Al-Hila! what we celebrate!

A Magazine for Children

2009-3 US $2
Assalamu 'Alaikum, Al-Hilal Readers!
As American Ahmadi Muslims, we are fortunate to be surrounded by various cultures. With these diverse cultures around us, we can learn more about other people and have a greater understanding of the world. It is our duty as Ahmadi Muslims to understand the global community we all live in. By understanding what we all celebrate, we can all see that we are much more similar than different. By seeing our appreciation and respect for another person’s culture, that person would be more interested in understanding our culture and our celebrations. The articles in this theme show us the celebrations we celebrate as Ahmadi Muslims and as Americans.

Jazakumullah,
Osaama
For Al Hilal Editorial Staff

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 Islam and Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

Al-Hilāl (The New Moon) is published by the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, under the auspices of the Children’s Magazine Committee, and directed by Dr Ahsanullah Zafar, National Amīr, Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya, USA.

The publication of this magazine was launched by the late Ḥaḍrat Şahḥībzadah M. M. Aḥmad (1913-2002).

The members of the committee are Maulana Zafrullah Hanjra, Aḥmadi Muslim Muballigh at Houston, TX; Maulana Azhar Haneef, Aḥmadi Muslim Muballigh in St. Louis, MO; Shanaz Butt, Ṣadr of Lajna Ima’illah, USA; Faheem Younus Qureshi, Ṣadr Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya, USA; Tazeen Aḥmad of Maryland; Musa Asad of Maryland; and Syed Sajīd Aḥmad of North Dakota acting as the secretary of the committee.

Al-Hilal Editorial Team:
Aliya Latif, Rabia Chaudhry, Tamara Rodney, Ahsan Khan and Osaama Saifi

Graphics: Sumera Choudhary, Shoeb Abulkalam

Submissions: Anesia McRae
IN THIS ISSUE

Blessings of Ramadan—Hania Kahloon—4
My Experience at the Tarbiyat Camp—Baseer Haqq—6
Special Holidays and Celebrations—Kaleem Shahzad—7
Eid ul Fitr—Faizan Ahmed Tariq—9
Importance of Salat—Safwan Akbar—10
Sahibzadi Amatul Qayyum—Maryum Manahil Ahmad—15
My Mother—Zahir M Ahmad—16
Allah—Areej Khan—18
In the Memory of Sahibzadi Bibi Amatul Qayyum—
Muhammad Ahmad—19
Autumn—Ruksabha Rickty Zaman—20
What is my relationship with Huzoor—Zainab Ghumman—20
Mother’s Day—Sahar Khan—21
Allah—Tahira Tauyyab—21
Mi’rāj and Isrā’—Mubashir Yousaf—22
My Experience with Community Service—
Mirza Salim Adam Ahmad—23
Hadrat Bilal’s Reliance Upon Allah—Shifa Nasir—25
Love for Allah—Naimul Iftikhar—27
My relationship with Huzur—Tahira Tauyyab—28
Khilafat—Amber Mahmood—29
Salat—Taimur Ahmed—30
The Attribute of Maliki Yaumiddin—Maha Mirza—32
The Holy Prophet’s Love for Allah—Natasha Mirza—34
Hadrat Bilal and his reliance upon Allah—Rida Nasir—36
Respected Bibi Amatul-Qayyum— Shireen Younus—39
Halloween: Whu Don’t we celebrate it—Shireen Younus—41
Allah—The Creator—Vajeeha Ahmad—44
Editorial—2, About Al-Hilal—2, Glossary—43

Front Cover Design By: Sumera Choudhary
During the month of Ramadan, and as Muslims, one of the most significant practices is fasting. Fasting is a part of the Five Pillars of Islam. Ramadan, an Islamic religious observance, takes place during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which is not a fixed time. During this time, Muslims should refrain from eating, drinking and smoking from sunrise to sunset. The efforts of a Muslim to fast and pray to Allah during these sacred days can help one to become closer to Allah. During Ramadan, one should try to stay as pure as possible from evil deeds. Also, one should pray for forgiveness for past sins and protection from future evils. This practice of self-restraint
helps to strengthen one’s relationship with Allah.

Ramadan is referred to as a lunar holiday. However, many of us may not know that the revelation of the Holy Qur’an started in the month of Ramadan. Also, the Battle of Badr occurred around that same time. In this battle, Muslims (the people of Medina) defeated the idol worshippers of Mecca. The ratio of Muslims to Meccans was 313:1000.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that during Ramadan the gates of Heaven (Jannah) are opened and the gates of hell (Jahannam) are closed. So, in conclusion, I would like to encourage all of us Muslims to buttress the strength of our faith and practice good deeds, give to the needy, and refrain from foul behavior such as lying or backbiting. Also, we should all try our best to perform our Salat on time. If you are a
young Muslim and cannot fast the entire month, I encourage you to start participating in the spirit of Ramadan and practice fasting for smaller periods of time. May Allah give you the strength to follow through on these commandments and receive blessings for our reputable efforts, Āmīn.

