

# Al Hilal

## Love *Thy* Neighbor



## QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

A Magazine for children, by children, that provides them with a creative opportunity to learn about the world around them, and how to apply the teachings of Islām and Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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Dear Reader, As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

In this delightful issue, our children have shared how good it feels to lend a helping hand to others, and to participate in a loving way with their neighbors. Indeed their neighborhoods sound so appealing, the pages come to life with their stories.

In Islam the word ‘neighbor’ does not just mean those who live near by you but it includes all of mankind. Allah tells us how much He loves those who are good to people: “...*Surely, Allah loves those who do good*” (Holy Qur’an 2:196). For this is the way peace and harmony is established in all communities. Kindness, compassion and sympathy for others brings the mercy and blessings of God, which is why it feels so good to be positive, friendly and a real helper.

Please enjoy the cheerful contributions from our children, who love their neighbors!

Was-Salām

Saliha Malik - Chief Editor, Al-Hilāl

**Editor’s Note:**

The symbol (sa) is an abbreviation of the prayer *sallallāhu ‘alaihi wa sallam* (peace and blessings of God be upon him), which we say after the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). Though the prayer has not been written in full it should nevertheless be understood as being repeated in full in each case.

Similarly the symbol (as) is an abbreviation of the prayer ‘*alaihis -salam* (peace be upon him) and is used at the mention of Promised Messiah (as) and all other prophets of God.

The symbol (aba) is an abbreviation of the prayer *ayyadhullahu ta’ala bi nasrihil ‘aziz* (may Allah be his helper) and is used at the mention of the current Khalifa (aba).

## Holy Qur'an

وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ  
إِحْسَانًا وَبِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَ  
الْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ وَالصَّاحِبِ  
بِالْجُنُبِ وَالْإِنْسَانِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ  
إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ مَنْ كَانَ مُخْتَالًا فَخُورًا ﴿٤٧﴾

And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and to kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger, and the companion by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom your right hands possess. Surely, Allah loves not the proud and the boastful.

[4:37]



## Hadith

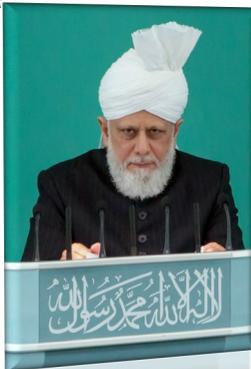
Do you know what are the rights of a neighbor? It is his right that if he asks you for help, you should help; if he begs for a loan you should lend; and if he becomes destitute you should render him aid. If he's ailing you should tend him; if he dies you should join in the funeral rites; if good befalls him you should facilitate him, and if he is afflicted by a calamity you should comfort and console him.

You should not raise your structure higher than his obstructing the passage of the breeze towards it, without his consent. If you bring home some fruit, send your neighbor a portion of it as a present. If you are unable to do so take it inside secretly and do not let your children come out with it causing distress to your neighbor's children. Let not the smell of food from your cooking pot disturb your neighbor unless you are ready to share it with him".

(Wisdom of the Holy Prophet -  
Muhammad Zafrullah Khan)



## Excerpts From Huzoor's (aba) Addresses



**Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim**

Dear Neighbors, Ladies and Gentlemen

The prayer which I have just recited, Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim, means *'In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful.'*

This is the first verse of the Holy Qur'an. The Holy Prophet of Islam (sa) is reported to have said, rather he has commanded the Muslims, to recite this prayer before starting any task as otherwise it would be devoid of Allah's blessings. So with this beautiful teaching, how can a true Muslim be expected to wrong anybody, or do any work with bad intentions, or harm anyone, or create problems of any sort around his surroundings? A person who is starting any work in the name of the Gracious and Merciful God cannot

win the blessings and mercy of Allah unless God's attributes of being Gracious and Merciful are depicted in one's own gestures towards one's fellow beings.

In the light of this teaching, I would like to request you to remove any feeling or fear of mischief from Ahmadis residing in your neighborhood. The Qur'anic teachings for the rights of neighbors are so explicitly laid out that a true Muslim who is always seeking help from the Gracious and Merciful Allah cannot deviate from this, as any slight deviation might cause him to go astray and lose the blessings and love of God.

**(Love Thy Neighbor, November 12 2006)**

Allah the Almighty has enjoined treating other people with respect, love and kindness... A Muslim is duty-bound to serve humanity irrespective of color, caste or creed. Indeed alongside a person's relationship with Allah, every other possible relationship is included [ref Holy Qur'an 4:37]. This is why I said that when Islam teaches Muslims to fulfil the rights of their neighbors and to fulfil the rights of their relations, it actually incorporates all of mankind. Indeed, the Qur'an does not merely require different groups to live side-by-side, but rather it has actually established the rights of all people and all communities.

**(Good Mosques, Good Neighbors, February 20 2016)**



# My Neighbors

**Aateka Maaz Mirza. Age 7, Virginia South**



Dear Readers,

I would like to tell you about my neighbors. I love my neighbors because they are very friendly and they like my food.

My family was the first one to move to the neighborhood we live in, because it is a newly built neighborhood. There were only eight homes on our street and all of them were empty except ours. We

were alone for four days and it felt scary at night.

After a week, my first neighbor moved in to their home. We were excited to see them because they gave us strength of neighborhood. My Mama told me that all our neighbors help to build a strong and healthy community if all share their love with each other. After a few months, all of the homes on my street filled up.

My family made a plan. My Mama made Samosas and I, my younger sister and my Baba, took these to all the neighbors on our street. We knocked on each door and presented Samosas. All the neighbors thanked us. A few months after, some neighbors brought presents to our home too. We were very happy with this. It was a great way to get to know our neighbors a little bit, and also to introduce ourselves to them.

It is wonderful to have neighbors, and to be good and friendly to them. My Baba tells me that is a great way to do Tabligh.



# Love Thy Neighbor

Sitwat Rasheed, Age 10, Austin

The Prophet of Allah Hazrat Muhammad (sa) said **“He is not a true believer who eats his fill while his neighbor is hungry”**. I had an experience with a neighbor who needed me and



my family's help. When I was in third grade, one of my friends Emma was in my neighborhood. Her mom got divorced and she lived with her grandparents, little brother and a sister. Her grandparents mostly did not take care of her that much because they expected that she was old enough to take care of herself. Her mom

came very late from work, so she stayed unattended most of the time. She told me about her home situation because I was the only one she trusted to share her feelings with. I always felt that she needed help. I felt very bad to know about her and discussed it with my mother. My mother invited her mother to our house and after that her mother allowed her to come into our home.

Then she came to our house everyday till seven or sometimes eight at night. We ate together and I felt good. We did our homework together, because before this our teacher always complained of her missing homework. The most interesting part of this experience is this that at prayer time when we offered our prayers she started to join us and also started to cover her head. She wanted to know what prayer is and what we say in it. My mom and I told her about it so that she knew how to do it and all the steps in Salat, and she offered prayers with us. One day she told me that before coming to school she got a scarf and prayed. She loved to spend time with us, but sadly after a year her mom got a job somewhere else I was very sad that she moved and I still miss her a lot and I hope she is doing well. I will always remember her in my prayers and as a neighbor. If anybody else comes I will do the same, IN SHA ALLAH.

# I Love My Neighbors

Tanzeela Ahmad, Age 8, Virginia North

Since I was born and as far as I can remember I love my neighbors. Because my neighborhood is joyful, playful and love full. They never disturb us and they love to play with us.

I have many, many friends; neighbors that go to the same school and we walk in the morning with our parents and after school we walk beside the creek !! Isn't it so wonderful! My two brothers play with my friends brother and I play with my friend and many friends in my neighborhood.

We celebrate every Eid with our neighbors and make it as a neighborhood party. My mom makes the yummy Biryani and Samosas that all my neighbors love. We have a pizza party as well sometimes and we do our homework together.

I am so grateful to Allah for giving us such a friendly neighborhood . I was making a poster for our Seerat-un-nabi Jalsa and my neighbor Ava helped me. I felt so happy. She knows who Allah is and she also knows who is a Muslim.

I feel we should always be kind to people because if we are not then we are not grateful to Allah.



<http://www.reviewofreligions.org/>

# NEIGHBORS

**Jaziba Ahmad, Age 11, Austin**

Holy Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (sa) said: “He is not a believer whose neighbor is not safe from his harm” (Sahih Bukhari). This means that we should not do anything that can make our neighbors feel uncomfortable in any way. Instead, we should be kind, courteous, respectful, and polite to them. In difficult times, we should be the first ones to step forward to give help and support to our neighbors. We should look after them, especially if they are sick or old. When they are not around, we should protect their property and pets. We should often invite our neighbors to our homes and mosques. We must forgive our neighbors mistakes and faults.

It is important to treat our neighbors with love and care because it creates neighborhoods that are full of love, peace and harmony.

## *Holy Prophet's (sa) Good Treatment of Neighbors*

**Rameen Noor, Age 7, Virginia South**

Islam, our beautiful religion, has taught us that we should behave beneficently towards the neighbor. The Holy Prophet (sa) has laid great emphasis on generous treatment of neighbors. The truth is that one who does not treat his neighbor well cannot deserve to be called a Muslim.

In the matter of good treatment of neighbors, the Holy Prophet (sa) was so particular that he reminded of this obligation even in regard to very minor things, as for instance, in a Ḥadith, he said. **If one cooks meat, he had better make more gravy so that some of it may serve one's neighbor, should he be in need.** By looking at the example of the Holy Prophet (sa), we should be really kind to our neighbors.



# Love For all Hatred For none

Sabeen Iqbal, Age 14, Houston

*Love For All, Hatred For None.* This is our motto as Ahmadi Muslims. Love for all means equality and kindness to everyone, including our neighbors. Loving your neighbors is as simple as inviting them in for a cup of coffee or waving to them when you run into each other.

In the Holy Qur'an it says,

*“And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger, and the companion by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom your right hand possess. Surely Allah loves not the proud and boastful.” (4:37)*

This verse explains the beauty and the rights of our neighbors. It also shows that we should be kind to everyone even if they are not kind to you. Our neighbors are always going to be with us through whatever happens. We should respect them and their style of living as they would do to our ways. If your neighbor is one who is outgoing and well-spirited, take that and make a healthy bond.

Having a strong friendship with neighbors can also be a way to spread Islam by the way you live and act. Loving your neighbors can mean a lot of things. But, in my opinion, I think it means to have a strong relationship and being there for them when they are in need, Jazakallah.



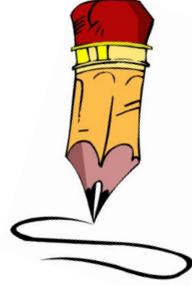
# RESPECT FOR NEIGHBORS

Amna Khalid, Age 12, Baltimore

Fill in the blanks by using the word bank:

**greet, disturb, mindful, rude, neighbors**

1. Respect your \_\_\_\_\_ as your friends/ elders.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ neighbors whenever you see them.
3. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ to your neighbors.
4. Be \_\_\_\_\_ of your neighbors.
5. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbors while they are relaxing.



## My Neighborhood

Syeda Fazeen Rizvi, Age 13, Virginia North

My neighborhood has always been diverse in religion, ethnicity, and beliefs. Even though we are all different and come from diverse backgrounds, we are all tied together by a simple thing in common; living in the same neighborhood. My neighbors have always been caring and consider us almost like a family. Growing up in my neighborhood was a pure joy and I always felt respected by our neighbors. In our neighborhood, we all established trust and confidence in each other and we respect others and their property. I love my neighborhood and the people in it!

