



LIGHTHOUSE

The Magazine for Muslim Youth

Jawamatin

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What is Jannah (heaven) like?

“Allah has promised to the believers, men and women, Gardens in which flow rivers, to stay in them, and good homes in Gardens that are theirs forever. And greatest of all is Allah’s goodly pleasure. That is the grand achievement.” Surah 9 verse 72.

This is a beautiful verse of the Quran that tells us how Allah has planned to reward those people who follow the rules of Allah and lead a good life. The Quran tells us many things to help us learn more about Jannah. Allah has also kept many details about Jannah as a secret and a great surprise.

What would you like to have in Jannah if you could have anything?

Allah tells us that the best part of Jannah, is the feeling that Allah is happy with us. When we love someone, it makes us happy to know that they are pleased with us. The lucky people of Jannah will love Allah more than anything. To make it to Jannah, we need to become people who love Allah more than anything and everything.

Let us all try to be forgiving people, who live peacefully with one another in this **big green planet** we call home.

Every day let us try to

Be kind to someone
Smile at a stranger
Pray for the world
Forgive mistakes.



The Islamic New Year is Here

According to the Islamic calendar, the New Year will begin on 10th January, 2008. The first month of the Islamic calendar is Muharram. It means 'The Sacred Month'. It is one of the four months of the year in which fighting is prohibited. The 10th of Muharram is a special day for Muslims. It is also known as Ashura. The word Ashura, means "tenth" in Arabic.

Muslims around the world remember this day as the anniversary of the martyrdom of the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Hazrat Imam Hussein (RA-Allah be pleased with him). Hazrat Imam Hussein (RA) was martyred in Karbala in Iraq, after bravely facing the enemy forces. He chose to sacrifice his life because he wanted Islam to remain pure and beautiful. Many brave Muslims, including little children, were martyred and they all sacrificed their lives so that the religion of truth may grow stronger.

In the holy month of Muharram we should all remember the great sacrifice of those wonderful Muslims, and pray for them. They taught us that being good is never easy but it is always the right choice to make, even if we have to make big sacrifices.

Ashura is the day when Prophet Moses and his nation were delivered from the cruel Pharaoh. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) advised us to fast on the day of Ashura, as well as on the day before it, or the day after it.

Try some of these brain jigglers:

Uzma and Saira are spending the day together. At *zuhar* (afternoon prayer) they pray quickly but afterwards Saira remembers that she forgot to spit out her gum during the *salat*. For *asr* (late afternoon prayer) they both forget to do *wudhu* (washing up before prayer) and at *maghrib* (evening prayer) they both get the giggles. How many *salat* (prayers) do you think they actually did?

Aafia and Humna go to the swimming pool for their lessons. Afterwards they cannot find a private place to change. Humna thinks it is ok to change in front of other people as they are all girls. Aafia thinks it is not ok. What would you tell the girls if you could pop out of a locker?

Nosheen is not allowed to go to her friends' sleepover. When all the girls ask her why she cannot come, it embarrasses her to tell them that she did not get permission. So she tells them her mother is sick. Later on when a friend tells her that they all watched a scary movie that gave her nightmares, she is glad she did not go. What do you think would have happened if she had just told them the truth?

Can you find out the names of all the 12 Islamic months? Could you make up a song or rhyme to help you remember them? Ask your parents if you can find a calendar that shows the Islamic months as well.

Can you find a good book about Islam that your family can read together in the evening? It will be fun to take turns reading out loud and then discussing what you read. It is interesting to see how people in the same family can have different opinions about things.

If you could do one thing to help needy people in the world what would you do? Think about it and plan as if it were really in your power. Do you know that Allah rewards us for a good deed even when we simply intend to do something? It is important to have good intentions all the time.

Samia and the Runaway Shaitan

Samia had a problem, a giant, ugly, purple, spotted problem, and it made her sad. After what happened at the Lexington Mosque Eid ceremony, she felt she needed to do something about it.