My Experience at the Tarbiyat Camp

Baseer Haqq, Age 12, Bronx

I attended a Tarbiyat Camp at the Willingboro Mosque. All of my friends who are Atfal and Khuddam came with me. It took us two hours to get there from New York. We arrived there just in time for Jum‘ah prayer and we would stay there for nine more days. In those nine days we had fun classes and sports. We had classes on Salat, prophets, Islam, Ahmadiyyat and much more. Imam Inamul-Haq Kauser and others were our scholarly teachers. We had breaks in between every two classes. We played a lot of sports, like volleyball, soccer, basketball and kickball. The whole event was wonderful and I hope I can attend this event next year.
As I am an Ahmadi Muslim child, I have grown up surrounded with many Muslim holidays and customs such as Ramadan, Eid, and Jalsas. However, since I am an American as well, I also celebrate some American holidays, such as Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

Ramadan is the month when all Muslims are required to fast. I personally fast for many reasons. I want to know how it feels not to have enough to eat and drink every day and I want to become closer to Allah. Sometimes some of my non-Muslim friends ask me if we do anything other than fasting during Ramadan. The answer, of course, is yes. During Ramadan Muslims read the Holy Qur’an fervently.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once said:

“The best among you is the one who learns the Holy Qur’an and teaches it to others.”

Muslims pray to Allah throughout Ramadan. We also
try to control our anger during this holy month.

My favorite holiday that we share with the wider community for the past few years has been Independence Day. My family and I go down to the docks and we stay almost the whole day and eat and have fun. Then shortly after sunset we watch the fireworks show. After the fireworks end, we pack all the things we brought and return home. We have shared this experience with our friends for the past few years. It has been extremely fun.

As a Muslim growing up in America, I celebrate and enjoy both cultures.

Salat Poster
18” x 24”
Arabic with English translation and transliteration. Send $2 per copy and your mailing address to Chaudhary Mushtaq Ahmad, 15000 Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905.
Eid-ul-Fitr—or known simply as Eid—is an Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. Fitr means “to break,” and, therefore, symbolizes the breaking of the fasting period, and of all undesired habits. On the day of the celebration, a Muslim family gets up very early and attends special Prayers, usually at a mosque. The Prayer is generally short, and is followed by a sermon (Khutba).

The festivities and merriment start after the Prayers with visits to the homes of friends and relatives, thanking the Creator for all blessings. Eid is a time to come together as a community and to renew friendship and family ties. This is a time for peace for all Muslims in the world. It is a joyous occasion with important religious significance. Happiness is observed at attaining spiritual uplift after a month of fasting.

For Muslims, Eid-ul-Fitr is a joyful celebration of the achievement of enhanced piety. It is a day of forgiveness, moral victory and peace, of congregation, fellowship, brotherhood and unity.
Muslims are not only celebrating the end of fasting, but thanking Allah for the help and strength that they believe he gave them throughout the previous month to help them practice self-control.

**Importance of Salat**

Safwan Akbar, Age 14, Queens, New York

Salat is the Arabic word for worship and prayer while Namaz is a Persian/Urdu word for worship and prayer. Prayer is the only connection between man and the Creator, Allah. Through prayer, we can talk to Him and ask for our needs, His mercy and forgiveness.

We can also pray for others, for example, when they are sick or in need of something. We can pray for no reason at all and seek His pleasure. Allah does not need our Prayers. Even if you do not have a reason to offer Namaz or prayer, you can still do it merely for the reward from God (Thawāb). If we want something useful, we should always turn to prayer to ask Allah to help us.
Salat is mentioned about 150 times in the Holy Qur’an. Prayer is very important. Allah is very merciful to us and our families. We should thank Him through prayer for giving us so much that we did not ask for, such as, loving parents, homes and that we are perfect through our bodies. We are very fortunate to have all of our parts, internal and external.

The purpose of the creation of man, according to Islam, is that he should worship Allah. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

وَلَمْ نَخْلَقَ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

I have not created the jinn and the men but that they may worship Me. (51:57)

Worship means total obedience to the commands of Allah.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, brought the message of God and explained all the commandments concerning the religion of Islam. Islam has five basic duties which a Muslim has to perform. They are known as the five pillars of Islam: Belief in God and His messenger (Kalima Shahadah), Salat, Zakat, Fasting and Hajj.

Of all religious obligations, Islam has laid greatest emphasis on the institution of Salat. It is enjoined upon every Muslim to pray five times a day. Besides the five obligatory Prayers, there are other types of Prayers which are optional. A Muslim takes the spiritual side of life as seriously as a worldly
person takes the material side of it. As air and food are essential for our physical life, likewise, we cannot survive spiritually without offering *Salat* regularly in different parts of the day. Salat wipes out our sins. One day Hadrat Muhammad (may peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) asked his followers, “If one of you had a stream flowing by his door and he takes a bath in it five times a day, would any dirt be left on him?” They replied, “No dirt would be left on him.” The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) replied: “This is the case with Salat. Allah makes the Salat wipe out sins.” Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said this to talk about the purity of our soul when we perform Namaz.