# A Beautiful Neighborhood

Faheem Ahmed, Age 12, Virginia

Everyone in my neighborhood is very close to each other because we invite and do many activities together. My family and even different religious families in our neighborhood invite others to explore and learn about the religious or non-religious things that we cherish creating a beautiful relationship for us kids.



My first ever cherished memory is when I first finished my Holy Qur'an my family invited many of our neighbors to inform them and let them know why this is a big accomplishment. Everyone in the neighborhood knew why this was not only

special to me, but to the people who practice Islam. During the celebration I recited the Holy Qur'an and that gave everyone a spiritual connection because the Qur'an is so beautiful.

This year on Eid, I created a flyer and we decided to invite all the non-Muslims to celebrate the end of Ramadan. On the day of the Eid party, almost everyone in our neighborhood accepted the invitation and came to our house to celebrate Eid.



One of my close friends Nate Clements, started to get interested in Islam, he has celebrated Eid with us for many years and he loves to wear a special ethnic dress my mom gave him. He asks me about Islam and how is it different from his religion Christianity and we talk hours together. Nate told me at some point

in future he would accept Islam because he feels there is a need for him to be a Muslim.

After he told me this, we got even closer and we started cleaning up around our neighborhood, helping shoveling, mowing the lawn and we created things together. And we celebrate many of his holidays and many of my holidays together.

Allah says,

*And show kindness... to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger... (4:37)*

In conclusion I feel that inviting or visiting each other is very necessary, because your neighbors live next to you and they will always be there. So it is best to know them personally and talk and cherish things that both you and your neighbor enjoy.

# Every Summer...

**Maheen Mirza, Age 7, Virginia North**

Islam teaches us to love our neighbors. As a Muslim I try to be kind, helpful, and caring towards people in our neighborhood. Every summer, my friends from the neighborhood and I organize a get together where we have pizza, ice cream, and games for all the kids. The event takes place right outside my house because my home is in the middle of a cul-de-sac! Everyone in our neighborhood is welcome to come. It is a great way to bring the community together.

Last summer, my parents bought me a swing for the tree in our front yard. Now all the kids in our neighborhood lineup to use the swing. The swing is the most popular spot on the street! I am so blessed to be able to share it with my friends and neighbors! It's as if Allah has chosen our house as a place for all the children to gather!

May Allah enable me to continue being a strong pillar in my community and always show love to my neighbors, In Sha Allah, Ameen.



# OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN

Sarmed Ahmad, Age 7, Virginia South

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) delivered a speech on the 12th of November, 2006 to the neighbors of the London [Fazl] Mosque. Huzoor (aba) told us that Allah wants us to give neighbors their rights. In the Holy Qur'an Allah states:

*“And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger, and the companion by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom your right hands possess. Surely Allah loves not the proud and boastful” (4:37).*

Huzoor (aba) also mentioned some sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). One tradition says:

‘Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet (sa) called out: **By Allah, he does not believe, by Allah he does not believe, by God he does not believe.** He repeated it three times. He was asked: **Who does not believe, Messenger of Allah?** He said: **He whose neighbor is not secure against his mischief.**’ (Bukhari and Muslim)



Then another tradition says:

‘Ibn Umar (ra) and A’isha (ra) relate that the Holy Prophet (sa) said: **Gabriel kept exhorting me about the neighbor till I imagined he would include him in the category of heirs.**’ (Bukhari and Muslim)

Huzoor (aba) said, “Our doors are always wide open and we very much welcome you at any time with open arms.”

**SO LET’S BE GOOD TO OUR NEIGHBORS !!!**

# Spreading Love & Kindness

Fehsal Khan, Age 9, Seattle

As an Ahmadi Muslim, I hope to spread love and kindness through my actions. Every little thing that we do can be a gesture of kindness towards others. Here are some acts of kindness I like to do.



I try to be proactive around the house. When it is prayer time, I lay out the prayer mats for my family and then neatly fold them away after the prayer. On Wednesday, when our milk delivery arrives, I bring in the milk.

I am hospitable to my guests. The Promised Messiah (as) greatly emphasized the importance of treating guests well. I greet those who enter my house with the words As-Salāmu Alaikum. I make sure that my guests take food before I do and I happily give my bedroom to my grandparents when they come to visit me.

I am active in my local community and enthusiastically volunteer on a regular basis. I have helped with nature projects such as planting trees. I helped clean up and sort things out after a big ski-swap event. I also provide breakfast for homeless youth.

When people show love for others, others will love them back and this turns into a chain reaction to spread peace and kindness throughout the world.

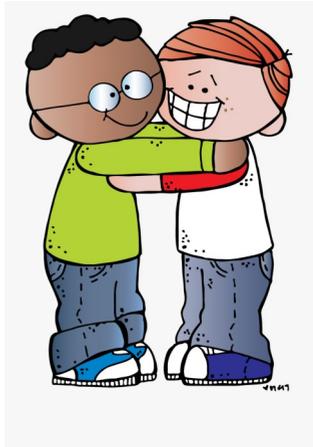


# SOMETHING TO APPRECIATE

**Oumie Hydera, Age 11, Baltimore**

Hi my name is Oumie Hydera. I was born in a Gambian Ahmadi family in Baltimore and that is the Jama'at I am from. I am in the fifth grade and I am a first generation American. A way I showed love to people out here is that last year, while dropping me off to school, my mom would take an older lady in our car and give her a ride to the bus stop because it looked like she didn't have a car and she would walk all the way to the bus stop from her house which was diagonal from our house. She is a teacher at a local high school. It was nice to know that someone relies on you and you are doing something good and making someone happy and giving them the ability to have a good day. It was no trouble at all so it is good to know that you have to do so little to make someone happy and help them when in need.

So my point here is that I do the best I can to make people feel happy, equal, special, not alone, loved. Whether it comes to making friends with a disabled classmate so they feel appreciated, giving away my lunch and biweekly allowance to a homeless man in need, comforting a friend in grief, or helping a handicapped friend, which I did, I am doing the best I can to make you feel loved. As Barack Obama said: "If someone is different from you, that's not something to criticize, that's something to appreciate," Jazakallah.



# Love For All

Imran Mahmood Khan, Age 8 , LA East

Let me tell you about my friends who come from  
different places,  
at school and the mosque with their unique faces.

We speak different languages and enjoy different  
foods.  
But only one thing is common, we're all cool dudes.

We treat each other with kindness and respect,  
Because the Golden Rule is what we expect.

It doesn't matter what is the color of your face,  
What's important is that we're one human race.

Our faiths may be different, but our Creator is one.  
**LOVE FOR ALL, HATRED FOR NONE.**

Written with help from my  
parents

**LOVE  
FOR ALL  
HATRED  
FOR NONE**

# *Love Thy Neighbor*

**Sabooth Zahaa Abdullah Hagura, Age 12, Philadelphia**

In today's day and age, most people enjoy staying inside the comfort of their own homes with their families. Who can blame them? Many people now socialize over the internet, which can be an easy and more direct way to communicate, but if we solely rely on the internet to find friends and people you relate to, you miss out on the people who are within arm's reach. Your neighbors. A Hadith of the Holy Prophet (sa) states,

**“One who eats his fill while his neighbor is hungry by his side is not a believer”.**

The Hadith suggests that those who put themselves up on a pedestal and cast aside the people living around them, even those who are not related, cannot be considered a true Ahmadi Muslim.

This doesn't just relate to your immediate neighbors, it relates to your overall community as well. If you are aware of people in your community who are in bad conditions and poverty, you should try and participate in food drives and small community charities. If we as a Muslim community want to live up to the legacy of the Holy Prophet (sa), we must follow his practice. If we do this, we will be able to spread a positive message of Islam, inspiring people to join the community. Isn't this our absolute goal, after all?



# THE GIRL NEXT DOOR

Aqsa Suhail, Age 9, Virginia Central



I have a friend who is a year older than me. She is also our next door neighbor. My family and I have a great relationship with them. One day our microwave caught on fire. We knocked on their door, which they answered. My mother left her phone in our house, but our neighbors called 911 and the firemen came. It became dark about 5 hours later. Our neighbors knocked on our door. They had cooked food for us. They also have a persimmon fruit tree that grows a lot of fruit every year, so they always give us a bag full of fruit. We really enjoy the fruit. It is Allah's blessing to have good people around us.

## How to Respect our Neighbors

Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, Age 10, Long Island

Today we will learn about how we should respect our neighbors. Whether they are rude or nice we should always respect our neighbors. Before we get into it, how many of you have a rude neighbor? Well, if you do, that does not mean you should be rude back to them. If your neighbor is in a bad mood, don't say anything mean, instead say something that is kind, or if you are uncomfortable in a situation, leave them alone and give them space. If you are outside and see your neighbor wish them a good day and ask them how they are doing.

Here is a list of how to respect your elderly neighbors

- 1 be kind
- 2 help them
- 3 if they are sad, try to make their day
- 4 if they are senior citizens always be respectful
- 5 be truthful about things
- 6 if you see them gloomy, try and talk about it



# My 2020 Umrah Experience

**Afifha Zaman, Age 8, Queens,**



By the grace of Allah, I started my new year 2020 by visiting Madinah and Makkah to perform Umrah with my family. In Madinah and Makkah the weather was nice and breezy. It was also very peaceful. In Madinah our hotel was right next to Masjid Al Nabawi. I was able to see the Rowda Mubarak or the Green

Dome of Holy Prophet (sa) through the window of the Room where I was staying. In Madinah, you feel like a free bird, you have so much freedom and you spend time in the mosque in between prayers. We also visited historical places in Madinah like the mount Uhud.

After four whole days staying in Madinah, we finally departed to Makkah to perform Umrah. On the way to Makkah by car, we saw a lot of camels in different colors. I saw many pigeons everywhere. I also fed many pigeons. I gave them seeds and breads.

On the day of Umrah, I prayed a lot. I prayed for myself, for my family, my friends, and for my beloved huzoor (aba). I was so happy to see the Kaaba for the first time. Its a lot bigger than I imagined. After five days staying in Makkah, we departed from Makkah to Jeddah.

Our flight from Jeddah to Jordan was more than an hour and then from Jordan to JFK, New York was almost 13 hours. When I finally got home, I was so happy and excited to meet my friends because I missed them a lot. I told them about my Umrah experience and what I did there. Those were the best nine days in my life. I am so excited to go again inshallah!



# The Best Neighbors

**Emaan Ahmad, Age: 10, Virginia North**

The Holy Prophet (sa) said: ‘The best friend in the sight of Allah is he who is the well-wisher of his companions, and the best neighbor is one who behaves best towards his neighbors.’ Narrated by Abdullah ibn Umar (ra).

I live on a very welcoming street with beautiful neighbors and amazing friends, they are so kind and friendly. I have two friends in my neighborhood. They are twins and their names are Annalee and Lucy. They live right in front of us, they are the best neighbors in the world. When we moved into this neighborhood the twins welcomed us so nicely. My little brother got sick one day and our neighbor offered us a ride to school so that my mom didn’t have to walk with my sick brother, that was so helpful. Similarly, they walk with us sometimes when their mum has to leave for work early.

