

ISLĀM for Younger People

Ghulam Sarwar



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Author's Preface

It is not easy to write books about Islām for younger Muslim children. Despite my many limitations in the skills of the English language and the knowledge of Islām, I undertook this daunting task in 1981, depending solely on the mercy of my Creator, Almighty Allāh. 'Islām for Younger People' was the outcome of my efforts. At that time, there were very few books about Islām in English for children between the ages of six and eleven. The Muslim Educational Trust published two books in 1969: the First Primer and the Second Primer of Islām. These two books were later published by the Islāmic Foundation as The Children's Book of Islām, Part One and Part Two.

Even though the language had been improved, there are still words like 'worthy', 'obedience', 'sublime', and 'mission' in these books which younger children found difficult to understand. I tested these books on my own children to appreciate their difficulty. I felt the need for a book for younger Muslims which they would enjoy reading and wouldn't just feel bored. The book should be colourful and look attractive in the eyes of younger children. It is indeed very difficult to make abstract facts about Islām understandable and enjoyable for younger children. One has to adjust one's thinking to the level of a child to communicate successfully to children. Alḥamdulillāh (all praise is for Allāh), 'Islām for Younger People' has now reached its fourth edition and seventh print run. 142,000 copies have been printed so far in English. In this edition, I have thoroughly revised the book in its contents, language and presentation. I have introduced Arabic words and terminology. I am grateful to Rajul Islam Ali who has illustrated the book. May Allah reward him.

The crucial importance of laying a solid foundation in the minds of younger children in their formative years cannot be overstated. This foundation helps shape the child's personality. The knowledge about Islām that a child acquires could determine the direction of the child's future and career.

It is heartening to note that there has been appreciable progress in the production of books and audio-visual materials for younger children during the last two decades.

There is still a need for more resources of this type. 'Islām for Younger People' in its revised form will, I hope, inspire and motivate younger children to learn about Islām and put it into practice, inshā'Allāh (if Allāh wills). I hope this book will continue to receive the support of Muslim parents, teachers, booksellers and, above all, the younger Muslims for whom I have written the book.

Most humbly, I beg my Most Merciful and Kind Creator, Almighty Allāh, to accept my efforts and grant me pardon in the Ākhirah. Āmīn.

Shaban 1430 AH
August 2009 CE

Ghulam Sarwar

Parents and Children in Islām

"Be kind to your parents and relatives,
and to orphans and those in need;
and speak nicely to people."

(Al-Qur'ān, chapter 2, verse 83)



"Your Lord has ordered that you worship none but Him
and (show) kindness to your parents,
whether either of them or both of them attain old age in life,
never say to them "ugh!" nor be harsh to them,
but speak to them kindly.

And serve them with tenderness and humility and say,

"My Lord, have mercy on them,
just as they cared for me as a little child."

(Al-Qur'ān, chapter 17, verses 23-24)

A man asked Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ, "O Messenger of Allāh!
Who deserves the best care from me?"

The Prophet ﷺ said, "Your mother." The man asked,

"Who then?" The Prophet ﷺ said, "Your mother."

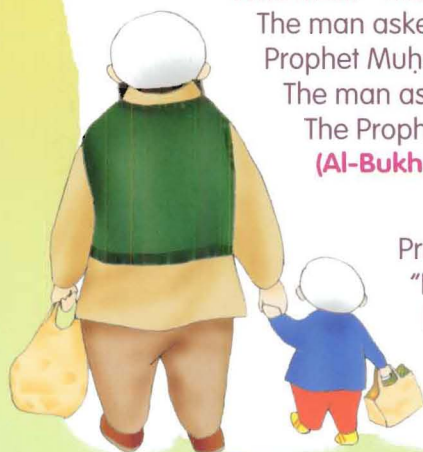
The man asked yet again, "Who then?"

Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ said, "Your mother."

The man asked once more, "Who then?"

The Prophet ﷺ then said, "Your father."

(Al-Bukhārī)



Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ said,
"No father can give his child anything
better than good manners."

(At-Tirmidhī)



Allāh

Dear Children!

Look at the next page.

What do you see?

You see the sun, the moon,
the stars and the sky.

You also see a hill, a river,
flowers and trees.

Who made them?

Allāh made them.

Who made us?

Allāh made us.

Who is Allāh?

Allāh is our maker.
He is the maker of everything.



Where is Allāh?

Allāh is with us all the time.
He knows everything.

What does Allāh do?

Allāh controls
the whole universe
and everything in it.

Is Allāh one?

Yes, Allāh is One.

Who created Allāh?

No one created Allāh.
He is always there
and will always be.
He is the First and the Last.

Has Allāh any partner?

No, Allāh has no partner.

Has Allāh a father or a mother?

No, Allāh has no father or mother.

Has Allāh any sons or daughters?

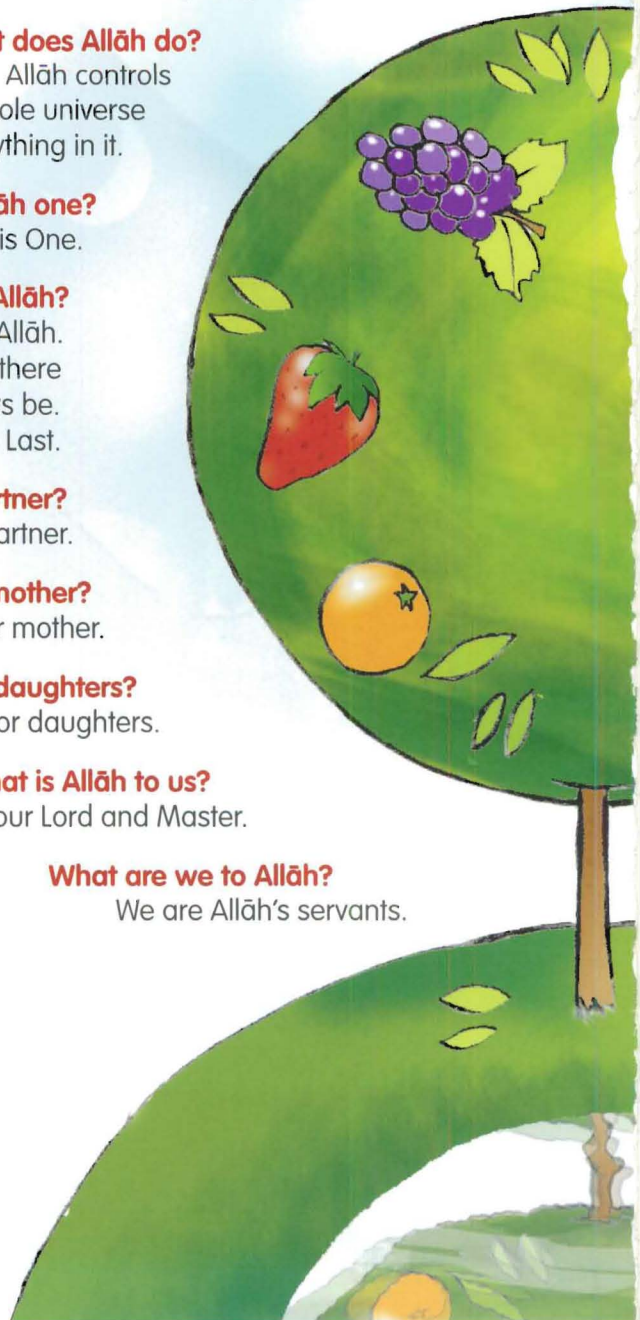
No, Allāh has no sons or daughters.

What is Allāh to us?

Allāh is our Lord and Master.

What are we to Allāh?

We are Allāh's servants.



Why has Allāh made us?

Allāh has made us to worship and obey Him.

Allāh says in the Qur'ān:

"Indeed, I created Jinn and mankind
for no other purpose but to worship me.

" (Sūrah 51, verse 56)

Can we see Allāh?

No, we cannot see Allāh.

Does Allāh see us?

Yes, Allāh sees us all the time.

Allāh (God) is an Arabic word.

Allāh is the Almighty.

He is very Kind and Loving.

He has given us everything we have.

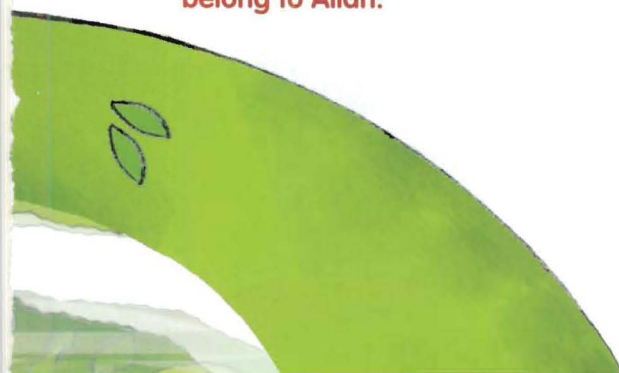
He has given us our fathers and
mothers and our brothers and sisters
who care for us and love us.

He gives us food, water, light, air
and all that we need.

We should thank Allāh for
everything He has given us.

We thank Him by doing
what He commands us to do.

**We and everything on this earth
belong to Allāh.**



Allāh knows everything

Mr Ḥasan had three sons: Fārūq, 'Abdullāh and Qāsim. He loved them very much. He wanted to see them grow up as good Muslims. Mr Ḥasan himself was a good Muslim. He did his best to obey all the commands of Allāh.

One day, Mr Ḥasan thought he would test his sons. He gave each of them some sweets and said, "Eat the sweets in such a place where no one can see you, and when you have done so, come back to me."