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) talked about the importance of Salat as well. This is what he said about prayer: “A strange phenomenal event took place in the deserts of Arabia, when hundreds of thousands of the dead became alive within a few days, and those who had been corrupted through generations took on Divine color. The blind began to see, and the tongues of the dumb began to flow with Divine wisdom. Such a revolution took place in the world as no eye had seen and no ear had heard of before. Do you realize what happened? All this was brought about by prayers during the darkness of nights of one who had been wholly lost in God which
created uproar in the world and manifested such wonders as seemed impossible at the hands of that unlettered helpless person. O Allah! Send down blessings and peace on him and on his followers in proportion to his concern and suffering for the Muslim Ummah (the people of Islam) and shower upon him the light of Thy mercy forever.”

Sometimes, worldly things can get in the way of offering Salat. Things like computers, game systems and TV always have to be in your time somewhere in your schedule, but Salat (Namaz) also has to be. If it’s so important for you to go onto the computer, and play that video game, it’s also important for Prayer to be offered as well. You should also mean it when you offer Salat before returning to your TV or video game. There is no point of doing it if you rush through it. You should also never feel frustrated or tired when you perform Salat.

In conclusion, observing Prayer is extremely important and the reward will be Paradise. Our regularity in Salat will be the first question we are asked on the Day of Judgment.
Attention All Al-Hilal Readers!

We Want to Hear from You!

Do you have suggestions, improvements, ideas to make the magazine better?


Log on above and complete our online survey today!
In life, you pray to be surrounded by strong, caring, and trustworthy individuals that will help you to find yourself, move you in a positive direction, and bring you closer to Allah. I am so thankful that Allah has blessed me with the most loving family, and he allowed me to share eighteen years with one of the most pious and most beautiful souls this world has seen, my grandmother, Sahibzadi Amatul Qayyum. At home I knew her as “Mimi,” and she was the perfect role model for an Ahmadi Girl. She helped me to build a close relationship with Allah and made sure that I had a strong foundation so that I would not be negatively influenced by the society I live in.

While I was growing up, Bibi Amatul Qayyum stressed the importance of offering the five daily Prayers and reading the Holy Qur’an. She often said that I should read the Holy Qur’an every day even if it is just one line, but encouraged me to try to read more. She also led by example. Bibi Amatul Qayyum read the Holy Qur’an for hours. Often times, when I came home from school, I heard her reciting the Holy Qur’an so loudly and beautifully that I could hear as soon as I entered the house. She read the Holy Qur’an and the books of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) all through the night, and when she found a story she felt important for me to know, she read it back to me.

My Grandmother encouraged me to observe purdah as I entered my early teen years. She made it easy for me to understand how important it was because, as she always said, Allah had told us to do so. However, despite how strongly she felt about it, she never pushed me or made me feel uncomfortable about it. She took a great deal of interest in my style, and any
time I went to the mall, she was excited and impressed with the sneakers I would always buy saying, “barra kamāl kiya.” (Accomplished a big feat.)

Bibi Amatul Qayyum also took an interest in our family’s hobbies. When we watched Washington Wizards basketball games during dinner, she was always concerned with the injured Gilbert Arenas just because he is mine and my brother’s favorite player. I was always amazed how she recognized him in a close huddle full of men, even without her glasses on. Not once did she mistake him for another player. She would say in Urdu, “This is your zero?” (Zero is Gilbert’s number.)

Bibi Amatul Qayyum embodied everything one strives to be. She was an intelligent and religious woman, who cared deeply for her family, and would do anything to protect us. She had one of the most amazing relationships with God, and always put complete trust in Him. I will always miss her and I pray that one day I can be like my grandmother.

On June 22, 2009, exactly six years and eleven months to-date and time after my father, Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad passed away, my mother, Sahibzadi Amatul Qayyum Ahmad left this temporary abode to meet her Lord. She was 92. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji’un.

She was the granddaughter of Hadrat Promised Messiah (peace be on him) and Hadrat Maulawi Nur-ud-Din, Khalifatul-Masih I (may Allah be pleased with him), daughter of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Musleh Mau’ud, Khalifatul-Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him), younger sister of Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih III (Allah’s mercy be on him), older sister of Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV (Allah’s mercy be on him) and maternal aunt of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his support). Her mother, Syeda Amtul Hayee Begum, may Allah be pleased with her, was the second wife of Hadrat Muslih Mau‘ud (may Allah be pleased with him). Huzur (may Allah be his support) in his Friday sermon, while speaking
about her, said that an Ahmadi had written to him that she heard a voice in her dream that said that Bibi Qayyum is a “Waliy Allah” (a friend of Allah). I completely agree with that statement. I saw her live a life of a Waliy Allah, and at this time, I will share one of the lessons she taught me throughout her life.

The most important thing in her life was the love of Allah and trying to find ways to reach Allah. She always said that in order to reach Allah, we must first read, understand and practice the Holy Qur’an. And in doing so, we must be extremely excited just as we are when we receive a piece of mail from a loved one (I suppose these days you could say an email from our closest friend). In the copy of the Holy Qur’an that her father, Hadrat Musleh Mau’ood (may Allah be pleased with him) gifted her, he wrote:

“My dear Amatul Qayyum, this is the word of Allah. What else can I say about it. Everything I have, I have received through it.”

