

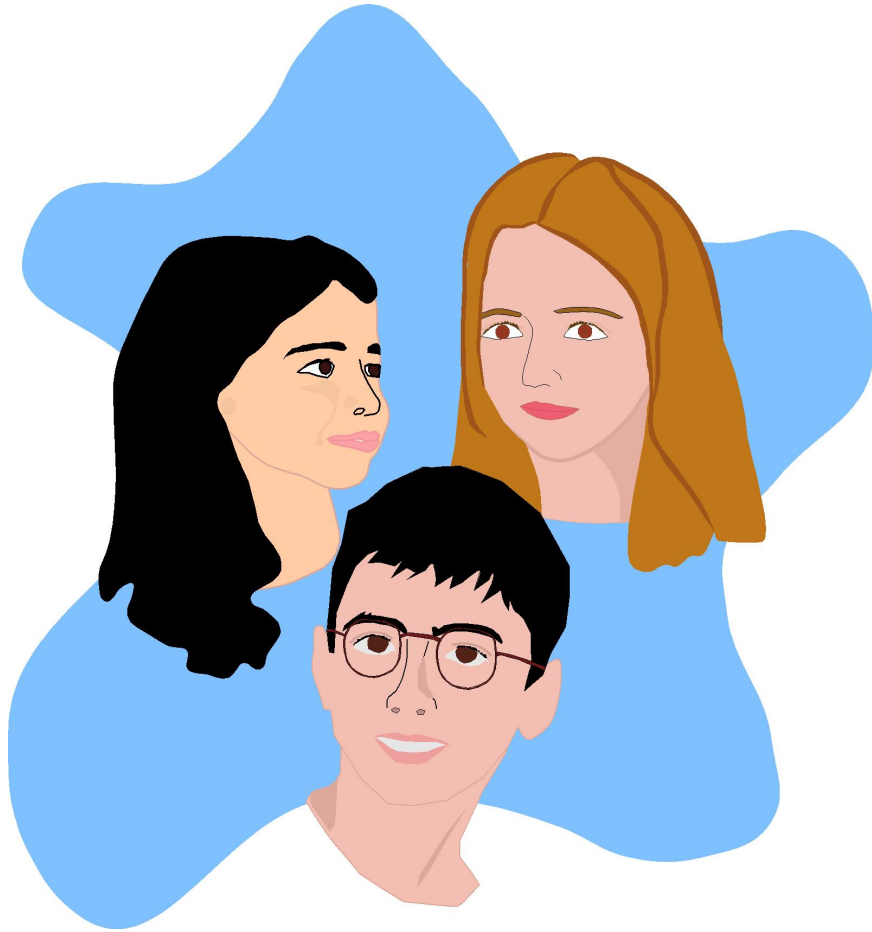
Exploring Islam



Ra-id Abdulla, MD

Course Three

**Fifth Edition
2014**



Exploring Islam

Islamic Studies for Children

Course Three

Ra-id Abdulla, MD

Professor of Pediatrics, Rush University

Editor-in-Chief, Pediatric Cardiology

Assistant Editors

Muhammed Abdulla

Zaineb Abdulla

Maryem Abdulla

Fifth Edition

2014



Consultants:

Ingrid Mattson, Ph.D., Professor of Islamic Studies, Hartford Seminary

Safaa Zarzour, M.Ed., Bridgeview, Illinois

Gerard Bilal

Zafar Ahmed, M.D.

Hiba Ghalib, JD

Fifth edition 2013

Copyright © 2005 by Ra-id Abdulla, MD

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the author.

Printed in the United States of America.

Ra-id Abdulla, M.D.

e-mail: rabdulla@rush.edu

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 السلام على أشرف المرسلين.

Ra-id Abdulla, MD

Dedication

To

My son Muhammed

رحمةُ الله عليه

May Allah forgive his sins, magnify his good deeds and enter him into the everlasting Paradise for the efforts he put in this book. His loving and happy nature was a fresh breeze Allah ﷻ graced us with for 22 years before he returned to his Lord.

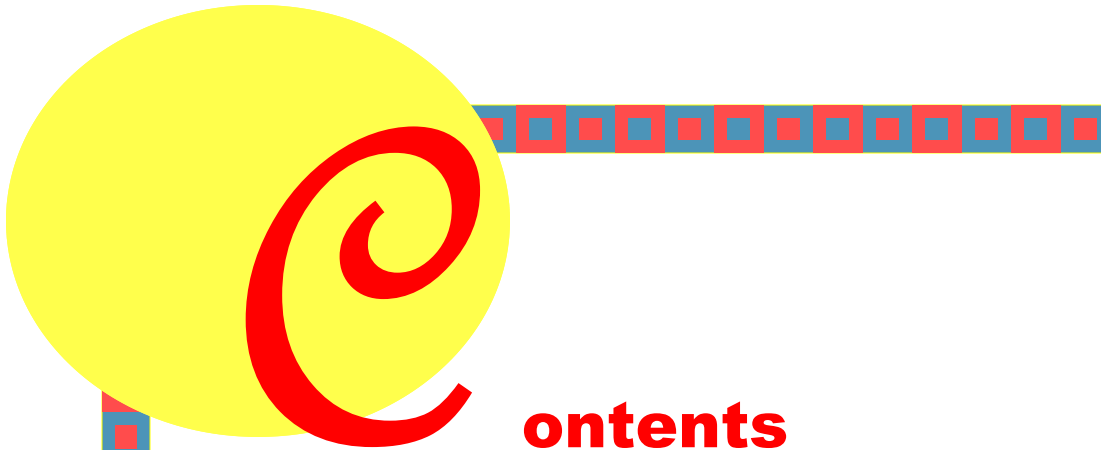
&

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 to me and my siblings 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 in this life and the Hereafter.

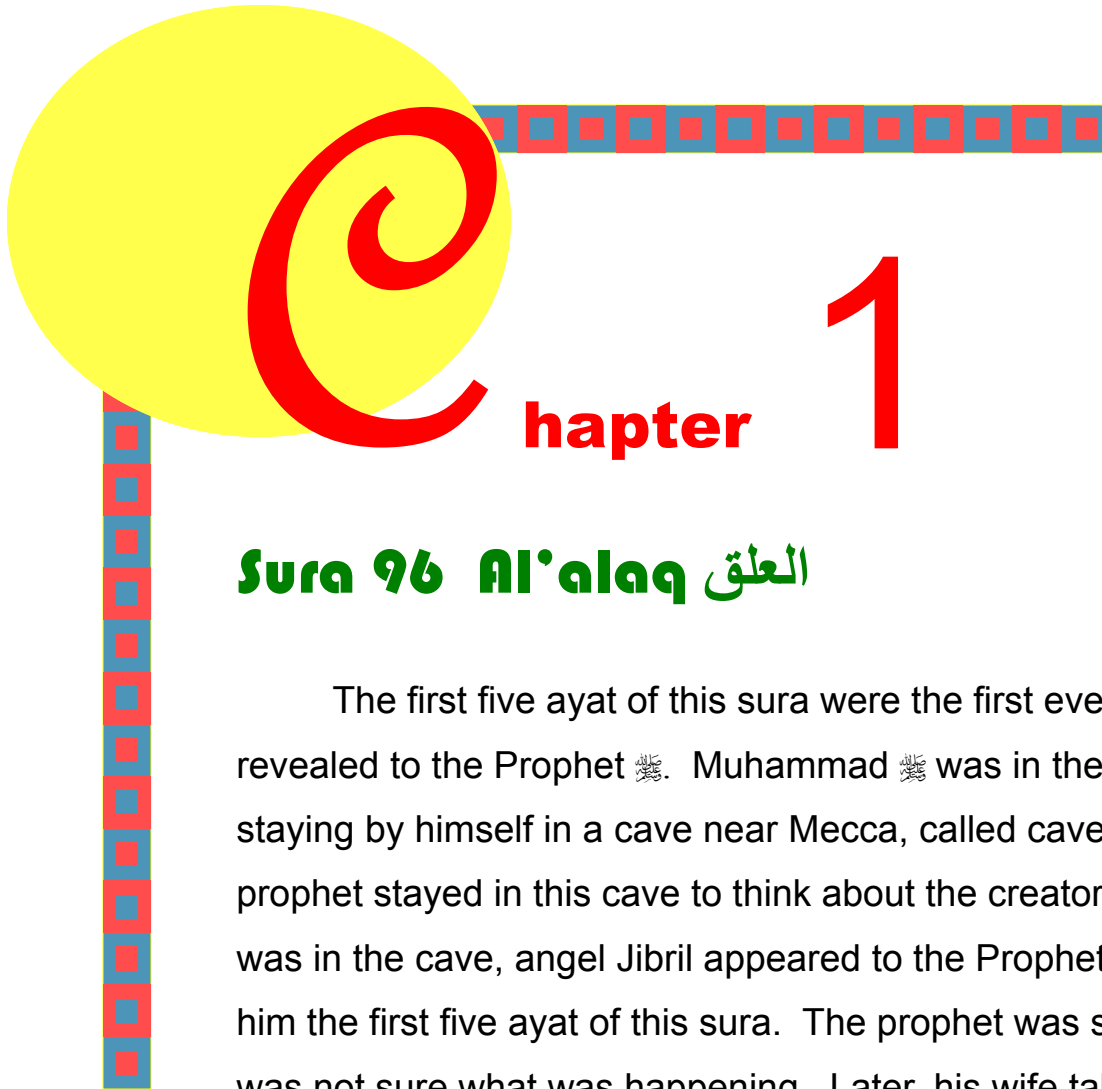


ontents

Page	Chapter	Title
13	1	Quran: Sura Al'alaq العلق
21	2	Mecca and the Arab Peninsula
27	3	Drops of Rain
35	4	Wudu and Salat
43	5	Samy is Upset
49	6	Quran: Sura Alteen التين
55	7	Year of The Elephant
61	8	Seeing is Believing
65	9	Hussien's Jihad
73	10	Too Much of a Good Thing
79	11	Quran: Sura Alsharh الشرح
87	12	Birth of Messenger Muhammad
93	13	Eat What You Like
99	14	Late



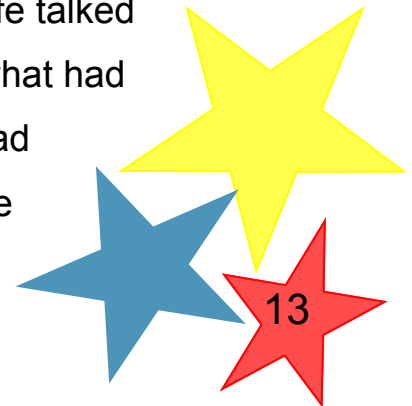
Page	Chapter	Title
105	15	Kindness to Parents
111	16	Quran: Sura Aldhuha الضحى
119	17	Muhammad: A Young Child
125	18	Hazim Quits School
131	19	Extra Salat, Extra Good
137	20	Squirrels Stay Quiet
145	21	Quran: Sura Allayl الليل
155	22	Muhammad, a Young Man
161	23	Obedience to Allah and the Teachings of Prophet Muhammad
169	24	Sarah and Chewing Gum
175	25	Relatives
179	26	Quran: Sura Alshams الشمس
185	27	Prophet Muhammad Marries Khadija
191	28	Cooperation, Justice & Sacrifice
201	29	Worship In Islam
207	30	Being Fair
215	31	Quran: Sura Albalad البلد
225	32	Muhammad spreads Islam in Mecca
231	33	Difficult Times for Muslims

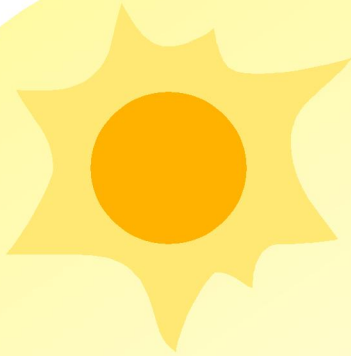


Chapter 1

Sura 96 Al'alaq العلق

The first five ayat of this sura were the first ever to be revealed to the Prophet ﷺ. Muhammad ﷺ was in the habit of staying by himself in a cave near Mecca, called cave Hira'. The prophet stayed in this cave to think about the creator. While he was in the cave, angel Jibril appeared to the Prophet and recited to him the first five ayat of this sura. The prophet was scared. He was not sure what was happening. Later, his wife talked to Waraqa bin Naufal, a relative of hers, about what had happened. Waraqa, who was a Christian and had studied the Bible told Khadija that these were the





signs of becoming a prophet.

The other ayat (6-19) were revealed later, while the prophet was in Mecca, before migrating to Medina. The non-believers, like Abu Jahl used to make fun of Muslims when they prayed and even tried to stop them from performing their salat. This sura warns such people from doing this.

Words

Ayat: plural, singular: aya, means verse or sentence.

Clot: small and soft.

Creator: Allah, the one who created everything.

Dragged: pulled.

Did you know?

The Quran was revealed over a period of 23 years. The first verses revealed are from surat Alaalaaq and the last verses revealed was verse 281 of surat Albaqara: Fear the day when you shall be returned to Allah, then each soul shall be paid what it has earned, and they shall not be wronged.



Remember

- *The first 5 ayat of surat Al alaq were the first ayat revealed to the Prophet.*
- *Angel Jibril revealed the Quran to Prophet Muhammad.*
- *The first time angel Jibril visited the Prophet was while he was worshiping in cave Hira'.*
- *The non-believers hurt the Muslims and prevented them from praying.*
- *Allah warns those who hurt believers of punishment in the Hellfire*

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. Read in the name of your Lord who created you.

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

2. Who created man out of a clot.

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ

3. Read in the name of your Lord who is most generous.

اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ

4. Who taught the use of pen.

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ

5. Allah taught people what they did not know before.

عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

6. But people behave badly

كَلَّا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَيْطَغَى

7. People think that they do not need help from Allah.

أَنْ رَّآهُ اسْتَغْنَى

8. But we will all go back to our Lord.

إِنَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ الرُّجْعَىٰ

9. Did you see those who stop,

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يَنْهَىٰ

10. a God fearing person who tries to pray?

عَبْدًا إِذَا صَلَّىٰ

11. Have you considered if he was on the right path.

أَرَأَيْتَ إِنْ كَانَ عَلَىٰ الْهُدَىٰ

12. Or instructs people to do the right things and fear Allah.

أَوْ أَمَرَ بِالتَّقْوَىٰ

13. Did you (O'Prophet) consider he (meaning Abu Jahl) who denies the truth and turns away.

أَرَأَيْتَ إِنْ كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ

14. Does he not know that Allah can see everything

أَمْ لَمْ يَعْلَمْ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَرَىٰ

15. Let such a person know that if he does not stop, then they will be dragged by their hair.

كَلَّا لَئِنْ لَمْ يَنْتَهِ لَنَسْفَعًا بِالنَّاصِيَةِ

16. Such a person is lying and wrong.

نَاصِيَةٍ كَاذِبَةٍ خَاطِئَةٍ

17. So let such a person call his friends who supported him in life.

فَلْيَدْعُ نَادِيَهُ

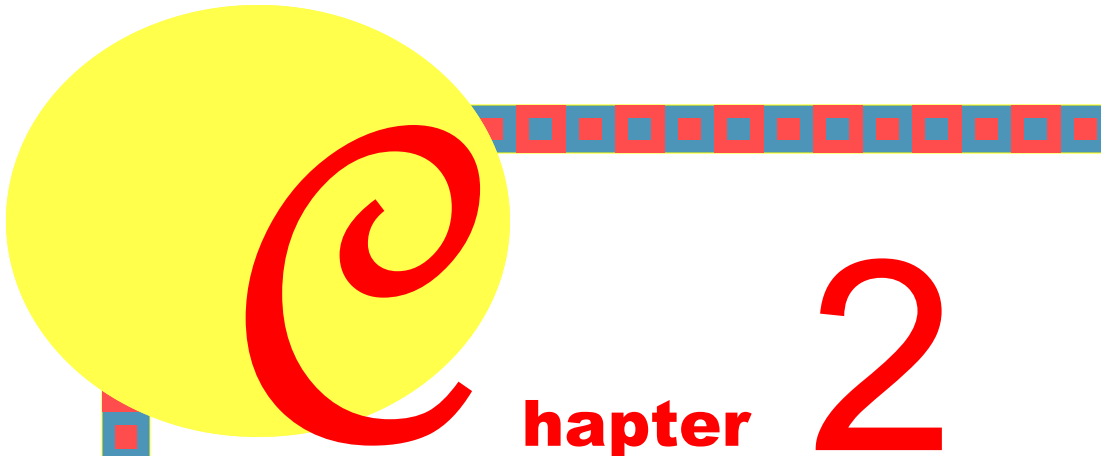
18. We (Allah) will call on the angels of punishment.

سَنَدْعُ الزَّبَانِيَةَ

19. Do not obey such a person, but instead bow down, obey Allah and be closer to Him.

كَلَّا لَا تُطِيعُهُ وَاسْجُدْ وَاقْتَرِبْ



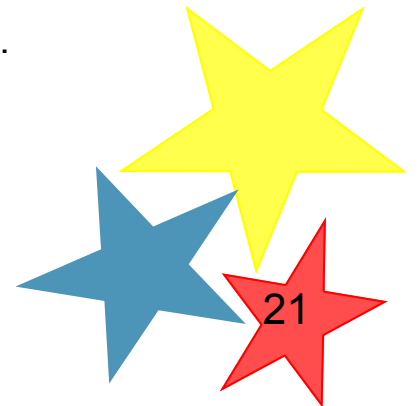


Chapter 2

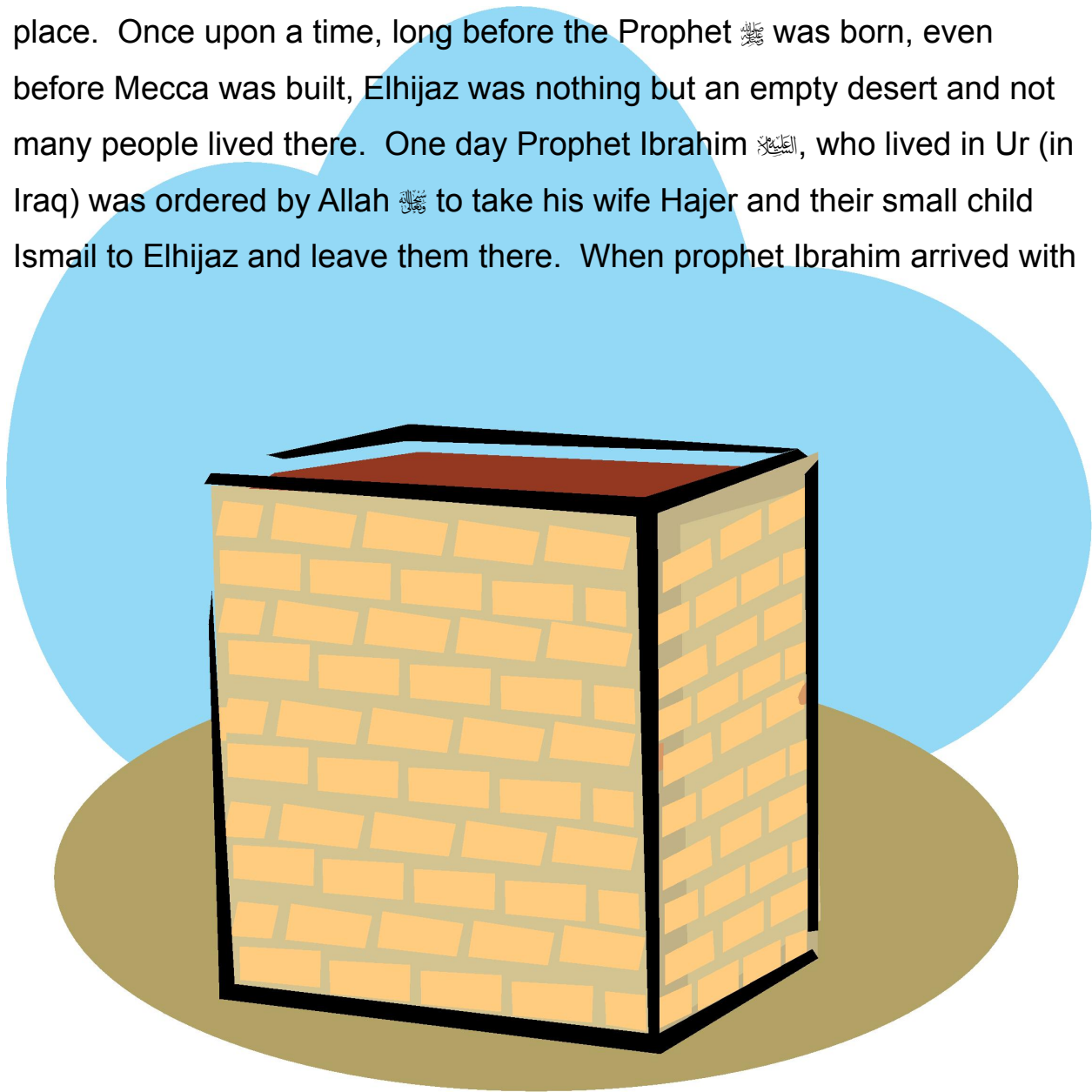
Mecca and the Arab Peninsula

Islam was revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in the Arabian Peninsula more than 1,400 years ago. The Arabian Peninsula is located in the southwest portion of Asia. It is in the Middle East, and currently includes many Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Yemen, The United Arab Emirates, and many others. The western part of the peninsula is known as Elhijaz. Many tribes lived in this region at the time the Prophet ﷺ was born. Mecca was the largest, and most important city in the region. Muhammad was born in Mecca.

Elhijaz was not always an important



place. Once upon a time, long before the Prophet ﷺ was born, even before Mecca was built, Elhijaz was nothing but an empty desert and not many people lived there. One day Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام, who lived in Ur (in Iraq) was ordered by Allah ﷻ to take his wife Hajar and their small child Ismail to Elhijaz and leave them there. When prophet Ibrahim arrived with

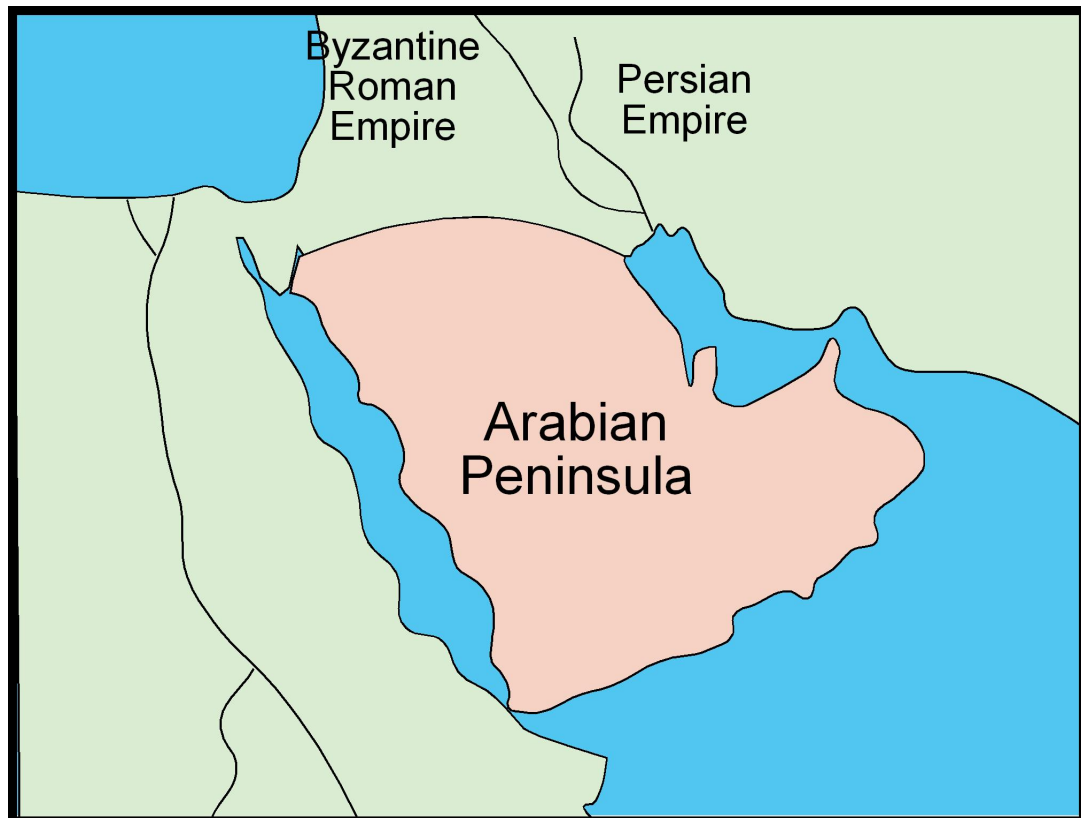


his family to an empty valley, known as Mecca, he left his wife and son and returned to Ur. He knew that his family would be all right, because he was obeying Allah, who would protect his wife and only child.

After Ibrahim left them, Hajar put Ismail on the sand, and ran back and forth to look for water for her infant and herself. Ismail banged on the sand with his tiny hands until, with Allah's will, water came out of the ground. Hajar and Ismail drank from the water spring and were safe. This water spring was called Zam-Zam. People from far away places heard of this water spring and moved to live around it. Many years later, a city was built there and called Mecca.

Prophet Ibrahim visited his family in Mecca frequently, and during one of his visits he was ordered by Allah ﷻ to build a house for people to worship Allah. Ibrahim, with the help of his son Ismail, built the Ka'ba and called people to come and visit the house of Allah, to worship their creator. People continued to visit the Ka'ba, thus starting the custom of Hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca. Worshiping Allah, and going to Mecca for Hajj was known as the religion of Ibrahim, which people in Elhijaz practiced for a long time.

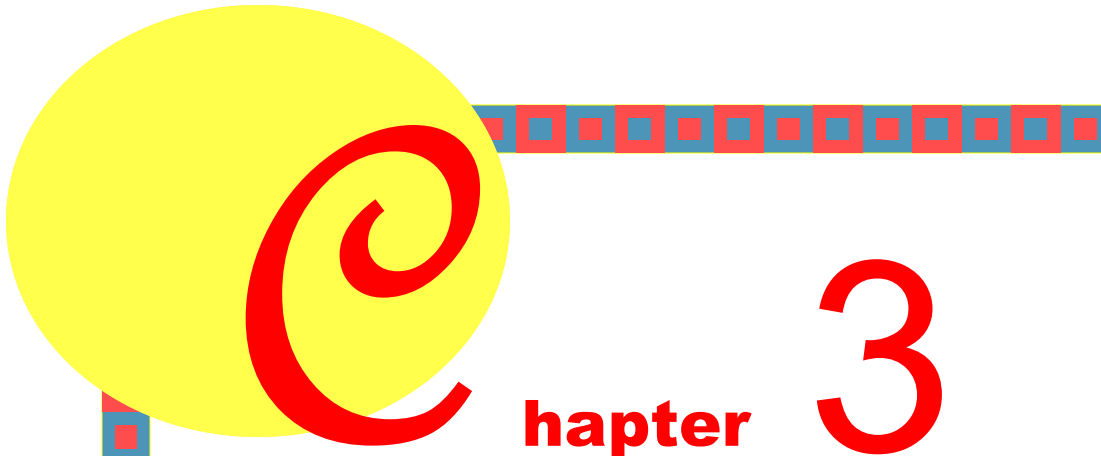
One day, someone from Mecca while visiting another city saw that people there worshiped a statue, which they thought was a god. Although that was a very wrong custom, this person liked the idea. He got himself a statue and brought it back to Mecca and put it in the Kaaba and worshiped it. Many ignorant people imitated him. As time passed, more and more



people worshiped statues, and forgot the religion of Ibrahim عليه السلام. After many, many years the Ka'ba had a lot of statues (also called idols, or asnam) inside it and all around it. These idols even had names, like Hubel, Allaat, Eluzza and so on. Other people worshiped the sun and fire instead of these idols. Very few followed the religion of Allah.

Remember

- Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام took his wife and son to the desert and left them there.
- Ibrahim obeyed Allah تعالى and trusted that Allah will take care of his family, even though they were alone in the desert.
- Ibrahim عليه السلام and his son Ismail عليه السلام built the Ka'ba for people to worship Allah.
- A long time after prophet Ibrahim and Ismail died, people forgot about the religion of Allah and started to worship idols.
- Idols are statues made from wood and stone and people pretended that they are gods.



Chapter 3

Drops of Rain

Once upon a time, two drops of water from the ocean were talking to one another.

“It’s fun to travel in the ocean,” said one drop of water to the other. “One gets to see so many exciting things.”

“I don’t know about that,” said the other drop. “I am getting bored from being in the sea all the time.”

“Bored?!” exclaimed the first drop. “Are you out of your mind?! We get to do so many cool things.”

“I know,” said the second drop with a sigh.

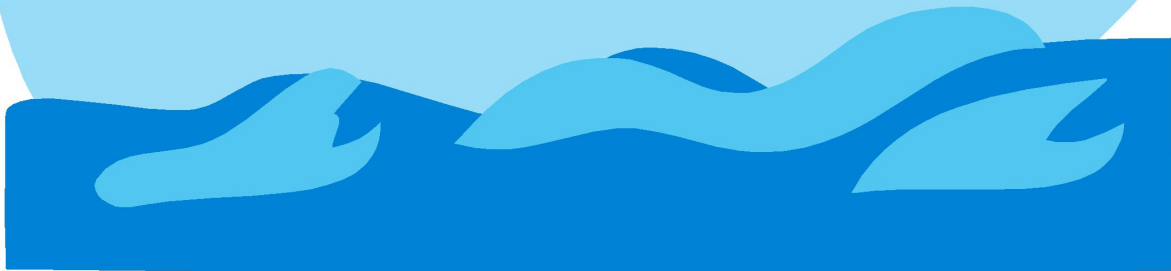




“But, I would like to do something else.”

“We can do so many things,” said the first drop. “Just name it!”

“Can we get out of the ocean?” asked the second drop. “I am tired of all this salt around me.”



“Of course we can!” said the first drop. “Allah made us so that we can be everywhere! Just hold on tight to my hand and follow me.”

The second drop held on to the first drop as they jumped out of the water. The wind carried them up, up, and up to join a cloud high in the sky.

“Wow! What a view!” exclaimed the second drop.

“Exciting, isn’t it?” asked the first drop.

“It sure is, I can see everything from up here.”

“And that’s not all,” said the first drop. “Soon we will fall as rain over there, and we’ll get to do more fun stuff!”

Sure enough, in a few minutes the clouds moved over land, and it rained. The two drops of water fell down with much more water on the land below. The two drops of water fell next to an apple tree. They went deep down into the soil, until they reached its roots.

“It’s kind of dark here,” said the second drop.

“Just wait, it’s about to be more fun,” reassured the first drop.

Quran

الأنبياء, aya 30

Can't the disbelievers see how heavens and earth were together before we separated them? We have created everything alive from water. Will they not then believe?

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا
وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ

The two drops then entered into the tree roots, and went up into the trunk, the branches, and then into an apple.

“Hey! That’s neat,” said the second drop, “We’re part of an apple now!”

“Didn’t I tell you it was going to be a lot of fun?” said the first drop. “But wait, it’s not over

yet.”

The two drops had a lot of fun being in the apple, and they met a lot of new water drops within the apple. A few days later, the apple was ripe. A small boy came to the tree; he climbed it and picked that same apple where the two drops of water were.

“What will happen now?” asked the first drop.

“You’ll see,” said the second drop.

The boy bit into the apple and ate it. The water drops went inside the boy’s tummy, and then got into his body.

“Wow!” exclaimed the first drop. “Now we get to go through this little boy’s body. It’s fun being a drop of water.”

“It sure is!” agreed the second drop. “Allah created everything alive from water, so we get to go everywhere!”

Remember

- *Allah ﷻ created us and everything around us.*
- *Allah made people with different skin colors, languages and looks. Allah made us different so we can see the glory of Allah and believe in him.*
- *Allah ﷻ created everything alive from water. There is water in our bodies, in bodies of animals and in all plants.*
- *When we look around us we see so many great things, all gifts from Allah to make our lives easy.*
- *Allah’s creations make us believe in him, because only the most powerful God can create all what we see on earth, in the skies and everything in between.*

Did you know?

The worldwide Muslim population to be 1.62 billion. There are more Muslims living in the United Kingdom than Lebanon and more in China than Syria.

Allah Created Everything

In this world we see many different living beings, all created by Allah ﷻ. Allah created human beings in the best possible way. He gave us brains to think with, hands and arms to make things with, and many other things all around us to benefit from. We get wood from trees and use it in building houses. We also get metal from inside the earth, and build cars and airplanes with it.

Allah ﷻ created animals to eat, and use their wool and skin for clothing. Allah made the water that we drink. The water in the oceans evaporates, making clouds that rain.