Fārūq took the sweets and went to his room. He shut the door from the inside and ate the sweets, thinking that no one could see him there.

'Abdullāh went to the cellar of the house and he was sure that nobody was there. He ate the sweets in the darkness of the cellar.

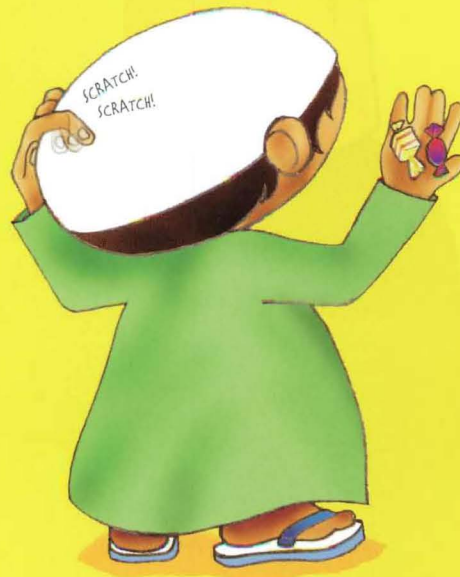


Qāsim thought and thought about a place where he could eat the sweets without anyone seeing him. He could think of no such place. Every time he thought about a place, he remembered Allāh could see him. So he did not eat the sweets.

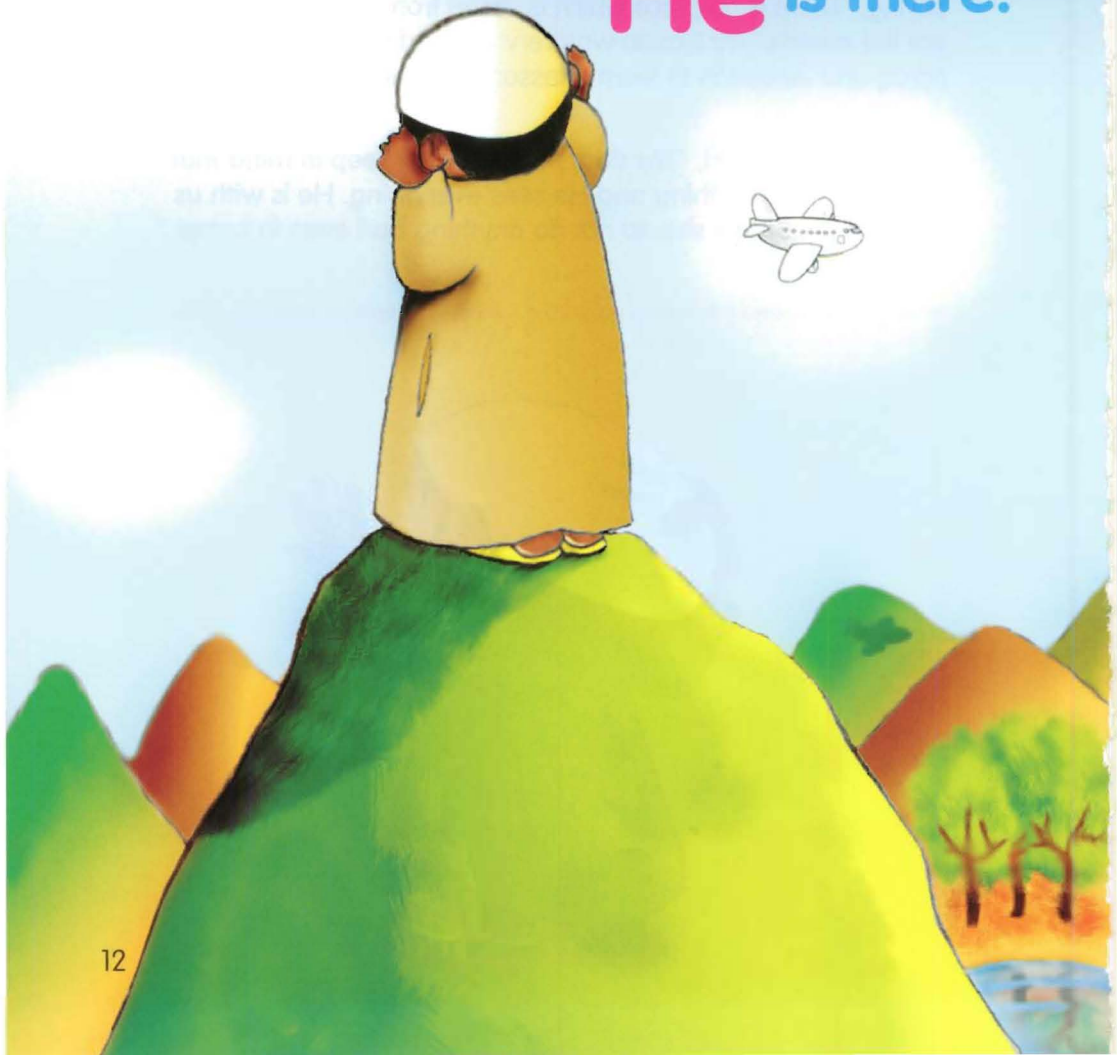
Fārūq and 'Abdullāh came back and told Mr Ḥasan about what they did. Qāsim came and returned the sweets to his father saying, "There is no place which is secret from Allāh, so I did not eat the sweets." Mr Ḥasan was very pleased with Qāsim. He told Fārūq and 'Abdullāh to learn a lesson from their brother Qāsim.

Mr Ḥasan also said, "My dear sons, always keep in mind that Allāh knows everything and He sees everything. He is with us all the time. So we should not do anything bad even in secret."

This story has been adapted from a story published in 'The Little Star' magazine, Hyderabad, India.



Allāh is One,
And has no partner or son;
He is with us all the time,
Wherever we are,
He is there.



Things to do 1



Answer these questions:

1. Who is our Maker?
2. Why has Allāh made us?
3. Where is Allāh?
4. Does Allāh see us?
5. Has Allāh a son or daughter?
6. Why should we not do anything bad even in secret?

Complete the sentences, filling in the missing words:

- a. Allāh is our _____.
- b. Allāh has no _____.
- c. Allāh sees _____ all the _____.
- d. We _____ Him by doing what He _____ us to do.
- e. Allāh is very _____ and _____.

Islām and Muslims

We have already learned about Allāh. Now we should learn about **Islām** and **Muslims**.

What is Islām?

Islām is an Arabic word.

It is our way of life.

What does Islām mean?

It means to submit to Allāh and obey His commands. If we obey Allāh and do as He commands, we will have peace.

That is why Islām also means peace.

Islām teaches us to lead a good life on this earth. It tells us how to live as good people. It also tells us that Allāh is our Maker and Master. Islām shows us the right way. If we follow Islām, we can be happy and live in peace. So, Islām is a great blessing for us.

How did we come to know about Islām?

We came to know about Islām from the prophets and messengers of Allāh. We will learn more about them later in this book.

Islām began with Ādam ﷺ and was completed at the time of Muḥammad ﷺ.

Muḥammad ﷺ was the final messenger of Allāh on earth.



Who is a Muslim?

A Muslim is a person who follows Islām. If we follow Islām, Allāh gives us peace and happiness.

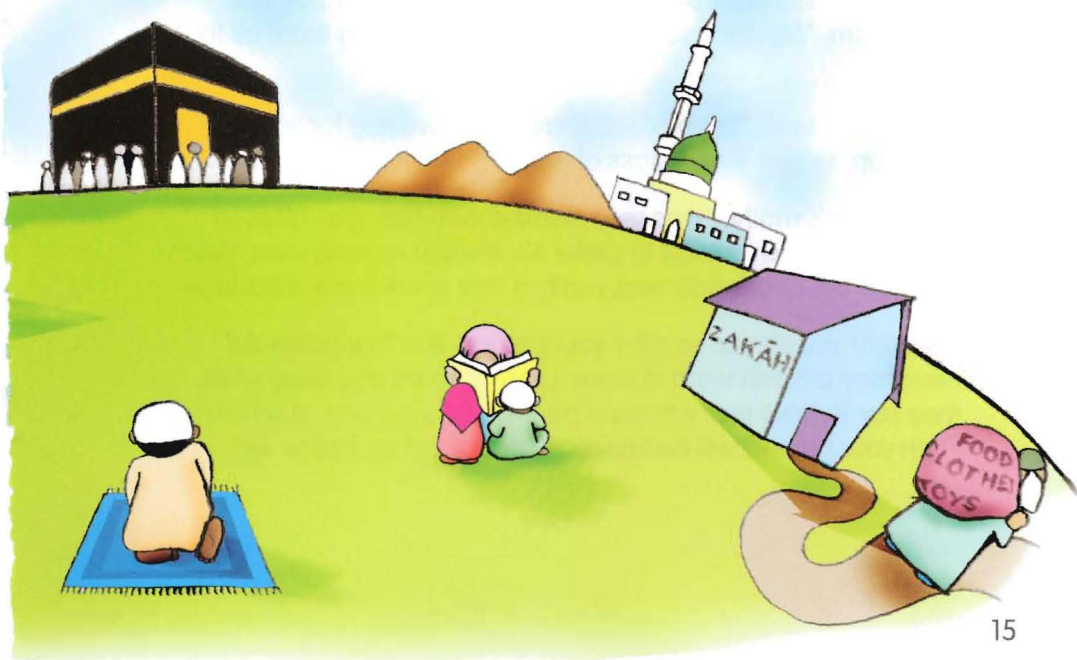
A Muslim will always try to do good. He speaks the truth. He will not lie. He will not do bad things. He helps others. He cares for the old and the needy. He listens to his parents and cares for them. He is polite and cares for other human beings. He always tries to please Allāh.