She took those words very seriously and spent her life learning and practicing the word of Allah. If you look at the copies of the Holy Qur’an we have in our home, you will find her hand written notes all over them.

She tried to create the same love of Allah in my and my children’s hearts and minds by narrating quotations from the Holy Qur’an, the Hadith, life of the Promised Messiah and other saints throughout her life. As a mother, she felt directly responsible for our spiritual growth.

I remember, once when I was about five or six years of age, I was asking her many questions about Allah. She told me that Allah has always been and will always be. I was having a difficult time digesting that concept. Soon after this discussion, I went to sleep. When I woke up in the morning, she told me that soon after I went to sleep, she saw a circle with train track and a train car on it. She kept on moving the train on its track and kept on repeating to herself that there is no beginning or end to this track, just like the existence of Allah.

She had a deep relationship with Allah, and because of it, she never expressed any desires to others. Whatever her desires were, she asked her Allah for the fulfillment, and always remained satisfied in any
condition she found herself in, making herself a model in practicing the Qur’anic value of “Qanā‘at,” (being completely content with the condition one finds themselves in).

She once told me that while she was a little girl, she borrowed a piece of clothing from a close relative. Her father, Hadrat Muslih Mau‘ud (may Allah be pleased with him) saw her wearing the new garment and inquired about it. When told that the clothing did not belong to her. Hadrat Muslih Mau‘ud (may Allah be pleased with him) asked her to change, as he said that she should be content with what Allah has given to her and should not have to borrow and wear what she does not own. He went on to say that she should ask Allah for what she wants and not other human beings. Since that day she never asked anyone for anything.

So, the one value of hers that I wanted to share with you today is the love of Allah for all good begins with that. I pray and hope that we are all able to learn this lesson from observing the life of a saint that lived among us.

A - ll Knowing
L - ord of all the worlds
L - oving
A - ll Aware
H - ealer

By: Areej Khan
Age: 10
Central Virginia
In the Memory of
Sahibzadi Bibi Amatul Qayyum

My Grandmother
By Muhammad Ahmad, MD

My Grandmother loved to garden
She planted many seeds
Some grew to be our values
Some grew to become trees
It was always on her mind
How they would blossom through time
The fruits, which emerged, were one of a kind
Every chance that she got
She would teach us something new
Then ask us what we thought
But she already knew
For our values were her beliefs
Once which were her seeds
And My Grandmother loved to garden
We are her trees
PEOPLE ARE RAKING LEAVES
PEOPLE ARE WEARING WARM CLOTHES
LEAVES ARE TURNING COLORS
   RED
   ORANGE
   YELLOW
   BROWN
THE WIND IS WHISTLING
IT’S GETTING CHILLY OUTSIDE
WAIT ---
IT IS AUTUMN

My relationship with Huzur (may Allah be his support) is good. I write to him every month. I keep him in my prayers, and I ask him to pray for me as well.

By: Zainab Ghumman, 
Age: 12
Jama’at: Central Virginia
I Love to celebrate Mother’s Day. We celebrate Mother’s Day because it is special day for the Moms since they do so much for us all year long. I made a card for my mama with my friends at school and I make her breakfast in bed.

We talked about how good our moms are and our moms are like WOW... WOW... WOW! I enjoy Mother’s Day because I love my mother a lot.

---

By: Sahar Khan
Age: 5
Jama’at: Virginia

ALLAH

By: Tahira Tauyyab
Age 10
Central Virginia

Allah
Hearing, Seeing
Knowing, the High, the Guide
the Master of the Day of Judgment
Allah
Mi‘rāj and Isrā’

Two Spiritual Journeys of Holy Prophet Muhammad

Peace and blessings of Allah be on him

By: Mubashir Yousaf, Age: 13,
Jama‘at: Washington DC

Mi‘rāj and Isra were two special event in the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). Some reports have mixed up the two visions while evidence from the Holy Qur‘an and from traditions shows them to be two separate events. Both spiritual ascents took place and during the night and just before migration to Medina.

On this night of Mi‘raj, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) spiritually took a journey to heaven and to the highest stage of nearness to Allah, the Almighty.

During the journey, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) met with the previous prophets, Adam, Jesus, John, Joseph, Idris, Aaron, Moses, Abraham, (on whom be peace). The spiritual journey was to confirm the high status of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

On this same journey it is said that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was told by Allah to pray fifty times a day. On his way back, the Prophet Moses told him to go back and ask for a reduction. He did this several times until the number was
reduced to five times a day. On the night of Isra, Gabriel brought him a winged steed Burāq, which took him to Jerusalem where he led previous prophets in worship.

The townspeople regarded it as absurd. Some went to Prophet Muhammad’s (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) companion Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) and told him, “Look at what your companion is saying. He says he went to Jerusalem and came back in one night.” Abu Bakr replied, “If he said that, then he is truthful. I believe him concerning the news of the heavens and that an angel descends to him from the heavens. How could I not believe he went to Jerusalem and came back in a short period of time when these are [places] on earth?” It was for this that Abu Bakr is said to have received his famous title "As-Siddiq," The Truthful. As Muslims, we must believe in this journey even though we may never experience anything close to it. We have in ourselves something many humans lack in today’s world. That is Taqwa- Righteousness and fear of displeasing Allah Almighty. Taqwa is what keeps Muslims special. May Allah increase this power in all of us. Āmīn.

