



LIGHTHOUSE

The Magazine for Muslim Youth

SawaMatin

Lighthouse Magazine

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Allah says in the Quran

“O men, serve your Lord Who created you and those before you, so that you may guard against evil”. Al-Baqarah, verse 21.

Al-Baqarah is the second chapter of the Quran. Baqarah means ‘cow’. Look in the Quran to see why Allah gave this name to the longest chapter. The Quran mentions many animals, plants and other elements of nature, each for a special reason. Mostly Allah invites us to look closely at nature and study it so we can learn from it. What lesson do you think we can learn from the honey bee in Surah Al-Nahl in the Quran? What other animal names can you find in the Quran? Find them and send them to Lighthouse magazine.

The Prophet Muhammad said

‘When a believer sins, there is a dark spot put on his heart, and if he repents and asks for pardon, his heart is polished. But if he keeps on sinning, the dark spots increase until darkness spreads over his heart’.

Can you think of some things that would put a black spot on your heart? How great is the mercy of Allah that He is ready to forgive us for each mistake we make, no matter how many times we forget! No one else is so forgiving. At home and at school, if we make the same mistake again and again, we get into trouble. Allah allows us to make mistakes as long as we are trying to do the right thing, so great is His Love and Mercy for us.

Hazrat Mirza Sahib said about the close relationship we have with Allah, the most High, “When we make friends with someone, we try to be loyal and sincere with them even though we are weak and imperfect. So how can it be

that Allah, Who is the Beneficent and Merciful, would not be loyal to a person who loves Him. Allah is worthy of our great love and we should be more attached to Allah than all the precious things we have”.

Wahy means to inspire or to reveal. It is the term used to describe revelation from God. The Qur’an mentions both men and women receiving wahy.

Test your knowledge of the Prophet Muhammad SAW

Are you a savvy, knowledgeable Muslim kid, or do you need to learn much more to understand Islam and help others know the truth? Take this quiz and find out:

(SAW is used after the Prophet's name. It is the abbreviation of 'sallallahu alihey wa sallum', meaning 'may he be blessed and his ummah be blessed'. It is important to always bless the Prophet when we mention his name, hear it or read it).

1. For the first forty years of his life, Muhammad (SAW) was a
 - a. prophet
 - b. ordinary person
 - c. rich man
 - d. poet

2. After he learned he was a Prophet of Allah, Muhammad (SAW) was
 - a. overjoyed and sure it would be easy to reform the world
 - b. scared that people would try to hurt him
 - c. overwhelmed and afraid because of the huge task given to him
 - d. proud that he was a prophet instead of his friends

3. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) knew the best way to teach Islam was
 - a. by being an honest, trustworthy, kind and loving person
 - b. by trying to trick people into thinking Islam was best for them
 - c. by bullying people to become Muslims
 - d. by being nice to the rich and powerful people

4. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had many wives because
 - a. he didn't want to feel lonely
 - b. he thought that was the best way to spread Islam
 - c. he needed many people to take care of him
 - d. he married women who were old, poor, divorced or widowed to take care of them

5. When Prophet Muhammad (SAW) learnt that the unbelievers of Mecca were gathering to attack him at a place called Badr, he
 - a. organized his followers to fight in self-defense, to protect Islam from enemies
 - b. was happy and excited as he was a man and loved to wrestle and fight
 - c. was scared of getting and hurt and wanted to stay away from the fight
 - d. was glad that now he could use swords to spread Islam

6. When it was time to eat the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) would
 - a. ask for special food and eat all he could, as he was a special man and needed a lot of energy
 - b. eat a little as he was very picky about what he liked

- c. eat very simple food and whatever he was given
 - d. order in cheese pizza as that was his favorite
7. When his companions did something he did not like, Prophet Muhammad
 - a. was furious that they had disobeyed a great Prophet like himself
 - b. corrected them kindly and gently and was never harsh or mean
 - c. made fun of them and told everyone
 - d. went to look for new companions
 8. When people of other religions visited the Prophet (SAW) and asked for a place to pray, he
 - a. allowed them to pray in the mosque
 - b. told them that they shouldn't pray till they accepted Islam
 - c. made sure they didn't go near a mosque
 - d. told them to look for a place by themselves
 9. When his companions had to face trouble and bullying because they were Muslims, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) advised them to
 - a. hide their religion from the bullies
 - b. get together to beat the bullies up, so they would stop
 - c. leave Islam for a while till things got better
 - d. be patient and not leave their faith, and pray to Allah for help
 10. When the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) went for the conquest of Meccah, he
 - a. was eager to take revenge from the mean people who had tried to kill him
 - b. ordered his army not to harm women, children, elderly people, trees, crops or animals and anyone who took refuge in their house or the Kaa'bah
 - c. wanted to kill all the unbelievers because they were impure
 - d. wanted to be the powerful king of Meccah and rule over it