We feel proud to be Muslims. Allāh has given us the name Muslim. Allāh says in the Qur'ān:

"He named you Muslims before and in this."

(Sūrah 22, verse 78)

O Allāh, Make us good Muslims and make us happy.



Caring for Parents

Our parents are a gift from Allāh. They care for us and help us as we grow up. They love us. They are kind to us. They care very much for our comfort and happiness. So, we must care for our parents. We must always be kind to them. We should listen to what they say. Our parents always want what is best for us. Here is a story about caring for parents.

There once was a great man, named Sharfuddīn Yahyā. He cared a lot for his parents when he was a boy. He obeyed them and was kind to them.

One night his mother was thirsty and asked Sharfuddīn for a glass of water. When Sharfuddīn came to his mother with the glass of water, he found her asleep. He did not think it wise to disturb his mother's sleep. So, he kept standing there with the glass in his hand until his mother awoke.

His mother opened her eyes after a few hours and found Sharfuddīn standing beside her with the glass of water. She asked him, "My dear son, have you been standing there all this time?"

Sharfuddīn said, "Yes mother, I have been waiting for you to wake up, to give you a glass of water."

Sharfuddīn's mother was very pleased with him. She blessed him and prayed to Allāh to make Sharfuddīn a great man. When he grew up, Sharfuddīn was really a very great man of his time.

Children! you should care for your parents like Sharfuddīn did. Never say a harsh word to them. Listen to them and obey what they say. Behave well with your parents. Do your best at school. Then your parents will be happy. Allāh, too will be happy with you.

Indeed, Allāh tells us to be good to our parents.
He says in the Qur'ān:

"And be kind to your parents."
(Sūrah 17, verse 23)

A good Muslim child is kind to his parents. He cares for them.





Complete the sentences, filling in the missing words:

- a. Islām is an _____ .
- b. Islām is our _____ of _____ .
- c. Islām means to _____ to _____ and obey His _____ .
- d. Islām shows _____ the _____ way.
- e. We feel _____ to be _____ .

Answer these questions:

- 1. Who is a Muslim?
- 2. What does a Muslim try to do?
- 3. Who has given us the name Muslim?
- 4. What should a Muslim not do?

Īmān

(Belief)

Now we will learn about Īmān.

Īmān is an Arabic word.

What does Īmān mean?

Īmān means belief or faith.



A person who has Īmān is called a **Mu'min**.
A Muslim is also a Mu'min.

The seven beliefs are given in
Al-Īmanul Mufaṣṣal
(Faith in detail):



آمَنْتُ بِاللّٰهِ
وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ
وَكُتُبِهِ
وَرُسُلِهِ
وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ
وَالْقَدْرِ خَيْرِهِ وَشَرِّهِ
مِنَ اللّٰهِ تَعَالٰى
وَالْبَعْثِ بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ



Āmantu billāhi,	I believe in Allāh,
wa malā'ikatihī,	in His angels,
wa kutubihī,	in His books,
wa rusulihī,	in His messengers,
wal yawmil ākhiri,	in the last day (Day of Judgement)
wal qadri	and in the fact that everything
khairihī wa sharrihī	good or bad
minallāhi ta'ālā,	is decided by Allāh, the Almighty,
wal ba'thi ba'dal mawt.	and in the life after death.



Angels

(Malā'ikah)

Allāh has made us. He has made everything.
Allāh has also made angels.

Who are the angels?

Angels are special servants of Allāh.

Are they different from us?

Yes, they are different from us. Allāh made us from clay but He made the Angels from Nūr (light). We have free will, which means we can choose to do good or bad, but Angels do not have free will.

What do the angels do?

The angels do what Allāh tells them to do. They praise Him all the time. They always obey Him. They can never disobey Allāh. They are always ready to obey Allāh's commands.

There are many angels. Some of the great angels are:

Jibrā'īl or **Jibrīl** (Gabriel) جِبْرَائِيل، جِبْرِيل

Mikā'īl or **Mīkāl** (Michael) مِيكَائِيل، مِيكَال

'Izrā'īl (Malakul Mawt, also called Azrail) عِزْرَائِيل

Isrāfīl إِسْرَافِيل

Everything we say or do is written down by angels. The angels who write down what we do are called Kirāman Kātibūn (Respected Recorders).

Things to do 3



Answer these questions:

1. What is Īmān?
2. What are the seven beliefs of a Muslim?
3. Who are the four great Angels?

Complete the sentences, filling in the missing words:

- a. A person _____ has _____ is called a _____.
- b. Everything we _____ or do is _____ down by _____.
- c. Angels can _____ disobey _____.
- d. A good _____ child is _____ to his _____.

Copy these Arabic words:

a. جِبْرَائِيلُ،

b. مِكَائِيلُ،

c. عِزْرَائِيلُ

d. إِسْرَافِيلُ

Messengers of Allāh

Allāh is our Creator and Master.
He has given us everything to make us happy and comfortable.

Why has Allāh made us?

Allāh has made us to worship and obey Him.

How did Allāh tell us to worship and obey Him?

Allāh told us through His prophets and messengers to worship and obey Him.

Who are the prophets and messengers of Allāh?

The prophets and messengers are Allāh's chosen people. Allāh sent His guidance to them through the angel Jibrā'īl (Gabriel).

What did the prophets and messengers tell us?

They told us and showed us how to worship and obey Allāh.

Why must we obey and worship Allāh?

We must obey and worship Allāh to please Him. If Allāh is pleased with us, He will make us happy in this life. He will also reward us with Paradise in the life after death. We must worship and obey Him because He has made us and has given us all that we have.

We can only please Allāh if we follow the guidance given to the prophets and messengers.

A prophet is called a **Nabi** in Arabic. A messenger is called a **Rasūl**. A messenger is a special prophet who was given a book by Allāh. All the prophets and messengers called people to worship and obey Allāh alone.

Who was the first prophet?

The first prophet was Ādam ﷺ. He was also the first man on earth.



Who was the last and the final prophet of Allāh?

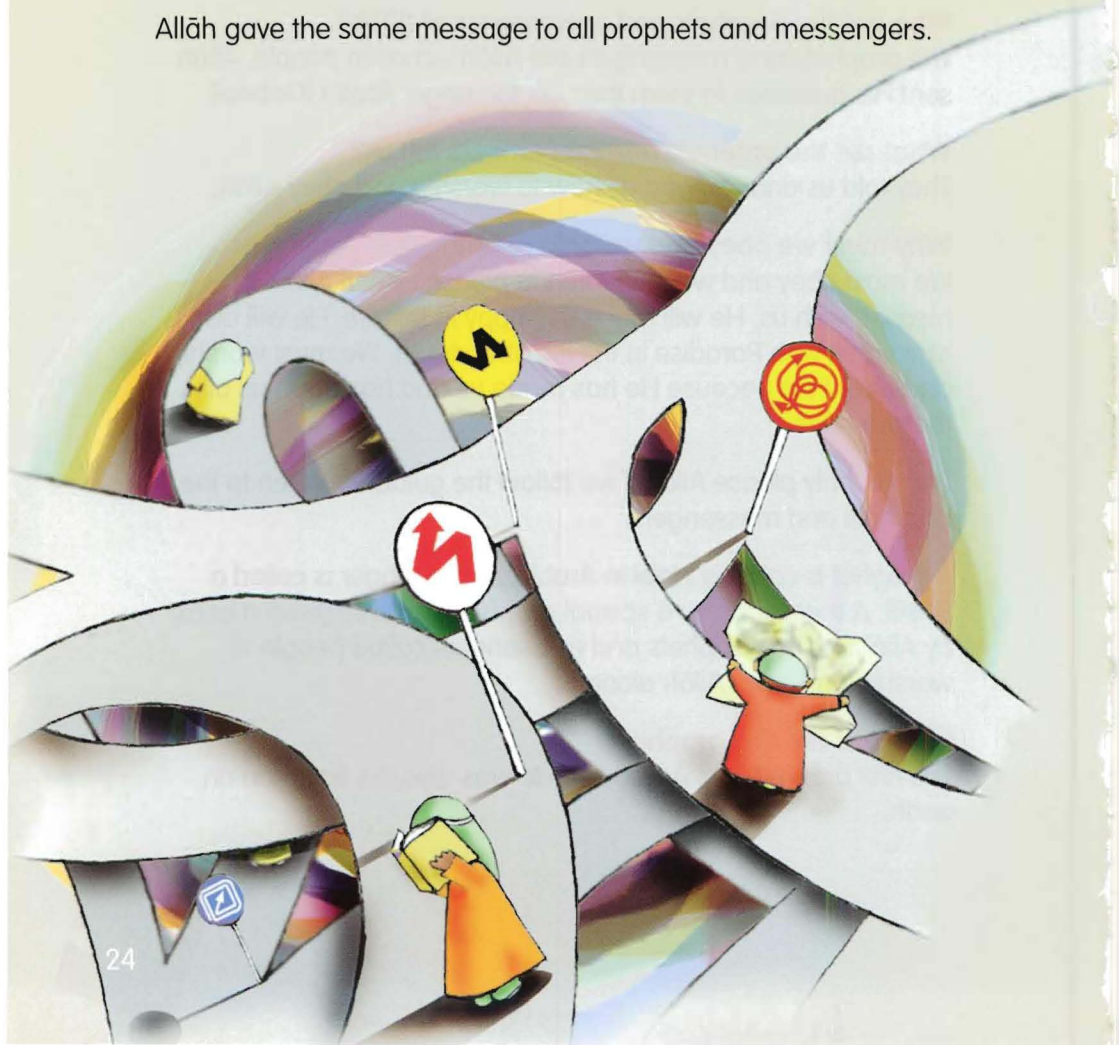
Muḥammad ﷺ was the last and the final prophet of Allāh. Between Ādam ﷺ and Muḥammad ﷺ there were many prophets and messengers.