Our neighbors love to celebrate our festivals. This year we spent Chaand Raat with our neighbors. They asked my mom to put henna on their hands. It was so much fun and good to see them enjoying our festival. I also taught my friends a few words like Jazakallah and Allah Hafiz.



This year on Seerat un Nabi Day we gave all of our neighbors homemade Lemon and Coconut Slice. Our neighbor also sends us food and treats sometimes. We love to share food with each other! On July 4<sup>th</sup> at night, we heard the fireworks outside our house, it was so loud. Then we heard my friends knocking on our door to ask if we wanted to see the fireworks. I said, ‘Aww thanks, sure we can come outside’. So we went outside, and the fireworks were very good. We always have fun with our neighbors, Al-Hamdu Lillah!

In the end I just wanted to say that If you love and respect your neighbors from your heart, then your neighbors will show love and respect to you from their heart also.

# My NEIGHBORHOOD

Nabeera Nasir, Age 8, Houston North



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POLICESTATION	HELP
CINEMA	PLEASE
PARK	TREES
STATUE	RIVER
RESTAURANT	CITY
THEATER	OFFICE
CASTLE	MONEY
TOWER	FOOD
WATER	STREET
SCHOOL	



# Peace, Love and Harmony

Malaika Khan, Age 10, North Jersey

My name is Malaika Khan, and I am currently in 5th grade. Today I am going to write about loving and taking care of your neighbors.

The rights towards our neighbors hold a very important place in Islamic teachings. The Messenger of Allah, Hazrat Muhammad (sa) said:

“Whenever you prepare a broth, put plenty of water in it and give some to your neighbors”.

Not only can this build a bond between neighbors but it also helps them view us as good Muslims and not what the media projects Muslims as. The Holy Qur’an states,

*“And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger, and the companion by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom your right hand possess. Surely Allah loves not the proud and boastful” (4:37).*

How beautifully the Holy Qur’an lays out the verse. This can create peace, love, and harmony wherever you live.



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# love Thy Neighbor



**Hana Suhail, Age 7, Virginia Central**

A few times a year my family and I go to a park called Franklin Square in Washington, DC. We make sandwiches to give out to the homeless people who have gathered there. I want to do this because I have empathy and I can only imagine how they must feel without food. It is important that we look in our neighborhoods and help our neighbors when they need help.

## How Should You Treat Your Neighbors?

**Shafia Mallik, Age 8, Silver Spring**

Have you ever thought about how you should treat your neighbors? If you haven't, now is a good time! Think about it. When you first moved in, did your neighbors do anything? When me and my family moved into the neighborhood two years ago, they showed us an unbelievable amount of kindness and hospitality. One year later, they brought us toys for the holidays and when my little brother was born, they showered him with lovely gifts. What we did, let me share with you too. The very same year, we went and bought boxes of chocolate and passed them out, one house at a time. I am also suggesting trying this as well. The reason we did this was to pay back the people who helped us in our times of need. Keep in mind, relatives live far and when you have problems, it takes longer for them to get there so you have to have a strong relationship with your neighbors. These are only some of the things you could do to pay back your neighbors.

# How Can You Help the Elderly Near You?

Hassan Ahmad Khan, Age 7, North Jersey

Our beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said we should be respectful to our elders and kind to the young. First, I try to always respect my elders who live near my house by helping them in many ways. For instance, if someone is sick in my neighborhood, I visit their house and bring some fruits and food with me. I ask them to let me know if they need some kind of help. If I see some trash around my neighbor's house, I pick it up to keep their house and the neighborhood clean.



## Love Thy Neighbor

Sahibzada Nabeel Ahmad, Age 8, Virginia North

I will talk about loving thy neighbor. We do things for them and they do things for us. Be kind to your neighbors.

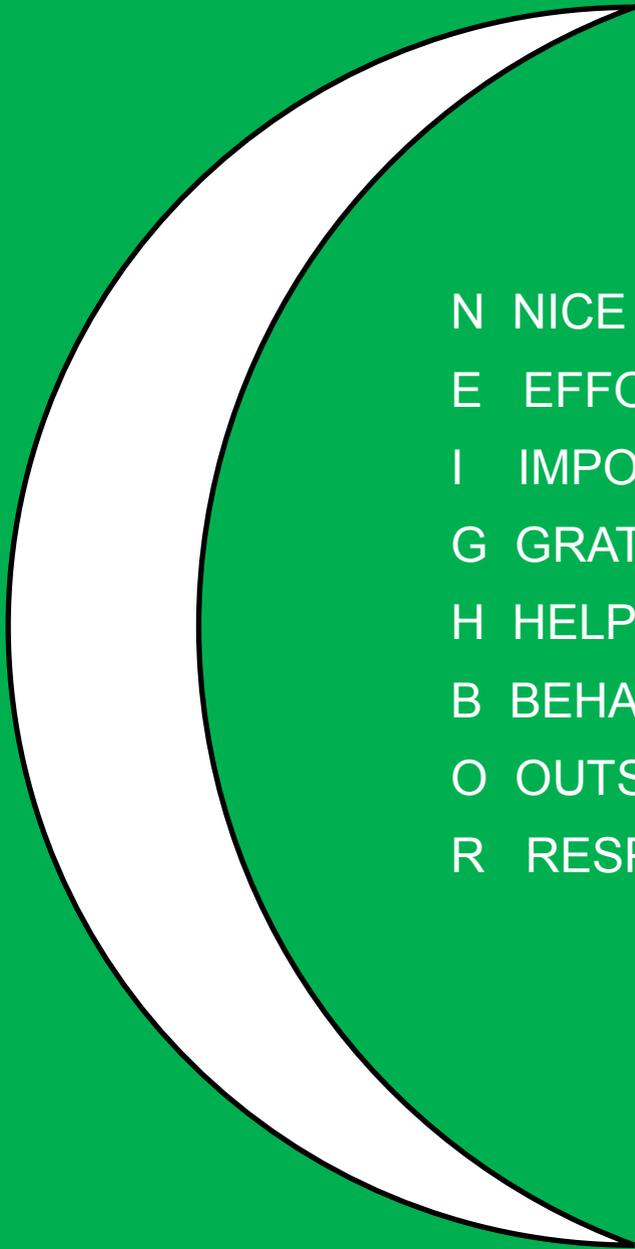
One way to be kind is to give gifts to your neighbors and classmates on holidays. On Eid I gave out goodie bags and explained what Eid is to classmates. I also gave *methai* [Indian sweets] to our neighbors. On birthdays and holidays people give out goodie bags.



I have learned a lot from classmates. I learned any number .5 is 1/2. I have learned about wars. I also learned about Karl Marx. We have a lot of Military families in our neighborhood so I learned they have a hard life because they have to move a lot.

In Islam we learn to 'Love Thy Neighbor'. This Hadith is about loving thy neighbor, narrated by Hazrat A'isha (ra): the Prophet of Allah (sa) said:

**“Angel Gabriel recommended to me good treatment of the neighbor so often that I started thinking that he would perhaps declare him the heir and successor”.**

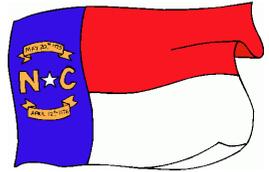


N NICE  
E EFFORT  
I IMPORTANT  
G GRATEFUL  
H HELPFUL  
B BEHAVE  
O OUTSTANDING  
R RESPECTFUL

# Showing Love To Your Neighbor

**Aleena Dard, Age: 14, Research Triangle**

I live in a predominantly white southern neighborhood, where my family is one of the few brown families living here. Typically when you think of southerners, we think of redneck and republicans. What we sometimes don't see is that my neighbors are some of the sweetest, most respectful and genuinely curious people I know. My family has lived in North Carolina for almost seventeen years and the neighbors that I was fortunate enough to grow up around, are like family to me.



We even have a tradition that our neighbors in the cul de sac and the street, follow every year around Christmas time. Every year around Christmas or New Year's we exchange gifts, typically in the form of food items. For example last year, and the year before that, I baked seven separate loaves of chocolate banana bread for all our neighbors. It took around 5 hours to create and



bake all of them, however the hard work paid off by seeing the smiles on my neighbor's grateful faces and it filled me with joy. Not only do we give bakery items, we also occasionally give them some ethnic Pakistani food. For example, our next door neighbor to our left, LOVES pakoras. So, that year my mom made pakoras for their whole family and we delivered it to them on Christmas Eve, so they could enjoy it on Christmas day. After all it's the season of giving, and every year we have gotten gifts in return. This is a tradition that I look forward to every year, and I



can't wait to bake for them again.

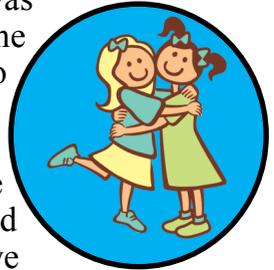
I personally believe that showing love to your neighbor is very important. Now, you don't have to bake them seven loaves of banana bread to show your love, but you can always ask how they're doing if you ever run into them when they're getting their mail from the mailbox, or taking the trash outside. Or you could invite them over to have a cup of chai or even go out for a walk.

# Love for All Hatred for None

Lailah Rahman, Age 12, LA East

To me, *'Love Thy Neighbor'* means to be nice to everyone. When you say, *'Love Thy Neighbor'* it can mean for your next-door neighbors, friends, classmates, and even people that you do not know. I can show that I love them by being kind and respectful towards them, listening to them, helping them if they need help, praying for their health and well-being, standing up for them when they are being bullied, and always being there for them when they need me.

One example is: A few years ago, there was a new girl that came to my school. Everyone thought that she would not be a good friend, so they bullied her. I remember feeling very sad for her because she did not have a friend, and everyone was being mean to her. I told everyone to stop bullying her. I began talking to her and found out that she was nice and that we both have a lot in common. I introduced her to the rest of my friends, and she has become one of my best friends. Now, whenever we see a kid getting bullied, we try to stop people from bullying them and become their friends. Kindness is the key to *'Love Thy Neighbor'*. This also adds to the Ahmadiyya motto:



*Love for All Hatred for None.*

# Neighbors



**Maleeha Bushra, Age 13, Virginia Central**

*“And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger, and the companion by your side, and the wayfarer...” (4:37).*

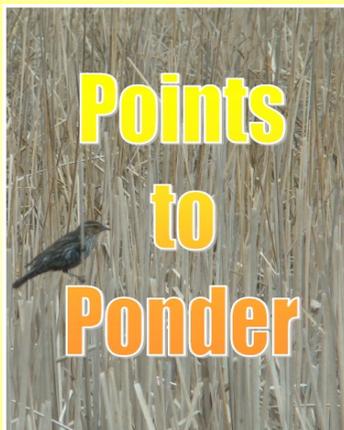
Neighbors are given so much recognition in Islam that they are like our family. In a case of emergency, our neighbors are there for us before our relatives can arrive. Often you might feel like your neighbor is a stranger, but being kind to them could affect you in many ways in the future. They will think of you, and Ahmadi Muslims, as very good people. The Holy Prophet (sa) said, **We should wish for our brothers what we wish for ourselves.** You should treat other people with respect because that is what you would want for yourself.

