

# Al Hilal



A Magazine for Children

2001-1

Premier Issue

US\$2

# Quarterly Al-Hilal

Assalamu Alaikum! Welcome to Al-Hilāl (The New Moon). The Ahmadiyya Muslim Children’s Magazine Committee is proud to present this first issue to the young men and women of our community and the world. It has been published by the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam under the auspices of the Children’s Magazine Committee, established (January 31, 2001) and directed by Sahibzadah M. M. Ahmad, National Amir, Jama‘at Ahmadiyya, USA. The members of the committee are Maulana Syed Shamshad Ahmad Nasir, Ahmadi Muslim Muballigh (Missionary) at the National headquarters in the Washington DC area, Maulana Azhar Haneef, Ahmadi Muslim Muballigh (Missionary) in Philadelphia, Shanaz Butt, Sadr of Lajna Imaillah, USA, Shukoor Ahmed, Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya USA, Tazeen Ahmad of Maryland, Musa Asad of Maryland, and Syed Sajid Ahmad of Idaho acting as the secretary of the committee. We hope that you read this magazine to learn more about your faith and the world. We hope that you write for this magazine so the world and other members of your faith can learn more about YOU. See page 10 to learn how you can contribute to Al-Hilal. Wassalam and enjoy!

## *Purpose of the Al Hilal*

1. To build a community of children by providing a medium through which they can learn about Islam and Ahmadiyyat and express their own ideas about their beliefs.
2. A magazine for children by children that provides them with a creative opportunity to educate themselves about their beliefs and how to apply them in their daily lives.
3. Engaging children under a common, cooperative and creative framework to enhance their understanding of Islamic beliefs and their application on a daily basis.





بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

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*Front Cover Design Courtesy of Rashid Ahmad Arshed*

## Truthfulness

*Tazeen Ahmad, Lajna, Maryland*

*Allah, the Almighty, says in the Holy Qur'an*

قَالَ اللَّهُ هَذَا يَوْمٌ يَنْفَعُ الصَّادِقِينَ  
صِدْقُهُمْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا  
الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ  
عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿١٢٠﴾

Allah will say, “This is a day when only the truthful shall profit by their truthfulness. For them are the Gardens beneath which streams flow; therein shall they abide forever. Allah is well pleased with them, and they are well pleased with Him; that indeed is the great triumph.” (The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 5, Verse 120)

*From the Sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad,  
peace and blessings of Allah be on him*

Hadrat Safwan ibn Sulaim (radiyallahu ‘anhu) narrated,

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessing of Allah be on him, was asked, ‘Can the mu’min (the believer) be a coward?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ He was asked, ‘Can the mu’min be a miser?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ He was asked, ‘Can the mu’min be a liar?’ He said, ‘No.’ (Hadith from Al-Muwatta)

Hadrat Abdullah ibn Mas‘ud (radiyallahu ‘anhu) narrates: The Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessing of Allah be

upon him, said that the truthful one speaks the truth to the extent that it is written in Allah’s record that he is “Siddique,” *the one who always tells the truth*. Truth pulls one towards righteousness and righteousness pulls one closer to heaven. Untruthfulness directs one towards wrongdoing and wrongdoing directs one towards hell.

(Bukhari/Muslim)

### *Saying of the Promised Messiah (‘alaihissalam)*

“One who practices untruthfulness and deception is not from within my community.” (Kishti Nuh)

### *Incident from the life of the Promised Messiah (‘alaihissalam) related to truthfulness:*

In 1877 the Promised Messiah (‘alaihissalam) was sued by a Christian lawyer named Ralia Ram. The charge brought against the Promised Messiah (‘alaihissalam) was that he had placed a letter inside a packet he had mailed, which was against the law. The Promised Messiah (‘alaihissalam) was unaware of this law, and that the violation of this law carried a penalty of Rs. 500 or six months in jail. After consulting several people the Promised Messiah (‘alaihissalam) was told that the only course of action was to deny placing the letter in the package and then it would be Ralia Ram’s word against his. The Promised Messiah (‘alaihissalam) responded that regardless of the consequences he was not prepared to tell anything but the absolute truth. The case was brought before the district court of Gurdaspur. After hearing the case the judge ruled in favor of the Promised Messiah (‘alaihissalam) acquitting him of all charges. Later the Promised Messiah (‘alaihissalam) wrote that Allah helped him because he remained steadfast to the truth.



## The “Tarbiyyat” of children is of critical importance.

*A Message from  
Sahibzadah M.M. Ahmad, Amir Jama‘at, USA.*

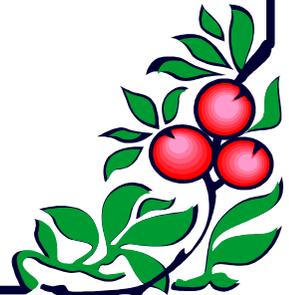
The “Tarbiyyat” of children is of critical importance as in due course they will be required to carry the torch of Ahmadiyyat and shoulder increasing responsibilities in the service of Ahmadiyyat and Islam. Apart from Jama‘at auxiliaries’ important role, it is considered necessary that a children magazine be launched to give special attention to this important task and prepare each generation of Ahmadis to be motivated and ready to assume the responsibilities which lie ahead. Their complete readiness to assume their role is an indispensable requirement to attain the glory of Islam which is the sole task of Ahmadiyya Jama‘at.