All of them obeyed Allāh themselves and asked the people of their time to do the same. They never asked us to worship anyone except Allāh.

Did Allāh send prophets or messengers to each and every nation on earth?

Yes, Allāh sent prophets or messengers to each and every nation on earth.

Allāh gave the same message to all prophets and messengers.



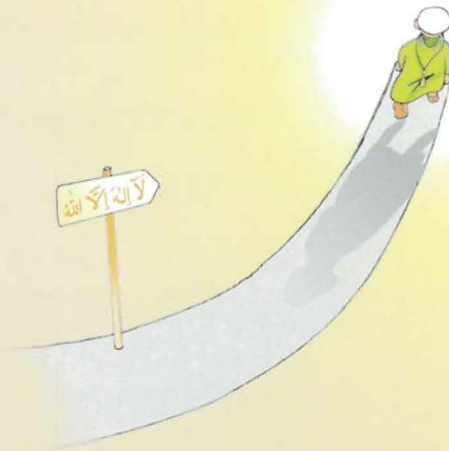
What was this message?

This message was:

Lā ilāha illal lāh

There is no god but Allāh.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ



So we now know that each and every prophet called people to obey and worship Allāh only.

Why did Allāh send so many prophets?

Allāh sent prophets to every nation. But when people forgot the message of Allāh, He sent another prophet to remind them of their duty to Him.

Allāh completed His message with Muḥammad ﷺ. There will be no prophet after him. He is the final and last of all the prophets and messengers.

The complete message which Allāh gave to Muḥammad ﷺ is **Islām**. It is the complete guidance for all mankind until the end of the world.

We will be happy and find peace if we follow Islām.

O Allāh! Help us and guide us to follow Islām.

The prophets mentioned in the Qur'ān are:



Things to do 4



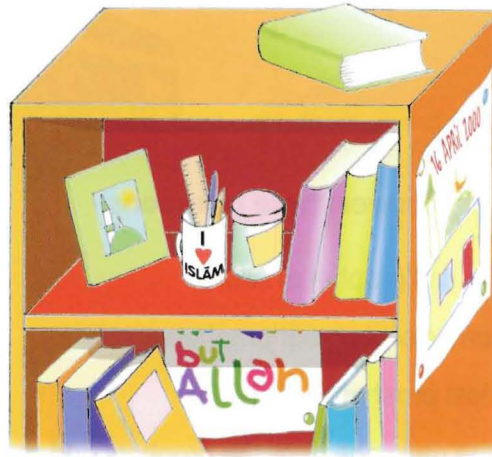
Answer these questions:

1. Who was the first prophet of Allāh?
2. Write the names of six great prophets.
3. Who is the last prophet of Allāh?
4. What was the message of all the prophets and messengers?
5. What did the prophets and messengers tell us?

Copy the sentences and fill in the missing words:

- a. A prophet is _____ a _____ in Arabic.
- b. Allāh sent _____ or _____ to _____ and every _____ on earth.
- c. Allāh _____ His _____ with _____.
- d. We will be _____ and find _____ if we _____ Islām.

Books of Allāh



We know that Allāh sent prophets and messengers to show us the right path.

Our Kind and Loving Creator also sent books for our guidance. He sent them to His messengers.

These books are called the books of Allāh (Kutubullāh in Arabic).

How did Allāh send the books of guidance to His messengers?

Allāh sent the books through the angel Jibrā'īl. The books of guidance sent by Allah are also called books of revelation. Revelation is called Wahī **وحي** in Arabic.

The book sent down to the last prophet Muḥammad ﷺ is called the Qur'ān **القرآن**.

The Qur'ān also tells us the names of the other books which were sent down by Allāh to earlier messengers before Muḥammad ﷺ.

The book given to the prophet **Ibrāhīm** **إبراهيم** is called **Ṣuḥuf Ibrāhīm** (Scripture of Ibrāhīm).

The prophet **Mūsā** ﷺ was given the **Tawrah** (Torah) التَّوْرَة

The prophet **Dāwūd** ﷺ was given the **Zabūr** (Psalms) الزَّبُور

The prophet **ʿĪsā** ﷺ was given the **Injil** (Gospel) الْإِنْجِيل

Books given to the prophets before Muḥammad ﷺ were either lost or changed by their followers. The Ṣuḥuf of Ibrāhīm ﷺ cannot be found now. The Zabūr, the Tawrah and the Injil have been changed by their followers. They added their own words to Allāh's words. This is why we cannot get these books as they were sent down.

The **Qur'ān** is the complete book of guidance from Allāh, it is with us today, without any change, with nothing added or taken away. It is the final and last book of guidance for mankind from Allāh. If we want to be happy in this world and in the life after death, we must follow the guidance given in the Qur'ān.



Life after Death and the Day of Judgement

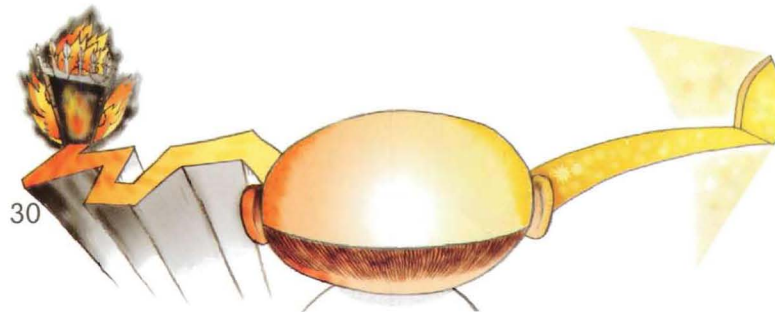
We know that one day we will die. Everybody dies sometime. Allāh will bring us to life again after we die and ask us about how we behaved on earth. Those people who obeyed Allāh's commands will be rewarded. Those who did not will be punished.

One day, everything on this earth, the sky, the planets and all other things will be destroyed, by Allāh's command. Nobody but Allāh knows when that will happen. Our life on earth is short. The real life which will never end is the life after death. It is called Ākhirah in Arabic.

In the life after death, there will be a day called the Day of Judgement. On this day, Allāh will let people know who among them will be rewarded and who will be punished. Those who are good and obey Allāh will go to **Heaven** **الجنة** (Al-Jannah in Arabic), which is a place of happiness and joy. It is a beautiful and lovely place. Those who disobey Allāh and do bad things will be terribly punished. They will be sent to **Hell** **الجهنم** (Al-Jahannam in Arabic). It is a place of pain and suffering. Only bad people will be there. Hell is a miserable and horrid place.

We must always try to follow Allāh's guidance, so that we can go to Heaven.

"Our Lord, grant us good in this world and good in the hereafter, and save us from the Hell-fire." (Sūrah 2, verse 201)



Things to do 5



Copy the sentences and fill in the missing words:

- a. Books of _____ are called _____ in _____.
- b. Allāh sent the _____ through the _____.
- c. Revelation is called _____ in _____.
- d. The prophet Mūsā عليه السلام was given the _____ (_____).
- e. The book sent down to the last prophet _____ is called the _____.

Answer these questions:

- 1. How did Allāh send the books of guidance to His messengers?
- 2. Which book was sent by Allāh to Dāwūd (David)?
- 3. What is the life after death called in Arabic?
- 4. What are the Arabic words for Heaven and Hell?

Copy the English meaning of the verse 201 of Sūrah 2 from page 30.

The Qur'ān

Look at this picture.

What is it?

It is a page from the Qur'ān.

What is the Qur'ān?

The Qur'ān is the book of Allāh.

Each word of the Qur'ān is the word of Allāh.



How was the Qur'ān revealed to Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ?

Allāh revealed the Qur'ān, piece by piece, through the Angel Jibrā'īl عليه السلام. Jibrā'īl passed on Allāh's words to Muḥammad ﷺ. Muḥammad ﷺ asked his companions to write down exactly what Jibrā'īl told him. Many of them also memorised the Qur'ān.

How long did it take to reveal all of the Qur'ān?

The Qur'ān was revealed over a period of 23 years.

Has there been any change in the Qur'ān?

No, there has been no change in the Qur'ān over the last 1400 years.

Why has the Qur'ān not been changed?

The Qur'ān has not been changed because Allāh protects it. Nobody can change it. Allāh says that He has sent it and He shall protect it. "We have, without doubt, sent down the Dhikr (the Qur'ān) and surely We will protect it (from being changed)." (Sūrah 15, verse 9)

What is the language of the Qur'ān?

The Qur'ān is in Arabic.

The Qur'ān is a wonderful book of guidance. Its rhymes and rhythms are beautiful.

Reading the Qur'ān gives us comfort, peace and happiness. The Qur'ān tells us how to be good and to give up bad habits. It tells us how to behave with our parents, brothers, sisters, friends and neighbours. Allāh says in the Qur'ān:

"Be kind to your parents and relatives and the orphans and those in need, and speak nicely to people." (Sūrah 2, verse 83)

Allāh has asked us to read the Qur'ān and follow what it says. We should learn to read the Qur'ān and understand its meaning. We will be happy and successful if we obey Allāh's commands which are in the Qur'ān.

