

Al-Hilal



My Father, My Friend

A Magazine for Children

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2012-2

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 Aḥmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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Dear Reader,

As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

Paradise lies under the feet of mothers, as our beloved Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) rightfully said. But fathers too can play a meaningful role in a child’s life. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was the perfect model for fathers everywhere. He was kind and compassionate to his children and treated them with equity and mercy. Islam places a heavy emphasis on respecting and caring for our parents, and provides guidance as to how parents should care for their children. The prior issue of Al-Hilal focused on mothers. In this issue, we provide an opportunity for dads to bask in the beautiful words of our young writers who, in this issue, express their love and understanding of fatherhood in Islam.

A wise man once said, “Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad.” Fathers everywhere can seek advice in this issue as to what it takes to be a dad for our children.

Was-Salām,

Ahsan M. Khan,

Al Hilal Editorial Staff



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ALLAH THE CREATOR

Ereena Malik / Age 8 / Austin, Texas

Allah is the One Who has created our eyes, our hair, our feet, that is, he has created us.

He is also the Creator of our families, parents, brothers, sisters, friends and teachers.

Allah is the One who has created the food that we eat: chocolates, cakes and candies, the fruits and vegetables that make us healthy and strong.

If Allah had not created it, we would not have known what chocolate tasted like.

Allah has also given us the sense of taste and smell.

Allah has not just created delicious and beautifully scented foods, He has also given us the ability that allows us to enjoy them.



Allah always hears our prayers and responds to them, because He always knows what is in our thoughts.

While reading this section, for instance, you are thinking of some things, but if you do not say them aloud, no one at home will know what you are thinking.

Allah, however, knows your every thought and sees you all the time. Even when you think you are alone, Allah sees you and knows everything you do.

Allah is everywhere in the universe and I am proud that I know all this because I am an Ahmadi Muslim.

Allah the Creator

Sofia Azam

“Al-Khāliq”, which means “The Creator,” is an attribute of Allah mentioned in the Holy Qur’ān: “He is Allah, the Creator, the Maker, the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifies Him, and He is the Mighty, the Wise” (59:25). The main reason we exist is to worship Allah because Allah created us. We as Muslims pray to Allah so that we may develop a loving relationship with Him. We thank Allah for all the beautiful things He has created for us.



Allah created animals, like chameleons, which are really amazing because they can blend in with their surroundings by changing color. He also created beautiful flowers which smell sweet and have soft and colorful petals. All of these beautiful things could not exist without Allah!

Allah is beautiful because He made the universe for us to be able to survive, to study and to enjoy. Science and art and lots of other things help us to learn about nature and our world.

If we are good to Allah’s creations, then He will be happy with us, and He will be good to us. We should always be kind to all animals and people, and remember to pray to Allah to thank Him for all that He has created for us.

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MY FAVORITE HADITH

Talha Mahmood, 9, Miami, Florida

A Ḥadīth is a saying of our beloved Prophet Muhammad [may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him]. His sayings were researched and collected by scholars after he passed away. The most authentic collections are called Sihah Sittah (six authentic books [of Ḥadīth]).

My favorite Ḥadīth is narrated by Ḥaḍrat A'ishah [may Allah be pleased with her], the Holy Prophet said, “Gabriel recommended to me (Holy Prophet) good treatment



of the neighbor so often that I started thinking that he would perhaps declare him the heir and successor.” What I think this Ḥadīth means is to always be kind to our neighbors, to understand and help one another, show respect and develop sincere and friendly relationship with them.

As an Ahmadi Muslim, it disturbs me when I see neighbors in the community fight and keep hatred with one another. Peace cannot be attained in this world without understanding our neighbors. Our neighbors can be a next door home or a community or a neighboring country.

I hope and pray for all of us to become better neighbors.

My Favorite Hadith

Rayyan Mehmud, 7, Fitchburg, VA

AL-JANNATU TAHTA AQDAMIL-UMMAHATI: PARADISE IS UNDER THE FEET OF MOTHERS. Mothers have a lot to do in raising their children. Good mothers can make their children be good and God fearing, and help them enter heaven. Also, one can say according to this Ḥadīth that the child should show respect and care to their mother.

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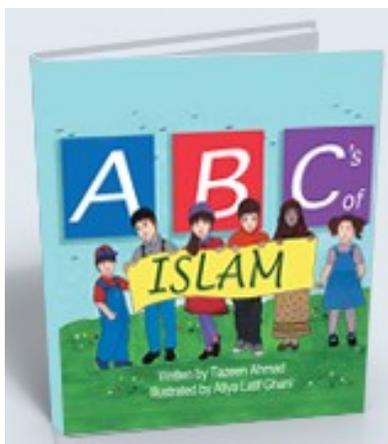
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ABC's of Islam

Written by Tazeen Ahmad

ABC's of Islam is a perfect book to introduce your kids to the simple concepts of Islam. Full of colorful illustrations and easy rhymes this book teaches the basic Islamic beliefs and values, in a fun and easy way, to young children. Paperback: 38 pages.

Purchase at
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An Ode to My Dad

By Alina Ahmad / age 9 / Detroit, Michigan



Dad, Dad, you make me glad,
Dad, Dad, you don't get mad,
Dad, Dad, if you weren't alive I'd be very
sad,
Dad, Dad, if so, I'd make an ad of how
you're the best!
Dad, Dad, your humor is better than the
rest!
Dad, Dad, I love you from head to toe,
Dad, Dad, did you know you are my
friend?
Thank you for all the nice things you do.

My Father, My Friend

By: Areej Tahir/ 8/ Detroit

Friend

Always loving

Trustworthy

Humorous

Encouraging



My Dad

Sabeeha Mian / 10 years / Boston

My dad's name is Zahid Mian. He is a great dad. Every day he leads us in Salat. He has memorized a lot of the Holy Qur'ān. I love hearing him recite Qur'ān during Salat.

My dad does a lot of work for the Jamā'at. He is the National Na'ib Sadr for Khuddam. He spends a lot of time on conference calls with Khuddam and often has to go away on weekends.

My dad is a lot of fun. He has a great sense of humor. He loves to run. He ran the Cox Marathon in Rhode Island. I love my dad and I am very proud of him. We take road trips several times during the year, to visit different places. We love to go rowing together. We also love going to amusement parks to ride on the roller coasters. My dad's stomach gets queasy after a few rides.