May Allah enable us to be faithful to our pledge and covenant.



M. M. Ahmad

Amir Jama‘at, U.S.A.



# The root of every virtue is Righteousness. If this root is safe, all is safe.

*A Message from  
Dr. Shanaz Butt, Sadr Lajna Imaillah, USA*

My Dearest Children, Assalamu 'Alaikum

Alhamdulillah! Respected Amir Sahib has approved the publication of a magazine for AHMADI CHILDREN (Nasirat and Atfal) under the supervision of Lajna Imaillah and Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya, USA. I am very excited and looking forward to working closely with YOU so that we can make it both enjoyable and beneficial for our young readers (Insha Allah).

As you look to the future, you will find a brand new millennium in front of you that is full of new discoveries and technologies—the Renaissance of Science and Invention! However, this new century also promises its share of uncertainties, fears, and challenges. Violence, crime, poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, broken families, physical and mental abuse, and loneliness are increasing day by day and are common problems in too many families. At this time, Islamic Teachings are very important, and as Ahmadi Children, each of you should become an outstanding example of the Renaissance of Islam. Believe me, your good morals will change the hearts and minds of people around you.

I request and pray that you develop moral habits right from your childhood. In this regard, the Promised Messiah, Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad ('alaihissalam), has said that ***the root of every virtue is Righteousness. If this root is safe, all is safe.*** You all know that a strong building cannot be built without good planning, suitable building materials, or a solid foundation. In the same way, you too must use moral building blocks to lay down a firm foundation on which you can build a strong future, in this world and in the next. Without this strong foundation, your spiritual building will become weak and crumble to

pieces when you are faced with the horrifying temptations that surround us in our daily lives.

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih I, Maulana Nur-ud-Din (radiyallahu ‘anhu) once spoke to little children about habits. When the rain falls and the mango seed spring up, children rip up these small plants and make whistles out of them. But, if the plant is not touched for a few years, the tender shoots grow stronger and the same children cannot pull them out. So when the roots were not firmly attached to the ground, it was easy to uproot them, but once the roots have deeply sunk in, it is very difficult to rip them out. Habits and beliefs are like these plants. Bad habits can be quickly broken if corrected in childhood but not when they have taken deep root by adulthood.

Human beings have always used their strength and abilities to succeed in their jobs, to climb the highest mountains, to sail the stormiest seas, and to reach the farthest stars. These achievements have brought them worldly fame and their names have been reported in the books of history. It is my prayer that you will be recorded in the history books of Ahmadiyyat as successful missionaries, presidents, secretaries and future pillars of the Jama‘at. Spreading the message of “Love for All, Hatred for None” to the corners of the earth, is the most important role that you can play in your life. My beloved children, I urge you to become active and work for Islam! Spread the message of Islam by your righteous behavior and look only to Allah, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful for your rewards. May Allah Bless all of you, Amin.

### *Programs for Atfal*

Look for information in Mujahid Jr or contact Muhtamim Atfal  
(Tahir Ahmad at 847 362 2157)



# Be a source of pride for your parents and a good role model to your peers.

*Abdul Shukoor Ahmed*  
*Sadr, Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, USA*

Dear Tifl,

I hope and pray that you are doing well and getting ready for your Final exams very soon. This summer will be an exciting summer in many ways for all of us. We are looking forward to have your enthusiastic participation in the 53rd Jalsa Salana (June 22-24), Summer Camp (July 6-9) and Ijtema (August 3-5).

You as a Tifl or member of Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya are the future of Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya. Each of you is one-of-a-kind individual and you all have gifts that you can share with family, friends, peers and even total strangers. When you give love to your parents, respect to elders, time to community or faith, knowledge to your peers and friends, compassion and kindness to younger siblings, you are sharing a piece of yourself.

You are shaping up your character by sincerely, unconditionally and consistently doing good acts. Your character then shapes you and makes you the person you will eventually become in a few years as you move into Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya.

We are all doing our best to raise you to be the best child, best Tifl and a good Khadim-to-be and an excellent Jama'at member. Please continue to regularly offer your daily Prayers, read Holy Qur'an, listen to Hazoor's sermon, watch MTA, be obedient to parents and stay active in Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya and Jama'at activities.

Be a source of pride for your parents and a good role model to your peers. I look forward in seeing you at one of these upcoming events and at Ijtema.

Jazakumullah!



## **We want to hear from you!**

Children are encouraged to send their writing for publication in this magazine. If you want to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you want the original back, please write your address on the back of the artwork with the note: “Please send this back to” followed by your address.

Girls can submit their contributions for the Al-Hilal to

Sadr Lajna Imaillah, U.S.A. (Al-Hilal),  
15000 Good Hope Rd,  
Silver Spring, MD 20905.

Boys can send their submissions to

Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, U.S.A. (Al-Hilal),  
15000 Good Hope Rd,  
Silver Spring, MD 20905.