Allah ﷻ made the water that we drink. The water in the oceans evaporates, making clouds that rain. The water from the rain gathers in

Quran

Alrum, الروم aya 22

Among his signs is the creation of heaven and earth, and the variation of your languages and the color of your skin. For sure in that are signs for those who know

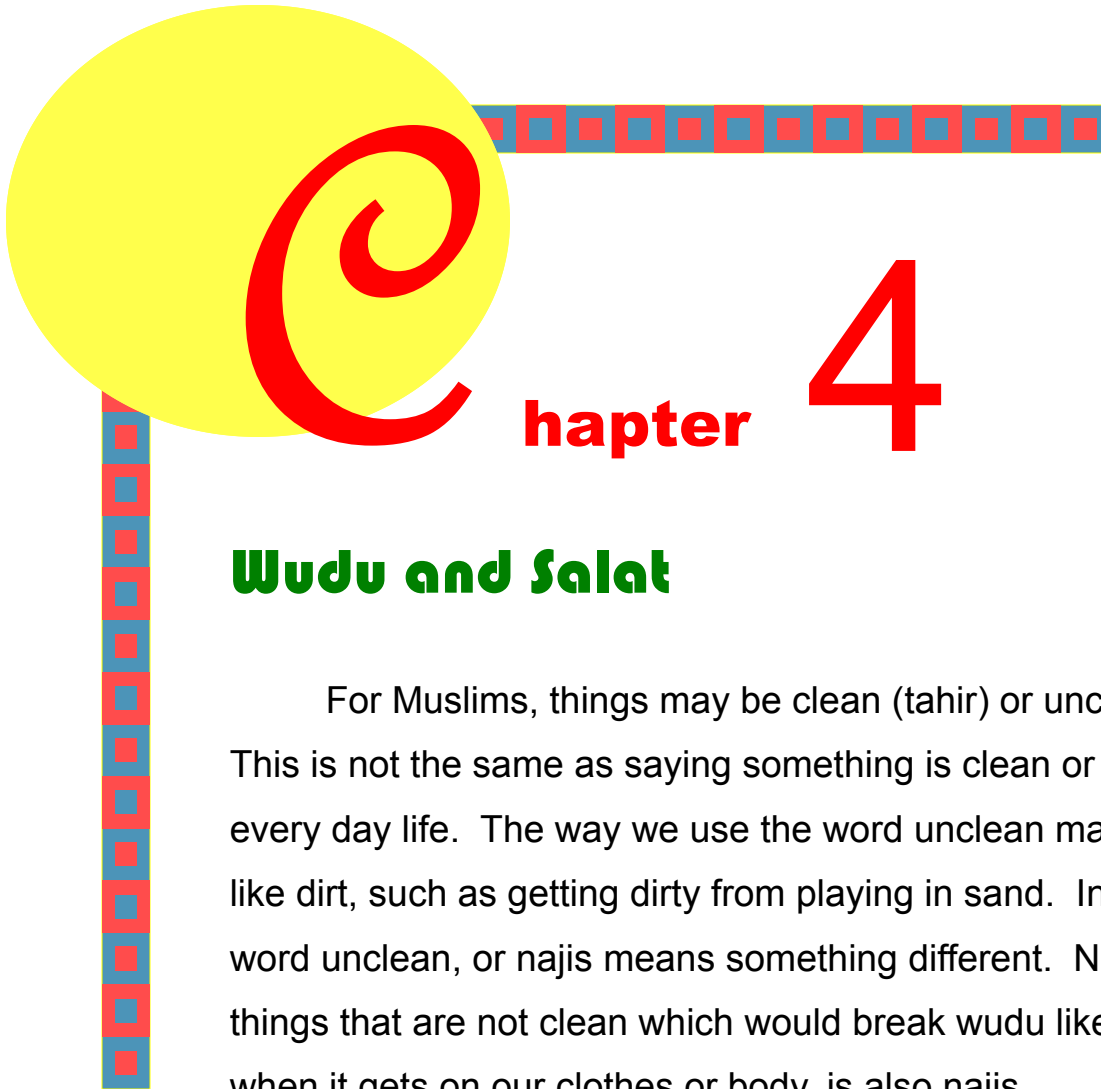
وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ
وَأَلْوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

lakes and rivers, from which we can drink and water our plants. Allah says in the Quran that he created everything living from water. Plants, animals, and human beings all have lots of water in them. Also, Allah created the first living cells in water.

Allah ﷻ has made so many different fruits and vegetables for us. It is amazing that Allah can do this from the same soil and water.

Allah not only created us, but also takes us back. We are born in this world, grow bigger, get older and die to return back to him.

All these are signs of Allah; we cannot see him with our own eyes, but we know that he does exist because we can see all the wonderful things he created around us. Without Allah ﷻ we would not exist!

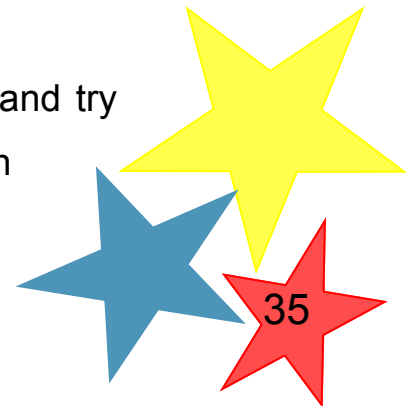


Chapter 4

Wudu and Salat

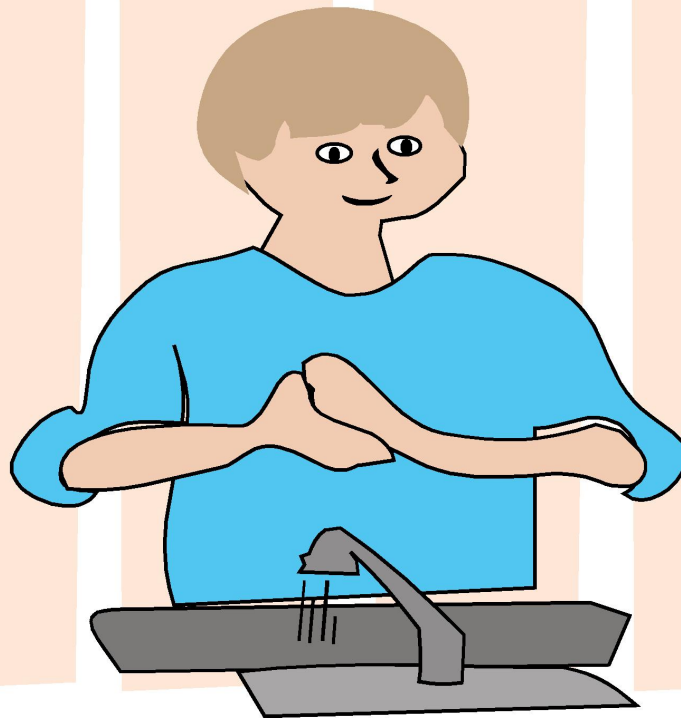
For Muslims, things may be clean (tahir) or unclean (najis). This is not the same as saying something is clean or dirty in our every day life. The way we use the word unclean may mean things like dirt, such as getting dirty from playing in sand. In Islam the word unclean, or najis means something different. Najis means things that are not clean which would break wudu like urine. Blood, when it gets on our clothes or body, is also najis.

A Muslim should try to stay tahir (clean), and try to avoid getting najis (unclean). Water, which Allah ﷻ gives us, is used to make ourselves



tahir. Pure water has no najis in it. It may be from the sea, lake, well, or river. The water that comes to our homes through faucets is pure water.

Muslims should use water to cleanse themselves before performing salat or reading the Quran. This is called wudu.



Wudu should be done as follows:

Have the intention to do wudu. Intention is done by thinking that the washing we are doing is wudu. There is no need to say anything out loud.

Say “In Allah’s name, the most gracious, the most merciful”

Rinse your hands three times



Rinse your mouth three times



Inhale from a palm full of water



Rinse your face three times

Rinse your arms up to your elbows three times



Wipe the top of your head with your right hand



Wipe behind your right then left ear



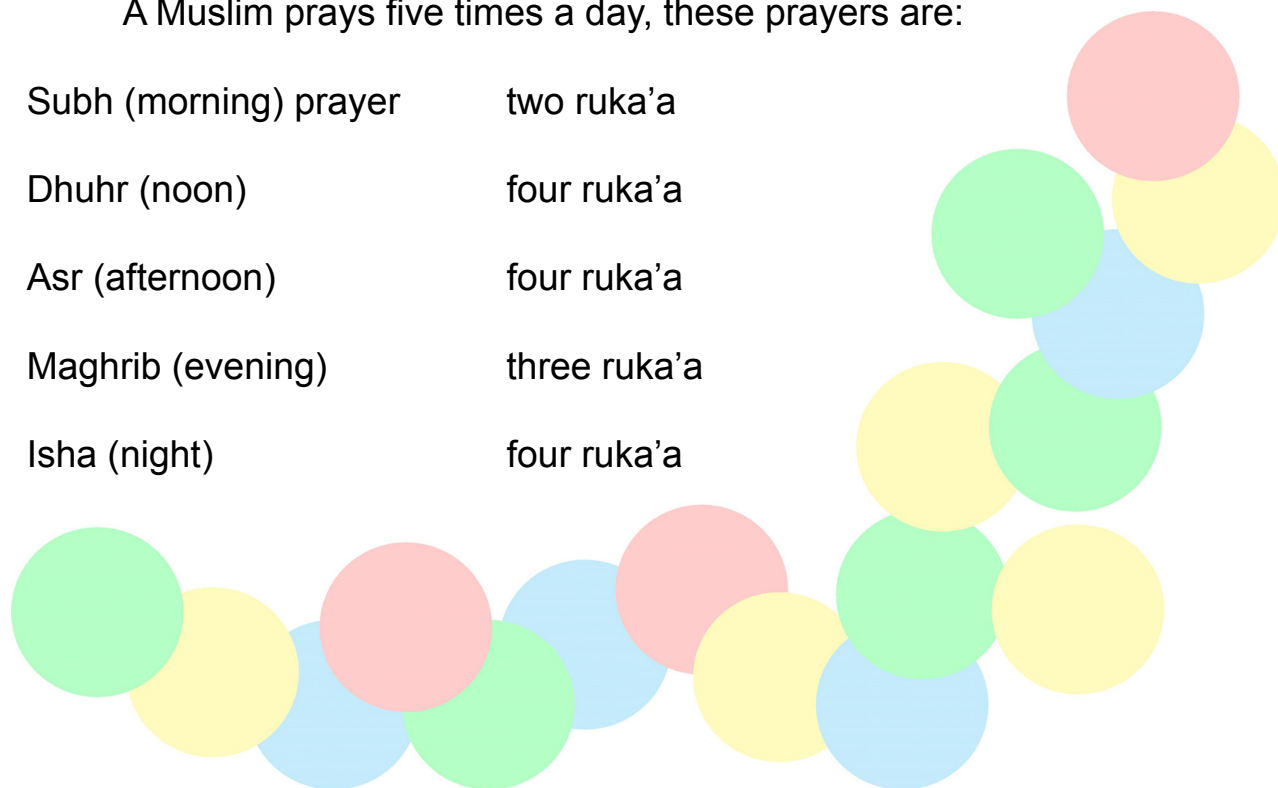
Rinse your feet up to your ankles three times



After doing wudu, a Muslim can then start salat or open the Quran and read from it.

A Muslim prays five times a day, these prayers are:

Subh (morning) prayer	two ruka'a
Dhuhr (noon)	four ruka'a
Asr (afternoon)	four ruka'a
Maghrib (evening)	three ruka'a
Isha (night)	four ruka'a



Iqama is read just before starting salat:

الله اكبر

God is the greatest

الله اكبر

God is the greatest

اشهد ان لا اله الا الله

I declare that Allah is the only God

اشهد ان محمداً رسول الله

I declare that Muhammad is his messenger

حي على الصلاة

Hurry for prayer

حي على الفلاح

Hurry for good work

قد أقامت الصلاة

The prayer is beginning

قد أقامت الصلاة

The prayer is beginning

الله اكبر

God is the greatest

الله اكبر

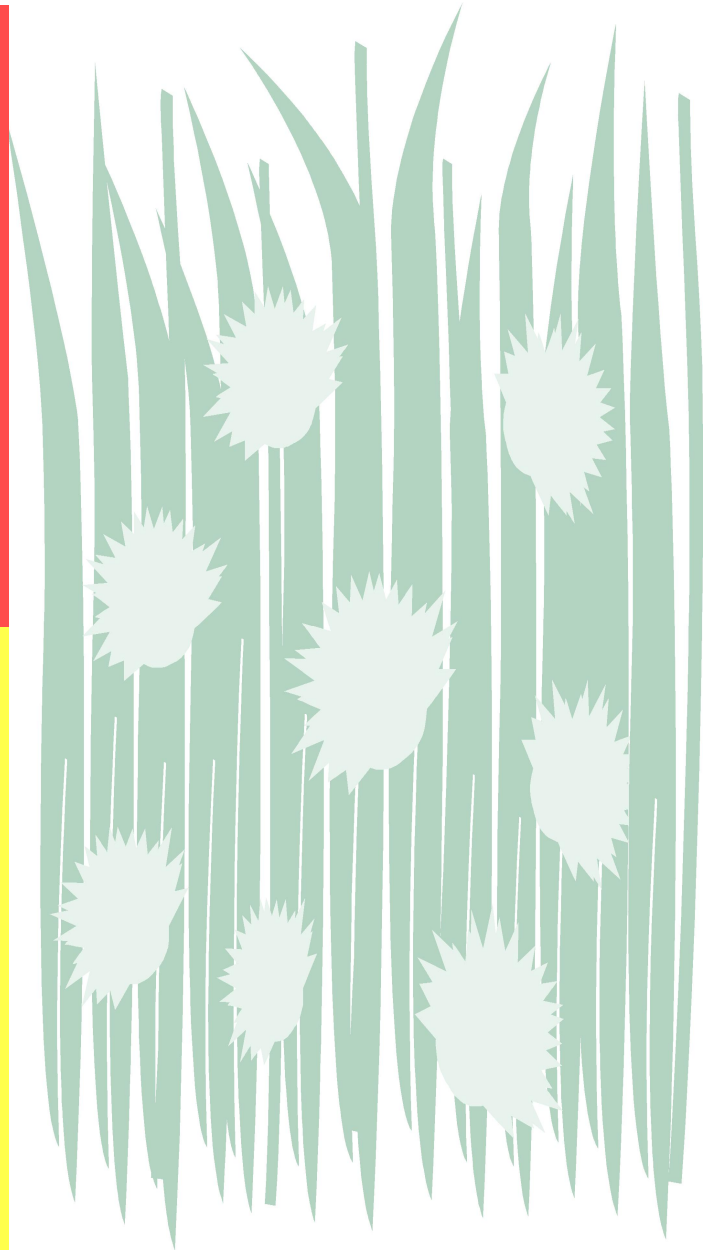
God is the greatest

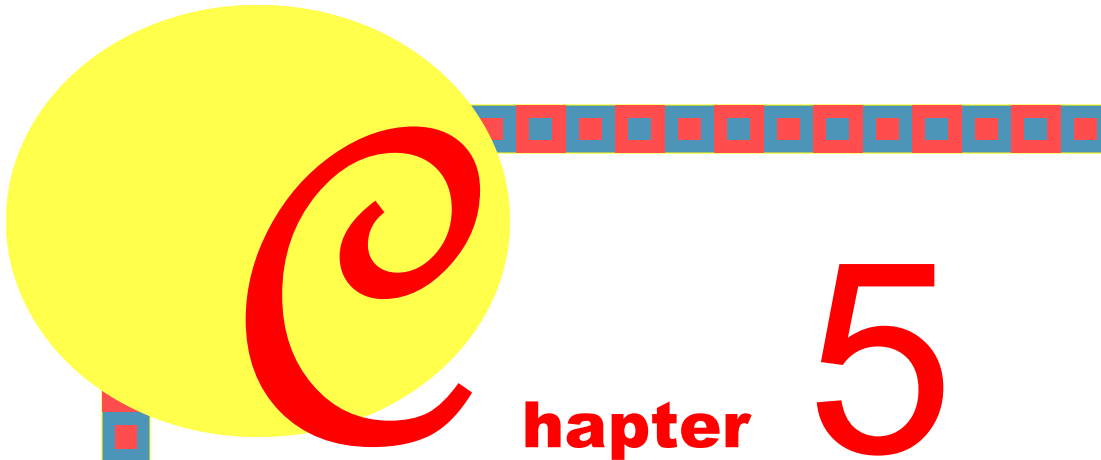
لا إله إلا الله

Allah is the only god

Remember

- *Muslims clean themselves with water to become tahir.*
- *Najis (unclean) things break our wudu. Najis are things like body waste (urine and other body waste), blood, haram meat like pork,*
- *Water cleans the body from any najis.*
- *Muslims pray five times a day: Subh, Dhuhir, Asr, Maghrib and Isha.*
- *Iqama is the call for prayer before each salat. Iqama is like athan, except for saying "The prayer is beginning" twice.*





Chapter 5

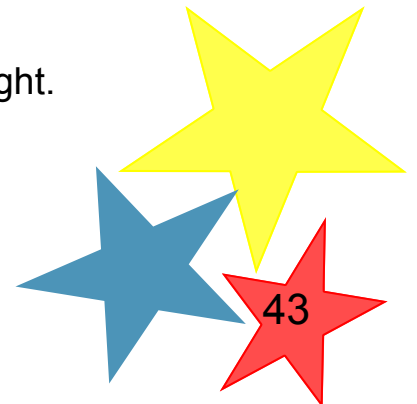
Samy is Upset

Samy opened his bedroom door and slammed it behind him.

“It’s not fair!” he shouted, as he sat on the edge of his bed, with his arms crossed over his chest, and with a serious pout on his face.

Samy was just yelled at by his parents for staying outside late on a school night.

“I never get any fun in this house,” he thought.
“So what if I was an hour late, there’s plenty of time to do this stupid homework!”



Samy got up and walked to his desk to get started with his homework. He was still very upset. “I know what I’m going to do!” he said to himself. “I’ll run away, that would teach them a lesson.”



Samy gathered some clothes, his flashlight and pocketknife, got the books out of his backpack, and put his stuff in it. He swung the backpack over his shoulder and was about to escape through his bedroom window. But just as he opened the window, he thought, “Where would I go? I know! I will stay at the park.”

He thought of how dark and spooky the park would look at night, so he changed his mind. Still standing in front of the window, he continued to think, “How about going over to Hani’s house? Yea, that’s a good idea.”

But soon he changed his mind again. Hani’s mother would definitely

Remember

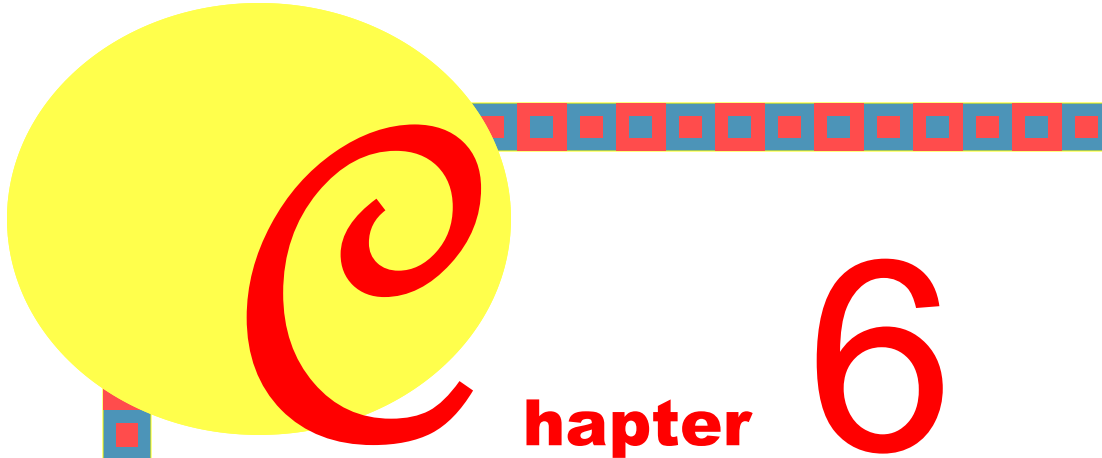
- *Parents love their children and protect them from danger.*
- *A parent may be upset with their child if they do wrong and they help them stop doing wrong.*
- *Prophet Muhammed ﷺ want us to love and be friends with our parents.*
- *Our best friends in the world are our parents.*
- *No one in the world loves you more than your parents.*

parents. His mother and father were kind to him, they gave him all what he needed, and more. They protected him and kept him safe, and they also helped him whenever he needed help. They were very kind, except for tonight.

“Well,” he thought, “It was my fault staying late anyway, especially after promising to be back on time to do my homework.”

Samy got his stuff out of his backpack, and started with his homework.

“There is nothing like being at home with your own parents,” he said to himself. “Alhamdu lillah for having my Mama and Baba.”

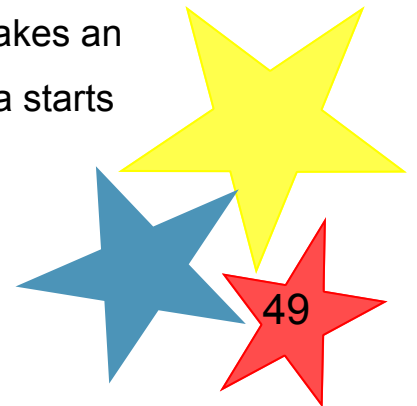


Chapter 6

Sura 95 Alteen التين

When we are young and strong we tend to think that we will last forever, but this is not true. All of us will get old and weak and eventually die. This is one of the reasons why we should believe in Allah ﷻ and follow His guidance to do good while we can, so that we can be rewarded in the Hereafter.

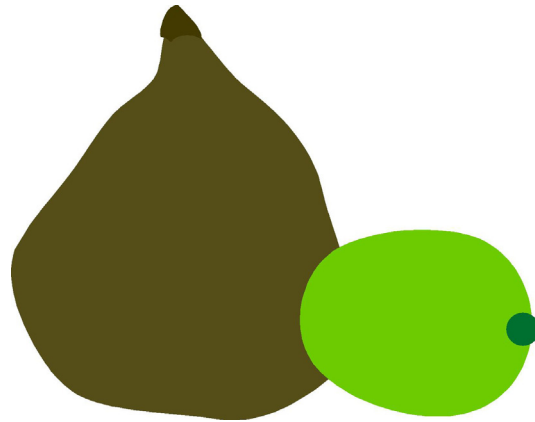
When people take an oath, they do so by using Allah's name, such as saying "wallahi", but when Allah takes an oath he does so by his great creations. This sura starts with Allah making oaths with the fig and the olive plants, two of his creations. Like other plants,



Remember

- *When Muslims make an oath, they say “wallahi” or use one of the names of Allah .*
- *When Allah ﷻ makes an oath he uses the names of one of his creations.*
- *In surat Alteen, Allah ﷻ makes an oath by some of his creations like figs, olives and Mecca.*
- *Those who believe in Allah ﷻ will be rewarded with heaven.*
- *Allah is the best judge because there is no one wiser than him.*

they grow from what appears to be a dead ground. These trees then grow bigger to provide us with food. Allah also swears by the mountain of Sinai and the city of Mecca, two important places in the world. On Mount Sinai Allah ﷻ revealed his message to prophet Musa عليه السلام, and in Mecca Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail عليه السلام built the Kaaba, Allah’s house, and revealed Islam to Prophet Muhammad عليه السلام.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. By the fig and olive

وَالْتِّينِ وَالزَّيْتُونِ

2. By the mountain of Sinai

وَطُورِ سِينِينَ

3. And by Mecca, the peaceful city

وَهَذَا الْبَلَدِ الْأَمِينِ

4. We have created mankind in best of shapes

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ

5. Then We made him in the worst possible shape

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ

6. Except those who believed in Allah and did good things in life. Such people will receive a never ending reward

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
فَلَهُمْ أَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ

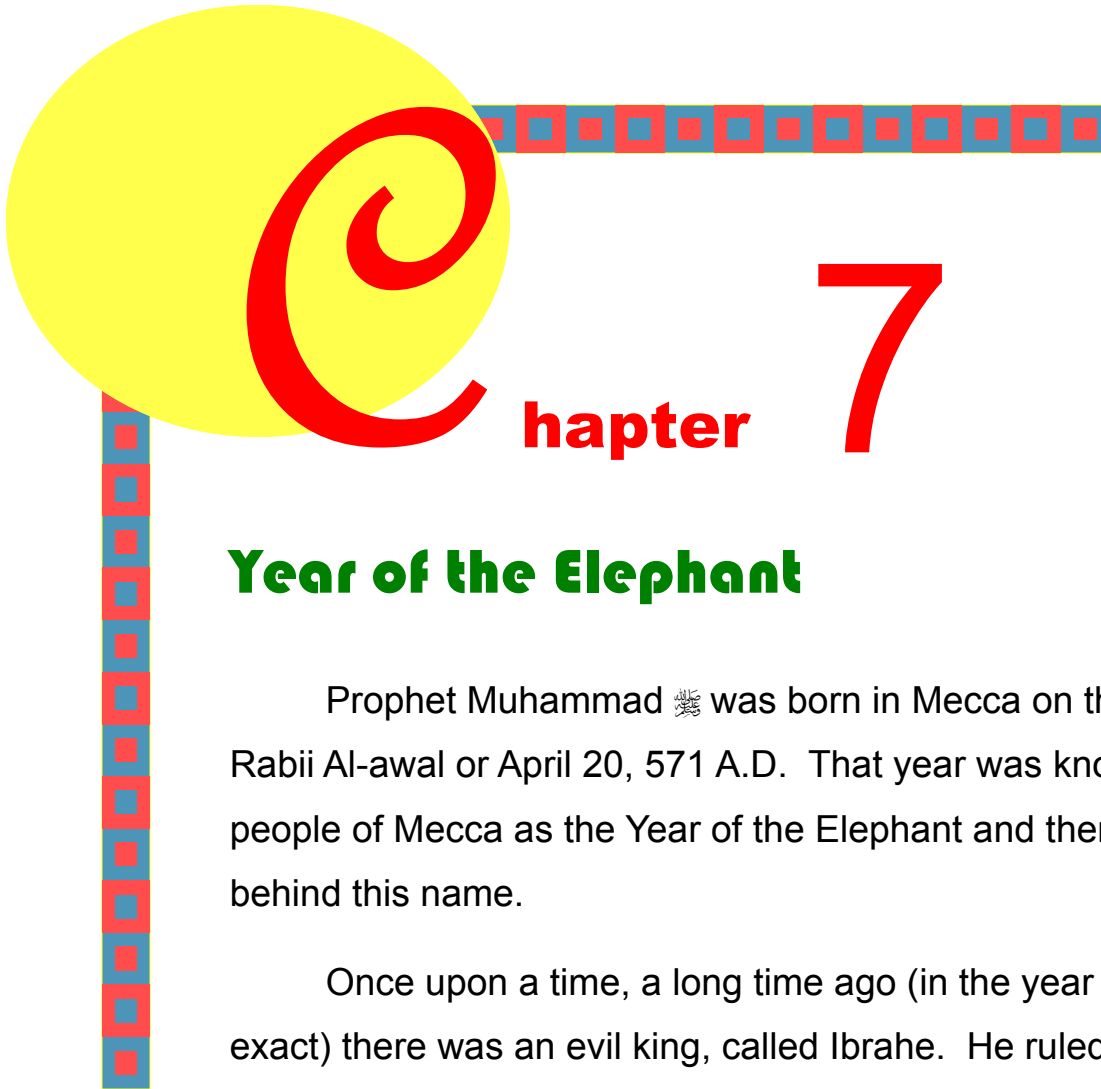
7. So, what makes you after all this not believe in this religion

فَمَا يُكَذِّبُكَ بَعْدُ بِالذِّينِ

8. Is not Allah the wisest of judges

أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَحْكَمِ الْحَاكِمِينَ





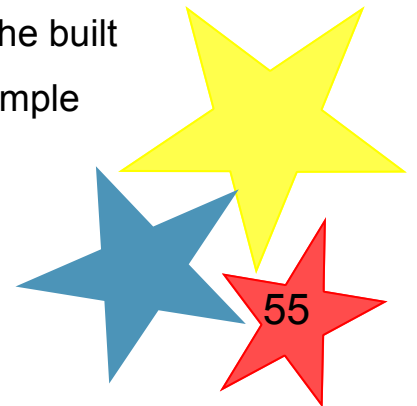
Chapter

7

Year of the Elephant

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born in Mecca on the 12th day of Rabii Al-awal or April 20, 571 A.D. That year was known to the people of Mecca as the Year of the Elephant and there is a story behind this name.

Once upon a time, a long time ago (in the year 571 A.D. to be exact) there was an evil king, called Ibrahe. He ruled in Abyssinia (nowadays called Ethiopia). King Ibrahe built a huge temple, and ordered people to visit the temple and worship in it. He wanted all people in the Arabian Peninsula to forget about Mecca and



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

*1. Have you not seen what your Lord did
with the army of elephants?*

أَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ

2. Didn't He make their evil plans crumple

أَمْ يَجْعَلُ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضْلِيلٍ

3. He sent to them flocks of birds

وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ

4. Throwing onto them stones of clay

تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ مِّن سِجِّيلٍ

*5. Destroying them and making them look
like a field after the crop has been
harvested*

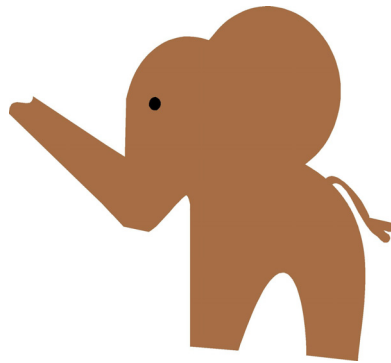
فَجَعَلَهُمْ كَعَصْفٍ مَّأْكُولٍ

the Kaaba and instead make pilgrimage to the temple he built in Yemen.

People did not want to do that. Although many of them disobeyed Allah ﷻ and were worshiping idols, they still knew that Ibrahim and Ismail built the Kaaba, and that it is the true house of Allah ﷻ for worship.

One day, King Ibrahe got really mad, because no one was coming to the temple he built for worship and people were still going to the Kaaba for pilgrimage. Ibrahe decided to send an army to Mecca with big huge elephants to destroy the Kaaba.

The army slowly approached Mecca and as they got close, they took herds of camels that belonged to the people of Mecca. Abdulmutalib, the



grandfather of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was one of Mecca's leaders. He owned some of the camels that the army of King Ibrahe had taken. So, he went to King Ibrahe and asked him to give back the camels he had taken. King Ibrahe was really surprised! "You seem to be more concerned about your camels than about the Kaaba! Haven't you heard? I have come to destroy it," said King Ibrahe.

"I am the lord and protector of the camels. The Kaaba has its Lord to protect it," Abdulmutalib replied.

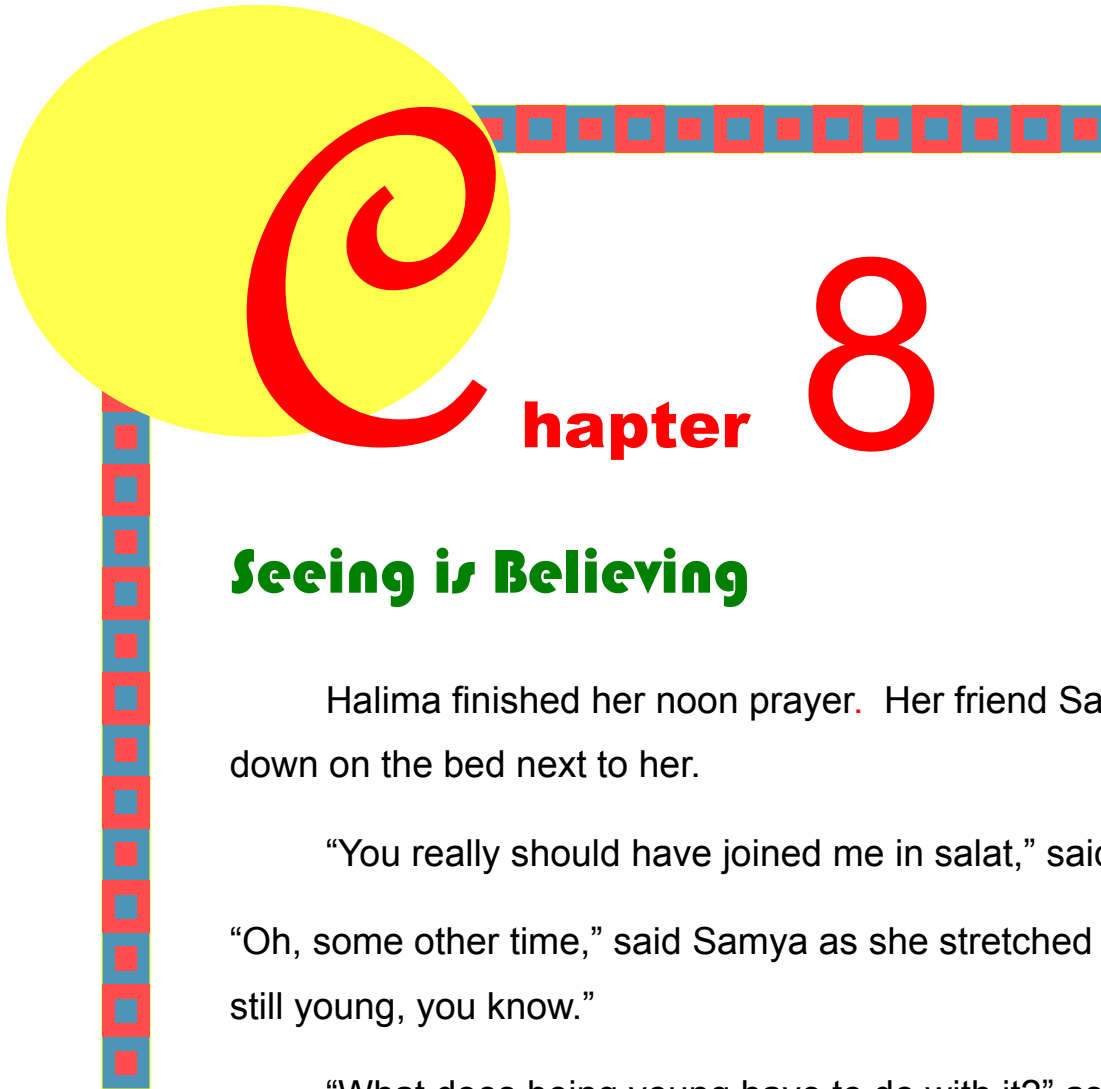
Abdulmutalib believed in Allah ﷻ, and knew that Allah would protect the Kaaba, his house of worship.