## Points to Ponder

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# I Love my Neighborhood

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**Adeel Ahmed, Age 10, Virginia North**

I love my neighborhood and I think I am really fortunate to have such a wonderful house and great neighbors. Our neighbors join with us every year when we celebrate Eid and they love my mom's food, each and everything she makes. I think food binds people in a special way. We have people in our neighbors from all parts of the world like Mexico, Ghana, India, Iran, Japan and mostly Americans !!!

We also have neighborhood cul de sac parties but we never celebrate Birthdays . All my neighbors know that we don't celebrate Birthdays but we always wish our friends Happy Birthday and give gifts when they invite us for their parties.

During Halloween, we wish them but we never take part in those holidays and everybody knows in my neighborhood that we go to Masjid that day. It makes me and my brother and my sister comfortable with our neighbors.

We celebrate Eid and we celebrate when we finish Holy Quran and we celebrate Thanksgiving with them. We share Holiday greetings with homemade cookies and yummy muffins.



One of my and my brother's best - best friends who we have known for a very-very-very long time, as old as I am, observed that we do not eat pork and he also left eating pork surprisingly . He says he wanted to know and learn everything about Islam .This was so very surprising for me and my brother. This is one of the many reasons I love my neighborhood and I wish the whole world would be like our neighbors.

Jazakallah for reading !!

A proud neighbor Adeel Ahmed.

# IT'S A PART OF OUR FAITH

**Tamseela Mumtaz, Age 9, Virginia Central**

One time my neighbor's cat got out and some older kids from the neighborhood were looking for the owner. We said it is our next-door neighbor's cat. They were not at home so we took the cat from the kids and kept her in our home, when the owners, my neighbors came back we returned their cat to them, they said, "Thank you!" so many times! I felt so good doing that.



Our teachings tell us that we should help and care for our neighbors. Prophet Mohammad (sa) says: "Whoever harms their neighbors will not enter paradise". So, we should always be nice, caring and respectful with our neighbors, it is part of our faith.



## Classmates

**Ali Ahmad Khan, Age 8, North Jersey**

I am currently in third grade and in my class there are many kids from different backgrounds. By saying, "Hello," or, "salaam," first, I show people I respect them and they are more friendly to me. I am good at math and if my classmates need some help in math, I always try to help them. When I see my classmates in trouble, I also always try to help them. I help my classmates because I love Allah and I show kindness to all of his creation to try to win Allah's love. The motto of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community is, "Love For All Hatred For None". If we try to follow this motto, Allah will bless us with many blessings, In Sha Allah. I hope and pray that everyone respects their classmates and tries to help them whenever they can, Ameen.



# My Kind Neighbors

**Maima Amtul, Age 13, Baltimore**

My neighbor is helpful towards me as I live in an apartment and the door is always locked from the outside. So often when I come home from anywhere, they often are helpful and open the door for me. Because of their kind deeds, my mom and I made some food for them. Due to this we got to know each other more, and we get along well. I thank Allah for my kind neighbors.



# Love thy Neighbor

**Aiza Mahmood, Age 7, Virginia South**

Neighbors are the people who live around our home area. They are not family, but they are friends. We should be kind to them by saying Hello to them with a smile, when we see them. We can help them anytime they need our help with anything, like taking their groceries out of the car, digging snow, cutting grass, or sharing food with them.

The Holy Prophet (sa) said “He who spends the night satiated while knowing that his next door neighbor is hungry does not truly believe in Allah”.

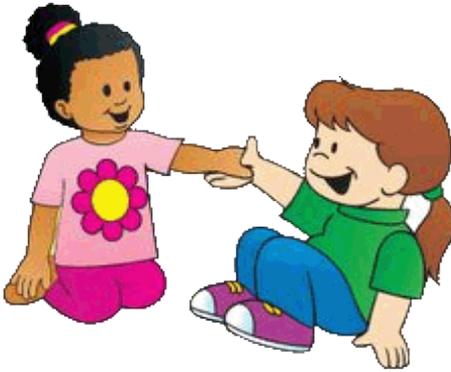
Last year me and my family made gift bags with chocolates and cards for the Holidays and gave it to the neighbors. I love my neighbors and friends .



# LOVING YOUR NEIGHBORS

## Elham Mahmood, Age 15, Virginia South

In Islam, we believe that we should be kind to everyone. This includes our neighbors and friends around us. One way to



show we care, is by giving them gifts. We should also care for our neighbors and friends when they are sick or in need. We need to always be willing to lend a helping hand by doing acts such as helping them take groceries out of their car or offering to help them do chores around their homes. As Ahmadi Muslims, our goal is to spread the message of

Islam and peace through the world. And what better way to start than with our neighbors and those close to us? Don't they deserve the same respect we would give to our families and fellow sisters?

The Holy Prophet (sa) said, "Whoever believes in Allah and the Day of Judgment should not put his neighbor to inconvenience. Whoever believes in Allah and the Day of Judgment should treat his guests with respect. Whoever believes in Allah and the Day of Judgment should only say that which is good or else remain quiet" (Bukhari).

Think about it, what does this hadith mean to you? I can give you my answer, but you need to find your own. I think this hadith means that if we believe in Islam, then we shouldn't cause problems for those close to us. Instead, we should show who we are as Ahmadi Muslims; kind, caring, and respectful people. Do you want to be known as a person who was rude to others? I hope not. So before you do anything, think about what you are about to

do, the consequences, and what you SHOULD be doing because of who you are and what you believe in.

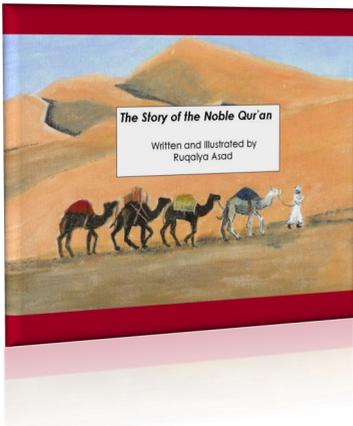
What do you think the Holy Prophet (sa) did? He would ignore the bad things his neighbors did to him and would continue walking. If they were in need or sick, he would go to their homes to help them with anything they needed.

This practice of the Holy Prophet (sa) shows us how we should act towards neighbors. Because the first step to spreading Islam is starting with a small part of the world and slowly expanding that part. If we all show kindness to our neighbors, we can make a big difference in the world we know.



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# Love Your Neighbors

**Mairah Kauser, Age 9, Houston North**

Do not eat your full while your neighbor is hungry. The Messenger of Allah (sa) says: "He is not a believer who eats his fill whilst his neighbor beside him goes hungry" (Bukhari). Islam teaches us always to be kind to our neighbors.

When we say neighbors we don't only mean the people in our neighborhood we mean people around us. Like classmates, friends, and our community. We should respect them and show it by being good to them. We could take part in a food drive or work at a soup kitchen. I also donated to a food drive. Everything you donate goes to people who need it. We could donate to our schools and shelters and volunteer at the mosque. All these ways we are being a good citizen, helping your neighbors and loving them.



# Love Thy Neighbor In Many Different Ways

**Rehan White, Age 10, Virginia North**

There are many things to share about this deep topic. 'Love Thy Neighbor' has to do with interacting with people who are different from me and you. To me, this topic is about being sincere with people whom you trust and love as well. Some examples of this are:

- Be kind and generous to your neighbors, friends, and family. You can do this by sending a little something for them to eat and they'll thank you. This kind of thing shows Love to Thy Neighbor.

• Respect your elderly relatives. They need help in many ways. As an example, they get really tired sometimes and they're not able to do what they usually do. My grandfather (Sahibzada Tahir Latif) passed away recently. My grandmother is a widow now and we spend a lot of time caring for her by taking her to doctor appointments and keeping her company. Always try to be sincere and respectful with people who are older than you, and give them what they need. They might have something on their mind, so you can chat with them to understand what's wrong.

• Try to help people who don't have what they need. My sisters and I donated food for students who qualify for reduced fee lunches at Oakton High School. Another way to help people is when disaster strikes. Try to donate anything to help.



• You should even respect animals! You know how we have feelings? Animals have feelings as well. You should treat animals the way you want to be treated.

• Don't be unkind or disrespectful. Keep the Golden Rule in mind: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

These things will help you Love Thy Neighbor, Jazakallah!



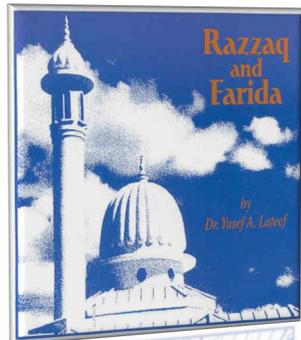
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# Kindness

Sirina Shoaib Moinuddin, Age 8, Miami

Today I'll talk about kindness. Kindness starts with me. According to my dictionary, kindness means, to be happy, overjoyed, help others, or celebrate good times.

Allah gave us this world for humans to realize different things! The Holy Qur'an states in chapter 4 verse 37,

*“And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger...”*

This verse made me realize the importance of kindness in my beautiful religion and helping neighbors. So being an Ahmadi Muslim, we should all be kind and I'll give you three examples of how to help your neighbor.

1. Rake their leaves.
2. Invite them to an event.
3. Bake a cake and share it with them.

In my religion we are all a BIG family. The world is my family, while the poor and needy are my siblings that I take care of because I KNOW that it's a kind act, and I give charity to the needy. I am happy to have everyone as my family. It doesn't matter what language I speak, kindness is my special language that happy people can hear, and that makes sad people happy. It can be your language too! The Holy Qur'an, chapter 7 verse 200 states:

*“Take to forgiveness, and enjoin kindness, and turn away from the ignorant”.*

I never knew kindness had such an important role in my life but I realized myself that every act that I do whether its big or small, has to do with kindness. Islam encourages Muslims to be kind. Let me give you some examples of kindness: you can...

- Donate school supplies to needy students who are in a poor school.
- Donate hygiene products to the homeless shelter.
- For Thanksgiving donate canned food to the needy.



- **Donate toys that are in good condition to the orphans.**

The homeless shelter has a wish list for the homeless children that they wish to have for Christmas. Although I don't celebrate Christmas, I would like to help those children in need. I am sure it will put a smile on their face!

I would like to give another example of kindness, My Grandma came home from knee surgery, so now I help her walk for a quick recovery. I always ask her if she needs anything. I bring her ice packs from the freezer or her bottled water, even her walker at times. If we are kind to Allah's creation, we'll be "showered" with His blessings, Jazakallah.



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# My Neighbors

Aariz Ahmed, Age 9, Virginia South

My dear friends! Who are neighbors? Well, neighbors can be our relatives, friends or a stranger family living around or near our house. When my family used to live in Maryland, I have wished them joy on their special holidays and given them some goodies. On special holidays, our family has a tradition to buy gifts, bake cookies, and wrap them up in a beautiful way. Then we go door to door to give it to our neighbors and enjoy their smiles while receiving them.



Neighbors have very important place in Islam. Our religion tells us they have many rights on us. Allah has mentioned in the Qur'an:

*“And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger, and the companion by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom your right hands possess. Surely, Allah loves not the proud and boastful”. [4:37]*

I have great memories with our neighbors wherever we lived. My first next door friend and me used to jump together while we were just 2 years old. There were a couple of Ahmadi families that used to live in walking distance from our apartment building. We used to share food and yummy treats with all of our neighborhood and had lots of get togethers and playtimes. They have helped us and we help them also, Al-Hamdu Lillah. When we moved to Virginia three months back, our neighbors came to help us move. One of my friends also came to help.