My dad is very polite and kind. He does not lose his temper or get mad. He likes to eat healthy food. He does not like fried food or desserts. He makes good burgers and chicken on the grill. He likes eating strange vegetables like "karela" (bitter melon) and "bhindi" (okra). When I was little I was jumping on the bed and fell and broke my teeth. Later that night my mom heard someone crying. It was my dad who was crying for me in the other room. I love that story. I know he loves me a lot and I love him. My dad is the best dad in the whole wide world!

Allah the Creator

Daania Syed / Age 11

Allah is the Creator of everything in the universe. He is the Maker of all life, everywhere, and has created all the plants, animals, planets, stars, and everything else in the galaxy. *“Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth glorifies Allah. His is the kingdom and His the praise, and He has power over all things”* (64:2).

Allah has created all things for a purpose, and His Signs are everywhere if we wish to see them. *“He is Allah, the Creator, the Maker, the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifies Him, and He is the Mighty, the Wise”* (59:25).

The cosmos, or every material in the universe, is made of energy. With this in mind, when we examine the vastness of the universe, we realize that it did not come from “nothingness” or “nowhere.” Science theorizes that there was no energy in the universe prior to its creation. When we contemplate the sheer complexities of what Allah has created, we see that He is Al-Khaliq or the Creator of everything that is, was, or will be. Allah is the beginning and the end to all that we will ever know.

Allah has created all of the living and nonliving beings in the universe. He has fashioned everything in His design. In the Holy Qur’ān Allah states, *“And I have not created the Jinn and the men but that they may worship Me”* (51:57). In the Friday Sermon on May 7, 2010, the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his

support) said that Allah is the Creator of all that exists in the physical world and He has also made the spiritual world. Allah has made everything in the heavens and the earth for His creation. He has created mankind so that we may worship Him. Even by only looking at minute details of the world, we can see Allah's work. As He is Al-Khaliq, we should turn to Allah for everything in life.

**We Want to Hear
from You!!!**

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.

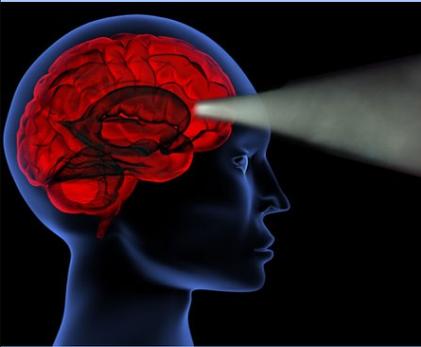
The Children's Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amīr, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

E-mail Submissions to:
thealhilal@yahoo.com

MY FAVORITE HADITH

Abdullah Ali, 14 Columbus, Ohio

My favorite Ḥadīth is, “Allah does not see towards your shapes and your wealth, but rather towards your hearts and your actions.” What this Ḥadīth is saying is that Allah will not judge you or me by our outward appearance, but rather our own personalities and lifestyles. It is common to see those people who think themselves better than others because they have a lot of money, and have the best house, shoes, games etc., or because they simply have better complexions and clothing or are more physically built and smarter. What Allah wants us to know is that these acts of arrogance will not give us better results on the Day of Judgment. This does not mean that Allah prohibits wearing



nice and/or expensive clothes and shoes, or owning a nice car. Allah is just saying that all of that does not matter; what matters are our actions and intentions. If we have good and kind intentions then we will have a better chance of getting into Jannah (paradise). If we have

bad intentions and actions, then we will be upsetting Allah. And Allah tests us over this every day. If we think about it, there are a lot of things we could boast about, and a lot of things people do boast about (as an example, getting a higher score on a test than someone, or doing better in a game than the other person, or just simply accomplishing more). So, may we all live modest and humble lives.

“My Father, My Friend”

Annum Ahmad / A Member of Nasirat Los Angeles East

“Father is the middle gate to paradise.” Islam requires us to treat our fathers with respect no matter what, although there may be things that your father says that you do not like. A father is just like a friend. He protects you, he comforts you, and he makes sure that you are happy.

A memory that I have with my father was when I was in fourth grade, he used to walk me every morning to school. But when I became a sixth grader, in middle school, he stopped. He told me that I was old enough to walk alone to school. I love and respect my father because he keeps me safe from the bad. He taught me that there is only one God, Allah. He also taught me that there is a Satan and I have to keep a great distance from him.

An example of a good father given to us in the Holy Qur’ān and Islamic history was Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him). He trained his two sons well. One very popular story is that once Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) had a dream that Allah was telling him to sacrifice his son, Ishmael. When Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) went and told that dream to his son, Ishmael was ready to sacrifice his life for Allah. When Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) was about to do it, Allah told him to stop because He saw that Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him) and his son were true believers.

I pray that Allah enables me to obey all the good things my father teaches me so that I can become a good Ahmadi girl. Āmīn.

Allah the Creator

Maariya Sayed / Age 13 / Research Triangle NC

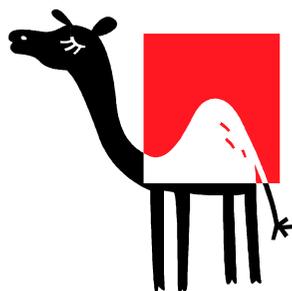
Allah is the Master and Maker of everything – both living and nonliving. He is the Creator of the entire universe and everything inside it. Allah has created the planets, the stars, and all of the galaxies.

Allah created everything for a specific purpose.

Everything He has made has a reason for its existence, and plays a part on a grander scale in the world. *“Do they not then look to the camel, how it is created? And at the heaven, how it is raised high? And at the mountains, how they are set-up, and at the Earth how it is spread out?”* (88:18-21)

Allah has made all that is in the Heavens and the earth for a greater good that man may never know. He is Al-Khaliq, The Creator, and is responsible for everything.

Allah is the only Creator of this universe and His Presence is in all elements of the universe. The Holy Qur’ān states, *“Blessed is He Whose hand is the Kingdom, and He has power over all things; Who has created death and life that He might try you – which of you is the best in deeds ; and He is the Mighty, the Most Forgiving; Who has created seven heavens in harmony. No incongruity canst thou see in the creation of the Gracious God. Then look again. Seest thou any flaw? Aye, look again, and yet again, thy sight will only return unto thee confused and fatigued, having seen no incongruity”* (67:2-5). By this, it is apparent that Allah has designed everything with such perfection that it can never, ever, be copied. We can see the Unity of Allah in everything and we should worship Him alone.



