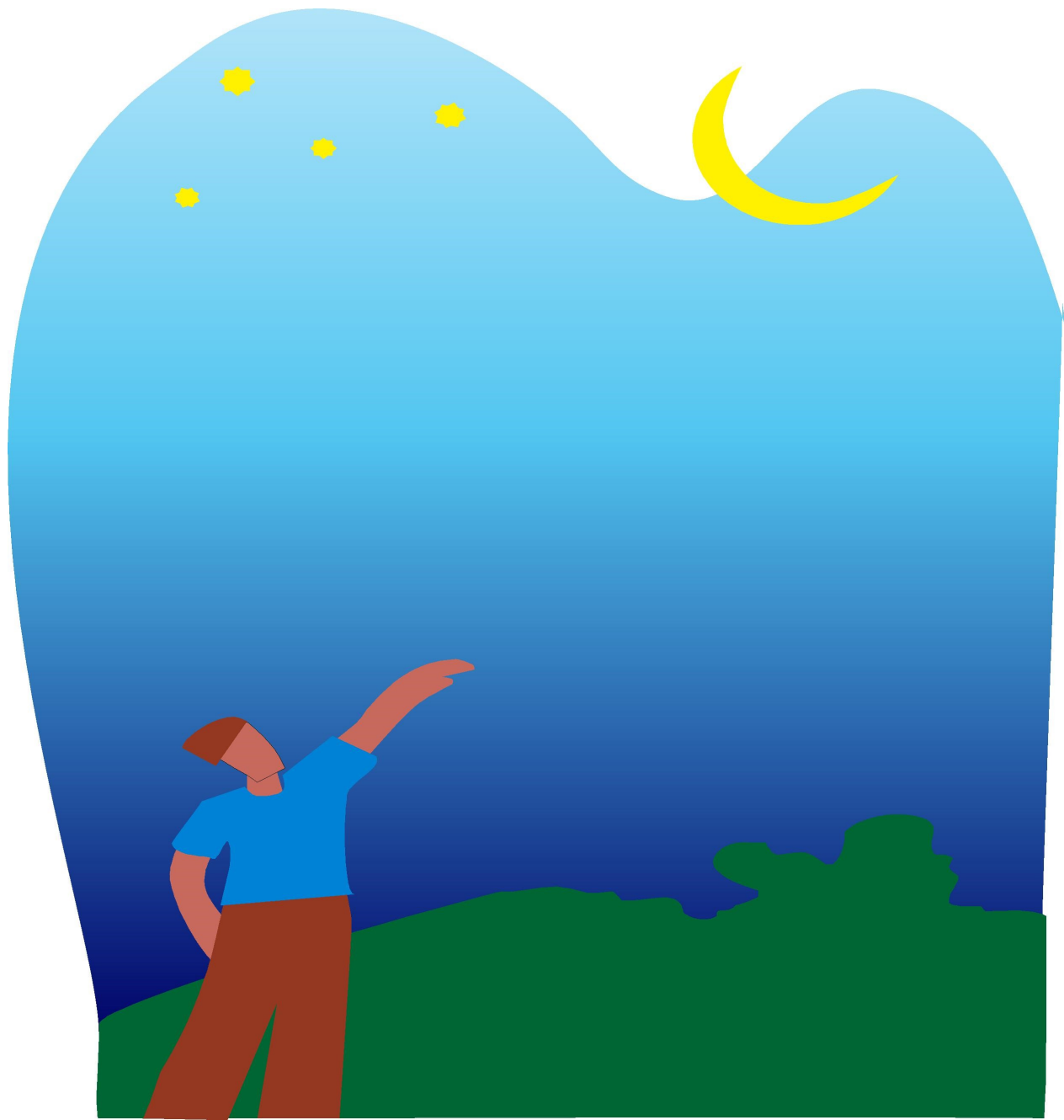
30

Fasting

In Ramadan we fast from sunrise to sunset. Children are encouraged to fast when they can, but they do not have to fast until they are about 12-14 years old.

When fasting, we stop enjoying many of the things that Allah ﷻ has given us, like eating and drinking. Other things, which we are not supposed to do in Ramadan, are forbidden at all other times but in Ramadan, these things ruin the





fast. These are:

- Lying.
- Cheating.
- Hurting others by what we say or do.