Will you be there to help your neighbors if you get any chance? If yes, that's great! However, sometimes there are not so good neighbors around you and you have to deal with them. The

following example from the life of the Holy Prophet (sa) shows us how we should react when faced with hatred. We can see one of the most patient and tolerant aspects of the Prophet's character in the incident of an old woman who made a habit of throwing trash on the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) whenever he passed by her house.

The story about this incident tells of a neighbor of the Prophet (sa) that tried her best to irritate him by throwing garbage on him every day. One day, when he walked out of his home there was no garbage. This made the Prophet (sa) inquire about the old woman and he came to know that she was sick. The Prophet went to visit her and offered any assistance she might need. The old woman was extremely humbled and at the same time ashamed of her actions in light of the concern that the Prophet (sa) showed her.

By seeing the example of compassion in Prophet Muhammad (sa), she became convinced that Islam must be a true religion that the Prophet was preaching. So what do we learn from this story? We learnt that we should always treat neighbors with kindness. We should also invite neighbors to our home or if any of your neighbors invite you, accept their invitation. We should do our best to do anything for them.



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# Neighbors

Sajeela Ahmad, Age 9, Virginia South

Nice Neighbors

They're here to help

Talk and joke

Their doggies yelp!

Play around

They'll take care

Scared at home

They're aware

Chit-Chat

Have fun!

Call them, they'll enjoy

Both smile

Oh my, oh boy!

WE LOVE OUR...

NEIGHBORS!





# How to Treat Neighbors

Sabeeka Ahmad, Age 8, Austin

**N** - be *Nice* to your neighbors

**E** - *Enjoy* the company of your neighbors

**I** - *Invite* your neighbors to your home and mosque

**G** - be *Gracious* to your neighbors

**H** - *Help* out your neighbors whenever needed

**B** - *Benefit* your neighbors in every way

**O** - *Overlook* the mistakes of your neighbors

**R** - *Respect* your neighbors

**S** - *Share* with your neighbors



# Love Thy Neighbor

Ruhaab Fatima, Age 11, LA East

You can 'Love Thy Neighbor' by doing so many things for them. One way is to support them. You can support them when they need help. Another way is to respect them. Prophet Muhammad (sa) says respecting others makes Allah happy. Lastly, forgive them. Prophet Muhammad (sa) ignored the woman who bullied him by throwing garbage on him. One day, she became very ill and Prophet Muhammad (sa) came to see her to comfort her and he forgave her. Showing love to your neighbor makes Allah happy, this is the love we should show to our neighbors.

Here, I would like to quote a few traditions or sayings of the Holy Prophet of Islam (sa) in which we shall see how he asked his followers to give the rights due to one's neighbor.

"Ibn Umar (ra) and A'isha (ra) relate that the Holy Prophet (sa) said: *Angel Gabriel kept exhorting me about the neighbor till I imagined he would include him in the category of heirs.*" (Bukhari and Muslim)

Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet (sa) said: *"He who believes in Allah and the Last Day, must not put his neighbor to inconvenience; he who believes in Allah and the Last Day must honor his guest; and he who believes in Allah and the Last Day must speak beneficently or keep quiet."* (Bukhari and Muslim)



# Love Thy Neighbor

Aamna Rana, Age 11, Houston South

Spreading love to your neighbor is how your relationship increases, and the more you help them then it's more likely that they'll help you in return when it's needed.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) has said:

**“LIKE FOR YOUR BROTHER  
WHAT YOU LIKE FOR YOURSELF”**

We knew that our neighbors like brownies, so we made them a batch of them. We also gave each of our immediate neighbors a bottle of apple cider. They fixed my bike when it was broken, they gave us cookies. We shared their grief when they lost their family members as well. We helped them with broken doors and groceries and shared our Iftar meals. Do something good in return for something good.



One time, when we were about 45 or 50 minutes away from home, our water pipe in front of our house burst because of the cold weather and guess what happened after? Our neighbors noticed the problem and they fixed our pipe. They helped their neighbors because their neighbors helped them!



## My Neighbor In Nasirat Class

Amtul Fozia, Age 11, Baltimore

We all have different neighbors in different places. When we work in partners with who is next to us, we call them our neighbor. But my favorite and best neighbor is in Nasirat class. She helps me with tasks that I have difficulty with and we have fun talking to each other after class. We often get into trouble as sometimes we talk in class, but she is still my best friend and I love her. She is my best neighbor.

# My Plan to Spread Love and Kindness

Maheen Khan, Age 7, Seattle

There is a famous saying that no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. There are so many ways to be kind and here are some that I like to do.

At home, I help my mom bring the groceries inside. I give hugs to my family to show them I love them. I like to give things to my siblings so that they feel happy. For instance, if we are sharing something to eat, I always let them have the last piece.

I try to be a caring big sister. I read stories to my two-year old sister and help her find her teddy bear if she cannot find it. I play games with her that make her happy and help her get dressed. It is important to be kind to youngsters, so I always try to encourage them when they are doing something. For example, at school, I encouraged my little buddy in gym by telling her, “You can do it!”

Kind people are my favorite type of people! That’s why I write thank you cards to those who give me a gift or teach me something new. The Holy Prophet (sa) said that one who is not grateful to others, is not grateful to God.

I hope that these acts of kindness will be an inspiration to others so that they too are motivated to show love and consideration towards others.



# How I Can Help my Elders and Neighbors?

Yusra Khan, Age 14, LA East

Elders and neighbors make up our community, they make the community wiser and more welcoming. I remember when we first moved into our home in Chino Hills, our neighbor was so welcoming and explained everything to us for example like putting the trash out, the school times and when the mail comes. And if we went somewhere (out of town) she would collect our mail for us and then give it to us after we returned, this is how she helped us, her neighbors. I can help her by putting her trash out if she ever goes anywhere and then putting her trash can back. Furthermore, I can also help my neighbor by watering her plants and mowing



her lawn. This will put less burden on my elder/neighbor and help her out. This is exactly what our religion teaches us about Loving everyone: *Love for All Hatred for None!* We should be helpful and loving towards everyone; students, teachers, parents and grandparents.



# My Neighbors in School

Minal Khan, Age 7, LA East

Reasons why I love my fellow classmates...my 'neighbors' in school.

I love my classmates because they are kind and they play with me at recess time when I don't have anyone to play with. We have a friendship bench at our school and if a child does not have anyone to play with, she sits on that bench. I always go to the child sitting on that bench and make friends to play with her or him. Also, I like my friends because we help each other with school work and sometimes borrow pencils and erasers from each other too.



I am the head of my table in my class and if someone doesn't understand the work in my group, I always try to help him or her, and sometimes if I don't get something, they also help me understand it. My friends are helpful because they tell me new words and meanings of them.

I love my friends because I can trust them and they can trust me. I love them because they make me feel better when I'm sad.

# Love Thy Neighbor

Fizza Basharat,  
Age 12, Long Island



Every Christmas, my family and I walk around the neighborhood and give all of our neighbors Christmas presents. This makes our neighbors very happy. My parents have mown our neighbors lawns and raked the leaves in front of their houses. We have done many things for our neighbors. Remember to always help anyone that you can. Don't miss any chance to help someone. Treat everyone fairly. Always try helping others. It will make you feel very satisfied. Even the smallest of acts, like saying something kind, could make a

# How can we help the elderly near you?



**Zara Ahmad, Age 12, Virginia South**

With my personal experience I will say the most important thing that elders need from us is our company. My grandma (Nanoo) was put into rehab because of some health issues. We visited her often to see how she was doing.

Our visit made my Nanoo very happy, we used to talk for long hours about everything. Over there, not everyone was as lucky as my grandma. Most of the residents at the rehab center would not get any visitors. From seeing this, my siblings and I would talk to most of them. These little things, such as just having a short conversation would go a long way. All of them would be so excited to see us there. And from this, I learned just being there and talking helped them a lot. Just the slightest bit of company can put a smile to their faces.

My grandma is not with us anymore, but I make sure that I say Salam and gives hugs to my elders when I see them. If you go to the mosque, try this and you will see their beautiful, kind smiles, which our elders have. And most important the prayers they do for you in return, priceless.





Why should we love our neighbors? In the Holy Qur'an, Allah stated:

*“Worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and to kindred and orphans and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger and the companion by your side...” (4:37)*

Look how Hazrat Muhammad (sa) exhorted Muslims to be good to their neighbors and to honor them when he said,

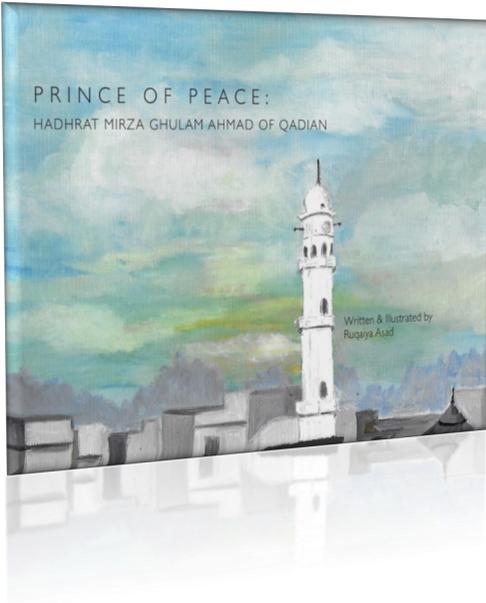
*“None of you has faith until he loves for his brother [or neighbor] what he loves for himself.” (Sahih Bukhari).*

I'm happy that I have such good neighbors! Sometimes, when I am bored, I usually go outside and play. On special occasions, like Christmas, we give them presents and sometimes we share our traditional meals with them and if we need rides to our Bus Stop we give each other rides to the stop and home. Neighbors are blessings of God, I can't imagine a world without my neighbors. It would be so lonely and we wouldn't have any friends and wouldn't be able to help each other.



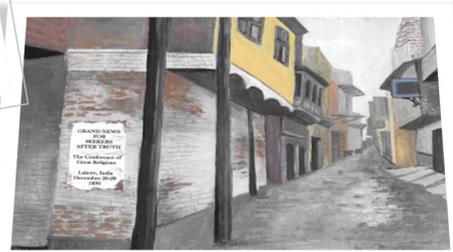
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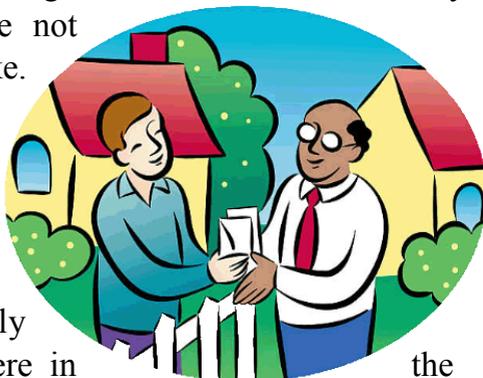
# Helping Others

Amani Rahman, Age 9, LA East

When I think of ‘Love Thy Neighbor’ I think of helping others when they need it. If someone needs help, I always try to help them whether they are my family or friends, neighbors, and even people that I do not know.

When California was facing dangerous fires, many people had to evacuate from their homes. We were all so scared when smoke and fog filled the skies. I remember being so scared and thinking of ways to help people. One way that we showed love for our neighbors was by checking on them to make sure they were safe and that they were not affected by the fires or smoke.