How did you do? Check the answers on page 1b 2c 3a 4d 5a 6b 7b 8a 9d 10 b

If you got 8-10 answers correct, mashallah, you are a super smart Muslim and know your Prophet well. Keep up the learning. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, 'the pen of the scholar is holier than the blood of the martyr'.

If your score is between 5-7, congratulations for your effort, and try to learn much more about our Prophet. Ask your parents for good books or CD's and try to know everything about this amazing man.

If you scored between 3-5, you have some serious learning to do, and now is a good time to start. It is good to be a Muslim, but we need to learn about our religion so we can guide ourselves and other people by the best example Allah ever set, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

Complete the story in your own words and send it in to be published in next month's magazine.



Ayesha had just unrolled her sleeping bag on the floor of the Troop house when she heard Mrs. Wilder, the troop leader, call the girls to help prepare lunch. She ran to the kitchen and found her mother there with her sleeves rolled up, bustling around. She handed Ayesha a bowl of strawberries and some napkins, saying, 'Please take these out to the picnic tables, dear'. Ayesha headed out with the other girl scouts, feeling like skipping and running, but slowing her feet so she did not drop her things. She had been waiting for this trip for ages. She felt lucky that her mother was the co-troop leader and could come along. Soon food was piled on the tables outside and the girls were starting to eat watermelon and strawberries. Hot dogs

were being roasted on the campfire and the aroma was making Ayesha feel very hungry. It was getting darker and she was eager for the best part: sitting around the campfire, singing songs and roasting marshmallows. She was thinking of grabbing a hot dog when she felt her mothers hand on her shoulder. 'Ayesha', she said softly, 'Come dear, let's offer our Maghrib prayer before we eat and then we can come back and join in'. Ayesha froze for a second. Maghrib! Why did they have to pray on the camping trip? It was true Ayesha usually prayed Maghrib at home but why couldn't she have a break today? None of the other girls were praying or even thinking about praying. Wouldn't it seem really weird if the girls saw them bowing down? And, oh dear, if Brittany saw her praying, she would tease Ayesha for sure. That girl was so nosy and rude. She had already bothered Ayesha about several things, like why she wore capri pants instead of those tiny shorts and why her mother wore a scarf on her head. Ayesha did not like being the odd one out. She turned to her mother and said,

Kitabullah means the Book of God. The Qur'an is often referred to by this name.

Ahl Al Kitab means People of the Book. It is the term used to describe Jews and Christians in the Qur'an. It is used because Allah sent revealed books to their ancestors.

Allah is always there to help

Some days are not so good
Could it just be a bad mood
For I try my best to be
The very best version of me
But still it seems I mess up things
More mistakes is what the day brings
I spill my milk, loose my hat
Scratch my sister, forget to feed
the cat
Get smudges on my favorite book
From the teacher I get a dirty look
loose my temper, yell and scream
miss my show and chocolate ice
cream
then I stop trying to be
the very best version of me
But then someone is kind to me
I stand under the shade of a tree
my mom bakes me a yummy treat
I think of all that is good to eat
I realize that Allah is always there
We can call Him and He will always hear
And I jump and play my gloom away
And look forward to another fresh day
To do my best, to try again to be
The very best version of me



Ramadan Khan and the Ramadan blues

Close your eyes for a minute and imagine having a name like Ramadan! Yes I know Ramadan is a wonderful occasion and we should celebrate and be proud of our religion and culture, but that is not what Ramadan thought. The Ramadan I am talking about is a ten year old boy who lives on Sycamore lane in a medium sized house, with a weeping willow in the front garden.