Adults are also welcome to submit their contributions for the magazine. The Children’s Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amir, Jama‘at Ahmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication. All correspondence can be sent to the Al-Hilal, 15000 Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905.

# What Being an Ahmadi Means to Me

*Lubna Malik, Age 14, Nasirat, Detroit*

It was a gloomy Sunday afternoon on July 14, 1903, when a cruel ruler gave the final warning to an innocent Ahmadi to give up his faith or be stoned to death. The fearless beloved of Allah, Hadrat Sahibzada Abdul Lateef Shahid (*radiyallahu 'anhu*), preferred to give up his life rather than his cherished belief. He was proud to be an Ahmadi.

I am very fortunate to be an Ahmadi. I believe Islam is the final and only universal religion. Its founder, Hadrat Muhammad Mustafa (*sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*), was the perfect man. The Holy Qur'an is the only religious book that claims to be perfect and directly revealed by Allah.

However, the beautiful picture of Islam got dusty over time. So, Allah sent Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (*'alahissalam*) as the Mahdi and Messiah of this age to clean that picture and present the pure and pristine face of Islam once again. Inviting the whole world, he said:

*aao logo keh yaheen noor-i-khudaa paaogay  
lo tumhain taur tasallee ka bataayaa ham nain*

Ye people! Come hither to see the light of Allah  
Lo, we have told you the way of succor and comfort

He founded a humble community of Ahmadi Muslims. It is the only community in the world that has the blessing of Khilafat. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih guides and protects Ahmadis with divine wisdom in such a way that an ordinary child, like myself, can frankly chat with him.

This community is founded on such manifest truths that even

death cannot shake its members. It is committed to improve the spiritual, moral, and physical condition of its members and to invite others to Allah. Its children are free from problems like bad language, drugs, and teen-age pregnancy. And then it has MTA (Muslim Television Ahmadiyya).

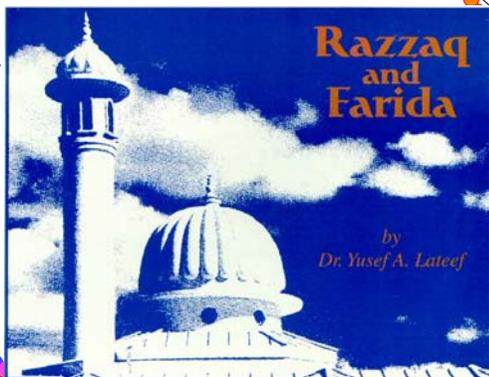
At school, I'm given extra respect from all people, but males in particular. When they see me in the hallway, they step aside to let me pass by. They make it a point not to look at me. Also, because I wear a scarf to school for Pardah (hijab), people give me even more respect. Everyone thinks it is so wonderful that I care that much for my beautiful faith. I am complimented. The love and pride that I feel for my faith cannot be expressed in any way. It can only be experienced.

Ahmadiyyat offers so much that I haven't even presented one percent of it. However, above are some reasons that make me fortunate and proud to be an Ahmadi Child and that is what Ahmadiyyat means to me.

### Razzaq and Farida

A story for children written by Dr. Yusef A. Lateef. Published by Majlis Ansarullah, U.S.A. Children and new Muslims, all can read and enjoy this story. It makes a great gift for the children of Ahmadi, Non-Ahmadi and Non-Muslim relatives, friends and acquaintances. Every page of the story is accompanied by a colorful drawing.

Send \$1.50 per copy to Chaudhary Mushtaq Ahmad, 15000 Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905 with your mailing address.