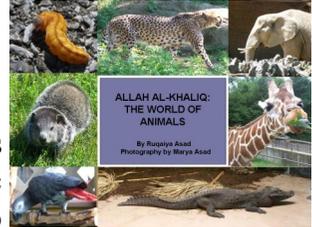


Allah has created life and death and has the power to do whatever He pleases with the universe. Allah has the power to do everything He wills and controls how our lives will progress and how they will end. Everything Allah has created should make man turn to Him. He has given us life, provisions, and sustenance so that we may exist. With this in mind, we should all have *Taqwa* (the apprehension of losing the love of Allah, righteousness) since He is the sole benefactor of all our needs. Overall, we should supplicate to Allah, our Creator and Maker, and turn to Him in every aspect of our lives as He alone has all the power.

Allah Al Khaliq: The World of Animals

Written by Ruqaiya Asad

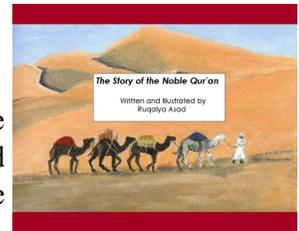
This is a book for children. The book contains original photos and simple text with Qur'anic references and scientific facts that appeal to children's natural interest. Purchase at: islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com.



The Story of the Noble Qur'an

Written by Ruqaiya Asad

This is a book for children. It tells the story of the Qur'an's revelation and significance in a simple, child friendly story. All original, oil illustrations. Purchase this book at: islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com



My Favorite Hadith

Jazib Bhatti, 10, Columbus, OH

“He who is not kind to our younger ones and does not recognize the right of our elders, is not from among us” (Abu Dāwūd). The meaning of this Ḥadīth is that elders must treat their young ones with kindness and the younger ones must show respect and regard to their elders. In this way, there will be peace in society. The way I can use this Ḥadīth in my daily life is by being nice to elders and kind to people who are younger than I. A good example of this is how Sadr Majlis addresses me whenever I meet him. Although he is older than I, he is always respectful and kind. Jason Uncle, another elder from my mosque, always talks to me with respect and greets me nicely as well.

The Holy Qur’ān also states that no one should look down upon another one, and,



the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that the one, who does not follow this advice, is not from among us. Both points take us back to the Ḥadīth mentioned above. Sadr Majlis’s and Jason

Uncle’s kindness is very important to me because not only are they my elders, but role models for me and the rest of the Jamā‘at as well. They both show this by following the Qur’ānic teaching and the Ḥadīth through their example. In my daily life, I show respect to my parents, teachers and elders by listening to them and doing as they say because all of them are my mentors.

FATHERS

Kiran Mahmood / Age 11 / Cypress, Houston

Fathers and mothers are very important in every religion but especially in Islam. Ḥaḍrat Abu Umamah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that once a man asked the Holy Prophet (peace and blessing of God be upon him) about the rights of parents upon their children. He replied that, "The parents are the Heaven or Hell for their children." Ibn Mājah. Fathers are given an important role in Islam to provide for their families. You should always listen to your mother and father because Ḥaḍrat Abdullah Bin Amr (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) said: "The pleasure of Allah lies in the pleasure of the father and the displeasure of Allah lies in the displeasure of the father."

Once, Ḥaḍrat Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) came across two people traveling. He asked the young boy about the man traveling with him. The young boy replied that the man was his father. Then Ḥaḍrat Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) strictly advised the son to never call his father by name and to never walk ahead of his father and to never take a seat before his father takes a seat first in a gathering. This shows how much respect you should show to your father because they are so important and play a big role in our lives as I have seen from my own eleven years of experience.

Allah the Creator

By Aleena Dard / age 8 / Research Triangle NC

Allah created the whole universe. Allah is one and He has all the power. He is watching us all the time. He listens to our prayers, so we should pray to him. He never sleeps. Allah has no wife or children. Allah created the earth, heaven and solar system. Allah created food, water, and air so we can use these things and live happily in this world. Allah has all the knowledge. We cannot hide anything from Him. He gives life and causes death. He accepts our prayers and shows mercy to us. He forgives our faults. He guides us to the right path. He has given us good parents. We should always be thankful to Allah.

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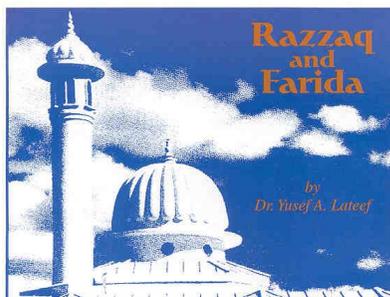
Razzaq and Farida

A story for children by Dr. Yusef A. Lateef.

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“Paradise is under the feet of mothers”

Haskeel Ahmer/ Age 7/ Fitchburg, MA

Mothers have such a tremendous influence on the upbringing of their children that good training by a mother can turn the children into pious and God-fearing individuals who will enter paradise. Secondly, this Ḥadīth may be taken to imply that one can render such service to one's mother and please God so much, as to become worthy of paradise.



Ḥaḍrat Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) relates that once a person came to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessing be upon him) and asked, ‘O Messenger of Allah, who is the most deserving person to get nice treatment from me?’ He replied, ‘Your mother.’ He asked, ‘Who next?’ To this, he got the same reply. When he repeated this question for the fourth time, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, ‘Your father’ (Sahih Muslim, Book 32, Number 6180).

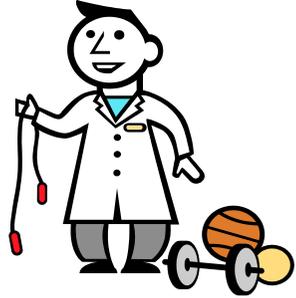
Once a person came to Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and sought his advice about taking part in Jihad with him. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked him whether his mother was alive? He answered ‘yes’. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessing be upon him) then told him, ‘Go back home and serve her as Heaven was under her feet’ (Ibn Majah). Allah has given her a very high status and many virtues and rewards. May Allah give a long and healthy life to all mothers and give us the guidance to take good care of them.

MY FATHER, MY FRIEND

Hibbah Tul-Noor Khan/10/ Michigan

I like my dad for so many reasons, but I have some favorites and that's what I am going to talk about.

The first reason I like my dad is because he is a physical therapist. Because he is a physical therapist, every time we get hurt or something, he's always there for us with advice. For example: My grandma came to my house one day with an aching back. She said she tried everything but nothing helped. So my mom told my dad, and my dad recommended putting very hot water on it, and that's exactly what she did. The very next day my grandma felt as good as new.