My Experience with Community Service

By: Mirza Salim Adam Ahmad, Age: 15,
Jama’at: Austin, TX

This summer, my Ummi and I went to a nursing home near my school for community service. I have only been to a nursing home once in my life. I was very anxious and nervous while driving there. I was thinking that it would be a good experience, but it would be hard to keep up with all of their needs.
When I walked in, it kind of smelled like a hospital: sanitary and clean. We arrived at the time of the day when the residents are about to start their Bingo game. We did have to wait a while for someone to tell us what to do and we eventually helped with the Bingo game. My Ummi was the one hosting the game and I was the one that helped the people with whatever they needed. When the old people saw my Ummi and I, the way they smiled made my soul light up and feel good.

When the Bingo game was over, I had to escort a woman in a wheelchair to her room. The time while I was pushing her there, we started talking and she told me why she could not walk. She had been getting groceries out of her car and she fell and broke her hip. When we arrived at her room, she politely thanked me for listening to her and helping her to her room.

I met many interesting people there. One man’s nickname was Captain Willy. He was in the Pacific Navy. He graduated from A&M university in Texas in 1948, yet he looked much younger than his actual age of 83. I even met a woman who was 96!

In-Sha’-Allah, I will be able to go back every other week and help them with whatever they need. May Allah enable us all to do good in our lives.
Allah says in the Holy Qur’an, So in Allah let those who trust put their trust. (14:13)

It was a hot summer day in Makkah. Bilal Ibn Rabah, slave of Umayyah bin Khalaf was laying on the burning desert sand. He was in great pain but remained silent. A few days earlier Sumayyah Bint Khabbab and her husband had been killed by Abu Jahl. The crime was same, punishment will also be same. Umayyah was asking the same thing that Abu Jahl asked Sumayyah, Worship our idols, they are your gods. And he got the same answer that Abu Jahl got “Ahad, Ahad.” Allah is one, Allah is one.

These words meant that Bilal had entrusted his life to Allah. Nobody could scare him. It was a very difficult decision. Imagine how powerful the idol worshippers of Mecca were. Compare how weak Hadrat Bilal was. Yet he decided to follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

The Holy Prophet did not have any material means to protect him. He did not have any wealth or army. His followers were other poor people just like Hadrat Bilal. And yet, Hadrat Bilal entrusted his life in the hands of Allah.
The days in Makkah came to an end. Bilal Ibn Rabah and the other followers went to Medina by the order of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Hadrat Bilal was chosen by Hadrat Muhammad (peace be upon him) to become the Mu’adhdhin in Medina, a person who announces the call to Prayer.

On the day of the battle of Badr, Allah decided in favor Hadrat Bilal. His former owner Umayyah bin Khalaf was killed. Those who relied on their power and material resource lost and those who relied on Allah won.

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) has explained that anybody who relies on anything except Allah, he commits Shirk (setting up equals with Allah). Sometimes we rely on our knowledge and intelligence; sometime we rely on our power and sometimes on our friends, sometimes our youth and sometimes our old age wisdom. All this is unacceptable to Allah who is the creator of these things. The Holy Qur’an says,

And put thy trust in Allah, and Allah is sufficient as a Guardian. (33:4)

**Disclaimer**
The material presented herein reflects the original content of the authors. To the extent possible, Al-Hilal staff have attempted to screen the material for accuracy and appropriateness but some oversights may have occurred. If the reader identifies a mistake and/or would like to comment on some of the material, please contact Al-Hilal staff (thealhilal@yahoo.com).
The very first verse of Holy Qur’an is Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Raheem, which means, In the name of Allah, The Gracious, The Merciful.

We love Allah because He not only created us but also gave us all the blessings of life. Look around and try to count Allah’s blessings. Our health, our parents, our schools, our cars, our brothers and sisters, and best of all, making us Ahmadi Muslims, are all blessings of Allah.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to pray to God, O Lord, make Your Love dearer to me than the love of myself, my family and wealth.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) said that it was due to his love for Allah that he loved everything Allah has created. How we can show our love for Allah? Allah wants us to do good deeds. Allah wants us to offer our Prayers regularly. Allah wants us to take care of others.

We should be nice to our family and friends. We should help others who are in need. This makes Allah very happy. Let’s make a promise to ourselves to do good deeds and remember Allah all the time. May Allah bless us all.
My relationship with Huzur (may Allah be his support) is very special. He is our Khalifa who guides us spiritually and morally. He always lifts my spirits when he replies to my letters. When I write to him, I feel like I am a lot closer to him.

When I listen to his sermons, I learn a lot. He guides us on how to become a true Ahmadi Muslim and live a righteous life.

I will always cherish those moments when I attended the Waqf-i-Nau class at the Jalsa in his presence. I love Huzur (may Allah be his support) with all my heart and hope to meet him again soon. May Allah give him a long and healthy life and may we always stay close to him, Āmīn.
We remember Hadrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) who united the Muslims under the system of Khilafat, Hadrat Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) as his Khilafat was known as the golden period in the history of Islam, Hadrat Uthman (May Allah be pleased with him) because he sacrificed his life for the integrity of Khilafat and in the best interest of Islam, Hazrat Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) who was known for his bravery, and was a very skillful warrior.