King Ibrahe returned the camels to Abdulmutalib and gathered his big huge elephants and marched towards Mecca to destroy the Kaaba. As they approached Mecca, Allah sent birds that threw small little stones made out of clay at the king's army and their elephants to destroy them. Allah protected the Kaaba from destruction, just as Abdulmutalib thought would happen.



Remember

- Prophets Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail عليه السلام built the Ka'ba. It is the house of Allah ﷻ.
- People go to Mecca to worship Allah ﷻ and have been doing this even before the time of Prophet Muhammed ﷺ.
- Ibrahe was the king of Abyssinia. He built a temple and wanted people to worship God there rather than at the Ka'ba.
- Ibrahe sent an army to destroy the Ka'ba.
- Allah ﷻ protected the Ka'ba and destroyed the army sent by Ibrahe.



Chapter 8

Seeing is Believing

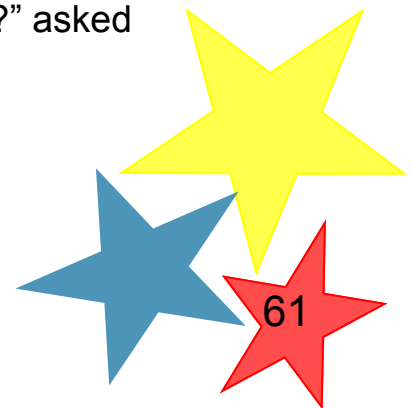
Halima finished her noon prayer. Her friend Samya was lying down on the bed next to her.

“You really should have joined me in salat,” said Halima.

“Oh, some other time,” said Samya as she stretched lazily. “I am still young, you know.”

“What does being young have to do with it?” asked Halima. “Do you or don’t you believe in Allah?”

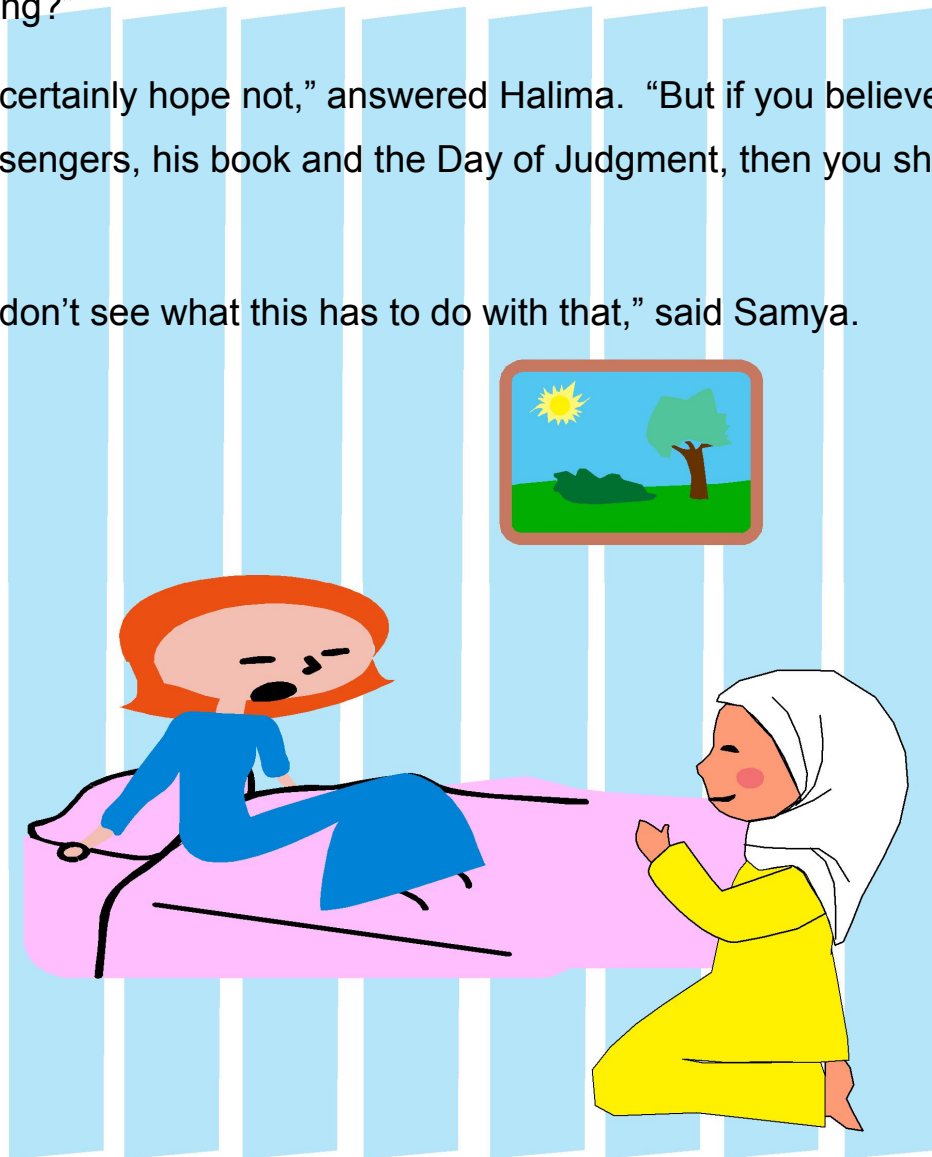
“Of course I do!” answered Samya firmly.
“What do you think I am, a Kafira or



something?”

“I certainly hope not,” answered Halima. “But if you believe in Allah, his messengers, his book and the Day of Judgment, then you should pray.”

“I don’t see what this has to do with that,” said Samya.



“It’s very simple. Muslims should believe in these things as if they see them with their own eyes.”

“Well, I do,” said Samya.

“Would you disobey your teacher if she was standing right in front of you?” asked Halima.

“No!”

“Then if you believe in Allah, knowing that he can see you, how can you not pray when he asked you to?”

“Oh!” was all Samya could say as she got up, made wudu and then

Words

***Kafira:** Arabic means non-believer, the word refers to a female. When referring to male: kafir.*

***Obedient:** follows orders, disobedient: does not follow orders.*

***Principle:** belief.*

did her salat.

Belief

There are five parts of iman. A believer should believe in all these five principles of iman:

Belief in Allah ﷻ: When a person is to become a Muslim, he or she must first believe in Allah, the Creator of everything around us. Belief in Allah is by far the most important principle of Iman.

Belief in the angels: In addition to believing in Allah ﷻ, one has to also believe in the angels of Allah. Allah also created these angels. We cannot see them. Angels completely and absolutely obey Allah and follow his commands without any disobedience.

Belief in the holy books revealed by Allah ﷻ to people: Allah revealed many books to his messengers, such as the Quran, the Bible (injeel), the Torah (tawrah), and the psalms (alzaboor).

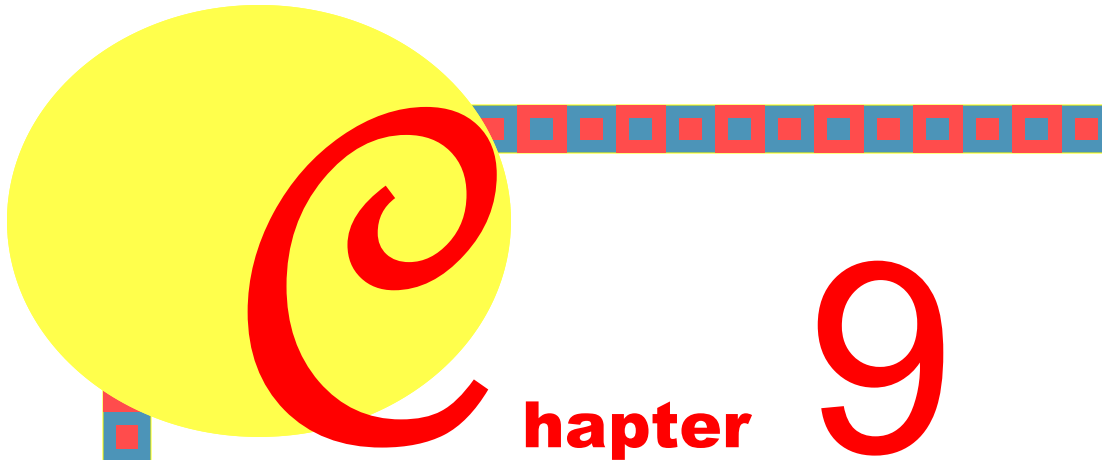
Belief in Allah's messengers: A Muslim should believe in Allah's messengers, such as Muhammad, Isa (Jesus), Musa (Moses) and many

others. Some of these messengers we know as they were mentioned in the Quran, others were not mentioned in the Quran.

Belief in the Day of Judgment:
This day occurs after we all die. Allah will judge people from all times for what they have done during their lives. Those who believed in Allah ﷻ and behaved according to Allah's instructions are rewarded, while those who did not believe in Allah and disobeyed him will be punished.

Remember

- *When we believe in Allah ﷻ we obey him and follow his rules.*
- *To obey Allah, we do what pleases him and do not do things that anger him.*
- *Belief in Islam is to believe in Allah, his angels, his books, his prophets and the Day of Judgment.*
- *Obeying Allah shows that we love him.*
- *Disobeying Allah means doing wrong things that will hurt us in the end.*



Chapter

9

Hussien's Jihad

“So long, Baba,” said Hussein, a 7-year-old boy, to his father.

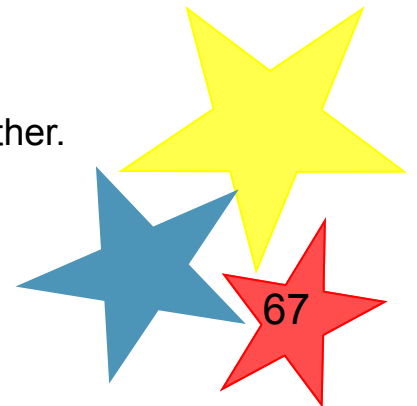
“Where are you going?” asked his father.

“I am off to war.”

“War!” exclaimed the father. “What war?”

“To be a good Muslim, one has to do jihad,” answered Hussein with full confidence.

“But jihad is not only war,” answered his father.
“Come here, buddy, let me tell you about jihad.”



Hussein hopped up onto his father's lap. He always enjoyed the stories his father told.

“One day prophet Muhammad ﷺ was returning from a battle. Everybody was tired after fighting in a war. Do you know what he said to

Hadith

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was asked, “Which deed is best to do?”

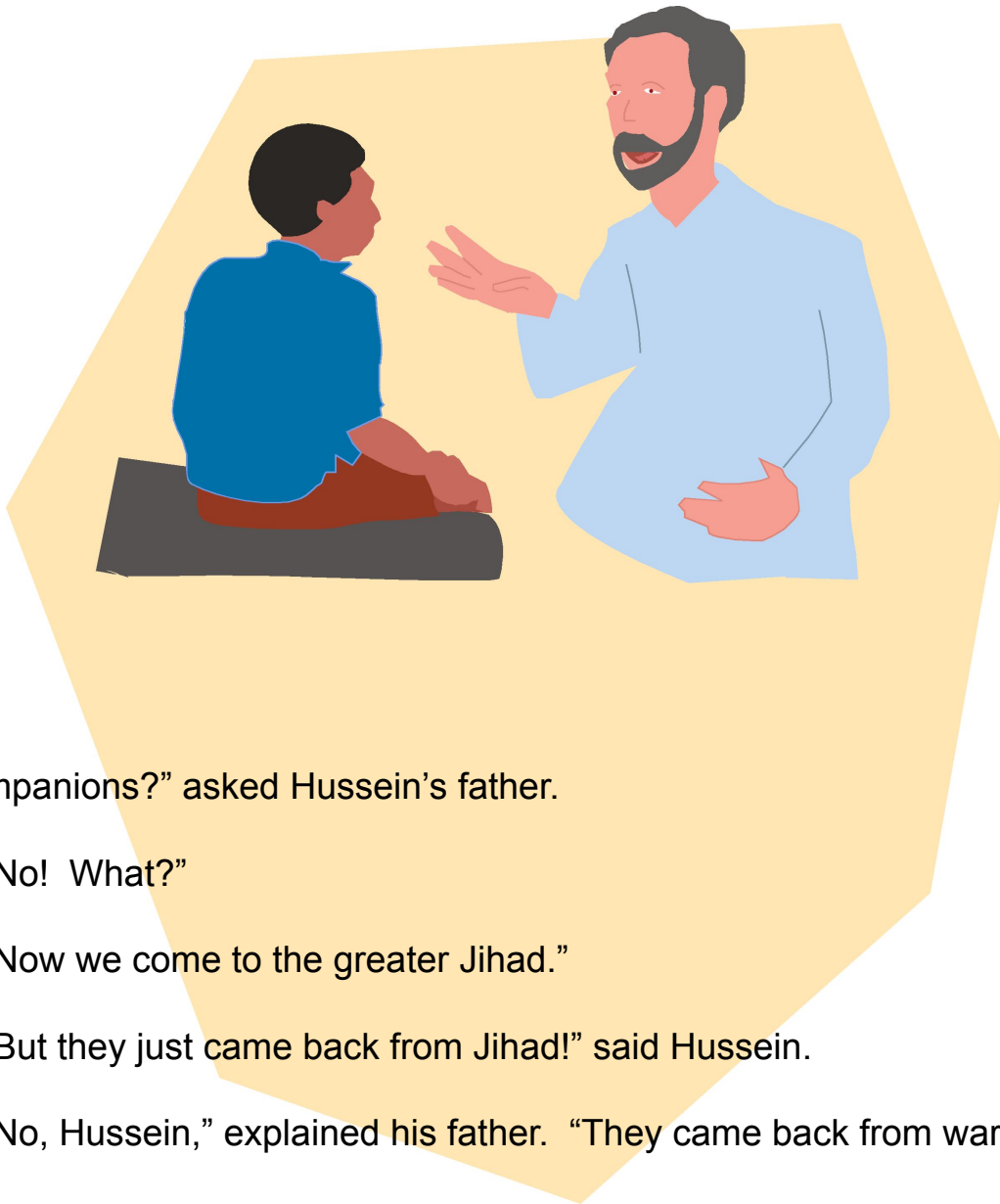
“Prayer at its proper time,” he replied.

“Then what?” he was asked.

“Being kind to your parents.” he added.

“Then what?” the Prophet was asked again.

“Struggling for the sake of Allah,” the prophet said.



his companions?” asked Hussein’s father.

“No! What?”

“Now we come to the greater Jihad.”

“But they just came back from Jihad!” said Hussein.

“No, Hussein,” explained his father. “They came back from war,

Remember

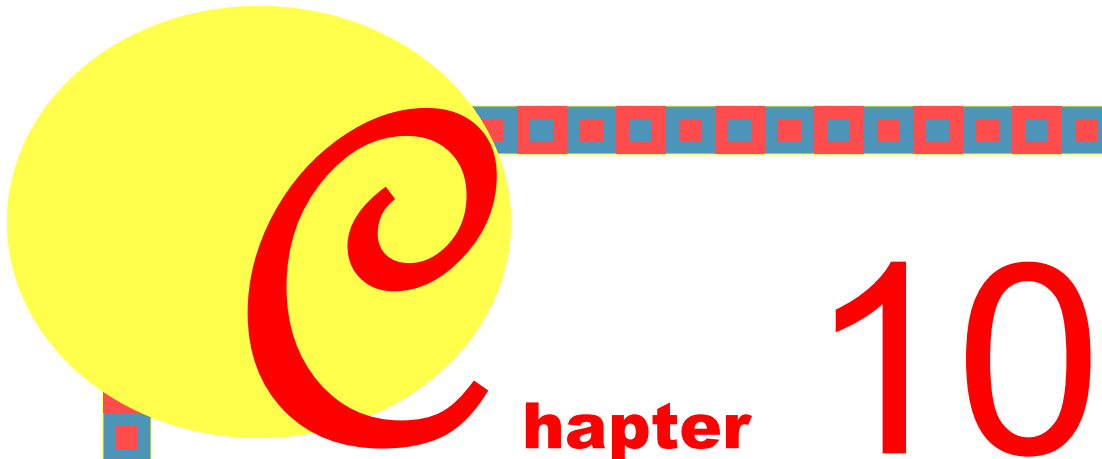
- *Jihad means struggle.*
- *Muslims struggle to make things right.*
- *Going to war to defend Islam is only one way to do jihad.*
- *The greater jihad is struggling with ones self to be better Muslims.*
- *Doing what Allah ﷻ ordered us to do and staying away from what is wrong is jihad.*

which is just one kind of Jihad, but the more important Jihad is to control ourselves to be good and to stay away from doing bad things. This is called Jihad-ul-nafs, which means struggling with ones self to make it do only what pleases Allah ﷻ.”

“You mean like being nice to people, not lying or cheating, helping others, and obeying your parents,” said Hussein.

“You got it!”

“Well, as I said, off to the greater Jihad I go,” said Hussein as he went upstairs to do his homework, one way of doing Jihad!

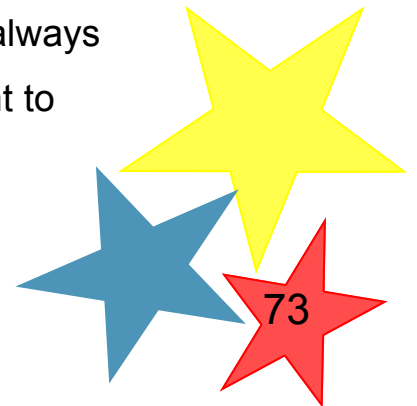


Chapter 10

Too Much of a Good Thing

Ali was a good boy. It was fun being with him, he told a lot of fun stories, and his jokes were a riot. But he was too much of a good thing. Just like candy. Eating one candy bar, or maybe even two, might be fun, but anything more was a tummy ache.

Ali's friends liked him, but after an hour or so of being with him, they tried their best to get away. Ali could never understand why after an hour or two his friends always seemed to remember "something really important to do." "Oh well!" He would tell himself. "It's their loss."



One day, Ali was visiting his best friend Ammar who was sick at home. Ammar had just had his appendix removed. Friends came and friends went but Ali stayed. "I can't leave now," he thought. "Ammar is sick and he needs me to be around."

Ali did not notice that Ammar was yawning. Ali did not even notice that Ammar's eyelids were drooping and that it was hard for Ammar to stay awake.

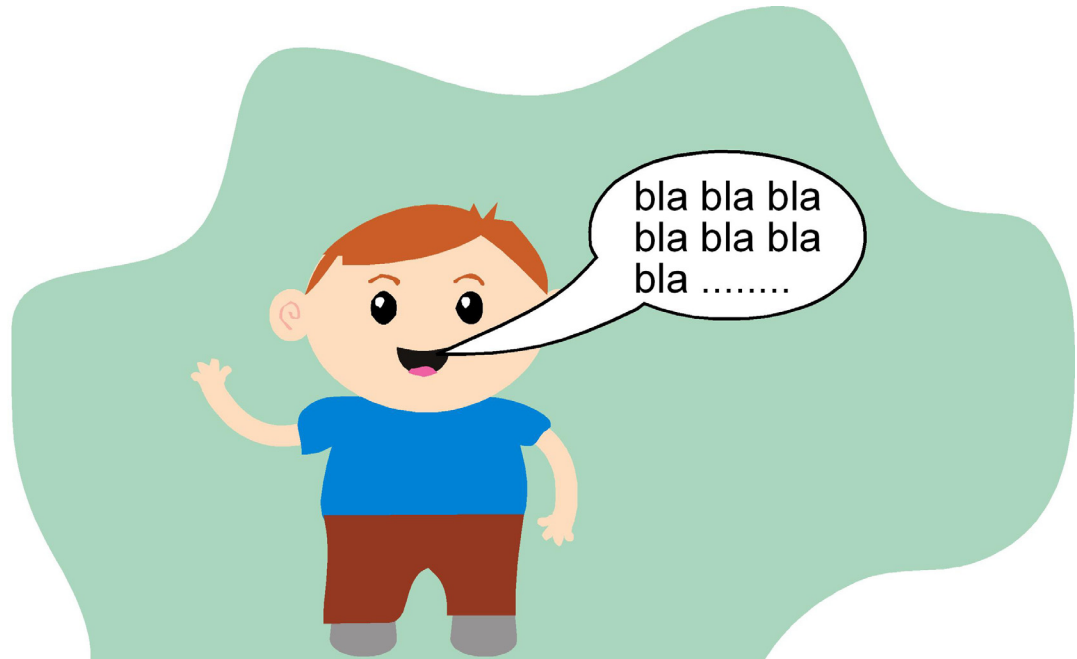
At that time Usama had come to visit. He had arrived not ten minutes ago, but he stood up and said to Ali, "It's time to go, lets leave Ammar to rest."

"What kind of a friend are you?" protested Ali. "You just got here!"

"Usama is right," said Ammar. "I need to sleep."

Ali, for the first time in his life, felt that he was unwelcome. How could this be, here he was cheering Ammar up, and what does Ammar do? He practically kicks him out of his house.

"Don't feel bad Ali," said Usama as they walked out. "We all love you and have fun with you, but there are other things to do."



Ali was quiet, Usama went on. “You’ve got to learn to leave while things are going well. Don’t wait for people to get tired of you.”

For the next few days Ali was really mad at Usama and Ammar but slowly he realized that Usama was right. Since then, Ali learned not to impose on people. After all, that’s just what the Prophet ﷺ taught us to do.

Manners that Muslims should follow when visiting others

Islam encourages us to be nice to each other and visit our friends, neighbors and relatives. Visiting each other make Muslims like one another and creates a strong bond between them.

When visiting one another, there are rules which Allah ﷻ taught us through the Quran and his prophet Muhammad ﷺ, that we should remember. These rules are:

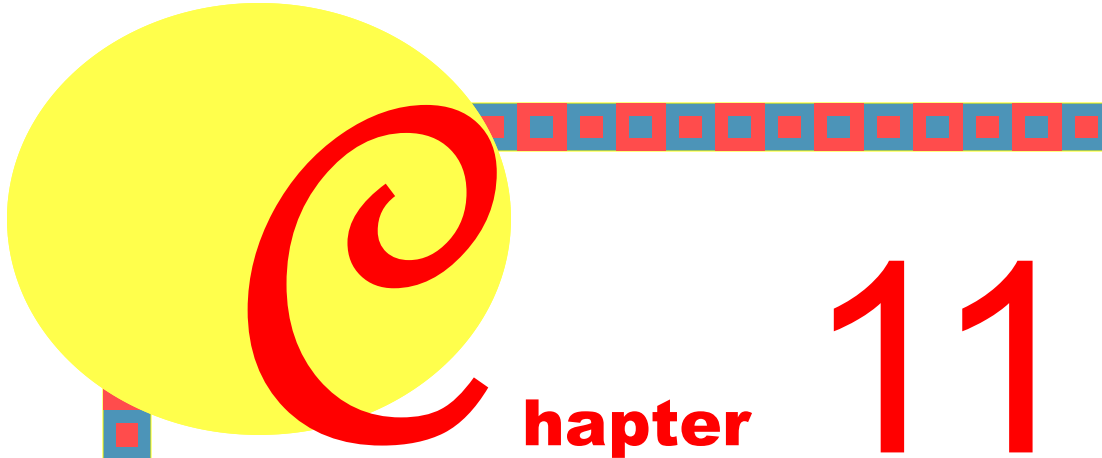
1. Visit at appropriate times. It is not nice to go to a friend's house too early or too late, or at times which we know are inconvenient to visit.
2. Once we get to the house we are visiting, we should ask for permission (such as knocking on the door, or ringing the door bell). If there is no response then we should leave and not to persist or become a nuisance.
3. Do not stand facing the door; instead look a little bit to the side, so that when the door opens we do not immediately get to see everything in front of us inside the house, as there may be things we are not supposed to see.

4. If you are asked, “Who is it?” you should politely reply with your name.
5. Once the door is open, we must salute by saying “Assalamu alaikum.”
6. Do not bother people by talking loudly.
7. Do not stay too long and become a burden.
8. When leaving, ask permission to leave, and again say assalamu alaikum

If you follow these rules, Muslims will become stronger friends and have fun with each other.

Remember

- *Allah ﷻ ordered us to visit each other and visit those who are sick,*
- *When entering a house, we should always ask for permission to enter.*
- *Staying too long or talking too loudly will bother the people we visit.*
- *Muslims should say “assalamu alaikum” when arriving to a new house and when leaving.*
- *We should not visit friends too early or too late in the day.*



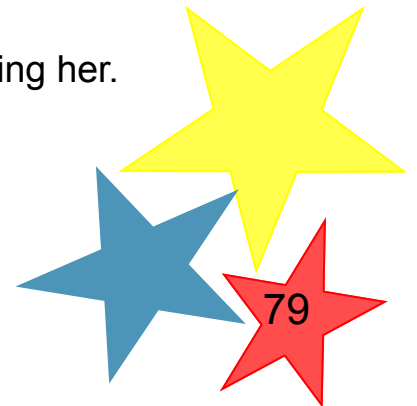
Chapter 11

Sura 94 Alsharh الشرح

Allah ﷻ **makes things easier**

Layla finished her Isha' prayer, remained seated and made dua'a. She recited surat Alsharh and asked Allah ﷻ to make things easy for her.

Samya, Layala's younger sister was watching her.





“Why are you reciting surat Alsharh?” asked Samya, “Do you have a test on it tomorrow?”

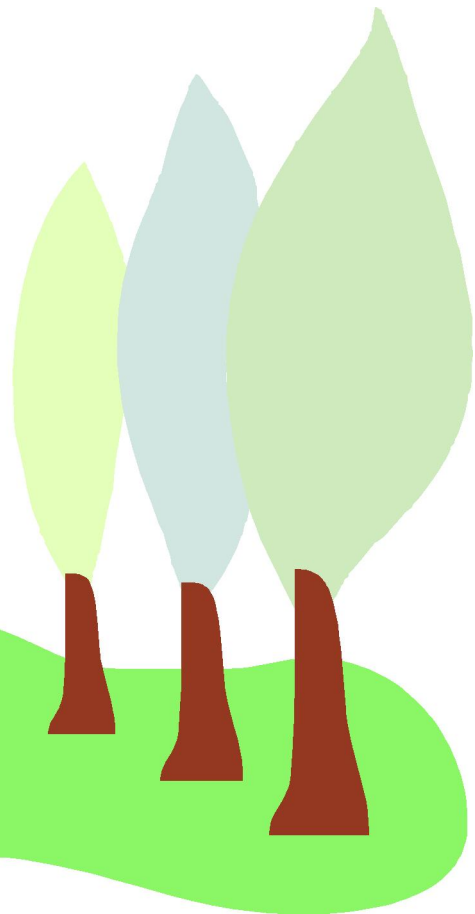
Layla looked at her sister and smiled. “No, I have a math test tomorrow.”

“Why are you reciting surat Alsharh then?”

“Math is hard and I did not do well in the last test we had, so I am reciting surat Alsharh to ask Allah to make things easy for me.”

“Does surat Alsharh make things easy?”

“Any dua’a to Allah ﷻ makes things easy,” replied Layla, “Allah tells us in surat Alsharh that he makes things easy after things were hard, just like it was for the Prophet ﷺ. In the beginning, things were



Remember

- *The Prophet ﷺ had a hard time in the beginning of Islam when the non-believers hurt the Prophet and Muslims.*
- *Allah ﷻ is always with us and he helps those who love him and follow his religion.*
- *Prophet Muhammed is loved and respected by Muslims of all time and all over the world.*
- *Allah always make things easy after hard times.*
- *Muslims should remember Allah ﷻ during good times and bad times. Only Allah can make things better for us.*

hard for the Prophet but later things got better.

Layla smiled as she saw Samy get the Quran out and started reading surat Alsharh. Samya had Social studies test the next day. It was clear that Samya was making dua'a to Allah to make the test easy.

Sura 94 Alsharh الشرح

Allah ﷻ chose Muhammad ﷺ to be the final prophet and to deliver the message of Islam to all people. Before Muhammad became a prophet, he was very well respected and admired by all who met him. This

changed quite a bit when he told people about the new message from Allah. Many in Mecca did not want to change their ways and they made fun of and ridiculed the prophet for what he said. This hurt him a lot and his duty as a messenger of Allah became a great burden. But Allah would never leave his messenger without support, and in this sura Allah reminds the prophet of the great gifts he gave him. Allah made the prophet knowledgeable, wise and merciful. He also helped the prophet by making the burdens of being a messenger easier in many ways. Allah ﷻ also informs Muhammad ﷺ that he is the most respected man amongst people of all times. And finally Allah reminds Muhammad that when he is done with his duties every day to turn all his attention and think of Allah and worship him. All Muslims should do the same.

Words

***Burden:** something difficult to carry or think about.*

***Ease:** things that are easy.*

***Wisdom:** being smart, ability to see things the right way and make the right decisions. You are wise when you have wisdom.*

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. O Prophet! Did we not give you plenty of wisdom, knowledge and mercy

أَلَمْ نَشْرَحْ لَكَ صَدْرَكَ

2. And made things easy for you by solving your problems

وَوَضَعْنَا عَنكَ وِزْرَكَ

3. Which were a burden

الَّذِي أَنْقَضَ ظَهْرَكَ

4. We also made you well respected by people

وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ

5. For sure, with every difficulty there is ease

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

6. Remember! With every difficulty there is ease

إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

7. Whenever you are free, make time for worship

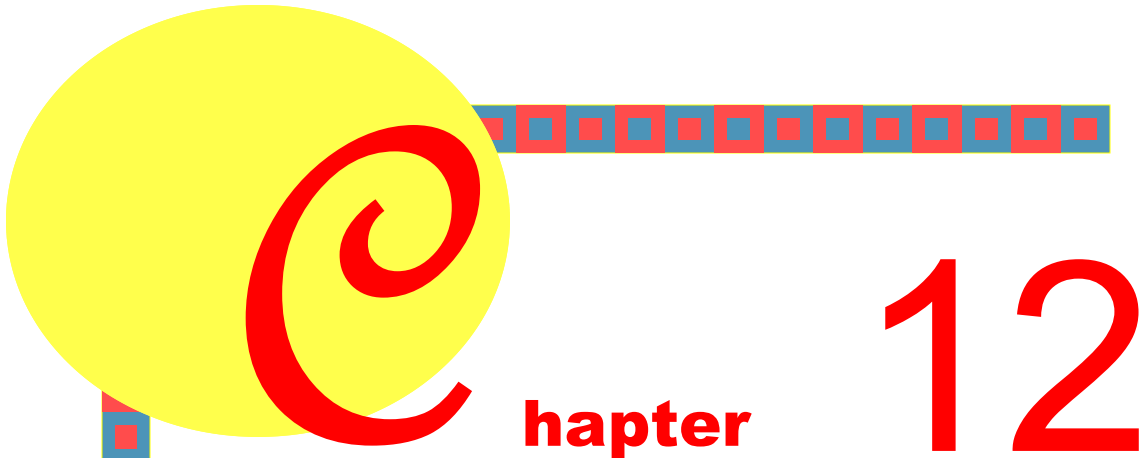
فَإِذَا فَرَغْتَ فَانصَبْ

8. And turn all your attention towards your Lord in worship

وَأِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ فَارْغَبْ

Did you know?

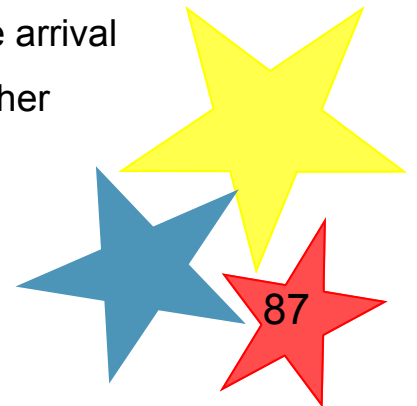
Every time a verse was revealed to the Prophet ﷺ instructed Muslims where it should fit in the Quran until the Quran took the form we have now.



Chapter 12

Birth of Messenger Muhammad ﷺ

Just before Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born, his father, named Abdullah, died. Abdullah was on his way back from Elsham, which is in the northern part of the Arabian Peninsula when he died. Amina, Muhammad's mother, was very saddened for her husband's death but soon after her husband's death Muhammad was born and she was happy for the arrival of her son. Abdulmutalib, the Prophet's grandfather was very excited about his grandchild's birth, and he named the baby Muhammad.