Another reason I like my dad is because he is a great helper with the Jamā'at. I like that because sometimes he gets these very hard and important duties, and my sisters and I get to help him. For example: Once my dad said that he had to make sure that the masjid was super clean and if it was not, he had to clean it. So he asked my mom if my sisters and I were free, and she said, yes. So, then, he took us to the masjid and we got to help him do his duty. We cleaned the women's side while he was cleaning the men's side. And that was fun.

The last reason I like about my dad that I am going to talk about is that he is my dad. My dad has so many wonderful talents in him and that is why my sisters and I are so wonderfully talented on the inside, my mom tells us.

My dad is so amazing and I love him for so many reasons but these are just a few. I hope you think your dad is really amazing too.

Congratulations to Ayaan Shah, Huda Bajwa, Bariah Bajwa, Inaaya Chaudry, Mahrosh Waqas and Aiza Waseem of Lehigh Valley on the completion of Qur'an Nazira, that is, their first reading of Arabic text of the Holy Qur'an. Bārakallāhu Lahum. (Naseem Waseem, President Lehigh Valley Jama'at.

How Fathers are important in Islam

By Eesha Alladin / Age 9 / Long Island, NY

We all know how mothers are important in Islam. This is why I am going to tell you what fathers should do. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing of God be upon him) said that if father takes good care of his daughters, In Sha Allah, you and your parents will have a house in heaven. Also, Allah says in the Qur'ān that parents hold the next highest status after our beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him). Allah gave us a father because we need food, shelter and more. Allah says in chapter 17 verse 24, “Thy Lord has commanded, “Worship none but Him, and show kindness to parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age with thee, never say unto them any word expressive of disgust nor reproach them, but address them with excellent speech.”

We will try to listen to our father and be obedient to him, and remember to be kind to him, In Sha Allah.

The Importance of Purdah

“And say to the believing women that they restrain their eyes and guard their private parts, and that they disclose not their natural and artificial beauty except that which is apparent thereof...” Chapter 24, Verse 32.

I want to talk about the importance of modesty in Islam termed as Ḥijāb, Niqāb, veil or Purdah (Parda). The verse I have just quoted from our beautiful book, the Holy Qur’ān, clearly states the requirements of observing Ḥijāb or Parda as a matured girl. We all come to that age where we develop and blossom into young women. Allah Ta’ala is our Creator, All Knowing. He knows us more than we know ourselves and is aware of how we develop. As servants of God, we should all understand that whatever God Almighty has prescribed for us, it is for our own good. Allah has told us to veil our hair and bodies, and as Ahmadi girls, we should abide by this to the best of our abilities.



Purdah gives a woman honor, dignity, and protection from unwanted advances. Wearing a Hijab and observing Purdah of our body decreases the importance of physical beauty, and a woman is free to explore other talents.

Purdah in any way should not be thought as an imprisonment. We wear these garments to be protected to go out whether it is going to school, going to work or just meeting with friends.

As Ahmadi Nasirat and, In Sha Allah, Ahmadi Lajna of

the future, we need to prepare ourselves as Purdah-observing girls and defend the institution of Purdah. Purdah helps us stand out to show the world the strength of our faith and Ahmadiyyat. We should wear our outer garments with dignity and pride, not with embarrassment.

Important sayings of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) have been collected in two chapters, “The Woman” and “The Veil,” in *The Essence of Islam, Volume 3*. There he describes the importance of the Hijab, in detail. He said, “The veil is essential now, because this is the era of mankind, and the earth is full of vice, debauchery, and drunkenness. Hearts are filled with atheism and are lacking of respect for divine commandments.” How knowledgeable is our Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) who knows that this is even occurring today.

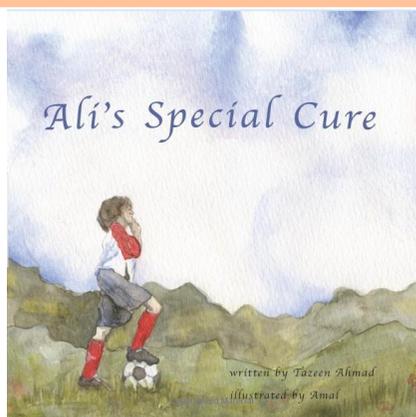
Now becoming familiar with the importance, let us all reflect on this beautiful blessing that Allah, the Kind and Ever-Merciful, has bestowed on us. We should accept this blessing and adopt it from here to move forward. May Allah grant us all the ability to do so. *Āmīn*.

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THE ROLE OF FATHERS IN ISLAM

Adnan Alladin / Age 13 / Long Island, NY



Fathers have an important role in life, but in Islam they play a special part for their children that makes them necessary in our daily life. Without them our lives would change completely.

There is a very important Ḥadīth which relates that:

“God’s pleasure is in the pleasure of the father, and God’s displeasure is in the displeasure of the father.”

Fathers are significant because they are commanded by Allah to work hard to provide the physical and spiritual needs for their children.

Again, a saying of the Prophet is that if a father raises and educates 3 daughters or more, he will be granted a house in heaven. Although it is a big responsibility taking care of 3 or more daughters, it brings a great reward.

In my life, my father helps me memorize prayers so that I do not fall behind in memorization. He also helped me memorize long prayers like Darūd Sharif (Salatun-Nabi) by reading them to me every night so that I do not forget them.



What I do not understand sometimes is that if he is a doctor and I almost never see him because he comes home really late, how come he bothers to help me in memorization instead of going to sleep after a long day of work like other fathers do... Well, I guess I was right that fathers in Islam play a special role in our lives.

How Fathers are Important in Ahmadi Life

Aafia Alladin, 10, Long Island, NY

Did you know that there is a Ḥadīth that says to respect your father? Fathers are important in Islam. If it was not for your father who would pay the bills, and who would take you to exciting places? So that is how fathers help us.

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was a father when he grew up.

He was a loving caring father. He taught his own kids to respect and love Allah. If it was not for the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), the fathers would be doing the wrong things like killing baby girls, not educating the girls, and making them believe in idols instead of Allah. So you should thank the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) for teaching the fathers to become loving and caring to their daughters by praying for blessings on him through reciting Darūd Sharif often.

Allah sent the Holy Qur'ān to teach everyone. It says that you must respect and listen to your father. You should always help your father whenever he needs it. Spend time with your



father as much as possible. Fathers can help you in learning Qur'ān and prayers. And sometimes your father may give speeches or lead Salat at the mosque and you should listen to him attentively. If it was not for the Holy Qur'ān, people would be doing bad deeds.