# History of the Ka'ba

*By Aadil Ahmad-Rahman, Zion*

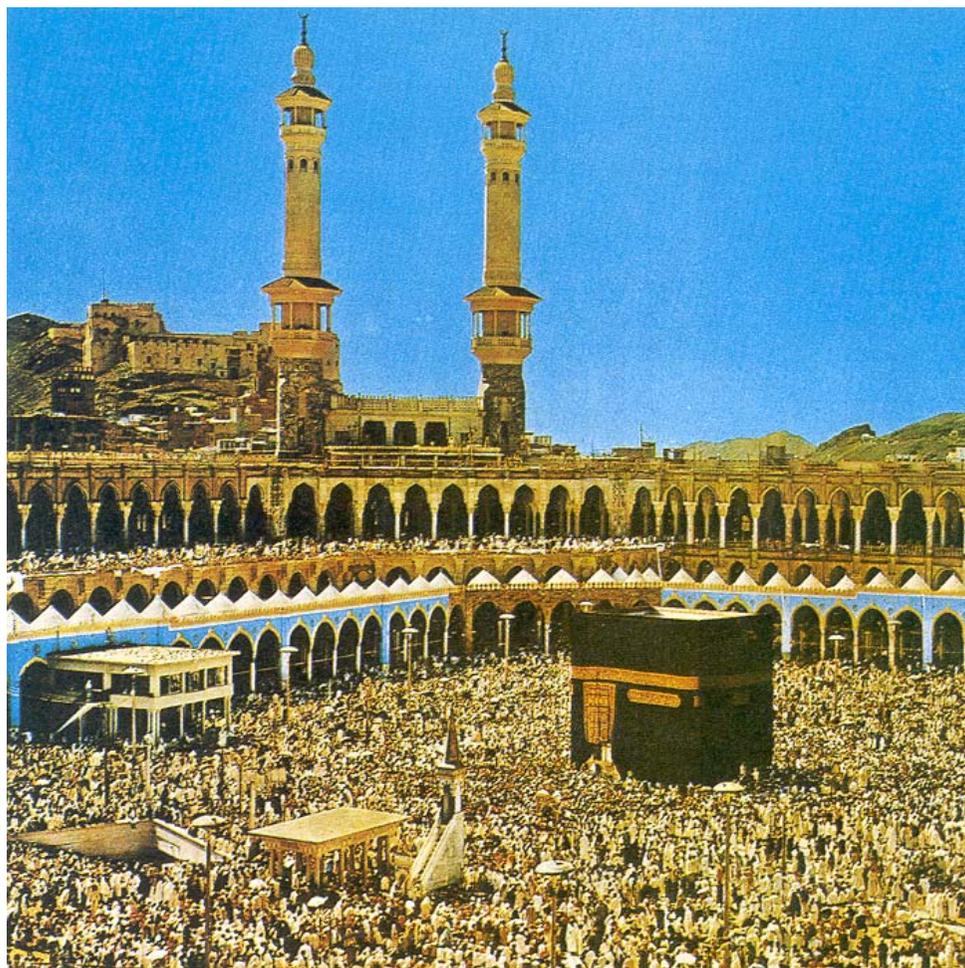
The Ka'ba, the central, cubic, stone structure built by Prophet Adam and then rebuilt by Ibrahim (peace be on him) and his son Isma'il (peace be on him), is the most sacred treasure of Islam. Other names of the Ka'ba include Bait-ul-'Atīq and Bait-ul-Haram. Bait-ul-'Atīq has two meanings. The first meaning is the earliest and ancient and the second meaning is independent and liberating. Bait-ul-Haram means the honorable house.

The current height of the Ka'ba is 39 feet and 6 inches, and the total size comes to 627 square feet. The ceiling and roof are made of wood and are in two levels. It's walls are made of stone; the stones inside are not polished, while the stones on the outside of the Ka'ba are polished.

The Ka'ba served as a center of worship in pre-Islamic times. It was reputed to contain about 360 idols. In AD 630, Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) returned to Mecca after being exiled to Medina and cleansed the Ka'ba of the idols belonging to the pagan jahiliya, the age of ignorance.

The Ka'ba has been burned down twice and flooded in the same year, 1626. In the course of its history, the Ka'ba has been demolished and rebuilt several times. Some researchers and historians claim that the Ka'ba has been rebuilt between five to twelve times.

Noted as a heavenly relic, the Black Stone, situated on the northeastern corner outside of the Ka'ba, has a possible meteoric origin. Its visual appearance conveys a dark, reddish-black one. Other physical descriptions include a smooth surface and small crystal inclusions. When making the pilgrimage, Muslims usually venerate and kiss this sacred stone. The Black Stone has a great



past as being part of the Ka‘ba’s history.

During the youth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be on him, the building of Ka‘ba had to be repaired. Arguments flared among the leaders as to who would have the honor of placing the Black Stone in place. Before any fights erupted, Abu Umayyah proposed that the first man to enter the gate to the mosque the next morning would decide this matter. That man was Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam). He said that he would place the Black Stone on his own cloak and that each of the four leading members of the Quraish would take a

corner and lift the cloak towards the Ka'ba. Then, Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) would take the Black Stone and place it in its rightful position.

In AD 930, a heretical Qarmatian sect stole the stone, but thankfully, it was recovered 21 years later. It was found because the stone could float on water. One hundred and twenty one years later, a mad Egyptian caliph sent a man to go and destroy the relic. In 1626, throughout the fires and flood, the stone was broken up into fifteen pieces. It is now set in cement, surrounded by a silver frame.

There is a 5,400-year-old ritual, called the Kiswa (cover) or the Dressing up God's Abode, which is still practiced up to this day. The Ka'ba is covered with a new Kiswa every year on the 10th Dhu Al-Hijjah. It is believed that this custom was started by Prophet Isma'il (peace be upon him).

The Kiswa is 658 square meters long and is made of 670 kgs of pure silk and it takes 15 kilos of gold thread. The cloth is made up of 47 pieces of cloth. It is 74 meters long and 101 centimeters broad. The covering is wrapped around the Ka'ba and fastened to the ground with copper rings.

The pattern has not changed throughout history but the color of the Kiswa changed during the reigns of different Caliphs. It was white, green, and black (the present day color). The part covering the gold and silver door is separate with embroidered Qur'anic verses.

The Kiswa is made in different steps. The cloth is first washed several times in special detergents and olive oil soap to remove the cloths protective wax. Then, the material is placed in hot temperatures to obtain its natural color. It is believed that dyeing the cloth when it is in its natural color gives the best results. The embroidery is done in silver and gold threads.