It was the custom of Arabs back then to send their children to grow up with tribes who lived outside Mecca very soon after their birth. They wanted their children to grow up in the healthy weather of the desert, and to learn good Arabic since they would be away from Mecca, where many people from different parts of the world visited and spoke all sort of different languages.

It cost a lot of money to send children to the desert. So only the children from wealthy families could afford to send their children to do this.



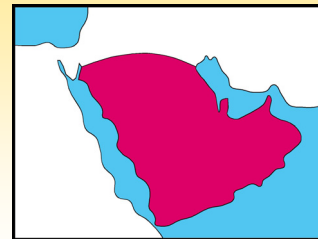
Women from tribes who lived in the desert came to Mecca every year to take children to their homes and care for them, those women avoided going to Muhammad's house, because he was an orphan and they thought that there will be no one to pay them. Halima was one of those women who came to Mecca to take a child back home. She arrived late to Mecca because the donkey she was riding was weak and unable to go fast. By the time she got to Mecca, many other women had already arrived and took the children of wealthy families. Muhammad was the only one left. She was not sure whether she should take Muhammad or not. Muhammad was an orphan, meaning that she would not get as much money from his family. But Abdulmutalib promised Halima that he would

Words

Afford: be able to pay.

Peninsula: a land surrounded by water from 3 sides and connected to land on one side only.

Wealthy: rich.



Remember

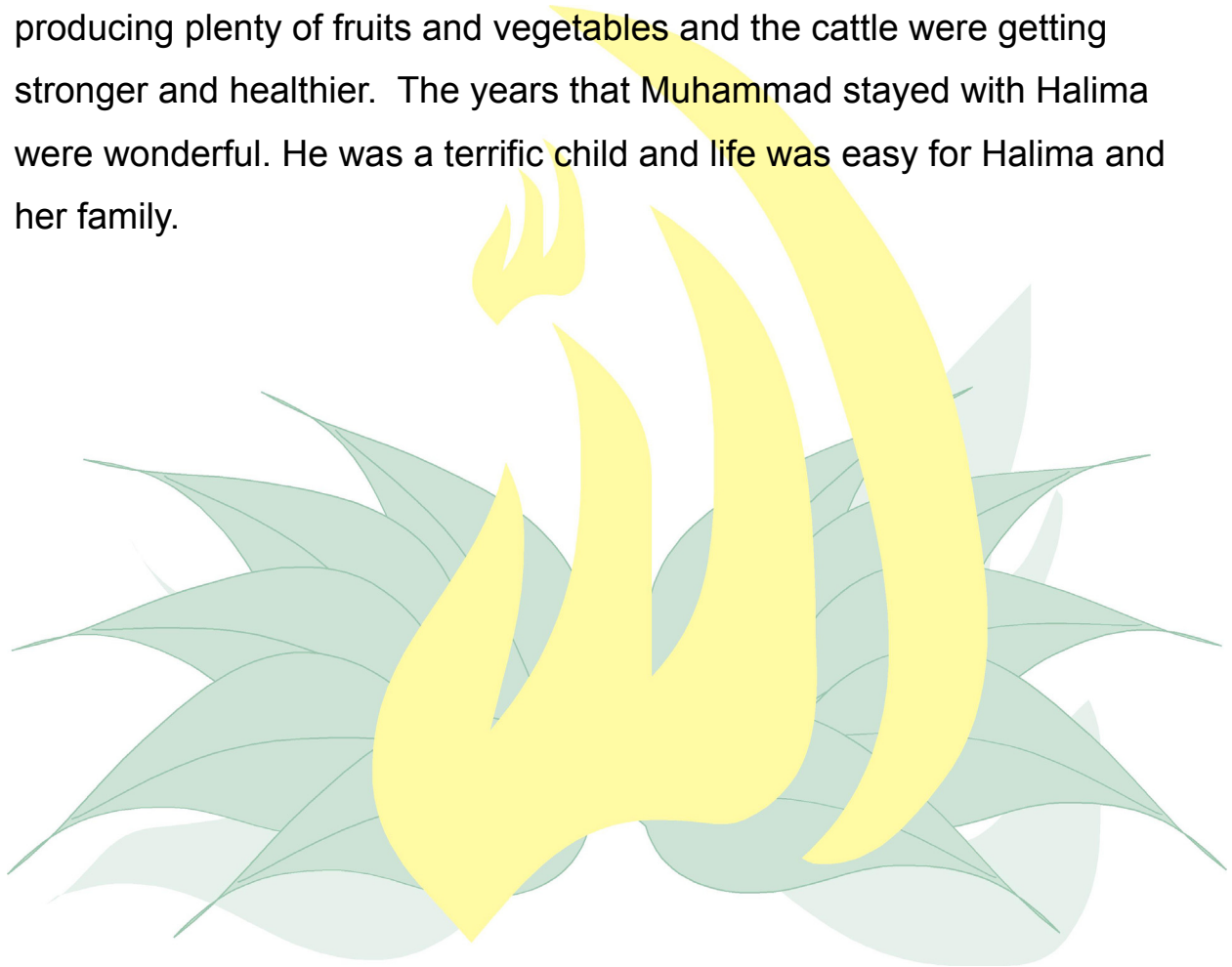
- *Muhammad ﷺ was born an orphan,. His father, Abdullah, died before he was born.*
- *Abdulmutalib, the Prophets grandfather took care of Muhammad and his mother after Abdullah's death.*
- *Halima was a woman who lived in the desert, she nursed Muhammad and took care of him.*
- *Allah ﷻ was pleased with Halima and her family for taking care of the Prophet.*
- *Allah made the land of Halima and her family give more fruits and vegetables and made their animal healthier and stronger.*

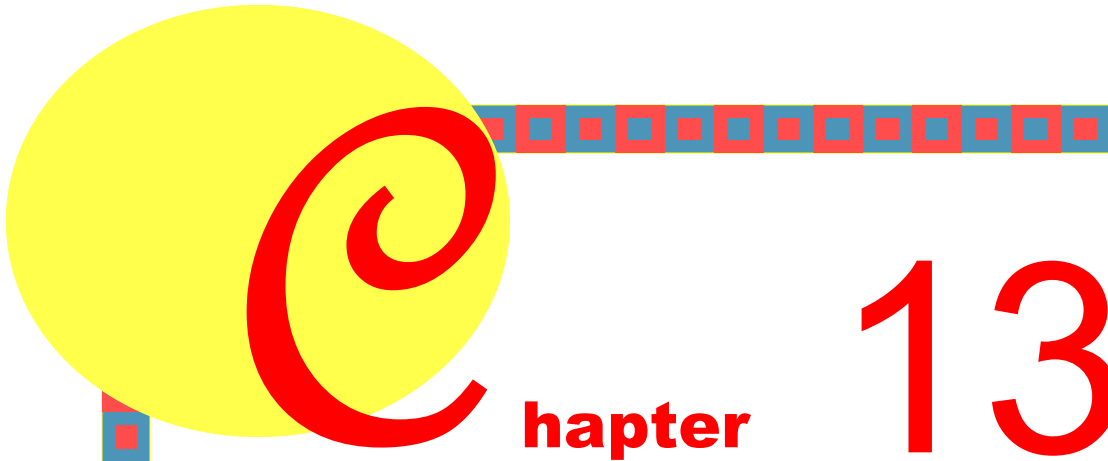
pay her.

Halima fell in love with Muhammad the moment she saw him. Muhammad smiled at her when she touched him. When she nursed him, all of the sudden she had plenty of milk coming out of her breasts, enough for her own baby and Muhammad. Allah made her body stronger and capable of making a lot of milk. On the way back home, Allah ﷻ made her donkey stronger and able to run faster so that she arrived home before all the other women.

Things were different after

Muhammad arrived to Halima's tribe. The land did not produce many plants before then and the cattle were starving and weak. But things changed after baby Muhammad arrived. Allah blessed Halima, her people and her tribe for taking care of the future Prophet ﷺ. The land was producing plenty of fruits and vegetables and the cattle were getting stronger and healthier. The years that Muhammad stayed with Halima were wonderful. He was a terrific child and life was easy for Halima and her family.





Chapter 13

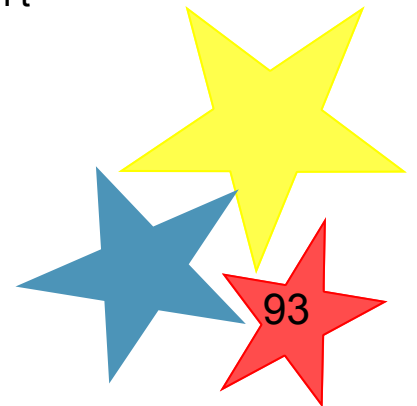
Eat what you like

“Yuck!” said Noraya as she looked with disgust at her dinner plate. “I hate broccoli,” she added.

Noaya’s mother turned around and looked at her, “Clearly you do not like broccoli, but what you just said is wrong.”

“But I hate broccoli!” Noraya insisted, “I don’t want to eat it.”

“You do not have to eat it,” said her mother, “But the way you talked about your



food is not nice, all food is from Allah ﷻ and we have to thank him and show respect to what he gave us.”

Noraya stayed quiet and continued to stare at her plate.

“Do you know what the Prophet ﷺ would have done if he was given food he did not like?” asked her mother.

“Eat the food anyway, “ answered Noraya.

“No,” replied her mother.

“You mean he said yuck and threw it away??”

“No again, dear,” said her mother, “He ate what he liked and left

Words

***Hadith:** Arabic, means “a saying.” In Islam, it means something the Prophet ﷺ said or did.*

***Favors:** nice things one does or receives.*

***Soil:** dirt, earth, where we plant our food.*

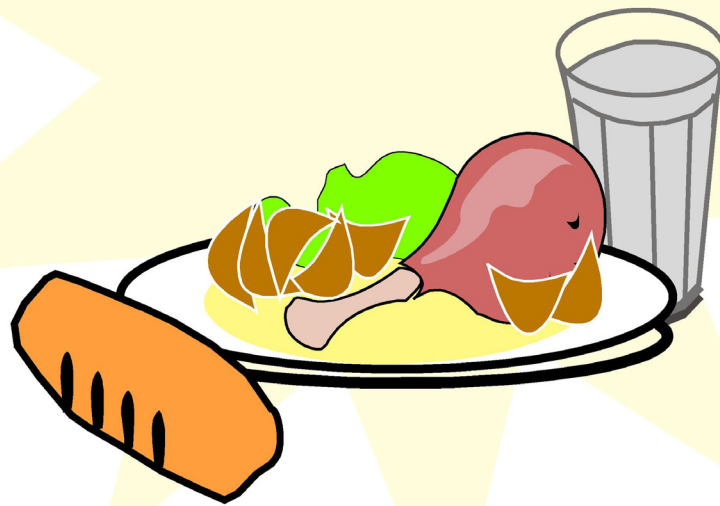
what he didn't like and he certainly did not say rude things about the food."

"I'm sorry Mama," said Noraya, "I love the potatoes and the chicken and I'll go ahead and eat everything but the broccoli."

"And what else?"

"Oh yes! And say thanks to Allah who gave us this food and made us Muslims."

"That's right," said her mother with a smile on her face.



Remember

- *Allah gave us many favors like the water we drink, the food we eat, the air we breathe, the sun with its warmth and many other things.*
- *The Prophet had the best behavior any man could have.*
- *The Prophet taught us through his words and actions.*
- *The Prophet ate what he liked and put aside what he did not like without saying bad things about the food he disliked.*

Appreciating Allah's Favors

“The Messenger of Allah never scorned any food. He ate what he liked and left aside what he did not,” A hadith says.

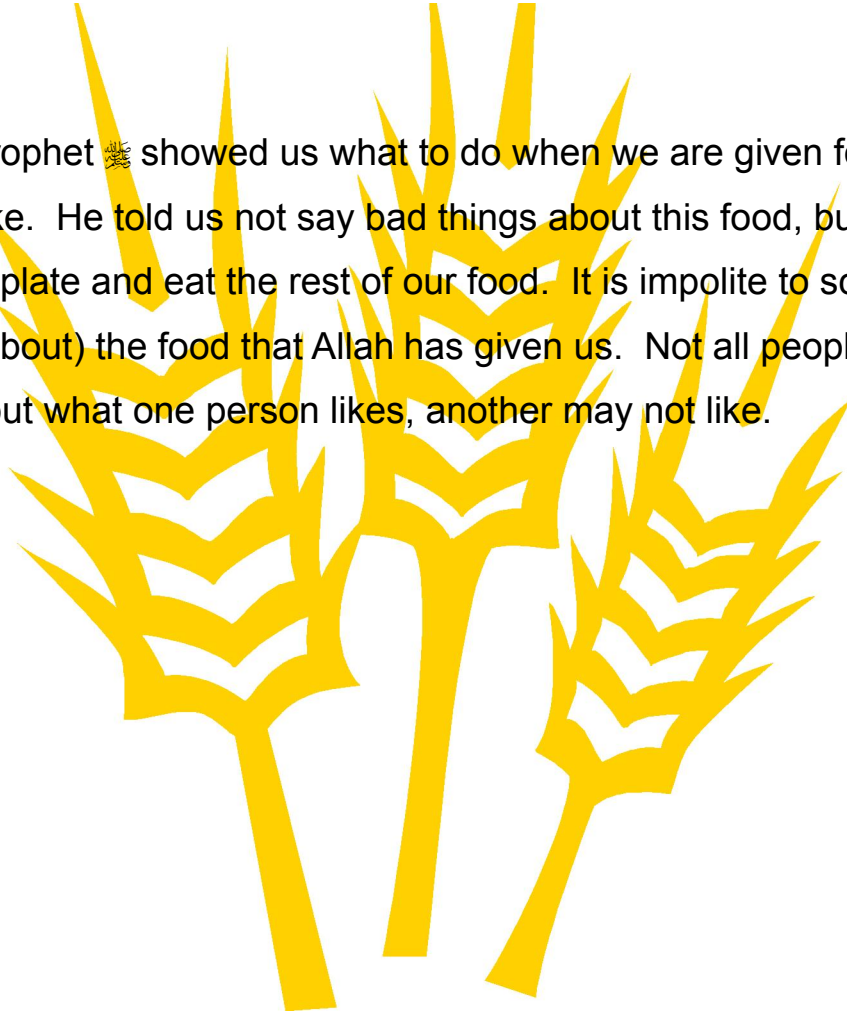
Allah ﷻ has given us many favors, such as good health, being able to think, being able to enjoy the good things in this world, such as food and drink.

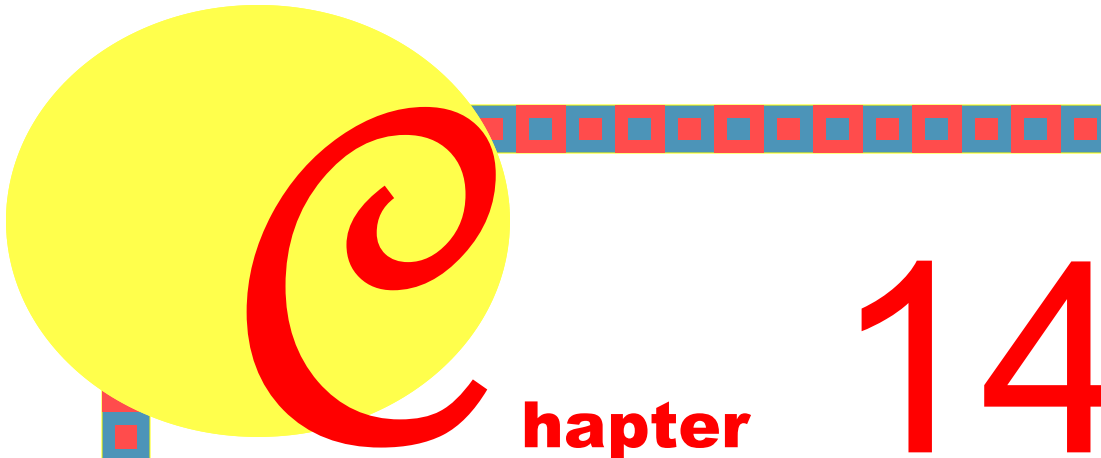
Food is one of the greatest favors Allah ﷻ has given us. We grow it in the soil and water. We enjoy its smell and taste, and the nice way it feels when it fills our stomach. Allah made food in all different colors, scents and tastes to suit all different kinds of people.

Did you know?

Muslims are those who submit to God's will and by doing so live in peace.

The prophet ﷺ showed us what to do when we are given food that we do not like. He told us not say bad things about this food, but put it aside in our plate and eat the rest of our food. It is impolite to scorn (say bad things about) the food that Allah has given us. Not all people like the same food but what one person likes, another may not like.





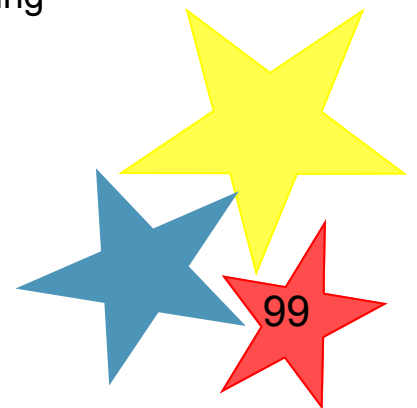
Chapter 14

late!

Mahmoud stretched his arms as he woke up in the morning. He opened his eyes slowly and rubbed them with his hands. Mahmoud then turned his head and looked at the alarm clock by his bedside. It was ten minutes past eight!

“I’m late!” he exclaimed with an early morning crackly, hoarse voice.

Immediately he jumped out of bed and stood up to make salat, He overslept and



Quran

Alma'ida, المائدة aya 6

“Oh those who believe, if you get up to do salat, then wash your faces and your arms up to the elbows, wipe your heads and wash your feet up to the ankles.”

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قُمْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ فَاغْسِلُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ
إِلَى الْمَرَافِقِ وَامْسَحُوا بِرُءُوسِكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ

saw his mother.

“Good morning,” he said, “I better make my salat and get ready quickly, I’m running really late.”

“You cannot make your salat before you make your wudu,” explained his mother.

“I have wudu from last night.”

“Once you fall asleep, your wudu is broken and you have to make it

missed Fajr prayer but he was making it up before he rushed to school.

Mahmoud’s mother walked into the room and saw him jumping out of bed, about to make salat.

“Hold on,” she called, “Not so fast.”

Mahmoud looked up and

again,” his mother explained.

Mahmoud remembered that wudu is broken when one sleeps.

“You’re right!” he said as he rushed to the bathroom to redo his wudu.

“You better hurry,” said his



Did you know?

The first pillar of Islam is shahada, or declaration that there is only one God and that Muhammed is the Messenger of God. The second pillar of Islam is to pray 5 times a day, these are obligatory prayers. Other pillars are fasting, paying zakat and making Hajj.

Remember

- *Wudu is the Arabic word for ablution.*
- *Wudu means to wash hands, face, arms up to the elbows and feet and wipe our heads.*
- *Wudu is canceled by passing gas, going to the bathroom, sleeping or fainting.*
- *When wudu is canceled, we have to redo it before making salat.*
- *As long as we have wudu, we do not have to make it again before salat.*

mother, “but don’t rush your salat.”

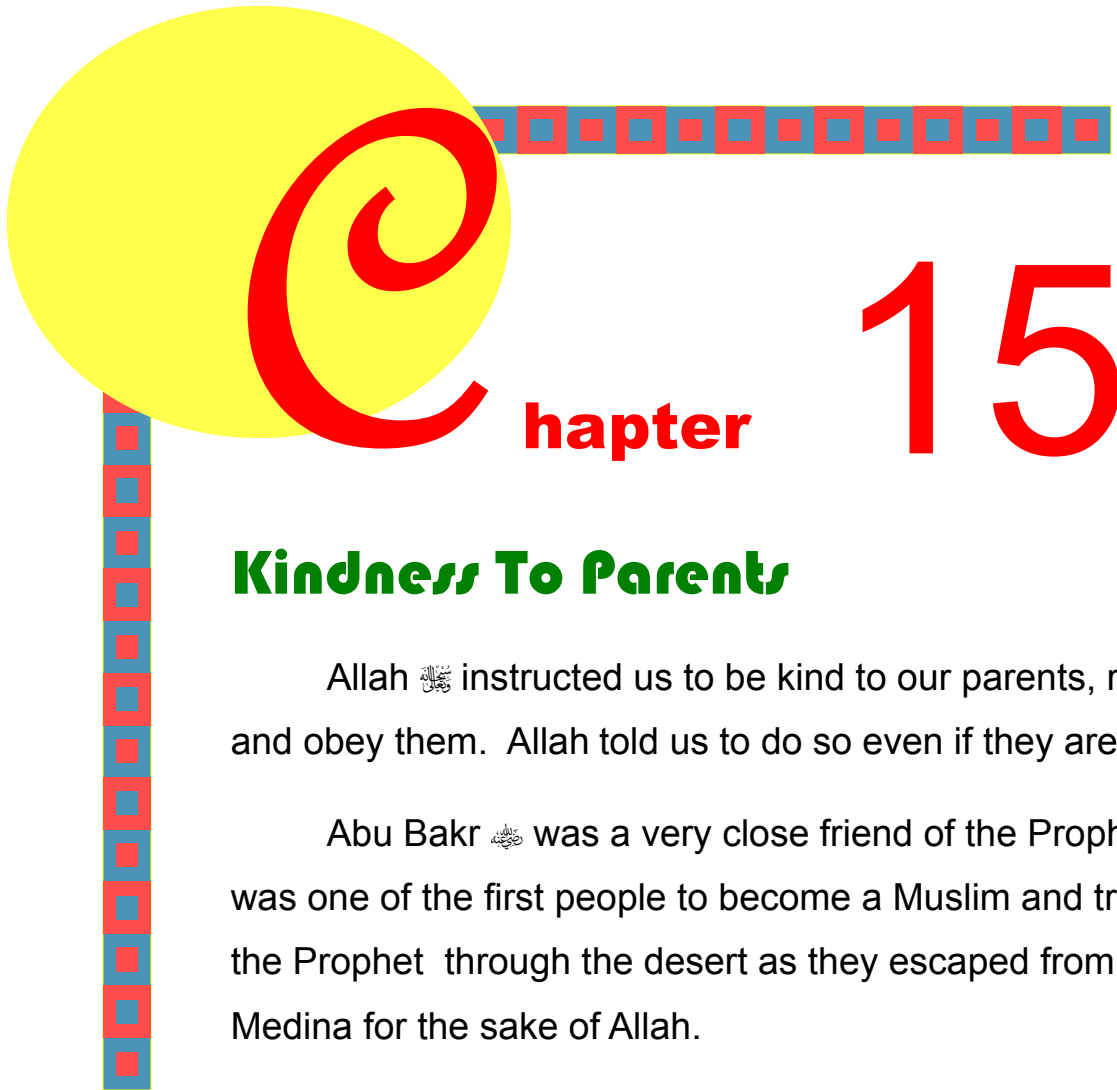
Things Which Cancel Wudu

(Ablution)

Before making salat, a Muslim must cleanse himself by washing up in a special way, called wudu (or ablution). As long as a Muslim has wudu, they pray without having to do it again.

Things that cancel wudu are:

- Using the bathroom
- Passing gas.
- Sleeping (sleeping while sitting does not count).



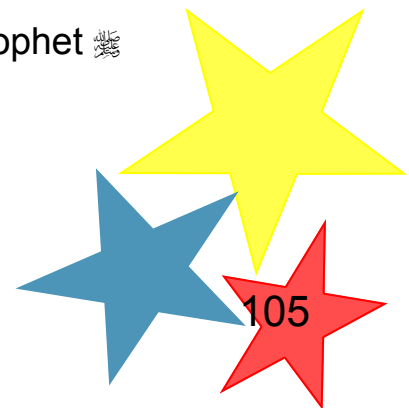
Chapter 15

Kindness To Parents

Allah ﷻ instructed us to be kind to our parents, respect them and obey them. Allah told us to do so even if they are not Muslims.

Abu Bakr ؓ was a very close friend of the Prophet ﷺ. He was one of the first people to become a Muslim and traveled with the Prophet through the desert as they escaped from Mecca to Medina for the sake of Allah.

Abu Bakr's daughter, Aisha married the Prophet ﷺ after their migration to Medina. Asma' was Abu Bakr's other daughter. Asma' and her husband became Muslims but her mother didn't. Asma'



Quran

Alisraa', الإسراء aya 23

Your Lord ordered that you do not worship but him and to be kind to parents. Once your parents, one of them or both reach an old age then you should treat them kindly and be humble and never say a word to them which shows your impatience or say a harsh word which would hurt them. Instead say to them only kind words.

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ۚ إِنَّمَا يُبَلِّغُنَّ
عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرْنِيهِمَا
وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا

Asma' that she should allow her mother to visit and be respectful and treat her with love. He told her that even though she was not a Muslim, she was still her mother and deserves her love and respect.

Allah ﷻ wants us to treat our parents with love and respect, especially when they become old and need our help to take care of them.

left her mother behind in Mecca when Muslims left Mecca to Medina. Asma's mother missed her daughter very much and wanted to see her, so she traveled one day to Medina to visit her. Asma' heard of her mother's plan to visit and did not know whether it would be okay to allow her to come to her house since her mother was not a Muslim. The prophet ﷺ told

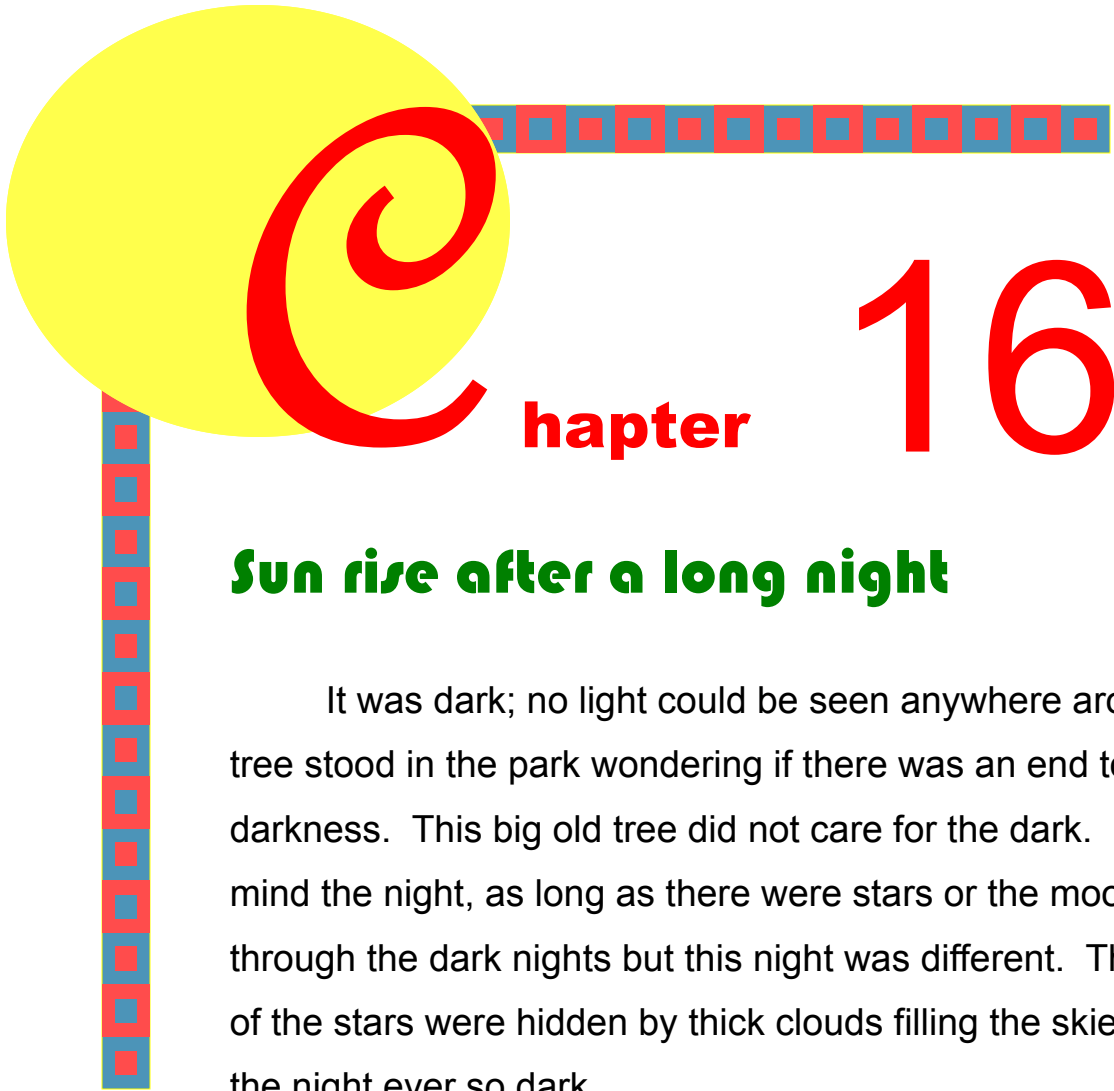


Remember

- *Muslim respect and love their parents even if they are not Muslims.*
- *Asma' was Abu Bakr's daughter. She was one of the best Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ ordered her to be kind to her mother and welcome her in her house, even though Asma's mother was not a Muslim.*
- *Allah ﷻ ordered Muslims to be kind to parents, especially when they are old and weak.*
- *Muslims respect their parents and take care of them in their old age.*
- *Muslims should never be impatient with their parents or show them disrespect.*

A good Muslim loves and respects his parents when he or she is young, and takes care of, and looks after his or her parents when they are older and need attention.





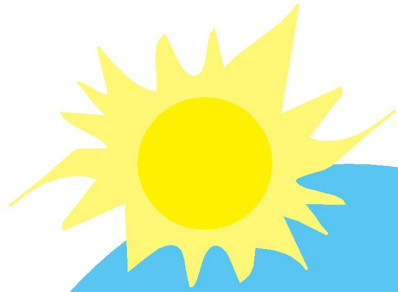
Chapter 16

Sun rise after a long night

It was dark; no light could be seen anywhere around. The tree stood in the park wondering if there was an end to this darkness. This big old tree did not care for the dark. It did not mind the night, as long as there were stars or the moon shining through the dark nights but this night was different. The brightness of the stars were hidden by thick clouds filling the skies and making the night ever so dark.

The tree did not fear the dark. It just did not like it. “When will this night end?” wondered the tree. It did not have to wait too long, though, because





soon afterwards, the clouds were blown away by the wind and a faint light could be seen far, far away.

“Could this be the morning?” wondered the tree wishfully.

Sure enough, it was the morning, the sun rose slowly through the sky and light was every where.

“Now that’s more like it,” said the tree



Did you know?

The Holy Quran is the word of God as revealed to Prophet Muhammed ﷺ through angel Gabriel ﷺ. The Quran we have today is word for word the same Quran revealed to prophet Muhammed ﷺ.

as it felt the warmth of the light filling it with energy and happiness.

Sura 93 AlDhuha الضحى

Sometimes, we doubt ourselves. We start to think that things are actually worse than what they really are. After the Prophet ﷺ received the first few revelations of the Quran, there was some time when there were no revelation from Allah ﷻ. The Prophet was afraid that Allah was angry with him. Of course, these were fears that were not true. Allah was not mad at the Prophet. Actually the opposite was true. Allah reminds

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. By the bright morning light.

وَالضُّحَىٰ

2. And by the night which casts
darkness over everything.

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا سَجَىٰ

3. Allah has not abandoned you and he
does not dislike you.

مَا وَدَّعَكَ رَبُّكَ وَمَا قَلَىٰ

4. For sure, the hereafter will be better
than the first life.

وَلَا حِرَّةٌ أَخِيرُهُ خَيْرٌ لَّكَ مِنَ الْأُولَىٰ

5. Your Lord will give you what would
make you very happy.

وَلَسَوْفَ يُعْطِيكَ رَبُّكَ فَتَرْضَىٰ

6. Didn't Allah find you an orphan and
gave you shelter.

أَلَمْ يَجِدْكَ يَتِيمًا فَآوَىٰ

7. And found you lost and guided you.

وَوَجَدَكَ ضَالًّا فَهَدَىٰ

8. And found you in need and gave you independence.

وَوَجَدَكَ عَائِلًا فَأَغْنَى

9. As for the orphans, do not treat them poorly.

فَأَمَّا الْيَتِيمَ فَلَا تَقْهَرْ

10. And as for the needy do not be rude to them and ask them to go away.

وَأَمَّا السَّائِلَ فَلَا تَنْهَرْ

11. And because of all the great things Allah has given you, you should be thankful.

وَأَمَّا بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ فَحَدِّثْ

Words

Abandoned: left alone.

Casts: puts.

Dislike: does not like.

Guided: showed you the right path

Independence: can do things on your own.

Orphan: a child with no parents.