We remember Hadrat Hakeem Maulana Nur-ud-Din who had three distinctive qualities of his character: his complete trust in God, high standard of Taqwa, and grand service to humanity, Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad because his 52 year long Khilafat represented a golden period in the history of Ahmadiyyat, Hadrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad who was known for making the golden Islamic motto: Love for All, Hatred for None, and Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad for establishing MTA. And we love our current Khalifa Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad because he is currently leading us on the right path.
Salat, as we already know, is very important. The first and foremost act of worship is Salat or Prayer, which means glorification and praise. The purpose of Salat is to establish personal communication with Allah, purify one’s inner self and seek Allah’s help in all difficulties. When a Muslim is in prostration (Sajdah), s/he can ask Allah for divine guidance or help in their hardships in life. But to achieve this objective, we must try to make our Salat perfect.

After belief in one God, comes Salat, the second pillar of Islam. The importance of Salat is stressed in the Holy Qur’an. Allah reminds us in the Holy Qur’an to offer Prayers regularly every day, and that those who pray more often are the ones who will be more successful in their spiritual as well as worldly objectives. For instance, if someone had gotten really sick, then if someone prays for them, both people will be blessed; the sick patient by getting better, and the person who prayed because they are finding divine guidance from Allah.

There are specific timings for Salat. Fajr is always prayed at dawn before sunrise, Zuhr at early afternoon, Asr in the late afternoon, Maghrib in the evening and Isha when it gets dark.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that Salat wipes out sins. One day he asked his followers, “If one of you had a stream flowing by your door and you took a bath in it five times a day, would any dirt be left on you?” They replied, “No dirt would be left on
us.” Then the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said, “This is the case with Salat. Allah makes the Salat wipe out sins.”

Salat not only wipes out our sins but we will be rewarded by Allah giving us many blessings and giving us what we wanted or what we prayed for. Also, Salat brings us closer to Allah.

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) also talked about the importance of Salat. He said “Salat is very important and it is the apex of the spiritual exaltation of the true believer. Salat is the best medium of interacting with God. Salat is nothing but presenting oneself before Allah, and it is a combination of praising Allah and an attempt at the expiation of one’s sins. One who does not keep these purposes in view, derives no benefit from Salat.”

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (Allah’s mercy be on him) said, “Salat is the minimum standard of remembrance of God without which one cannot maintain spiritual life. There can be no guarantee of a glorious future for the jama’at unless those who observe Salat today bring up their future generation steeped in the observance of Salat. Therefore, I very humbly request every adult Ahmadi to very honestly take stock of the existing state of the performance of Salat by their children at home. I am afraid that the resulting findings will upset you because the conditions in which we find our children today are certainly not satisfactory.”

What this means is that kids like us are slacking off from doing what is more important because we let other things get in
the way. Video games, television, entertainment and computers are all examples of how we never have time to off Salat but we always have time to do these things. I hope in the future we will have more children doing what’s right for them. In-Sha-Allah I hope this will happen.

“The Master of the Day of Judgment is One Who runs the affairs of the masses according to His will.”

Who is the Master of the Day of Judgment? The Master of the Day of Judgment is Allah. It is the day that He decides our new life for us, whether we live in Heaven or suffer in Hell, the hereafter. Our lives have a limited time span. Everyone in the earth is going to die sooner or later, but on the last day, we will again be raised by Allah and given a new life. The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) writes:

“The Holy Qur’an sets forth the principle that every human action leaves its hidden impress upon its author and attracts an appropriate divine reaction which preserves the evil or the virtue of the action. Its impress is inscribed on the heart and face and eyes and ears and hands and feet of its performer. This is the hidden record which will become manifest in the Hereafter.” (The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam)

In the Hereafter, Allah will reward those who followed
his teachings. Those who have not listened to Him will perish in Hell and stay there until they have purified themselves and Allah finds them fit to abide in heaven. Unlike any other religion, Muslims believe that Hell is like a hospital and one is only allowed in Heaven when cured. The attribute Māliki Yaumiddīn is first mentioned in the third verse of Surah al-Fatihah, the first chapter of the Holy Qur’an.

In this chapter, Allah’s attributes of “Lord of all the Worlds,” “the Gracious,” and “the Merciful” are mentioned and then we are told of Allah’s attribute of “Master of the Day of Judgment.” This tells us that although Allah is the Master of all the Worlds, both now and in the Hereafter, he is also full of mercy and grace and will forgive our sins when we fully repent.

On the Day of Judgment, Allah will differentiate between a pious person and a sinner and both will be awarded a reward or punishment according to their actions on earth. How can we as Ahmadhi Muslims gain Allah’s pleasure and gain paradise? The answer is given to us by the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) in his book, The Will. We are told that to gain Allah’s pleasure we must offer our prayers regularly and on time, we must read and understand the Holy Qur’an, the book of Allah, we must pay Zakat, we must care for the sick and needy, for the orphans and for our fellow man. We must lead moral lives and follow the example of our beloved prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) who said, “O ye people! Make it customary to offer Salam (greeting of peace), feed the needy, strengthen the ties of kinship and offer Prayer when others are asleep. If you do these, you will enter Paradise in peace.” (Tirmidhi.)
Let us not incur Allah’s displeasure but rather be rewarded by His mercy and grace and bounty. Let us be an example to others so that they also will be granted eternal abode in paradise. Âmîn.