Muslims around the world face towards the direction of the Ka‘ba for worship (Prayers) five times a day. The Ka‘ba actually has no direction due to it’s shape. During their Prayers, worshippers direct their attention to Allah, the Almighty. Facing the same direction, worshippers are universal and complete: The Ka‘ba serves to unite them in purpose and objective. This has been the case for over 1,400 years, ever since the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam).

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## **The Ka‘ba**

### ***Kashif Ahmad Chaudhry***

The Ka‘ba is the first house built for mankind. Muslims face Ka‘ba when offering their Prayers. It is located in Saudi Arabia in the city of Makkah. Prophet Hadrat Ibrahim (Abraham) and his son (peace be on them) rebuilt the Ka‘ba. At Hadrat Muhammad’s time (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) different tribes fought over who would place the stone inside the Ka‘ba. Then Hadrat Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) placed the stone on top of the piece of cloth and every leader from each tribe carried it. I hope you learned about the history of the Ka‘ba.

### ***Subscription Rates for the Quarterly Al-Hilal***

\$8/year in the US, \$16/year elsewhere. Libraries can request free subscriptions on the condition that the copy is displayed or kept in the library. Send all requests to the above address.



## The Story of My Shoe, by My Shoe

*Samra Ahmad, Nasirat, Boise ID*

Being born in some Nike factory is pretty darn neat  
They store you in a box with something called a price tag.  
When my owner saw me and showed me to her dad,  
He wailed, Oh my goodness! You expect me to buy that?  
My owner convinced him that I was worth the pay,  
He didn't believe her but bought me anyway.  
And then on Monday when I was just fitting in,  
My owner wore me to school.  
Oh no! As my face came closer and closer to the ground.  
Ahhhhh! I yelled but now I'm safe and sound.  
Even though my face was dripping  
With something wet and sticky. Yuck!  
Then later I found out it was mud  
Which I now am growing to know and love.

## Keeping in Balance

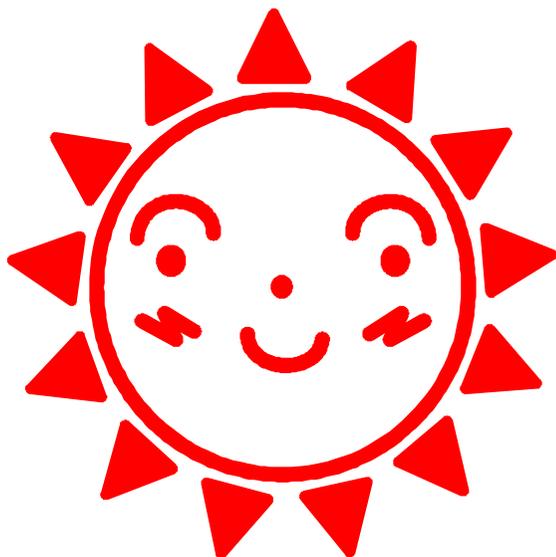
*Bushra Sultana Ahmad,  
Lajna, Boise ID*

God made the earth, the moon and the sun. The sun and the moon rise and set at their prescribed times to define the beginning and end of the day. The month of Ramadan and the two ‘Īds fall at their prescribed

times. Our Prayer times and our celebrations are based upon the sun and the moon, keeping a balance with nature. Everything works with harmony with each other. We all know these prescribed times help us to balance our life. Same is true of the five daily prayers, by performing them on time.

By offering five Prayers, finishing our work by ‘Isha and waking up to offer Fajr, we keep our lives balanced. Such great wisdom could only come from Allah, which leads to a healthy and harmonious life.

Centuries later, Ben Franklin said, *Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy wealthy and wise.* You see, long before people realized the secret to success, Muslims were provided with this wisdom. As always, this information is available to us and we are aware of this. It is now up to us what we do with this information. We can choose to lead balanced lives by performing five prayers on time and balancing our work and other activities around these times or we can continue as before living lives without balance.



# Hundred Years Ago

*Syed Sajid Ahmad, Boise ID*

Hundred years ago was a blessed time. The Promised Messiah (‘alaihiassalm) lived in Qadian. He and his companions were making every effort possible to serve the cause of Islam.



Hundred years ago, the twentieth century began with the year 1901. At this event, the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, proposed the publication of a magazine to spread the word of Islam. This magazine was given the name of the Review of Religions. Review of Religions started its publication in 1902 both in English and in Urdu. It is published monthly from London these days. This magazine publishes wonderful research articles on Islam and other religions.



The Promised Messiah (‘alaihiassalm) challenged his opponents to compete with him in writing a commentary of the Surah Fatiha in Arabic. Surah Fatiha is the first chapter of the Holy Qur’an . It has seven verses. This commentary was to be written in scholarly Arabic within the short period of December 15, 1900 to February 25, 1901.

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) published his commentary on February 23, 1901. He named it I‘jāzul-Masīh (meaning, Miracle of the Messiah). No other scholar (specifically Pir Mehr Ali Shah of Golarah) dared to compete. Its copies were sent to the Arab countries. Manazir and Hilal, two newspapers from Cairo, Egypt, wrote wonderful reviews on this commentary.