Allah ﷻ wants us to benefit from fasting, but he does not want us to fast if fasting will harm us, like:

- When we are sick and not feeling well.
- When we need to take medicine.
- A mother does not have to fast when carrying (pregnant) or nursing a baby.
- A woman is also asked not to fast during certain days every month when it may be harmful for them to do so.

A Muslim should always fast during Ramadan, unless they have an excuse. Breaking fast without an excuse will make Allah

Remember

- *Muslims please Allah ﷻ when they fast.*
- *Muslims learn how to be patient when they fast.*
- *Poor people feel hungry when they do not have food. Muslims feel hungry when they fast to see how poor people feel like.*
- *Lying, cheating and hurting others are wrong, they also break the fast.*

ﷻ angry.

It is okay to eat or drink while fasting if we forget. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, “If a Muslim forgets and eats or drinks while fasting, then he may continue to fast. The food or drink he or she had while fasting was a gift from Allah ﷻ .”

Fasting has its manners. A fasting Muslim should try and do the followings:

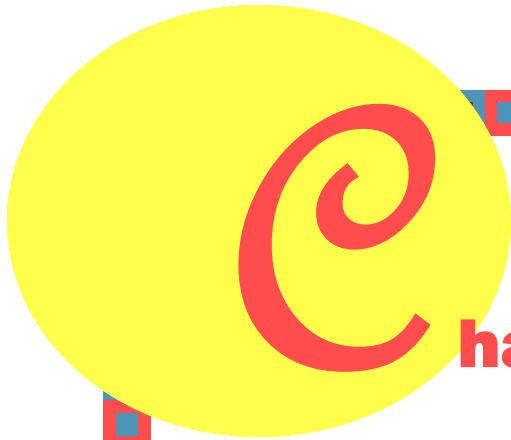
- Recite from the Quran to know more about Allah ﷻ and Islam.
- Give charity to the poor and those in need. This way we

Did you know?

Muslims are not the only people to fast. Allah has ordered his followers in Judaism, Christianity and Islam to worship him through fasting.

share what Allah ﷻ has given us with those in need.

- Talk and act politely.
- Avoid eating too much after breaking fast.
- Break fast on time and eat just before sunrise to be less hungry during the day.
- Say dua'a at time of iftar: "Oh Allah! To you we fast, and with your food we break our fast. Thirst is gone and again we feel nourished. And insha' Allah our credit for fast will count."

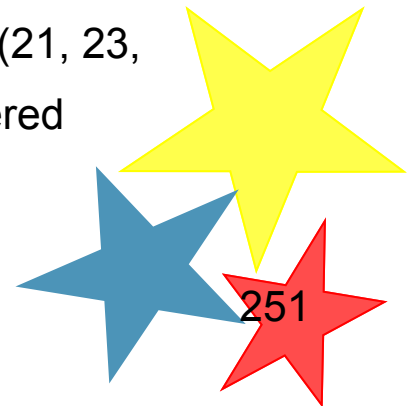


Chapter

31

Alqadr 97

The night of destiny (or power), is the night in which Allah ﷻ first revealed the Quran to prophet Muhammad ﷺ. In Arabic, it is called Laylet Alqadr. No one knows for sure which night it is. It is one of the nights of the last ten days of Ramadan especially the nights proceeding the odd days of the last ten days of Ramadan (21, 23, 25, 26 27 or 29). In this night Allah ﷻ ordered angel Jibril to deliver the first verses of



Quran and begin the message of Islam.

Allah ﷻ describes in this sura the importance of this night. This night is better than thousands of months, because Allah ﷻ



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. We have revealed this in the night of destiny.

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ

2. And what do you know of this night of destiny?

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ

3. The night of destiny is better than thousand months.

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ

4. During this night the angels and spirits descend with the permission of their Lord.

تَنْزَلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ

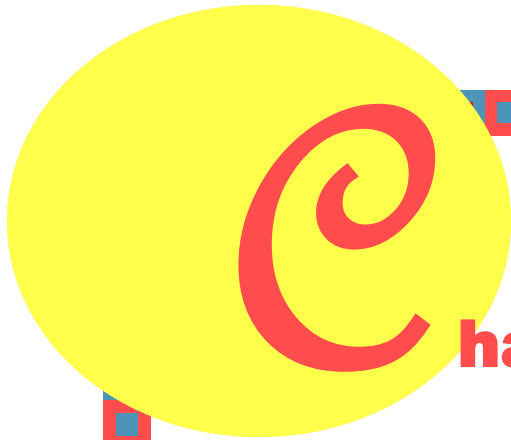
5. This night will be peaceful until the break of dawn.

سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ

Remember

- *The Night of Destiny is called Laylet Alqadr.*
- *Allah revealed the Quran to Prophet during the Night of Destiny.*
- *During the Night of Destiny angels come down from Heaven and everything is peaceful on earth till the sun rises.*
- *The Night of Destiny is better than thousand months.*

sent during that night the message of Islam, to teach people of all places and all times the religion which Allah ﷻ chose for all people to follow. In this night, angels and spirits come to earth after taking permission from Allah ﷻ. This night is peaceful until dawn breaks.

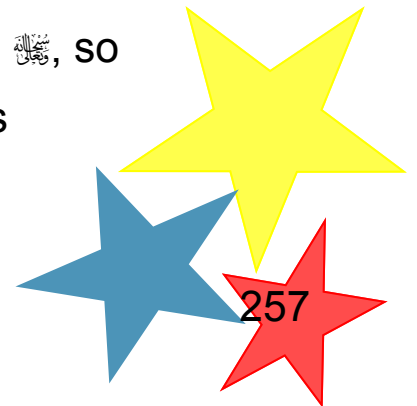


Chapter

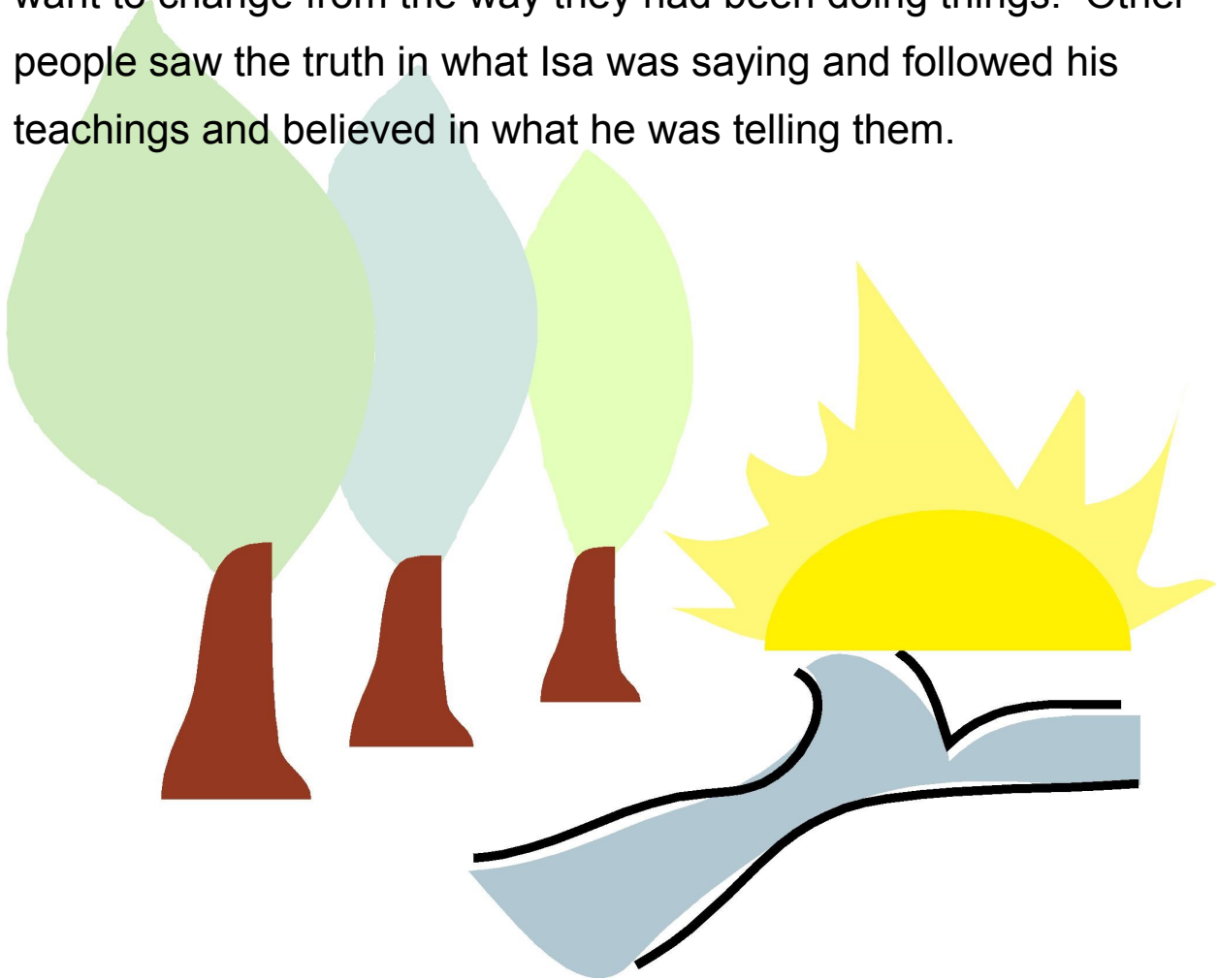
32

Isa عليه السلام

When Isa became a young man he lived in Palestine. He told people about Allah ﷻ. The people in Palestine knew about Allah ﷻ from the teachings of previous prophets like Ibrahim, Musa, Dawood and Sulayman. But a lot of these teachings were forgotten or changed by people who did not truly believe in Allah ﷻ, so people were confused and did many things which were wrong and upsetting to Allah



Some people did not like what Isa was saying. They did not want to change from the way they had been doing things. Other people saw the truth in what Isa was saying and followed his teachings and believed in what he was telling them.



Allah ﷻ, in his mercy, wanted to help people to see the truth so he gave Isa the power of miracles. Miracles are things that regular people cannot do. The miracle of prophet Musa was to make his stick change into a mighty snake. The miracle of prophet Ibrahim was to go into the fire and not burn. Prophet Isa's miracle when he was a baby was to be able to talk ,even though he was a baby. Later, when Isa became a man, Allah ﷻ gave the power to cure sick people just by touching them. Prophet Isa made a blind person see and even made dead people come back to life.

People knew that no ordinary person could do these miracles, so they believed that he was a prophet and listened to his teachings.