The Qur'ān is the last and final book of guidance.

O Allāh, The Merciful, guide us to the path of the Qur'ān.



Things to do 6

Answer these questions:

1. What is the Qur'ān?
2. How was the Qur'ān revealed?
3. How long did it take to reveal all of the Qur'ān?
4. What are the three things we get by reading the Qur'ān?
5. What does the Qur'ān say about our parents?
6. Why has the Qur'ān not been changed?
7. Which angel brought down the Qur'ān to Muḥammad ﷺ?

Copy these Arabic sentences with their meanings:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ



A great thing happened in the year 571 CE (Christian Era).
In that year the Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ was born.

Where was he born?

He was born in Makkah in Saudi Arabia.

While still a young boy, Muḥammad ﷺ had a number of heart-breaking shocks. His father 'Abdullāh died even before Muḥammad ﷺ was born. His mother was Āminah. She died when Muḥammad ﷺ was only six.

Muḥammad ﷺ was then looked after by his grandfather, 'Abdul Muṭṭalib. But 'Abdul Muṭṭalib also died when Muḥammad ﷺ was only eight. From then, Muḥammad ﷺ was looked after by one of his uncles, Abū Ṭālib.

Muḥammad ﷺ grew to be a very good boy, with a fine nature that made him very popular among his relatives and friends. He was very considerate and thoughtful.

When he was only a boy, Muḥammad ﷺ worked as a shepherd. While he tended the sheep, he thought about the world around him, and about the people of Makkah where he lived.

Muḥammad ﷺ grew up to be a fine man who was respected by the people of Makkah. They called him the Trustworthy **الأمين**





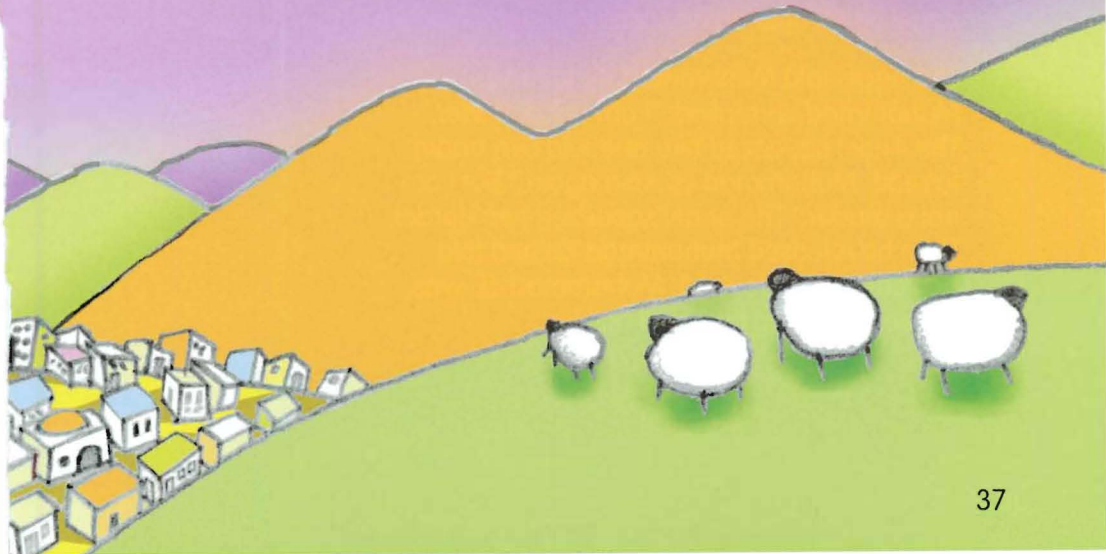
(Al-Āmin in Arabic) and the Truthful الصَّادِق (Aṣ-Ṣādiq in Arabic). When he was 25 years old, he married a fine lady called Khadijah and they were very happy together.

The people of Makkah at that time had all sorts of bad habits. They used to quarrel a lot. They used to fight each other often and caused bloodshed. Muḥammad ﷺ wondered why there should be so much bloodshed among his own people. He knew they were also brave and courageous. It seemed a pity that they did all the things Allāh disliked.

They forgot Allāh and started to worship idols instead.

In his heart, Muḥammad ﷺ felt sorry for them. He thought hard about how to make the people of Makkah give up their bad habits and fighting. He wanted them to be good.

When he was older, Muḥammad ﷺ used to go to Mount Nūr, not far from Makkah, where he would sit in a cave called Ḥirā'. There he could be alone. He would think deeply in the quietness about things around him and the condition of his people.



اقْرَأْ اِقْرَأْ اِقْرَأْ
بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ
الَّذِي خَلَقَ

One day when he was in the cave, the Angel Jibrā'īl appeared to him.

The Angel told Muḥammad ﷺ to read. Muḥammad ﷺ replied, "I am not a reader." The Angel squeezed him and told him again to read. Muḥammad ﷺ said again, "But I am not a reader." The angel squeezed him harder. Then he released Muḥammad ﷺ and told him once more to read. Muḥammad ﷺ was squeezed a third time, still harder.

This time when the Angel released him, he said to Muḥammad ﷺ:

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

"Read in the name of your Lord who created!"

Muḥammad ﷺ repeated the words after the angel. He felt as if they were printed on his heart.

This was the beginning of the Revelation. This was how Muḥammad ﷺ was given the message from Allāh that he was to be a prophet from that time onwards. This happened in the year 610 CE (Christian Era). Muḥammad ﷺ was then 40 years old.

For the next 23 years, Muḥammad ﷺ called people to the worship of Allāh alone and to give up treating false gods as partners of Allāh. He asked them to give up worshipping idols. The idols were stone statues which could neither talk nor move, and could do nothing for the people who worshipped them.

Most of the people in Makkah did not want to accept the message of Allāh. They tried their best to stop Muḥammad ﷺ. They played all kinds of tricks on him. Even his followers were harassed and tortured. But Muḥammad ﷺ went on preaching the message of Allāh with rare patience.



The number of his followers continued to increase. This made his enemies furious. They plotted to kill him. Allāh saved His prophet from their evil plans. He told the prophet through Jibrā'īl to leave Makkah. So, the Prophet left Makkah for Madīnah. Madīnah is a city 300 miles away to the north of Makkah.

The people of Makkah were hostile and unfriendly. They treated the prophet badly. But the people of Madīnah were friendly and pleasant. They welcomed him and accepted him as their leader. Later on, he returned to Makkah as a victorious man. He forgave his enemies. His greatness impressed them so much that most of them became Muslims.

Muḥammad ﷺ did his best to see that Truth wins in the end and falsehood is defeated. He was a very good man. His manners were very pleasing. He could get on with everyone he met. He was a great man.

He loved children very much. Whenever he met children, he talked to them, patted them, and played with them.

When he reached Madīnah, little boys and girls greeted him along with the adults. The little girls sang a song welcoming him. The prophet was very pleased and the children were happy too, as they had the great man, the prophet amongst them. Everyone who met him said Muḥammad ﷺ was a very pleasant and nice person. He was a very kind-hearted and caring person.



Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ especially loved to be among children. One day, he was with a group of children, talking to them and playing with them.

The children were very happy to be with the prophet who was so kind to them.

A man arrived there and watched the children playing and laughing with Muḥammad ﷺ. The man was looking pale and unhappy. Muḥammad ﷺ noticed this, and asked the man why he was unhappy. The man said, "I have ten children and I have never kissed them."

The prophet felt sorry for the man. He told him that loving and caring for children was a blessing from Allāh.

On another occasion, it was very cold so a man made a fire to get warm. But nearby there were many ants. The prophet ﷺ saw the fire and the ants. He was disturbed to see the ants in danger.

He asked the man to put out the fire. The man did as he was asked and when he looked round saw the ants.

The man knew why the prophet ﷺ wanted him to put out the fire.

The prophet said to him, "You will be rewarded by Allāh for your acts of kindness towards His living creatures."

Muḥammad ﷺ asked the stone-hearted Makkans to think again, to give up idol worship and return to the worship of Allāh alone. He had to work very hard to turn the people of Makkah into Muslims. He was able to do it because Allāh's help was with him.



Muḥammad ﷺ

is the last of the prophets and messengers. Allāh completed His guidance for mankind with Muḥammad ﷺ.

Islām is this complete guidance.

Muḥammad ﷺ,

the Great Leader and the last messenger of Allāh, lived for 63 years. He died in Madīnah in the year 632 CE. He left us the Qur'ān and his sunnah (life example) for our guidance.