The Holy Prophet said, “If a believer realized the full intent of the chastisement of Allah, none would desire His paradise; and if a disbeliever realized the full extent of Allah’s mercy, none would despair of His paradise.” Muslim Kitab Al-Taubah

The Holy Prophet Muhammad’s (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) love for Allah was immense and it is safe to say that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) loved Allah more than life itself. He was willing to give up his home, his family, and his safety for Allah.

When the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) first began teaching the Meccans about Islam, he was persecuted most severely but his love for Allah led him to persevere. He never faltered in his determination to show others how to find the same love he had towards Allah. He once said, “Should they array against me and put the sun on my right hand and the moon on my left, yet while God should command me, I would not renounce my purpose” This just proves that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) loved Allah above all else and would never think of deserting Him in any way. He endured the worst of taunts and insults but he never had
to resist the urge to renounce his mission. He never missed a chance to prove himself to be a pious man.

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) frequently commented on the exceeding love that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had for Allah. He mentions it in a Qasīdah, his beautiful poem written about the high moral character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). “The presence of Allah the Protector is reflected in the blessed face of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him)

And his entire manner and moral conduct sparkles with the same characteristic magnificence.”

This means that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) loved Allah so much that he embodied every worthy characteristic and attribute that Allah desired in a true believer. That is what we truly strive for, the same love and fear that resonates so clearly within the Holy Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) relationship with Allah.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) loved hearing the very words of Allah, so much so that his eyes would fill with tears at any recitation of the Holy Qur'an. And in return Allah’s special love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) is manifested in this verse of the Holy Qur'an, “Say, if you love Allah, follow me: then will Allah love you and forgive your sins” (Chapter 3, Verse 32).

This just shows that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) went through any means possible to gain love from Allah. Even through death threats, persecution, banishment from his own home, and the passing of many of his loved ones, he never showed any
signs of wishing to forsake Allah. He continued to reach out
to Allah for blessings and affection. He is a true model for our
generation and we can only hope to achieve the same love
and devotion the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and
blessings of Allah be on him) had for Allah Ta‘ālā.

Hadrat Bilal
(may Allah be pleased with him)
and his reliance upon Allah

Fourteen hundred years
ago, life was very cruel for Bilal
(may Allah be please with him) or
for that matter any other slave in
Arabia. Bilal (may Allah be
pleased with him) was a young man whose whole life was in
front of him. He must have thought, “Am I going to spend rest
of my life like this? Is it possible that I can be a free man?”
The Meccan society gave no choice to slaves. Life was an
endless dark tunnel.

One day Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) saw
Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him)
and there was light at the end of the tunnel. Muhammad (may
peace and blessings of Allah be on him) told people that
Allah created everybody as equal and in His sight all were
equal. But could Allah and his messenger (may peace and
blessings of Allah be on him) free Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him)? Could Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) protect a poor slave? In fact he did, and he claimed that Allah is the only one who can protect whomsoever he chooses.

Did Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) accept his fate or did he trust the God of Muhammad? One day Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) woke up and went to the Messenger of Allah (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and said:

```
أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله ﷺ أنك محمدا رسول الله.
```

These words were said with much devotion. He entrusted his life to Allah so completely that these words become his lifeline.

The slave took his life back from a human master and put it in the hands of Allah. Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) relied on Allah. Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) relied on Allah when the burning heat of the desert scorched his skin. Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) relied on Allah when heavy stones on his chest almost stopped his breathing. The trust was complete and unshakable. No harsh punishment and no sweet bribe were able to breach that trust.

Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) was further
elevated when the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) decided that five times a day Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) would recite the same words through which Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) entrusted his life to Allah. So from the top of the mosque to the whole city of the Prophet, to the people across the desert and across time, Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) said:

أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ لا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Yes, Allah is Master of all and He is the one who is worthy of all the trusts.

Razzaq and Farida
A story for children by Dr. Yusef A. Lateef. Send $1.50 per copy and your mailing address to Chaudhary Mushtaq Aḥmad, 15000 Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905.
Respected Bibi Amatul-Qayyum was a very pious woman and all of us were very lucky that she was a part of Jama‘at Ahmadiyya U.S.A. Being the second daughter of Hadrat Muslih Mau‘ud, she had a special bond with God. She was born in 1916 and was the wife of the late Sahibzadah Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad. Since she had no children of her own, she adopted a son who was always given a lot of love.

Sahibzadi Amatul-Qayyum was charitable as well as very humble and modest. She offered her Salat with deep devotion and was very particular about observing Hijab.

She had a great sense of honor for Khilafat and religion. Once she was told that Huzur wished to see her. She started to walk so fast that the person accompanying her had to run to keep up. Such was her bond with Khilafat.