‘Mom, why did you name me Ramadan, there are so many other Muslims names’, whined Ramadan for what must have been the millionth time, or so his mom thought. His mom sighed. ‘Dear, I have told you before. We were so happy when you were born that we decided to name you after this most wonderful, holy month. Plus it was the month of Ramadan and you were born on the eve of the 25th which is a very special night of prayer and worship. Names are thought to affect the personality and so we thought a meaningful name like Ramadan would be just right.’

‘But mom, I am a person, not a month, besides I don’t like it when I have to explain my name to everyone, all the time. Other kids have to tell people about Ramadan-the-month once a year when it comes. Me, I have to do it all year round.’

‘Well dear, the good thing is that when the month of Ramadan comes around, the people you know already know about it. Isn’t that great?’

‘No, no, you don’t understand. I get teased about my name and I don’t like being different all the time’. Ramadan stomped off angrily and left his mother shaking her head. She often felt that they should have given him a simpler name, one that made it easier for him to fit in at Shady Creek Elementary School. There were not many Muslims there and so it was hard being different. But she also felt that this was a way for him to accept his identity and she hoped he would come to like his name soon.

Meanwhile Ramadan was angrily shooting hoops in the front yard. He always felt better after he lobbed the ball around. He also felt sorry for being angry with his mother. He knew how much she loved him and cared for him. His father had died in a car accident four years ago and since then his mother had been working hard to make life normal for them. Most of the time Ramadan liked being the man of the house, helping his mom out with small repairs and computer problems. But sometimes he felt like just being a kid and arguing. What had happened today in school had annoyed and irritated him and reminded him that he had never really liked his name. It was all because of that huge puffy bully of a giant A.G. How Ramadan detested him. Recess was going so well that day and he had to spoil everything. Ramadan had just scored a point against the other team and his buddies were cheering him. Why should that bother A.G. who didn’t even play basketball? But it started the teasing. ‘The month, the month, it’s a great month’ he sang stupidly. Ramadan tried to ignore him but he went on. ‘What do you do again in your special month, Mr. Month? Oh I remember you eat broccoli till you burst, oh no, it was that you drink baby formula till you burp....’ Some of the kids started to giggle. When A.G. was silly he could be really silly and it could be funny, if Ramadan were not the one being teased. Somehow he could never think of a good comeback. He just got hot and bothered and that made A.G. go on and on. Luckily Mrs. Kenton told them to line up for Library and everyone forgot about A.G. Everyone but Ramadan.

That night over dinner he was extra nice to his mother. She told him that she was going to tutor a few kids to help with expenses and the first one was coming today. Ramadan helped her clean up and then headed upstairs to tackle his homework. He was so busy he didn't notice the doorbell ring and it was only when he headed down later for a bag of Doritos that he noticed who his mom's student was. A.G.! They stared at each other for a few minutes. His mom broke the silence.

'Meet Angus, dear. I think he is in the same school as you, even the same grade', she said innocently.

'Angus?' echoed Ramadan, 'you're real name is Angus?'

He expected A.G., or Angus, to answer him, or at least smile that mean smile of his but he didn't. He just looked down at his math book and his face turned red.

'You know each other?' asked his mom.

'Oh yes, we know each other very well mom', *almost too well*, he thought.

'Well then, maybe you could help him out when you have time in school. I think he could catch up with the class with a little extra help. Just don't worry about your Dad Angus, and concentrate on studying hard', said Mom.

Ramadan didn't reply and went back to his room.

Later his mom told him that she knew Angus's mom through a friend. His Dad went to fight in the Iraq war and was injured quite badly. Since then Angus had been having trouble in school and now he needed tutoring to catch up. Even though Ramadan had really been hurt by the bullying, he didn't tell his mom what Angus was really like. He also knew why he wanted to be called A.G. The name Angus was only a bit worse than Ramadan, or was it?

Ramadan thought for a minute about his name and if he would really like to change it or hide it like Angus. His cousin had suggested he call himself Ramy in school to blend in. He thought about all the people who asked him about his name and how he usually liked telling them all about the month of Ramadan and how Muslims fasted and prayed in it. Most people were interested and liked it when he told them about the early *suhoor* meal and the *iftar* with family and friends and that Ramadan is a month of special training for the soul. Why did he let people like Angus annoy him when such people were very few? He then thought about ways to tease him back now that he knew that secret of A.G. Oh that would be so much fun and he would tell his friends.....

'Ramadan, honey, have you got your Ramadan presentation ready for school. We just have a week and then Ramadan begins', his mom interrupted his thoughts.