Things to do >



Answer these questions:

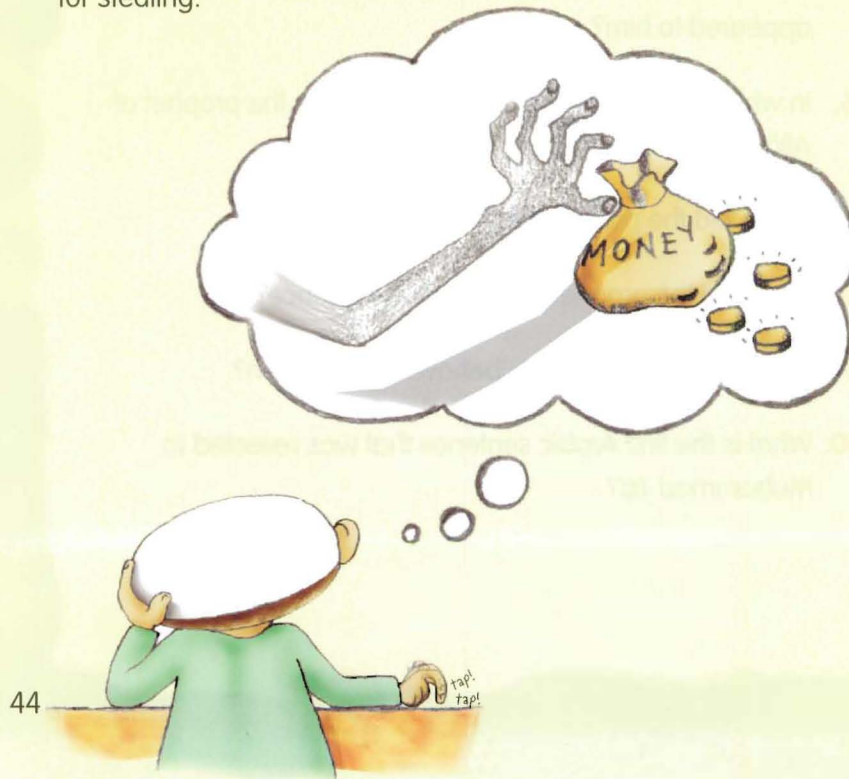
1. When was prophet Muḥammad ﷺ born?
2. Who was Muḥammad's ﷺ father?
3. When did Muḥammad's ﷺ mother die?
4. Who looked after Muḥammad ﷺ after his mother died?
5. Where was Muḥammad ﷺ when the angel Jibrā'īl appeared to him?
6. In which year did Muḥammad ﷺ become the prophet of Allāh?
7. When did the prophet Muḥammad ﷺ die?
8. What did the prophet leave for our guidance?
9. How did Muḥammad ﷺ behave with children?
10. What is the first Arabic sentence that was revealed to Muḥammad ﷺ?

Telling the Truth

Telling the truth is a very good habit. If you always speak the truth, you save yourself from a lot of trouble. Here is the story about a person who did a lot of bad things, but his promise to tell the truth saved him.

Once a man came to the prophet Muḥammad ﷺ and said, "O prophet of Allāh, I have many bad habits. Which of them should I give up first?" The prophet said, "Give up telling lies first and always speak the truth." The man promised to do so and went home.

At night the man was about to go out to steal. Before setting out, he thought for a moment about the promise he made with the prophet. "If tomorrow the prophet asks me where I have been, what shall I say? How can I say that I went out stealing? No, I should not say that. But nor can I lie. If I tell the truth, everyone will start hating me and calling me a thief. I would be punished for stealing."





So the man decided not to steal that night, and gave up this bad habit.

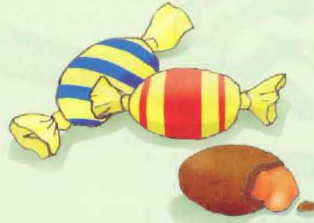
The next day he felt like drinking wine, but when he was about to do so he said to himself, "What shall I say to the prophet if he asks me what I did during the day? I cannot tell a lie, and if I speak the truth people will hate me, because a Muslim is not allowed to drink wine." And so he gave up the idea of drinking wine.

In this way, whenever the man thought of doing something bad, he remembered his promise to tell the truth at all times. One by one, he gave up all his bad habits and became a good Muslim and a very good person.

If you always speak the truth, you can be a good person, a good Muslim whom Allāh likes and favours. If Allāh – our Creator – is pleased with us He will reward us with Paradise, which is a place of happiness and joy.

Make a promise: I shall always speak the truth.

Words and Actions Should be the Same



There once was a boy who loved eating sweets. He always asked for sweets from his father. His father was a poor man. He could not always afford sweets for his son. But the little boy did not understand this, and demanded sweets all the time.

The boy's father thought hard about how to stop the child asking for so many sweets. He heard of a great man living nearby at that time who loved and worshipped Allāh very much. The boy's father had an idea. He decided to take the boy to the great man who might be able to persuade the child to stop asking for sweets all the time.

The boy and his father went along to the great man. The father said to him, "O great man, could you ask my son to stop asking for sweets which I cannot afford?" The great man faced a test, because he liked sweets himself. How could he ask the boy to give up asking for sweets? The great man told his father to bring his son back after one month.

During that month, the great man gave up eating sweets, and when the boy and his father returned after a month, the great man said to the boy, "My dear child, will you stop asking for sweets which your father cannot afford to give you?"

From then on, the boy stopped asking for sweets.

The boy's father asked the great man, "Why did you not ask my son to give up asking for sweets when we came to you a month ago?"

The great man replied, "How could I ask a boy to give up sweets when I loved sweets myself? In the last month I gave up eating sweets."

A person's example is much more powerful than just his words. When we ask someone to do something, we must also do it ourselves. We should not ask others to do what we do not do ourselves.

Allāh says in the Qur'ān:

"Why do you say that which you do not do? It is most hateful to Allāh that you say that which you do not do."

(Sūrah 61, verses 2–3)

Always make sure that your words and actions are the same.

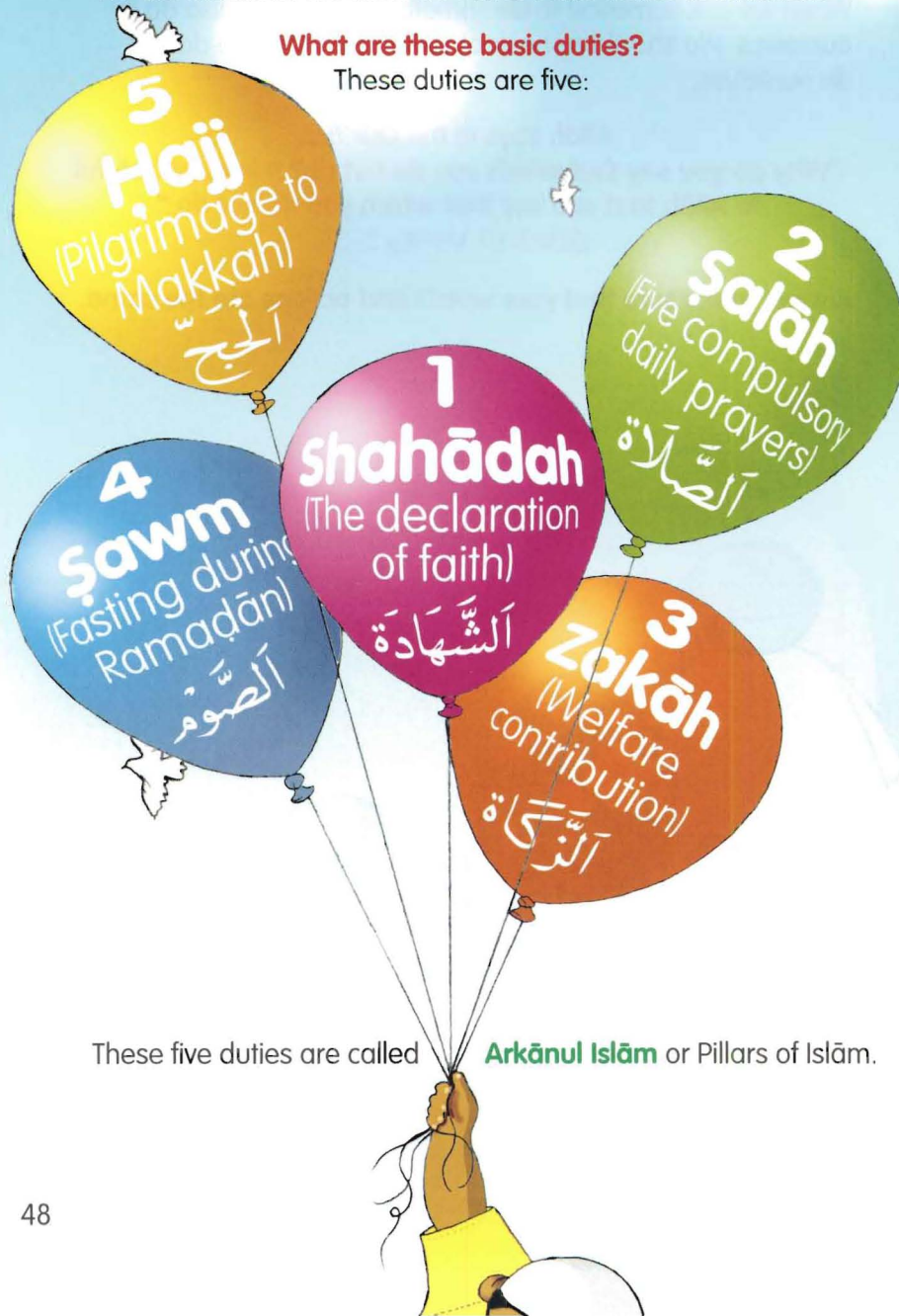


Five basic duties of Islām

We are Muslims. We must do some basic duties as Muslims.

What are these basic duties?

These duties are five:



These five duties are called **Arkānul Islām** or Pillars of Islām.

Shahādah

(The declaration of faith)

What is Shahādah?