Al-Hamdu Lillah that my father helps us by teaching and reading from the Holy Qur'ān. So we should learn how to respect and help our fathers. We should always take care of and be really nice to our father, In Sha Allah.

My Favorite Hadith

Omer Syed, 10

My favorite Ḥadīth is "Try to Remove Evil." The translation of the Ḥadīth is, "Whoever of you sees something repugnant to morals or faith he should change it by his hand. If he has not the strength to do so then by the word of the mouth. And if he cannot do so then dislike it at heart (and endeavor to reform through prayer), but he would say that this was the weakest of faith."

It is my favorite because it talks about different ways to deal with evil that we encounter in our lives and it tells how to fight evil in the cause of Allah. We can implement this Ḥadīth in our daily lives.

For example, we might see someone dump trash on the sidewalk and it may disturb others walking there. The Ḥadīth tells us that you can pick up the trash yourself, but



if that person stops you, you can tell them to clean it up because it disturbs others, but if you cannot even do that, then you can dislike it in your heart and pray to Allah to make it right.

The Holy Qu'ran

AL-KITAB: Saad Amir/10/Las Vegas, NV

The Holy Qur'an is a familiar book that all Muslims know but do we really know what it is? The Holy Qur'an was revealed to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The Holy Qur'an is a compilation of the revelations to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) over a period of 22 years. Millions of its copies are circulating in the world today. Other names for The Holy Qu'ran are: Al-Kitab, Al-Furqan Al-Dhikr, Al-Bayan, Al-Burhan, Al-Haqq, Al-Tanzil, Al-Hikmat, Al-Huda, Al-Hukm, Al-Mau'izah, Al-Rahmat, Al-Noor, and Al-Ruh.

The text of The Holy Qur'an remains unchanged over the past 1400 years. God says in The Holy Qu'ran:

“Surely it's we who have revealed the exposition, and surely it is we who are its guardians.” (15:10)

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نُزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ ﴿١٥﴾

The Holy Qu'ran contains:

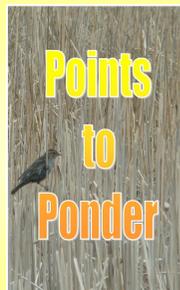
1. Nature of the spiritual world, God, His attributes, and man's relationship to Him.
2. The law and commandments for its followers.
3. Historical accounts of prophets.
4. The words of wisdom and judgment for truth and right.
5. The prophecies regarding good news for the believers and warnings for the disbelievers.
6. Arguments for accepting the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as a genuine prophet.

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may Allah be pleased with him.

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My Father, My Friend

Muneeb Sharif, 10, Boston, MD

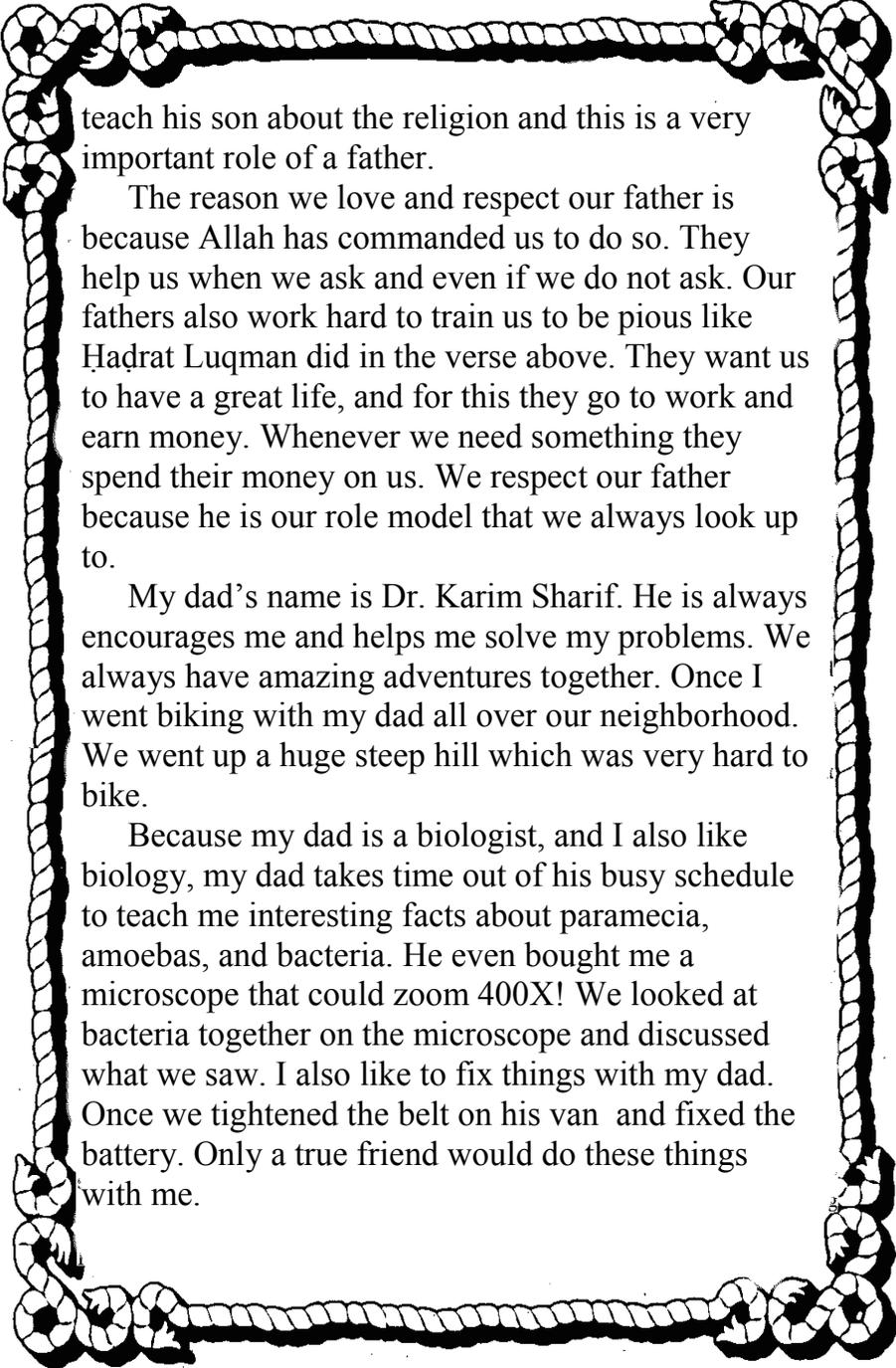
وَإِذْ قَالَ لُقْمَانُ لِابْنِهِ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ
يَبْنَى لَا تَشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ
نُظُمٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٤﴾

“And remember when **Luqman** said to his son while exhorting him, ‘O my dear son! Associate not partners with Allah. Surely, associating partners *with God* is a grievous wrong.’” (Chapter 31, Verse 14)

In this verse, Allah the Almighty gives us an excellent example about the great role of a father. The role of a father is to teach children what to do in both the spiritual world and the world around us. This verse shows us the kindness **Hadrat Luqman** showed to his son by using the words, “O my dear son”.