Samia and her family had arrived in good time for the Eid salat, even though she felt half asleep, it was so early. Samia had promised Jameela Aunty to help out with the Eid breakfast and goodies that were served after the prayer. She thought it was a good deed and a fun one too. She imagined herself carrying a tray of donuts or chocolates, wearing her pretty blue shiny new dress and the golden shoes with high heels. All the children would gather around her and follow her to the table, where she would arrange her treats and quickly grab the first donut!

Things happened quite differently.

First she forgot to tie her sparkly prayer shawl around her, which came loose at just the wrong moment, tripping her up. The chocolate milk spilled everywhere. She could still feel all those people glaring at her.

“Oops”, she had said, smiling a sickish sort of smile. No one smiled back, but Aunty Jameela did help her wipe up the mess. Then the donut disaster happened. Three boys pounced on her and she began to run with the tray of donuts. It was so crowded she bumped into an elderly gentleman with nice white clothes. He didn’t seem very happy to have three chocolate donuts sticking to his shirt. Still it was Eid and everyone tried to be nice and forgiving. Even Mama opened her mouth and then closed it without saying a word, remembering it was Eid.

But Samia got the message. She knew that if she had tied her shawl properly, she would not have tripped and if she had listened to aunty Jameela about walking instead of running, the donuts would have been saved. She tried to listen better for the rest of the day.

It wasn’t that she meant to make trouble. She just got these ideas in her brain and then found it very hard to remember what she had been told.

But recently Samia had been in trouble too much. There was the missing lunch money, the homework with raspberry jam on it, the important message she forgot to give her father and the many, many times she had just forgotten to pray salat. Samia decided to consult an expert about it: Big Baba, her

grandfather. He seemed to know everything and kept mentioning this Shaitan person when something was wrong. When he missed his morning prayer, he would say,

“Oh that horrible shaitan made me miss my prayer time. He gave me lazy ideas”.

Or when Samia’s sister Sahar did her homework really sloppy or rushed through her Quran recitation, he would say,

“Sahar dear, watch for the shaitan, he wants us to be in a hurry”.

Samia skipped upstairs to find him.

“Big Baba,” she said, “Can I come with you on your walk please?”

“Oh sure my little princess”, he said smiling a big smile. “Ask your mama and get ready quick.”

Soon Samia and her grandfather were outside, heading towards the walking trail in the park. Samia walked patiently beside her dear big Baba, taking small steps to match his. He always started out going slow, but would soon speed up and walk so fast that Samia almost had to jog to keep up with him.

“Big Baba, I wanted to ask you more about the Shaitan. I think he is the one who is getting me into trouble all the time.”

Big Baba laughed and patted Samia’s head gently.

“Why do you think that?” he asked.

“I don’t really know for sure, but I wanted you to help me figure out. Something must be wrong. I get into so much trouble, even though I want to do the right thing.”

Big Baba stopped and rubbed hands together. He always did that when he was thinking hard.

“It does sound like the Shaitan’s work. That horrible jinn likes to get sweet people like you into trouble by making you forget what you were supposed to do.”

“But Big Baba,” said Samia getting worried, “how did he get inside my mind. I thought only Allah can know my thoughts.”

“Allah has created the Shaitan, to make this world a test. If you listen hard to the voices inside your head you can usually make out different ones. Like when your mama reminds you that it is time to pray. One voice will tell you to get ready and leave whatever you were doing, and the other one will try to distract you. That one is the Shaitan. He always tells you to pray later on, to finish what you are doing first, or to rush though salat quickly as if your time is being wasted.”

“Oh I see,” said Samia, “I think Shaitan likes to tell us to do things that are the opposite of what our parents tell us.”

“That is usually true,” said Big Baba. “Parents tell us the right way to do things and how to make good choices and Shaitan tries to talk us out of anything good.”