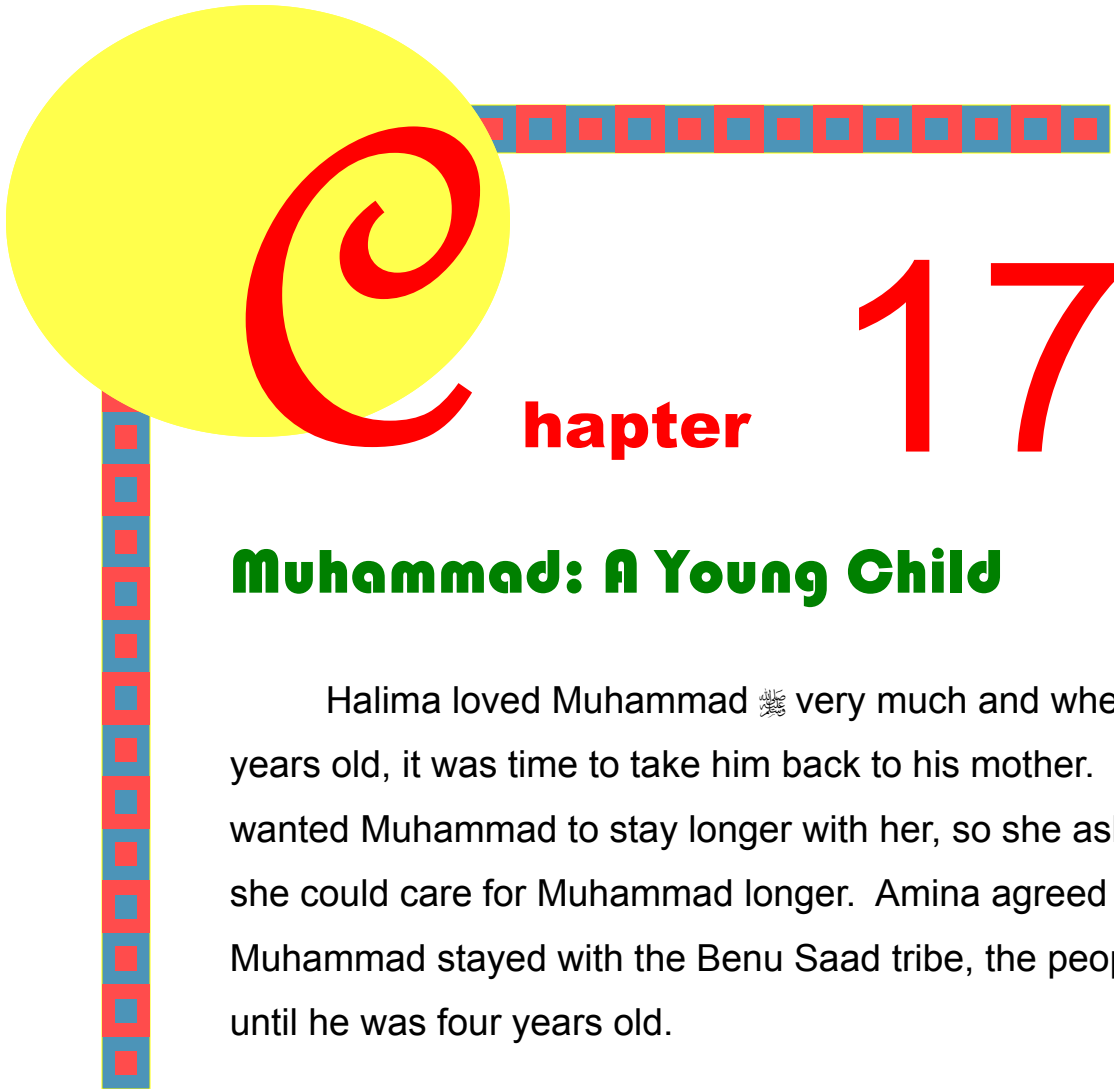
Shelter: a safe place to be in where no harm can reach you.

Remember

- Allah ﷻ sent Angel Jibril ﷺ with revelations to the Prophet ﷺ.
- After a few revelations, there was sometime without revelations and the Prophet feared that this might be because Allah was mad with him.
- Allah was very pleased with prophet Muhammad and in surat Aldhuha Allah tells the Prophet how Allah was kind to him all his life.
- Allah protects us and gives so many wonderful things, we should always think of the things Allah gave us and be thankful to him.
- Allah is kind to us and we too have to be kind to those who have less than we do.

Muhammad in this sura of all the good things he has given him, such as taking care of him when both of his parents died and showing him the truth about the Creator after he spent a long time searching for the truth, and giving him money after he was poor.

Allah ﷻ loves us and wants what is best for all people. When we do good things, he helps us even more by showing us the right path to follow and rewards us while we are alive in this world as well as in the hereafter by allowing us to live in paradise.



Chapter 17

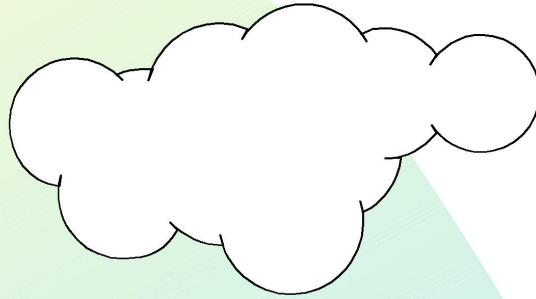
Muhammad: A Young Child

Halima loved Muhammad ﷺ very much and when he was two years old, it was time to take him back to his mother. Halima wanted Muhammad to stay longer with her, so she asked Amina if she could care for Muhammad longer. Amina agreed and Muhammad stayed with the Benu Saad tribe, the people of Halima, until he was four years old.

Amina was very happy to have Muhammad again, and when he was six years old he went with his mother to Medina to visit his uncles.



On the way back from Medina, Amina became ill, and soon afterwards died and was buried in a place called “Alabwaa”. Muhammad was very saddened by his mother’s death. A lady called Umm Aimen Elhabashya, who accompanied his



mother on this trip, brought Muhammad ﷺ back to Mecca. Muhammad's grandfather, Abdulmutalib, took care of him after Amina's death. Abdulmutalib loved Muhammad tremendously and took care of him for the next two years. When Muhammad was eight years old, his grandfather died and so he moved in with his uncle Abu Talib. Abu Talib loved his nephew and took care of him even though he had many children of his own.

Abu Talib was a merchant and he traveled to far away places to buy and sell things. When Muhammad ﷺ was 12 years old, he traveled with his uncle Abu Talib to Elsham (Syria, Jordan and Palestine). On their way, they stopped by a village called "Bussri", and while resting under a tree they were invited for a meal by "Bahyra", a Christian monk. It was quite unusual for Bahyra to invite people into his house of worship but he made an exception in this case to learn more about Muhammad. He was interested in this young man because he saw in him some interesting signs.

Bahyra knew the Injeel (Bible) and Tawrat (Torah), the books of Allah ﷻ revealed to Issa (Jesus) and Musa (Moses). In these books, Allah told

Remember

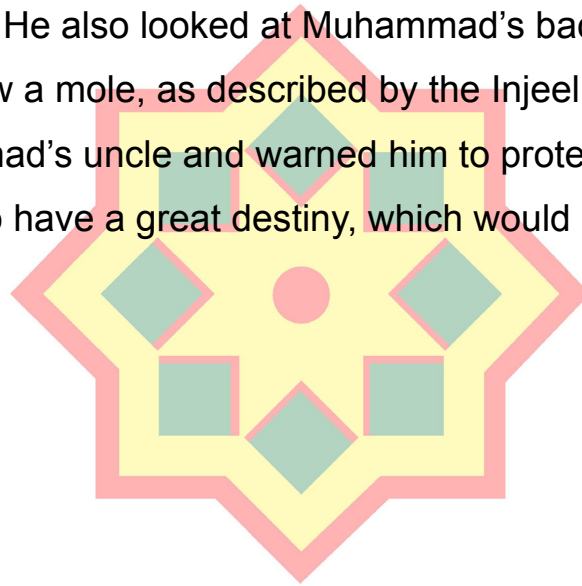
- *Prophet Muhammad ﷺ spent the first 4 years of his life with Halima .*
- *Amina, prophet Muhammad's mother, died when he was 6 years old.*
- *Abu Talib, the Prophet's uncle took care of Muhammad ﷺ after the prophet's grandfather died.*
- *Bahyra was a Christian monk who lived in Elsham. Bahyra saw in Muhammad ﷺ many of the signs of the new prophet.*
- *Bahyra saw that Allah ﷻ protected the Prophet ﷺ from the sun by having a cloud follow him and the tree moving its branch to shade him.*

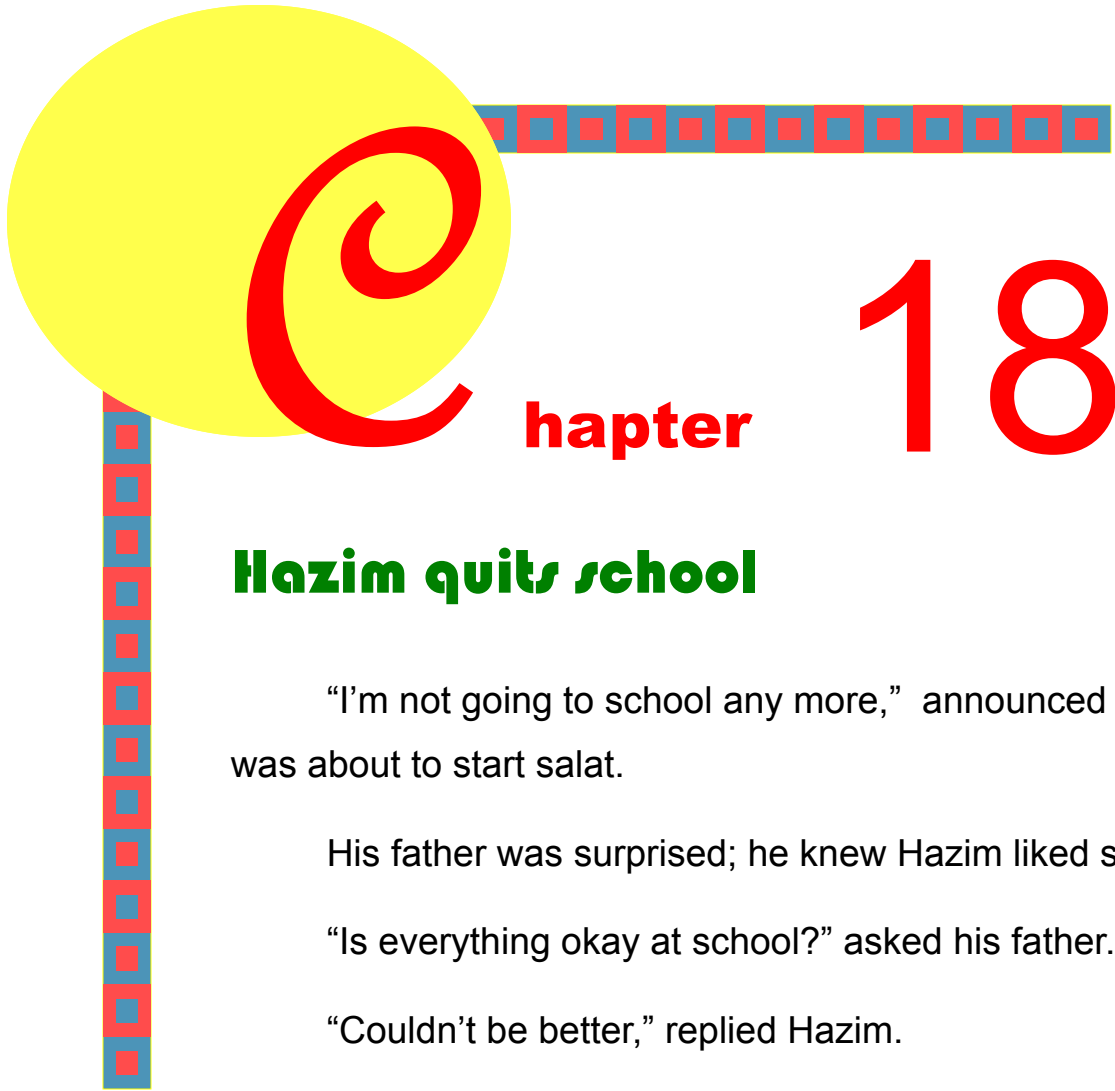
people of a new prophet who was to appear in the Arabian Peninsula. This new prophet will complete Allah's message which started with prophets before. The description of this prophet was mentioned in these holy books. Bahyra saw a cloud following Muhammad ﷺ and his uncle wherever they went. This cloud provided them with shade from the sun in the hot desert. He also noticed that a tree dangled its branches to cast shadow upon Muhammad and his uncle as they sat underneath it. All this made the monk think that

Did you know?

The most common name in the world is Muhammad. Muslims name their children Muhammad because of the love and respect they have for the Prophet ﷺ.

Muhammad might be the prophet Allah told people about! So he invited them to look at this young man closely. The monk became more certain about his hunch as he saw more of these signs. He asked Muhammad many questions and learned that he fit the descriptions of the new prophet in the holy books. He also looked at Muhammad's back, in-between his shoulders, and saw a mole, as described by the Injeel and Tawrat. Bahyra turned to Muhammad's uncle and warned him to protect this young man because he was to have a great destiny, which would change the world!





Chapter 18

Hazim quits school

“I’m not going to school any more,” announced Hazim as he was about to start salat.

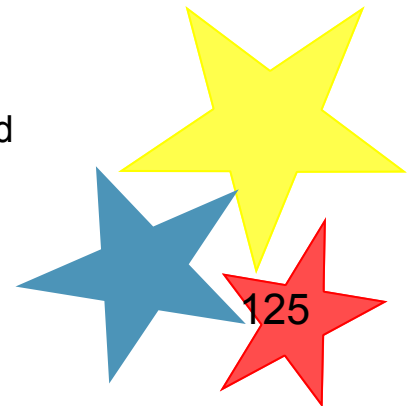
His father was surprised; he knew Hazim liked school.

“Is everything okay at school?” asked his father.

“Couldn’t be better,” replied Hazim.

“Then why do you want to quit school?”

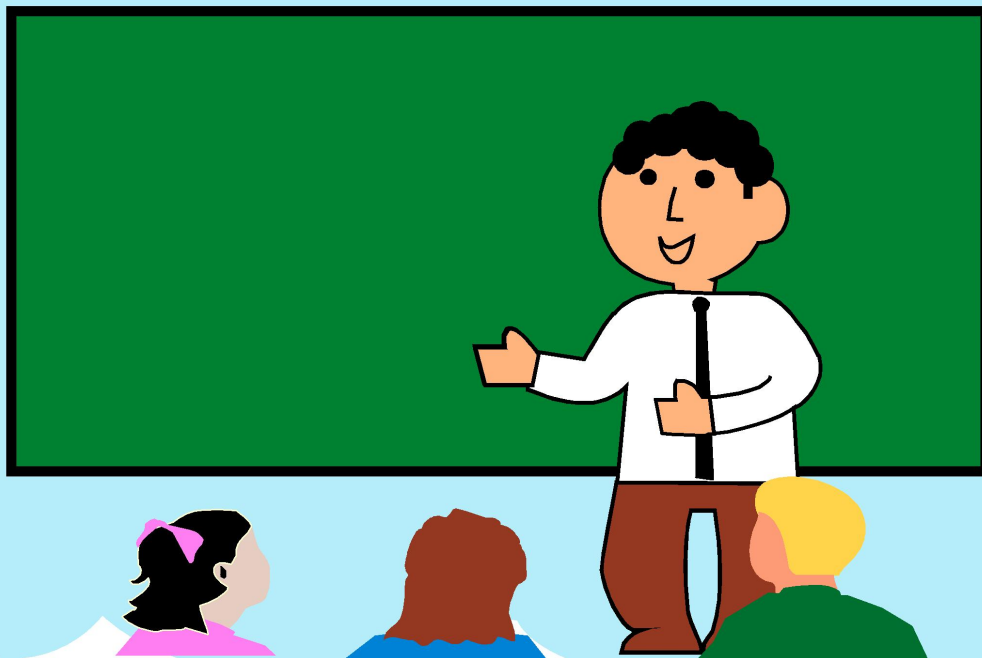
“It has nothing to do with school,” answered Hazim with his usual confidence, “I am quitting



everything so I can read Quran and pray all day long.

“Why would you want to do that?” asked his father, smiling.

“You should know, Baba, I want to be the best Muslim ever and go to jannah with the Prophet .”



“Reading Quran and praying will certainly get you to heaven but not if you do it all day long and nothing else,” said his father.

“Why not?”

“Allah ﷻ wants us to do other things, like study, work, help others and read Quran and pray.”

“How come?” asked Hazim surprised, “If I want to get an A on a test, I have to read and study all day long, so is it not true that if I want to go to heaven I have to pray all day long?”

“Allah ﷻ wants us to pray and read Quran to make us good people and good people study and work to help their family and others.

“I’m glad you said that, Baba. I like praying, but I was going to miss school.”

Hazim’s father gave him a hug and kissed him on his head.

“I’m proud of you Hazim, I sure am.”

Remember

- *Allah ﷻ gave us so many wonderful things like food, drink, family friends and many other things.*
- *We thank Allah ﷻ in our prayers every day.*
- *Allah ﷻ does not want us to pray all day and night and forget about doing our work.*
- *Muslims are worshipping Allah ﷻ when they do their work and help themselves and others.*
- *The Prophet ﷺ told Muslims that they were better than a man who prayed all the time because they worked, earned money and paid for his food and other needs.*

Obeying Allah and Relying on Him

We thank Allah ﷻ in our prayers every day but that is not enough. We have to help others and do a good job at school and work to give back to others what Allah has given us.

A group of Muslims came to the prophet ﷺ and told him of a man who fasts all days and prays all night. They thought that the Prophet would be very pleased with him.

“Who provides this man

Did you know?

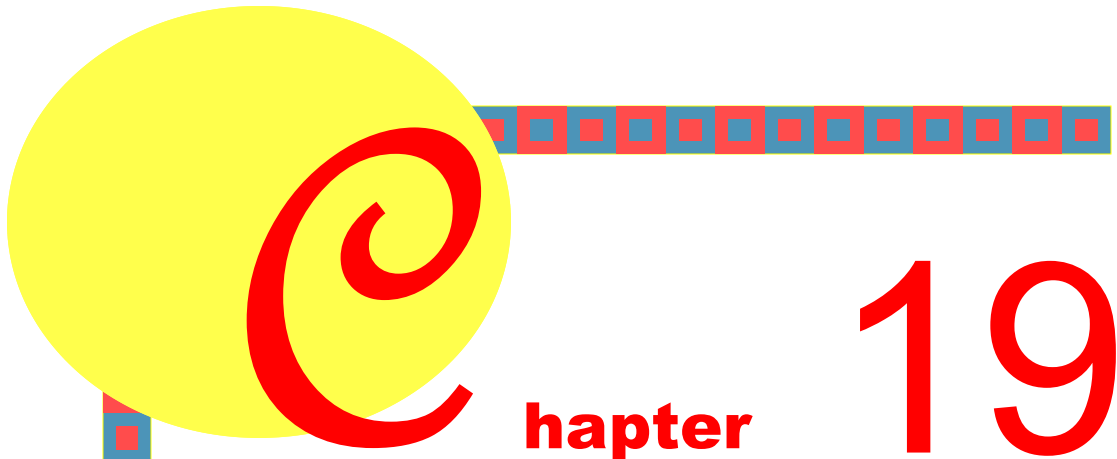
*Islam is a complete way of life governing our lives,
Everything we do and say must reflect our belief in God and
his teachings.*

with food and drink?” asked the Prophet.

“We all do,” replied the Muslims.

“Then all of you are better than him,” said the Prophet.

Fasting and praying are important duties for Muslims. But a Muslim must not spend all his time praying and neglect other things that Allah ﷻ asked us to do. Good Muslims pray to Allah and do a good job at school and at their jobs. This makes Allah pleased and it is a good way to say thank you to him for all the wonderful things he gave us.



Chapter 19

Extra salat, extra good

“Baba,” called Rami, “How come you have to do your salat all over again every time you finish your salat?”

“What do you mean?” asked his father.

“Well, every time you finish salat, you get up again and make the salat again.”

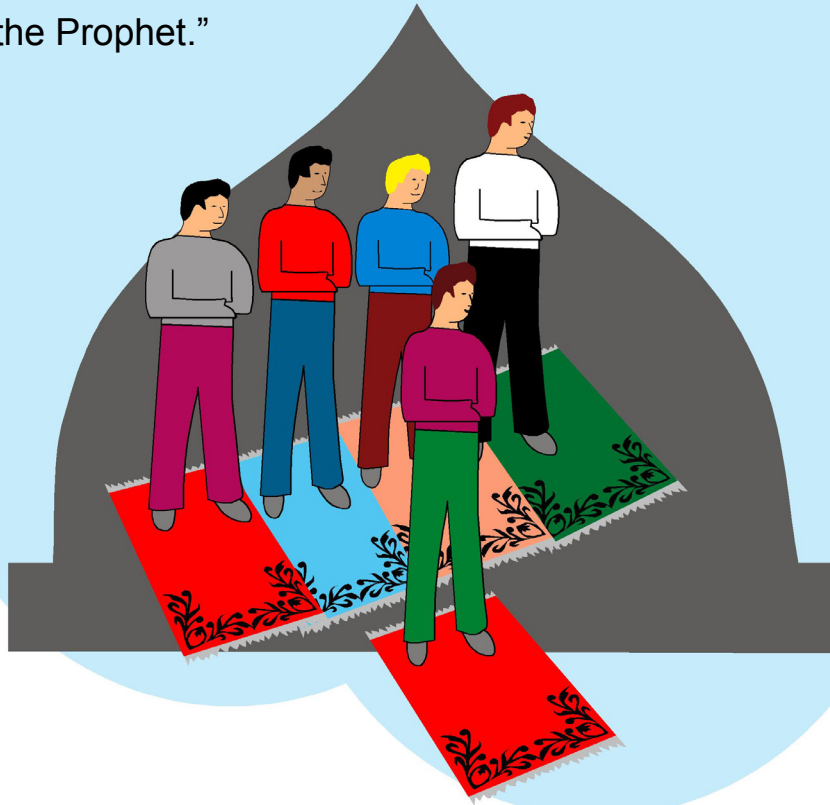
“Oh! I see what you mean,” said his father. “I am not making the salat all over, I am making more salat, it’s called sunna prayer.”



“What are sunna prayers?” asked Rami.

“You know how your teacher will give you better grades if you do extra homework or a project? This is the same. If a Muslim makes extra prayers, just like the Prophet ﷺ did, then they will get extra credit and Allah ﷻ will be pleased with them.

“Neat!” exclaimed Rami. “I will make extra prayers from now on, just like you and the Prophet.”



Rami stood up to make his sunna prayer, but just before he did, he turned to his father and asked, “Will I get extra credit and better grades at school for making this sunna prayer?”

“You will get extra credit with Allah. As for the grades, you’re on your own, pal.”

Rami smiled and raised his hands saying “Allahu Akbar,” as he proceeded with his salat.

Words

Credit: good points.

Extra: more or additional.

Non-obligatory: things we can do if we want, but are not a must.

Obligatory: things we must do.

Scheduled: done at certain times.

Voluntary: things you do on your own without being asked to.

Remember

- Allah ﷻ ordered us to do prayers five times a day. These are called obligatory (must) prayers. In Arabic, these prayers are called “fardh prayers”.
- The Prophet ﷺ did extra prayers and he asked us to do the same.
- Extra prayers are called sunnah or nawafil prayers.
- Sunnah (extra) prayers may be done regularly with each fardh prayer, or at any time we feel like praying.
- The Prophet always prayed extra prayer (2 ruka'a) before subh and dhuhur and after maghrib ad Isha'.

The Scheduled Non-Obligatory Prayers

Allah ﷻ instructed Muslims to pray five times a day. These prayers are: morning, noon, afternoon, evening, and night prayers. These prayers are called the obligatory or fardh prayers.

The Prophet ﷺ prayed just before and just after fardh prayers. These are sunna prayers and are also called the scheduled non-obligatory prayers. This means that they are prayers which are made at a certain time but are extra and not a must to do. Extra prayers done during any time

without being before or after a salat are called voluntary prayers.

Extra prayers done at certain times are:

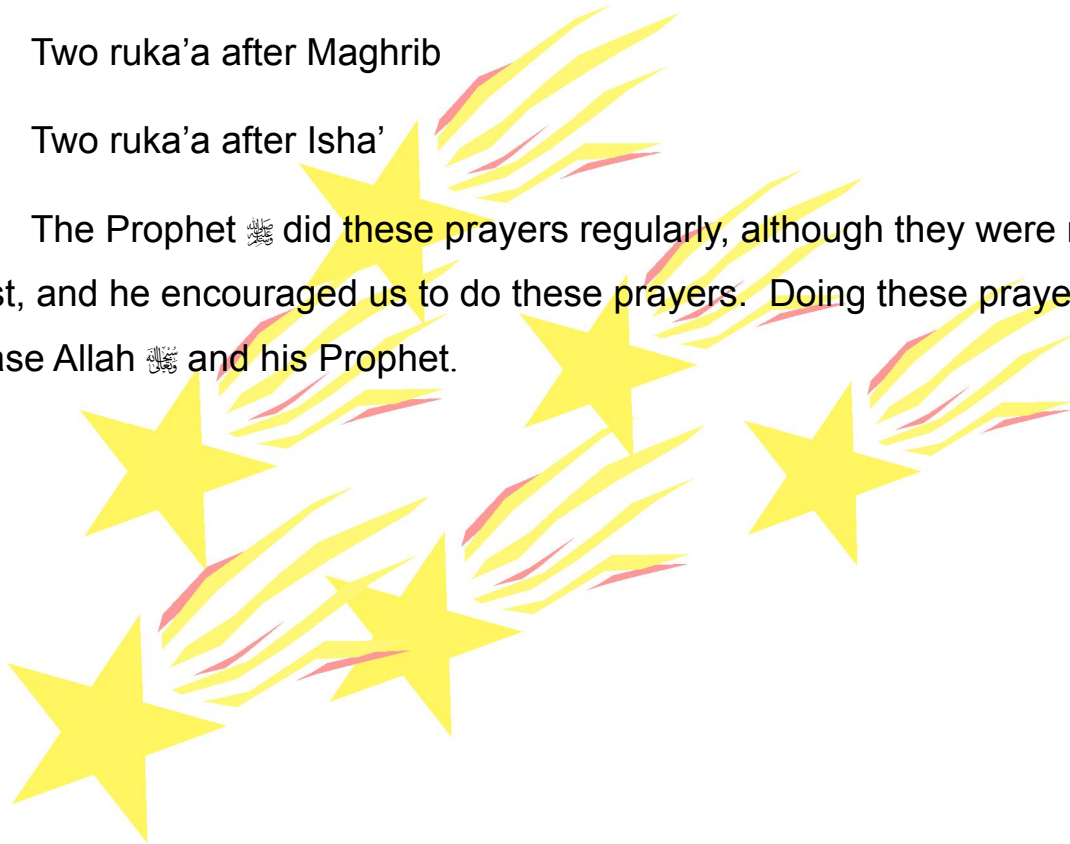
Two ruka'a before Subh.

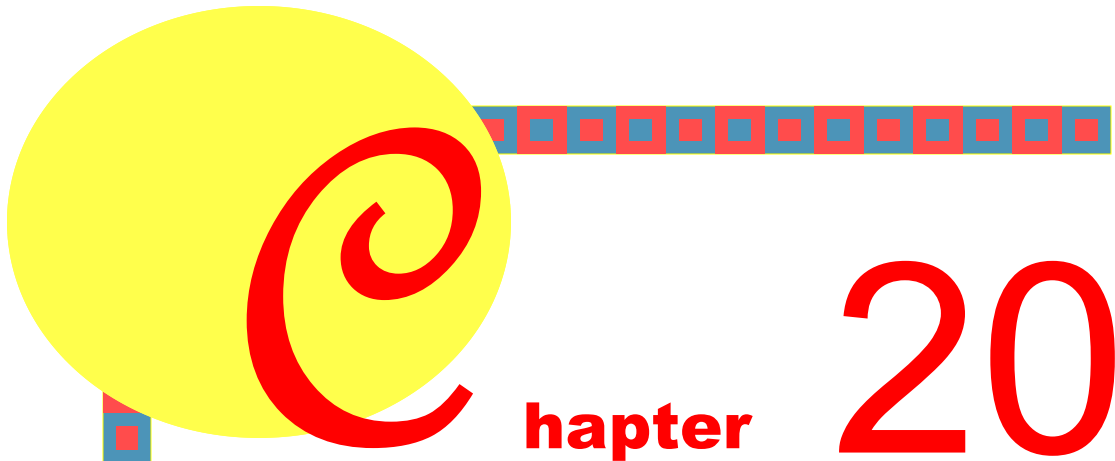
Two ruka'a before and two after Dhuhr.

Two ruka'a after Maghrib

Two ruka'a after Isha'

The Prophet ﷺ did these prayers regularly, although they were not a must, and he encouraged us to do these prayers. Doing these prayers will please Allah ﷻ and his Prophet.

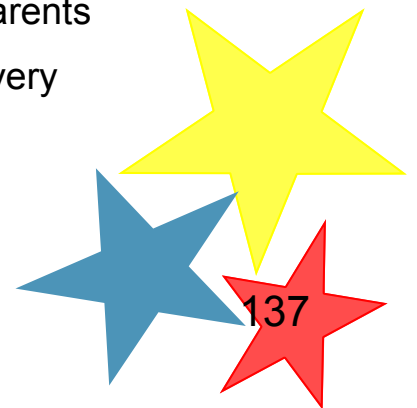




Chapter 20

Squirrels Stay Quiet

Once upon a time, up on a high tree, there lived a family of squirrels. There was a Baba Squirrel, a Mama Squirrel and Speedy Squirrel. Baba Squirrel and Mama Squirrel loved their child Speedy a lot, but sometimes he was too much. Don't get me wrong, he did not do bad things, break things or behave disobediently in any way. Speedy Squirrel actually was very good. He prayed five times every day, listened to his parents and was good at school. There was something very tiring about him, though: he talked a lot and very fast. Sometimes he talked so fast no one would



know what he had just said. That's why he got the nickname "Speedy".

One day, Speedy came to his Mother. He was unusually quiet and looked sad.

"What's wrong Speedy?" asked his mother.

"I don't think anybody likes me any more," Speedy said with a pout.

"Nonsense!" exclaimed his mother. "Everybody loves you."

"I don't know Mama, but lately my friends seem to avoid me."

"What happened to make you think so?" asked his mother.

"Remember how my friends and I would come here after school and play together. Well, no one seems to want to do that anymore."

"When was the last time they were here?" asked the mother.

"Last week," said Speedy. "We came back from school and we were playing with my board games. I was telling them about how Baba and I climbed that very tall tree the other day but all they wanted to do was play with the game so I put it away. They got mad and left."



“Do you think it was a good thing to treat them that way?” asked his mother.

“I guess not,” said Speedy with a soft voice. “But they were mean. They said that I talk too much.”

Hadith

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

said, "Those of you who believe in Allah and the Day of Judgment should be kind to their neighbor, generous to their guests and when they talk, say kind words or keep quiet."

"Well dear," said his mother. "You do talk too much. Remember what the Prophet ﷺ said."

"You mean when he said to say kind things or be quiet."

"That's exactly right," said his mother. "Also, when having guests at your house, you should be kind to them and not tell them what to

do."

"I know, Mama," said Speedy with a sigh. "I promise to talk less and be kinder to my guests."

"That's great," said his mother.

"But could I still be called Speedy? I like that nickname."

“Sure, Speedy!”

Good Manners

The Prophet ﷺ taught us that if Muslims have true belief, then they must have good manners. Belief in Allah ﷻ means that we believe in the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet, and practice Allah’s teachings, like good manners.

A good Muslim is kind to his neighbor, whether they are Muslims or not. We should greet them when we meet them, visit them and help them in time of need.

Muslims also treat their

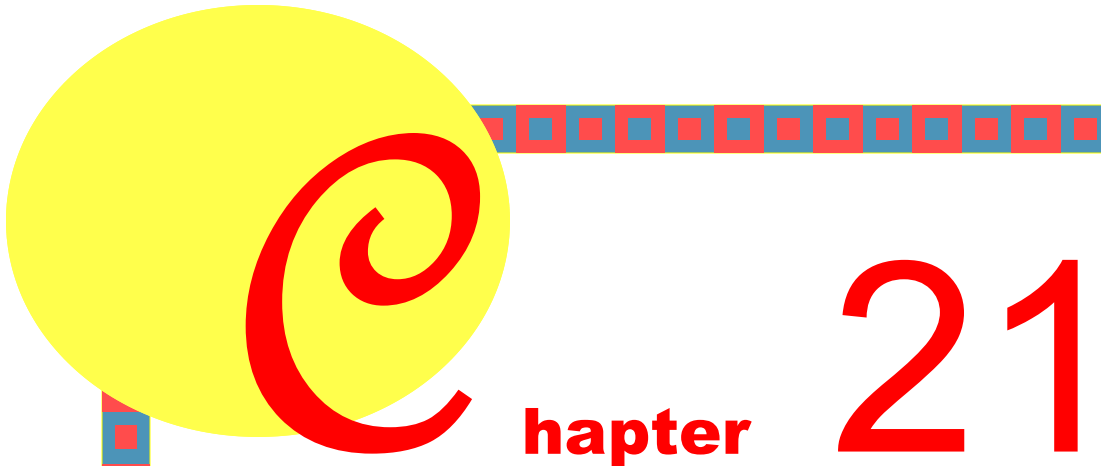
Remember

- *Muslims should be kind to all people, talk to them in a nice way and never say things that would hurt others.*
- *If someone you know says or does something wrong, you should tell them nicely that what they are saying or doing is wrong.*
- *Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us to say kind things to others or keep quiet.*
- *Muslims who believe in Allah ﷻ must be kind to their neighbors and generous to their guests.*
- *Muslims treat their guests well, offer them food and drink and always say nice things to them.*

guests with hospitality, we should welcome them to our homes, offer them food and drink and make them feel comfortable.