Hadrat Luqman not only taught his son that he should never associate partners with Allah but he also taught him what to do in life and what not to do. In the next few verses, **Hadrat Luqman** teaches his son to observe Prayer, enjoin good, forbid evil, show patience in times of hardship, not be arrogant, not walk too fast or too slow, and speak in a dignified tone (Chapter 31, Verses 18-20).

This shows that **Hadrat Luqman** always wanted to



teach his son about the religion and this is a very important role of a father.

The reason we love and respect our father is because Allah has commanded us to do so. They help us when we ask and even if we do not ask. Our fathers also work hard to train us to be pious like Ḥadrāt Luqman did in the verse above. They want us to have a great life, and for this they go to work and earn money. Whenever we need something they spend their money on us. We respect our father because he is our role model that we always look up to.

My dad's name is Dr. Karim Sharif. He is always encourages me and helps me solve my problems. We always have amazing adventures together. Once I went biking with my dad all over our neighborhood. We went up a huge steep hill which was very hard to bike.

Because my dad is a biologist, and I also like biology, my dad takes time out of his busy schedule to teach me interesting facts about paramecia, amoebas, and bacteria. He even bought me a microscope that could zoom 400X! We looked at bacteria together on the microscope and discussed what we saw. I also like to fix things with my dad. Once we tightened the belt on his van and fixed the battery. Only a true friend would do these things with me.

Pappa kī Jaan

Rabeea Summer Rehman, 13, Orlando, FL

How cool would it be to go inside airplanes and see the cockpits and all the systems of the aircraft? How about if you got to go with your father and learn about all the parts? I would call myself quite lucky, from the grace of Allah, to have a pappa like him. But that is not all I would like to tell about him, because there is so much more to my pappa.

When he is off work, we do a lot of things, like we go canoe in the river and swim with manatees! Off ground, we have gone to a lot of places around the world like England, where we met beloved Hudur, went to see Buckingham Palace; Japan, where we ate unique foods; India, where we went to Qadian and visited the Bahishti Magbara, Masjid Aqsa, Masjid Mubarak, the home of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), got the chance to pray in Bait-ud-Du‘a, and attend the Jalsa with Hudur. We also got to see the Taj Mahal!



The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) loved his children and other kids. He would always join to play their games with them and would always be polite. At his time, people would kill their baby girls because they were ashamed of having a daughter. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) stopped this practice. When the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw his daughter, Ḥaḍrat Fatima (may Allah be pleased with her) enter the room, the Holy Prophet would rise from his seat, kiss her on the forehead and have her seated in his own space. An Arab chief once saw the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) kiss his grandsons and told him that he never kissed any of his ten children. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) replied, "One who has no pity for others is himself not pitied by Allah." Then said, "If Allah leaves your heart barren

of love, I cannot help you."

My pappa is not only a friend to me and my two sisters but also our heart, godsend, and the apple of our eye. Pappa calls me "Pappa ki Jaan" which means "Father's life." I respect him dearly because he helps me and my whole family from big things to small things in everyday life. The most cherished time of my life is when Pappa leads Prayer at home and when I call out Takbīr before he starts the congregational Prayer. He works hard all night at work and also works really hard on serving the Jamā'at. He is my role model because he works so hard and always tries to keep me and my family happy. I always forget to say thank you to my pappa for all that he does but every night, I never forget to pray to Allah for my family and for him to have a long, healthy life. I also pray that may Allah enable me to make my pappa happy all the time. And that I will remain "Pappa ki Jaan" always. Āmīn.



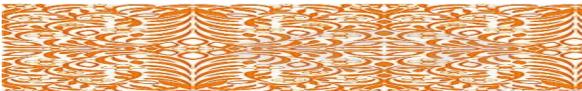
Every Day is Father's Day

Hiba Nasir, 7, Minnesota

I like to celebrate Father's Day because my father is very nice. He always gets me everything whatever I want. Guess what? I made a card for my father and he liked it very much. He gave me a reward of \$1.

I wish that everyone cared about their fathers.

Always obey them and be very kind to them.



My Favorite Sayings (Hadith) of the Holy Prophet The Perfect Example and Father

Rabea Chaudhry, 13, Miami, FL

- Each night, our Lord descends to the lowest sky and when one third of the night is left, He says: “Is there anyone who will call Me so that I could respond to his call? Is there anyone who will ask Me (for anything) so that I could give him (what he desires)? Is there anyone who will ask Me for forgiveness, so that I could forgive him?” (Tirmidhi)
- “Pursuit of knowledge is a duty of every Muslim, man and woman.” (Ibni Mājah)
- “A Muslim is one against whose tongue and hands other Muslims are secure, and an Emigrant is one who departs from what Allah has forbidden.” (Bukhari)
- “A person who builds a mosque for the sake of Allah, Allah builds a similar house for that person in the Paradise.” (Sahih Muslim)
- “In the name of Allah, peace be on the Messenger of Allah. O my Lord, Forgive my sins and open the gates of Thy mercy to me.” (Musnad Ahmad)
- “Strive against the idolaters with your wealth, your persons and your tongues.” (Abu Dawūd)
- “The one who admonishes others to do good deeds is like the one who actually does good deeds.” (Musnad Imam al-A‘zam)
- “Respect your children and give them good moral training.” (Ibni Mājah)
- “The one who is consulted is a confidant.” (Tirmidhi)
- “If someone asks you for an advice then give the best advice. If you do not, you have been dishonest to the person.” (Musnad Imam al-A‘zam)
- “If your neighbors praise you, you are good. If your neighbors say you are bad, you are bad.” (Ibni Mājah)
- “Cleanliness is a requirement of faith.” (Sahih Muslim)

My Father, My Friend

Waleed Ahmed/ Miami, Florida

Relationship between father and son has been illustrated in the Holy Qur'ān from many angles. Father has been entrusted with responsibility of bringing up children in a loving manner, and teach them duties to God Almighty and to the fellow human beings. The children have been enjoined to obey their parents, and treat them with utmost love and kindness.