## Influence of TV on the youth

*Maidah Khalid, Nasirat, Age 14, Central Jersey*

Every day millions of children around the world come home from school and automatically go straight to the television set and sit for hours after hours watching ‘trash.’ What exactly does this black box sitting in our family rooms do to our societies, our cultures, our way of life, and most importantly the moral values of our children? The life of today’s child revolves around the media. What one wears is based on what the media wears, what one thinks is based on the media, and so on. These persuasive people are conquering our minds and hearts by this unsuspected weapon, a black box. Children grow up watching families being destroyed and children disrespecting parents, and irresponsible parents ruining the lives of their children on TV. No wonder the divorce rate is getting higher and higher day by day. Children think that what they see on

TV is a normal and the healthy way of living. Is this really the ‘normal’ way of living? Pain, suffering, hurt, unattended children, irresponsible parents... Marriage is SUPPOSED to mean compromise, not “I can’t stand the fact that you snore at night so I’m filing a divorce.” I believe that the media should show a more positive way of life. So that our future adults can be confident, mature individuals when they enter

the real world, not low self esteem, psychologically depressed adults who need therapy to get through a day at work. I think that the media, if wanting to, can change generation X into generation eXcellent.



# Daring to Say No to Drugs!

*Noor Butt, Age 12, Nasirat, Philadelphia*

I think that the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in school helps kids understand more about drugs. It's one thing to know not to do drugs, but it's another thing to know why you shouldn't do drugs. DARE teaches the side affects and downsides of drug abuse. In my school program,

I learned that nicotine is a drug found in cigarettes, and that it is a stimulant. It increases the heart rate, causes blood vessels to get thinner, and makes the heart pump blood faster and harder. Alcohol is a depressant.

Some of its side affects are loss of balance and co-ordination, violent behavior, loss of memory, difficulty in learning, and a visible change in personality.

The DARE program in my school also taught me about how to handle difficult situations. For example, we have been taught eight different ways to say NO to drugs.

1. Say, "no thanks."
2. Give a reason or excuse.
3. Repeat refusal.
4. Walk away.
5. Change the subject.
6. Avoid the situation.
7. Cold shoulder.
8. Use strength in numbers.

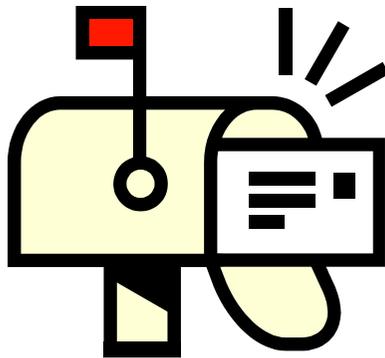


We should always be our own selves, and our own leaders. Sometimes, children can face serious problems when they try to be

like others. Also, when children or adults listen to someone who is not the ideal role model, they can find themselves in trouble. Older kids often try to use a younger peer or group member to get drugs, such as alcohol. If we stand strong and unique, the only one that we have to please is ourselves.

Also, I learned how to react in a disagreement. You should stay calm, and try not to blame the other. To cool down, you can do a number of things. One idea is to take a walk, instead of erupting in the other disputant's face. Then, you can discuss what a good compromise or solution could be. We should always be assertive, not aggressive or passive.

Commercials and advertisements can persuade viewers and readers to use drugs, but we have learned the truth of drugs, and learned how to stay away from them.



### *Solution to the Puzzle*

Send your solutions to the puzzle with your name, age, and address to Al-Hilal, 15000 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring MD 20905. We will give the solution to the puzzle in the next issue and the names of the children who send us the correct solution.

# There's a Snake in my Toilet!

*Yusuf Ahmad, Atfal, Boise ID*

When I was four or five, I read a children's book about a snake in a toilet. It scared me to death. Every time I went to the bathroom, I'd throw a bunch of toilet paper in to keep the snakes from coming up and biting me. I kept on doing this until I was about eight, when I thought it was time to confront the snake.

I got the necessary tools to kill the demon, rubber elbow gloves, a plunger, an apron and a knife. I closed the sliding door that separated the sinks from the toilet and shower. I turned on the light and got myself to face the evil snake hiding in my toilet. I reached for the handle, closed my eyes and flushed the toilet. I jumped against the back wall as the water went clock-wise down the toilet. The usually quiet flushing noise turned into a roar as I stared down the toilet. I waited at least fifteen minutes. Soon I started mocking the snake, hoping to anger it so it would come out. It didn't work. I stepped back to the wall and sat down. I waited and waited and waited and nothing came out. So I flushed again. Nothing. I sat down and stared at the toilet. My eyes started to close, and I quickly opened them. Then they started closing again. I opened them. And then they closed...