Sahibzadi Amatul Qayyum once dreamt [in childhood] that a person said to her that he had come to get her mother. She pleaded with him not to take her. The person then said he would take her father. She again pleaded with him not to. She was then given the choice to let her mother or father go. Eventually, she agreed to let her mother go. As a result of this dream she became very close to her mother. Her mother passed away when she was ten years old.

Once Hadrat Amman Jan asked her that she was always hugging her mother but why did she not hug her father? She responded, “I will cling to my father and will do so all my life.” Hadrat Amman Jan would relate this incident with tearful eyes. She had a very deep relationship with Allah. May Allah enable all of us to walk in the footsteps of Bibi Jan. Āmīn
Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication. Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification. If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

The Children’s Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amīr, Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

**E-mail Submissions to:**

thealhilal@yahoo.com

---

**Subscription**

$8/year in the US, $16/year elsewhere. Libraries can request free subscriptions on the condition that the copy is displayed or kept in the library.

Send all requests to Syed Sajid Ahmad

E-mail: syedsajidahmad@yahoo.com

National HQ: Al-Hilal, 15000 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905 USA
It’s October 30\textsuperscript{th} and everyone at school is buzzing with excitement—tomorrow’s Halloween! It’s all your friends can talk about. They’re swapping conversation about costumes and candy, trick-or-treat and parties. No-one looks at you. They know: you’re not a part of this, not a part of the fun, the festivities. You sigh as you recollect the shock on your friends’ faces, the horror clearly visible on their expressions as they realize it: You don’t celebrate Halloween! They had asked you, “Why? Why \textit{don’t} you celebrate it?” And you answered with the same question: “Why? Why \textit{do} you celebrate it?” Neither of you could give a clear answer—and that’s the reason I am writing this article.

\textit{So, what’s Halloween about?}

Even though Halloween has become popular in America, it originated from the Irish festival of Samhain.

The pagans believed that on October 31, the boundary between the alive and the dead dissolved, and the dead become dangerous for the living by causing problems such as sickness or damaged crops. So, Halloween was actually intended to calm or subdue evil spirits.
Today, Halloween has just become an opportunity to celebrate horror and honor the same evil spirits that were originally guarded against.

_Why don’t (and shouldn’t) Muslims celebrate it?_

A lot of people may argue that Halloween is a night for kids to have some fun. However, many things happen on Halloween that are not so great and innocent. Did you know that more than $5,000,000,000 are wasted on Halloween every year?! That’s a lot of money! Also, crime, alcohol, and other evils increase during Halloween. Halloween is harmful for children and young adults. For children we believe it weakens their identity. For a while they may feel good but over a period of years it leads to low self esteem as Muslims. Halloween has especially exploded among young adults who celebrate with large, extravagant parties and elaborate costumes, driving and spending a lot.

Allah has warned as against all these evils. If we must give up one worldly holiday to follow the right path and do what He wishes, we should. And after all, we all know that Heaven will be a better reward than this.

Āmīn.
Āmīn [Āmeen]: So be it. Amen.

Ḥaḍrat [Hadhrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

Ḥuḍūr [Hudhūr, Ḥuẓūr]: His Honor, His Holiness, Your Honor, Your Holiness. In Urdu, it is spelled Ḥaḍūr [Ḥaḍoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor].

‘Īd: Muslim religious celebration, festival. Eid.


‘Īd mubarak: Felicitation of ‘Īd.

Innā Lillāhi Wa Innā Ilaihi Rūhūn: From Allāh have we come and to Allāh shall we return. (2[Al-Baqarah]:157.

In Shā Allāh, in shā allāh: God willing. Note that there is a hamza at the end of inshā’ and the fath is on the hamza of Inshā’, not on the alif of Allāh, therefore, in shā’ allāh or inshā’ allāh as pronounced and In Shā’ Allāh otherwise.

Jalsa (Jalsah) Salāna: Annual Convention


Khuddām: Plural of khādīm. Servants, attendants. Member of Majlis Khuddāmul-Āḥmmadiyyah.

mi’rāj: Place or route of ascent. Ascent, ladder, stairs. Muḥammad’s (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) ascent, spiritual journey. The acme of spiritual exaltation.


Namāz: Ṣalāt. Prescribed formal Islamic worship.

Qanā’at: contentment

Ṣāḥibzādah: Son of a respected person. Respected gentleman.


Ṣalāt: Formal Prayer offered according to a prescribed procedure. Thus, Ṣalāt-Tahajjud, Ṣalātul-Fajr, Ṣalātu-Ẓuhr, Ṣalātul-‘Asr, Ṣalātul-Maghrib, Ṣalātul-‘Ishā.

Ṣajdah: prostration

Taqwā: righteousness.

Ummah, Ummat: nation, people. Muslim community.

wali: guardian, caretaker, custodian, friend, companion, saint, master, chief, owner, ruler, leader, superior
Allah - The Creator

By: Vajeeha Ahmad
Age: 7
Central Virginia

Allah made the green grass and the pretty flowers. He made the beautiful Earth and the blue sky. He is watching us always, He is in our hearts. Whenever we get lost, Allah guides us on the right path. My Allah and your Allah—The Creator.