Ḥaḍrat Ibrahīm Alaihis-Salam was always seeking a way to please Allah Ta'ala, and no sacrifice was too big for him. For this love of Allah, Ḥaḍrat Ibrahīm (may peace be upon him) was called 'Khalilullah'—friend of Allah. For our guidance, his relationship with his father, and his son has been highlighted in The Holy Qur'ān. Allah Ta'ala loved the story of sacrifice of Ḥaḍrat Ibrahīm (may peace be upon him), his wife and his son so much that we have been enjoined to re-enact this at least once in our life time in the form of pilgrimage to Mecca. Ḥaḍrat Ibrahīm (may peace be upon him) argued with his father to persuade him to stop worshipping idols. It was grievously wrong for his father (Āzar) to associate partners with God Almighty. Allah says in The Holy Qur'ān.

“And remember the time when Abraham said to his father Āzar: 'Dost thou take idols for gods? Surely, I see thee and thy people in manifest error.' (Chapter 6, Verse 75)

If any father is misguided, and teaches his son to worship anyone else other than Allah then the son is required not to obey him, and try to correct him, and pray for him. In such an event, The Holy Qur'ān gives guidance in the following manner.

“And Abraham's asking forgiveness for his father was only



because of a promise he had made to him, but when it became clear to him that he was an enemy of Allah, he dissociated from him. Surely, Abraham was most tender hearted, forbearing.” (9:114)

Allah has illustrated the role of a father by giving example of another father. “And relate the story of Ishmael as mentioned in the Book. He was indeed strict in keeping his promise. And he was a Messenger, a Prophet.”

“He used to enjoin Prayer, and almsgiving to his people, and he was well pleasing to his Lord.” (Chapter 19, Verses 56-57)

Ḥaḍrat Ishmael (may peace be upon him) brought up his children on the same path, as he learnt from his father Ḥaḍrat Ibrahīm (may peace be upon him). The special bond between a father and son is highlighted in the Holy Qur’ān to explain the first and the most important obligation of man by narrating advice of a father (Ḥaḍrat Luqman, Alaihis-Salam) to his son. “And remember when Luqman said to his son while exhorting him, ‘O my dear son! associate not partners with Allah. Surely associating partners with God is a grievous wrong.’ (Chapter 31, Verse 14)

Allah has not deemed it necessary to mention the name of the son. Here, the role of a father is highlighted as a teacher, and a mentor to teach his children the highest obligation—worshipping Allah, and to mold our lives upon the attributes of God Almighty. The next verse describes the second most important obligation. “And we have enjoined on man concerning his parents—his mother bears him in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning takes two years—give thanks to Me, and to thy parents. Unto Me is the final return. (Chapter 31, Verse 15)

Immediately after the highest obligation, Allah has added, the service to our parents, as the next most important obligation. Allah has described the reason for making it the second most important obligation. A father or mother does not need to be rich or famous to deserve respect and kindness. With all their weaknesses, and shortcomings, Allah is reminding us of the sacrifice made by our parents to help us grow up and become useful members of the society. Those among us, who may have new born baby brothers or sisters, can witness how our parents take care of the baby. No sacrifice is too big for a mother to ensure the safety and well-being of a baby.

In Sura Al-Ahqaf, Verse 16, of The Holy Qur'ān, Allah enjoins upon us again to be good to our parents and later in verse 17, describes the reward for this good deed.

“Those are they from whom We accept their good works, and overlook their ill deeds. They shall be among the inmates of the Garden, in fulfillment of the true promise, which was made to them.”

For being good to our parents, it is a great reward to be forgiven for our mistakes and permitted to enter paradise. This is also highlighted in a Ḥadīth, which was narrated by Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr Siddique, may Allah be pleased with him. The Prophet of Allah said (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): Shall I apprise you of the three great sins? We said, ‘Aye, O Prophet of Allah.’ He said: ‘Hearken! The biggest sin is setting up equals to Allah, and then disobedience of thy parents, and neglect of your duty to them,’ and leaving the cushion he was leaning against, and sitting up in a roused manner, he said with great force, “Hearken! And lying,” And he repeated so many times that we wished he had left it off, and not strained himself so much. (Bukhari)

A man came to The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of

Allah be upon him) and said, “O, Messenger of Allah, I am prepared to make a covenant of migration, and I am prepared to make a covenant to take part in the Jihād, for I am anxious to win the pleasure of God.” The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) inquired if his parents were alive, and the man told him that both were alive. He then asked. “ Are you indeed anxious to win the pleasure of God?” The man replied affirmatively. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “Then go back to your parents, and serve them, and serve them well.”

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, The Promised Messiah, Alaihis-Salām, writes in his book *Kashti Nūh*, “He is not of my community who does not respect his parents.” The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) loved his children immensely. Once his son Mahmūd (later Second Khalīfa, and Muslih Mau‘ūd) was playing with matches, and he accidentally burnt the manuscript of a book which was being written by the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). Everyone was worried about this accident, and could not perceive how annoyed the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) would be. Upon learning about the accidental burning of a manuscript of a book, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) ignored the whole incident saying that Allah would enable him to write a better book. Ordinarily, any child would have been considered deserving some kind of punishment, but it would have been wrong. Punishment does not teach anything, and may harden some times the wrong doer.

The fourth Khalīfa, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (rahimahullah) regularly used to wake his daughters for Fajr Prayer (morning obligatory prayer), but he would never go back to ascertain that they have woken-up. One request to wake up was considered sufficient, and this confidence was returned with instilling the sense of responsibility.

My father asks me to offer Prayers at the proper time, and recite the Holy Qur'ān. My father also accompanies me to sporting events of my choice, such as basketball, swimming, soccer, etc. Occasionally we all go to a restaurant to enjoy food from other countries.

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My Abu

Rehan Mahmood Khan
Age 7, Los Angeles East

I am thankful to Allah for my dad because he teaches me the Qur'ān and Qasīdah, and he takes care of the family and he protects us. He also gets doughnuts for me on the way to Sunday class at the Masjid. My favorite doughnut is glazed buttermilk. Thanks Abu!