Shahādah is:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

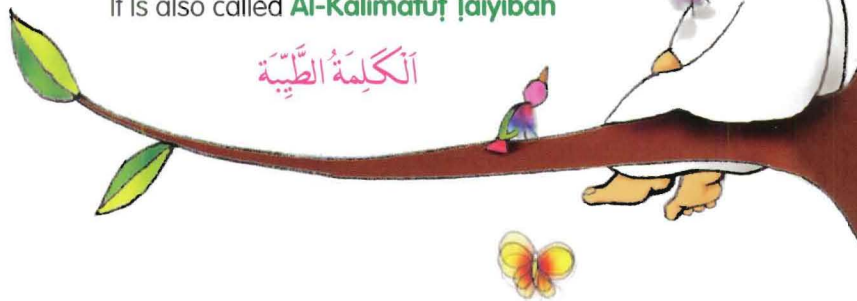
Lā ilāha illallāhu Muḥammadur Rasūlullāh

This means:

There is no god but Allāh;
Muḥammad is the messenger of Allāh.

It is also called **Al-Kalimatul Ṭaiyibah**

الْكَلِمَةُ الطَّيِّبَةُ

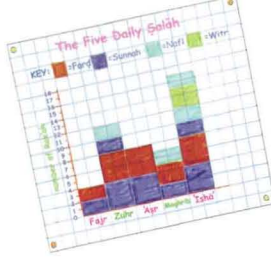


Shahādah is the first duty of a Muslim.

A person becomes a Muslim by reciting and believing in the Shahādah. In the Shahādah, we declare that Allāh is our Maker and Lord. He has made us and given us all that we have. We also say in the Shahādah that Muḥammad ﷺ is the messenger of Allāh. He is our model Leader who showed us the right path.

Muḥammad ﷺ was sent to show us the right way and the straight path. He is our Teacher. He is the last and the final of the messengers of Allāh.

We should remember that we must also believe in the angels, the books of Allāh, the day of judgement, destiny and the life after death.



Ṣalāh

(Daily Prayer)

The second important duty of a Muslim is Ṣalāh.

What is Ṣalāh?

Ṣalāh is the five daily prayers which a Muslim must say.

Why should we offer Ṣalāh?

We offer Ṣalāh to remember Allāh, to be close to Him and to gain His favour.

Allāh says in the Qur'ān:

"Establish Ṣalāh to remember Me."

(Sūrah 20, verse 14)

It helps us to get used to doing what Allāh commands us.
It also helps us to do good things and give up bad things.

This is why Allāh says in the Qur'ān:

"Surely Ṣalāh keeps you away from the indecent and the forbidden."

(Sūrah 29, verse 45)

We must pray to be good Muslims. Allāh loves good Muslims.

You cannot be a good Muslim if you do not pray.

Allāh, too, will not be pleased with you.



What are the five compulsory prayers that are said each day?

The five prayers are:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1 Fajr between dawn and sunrise | صَلَاةُ الْفَجْرِ |
| 2 Zuhr between midday and mid-afternoon | صَلَاةُ الظُّهْرِ |
| 3 'Aṣr between mid-afternoon and sunset | صَلَاةُ الْعَصْرِ |
| 4 Maghrib just after sunset | صَلَاةُ الْمَغْرِبِ |
| 5 'Ishā' between nightfall and dawn | صَلَاةُ الْعِشَاءِ |

One unit of prayer is called a **Rak'ah**

رَكْعَةٌ

Compulsory prayer is called **Farḍ**

الْفَرَضُ

Prayers which the prophet said

other than Farḍ are called **Sunnah**

السُّنَّةُ

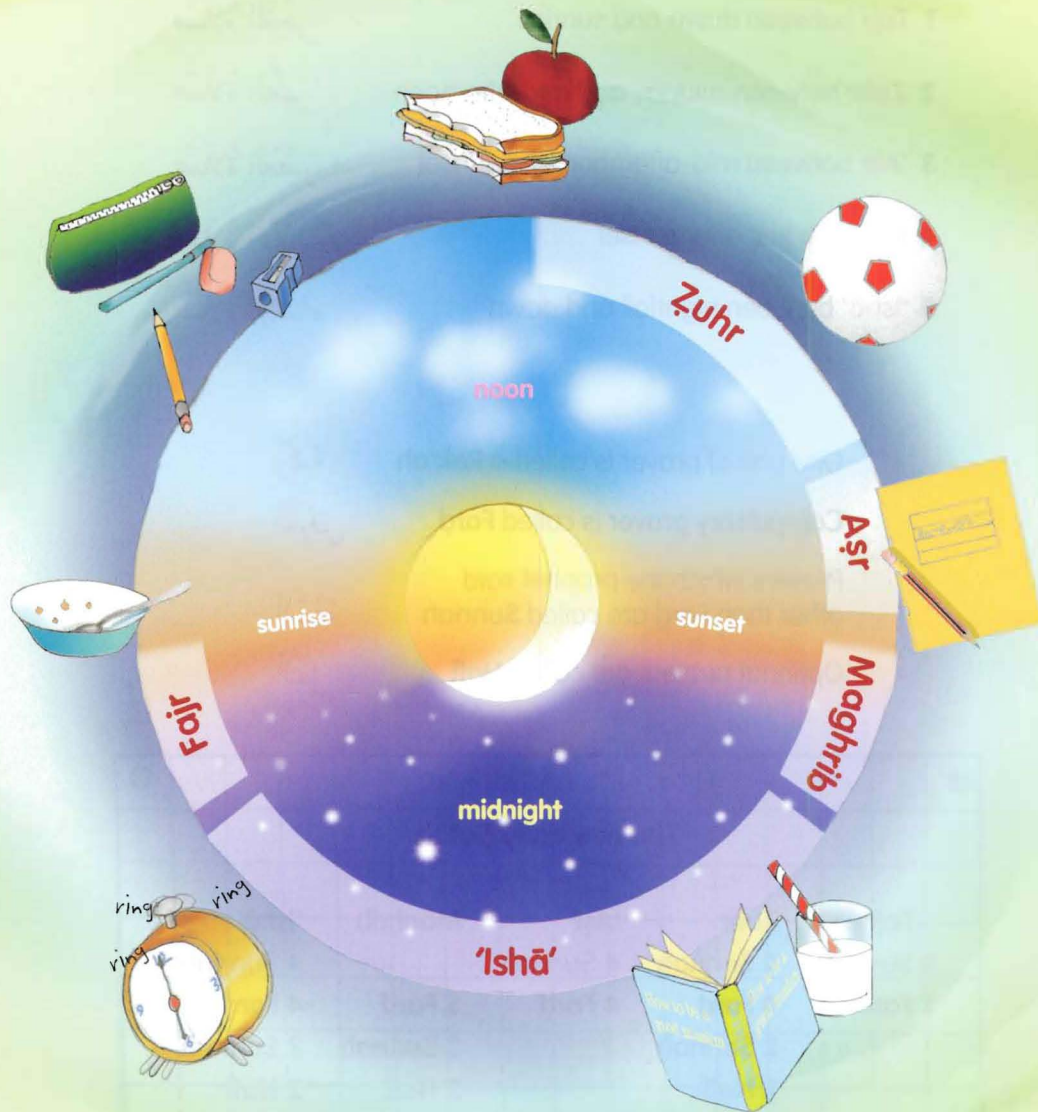
Optional prayers are called **Nafil**

النَّفْلُ

The five daily Ṣalāh				
Fajr	Zuhr	'Aṣr	Maghrib	'Ishā'
2 Sunnah	4 Sunnah	4 Sunnah		4 Sunnah
2 Farḍ	4 Farḍ	4 Farḍ	3 Farḍ	4 Farḍ
	2 Sunnah		2 Sunnah	2 Sunnah
	2 Nafil		2 Nafil	2 Nafil
				3 Witr
				2 Nafil

Ṣalāh
test after
Zuhr-
Thursday

We should start praying when we are seven years old.
We must not miss any prayer when we are ten years old.



Ṣalāh makes us obedient to Allāh. Allāh will give us a very nice reward for our Ṣalāh in the Ākhirah. He will send us to Jannah.

For details on Ṣalāh, read *The Beginner's Book of Ṣalāh* by Ghulam Sarwar.

Things to do 8

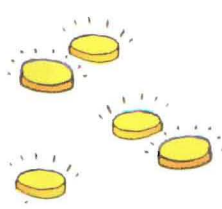


Answer these questions:

1. What are the five basic duties of a Muslim?
2. What is the declaration of Faith
3. What is Ṣalāh?
4. What are the names of the five daily prayers of Muslims?
5. How many compulsory Rak'ahs of Ṣalāh do Muslims have to pray daily?
6. Why is it important to always tell the truth?
7. Why is it important for us to act upon what we say?

Make your own diagram to show the five basic duties of Islām (see page 48).

Make your own diagram to show the times of the five daily Ṣalāh (see page 52).



Zakāh

(welfare contribution)



The third basic duty of Islām is Zakāh.

What is Zakāh?

Zakāh is an act of worship ('Ibādah in Arabic), just like Ṣalāh, Ṣawm and Ḥajj. 'Ibādah is any good activity we do to please Allāh. It is the payment of money which a Muslim makes towards the cost of welfare to help people who are needy.

What are the welfare purposes or good causes?

They are: helping the poor, the needy and people in trouble or difficulty.

Who must pay Zakāh?

Zakāh must be paid by those Muslims who have more money than they need to spend. Zakāh is paid on the savings which a Muslim has kept for a whole year without spending.

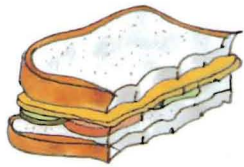
How much must be paid?

The payment is two and a half percent, which is two and a half pence (cents) for each pound (dollar) on cash and the value of gold and silver jewellery. There is a different rate for cattle a Muslim owns and the crops he has grown.