We also checked with my school friends to see if they needed a ride home or any other help. Thankfully, our house was not in the fire zone, however, some of my family members that lived nearby were in



the fire zone and had to be evacuated. My family and I opened our house for them to stay and spend the night. Now, I know that helping others is a great way for *Loving Thy Neighbors*.



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# LIKE FAMILY!

**Sara Choudhary, Age 13, Virginia Central**

Loving your neighbor to me means always helping your neighbor and also being nice to them. It means always putting your neighbor first like how you would treat a friend. Your neighbor in a sense is your friend and you should treat them like family, never hesitating to lend something to them or being there in their time of need. You should also get to know your neighbor better so that you can help them and do tabligh.

Loving your neighbor is not a new concept and is not only mentioned in the Qur'an, it is also mentioned in other religious scriptures such as the Bible. Loving your neighbor has great benefits, and even if you don't agree with your neighbor you should still help them in every way you can, after all you should always treat others the way you want to be treated. Every year we always give little gift bags to our neighbors on Eid and every time when an important holiday for our neighbors comes around (Christmas/ Hanukkah) they always come and give us chocolates and cookies. This shows that loving your neighbor is a great way to involve yourself in your community and perform Tabligh.



# Love Thy Neighbor

**Asifah Wahab Mirza, Age 11, Virginia North**

If your neighbors are kind,  
Or filled with pride

If your neighbors are well, or  
If your neighbors are swell

If your neighbors are sick  
Don't give them a kick

Knock on their door,  
Keep them company more!

If your neighbor's in bed  
And they look red

Help them out,  
Don't give them a shout

Love thy neighbor,  
Take good care of them

Love thy neighbor  
It's what Allah said!





# Love Thy Neighbor

Zainab Rasheed, Age 13, Austin

I'm very grateful to Allah that I was born as an Ahmadi Muslim. I am a follower of that religion, which means peace. Islam gives us teachings to treat other people with respect, love, care and kindness, without any discriminations of color, cast, language or religion. Islam emphasizes on the rights of people and also gives importance to the rights of neighbors.

Our beloved Huzoor, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) said, "Islam made it crystal clear to Muslims, that their neighbors have rights over them... Muslims have been taught to love, protect, and honor their neighbors."

Our Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said "The best neighbor of Allah is the best to his neighbor". In another Hadith The Holy Prophet (sa) said " He will not enter Paradise whose neighbor is not secure from His wrongful conduct".

As an Ahmadi Muslim it's my duty to think about different ways I can show love to my Neighbors and also practice those.

Here are some suggestions we could all strive to practice:

- \* **Smile and give greetings to classmates and teachers**
- \* **Listen to friends and teachers carefully**
- \* **Give respect to everyone**
- \* **Help classmates with work**
- \* **To take care during games**
- \* **Give my neighbors holiday cards**
- \* **Visiting nursing homes**

This article helped me to broaden my vision about Love thy Neighbor. Now I will not confine my approach of kindness only to the boundary of my class or school, but I will try to practice it for everyone around me.

We all should strive to make our character a reflection of the true teachings of Islam and always keep in mind that "Allah loves those who love His people".

# Love Thy Neighbor

**Attyat Sabooh, Age 12, Virginia Central**

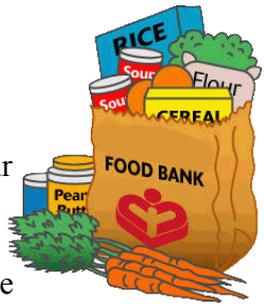
It has been made obligatory for Muslims to be best to their neighbors, including those who are strangers or not related to you. Neighbors should help each other whenever possible, show respect, pray for one another, and maybe even break the fast during Ramadan with one another. The Holy Prophet (sa) put much emphasis on the rights of neighbors. The Holy Prophet (sa) said, **The Angel Gabriel advised him so repeatedly, in favor of the neighbor, that he thought the Angel Gabriel might include him in the category of heirs.** The Holy Prophet (sa) used to show kind treatment to everyone and urged his companions to do the same. He visited his Jewish neighbor when he was sick. He gave gifts to many non-Muslim neighbors who used to abuse him. This shows how excellent is the character of Prophet Muhammad (sa). He is a model for Muslims and for all who would like to have the best character.



## Love Thy Neighbor

**Sabrin Minhas, Age 10, LA East**

My family and I try our best to help our neighbors. Once, we made banana bread for some of our neighbors. Sometimes we help our neighbors when they are out of town and need things to be taken care of in their absence. In the morning, I volunteer in opening car doors for people when they are going to school. This makes the traffic flow faster so that people can go to school on time. My mom has volunteered at the food bank several times. We donate lots of clothes, toys and shoes. At my school, I volunteer in picking up trash and collecting socks for the people that need them. Many people who live close to you might need help and you should help them. That is what Allah and the Prophet Muhammad (sa) taught us.



# I THINK ABOUT MY NEIGHBORS

Shafiq Rahman, Age 7, LA East

Love Thy Neighbor means thinking about my neighbors and always caring for them. I also think of being there for someone in need. A way that I showed this was being kind and compassionate to my neighbors. The neighbors that lived next to us would always check up on how my siblings and I were doing. They would always greet us with a warm welcome whenever we would see them. They were always so nice to the family and we loved when we would visit each other's houses. I remember one time, we went away for a vacation and they would check on our house to make sure that everything was okay. My family would do the same thing when they went on vacation as well. They always gave us presents and we gave them gifts in return.



I remember once that they gave me a blue car. Every time I play with my blue car, I think of my neighbors and how thankful I am to have them as neighbors and friends. Loving thy neighbor is important because it helps build trust and communications. You know that they are always there to help you and you are able to help them too.

A screenshot of the MTA International website. The URL is http://www.mta.tv. The page features a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Schedules', 'Programmes', and 'Live'. There are also icons for 'GET IT ON Google play', 'Windows Phone', and 'ROKU'. The main content area has a 'LIVE STREAM' button and a 'CLICK HERE TO WATCH' button. The MTA logo is prominently displayed, along with the text 'ON DEMAND' and 'A comprehensive online resource of MTA International's programmes'.

# Classmates

**Aneelah Kauser, Age 12, Houston North**



Classmates are an important part of people's lives. Our classmates include our friends, neighbors, and other people. We need to be kind to all classmates even if they're not our friends. We learn from our classmates. We can ask for help. We should treat our classmates how we would like to be treated. Be fair, be kind, just listen to what they say. Be nice to your classmates because you will be seeing them often.

## “Love For Thy Neighbor.”

**Nahval Majeed, Age 12, Virginia North**

Love for thy neighbor means being a compassionate person to those who lives near you. A neighbor is not only a person who lives in the same neighborhood as you, but also may be a good acquaintance or friend. Being friendly and helpful toward other people around you is important for good communications.

Our duty as Muslims is for everyone to understand true Islam. Not only do we inspire others to join our community, we want to do good. We want to help others to become good people that Allah Almighty loves. We should be a good example towards other people so they may get inspired and the world can become a better place for us and others to live in.

In the holy Qur'an Allah has said,

*“...show kindness to parents, and to kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger...” (4:37)*



The beauty of developing a strong connection with our neighborhood is that we help and benefit from each other. Sometimes, our neighbors could be the best friend we could ever ask for. Regardless of their religion or culture we should help and love them, just like brothers and sisters.

In order to develop a strong connection with our neighbors, we would need to socialize and help them when in need. Talking is one of the best qualities that Allah has given us. With this advantage, we could learn how to understand and cooperate with one another.

Allah loves those who help others with good intentions, not being selfish. We should help our neighbors through tough times such as giving comfort, possibly offering money or food etc. If someone is not even your neighbor and is suffering from a lost one you should comfort them. Mostly everyone loves gifts, so a good way of being kind and showing ‘Love for Thy Neighbor’ is by offering them a gift. Sometimes, the gift could be a traditional dish in order to spread your cultural background.



On Eid day we celebrated our Eid with our neighbors by sharing home made food and giving away plants as a welcoming gift to our neighbors, who had just moved in. This way we not only spread the message of Islam, but we shared a loving and caring bond with them.

Our differences and diversity is what makes us stronger, it's what makes us connect. No matter what religion, culture or personality we all want to be mentally and physically strong. Love brings us through the doors of people's hearts. We will be successful and worthy. ‘Love Thy neighbor’ does not only mean to show love to those who live around us, it also means to care and support those who are really in need of help. May Allah enable us to become a true Muslim neighbor and share our love with others to make our beloved Allah pleased with us, Ameen.

# LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Dania Chaudhry, Age 8, Silicon Valley

F	S	K	B	J	Z	D	I	Q	C	E
G	L	E	A	R	N	I	N	G	H	I
M	O	N	P	E	Q	S	L	E	W	S
V	H	L	I	D	S	B	N	N	O	G
T	N	R	V	L	O	V	E	A	N	H
V	F	U	S	L	B	K	I	N	D	I
L	H	E	L	P	I	N	G	A	E	S
H	Y	P	A	P	E	Q	H	S	R	R
B	H	Q	S	L	V	G	B	U	F	F
Q	T	I	A	M	S	Y	O	S	U	U
E	T	G	K	C	L	H	R	V	L	L
F	A	M	I	L	Y	A	Y	O	H	S
A	B	K	F	Z	J	P	N	K	G	J
S	R	V	T	T	M	P	V	L	Y	H
P	Q	L	F	R	K	I	O	R	T	D
L	W	S	G	C	L	N	I	E	F	U
X	M	B	K	O	G	E	N	W	J	O
Z	D	K	L	C	T	S	H	Q	L	A
B	T	U	Y	L	R	S	H	U	B	K

## FIND THESE WORDS:

LOVE  
THY  
NEIGHBOR  
KIND  
FRIEND

HAPPINESS  
HELPING  
LEARNING  
FAMILY  
WONDERFUL

# LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Kashifa Wahab Mirza, Age 10, Virginia North

Allah says to 'Love Thy Neighbor.' Loving thy neighbor is so important that the Holy Prophet (sa) began to think that Allah might ask us to include our neighbors in our inheritance, as He stressed being good to neighbors so much!

Once, there was a man who really wanted to do Hajj. For many years he collected money, until he finally had enough to perform Hajj. Soon after collecting the money, he smelled the delicious scent of meat cooking from his neighbor's home. He went to his neighbor's house and insisted that the neighbor share some meat with him as he hadn't eaten meat in years. His neighbor



responded that he had been starving for days. He found a dead donkey, so he brought the donkey home and cooked it because he had nothing else to eat. Therefore, the meat was lawful for him, but not for anyone else who could afford food.



The man felt terrible that he had a large amount of money saved up for hajj while his neighbor was eating a dead donkey. The man quickly got up and went to get all of his money. He gave the money to his neighbor and told him to buy some food for himself. This act made Allah so happy that even though he had not done Hajj, Allah gave him the reward of doing Hajj.

Every year around Christmas time we bake cookies, brownies, and cupcakes to give to our neighbors with a card wishing them happy holidays. This is just one of many ways we love our neighbors. May Allah bless us all and our neighbors, Ameen!