I LOVE MY FATHER, HE'S MY VERY BEST FRIEND!

Mehreen Piracha / Age 9 / Dallas, TX

I love my father.
My father is caring,
He is also loving.
He tells many things
Such as right from wrong,
That gives pleasant rings.
He fills my brain with religious stories
So I can be strong in my faith.
If I give him respect,
What I expect
Is he will give it right back.
He provides for me
for the things I need.
School days I read,
The Qur'ān is what I need.
I read with him,
I give him a fancy grin.
He takes me to the park,
And we make chalk marks.
We go out on our bikes,
As well as walking hikes.
I love my father
I love my father
Islam says respect your father,
Respect your mother,
And your elder
And Allah is happier.
I end this poem
with a prayer,
"My Lord, have mercy on them
Even as they nourished me
In my childhood."



My Father, My Friend

Tirzah Khan, Age 13, Baltimore Jamā‘at

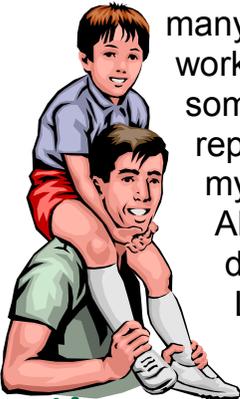
Ever since I was little, my father was constantly there for me and my siblings, whether it was the little things, like patiently driving my little brother and me to school after we missed the bus (again!), or the big ones, like catching my little brother after he accidentally fell down the stairs.

My father is possibly my favorite person in my family. He looks quite intimidating, with a half-bald head and professional demeanor, but everyone in my family knows that, deep down, he is actually quite a softie. He has a remarkable sense of humor according to my siblings and me, although my mother would disagree.

He named me Tirzah, a Hebrew name from the Bible, meaning delightful. As a result, I have always had a soft spot for him, even though he still mixes my sister's name with mine.

When I was little, my dad loved me more than anyone else in the family. As a baby, I spent hours resting on his stomach while we played together. My favorite spot in the home was my father's lap. I would sit there for hours at a time, while my dad was working on his computer. By age 2, I was quite capable of using the computer from his many lessons. I sat on his knees whenever he was working on a project. If he needed prayers for something, he would say the words and I repeated after him in our miniscule kitchen, while my mom prepared food. Daddy believed that Allah listened to my prayers. And He always did.

Like most fathers, mine taught me how to ride my bike. Unlike most fathers, mine once



drove a U-Haul truck onto the grass in front of our new home in the pouring rain, only for it to get stuck in the mud. He taught me how to dribble a soccer ball, and cheered for me even after I did not make the middle school soccer team.

At the time, these all seemed like natural, fatherly gestures, but as I look back, I feel so blessed, knowing that Allah Ta'ala has given me an amazing father. I have a renewed sense of love and appreciation for both Allah Ta'ala and Daddy, the greatest father on earth.



My Dad

Seher Ambar Khan/Age 9
Los Angeles East

I am thankful to Allah for my dad because he is extremely strong and can lift me up. He is very funny and has a great sense of humor. He makes us laugh all the time with his hilarious jokes and funny stories and by imitating our favorite characters. Finally, he teaches me a lot about Islam and about being an eye doctor. I pray a lot for my dad and I know he always prays for me too.



Glossary

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

Aḥādīth احاديث: Plural of Ḥadīth.

al-Hilāl : الهلال The new moon.

‘Alaihis-Salām عليه السلام : may peace be on him

Āmīn [Āmeen] : آمين So be it. Amen.

As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum عليكم السلام: 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.)

Behishti Maqbarah بهشتی مقبره : heavenly graveyard. Graveyard established by the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

Bukhārī: بخاری : The most reliable source of the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, peace and blessings of Allāh be on him.

Darūd, Darood [Urdū] (Durūd in Persian) درود : blessings, benediction, salutation.

Ḥadīth حَدِيث : Saying of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, ṣallallāhu ‘alaihi wa sallam. a verified account of a statement or action.

Ḥaḍrat حَضْرَت [Hadhrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

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

Jamā’at, Jamā’ah جماعت : Community, Organization. community of believers.

Jihād جهاد : strife

Maulawī مولوی : Muslim priest, Muslim divine.

Muḥammad مُحَمَّد : Praiseworthy, commendable, laudable. Holy Prophet and founder of Islām (571-632), peace and blessings of Allāh be on him.

Muṣliḥ Mau’ūd, Muṣliḥ-i-Mau’ūd, Musleh Mau’ood: مُصْلِح مَوْعُود (The Promised Reformer): Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Bashīr-ud-Dīn Maḥmūd

Aḥmad (1889-1965), Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II, raḍiyallāhu ‘anhu, who fulfilled the prophesy of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, about the advent of a Reformer.

Qādiān قَادِيَان : A town in northwest India where Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad, the Promised Messiah and Mahdī, ‘alaihis-salām, lived.

Qur’ān, Quran, Koran قرآن : recitation, a book most read. The Holy Book revealed to Muḥammad, ṣallallāhu ‘alaihi wa sallam, in Arabic over 23 years.

raḥimahullāh رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ : May Allah have mercy on him

ṣaḥīḥ صَحِيح : correct

Ṣalāt صَلَاة : Formal Prayer offered according to a prescribed procedure. Thus, Ṣalātut-Tahajjud, Ṣalātul-Fajr, Ṣalātuz-Zuḥr, Ṣalātul-‘Asr, Ṣalātul-Maghrib, Ṣalātul-‘Ishā.

Siddique صَدِيق : Truthful

Sīrah, Sirat, Seerat, Seerah سِيرَة، سِيرَت : character, biography, way of life, conduct

Sūrah سُورَة : A chapter of the Holy Qur’ān. There are 114 Sūrahs (chapters)—of various lengths—in the Holy Qur’ān.

Ta’ālā تَعَالَى : The Most High, The Exalted



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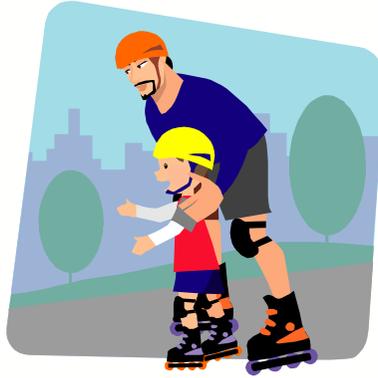
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