Muslims should say kind words and definitely not hurt people with bad words or actions. It is always important to remember that when the Prophet ﷺ had nothing good to say, he stayed quiet. We frequently feel that we have to just keep on talking and when we talk too much, we end up saying nonsense and possibly hurting others because of saying things which are hurtful.

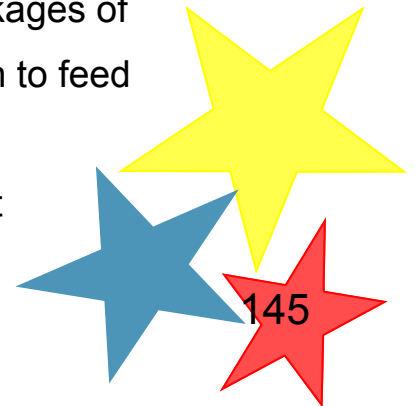




Chapter 21

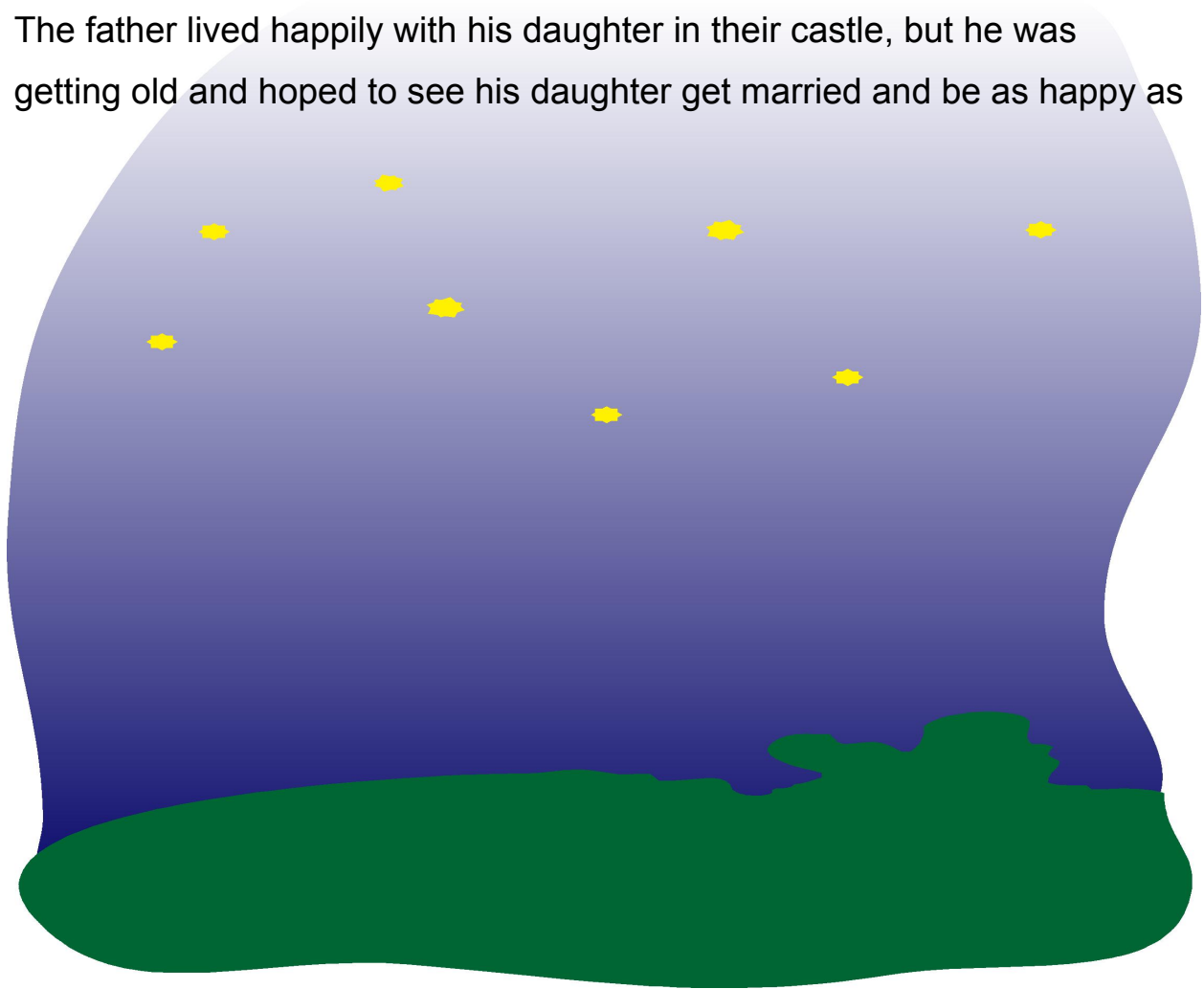
Sura 92 Allayl الليل

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away there was a beautiful girl called Yusra. She lived with her father in their castle in a small town called Hometown. All men, women and children of the town liked Yusra, not because she was pretty, which she really was, but because she was kind to all. After making Subh prayers early in the morning with her father, they would go to the market, buy food and walk around the town, leaving packages of food to those who could not afford to buy enough to feed their families. They would walk from alleyway to alleyway when it is still dark and place fruit, meat



and bread at the doorsteps of those in need. People never saw them do it, but knew that it was the kind father and his beautiful daughter who did so every morning.

The father lived happily with his daughter in their castle, but he was getting old and hoped to see his daughter get married and be as happy as



he lived happily with his wife once before.

Many young men wished to marry Yusra. Princes and rich boys from north, south, west and east came to visit her father to ask for Yusra's hand in marriage. Yusra was kind to her father and knew he wanted her to get married, so she met all those who asked for her hands in marriage and asked them one question.

"If one night as we are about to sit down to eat our dinner, a poor woman and her child knock on our door asking for food, what would you do?"

"I would ask them to stop begging and go find a job," one of them would say.

"I would give them yesterday's leftovers," replied another.

"Answer the door?! Are you crazy? I am prince; my servants would answer the door for me," one prince said arrogantly.

"I know you are kind and love to help people. I would ask them to come back after we eat to give them what we did not eat."

Yusra thanked all who came to ask for her hands in marriage but was not happy with any of the young men who seemed to want to make her happy. None of them had a kind heart like she or her father to see that true happiness came from helping others and pleasing Allah, not eating delicious food or wearing expensive clothes.

One day, a young man knocked on the large door of their castle.

“What do you wish for, young man?” asked the servant who opened the door.

“I would like to ask for the hand of the young lady,” he replied.

The servant looked at the young man. He appeared bright and sincere, but not at all like the princes and rich young men who came in the past to ask for the young lady’s hand. His clothes were old and cheap and his shoes looked dusty and worn. The servant showed the young man to the room where the young lady and her father sat.

“Assalamu alaikum,” started the young man addressing the father. “My name is Karim and I wish to ask your daughter to marry me,” said the young man.

He then turned to the young lady, lowered his eyes and said to her:
“I am not rich, but I fear Allah and I am honest and a hard worker.

Yusra was pleased, but still not sure.

“I will ask you one question and only one question. With your answer, I will truly know if you love me or not” said the Yusra.

“I will only answer with what I believe,” answered the young man.

Yusra smiled, “If one night, as we are about to sit down to eat our dinner, a poor woman and her child knock on our door asking for food, what would you do?” asked Yusra as she did so many times before.

“I would ask them to join us for dinner, then walk her and her child back to their home at the end of our meal.”

Yusra was thrilled! Finally, here was a young man who thinks the same way that she and her father do, a young man who shares what he has with those around him. She smiled widely and said to her father; “I accept.”

Her father was happy. His dream finally came true, his lovely

Remember

- *Allah ﷻ made people free. They can choose to do good or evil.*
- *Those who choose to do good will be rewarded in the Hereafter with Heaven.*
- *Those who do evil will be punished in the Hereafter with Hellfire.*
- *Doing good helps people and encourage others to do good also.*
- *Doing evil hurts people and will encourage others to do evil.*

daughter was going to marry a man who would be kind to her as he is kind to all people.

Yusra looked at the young man with one more question: “Why would you walk her back to her home? The town is safe and no one was ever hurt walking in day or night.”

“How else would I know where she lives to help them with food whenever I can? A women with a child should not be made to beg for food when there is plenty of it elsewhere.”

“Alhamdu lillah,” was all what Yusra could think of saying.

Yusra and Karim married and lived happily ever after.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. By night when it covers everything with its darkness.

وَاللَّیْلِ إِذَا یَغْشَىٰ

2. By the day, which makes things clear with its brightness

وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا تَجَلَّىٰ

3. And by Allah who created male and female.

وَمَا خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ

4. Your efforts in this world vary from one another.

إِنَّ سَعِیْكُمْ لَشَتَّىٰ

5. He who gives to the needy and fears Allah.

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَىٰ وَاتَّقَىٰ

6. And believed in all that is good.

وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ

7. We will make it easy for him to take the easy path of goodness.

فَسَنِّسِرُهُ لِّلْیُسْرَىٰ

8. But to the person who was stingy,
and thought that he can do without the
help of Allah.

وَأَمَّا مَنْ بَخِلَ وَاسْتَغْنَىٰ

9. And did not believe in Islam, the
message of goodness

وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ

10. Then Allah will make it easy for him
to continue following the path of evil
which is a hard and difficult path in the
end

فَسَنِيَسِّرُهُ لِلْعُسْرَىٰ

11. And for such a person, his wealth
will not protect him from Allah.

وَمَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُ مَالُهُ إِذَا تَرَدَّىٰ

12. It is up to Allah alone to give
guidance.

إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا لَلْهُدَىٰ

13. And Allah is in full control of
everything from beginning to end

وَإِنَّ لَنَا لَلْآخِرَةَ وَالْأُولَىٰ

14. Therefore, I warn you of a blazing
fire.

فَأَنْذَرْتُكُمْ نَارًا تَلَظَّىٰ

15. No one will suffer from it except those who did evil.

لَا يَصْلَاهَا إِلَّا الْأَشْقَى

16. Those who denied the message of Allah and did not follow it.

الَّذِي كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّى

17. But those who feared Allah will avoid suffering from this fire.

وَسَيُجَنَّبُهَا الْأَتْقَى

18. They are those who spend their money to become pure.

الَّذِي يُؤْتِي مَالَهُ يَتَزَكَّى

19. Those who do not do good just to be rewarded by people.

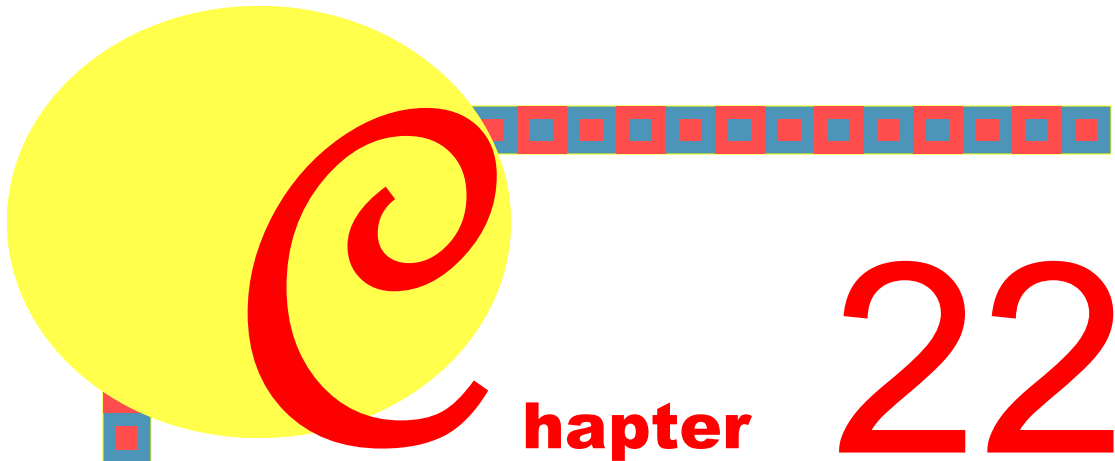
وَمَا لِأَحَدٍ عِنْدَهُ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ تُجْزَى

20. They do their good deeds to be rewarded by their Lord.

إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ الْأَعْلَى

21. Such a person will be made very happy with Allah's reward.

وَلَسَوْفَ يَرْضَى



Chapter 22

Muhammad, a Young Man

When Muhammad ﷺ was a young man, the walls of the Kaaba were getting old and weak. So, the leaders of Mecca decided to rebuild it. Everything was going smoothly, until they reached the corner of the Black Stone, a holy stone. Everyone wanted to be the one to move the Black Stone. They knew it was a special stone and wanted to do it and not let anyone else have that honor. They argued and argued about who should be the one to move the Black Stone. Things were getting ugly and many were threatening to start a fight. Finally, they agreed that whoever walked

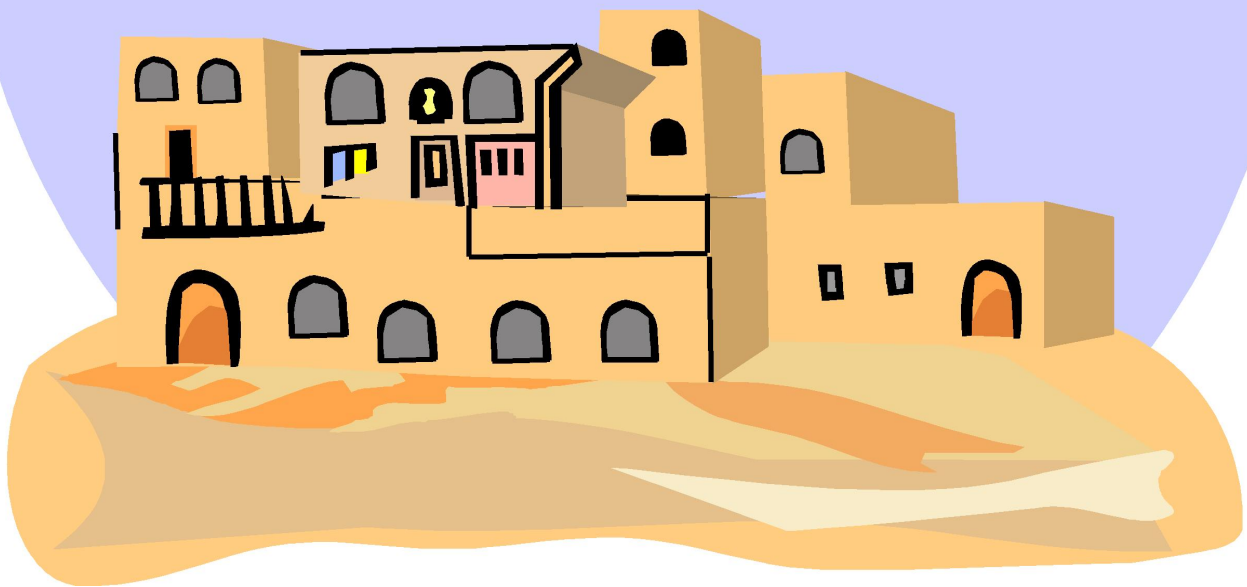


through the gateway of Sheeba, one of the Ka'ba's entrances, would be the person to decide how to solve this problem. Soon thereafter, Muhammad ﷺ walked through the gateway and all were pleased because they knew him as a truthful and trustworthy man.

Muhammad ﷺ listened to everyone and then came up with a brilliant solution. He lifted the Black Stone and placed it upon his robe, then he asked a man from each of the tribes to grab a corner of the robe and lift the Black stone. Once they rebuilt that part of the Ka'ba, everyone carried the robe with the stone in it to the newly built Ka'ba and Muhammed again carried it and placed it in its new location. Everyone was happy with that solution.

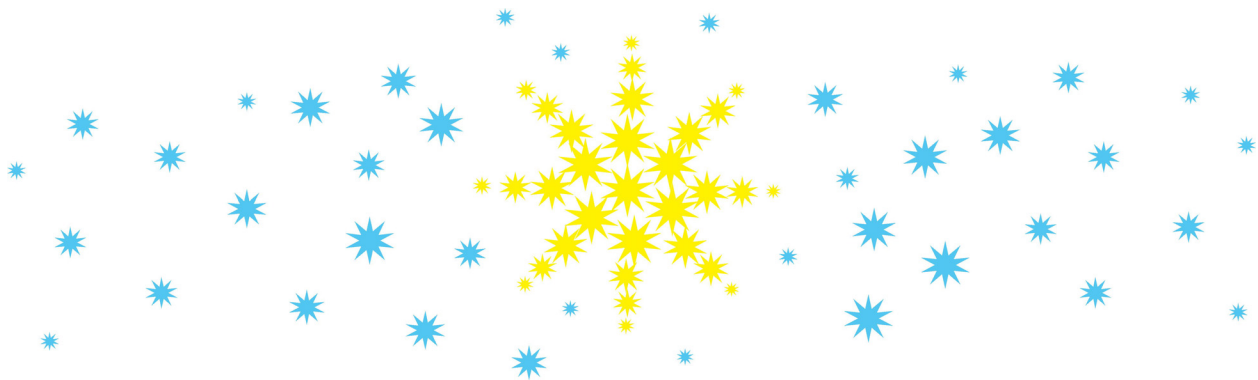
Prophet Mohammad was ﷺ known for his honesty, so much so that he was called "The Honest One". When he was a young man, he would help his uncle to earn more money by taking on some jobs. One of the things he did was work as a shepherd. People trusted him with their cattle and his reputation as an honest person spread. One of the people who trusted him was Khadija, one of Mecca's very well known and wealthy women. She asked Muhammad to be in charge of her merchants as her

caravans went back and forth between Mecca and Elsham. Muhammed, with his honesty, made a lot of profit for Khadija. She was very pleased with him as she would hear wonderful stories about his honesty and good nature from Maysara one of her servants, who accompanied Muhammad on his trips. Khadija was so impressed with Muhammad's character that she asked him to marry her. At that time, Muhammad was 25 years of age, and Khadija was 40 years old. Muhammad and Khadija had a



wonderful marriage, which lasted 25 years, until she died. Khadija was the mother of all of Muhammad's children except Ibrahim.

Muhammad ﷺ was very involved in his community and participated in many of their activities. He stayed away from the bad behavior that many people of Mecca did. The tribes in that region frequently started wars, resulting in much death and destruction. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ participated in only two of such battles because of their just causes. The first was called the battle of Elfujjar. This battle started because one of the tribes did not respect a truce during the months of Hurum, which are months when Arabs had agreed not to fight. The Prophet ﷺ participated in this battle by gathering arrows for warriors, as well as participating in the fights. This war lasted for four years, and ended when the two sides decided to count the number of dead people from each side, and the side

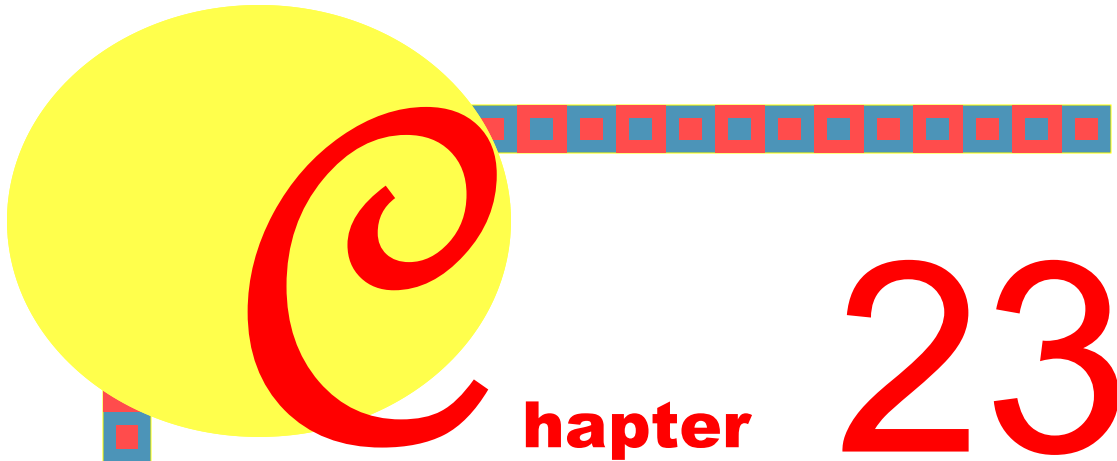


that had fewer dead people had to pay money, as a form of compensation to the other side. The Prophet also participated in another battle, called the Battle of the Treaty of Elfodool. This treaty was made so that the stronger tribes could help weaker tribes if they were attacked.



Remember

- *The Prophet ﷺ worked as a shepherd when he was a young man.*
- *As a young man, Prophet Muhammad helped his uncle when he traveled as a merchant.*
- *Khadija was a rich woman from Mecca. The Prophet worked for her and she liked him because of his honesty.*
- *Khadija asked prophet Muhammad to marry him.*
- *Prophet Muhammad solved the problem of the black stone when the Kaaba was being rebuilt. He carried the stone and put it on his robe and asked people from each tribe to carry it to the new place.*



Chapter 23

Obedience to Allah ﷻ and the Teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Fatima came back home from school, put her backpack in the family room and then went out the backdoor to the yard. It was early fall and the trees were still full of leaves. Fatima loved the backyard. It was large, with many tall trees, bushes and flowers. She liked to go to the old swing set their father put up for them when she and her brother were much younger. Fatima wanted to be alone and think. She was a bit confused and unsure of what to do. She was



mostly upset at herself for what she did that day. One of the girls in her class, Sumaya, came to school wearing an old jilbab. The jilbab was caught on a desk when they were leaving for lunch and it ripped. All the girls could see that she was wearing old pajama pants underneath and they all laughed. Sumaya was embarrassed. She stayed quiet and went to a corner of the class and did not join the rest for lunch. Fatima, like



most of the other girls laughed at Sumaya. They did not mean to be rude; they laughed without thinking. Fatima knew that she hurt Sumaya, but did not know what to do to make it right.

Zahra was the only one who did not laugh, instead she immediately went to Sumaya and said in a loud voice that all could hear, “Sumaya, can you help me with the math homework, I didn’t get it.” They both went to a corner in the classroom and worked on the homework without joining the rest for lunch.

Fatima knew that Zahra did not really need any help with math homework. She was always very good with math. Fatima also knew why Zahra pretended to need Sumaya’s help. Zahra was trying to make Sumaya feel better.

Fatima liked what Zahra did and felt bad for not having done the same.

“I wish I did not laugh at Sumaya, it made her feel bad,” she thought to herself.

Fatima knew that Sumaya’s family did not have enough money to

buy new things and Sumaya frequently came to school with old clothes.

At the end of the school day, Fatima asked Zahra why she did not laugh like the rest. Zahra's answer was simple, "I follow the teachings of Allah and his Prophet as much as I can."

"I should do the same," thought Fatima as she walked between the rose bushes. And to do so, I have to read more Quran and hadith to learn how to be a better Muslim.

Fatima was feeling better already. She went inside, picked up the phone and called Sumaya to invite her for a sleepover. Fatima was going to be a better Muslim.

How to obey Allah ﷻ and his Messenger

Allah ﷻ has given us many things to make our lives wonderful. Even if we tried to, we would not be able to count all the great things that Allah ﷻ has given us! These gifts that Allah gave us, such as food, drinks, family, and friends, and many others to help us enjoy life. But Allah's giving did not stop there. He also sent messengers to show us the right

path to follow. Following the right path will bless us with goodness in this life and in the hereafter.

It is because of Allah's kindness to us that we love him. We also love his messengers, particularly Muhammad ﷺ, who taught us Islam, how best to live this life and prepare for an even better life in heavens, insha' Allah.

As Muslims, we should :

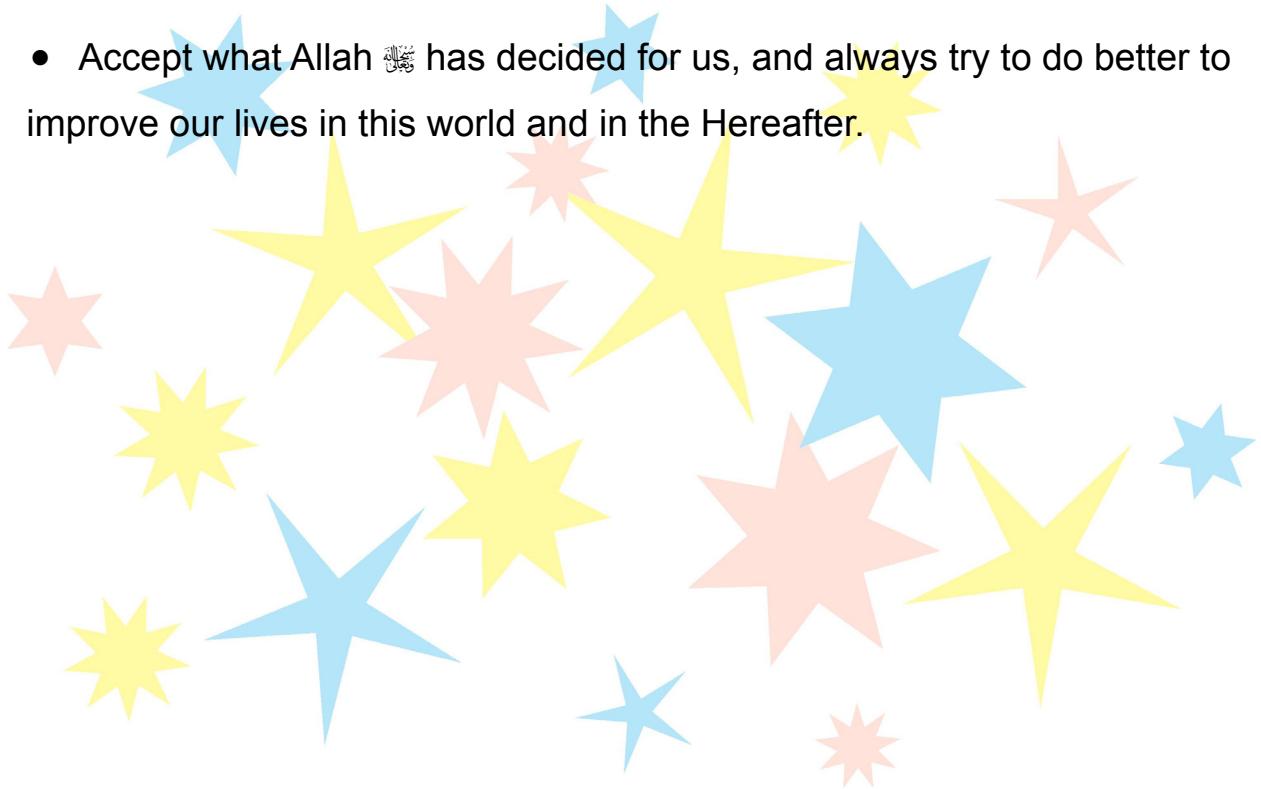
- Read the Quran and learn from it about Allah ﷻ, his creations, and the people who lived before us. Also, in the Quran, we learn about the things which we should do and what we should not do.
- Learn about the teachings of Prophet

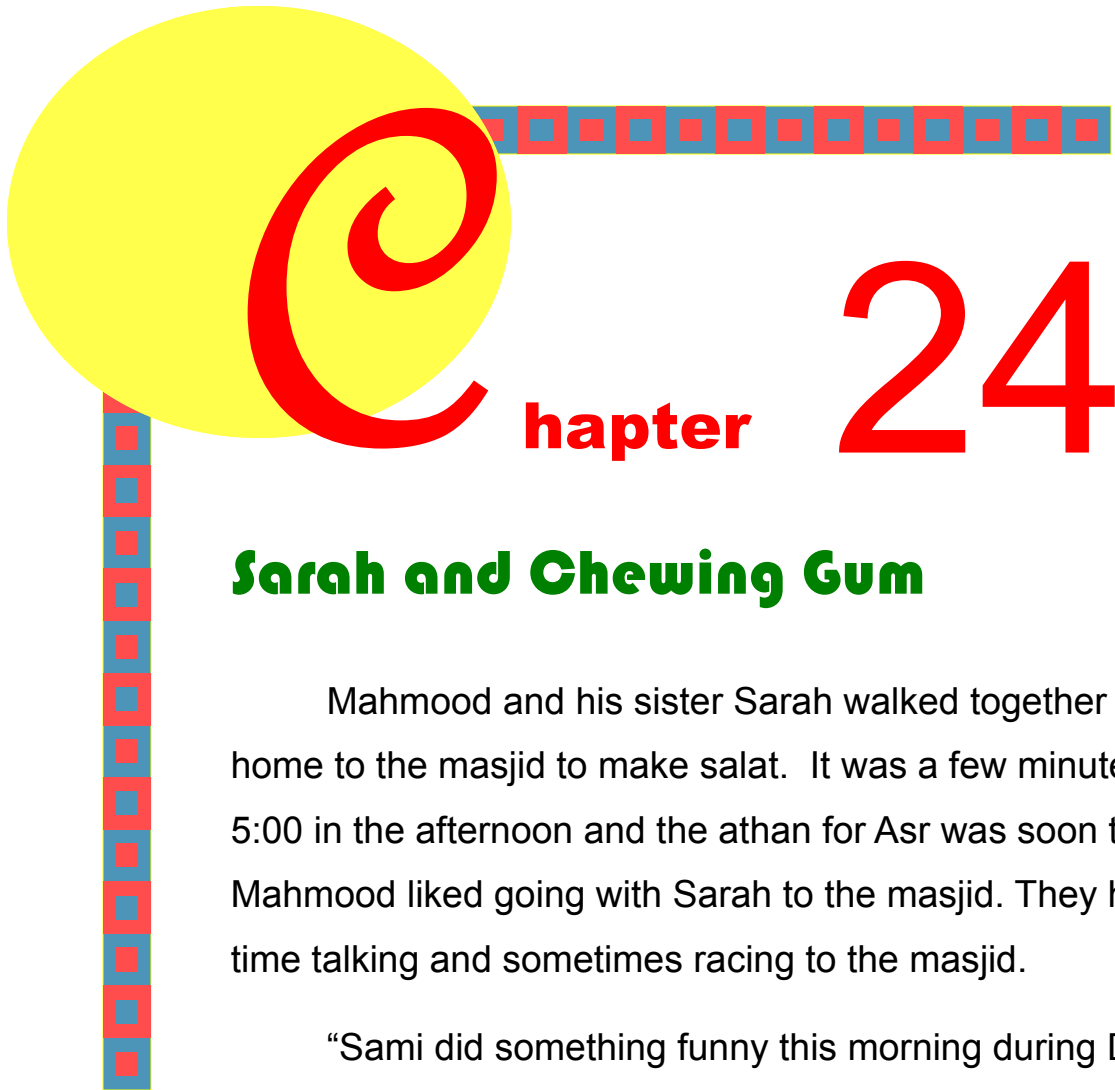
Remember

- *Muslims should read the Quran and learn from it about Allah ﷻ and his creations.*
- *Muslims should learn about the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through his sunna (his way of life and what he said).*
- *Muslims should obey Allah and his Prophet, and honor our parents.*
- *We should practice the manners Islam teaches us.*
- *We should love Allah and Muhammad more than any thing else.*

Muhammad ﷺ through his way of life and sayings (sunna).

- Obey Allah his Prophet, and honor our parents.
- Practice the manners Islam teaches us.
- Love Allah and Muhammad more than any thing else.
- Keep Allah always in our minds.
- Accept what Allah ﷻ has decided for us, and always try to do better to improve our lives in this world and in the Hereafter.





Chapter 24

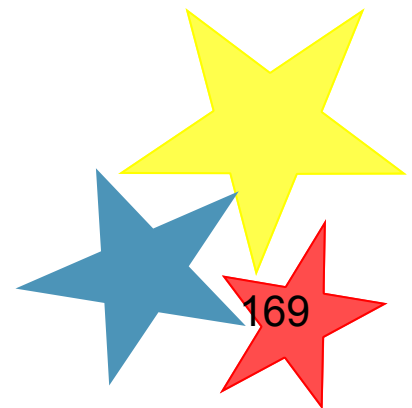
Sarah and Chewing Gum

Mahmood and his sister Sarah walked together from their home to the masjid to make salat. It was a few minutes before 5:00 in the afternoon and the athan for Asr was soon to be called. Mahmood liked going with Sarah to the masjid. They had a good time talking and sometimes racing to the masjid.