# Breaking The Ice

**Syed Muhammad Yahya, Age 12, Long Island**

I have had many different neighbors in America. They all came from different religions and countries. At first, I had difficulty trying to socialize with my neighbors. When I finally got to know the people living next to me it was easy to learn their lifestyle. It was really interesting to know how other people lived. It's easier to get to know your classmates because you have to spend a year working with them. But, if you want to get to know your next door friend you just simply pick a good time, like when they're outside their house usually fixing their garden or taking out the trash, approach them and say, "Hi! I am your next door neighbor." You can say that as you were just outside you decided to say Hi. You can compare some similarities and if you keep doing that, you might just get along well with your next door friend.



## A Helping Hand

**Anam Izzah Chaudry, Age 6, LA East**

There are many ways in which we can help our elderly neighbors. We can do their chores, we can get them food and water. We can give them a massage. If they're standing up, we can offer them our seat. If they drop something, we can pick it up for them. One day, we will be old and will need help as well.



# HOW TO BE KIND TO YOUR NEIGHBORS?

**Anabia Malik, Age 8, Austin**

I have a few ideas if you want to spread kindness in your neighborhood. First, you should greet your neighbors with hello, good morning, and good evening. Second, you can give your neighbors a card, letter, or picture about how kind they are. For example, my neighbor Grandma Alice gave me and my brother candy, so I made a picture for her. Third, you can be kind and give them a special gift on holidays. For example, my family gave our neighbor flowers, pecan pie, and a card I had written on Thanksgiving. Fourth, if your neighbor is sick you can make them food, bring them groceries, or ask if they need any help. Lastly, when you see them outside you can say kind words. For example, you could thank them for being so kind to you.



## TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER

**Emaan Aiza Chaudry, Age 8, LA East**

What does it mean to love your neighbor? If our neighbors are sick, we should visit them or take them to the hospital or make food for them. If our neighbors need groceries, we can offer to pick them up or to take them to the store. We can also give gifts to our classmates or our neighbors.

To love someone is to take care of them and be good to them. We should all take care of one another, and that includes our neighbors.

# LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

**Nehal White, Age 8, Virginia North**

'Love Thy Neighbor' is a way for me to show my gratitude to my neighbors. They help us in so many ways: such as giving us flowers when we have a family loss, caring for a pet or maybe even giving a gift. Some neighbors change lives. For example, you could have good neighbors who help you get through a hard time in your life. Your neighbors might suffer family losses as well and other things that might make them sad. Part of being a good neighbor to me, is by talking to them, and you can even start being in touch.

One way to help your neighbors could be organizing a food pantry drive. My family was a street captain for a local high school food pantry drive. Many neighbors dropped non-perishable food items off at our home. About 15% of local high school students use the reduced fee lunch program. The pantry helped me realize how hard some people have it in the world, and those people may be Thy Neighbor. To me, the idea of Loving Thy Neighbor means that all your neighbors deserve your kindness.



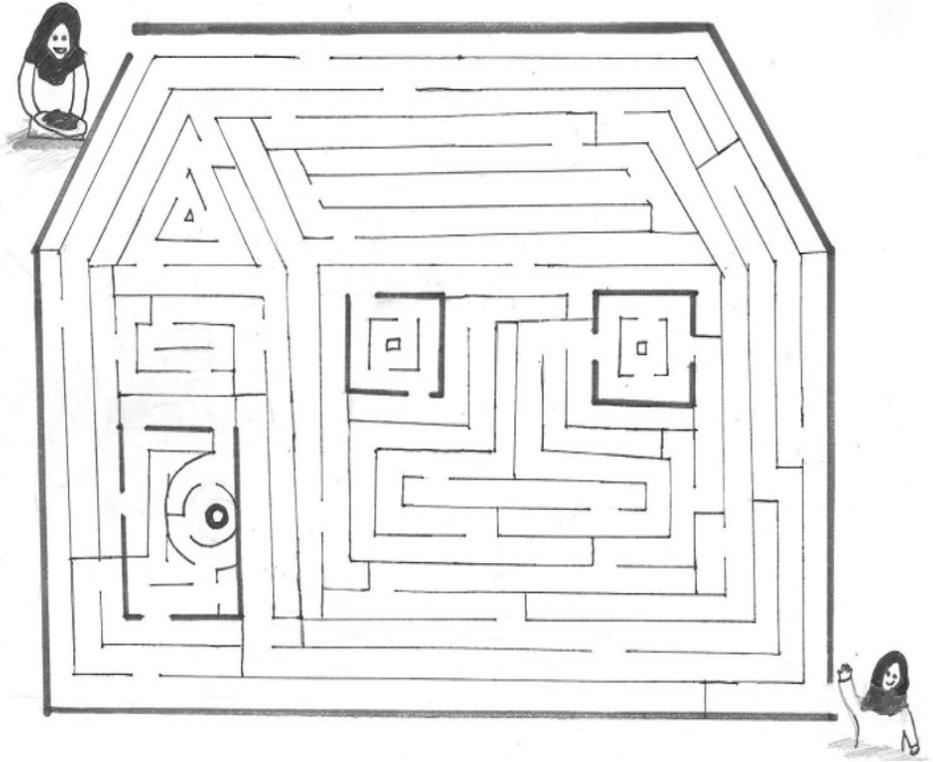
## Love thy Neighbor

**Safiyah Ammar, Age 10, Baltimore**

One of my favorite neighbors is in Nasirat class. If we have a test then I help her with studying before. She also does many things for me like cheering me up when I feel lonely. She also sticks up for me, and I think she is a very amazing person. That is why she is one of my favorite neighbors.

# BRINGING FOOD TO MY NEIGHBOR

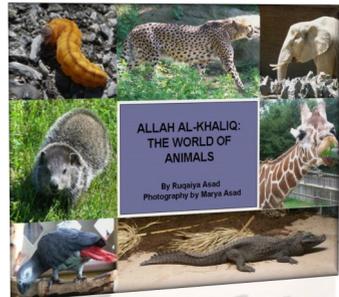
Mahira Nasir. Age 13, Houston North



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*Written by Ruqaiya Asad*

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# Love Thy Neighbor

Rehaan, Age 9, Raza, Age 7, and Aleena, Age 6, Muzaffar  
With help from Mother, Orlando

**L**ove thy neighbor

**O**ur neighbors are kind

**V**ery grateful to Allah for giving us nice neighbors

**E**xchange food and presents

**T**hankful for my neighbors

**H**ave a good heart

**Y**ou should be thoughtful and considerate towards your neighbors

**N**eighbors are like family

**E**mpathy

**I**slam says to treat neighbors generously

**G**enerous neighbors

**H**umble neighbors

**B**e helpful towards them

**O**ur neighbors include countries near us

**R**espect my neighbors



# Spreading Love and Harmony

Zara Laiq, 10 years, Virginia Central

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the definition of a neighbor is a person living on adjacent or nearby land. Depending on who you ask, some people will agree with this simple definition and see their neighbors as nothing more than the people that live next door. However, as an Ahmadi Muslim girl, I see my neighbors as so much more than the standard dictionary definition.

Everyone wants world peace. However, if we want to create a mutual understanding with every person in this world, we must first start with the people we live with. While approaching a neighbor may seem frightening and a little awkward at first, a small act of kindness can go a long way.

For instance, in the morning when I walk to my bus stop, I see all the children I live near. As we wait for the bus to pick us up, I greet my neighbors and make conversation. Even though saying good morning to my friends is a small task, I know that I am spreading love and harmony into society in a small way. If every neighbor in every neighborhood fulfilled this small task of greeting one another, there would be no room for hate.

I also like to pray for them whenever I have the time. While these things may not be an obligation, I know that by doing so I am striving to please Allah..

Ultimately, I see my neighbors as so much more than the standard dictionary definition. The way I see it, along with the standard definition of

a neighbor, we must also add, one whom we are obliged to love as ourselves. Next time you see your neighbor, try to help

them and take the time to remember them in your prayers!



# Love for Thy Neighbors

Orwah Ijaz, Age 11, Virginia South

The Holy Qur'an states,

*“And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger, and the companion by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom your right hands possess. Surely, Allah loves not the proud and boastful.” (4:37)*

This verse means that you should not only be kind to your neighbors, but you should be kind to everyone. It does not matter if they are your relatives, friends, or people who are unkind to you. You should always be kind to everyone.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said,

**Whoever believes in God and in the Day of Judgment must not offend his neighbor (Al-Bukhari).** The saying means that if you are a believer in God you must not be unkind to your neighbors. If you are kind to your neighbors, you will be rewarded in Paradise for your good deeds.

In conclusion, be grateful for your neighbors and be kind to them in order to be rewarded in this life and the life to come.



# Love Thy Neighbor

Sereena Malik, Age 9 , Austin

N P I H S D N E I R F T N W H K P E C E  
D E Q P A V L Z O Y R N H I M U D L F C  
S R I X D P G B J U L S O H L I M Y D A  
L C U G M N H A S O A C L I R O F B J E  
K V X B H G U T G W O G Y P N T L W L P  
E K Z Q I B W O S Q F Q P W V A K W U E  
Z I G E Q O O E B Y R V R R E S P E C T  
I B N G R F C R L O V E O B E Y J M K X  
L Q F T M U C U H I I H P M X F D X O A  
A S H K R A F Y I O L K H D Y N V F H C  
I Y T E T A E R T X O M E D U W Q T A T  
C P S S M Z J Y P G R D T V Q J Y K D A  
O H J W Q P E L N N W F V X Z O B Q I S  
S P K L D Z N P M V M D R D B F G D T A  
U K E X O F R Z Z J K M R X A Z F J H V

**BOUND  
HADITH  
LOVE  
PEACE  
SECURE  
TRUSTWORTHY**

**COMPANION  
HOLY PROPHET  
NEIGHBOR  
PRIDE  
SOCIALIZE**

**FREINDSHIP  
HUMBLE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
RESPECT  
TREAT**

# Love Thy Neighbor

**Adina Shawkat, Age 9, LA East**

It is very important to love our neighbors because we should always treat each other kindly. I love my neighbor Alyvia because she sometimes comes to our house to play and her parents are very kind. We always help each other out. Neighbors share things with each other like gardening supplies and yummy food. My neighbor and I like to play with my baby sister Zayna and we have fun riding on our scooters together. One-time Alyvia's parents helped us by removing some supplies that were on our roof, and my mom thanked them by sharing some yummy Iftar food with them during Ramadan. By being kind to our neighbors, we can show them that in Islam we help each other and are good to all people.



## A Helping Hand

**Fareedha White, Age 12, Virginia North**

As a country, we are constantly worrying about things like politics, world disasters, and global warming. We forget that if we helped the people around us, these issues could be resolved much more quickly on a local and global level.

Communities that work together and help each other are more trusting of each other and are better established. During natural disasters like hurricanes, people around the world work together. They provide escape routes and medical



care for people in areas affected by natural disasters. This is the result of many caring and hardworking volunteers, like those working for Humanity First.



Global warming and pollution can also be demolished if people work together to make it possible. Unfortunately, many third world countries are major contributors to pollution because they dump trash in the ocean. Fourteen billion pounds of trash are deposited into the ocean every year. These poorer countries are often

overcrowded, so there is no choice than to either burn the large amounts of trash produced or throw it into the ocean. Both of these options release toxic gas and waste into our environment. These countries can't support themselves, so we have work to provide jobs to those in need, because we are fortunate enough to be able to do that. If we reach out a helping hand, not only will the Earth's climate improve, but poorer people will have a chance at a more normal, safe, and healthy life. Best of all, the world would become a more efficient community.