“Then the Shaitan should be the one getting in trouble all the time Big Baba, not me,” grumbled Samia. “And sometimes I just get confused about what to do, there are so many ideas in my head all spinning around like a washing machine.”

“Listen to your heart little princess. Learn to think a little bit before you do something. And there are always people to help you out. I get confused sometimes too and then I open up my Quran and read and read till I find an answer.”

Samia came back home, with her mind whizzing and whirling with bright ideas. She did not have to wait long before she put them to the test.

Her homework journal was nowhere to be seen and she felt sure that Somi, her little sister, must have taken it. She liked to do her pretend homework by scribbling on Samia’s journal. But before she stomped away to find Somi and whack her, she took a deep breath and thought, just like Big Baba had said. *Hmm Shaitan probably wants me to fight with Somi and get into trouble, but I won’t let him. I will look for my journal in other places before I ask Somi. And I will ask her nicely instead of yelling at her and snatching her blankie.*

It turned out that the journal was under her bed!

Samia rushed to tell Big Baba what had happened.

“Samia, you have captured your runaway Shaitan! That was a big thing to do. The Shaitan is the worst enemy we have, even uglier than all those weird villains you see in your cartoon shows. Keep it up and remember that each time you say ‘Aoodhobillah’ you are asking Allah to protect you from the Shaitan.”

Samia tied Big Baba’s prayer rug around her shoulders and flexed her muscles.

“Super Samia,” she yelled as she ran out of his room and headed for the stairs. “Aoodhobillah, watch out Shaitan, here I come.”

“Watch out Samia, go slowly,” Big Baba called out behind her.

A bang and a crash told him that he had been too late. He smiled to himself. The way to learn is to make many, many mistakes and even superheroes trip up sometimes.



In the winter

I do not like

to wear

my

my stinky scratchy sweater

and my *clunky*, **chunky** coat,

or my **big**, **bossy** boots,

or my *grabbing*, *nabbing* gloves.

They make me feel like a poofy, doofy monster.

Who is bubbling and boiling in his bundles of stuff.

So the other day, when no one was looking,

I went outside

into the snow,

in my normal clothes

and **guess what?**

I lasted about two minutes

then I *rushed* back inside

shivering and trembling

so so happy

to wear

my

sweet, soft sweater

and my cozy, comfy coat

and my brave, bouncy boots

and my glorious gloves

and I was thankful to Allah for giving me warm things, when so many children are cold and shivering.

And I learned a lesson:

before your grumble and bumble

about anything

think how life would be without the thing you are grumbling about.

You might end up feeling grateful instead just like me!



Angels

By Hajira Ahmed, Ohio, USA.

Who are angels?

They are noble servants of Allah,
Obedient, selfless, and pure;
Spiritual creatures

Seen only through the mind's eye,
In visions and dreams;

Messengers between Heaven and Earth,
They carry out Allah's will,

Bringing revelation and wisdom,
Making the world go round,

Working the miracles of nature,
Recording every deed ever done;

Inspiring those who hear
their guiding whispers;
And striking fear
In hearts filled by evil;

Angels are guardians,
Comforters who bring great strength
And hope to righteous souls;

Living in places unseen,
Beings made from light



Health is wealth.....really it is. The blessed Prophet (pbuh) said,

that, ‘**cleanliness is half of faith**’,

Wow! Faith is the most important thing for us Muslims, and to think that cleanliness is half of that! What do you think that means?

Does it simple mean that if we take a bath now and then, our faith is squeaky clean?

Actually it means much more than that. It means that health is a blessing from Allah and we should do all that we can to take care of our body. Our body is where our soul lives in this world, and it needs a good, clean house to grow stronger.