I got up and flushed the toilet and as the water went down, it popped out. A gigantic snake stood fully erect out of the toilet. It was at least fourteen inches in diameter and seven feet tall standing in the toilet. It was red with yellow spots that were accented by a black border. Its eyes were a deep sickly yellow with beady little black spots that stared at me as its tongue, separated into two at the end, as if it were split through the middle, slithered out and came in and out and in and out of his dark abyss of a mouth, with large, sharp teeth and two enormous fangs that seemed fit for a lions

mouth. All of a sudden I had to go to the bathroom. Badly. I looked it in the eye and rose to my full height of four feet ten inches. It still towered above me, but I looked at him bravely, gathered up my courage and confidently said with a slight tone of anger, “Go home.” It cocked its head to the left and looked at me funny, then jumped at me. I dived to the right as its head missed my neck by a fourth of an inch. While I was flying to the right I tossed the plunger at it. It flew through the air and hit it, smacking it against the wall. It shook its head as if to regain consciousness, and locked on to me and attacked from five feet away. It came flying at me, it’s mouth and eyes wide open, with a slight grin, as if he knew he had caught his prey. I hesitated but gathered up my strength and pulled out the knife and threw it at its head. They both went through the air directly at each other. The blade was so thin the snake didn’t realize what was coming at first. Suddenly it’s grin transformed to a frown and then it’s mouth widened as if to scream. It caught the knife in its mouth and it went straight through its head, half way sticking out as it flew into the wall, pinning the snake against it. A trail of blood trickled down the wall from its head. I got up and pulled the knife from the wall and walked away.

My mom slowly shook me awake. “What’re you doing with my apron and gloves? And why do you have the plunger and knife??? You’re a crazy little boy. Wearing all of this stuff and going to sleep in the bathroom. What were you thinking?” I thought for a second, looking for something to say that’d make it all right. I stuttered, slowly looking up to her and said, “I killed the snake...” She looked down and smiled and then giggled. “Good job! Now put away everything and go to bed. Go on.” I got up, went down stairs and put everything away. I then carried my tired body up the stairs. I plopped into bed and pulled my sheets up to my chin and smiled. I’d never have to stuff the toilet with toilet paper again.

# Honesty is the Best Policy

*Dr. Shanaz Butt, Sadr Lajna, U.S.A.*

According to the English dictionary, an honest person is defined as one who is just, sincere, honorable, righteous, chaste, frank, open and truthful. In contrast, a dishonest person is defined as one lacking integrity, one who violates trust, is unfaithful and predisposed to cheating and lying. So which of these qualities should Ahmadi Muslim children try to attain in their daily lives? I am sure that we are all in agreement that “Honesty is the Best Policy!” However, by just saying that we should be honest is not enough, because this quality is not easy to acquire. We have to work very hard and be constantly aware of our thoughts, words, deeds and motives in order to develop honesty as an integral part of ourselves.

I will list some ways by which we can make honesty our best policy:

## 1

First of all, we must develop a love for Allah in our hearts and follow His commandments. Allah Almighty warns us in the Holy Qur’an (9:119): **O ye who believe, fear Allah and be of the truthful.**

## 2

Secondly, we must be regular in our Prayers. Prayer allows us to develop a closer relationship with Allah, washes out inner impurities and helps us to become more honest people.

## 3

Thirdly, we must keep company with honest and righteous people and avoid the company of those who lie and cheat and are generally dishonest.

Fourthly, we must analyze our thoughts and actions and identify our motives and intentions. Remember, that the key to living an honest life is to have honest intentions. The Holy Prophet (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) has said: **“The root of every man’s action lies in his intentions.”**

And finally, we must lay down the right foundation and pay special attention to the initial and basic stages. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih I, Maulana Nur-ud-Din (May Allah be pleased with him) once spoke to little children about habits. He said that bad habits can be broken if they are corrected right away but not when they have taken deep roots. Thus the foundation of honesty is laid down when we are children. And when we grow up, we either develop the bad habit of being dishonest or the good habit of being honest, depending on our training and upbringing.

Let me share with you a story about Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Jilani who left his home as a young boy in search of God and knowledge. His mother stitched a pocket inside his coat in which she placed eighty dirhams and advised him to always be honest and speak the truth. On his journey, the caravan was attacked by dacoits who looted all the travelers. One dacoit approached Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Jilani and asked whether he had any valuables. The young boy bravely said that he had some money. The dacoit disbelievingly laughed on his face and took him to the leader of the dacoits. Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Jilani again said that he had eighty dirhams which his mother had given him. The leader was surprised at the boy’s honesty and inquired why the boy had told him about the money. At that Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Jilani said that his mother had advised him that if he was going in search of God, then one of the most important steps towards reaching God was to be honest. The

chief dacoit became very ashamed of himself and started crying. He called his group together and told them that from that point onwards, he was no longer going to loot people and instead was joining Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Jilani on his search for God. I hope that this story fully convinces you that Honesty is the best Policy.

One of the biggest problems that our society faces today is the lack of honesty. Telling lies, being insincere and doing unjust acts have become common place. Instead of honesty being the best policy, dishonesty seems to have become the best policy! The Promised Messiah (‘alaihihsalam) has said: What we affirm with our tongues, we must show by our actions. If human beings cannot deal honestly with each other, how can they deal honestly with Allah? This means that in order to develop a close relationship with Allah, we must first develop an honest relationship with His Creation. Let us make every attempt to practice honesty in our daily lives, and in this way achieve Allah’s Blessings in this life and in the hereafter, Insha Allah.