'Yes mom, actually I don't need to prepare being a walking, talking year round presentation on Ramadan', he replied, but this time his mom was glad to see him smiling. *Well, there go my plans. I can't be mean in Ramadan and with my name, so.....I have a feeling A.G. will not be that bad. And I am sorry to hear of his Dad. Maybe that is why he acts strange. I have lost my Dad and I know how hard it was. Maybe he needs someone to talk to and if I helped him out in math, it would be a good deed for Ramadan-the-month. Hey maybe I could get Angus to help me with my presentations, we could make slides and do a power point. That would be so cool. With a name like mine I am going to be the official spokesperson of Ramadan so I might as well go all out. Actually fasting would be a great way for Angus to loose some of his baby fat and so he might try a fast with me.....*Ramadan daydreamed on and his mother smiled to see him smiling to himself.

WORD SEARCH BY DR. AYESHA KHAN

Find Islamic words from this jumble of letters. Clues are given below:

DEFKABAHQREUANTRHFERSDACKJULIHKI
HUYREHYAJUMGARFTUONAHJJAICKKJKU
KKHYTEBJBGKJHKJABKRUBAHADIJEEAL
SURHAGHJUMMAHJUMKADNAHMEDCAS
LIKERTVMBNJOAMCCAREAGTKNJHBIHBA
JURMHWTVHFSKIUMNGBVFERBKKOYTB
JUMAJUBHUYQURANLOTREASTUBEADJKI
ILAOIKLOHKIUHGGNBFGRYBGYUKBOIE
JUMOSQUEBGEKOGMADINAHOIESTRUNBF
INAMADKIOBKRGEKHADUIFIJHGGBJBTJH
READJBJBMVBCCGFYHGJHIJMADNAHMEF
DJGHBUGHKKGUCQURMANURJUBJGKBJNJF
KHADIJALLIEAQRKHAHUABUBAKRNB

1. The "House of Allah" and the 1st mosque
2. The pilgrimage to Mecca
3. Where Muslims get together to pray
4. The Book of Islam revealed to the Holy Prophet
5. Where the Prophet and his followers fled to from Mecca
6. What the flight to Medina was called
7. The first child to accept Islam
8. The name of the Prophet's beloved first wife
9. The first Caliph of Islam
10. What the Prophet was commanded to do when revelation first came to him
11. The city where the Prophet was born

Answers will be given in next month's issue, Inshallah.

The goal of Ramadan is to raise our spiritual awareness

We train our soul to become less greedy

**We focus on good manners and attitudes and try hard
to change our personality for the better.**

Ramadan is almost here, but before you kids start dreaming of Eid parties and presents, there is work to do. We all need to read up about Ramadan and think of all the things we need to do in this special month. Here is a quick reminder of the Ramadan basics:

- It is the 9th month in the Islamic calendar
- A special month of fasting, extra prayers, charity and devotion to Allah
- Young kids do not have to fast but can still earn a lot of good deeds in Ramadan
- Read, read and read the Quran in Ramadan. Try and see if you can read it all, but remember to look at the translation as you go along. See how much your recitation will improve by all the practice
- Bye-bye Nintendo.....oh, yes. This is the time to give our regular habits and routines a break and make much more time for Allah than we usually do
- Ramadan is like taking our soul for a physical, or a tune up. We can recharge our spiritual batteries so they work better all year long
- Pray and talk to Allah, like you would talk to a best buddy. Allah is always there to listen. Always
- Super heroes, take a break. No fighting in Ramadan is allowed. Not even arguing, but you can still be a super

hero. The Prophet Muhammad said, the real hero is not the one who can floor his opponent in a wrestling match, but the one who can control his or her anger and restrain himself or herself.

Ramadan resolutions

Lets all take time to make Ramadan resolutions: a list of positive things we wish to do in Ramadan. Please send us your resolutions and we will publish some in our next issue. Also tell us about your extra good deeds. We would love to know how you defeated the ultimate bad guy, the devil, and became a true super hero!

HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU MAKE FROM THE WORD RAMADAN?

e.g. ram, man, mad, etc.

Young Muslims, please send us contributions for this magazine. Anything you would like to see in the magazine can be a part of it. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please email us at zamustang@msn.com. Thank you and happy Ramadan!