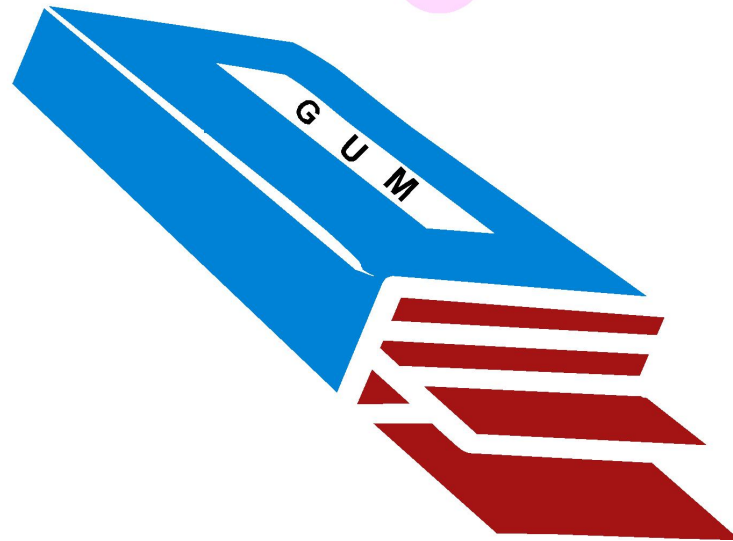
“Sami did something funny this morning during Dhuhr prayer,” said Mahmood.

“What did he do?” asked Sarah.

“We were about to make salat, when



Sami remembered that he had gum in his mouth. He was afraid to take it out of his mouth because we are not supposed to chew gum at school. So he tried to swallow it but it was too big so he coughed and coughed and then all the teachers were looking at him and they found out why he was coughing and now he has to go to detention.”



“I didn’t know you’re not supposed to be chewing gum during salat,” said Sarah. “I better spit out the gum from my mouth right now.”

“You’re not supposed to eat, drink or chew gum when making salat,” said Mahmood.

“How come?” asked Sarah.

“I guess because you cannot think about what you’re saying when you’re too busy focusing on what’s in your mouth.”

“I guess so.”

Mahmood and Sarah were now close to the masjid.

“I’ll meet you here after salat,” said Sarah as she walked through the women’s entrance.

“You got it!” replied Mahmood as he walked through the men’s entrance.

Remember

- *Muslims learned how to pray by watching how the Prophet prayed.*
- *Eating, drinking or chewing gum is wrong during salat.*
- *Laughing or crying in a loud voice should not be done during salat*
- *When making salat, always face the Qibla.*
- *It is wrong to be fidgety or move unnecessarily during salat.*
- *Anything that ruins wudu, also ruins salat, because salat cannot be done without proper wudu.*

Things That Ruin Prayer

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ showed us how to perform salat. He said: “Pray as you see me pray.”

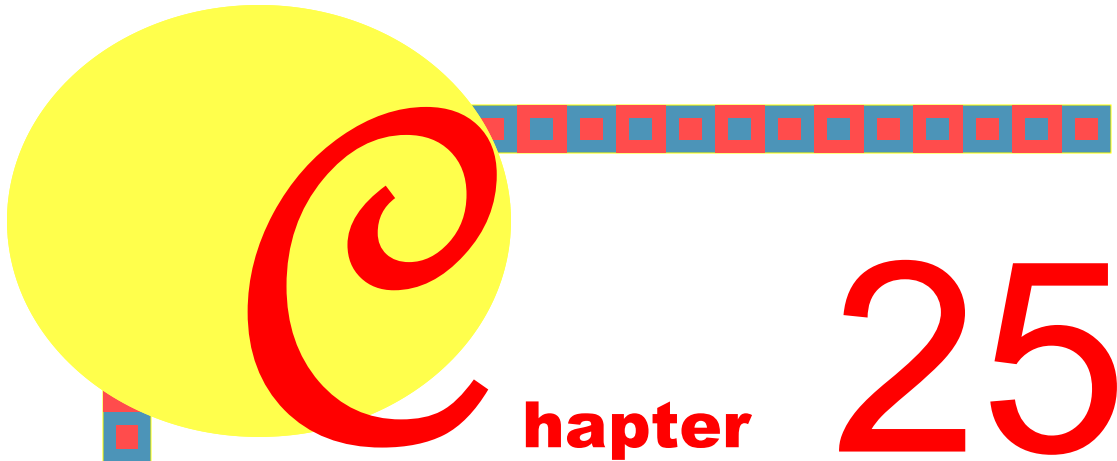
There is a specific way to perform salat and it must be done according to how Allah ﷻ instructed the Prophet to do it. Praying any way we want to will not count.

Things which make salat not acceptable include:

- Eating or drinking during salat, including chewing gum.

- Laughing or crying with a loud voice.
- Facing another direction other than the Qibla
- Being fidgety and moving unnecessarily.
- Saying things, which are not part of salat.
- Finally, anything, which ruins wudu, would also ruin salat, since salat cannot be done without proper wudu.

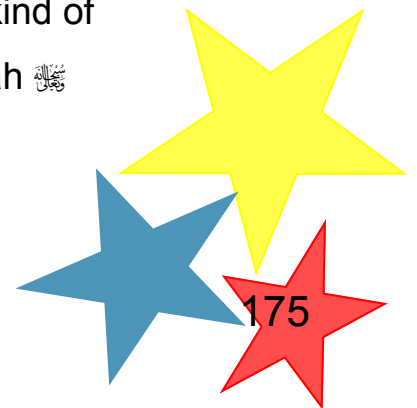
Allah ﷻ had asked us to perform salat in a specific way; one should follow how Prophet Muhammad ﷺ did it and follow his example.



Chapter 25

Relatives

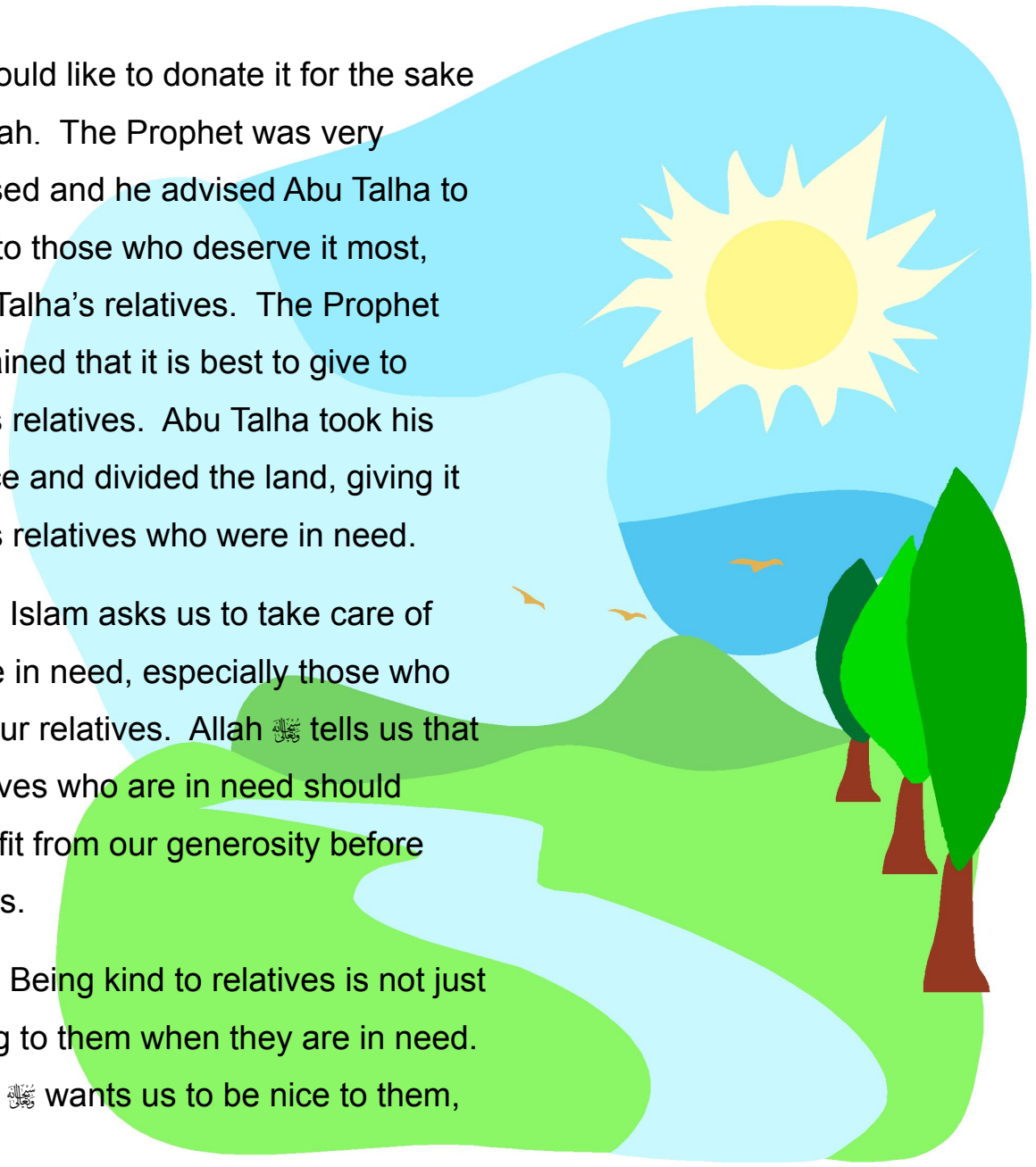
Abu Talha was one of the good Muslims of the Ansar (people of Medina who supported and asked the Prophet ﷺ to leave Mecca and come to live amongst them in Medina). He was a rich man and owned a land with many trees and a spring of water. This land was near the masjid, and was a very expensive piece of property. One day, Abu Talha heard the Prophet reading from the Quran. The verses he heard told Muslims that the best kind of giving is when a person gives for the sake of Allah ﷻ from the best that they owned. So Abu Talha's property went to the Prophet and told him that



he would like to donate it for the sake of Allah. The Prophet was very pleased and he advised Abu Talha to give to those who deserve it most, Abu Talha's relatives. The Prophet explained that it is best to give to one's relatives. Abu Talha took his advice and divided the land, giving it to his relatives who were in need.

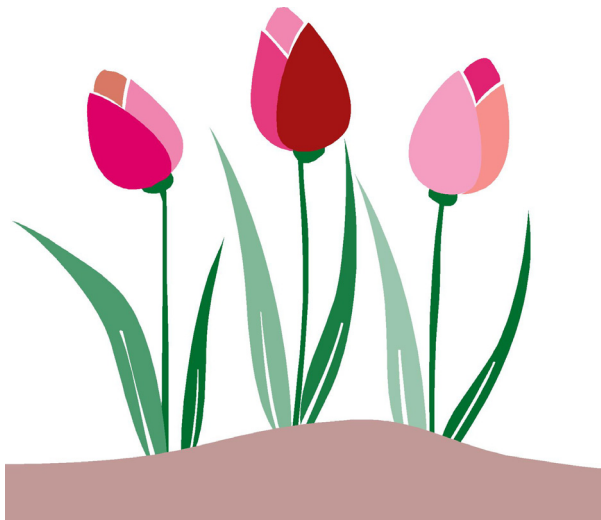
Islam asks us to take care of those in need, especially those who are our relatives. Allah ﷻ tells us that relatives who are in need should benefit from our generosity before others.

Being kind to relatives is not just giving to them when they are in need. Allah ﷻ wants us to be nice to them,



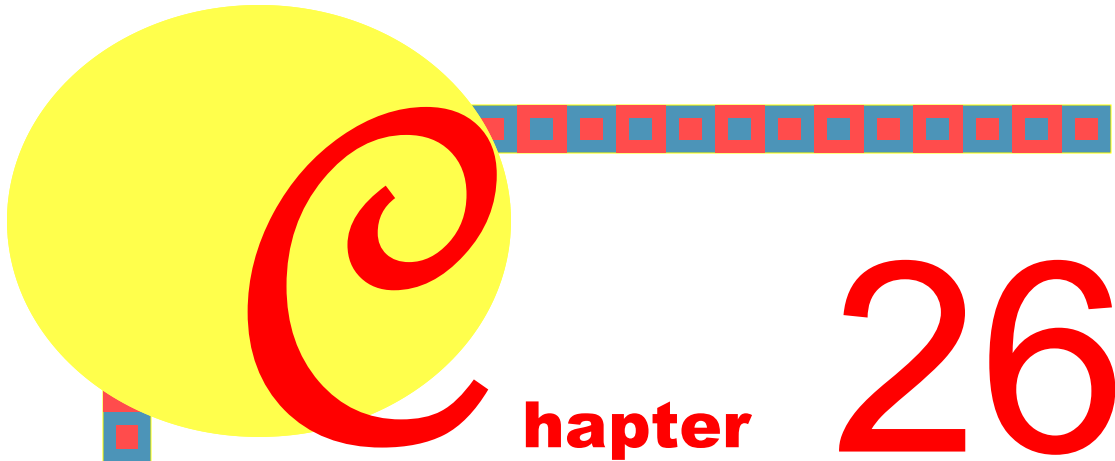
visit them, and have a good relationships with them.

Relatives are our parents, brothers and sisters, as well as our uncles, aunts and cousins.



Remember

- *The Prophet ﷺ told Abu Talha to give his land to Abu Talha's poor relatives.*
- *The best kind of giving is when we give from what we like most.*
- *Our relatives are our parents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts and cousins.*
- *We should give to our needy relatives before giving to needy strangers.*
- *Allah ﷻ helps and rewards those who give to the needy.*



Chapter 26

Sura 91 Alshams الشمس

Prophet Saleh was sent to the people of Thamud to guide them to the right path but they were arrogant and refused to accept his message. Allah ﷻ tested the people of Thamud by sending a camel to drink from their well water. Prophet Saleh told his people that this is a blessed camel and that they should allow it to drink from the well water and not hurt it. The people of Thamud were impatient. They did not want to wait their turn in drinking from the well. They ignored the warnings of Prophet Saleh and the most evil man of the tribe hurt the camel badly. Allah was very upset at them for

Continued on page 147





بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. By the sun and its bright light.

وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا

2. By the moon as it follows the appearance of the sun in the sky.

وَالْقَمَرِ إِذَا تَلَاهَا

3. By the day as it shows its magnificence.

وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا جَلَّاهَا

4. By the night as it covers everything with its darkness.

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَاهَا

5. By the sky and its creator.

وَالسَّمَاءِ وَمَا بَنَاهَا

6. By the earth and Allah who spread it.

وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا طَحَاهَا

7. By the soul and Allah who perfected it.

وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا

8. And inspired it with what is wrong and what is right.

فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا

9. Those who keep their souls pure are the winners.

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا

10. And those who corrupt their souls are the losers.

وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا

11. The people of Thamud rejected the truth in their arrogance.

كَذَّبَتْ ثَمُودُ بِطَغْوَاهَا

12. The most evil man of those people went after the camel, which Allah blessed, to kill it as it was trying to drink from the well water.

إِذِ انْبَعَثَ أَشْقَاهَا

13. The messenger of Allah told the people of Thamud to let the camel drink and not to harm it.

فَقَالَ لَهُمْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ نَاقَةَ اللَّهِ وَسُقْيَاهَا

14. They did not believe the messenger and went ahead and hurt the camel badly, making Allah angry. For this, Allah destroyed their town and leveled it to the ground.

فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَعَقَرُوهَا فَدَمْدَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ

بِذُنُوبِهِمْ فَسَوَّاهَا

15. For Allah has no fear of punishing those who deserve it.

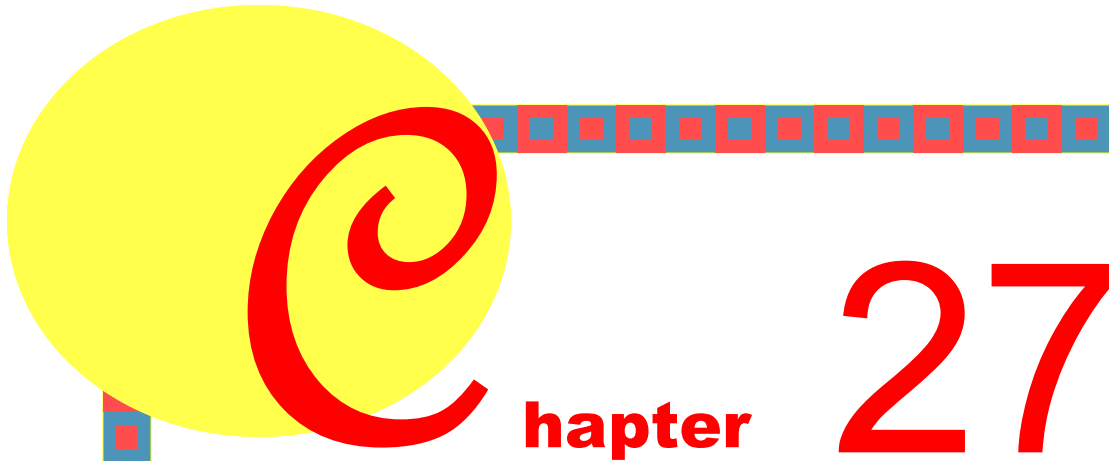
وَلَا يَخَافُ عُقْبَاهَا

disobeying the very clear message he had given them. Allah destroyed their city and leveled it down to the ground.

Allah ﷻ loves his people, and sends messengers to show us the right path. But if some people insist on being evil and doing wrong, then Allah will punish those who do evil and reward those who do good.

Remember

- Allah ﷻ sent prophet Saleh to the people of Thamud.
- Allah tested the people of Thamud by telling them not to hurt a camel he sent to drink from their well.
- The people of Thamud did not have patience. They disobeyed Allah and hurt the camel.
- Allah was angry at the people of Thamud and destroyed their city because of their evil doing.
- Allah rewards those who follow his teachings with a good life and heaven in the Hereafter.

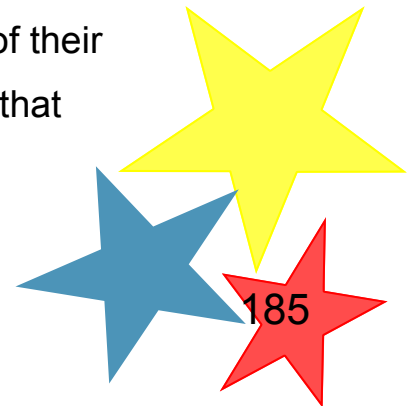


Chapter 27

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Marries Khadija عليها السلام

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Khadija were very happy after they were married. His business as a merchant was very profitable. They had many children and things seemed to be going very well. Although Muhammad loved the people of Mecca very much, he did not join them in many of their bad habits. Muhammad ﷺ was able to see that Arabs had changed the religion of Ibrahim عليه السلام so much that it became meaningless. He did not



participate with them in the way they worshiped and instead he went to cave Hira in the mountain of Nur, three miles away from Mecca, to think about Allah's creation and the religion of his great-grandfather Ibrahim. And on the 17th day of Ramadan, 611 A.D. while he was in the cave, Angel Jibril ﷺ appeared to Muhammad ﷺ. He approached the Prophet and held him close. He said to the Prophet in a commanding voice "Read." The Prophet was surprised and scared. He replied that he could not read. After a few times of repeating this command, Angel Jibril ﷺ recited to the Prophet ﷺ the first few verses from the Quran.

Jibril was huge. He filled the entire sky. The prophet heard Angel Jibril say to him: "O Muhammad, you are the messenger of Allah and I am Jibril".

The Prophet was even more terrified and he quickly went back to his home. Once he arrived to his home, the prophet told Khadija of what had happened. She, in turn, went to her cousin Waraqa ibn Nawfal who studied religions and was a knowledgeable man. Waraqa told Khadija that these are the signs of the new prophet, who had been mentioned by

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. *Read in the name of your Lord who created you.*

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

2. *Who created man out of a clot.*

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ

3. *Read in the name of your Lord who is most generous.*

اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ

4. *Who taught the use of pen.*

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ

5. *Allah had taught mankind what it did not know before.*

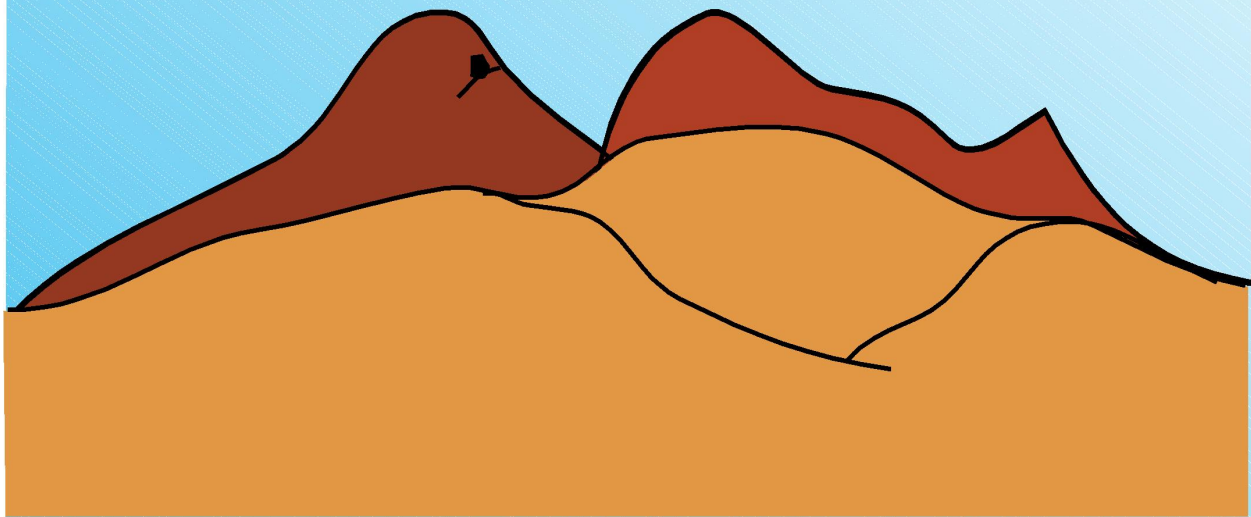
عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

previous messengers of Allah.

The prophet and his wife were reassured by what Waraqa told them. But Angel Jibril did not return to see the Prophet for a while and Muhammad was worried that Allah ﷻ had left him and decided not to

make him a prophet after all. A few months later, though, Jibril came back to visit the prophet. This time, Jibril made it clear, through the revealed verses from the Quran, that Allah did not abandon him:

“Your Lord has not disliked and abandoned you”

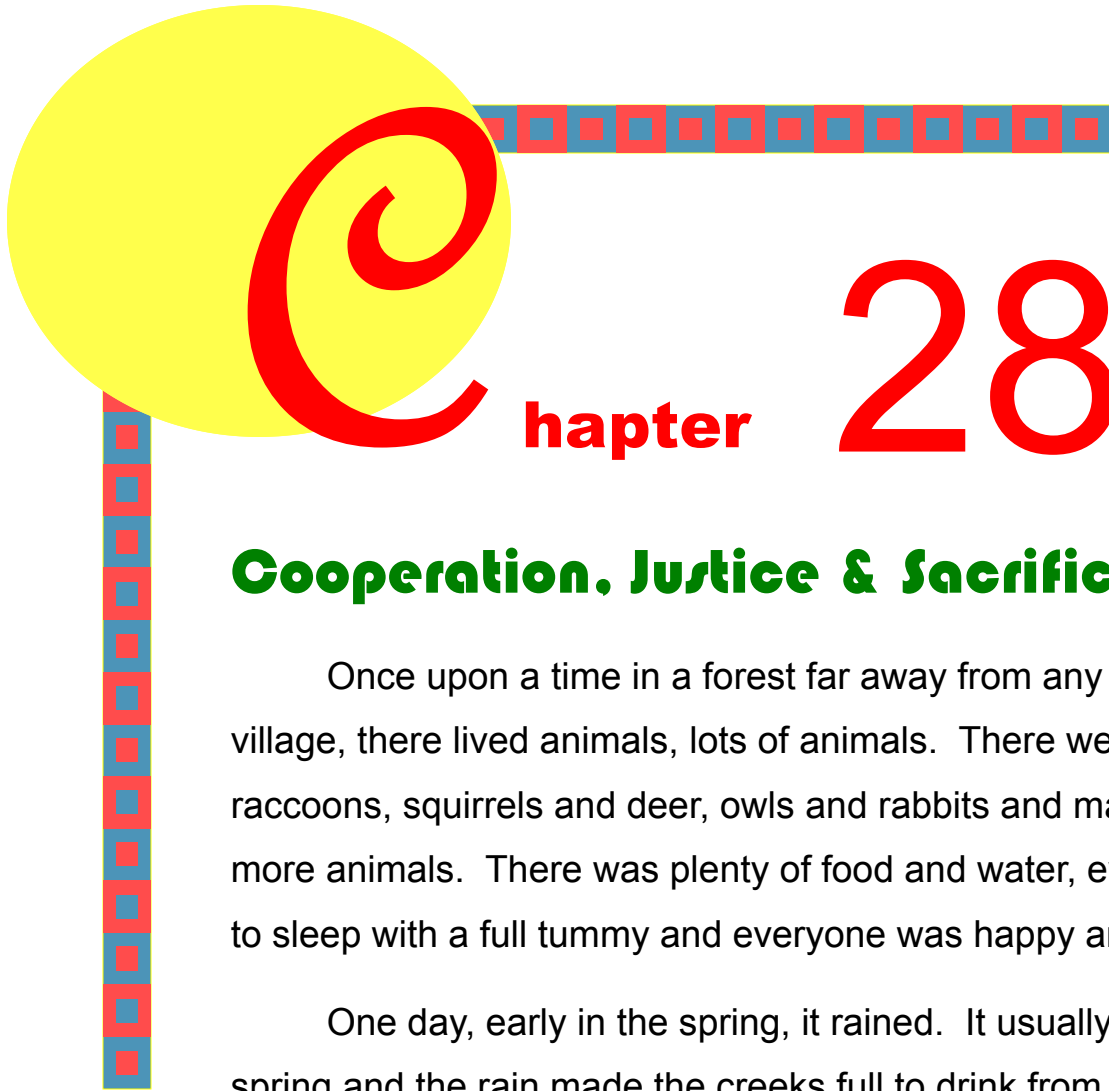


The prophet was very scared after this experience. He left the cave, and as he was coming down the mountain he saw Angel Jibril in the sky.

The Prophet was again scared by the experience and went back home and was shivering, so his wife put blankets over him. Then he received the third revelation, in which Allah ﷻ orders him to start telling people of Allah's message: "O you wrapped up, wake up, and warn people". And so the Prophet ﷺ started to tell people about his message. He started by telling his friends and relatives.

Remember

- *Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Khadija lived a happy life after they were married.*
- *Prophet Muhammad worshiped alone in cave Hira away from the people of Mecca who worshiped idols.*
- *Angel Jibril came to Muhammad for the first time while he was worshiping Allah ﷻ in cave Hira.*
- *The first verse revealed to Prophet Muhammad started with the word "read".*
- *Angel Jibril told Muhammad that he will be the messenger of Allah.*

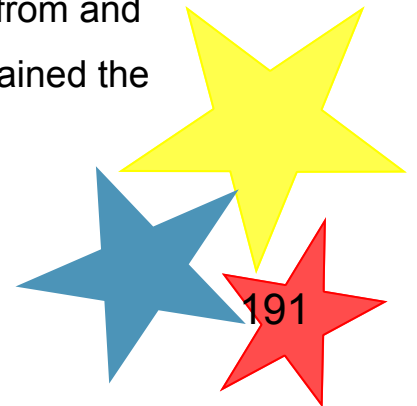


Chapter 28

Cooperation, Justice & Sacrifice

Once upon a time in a forest far away from any town or village, there lived animals, lots of animals. There were bears and raccoons, squirrels and deer, owls and rabbits and many, many more animals. There was plenty of food and water, everyone went to sleep with a full tummy and everyone was happy and content.

One day, early in the spring, it rained. It usually did rain the spring and the rain made the creeks full to drink from and the plants grow to eat. It rained one day, and it rained the next. It rained for a week, then kept raining for another. It rained and it poured. Water filled the



creeks and made it spill over to the forest. Water was here, water was there, water was everywhere. One could hardly see the ground of the forest for it was covered with water. The plants that had started to grow re now ruined and covered with water. The raccoons and squirrels climbed up the trees, the birds stayed high up on the branches and the deer and bears walked, then swam in the water which kept getting higher and



higher.

After many, many days of rain it stopped. The animals were happy. They could finally see the ground and walk around. They walked and looked around. All the plants were washed away; there was nothing to eat. They were all hungry for they have hardly ate a bite when it rained and now there was nothing left to eat.

“Look!” yelled the rabbit as he pointed to the creek. “Look there!”

Everyone ran to the creek and saw what the rabbit was pointing to. All the food was floating in the water, rushing down stream with the water.

“Hurry!” cried out the bear as he jumped into the water and swam towards the food. He gathered as much as he could with his paws and brought it back to the shore where the rabbit, raccoon and squirrel waited to take the food and put it where it was sunny and away form the creek to dry. All the animals that could swim jumped into the creek and gathered as much food as they could while all those who could not swim waited at the banks of the creek to gather the food and put it where it could dry. They gathered ears of corn and apples, potatoes and carrots and much,

much more.

Many hours later, they were all tired, very, very tired but they were happy to save so much food.

Finally, the bear got up and gathered lots and lots of food to take it away.

“Hey!” yelled the squirrel. “Where do you think you’re taking all that

Words

Cooperation: *helping each other; working together as one group.*

Justice: *when things are fair and everyone gets what they deserve.*

Sacrifice: *to give when you don't have to, like when giving to the poor the food you had planned to eat.*

food?”

“I got it out of the water; it is mine!” growled the bear.

A fight was about to start, but just then water started to fall from above. All were startled and immediately stopped yelling, growling, shoving and pushing. They all thought the same thing: the rain was starting all over again. They looked up and it was sunny! That was not rain! It was the owl flying above them, flapping his wet wings to make it look like it was raining.

“What’s the idea scaring us like that?” asked the raccoon.

“You thought it was raining, didn’t you?” Asked the owl.

“Yes we did,” said the rabbit, “Why did you want to scare us?”

“I wanted you guys to stop and think,” answered the wise owl. “We were all wonderful, helping each other save the food from floating away in the river, but once we finished, we started fighting and stopped helping each other. Helping each other is no good without being fair. We have to be fair to each other and divide the food we all worked so hard to save.”

Remember

- *When Muslims help each other, all Muslims will be happy.*
- *Allah ﷻ is fair to us and he asks us to be fair with all people, Muslims and those who are not Muslims.*
- *We live in this life for some years, then we die and meet Allah. Those of us who did good and sacrificed enter Heaven and live in it for ever and ever.*
- *Muslims sacrifice for the sake of Allah, they give what they like to help others. Muslims may give money, time, love and care or even their own lives to make others happy and safe.*
- *Allah wants all people to help each other, be fair with each other and give to those who need help to make us all better in this life and in the Hereafter.*

All the animals were quiet, they knew the owl was right. Then they heard a voice from the back. It was Grandpa Bear, who leaned on his cane as he stood up and said: “Remember, my dear animals, what Allah ﷻ says in the Quran: “Help each other in things that make you good and fear Allah, and do not help each other in things that make you do wrong or hurt and hate each other.”



All the animals knew that the Grandpa Bear was speaking the truth.

“But how do we split the food and not fight or help each other in hurting ourselves?” asked the deer.

“We only take what we need for one day we will have to sacrifice and not eat so much that we are full, but just enough to get by. Then tomorrow, we come again and do the same till the trees, bushes and all the plants give us more food to eat.”

Everybody agreed and they knew without helping each other or being fair they would all starve to death.

Hadith

When the Prophet asked Muslims to donate money to prepare an army to defend Islam, Abu Bakr, the Prophet's dear friend and companion gave all his money for the cause.

"What have you left for your family?"

The Prophet ﷺ asked Abu Bakr.

"I left for them Allah and his Messenger," replied Abu Bakr.

Day after day, the animals took only what they needed from the food and in a few days there was plenty more new fruits, vegetables and all sorts of food growing all around them. The animals learned that without cooperation, justice and sacrifice they would all be miserable.

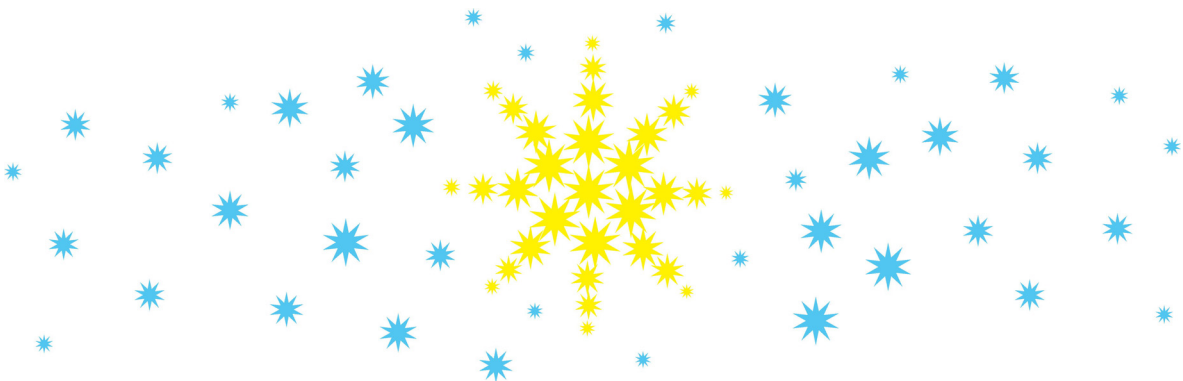
History of Sacrifice in Islam

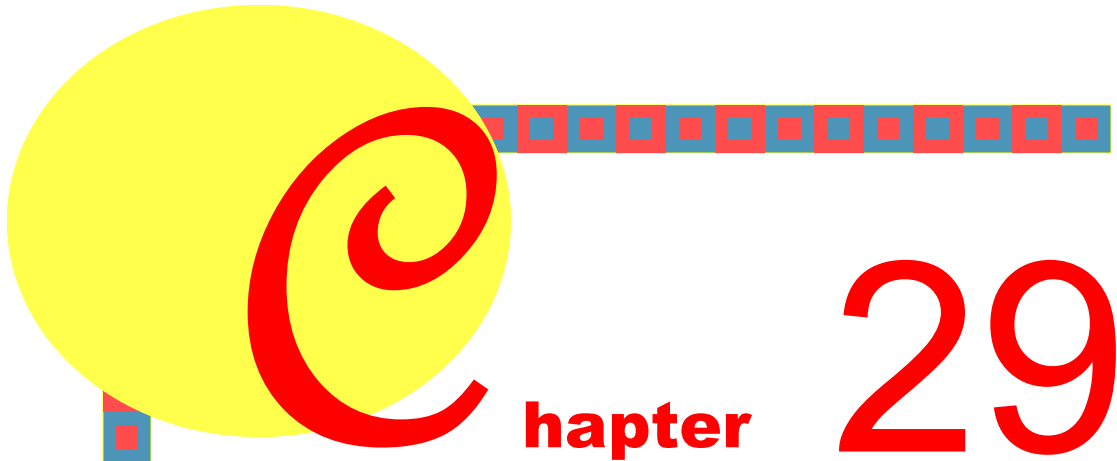
Ali Ibn Abi-Talib ﷺ set an example in sacrifice. He stayed in the prophet's bed when Muhammad left to Mecca in the middle of the night. Ali deceived the non-believers who thought that he was the Prophet when they peeked into his bedroom. The non-believers could have killed Ali if

they had found out that they were misled. That did not bother Ali رضي الله عنه who was ready to sacrifice his life for the sake of Islam.