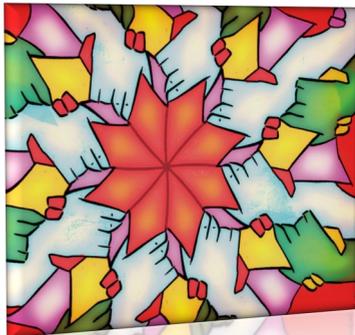
**Serving Mankind**  
**humanityfirst.org**



# How would you treat a Neighbor?

**Asifa Malik, Age 8, Austin**

We all have neighbors. With some neighbors we share walls, with some neighbors we share fences. One time I remember my mom was teaching me that the Promised Messiah (as) said that your neighbor can be up to 200 kilometers away. That's why we have to be kind to everyone in our community. For example, if you see kids at the park, or if you see someone on the sidewalk while walking we should always be kind, even with a simple smile. It is especially important to be kind to the people we interact with, like our classmates.



In the Holy Qur'an Allah states :

*“And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents, and kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger, and the companion by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom your right hands possess. Surely, Allah loves not the proud and boastful.” (4:37)*

Abu Hurairah (ra) relates that the Holy Prophet (sa) called out: **“By Allah, he does not believe, by Allah he does not believe, by Allah he does not believe.** He repeated it three times. He was asked: **Who does not believe, Messenger of Allah?** He said: **He whose neighbor is not secure against his mischief.”** (Bukhari)

What do you think this hadith means? To me it means to be kind to our neighbors. How can you be kind to your neighbor? Being kind to your neighbor means to treat them respectfully.



Being helpful is another way to be kind to your neighbor. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the true follower of the teachings of Islam and is spreading its true message to the world; and kindness to neighbors is one of its important messages. I pray that we will strive to be kind to our neighbors, Ameen.



# Sharing Holiday

**Sameeha Tariq, Age 10, Austin**

The holiday season is one of my favorite times of the year, not only because of the holidays, but because we get to share the holidays with our community.

Each year around the holiday season my school organizes an event called Community Fest. Families



with different backgrounds share their culture. My family tries to participate each year. My mom makes delicious Pakistani food, we make a poster about Pakistan, and we dress up in traditional Pakistani clothes. I love this time of year and love sharing the holidays with my community.

# My Neighbor

**Haya Ahmed, Age 12, Baltimore**

When my family moved into Maryland in 2004, we met our lovely neighbor named Ms. Lee. She has a kind and sweet heart. She always visits us and gives us kindness and gifts. We also give her kindness and gifts.

Once we had told her that we always wanted to try gumbo. We had seen it in a movie and it looked very good. She told us that she made gumbo with turkey sausage, since she knew that we didn't eat pork. A few days later, she came to our door with a container of gumbo. It was very good.

In 2018, when Huzoor (aba) came to America, there was a banquet here in Maryland. We decided to invite three people; my older sisters' friends, and Ms. Lee. She had liked our motto: *Love for All, Hatred for None*. She told us that she loved it and that there was a special presence around our Khalifa (aba). She liked the overcoats my older sisters and mom wore and even asked where she could get one. So my mom bought her one and gave it to her as a gift. She even wore the coat we gave her to the banquet.



I couldn't ask for a better neighborhood. Whenever we get a blizzard, we all work together to shovel our way out. And whenever someone is unable to shovel their sidewalk, we do it for them. I thank Allah for giving me such good neighbors.

# Love Thy Neighbor

**Maida Farooq, Age 10, LA East**

My father has donated blood over 60 times. He is a bone-marrow donor. He has donated platelets several times. He has volunteered at Boys Republic, youth camps and other places. All these instances are a great example of selfless service. These activities are my role model. These activities teach me that to be good Muslims we have to help others to the best of our abilities.



We are friendly to all our neighbors we know them by their names. We invite them to come to our home and discuss our neighborhood. We visit our neighbors and exchange food dishes. Also, our family has been feeding wild birds for over 30 years. Thousands of birds visit us every day to find good food.



One day in March 2011, our backyard and roof caught on fire on accident because our neighbors were smoking. Fortunately, our other neighbors came to help us put out the fire to save our house. I was two at the time, at home with my mom alone. I am very grateful for the neighbors that helped us put out the fire in our house or else our house would've burned down.

We have a particularly nice neighbor named Andy. She helps us a lot and is very kind. When I was little, she came to visit my family every day and gave us gifts. She also gave me my very first stuffed animal toy. It was a pink elephant, which my dad named Pinky. I still have that toy to this day. When my grandma was sick with a heart problem, she came to give my family food, and would ask how Grandma was doing. All my neighbors are sweet and helpful.



In conclusion, love your neighbors, and treat them just the way you want to be treated. Be thoughtful and treat them with kindness just like they are your family. Al-Hamdu Lillah, I have stayed in this house since the day I was born and never moved. I love my neighborhood.

# Loving Thy Neighbors

**Valiyah Ijaz, Age 7, Virginia South**

*“O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female; and We have made you into tribes and sub-tribes that you may recognize one another. Verily, the most honorable among you, in the sight of Allah, is he who is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All-knowing, All-Aware.” (Hoy Qur’an 49:14)*

When I think about loving thy neighbor, I think it means you should be kind to your neighbors, other people around you and the elderly. I also think you should also be nice to your surroundings. I think that being nice to others

will make you a good person. I treat my neighbors kindly because that’s the way I want to be treated. I love my neighbors because they are really nice and kind. Being nice, kind, and loving helps lead us to heaven.





## *Conditions of Bai'at*

**IX** That he/she shall keep him/herself occupied in the service of God's creatures for His sake only; and shall endeavor to benefit mankind to the best of his/her God-given abilities and powers.



# Answer Keys

Serena Malik, Age 9, Austin

## Love Thy Neighbor

N P I H S D N E I R F T N W H K P E C E  
 D E Q P A V L Z O Y R N H I M U D L F C  
 S R I X D P G B J U L S O H L I M Y D A  
 L C U G M N H A S O A C L I R O F B J E  
 K V X B H G U T G W O G Y P N T L W L P  
 E K Z Q I B W O S Q F Q P W V A K W U E  
 Z I G E Q O O E B Y R V R R E S P E C T  
 I B N G R F C R L O V E O B E Y J M K X  
 L Q F T M U C U H I I H P M X F D X O A  
 A S H K R A F Y I O L K H D Y N V F H C  
 I Y T E T A E R T X O M E D U W Q T A T  
 C P S S M Z J Y P G R D T V Q J Y K D A  
 O H J W Q P E L N N W F V X Z O B Q I S  
 S P K L D Z N P M V M D R D B F G D T A  
 U K E X O F R Z Z J K M R X A Z F J H V

BOUND  
 HADITH  
 LOVE  
 PEACE  
 SECURE  
 TRUSTWORTHY

COMPANION  
 HOLY PROPHET  
 NEIGHBOR  
 PRIDE  
 SOCIALIZE

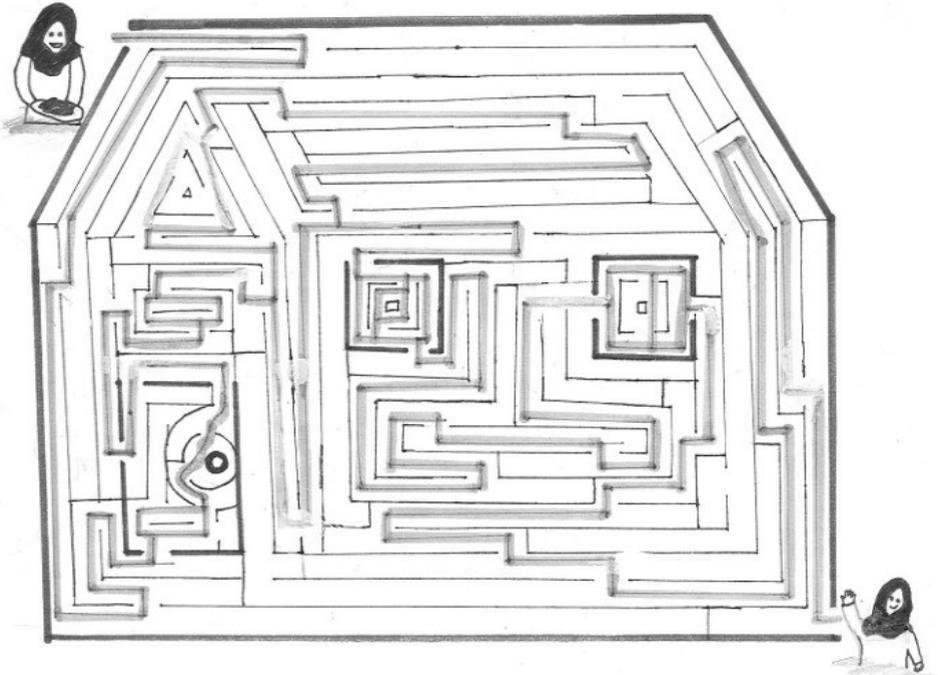
FRIENDSHIP  
 HUMBLE  
 NEIGHBORHOOD  
 RESPECT  
 TREAT

## Nabeera Nasir, Age 8, Houston North

NEIGHBORHOOD

BANK	PEOPLE
NEIGHBOR	MOSQUE
SIDEWALK	HOUSE
POLICESTATION	HELP
CINEMA	PLEASE
PARK	TREES
STATUE	RIVER
RESTAURANT	CITY
THEATER	OFFICE
CASTLE	MONEY
TOWER	FOOD
WATER	STREET
SCHOOL	

## Mahira Nasir, Age 13, Houston North



# Glossary

Abū Dāwūd داود ابو : A collection of Aḥādīth. The author of this collection.

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ : All praise belongs to Allah.

al-Hilāl الهلال : The new moon.

Āmīn [Āmeen, Aameen] آمين : So be it. Amen. Ceremony to commemorate the completion of the first reading of the Holy Qur'an.

As-Salāmu 'Alaikum اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ May peace be upon you. (The formation assalam-o or assalam-u is incorrect as there is no waw و after mīm م, hence the abbreviation AoA or A.O.A. or A-o-A is also incorrect.)

Chanda: چنده Monetary contribution, donation. (The ha at the end is to indicate a fath on dal, and is not pronounced, so should not be explicitly written in the transliteration of the word.)

Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Ḥaḍrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor (1950-...) حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد, may Allah strengthen him with His mighty support: Fifth successor (2003-...) to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

Ḥuḍūr [Ḥudhūr, Ḥuzūr, Huzoor] حضور : His Honor, His Holiness, Your Honor, Your Holiness. In Urdu, it is spelled Ḥaḍūr [Ḥaḍoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor].

Iftār افطار : breaking the Islamic formal fast at sunset

Iftārī افطاری : eating to break Islamic formal fast.

Nāsirāt ناصرات : helpers (feminine). A member of Majlis Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya, association of young Ahmadi girls.

ṣadaqah صدقه : alms

ṣallallāhu 'alaihi wa sallam صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ : peace and blessings of Allah be on him.

Sipara سپاره : One of the thirty parts of the Holy Qur'ān. [sī سی : thirty. pāra پاره : part] Juz جز in Arabic.



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(May Allah be pleased with her)

Ḥaḍrat Nuh (peace be on him) and  
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*United States of America*

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