Many people believed in Isa, but not everyone. The king at that time and many of the powerful people were afraid that Isa ﷺ would have so many followers and people will forget about him. The king and those who followed him were evil and all they

Allah asked prophet Isa, the son of Maryem, "Did you tell people to worship you and your mother as gods instead of Allah?" Isa replied, "Glory to you! How could I say what is not right? And if I had said so, you would have certainly known that, because you are all knowing and I am not. You are certainly the one who knows what is not seen."

وَإِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ أَأَنْتَ قُلْتَ لِلنَّاسِ اتَّخِذُونِي وَأُمِّي إِهْتِنِ
مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ قَالَ سُبْحَانَكَ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أَقُولَ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِحَقِّ إِنْ
كُنْتُ قُلْتُهُ فَقَدْ عَلِمْتَهُ تَعْلَمَ مَا فِي نَفْسِي وَلَا أَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِكَ إِنَّكَ
أَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ

cared about was to be powerful. So one day they decided to kill Isa عليه السلام by nailing him onto a wooden cross and torture him until he died.

Allah سبحانه in his mercy did not allow the evil

people to kill prophet Isa, so he took his body up to heaven and saved him. The evil people did not know this and they took another man, who looked like Isa and put him on the cross,

thinking that they were killing Isa.

Many Christians think that prophet Isa was killed on the cross. Allah ﷻ says in the Quran that prophet Isa عليه السلام was not killed and he was taken to heaven without being harmed.

Remember

- Allah ﷻ sent prophet Isa عليه السلام to the people in Palestine to teach them about Allah and how to behave.
- Prophet Isa had the miracle of making sick people well and bring dead people back to life.
- Prophet Isa told people to worship Allah.
- Christians believe that prophet Isa was killed on the cross, but Allah ﷻ tells us in the Quran that he was taken up to heaven without being killed.