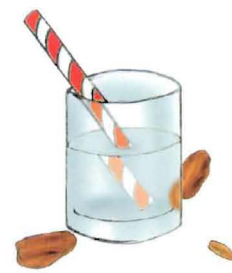
We and our wealth belong to Allāh. Allāh gave us all that we have. So we must share our extra money with our fellow people who are in hardship.

Zakāh is not the same as charity (Ṣadaqah). Zakāh is a payment we have to make once each year, and is only spent on the special good causes mentioned in the Qur'ān (Sūrah 9, verse 60). Charity is something we choose to give for any good cause at any time. Allāh loves us to give charity too.

Allāh will give us more if we pay Zakāh.



Şawm (fasting)



The fourth basic duty of a Muslim is Şawm.

What is Şawm?

Şawm is fasting in the month of Ramaḍān رَمَضَان every year.

What is fasting?

Fasting is not eating or drinking from dawn to sunset.

Why must we fast?

Allāh told us to fast to gain His favour and keep ourselves away from greed, selfishness and all bad things.

What else is special about the month of Ramaḍān?

In the month of Ramaḍān, after 'Ishā' we pray **Tarāwih** تَرَاوِیْح. We take a meal before dawn called **Sahūr** سَحُور. We break our fast straight after sunset; this is called **Iftar** إِفْطَار.

In the month of Ramaḍān there is a very special night. Allāh tells us in the Qur'ān that it is better than a thousand months (Sūrah 97). This night is called **Lailatul Qadr** لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ (Night of Power). It is one of the last ten nights of the month of Ramaḍān. We should pray as much as we can in this night.

What is the festival that follows Ramaḍān?

The festival after Ramaḍān is called **Īdul Fiṭr** عِيدُ الْفِطْرِ. This is a day of thanksgiving to Allāh. There is a special 'Īd prayer in the morning. It is a happy occasion for Muslims.

We must remember not to lie, break our promises or do bad things while we are fasting in Ramaḍān.

Ramaḍān is a month of great blessings and mercy from Allāh. It is the month of forgiveness.

O Allāh, help us to fast in Ramaḍān to please you.

Hajj

(pilgrimage to Makkah)



Hajj is the fifth basic duty of Islām.

What is Hajj?

Hajj is a visit to the Ka'bah **الْكَعْبَة** in Makkah during the month of Dhul Hijjah, by those Muslims who can afford the trip. A Muslim tries to make pilgrimage at least once in a lifetime. Hajj is an act of worship **عِبَادَة** ('Ibādah in Arabic). 'Ibādah is any good activity we do to please Allāh.

What is the Ka'bah?

The Ka'bah is the House of Allāh (Baitullāh in Arabic) in Makkah. It is a cube-shaped building covered by a large black cloth. Muslims must face towards the Ka'bah at the time of Ṣalāh. This direction we face is called the Qiblah.

Who built the Ka'bah?

It was built by the first prophet, Ādam **عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام**. It was rebuilt by the Prophets Ibrāhīm **عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام** and Ismā'īl **عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام**. It is the first house built on earth for the worship of Allāh. Hajj is a great event for the Muslims. During Hajj, Muslims from all over the world get together in Makkah. It's a yearly gathering of Muslims.

There is a festival which comes during Hajj. This festival is called **Īd al Aḍḥā عِيدُ الْأَضْحَى**. There is a special 'Īd prayer in the morning. On this day we remember when prophet Ibrāhīm **عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام** was ready to obey Allāh and sacrifice his son prophet Ismā'īl **عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام**.

Hajj teaches us that we belong to Allāh only. So, we must always do as Allāh commands.

Things to do 9



Answer these questions:

1. What is Zakāh?
2. Why do you think it is important to give Zakāh?
3. How much Zakāh must we pay on our savings?
4. Who has given us our wealth?
5. What is Şawm?
6. Why do we fast?
7. What is Lailatul Qadr?
8. What are the two festivals of Islām?
9. What is Ḥajj?
10. Where do we go for Ḥajj?
11. Where is the Ka'bah?
12. Which direction do we face when saying our Şalāh?

Write a short story about either 'Īdul Fiṭr or 'Īdul Aḍḥā.

Four Sūrahs of the Qur'ān

1 Al-Fātiḥah

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ
إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ
اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ
صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ
غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

**Bismillāhir
raḥmānir raḥīm.**

In the name of Allāh,
the Most Merciful, the Most Kind.

**Alḥamdu lillāhi
rabbil 'ālamīn.**

All praise is for Allāh,
the Lord of the Universe.

**Ar-raḥmānir raḥīm.
Māliki yawmid dīn.**

The Most Merciful, the Most Kind.
Master of the Day of Judgement.

**Iyyāka na'budu
wa iyyāka nasta'īn.**

You alone we worship,
from You alone we seek help.

Ihdinaṣ ṣirāṭal mustaqīm.

Guide us along the straight path.

**Ṣirāṭal ladhīna
an'amta 'alaihim,**

The path of those
whom You have favoured,

**ghairil maghḍūbi 'alaihim
wa laḍ ḍāllīn.**

not of those who earned Your anger
nor of those who went astray
(or who are misguided).

2 Al-Ikhlāṣ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ

لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ

وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ

**Bismillāhir
rahmānir raḥīm.**

In the name of Allāh,
the Most Merciful, the Most Kind.

**Qul huwallāhu aḥad.
Allāhuṣ ṣamad.**

Say, He is Allāh, the One.
Allāh is Eternal and Absolute.

**Lam yalid wa lam yūlad.
Wa lam yakul lahū kufuwan aḥad.**

None is born of Him nor is He born.
And there is none like Him.

3 Al-Kawthar

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ
فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ
إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ

Bismillāhir
rahmānir rahīm.

In the name of Allāh,
the Most Merciful, the Most Kind.

Innā aʿṭainākal
kawthar.

Indeed we have given you the
Kawthar (Fountain or Abundance).

Faṣalli lirabbika
wanḥar.

So pray to your Lord
and make sacrifice.

Inna shāniʿaka huwal abtar.

Surely your hater is the one cut off
(i.e. without an heir).

4 Al-'Aṣr

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْعَصْرِ ﴿١﴾

﴿٢﴾

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ نَسْنَلِفِي خُسْرٍ
إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ ﴿٣﴾

**Bismillāhir
rahmānir rahīm**

In the name of Allāh,
the Most Merciful, the Most Kind.

**Wal 'aṣr!
Innal insāna lafi khusr,
illal ladhīna āmanū
wa 'amiluṣ ṣāliḥāti**

I swear by the flight of time!
Surely mankind is in loss,
except those who have faith
and do good works,

**wa tawāṣaw
bil ḥaqqi**

and encourage one another
to follow the Truth

**wa tawāṣaw
biṣ ṣabr.**

and encourage one another
to be patient.

Islamic Manners

A Muslim says:

Bismillāh بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

(in the name of Allāh) when doing something.

Assalāmu 'Alaikum السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

(peace be on you) when meeting a Muslim.

Wa'alaikumus salām وَعَلَيْكُمُ السَّلَامُ

(peace be on you too) in reply.

In shā' Allāh إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ

(if Allāh wishes) when hoping to do something.

Subhānallāh سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

(Glory to Allāh) to praise someone.

Mā shā Allāh مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ

(what Allāh likes) in appreciation.

Fī Āmānillāh فِي أَمَانِ اللَّهِ

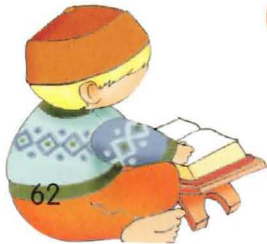
(in the protection of Allāh) when seeing someone off.

Jazākallāhu Khairan جَزَاكَ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا

(may Allāh give you the best reward) to thank someone.

Tawakkaltu 'Alallāh تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ

(I rely on Allāh) to solve a problem.





Lā ilāha illallāh لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

(there is no god but Allāh) when getting up in the morning.

Alḥamdu lillāh الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

(praise be to Allāh) when sneezing.

Yarḥamukallāh يَرْحَمُكَ اللَّهُ

(may Allāh bless you) when hearing someone sneeze.

Āmīn آمِينَ

(accept our prayer) when joining a Du'ā'.

Yā Allāh يَا اللَّهُ

(O Allāh) when in pain or distress.

Astaghfirullāh أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ

(I ask Allāh to forgive me) to be sorry for a bad action.

Na'ūdhubillāh نَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ

(we seek refuge with Allāh) to show dislike.

Innā lillāhi wa innā ilaihi rāji'ūn إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

(We are for Allāh and to Him we will return)

on the news of the death of a Muslim.



Islāmic Months

Muḥarram	1	مُحَرَّم
Şafar	2	صَفَر
Rabī'ul Awwal	3	رَبِيعُ الْأَوَّل
Rabī'ul Ākhir	4	رَبِيعُ الْآخِر
Jumādal Ūlā	5	جُمَادَى الْأُولَى
Jumādal Ākhirah	6	جُمَادَى الْآخِرَة
Rajab	7	رَجَب
Sha'bān	8	شَعْبَان
Ramaḍān	9	رَمَضَان
Shawwāl	10	شَوَّال
Dhul Qa'dah	11	ذُو الْقَعْدَة
Dhul Hijjah	12	ذُو الْحِجَّة

The twelve Islāmic months are counted according to the moon.
They are lunar months.

An Islāmic year is a lunar year and has 354 or 355 days.
The Christian or Gregorian year depends on the sun.
It is a solar year. A solar year has 365 or 366 days.

All Islāmic festivals are observed according to the actual sighting
of the moon. That is why Islāmic festival dates are not the same.