Al-Khansa' was a great Muslim lady who lived at the time of the Prophet . She set an example for sacrifice when she was told one day that all four of her sons had died in a battle defending Islam. She said, "Alhamdu lillah who had given me the honor of their death for the sake of Allah (martyrdom)".

There are many sorts of sacrifice. Abu Bakr sacrificed with his money, Ali was ready to sacrifice with his life and Al-khansa' sacrificed with her children. In all these examples, great Muslims were happy to give so much for the sake of Allah سبحانه وتعالى, only because they knew that their reward in the Hereafter would be great.



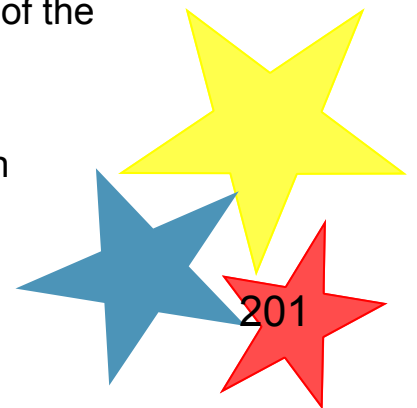


Chapter 29

Worship In Islam

Sameer sat in the passenger seat of the family car as his father drove. They were driving to visit Nana, Sameer's grandmother. After driving for many hours, they took an exit to refill the car with gas and get something to eat. They drove into a small town. It was a pretty town with a main street and small shops on both sides of the street. The gas station was not too far. They filled the car with gas and then drove to the other end of the small town and stopped by a diner.

Sameer looked around. He had never been in a small town like this before.





“It’s a nice town, isn’t it?” asked his father.

“Yeah,” answered Sameer as he stared out the window.

“We’ll need to make salat before we get something to eat,” said his father.

“Are we going to the masjid?”

“I don’t believe there is a masjid in this little town,” answered his father.

“Really??” said Sameer with surprise. “Does that mean if we lived here we couldn’t worship Allah?”

“You can always pray at home or anywhere you wish,” said his father.

“I suppose.”

“Also,” added his father, “Much of our worship is done outside the masjid.”

“Outside!” said Sameer turning his head to look at his father. “I thought it is always better to pray in the masjid with others.”

“That’s true for salat, but not for the other kinds of worship.”

“What other kinds?” asked Sameer.

“Salat is only one kind of worship. Fasting, giving zakat and performing Hajj are also worshiping Allah.”

“Oh yeah, that’s right.”

“Also, reading Quran, memorizing its verses and understanding its meaning are all things we do to worship Allah.”

“Now I remember, they are called acts of worship and also doing good like being kind to others and helping the poor.” said Sameer.

They arrived to the diner, got out of the car and had a good meal before getting back on the road to see Nana.

Salat alshafi' and alwitr

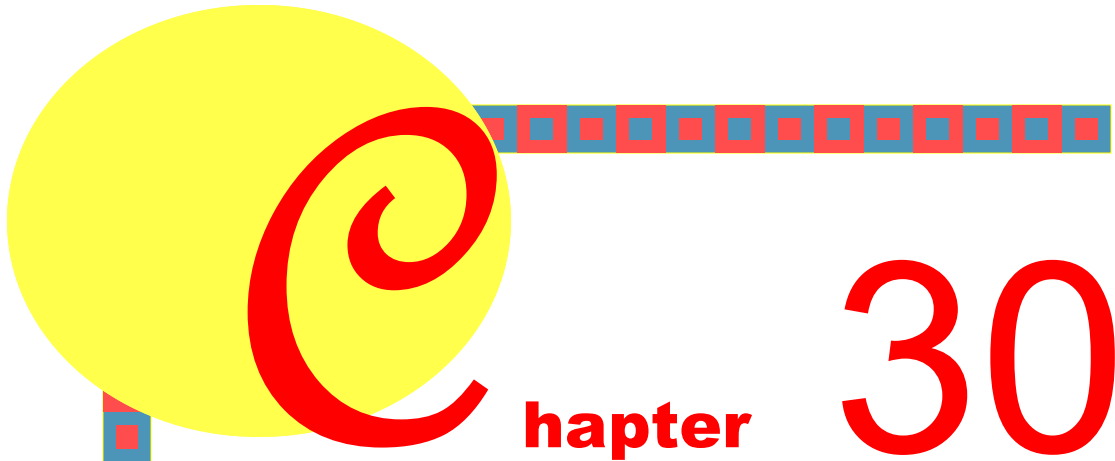
The Prophet ﷺ frequently prayed non-obligatory prayers after Isha. He was in the habit of praying 10 ruka'a of Qiyam, followed by two ruka'a

called Ashafi' then one ruka'a, called Alwitr.

Ashafi' are two ruka'a, just like the morning prayer. The Prophet ﷺ recited a short sura after Alfatiha at the beginning of each ruka'a and after ending alshafi', the prophet would stand up again and do one ruka'a called Alwitr. Alwitr means odd number in Arabic because one prays only one ruka'a. It is the only one ruka'a salat a Muslim does. During Alshafi' after standing up from ruku', the Prophet used to read a dua'a.

Remember

- *We worship Allah ﷻ by praying, fasting, giving zakat, and performing Hajj.*
- *We also worship Allah by reading Quran, struggling for the cause of Allah and doing good deeds such as being kind to others, helping the poor and those in need.*
- *The Prophet ﷺ prayed 10 extra ruka'a at night, called Qiyam.*
- *After Qiyam, the Prophet ended his prayers with 3 ruka'as, 2 called Ashafi' and one called Alwitr.*
- *Qiyam, Ashafi' and Alwitr prayers are sunna prayers which Muslims do to get closer to Allah and are not Fardh like the regular 5 daily prayers.*

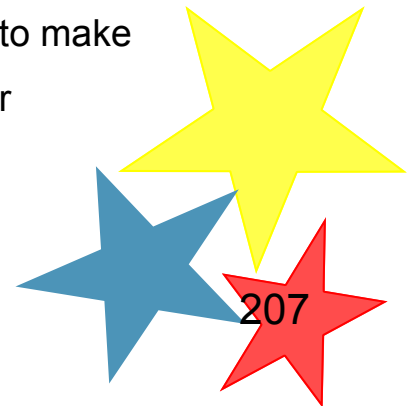


Chapter 30

Being fair

Amani was helping her parents at their store. Her father was sick and staying at home and her mother was taking care of her him. Her mom dropped her off at the store with her older sister.

“I want you girls to do a good job,” said their mother as she was about to leave and go back to take care of their father. “I know this is your vacation and you would rather be playing with your friends but we need to keep the store open to make money so we can buy food and medicine for your father.”



Amani and her sister Yusra were left by themselves at the store. It was still early in the morning and there was no one in the store yet.

“Hey! I have a great idea,” said Amani.

“”What?” asked Yusra.

Amani was looking around, but remained quiet. “I’ll tell you later.”

Amani did not want to tell her sister about her *good idea*. Yusra was much older than Amani and she always told her what to do, “This time I will show her how clever I am,” thought Amani.

Amani returned after few minutes from walkign around the store.

“So, what was your good idea?” asked Yusra.

“You’ll see,” is all that Amani answered.

Just about that time, a little boy came in and wanted to buy bread. He took one from a shelf and went to the counter where the two girls stood and paid them the 2 dollars his mother gave him. Yusra looked at the price of the bread and saw that it was \$2.50.

“You need to give me 50 more cents,” said Yusra to the little boy

kindly.

“The boy looked surprised and was quiet. He just stood there and did not say anything for a while. Then, with a soft voice he said, “but... but that’s all that my mother gave me.”

The little boy put the bread back on the shelf and took his 2 dollars



back and left the store.

Yusra was somewhat confused. She was almost sure that the bag of bread cost only \$1.50, not \$2.50, but that's what the price tag said. Amani was standing next to Yusra and was very quiet. Yusra turned to talk to Amani, but saw that she had tears in her eyes, "What's wrong, Amani?" she asked.

"It's all my fault," said Amani as she was about to cry.

"Fault! What fault?" asked Yusra confused.

"I wanted Baba and Mama to make more money so we could buy food and medicine so I put new price tags on the bread for more money so

Words

***Cheating:** to cheat is to get something in an unfair way.*

***Monopoly:** being the only one who sells something.*

***Safekeeping:** when somebody leaves something with you to keep safe until they ask for it. In Arabic, it is called "amana".*

Hadith

The prophet ﷺ said:

“Those who cheat are not one of us.”

This means that people who cheat are no longer Muslims. Also, the prophet said: “Only the sinner commits monopoly.”

we could make more.”

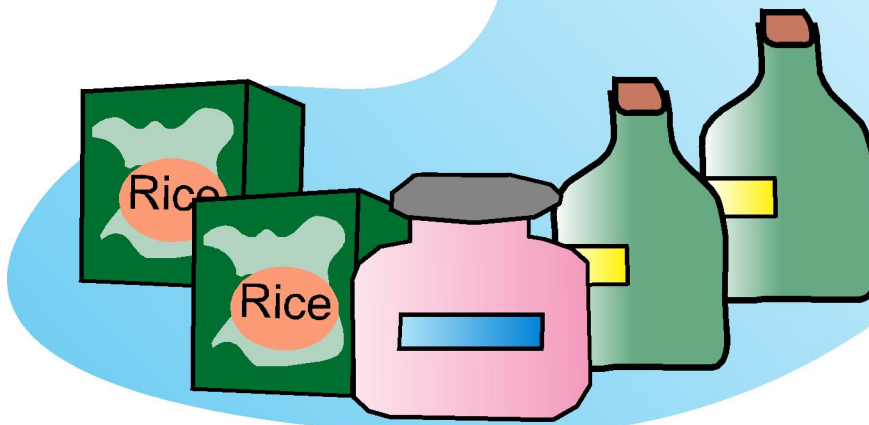
“I know you meant well ,Amani, but that is haram. It’s cheating to ask for more money than we should. It is just like stealing.”

Amani took \$1.50 out of her pocket, gave it to her sister, grabbed the

bread and ran towards the store entrance.

“Where are you going?” Yusra called out.

“I have to catch up with that kid and give him the bread, my treat!”



Remember

- *All jobs are halal as long as they do not upset Allah ﷻ.*
- *When charging people money, Muslims should not ask for too much money, this may hurt people who cannot afford to pay more than they have.*
- *Cheating and lying hurt us and are haram.*
- *People who cheat or lie may get extra money in the beginning, but then Allah will be upset with them.*
- *It is haram to cheat anyone, it does not matter whether or not they are Muslim.*

Fair and Unfair

Allah ﷻ encourages us to work and make money so we can spend it on our families. All jobs are halal as long as we do not disobey Allah.

Allah forbids us from asking for too much money if we are selling something. This may hurt people who are not able to buy what they need. We are allowed to make a profit and even to be rich, as long as it is a fair profit and not something making us very rich and others very poor.

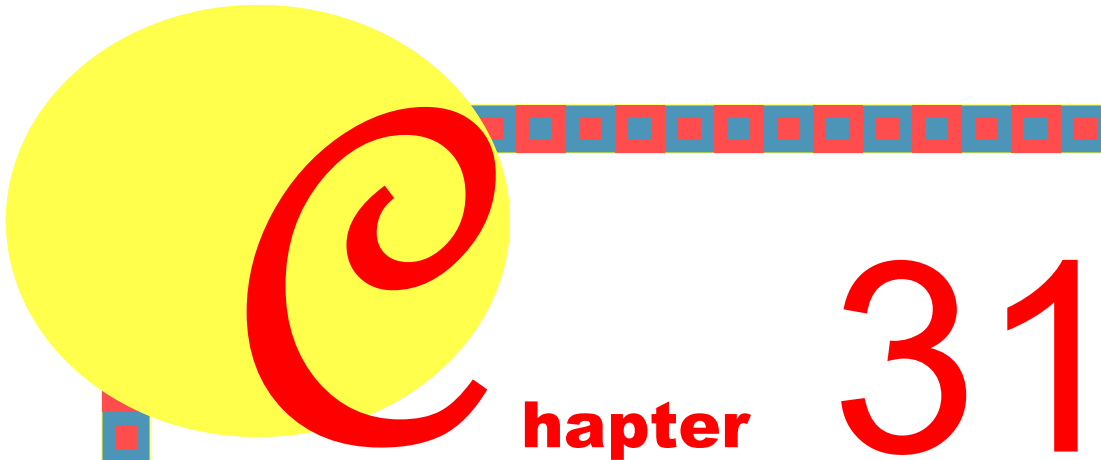
Allah also forbids cheating. The Prophet ﷺ had taught us to be

honest and not to cheat. Cheating is forbidden. It is haram to cheat anyone, both Muslims and others. All forms of cheating are haram.

Stealing is also haram and a Muslim should never earn money that way. A thief may break into a house and steal money, or a person may steal money which was given to him for safekeeping. All kinds of stealing are haram.

It is also haram for a merchant to buy all what is available of something and then as people desperately need it, sell it at a very high price. This is called a monopoly and it is also haram.





Chapter

31

Sura 90 Albalad البلد

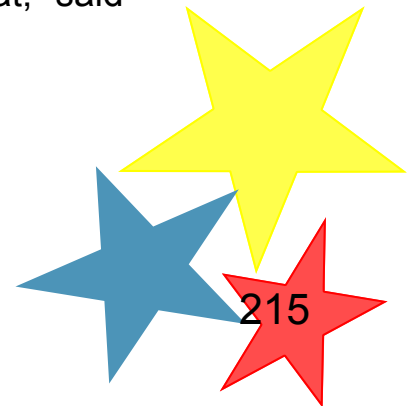
The road keeps going on

“Where do you think this road ends,” asked Khadija

“Right at the top of the hill,” replied her brother Ali. “Can’t you see it?”

“I see what you see but I see more than that,” said Khadija.

Khadija and Ali were walking to their grandmother’s house. Khadija visits her



grandmother every week, walking for half an hour up the hill. Her grandmother lived on the other side of the hill. Her younger brother came with her today for the first time. He was very excited and happy to walk to his grandmother's house for the first time. He could not wait to get to his grandmother's house, or Bebe as he called her.

“That is not the end of the road,” said Khadija with confidence.



“Where does it end?” asked Ali.

“You’ll see soon.”

Khadija and Ali finally got up the top of the hill. Ali looked beyond the top and he finally could see that the road kept on going down the hill, down to the house where Bebe lived.

“That’s neat!” exclaimed Ali. “How come it looked like the road ended at the top of the hill?” asked Ali.

“Because that’s as far as we can see,” replied Khadija. “I guess it’s like when we die, we think that that’s it, no more, but the road keeps going on.”

“What do you mean?”

“Allah wakes us all up after we die, those who were good go to Heaven and those who do bad go to the Hell Fire. The road does not end with our death, it keeps going to Heaven or Hell Fire, just like this road.”

“I know where I want to go,” said Ali, “I’m going to be as good as I can, no one wants to go to Hell Fire.”

Khadija smiled at her little brother as he talked and pretended to be a grown up.

“Lets race,” called out Ali as he ran down the hill followed by his sister who was



trying to catch up.

We are not the first or last to live on this earth

People frequently think too much about themselves and things that are around them. We forget that many, many people lived on this earth before us and many people will after us.

This world we live in is not the only place we will live and we should think of what will happen to us after we die. We are like travelers, and our life in this world is a road. We can choose the easy road, which will lead us to Hell Fire. Or we can choose to take the difficult road, which will lead us to paradise. Allah ﷻ gave us the ability to choose. People who do not

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. I swear by this city of Mecca.

لَا أُقْسِمُ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ

2. Where you are a freeman in this city.

وَأَنْتَ حِلٌّ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ

3. And the ties between parents and a child.

وَوَالِدٍ وَمَا وَلَدٌ

4. We have created mankind struggling.

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي كَبَدٍ

5. Does man think that no one is mightier than him?

أَيَحْسَبُ أَنْ لَنْ يَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ

6. Man says: "I have gathered a lot of wealth".

يَقُولُ أَهْلَكْتُ مَالًا لُبَدًا

7. Does man think that no one can watch what he is doing?

أَيَحْسَبُ أَنْ لَمْ يَرَهُ أَحَدٌ

8. Have we not given him eyes to see with?

أَلَمْ نَجْعَلْ لَهُ عَيْنَيْنِ

9. And a tongue and lips to speak with.

وَلِسَانًا وَشَفَتَيْنِ

10. And shown him the two ways, one to goodness and the other to evil.

وَهَدَيْنَاهُ النَّجْدَيْنِ

11. Yet man does not try to conquer the difficult path to goodness.

فَلَا اقْتَحَمَ الْعَقَبَةَ

12. And do you know what this difficult path is?

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْعَقَبَةُ

13. It is freeing a slave from bondage.

فَأُكْرِهُهُ

14. Or providing food during a famine,

أَوْ إِطْعَامٌ فِي يَوْمٍ ذِي مَسْغَبَةٍ

15. To a relative who is an orphan.

يَتِيمًا ذَا مَقْرَبَةٍ

16. Or to a poor in need of help.

أَوْ مِسْكِينًا ذَا مَتْرَبَةٍ

17. Such people would also be one of those who would believe in Allah, be patient and kind and compassionate to each other.

ثُمَّ كَانَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ

وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْمَرْحَمَةِ

18. Those, for sure, are the people who will be in the right path (the right hand people).

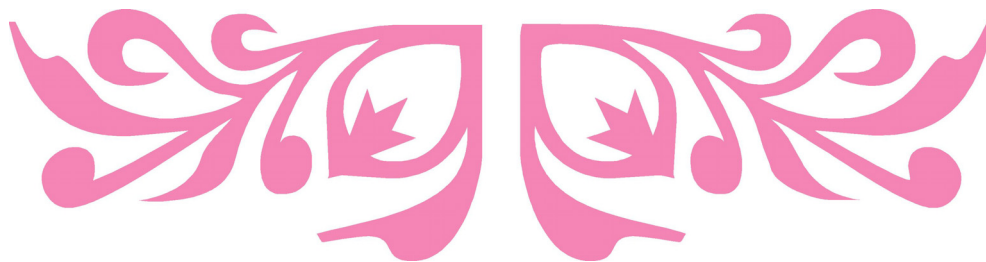
أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ

19. And those who did not believe in what we have revealed to them will be going on the path to hell.

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا هُمْ أَصْحَابُ

20. In it, they will have fire surrounding them from all directions.

عَلَيْهِمْ نَارٌ مُّؤَصَّدَةٌ



believe in Allah will want to take the easy way. They do not want to work hard and control their bad habits, but this easy way will lead to a terrible end since it will take those who follow it to Hell Fire. On the other hand, those who believe in Allah ﷻ, and know that they will one day meet him and be rewarded for their hard work in this world will end up in Heaven and live in it forever and ever.

Words

***Bondage:** rules and laws which force people to being a slave.*

***Concur:** wake over or win.*

***Compassionate:** showing mercy.*

***Famine:** time of starvation, when there is no food to buy or eat.*

***Gathered:** collected.*

***Mightier:** stronger.*

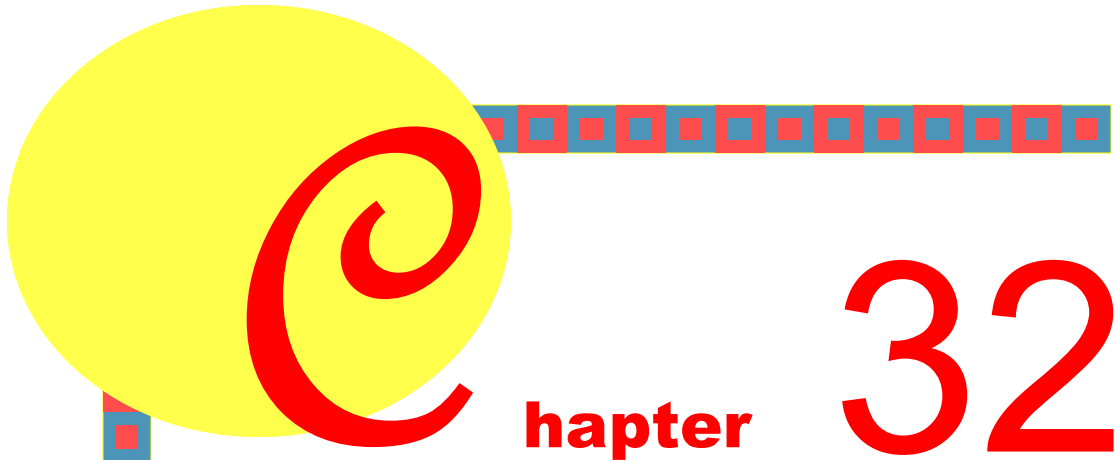
***Struggling:** working hard.*

Being nice to others, not hurting anyone, helping the poor and needy, and being compassionate towards those who have less than us is hard to do. It is easier to be selfish and think only of our needs and ourselves. This is why Allah will reward those who do a lot of goodness and follow the right path.



Remember

- *Many, many people lived on earth before us.*
- *After we die, Allah will reward those who did good by Heaven and those who did bad by Hell Fire.*
- *Being good is being nice to others, not hurting anyone, helping the poor and needy.*
- *Being good is to care about others, and help those who have less than us.*
- *Being bad is to be selfish and think only of our needs and ourselves.*

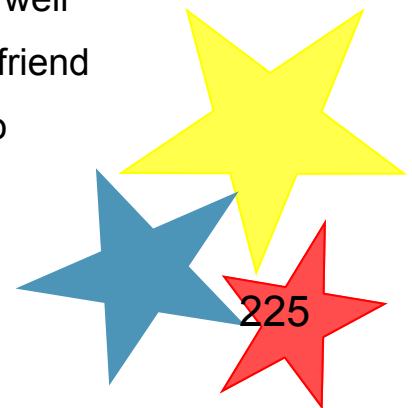


Chapter 32

Muhammad spreads Islam in Mecca

Muhammad ﷺ realized that Allah ﷻ had chosen him as the new prophet but it was not until he received the revelation to spread the new message of Allah that he realized that he was the new messenger to people.

Muhammad started telling people he knew well about this new message. His wife Khadijah, his friend Abu Bakr, his cousin Ali and Zaid were the first to hear about Islam and believe in it.



Allah revealed a few verses from the Quran every now and then, and the Prophet taught these to the very few people who had already become Muslim. Gradually, more and more people learned about Islam and became Muslim, leaving behind the worship of idols.

People who became Muslim were attracted to it by the words of Allah ﷻ, the Quran. It was clear to those who heard verses from Quran,



Quran

Almudather, المدثر aya 1-3

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

1. O'Muhammad (who
is covered)

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُدَّثِّرُ

2. Get up and warn
people

قُمْ فَأَنْذِرْ

3. And glorify your
Lord.

وَرَبَّكَ فَكَبِّرْ

that it was not written by any human being. It was clearly revealed by a supreme God. Early Muslims also trusted Muhammad ﷺ, who they never knew to lie. The number of Muslims increased every day, but they gathered and worshipped in secret in

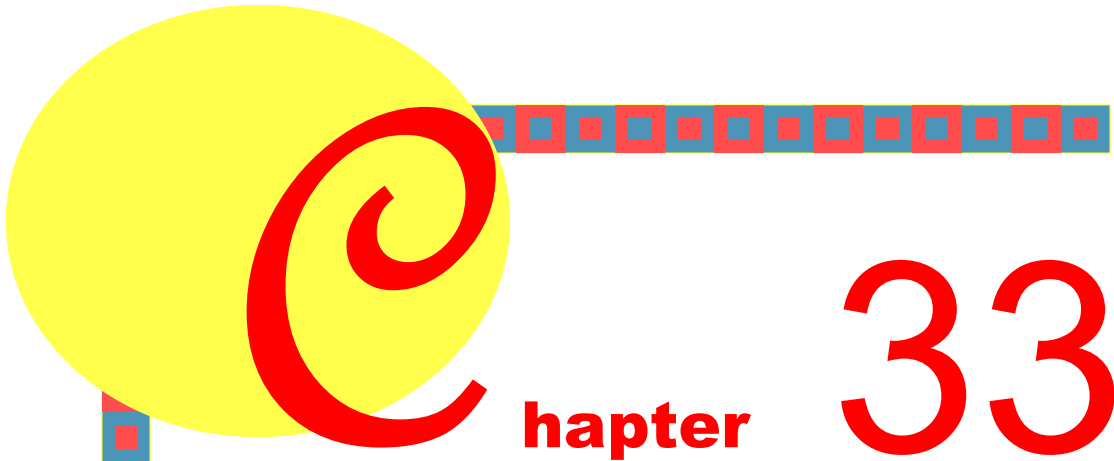
the house of Alarqam ibn abi Alarqam and did not declare their new belief. They were afraid to anger the masters of Mecca. They knew that those masters would get upset if they learned of the new religion, which asks people to leave the worship of idols. The idols were respected and protected by Mecca's masters, who made a lot of money and became powerful because of people coming from all around to worship them.

One day, an important man from Mecca, Omar bin Alkhatib learned that his sister and her husband had become Muslim. He was angry and

Remember

- *When Muhammad ﷺ first became a prophet, he only told his close relatives and friends about Islam.*
- *In the beginning, Muslims worshipped Allah in secret. They were afraid of the masters of Mecca who would hurt them if they heard of this new religion.*
- *Muslims worshipped in the house of Alarqam ibn abi Alarqam .*
- *The masters of Mecca worshipped idols and they made a lot of money and became important people because of all the people traveling to Mecca to worship the idols.*
- *Omar bin Alkhatib became a Muslim once he read verses from the Quran.*

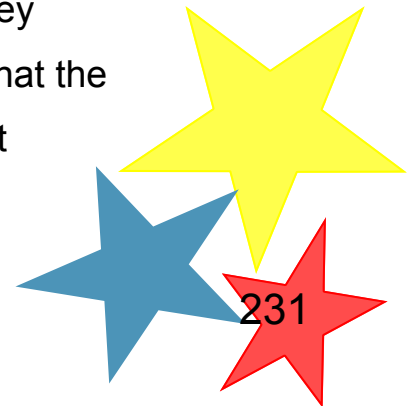
went to ask them if that was true. He read some verses of the Quran, which he found at his sister's house and immediately realized that these words must be that of Allah ﷻ. He went to the Prophet ﷺ and declared his Islam. Omar was a strong man and feared no one, so he declared his Islam in public and did not hide it. This gave a lot of courage to Muslims, who were soon ordered to declare their Islam and spread the teachings of Allah, and everyone in Mecca became aware of this new religion.



Chapter 33

Difficult Times for Muslims

The masters of Mecca did not like what Muhammad ﷺ was doing. He was calling people to a new religion. The Arabs back then knew about Allah ﷻ and believed in previous prophets like Ibrahim and Ismail but they had made many changes to the teachings of these prophets. Most Arabs made up new gods to worship and forgot the true religion of these prophets. They used to say that they believed in Allah and the idols they worshiped were helpers of Allah. They thought that the idols could tell god about what people needed. It was a strange way of worshiping!



Mecca's masters benefited a lot from this kind of worship, because all the idols were kept in Mecca, in and around the Kaaba. Arab tribes came to Mecca every year for pilgrimage, and Mecca's masters benefited from this as they traded with them and made a lot of money selling important things to the pilgrims.

Those masters of Mecca did not want things to change. They were afraid that with a new religion in which Allah ﷻ could be worshipped anywhere, no one would bother to come to Mecca and that would make them lose a lot of money. So they fought the new religion.

The non-believers did not dare to hurt any of the Muslims who belonged to rich or important families. The non-believers started to pick on the slaves and the Muslims who did not have big families to protect them. First, they made fun of Muslims but that did not seem to make any of them quit the new religion. Then they harassed Muslims and hurt them, but that, too, had no effect. So they tortured the Muslims, especially the slaves who were beaten and even killed if they were caught praying or reading the Quran.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ encouraged Muslims to stick to their religion,

and told them about heaven (jenna), which they were promised for their belief in Allah ﷻ. The Prophet and his followers were very few and the non-believers were many, so it was not wise to fight them, as they were outnumbered.

The non-believers were getting mad and frustrated. It seemed that the more they tortured Muslims, the more they stuck to their religion. More people were becoming Muslim. Finally, the non-believers decided to hurt the Prophet and his family directly. They would not buy or sell anything to the family of the Prophet ﷺ and they kicked them out of their houses to starve them. Muslims suffered a lot and many of them died, including the Prophet's wife Khadija and his uncle Abu Talib.

Things were not going well for Muslims. The Prophet gave permission to a small number of Muslims to leave Mecca to get away from the non-believers. This small group of Muslims went to Abyssinia, a country in Africa across the sea from where Mecca was. In Abyssinia, there was a Christian king who was fair. He allowed Muslims to live in his country in peace. This encouraged Muslims and more left Mecca to Abyssinia. Eighty men and their families left Mecca to Abyssinia.

Mecca's masters learned of this and they became furious. They tried to get the king of Abyssinia to send those refugees back but the king wouldn't allow it. The king knew from what he learned from the Muslims who lived in Abyssinia that they were following a true religion from Allah ﷺ, just as he did as a Christian.



One day, men and women from a city close to Mecca, called Yathrub came to visit the Prophet. They supported the Prophet and became Muslim. Very soon after that, more men and women from Yathrub visited the Prophet and became Muslims. New Muslims from Yathrub invited Muslims from Mecca to leave and come to their city to live in peace and away from the torture of non-believers.

Many of the Muslims left Mecca, in secret, for Medina. The Prophet and Abu Bakr were among the last ones to leave Mecca. The non-believers knew that Muhammad would soon leave as well. So they plotted to kill him, but Allah would not allow that to happen!

The same night the non-believers were planning on killing the Prophet, Allah ordered him to leave. Muhammad ﷺ and his friend Abu Bakr ؓ left towards Yathrub, leaving behind his cousin Ali ؓ in his bed to fool the non-believers into thinking that he was still asleep in his bed. The next morning, they discovered that the Prophet ﷺ and his friend had slipped by without them noticing and that the person they could see through the window sleeping in the Prophet's bed was his cousin Ali ؓ.

The non-believers were mad and started chasing the Prophet ﷺ in

Remember

- *The masters of Mecca did not like the new religion of Islam because they were afraid that they would no longer be important and make a lot of money from pilgrims.*
- *The first group of Muslims to escape Mecca went to Abyssinia where Christians lived and had a fair king.*
- *People from Yathrub visited the Prophet ﷺ in Mecca and became Muslims.*
- *Many Muslims were tortured by the non-believers, so the Prophet ordered Muslims to leave Mecca to Yathrub.*
- *After the Prophet left Mecca to Yathrub with his friend Abu Bakr and the name of Yathrub changed to Medina.*

the desert. They almost caught up with him when they saw footprints leading to a cave. Muhammad, Abu Bakr and their guide were hiding in the cave and the non-believers were about to enter the cave and capture them. But Allah again fooled them. Allah had ordered a spider to build a web and a pigeon to make a nest and lay eggs at the entrance of the cave after the Prophet and his companions went inside. The non-believers stood by the cave entrance, saw the spider's web and the pigeon's nest and thought it

impossible that anyone could have just entered this cave without destroying the spider's web and the pigeon's nest. The non-believers were fooled because they did not believe in Allah and they did not know that he is Most Powerful and that he is capable of miracles to protect the Prophet and the new religion.

The Prophet, Abu Bakr, and the guide reached Yathrub safely and the Muslims were all very happy. The name of Yathrub was changed to Medinat ul Nabi, Medina for short. Islam flourished, and the number of Muslims kept on increasing despite the attacks of non-believers. Islam is now all over the world and in very far away places from its beginnings in Mecca, such as in the United States, China and beyond. Allahu Akbar!