## Glossary

- Aḥmadiyyat احمديت : Muslim sect believing Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad to be the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, peace be on him  
Aḥmadi احمدى : A follower of Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad, the Promised Messiah , peace be on him.  
‘alaihihsalam: peace be on him  
Āmīn: amen, so be it.  
Amīr, Ameer: امير Commander, Head  
Assalamu ‘alaikum: peace be on you  
Bukhārī: بخارى : The most reliable source of the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be on him.  
Ḥadīth حديث : Saying of the Holy Prophet Mohammad, sallallahu alaihi wasallam.  
Ḥaḍrat, Hazrat: حضرت : His Holiness  
inshā’allah: God willing  
Khalīfatul-Masih خليفة المسيح : Successor to the Promised Messiah, ‘alaihihsalam.  
Majlis مجلس : Society, organization.  
raḍīyallāhu ‘anhu: رضى الله عنه : May Allah be pleased with him.  
Ṣadr صدر : President.  
Ṣāhibzadah: صاحبزاده Son of a respected person, respected gentleman.  
sallallāhu ‘alaihi wasallam صلى الله عليه وسلم : peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

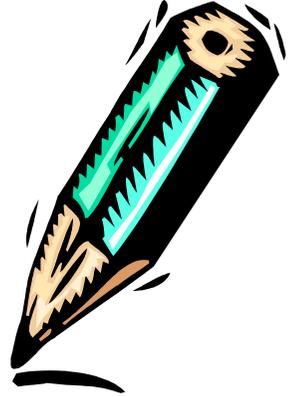


## Just for Kids

*Myriam Shaikh, San Francisco*

### *CLUES Across:*

1. Name of the Holy Prophet (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam).
4. A Pillar of Islam.
6. First Prophet of God.
7. One of the five daily Prayers.
8. Call to Prayer.
9. First letter of Arabic Alphabet.
10. A Pillar of Islam.
15. The Holy Prophet’s (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) Uncle.
16. God in Arabic .
17. Country where the Holy Prophet (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) was born.
19. You can read stories about this Prophet in the Bible.



### *Clues Down:*

1. City where Holy Prophet (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) was born.
2. Name of Holy Prophet (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) Mother.
3. Name of Holy Prophet (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) Father.
5. One of the five prescribed Prayers.
11. One of the four Caliphs who followed the Holy Prophet (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam).
12. One of the five formal Prayers.
13. Muslim Festival.
14. Pilgrimage.
18. Second letter of Arabic Alphabet.

*See Page 22 for  
solution*

## **Lā ilāha illallāh** **(There is no god but Allah)**

*A Poem By Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad,  
Musleh Mau'ūd, Khalifatul-Masih II, radiyallahu 'anhu*

*Presented in English by  
Dr. Rasheed Azam, Research Triangle*

Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah)  
Is the hand that points to ka'ba, and is the elixir for all heart  
aches.

The spell of the enchanting eyes ever induces from my heart the  
cry: Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

Dead hearts and souls revive when the trumpet sounds:  
Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

When I stagger under the weight of my sins, who comes to my  
rescue?

Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

All riddles are solved and my heart finds peace with  
Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

Be it the doctrine of duality or trinity,  
All arguments are blown away like a cobweb against the  
irrefutable truth:

Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

From all that exists rises but one song:  
Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

Idols in your heart, avails you nothing just saying with your  
tongue

Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

Intercession before God on the Day of Judgment is:

Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

The darkness of *shirk* will be no more  
With the appearance of the light of  
Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

There may be thousands worthy of love  
But my love is only  
Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

Every bright face manifests his glory,  
His light pervades the universe.  
He is manifest everywhere.  
Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

Never can remain hidden the glance  
Which has vanquished me  
Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

All will abandon you on the Day of Judgment  
Except the only Faithful One  
Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

There may be a thousand, nay a million cures  
For the ailing soul but, the quintessence is  
Lā ilāha illallāh (there is no god but Allah).

## What does your name mean?

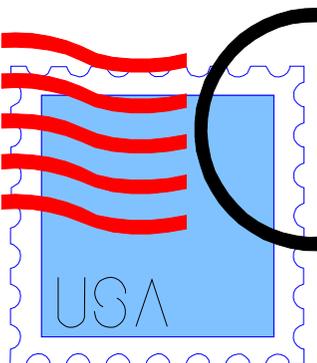
The name of our Holy Prophet was Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). Muhammad is an Arabic word. It means a person who is praiseworthy, commendable, laudable. The Holy Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), indeed was, has been, and will be the most commendable and laudable person. He was also known as amīn and siddīq. Amin means honest and upright and siddiq means truthful.

His second name was Ahmad. Ahmad means a person who is more laudable, more commendable, the one who praises the most. He also had many other beautiful names.

Many parents want their children to be like the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be on him. They name their children after the Holy Prophet (sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam). They give their sons the names of Muhammad, Ahmad, Amin and Siddiq. They choose the names of Muhammadi, Ahmadi, Aminah and Siddiqa for their daughters.

What is your name and what does it mean? What does your name mean to you? Send us a story about your name and we may print it for the readers to enjoy. (Sajid)

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