Take this quiz to find out how much you know about health and cleanliness:

1. The correct way of hand-washing is
 - a. wet hands, dab soap on and rinse off quickly
 - b. just do *wudhu* (washing up before prayer) instead
 - c. wet hands, scrub well with soap and then rinse off while scrubbing
 - d. quickly wet and dry hands and say *Bismillah* (reciting the name of Allah) to kill germs

2. *Wudhu* is required before *salat* (the 5 daily prayers) because
 - a. its one of those things you do to be good
 - b. it wakes you up so you don't fall asleep in *sajda* (bowing down during prayer)
 - c. it was very dusty in the deserts of Arabia, in the time of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
 - d. it cleans and freshens all of us and keeps us healthy, plus makes us presentable before Allah

3. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) would use *miswak* (a toothbrush made from a tree branch) before every *salat* because
- he ate a lot of garlic
 - he was very careful to keep his teeth clean and healthy and mouth fresh-smelling. Regular brushing keeps horrible bad breath away.
 - he loved trees
 - it was the fashion in those days
4. The best way to take a bath is
- to use lots of water and take a long time, till your skin wrinkles up like a prune
 - use shampoo and soap to scrub yourself well and do not waste a lot of water
 - take a bubble bath, and skip the soap
 - bathe only on the two Eid days
5. Before eating your food you should
- wash your hands well with soap and water
 - pick your nose
 - get a knife and fork so you don't need to touch your food with your hands
 - gargle
6. After using the bathroom it is very important to
- flush the toilet twice
 - wash hands well with soap and water
 - draw toothpaste faces on the mirror
 - use toilet paper
7. If you see have a runny nose and cough
- wipe your nose on your sleeve to save on tissues
 - cover your mouth with your hand when you cough
 - hug everyone you see and you will feel better



- d. cover your mouth with your arm when coughing, throw icky tissues away and drink plenty of fluids
8. If you get a cut or scrape
- wash with soap and water, dry and cover with a band aid.
 - spit on it
 - make a huge fuss to scare the germs away
 - put honey on it
9. When you get the munchies, it is best to choose
- fried foods to lubricate your stomach
 - fruits, vegetables or baked snacks
 - an ice-cold soda and candy
 - honey
10. Exercise is good for you so you
- watch sports events on TV whenever you can
 - jump on the sofa whenever your mother is not watching
 - spend some time every day being active, play sports and quit being lazy
 - run to the fridge to grab a soda



How do you think you did? Remember, you have to give honest answers.

Answers: 1 **c** 2 **d** 3 **b** 4 **b** 5 **a** 6 **b** 7 **d** 8 **a** 9 **b** 10 **c**

If you got 8-10 correct answers, you are well informed about your health and know how to keep germs and bad breath away. Keep going, and try to learn more about your body and health every day.

If you got 6-8 correct answers, hhhmmm.....some basic health information is missing. Remember, proper hand washing may seem very simple and even silly to learn, but it is one of the single

most important things you can do to keep yourself and others healthy.

If you got 5 or less answers right, your hygiene needs immediate attention. You may as well have a red flashing light on the top of your head! Please, please learn more about health and hygiene. Remember! This is all part of your faith.

Here are the answers to this month's questions by our advisor, Dr. Ayesha Rahman.

Dear Ayesha, I sometimes wonder why Allah lets so many people go hungry when He has so much power and can do anything He wants?

You ask a very difficult and interesting question. Allah has put us on this earth to become better people. If we do the right things, our good qualities will grow and we will become closer to Allah because He is the Source of all Goodness. This is how we can achieve a state of peace that will bring us happiness forever. Allah has given us free will, which means that He allows us, for the time we are on this earth to do whatever we want and make whatever choices we want. He guides us to make the right choices and helps us if we ask Him to, but the choice is still ours. Of course, in order to do the right thing and make the right choices, there have to be two different things to *choose* from!

You must be wondering what all this has to do with people being hungry. Well, in life, we go through a lot of difficult things. Sometimes people get sick, sometimes they get hurt, sometimes they are poor, sometimes they are hungry and can't get food. All of these difficult things in life are chances for us to improve ourselves by making the right choices in how we deal with the difficulties in life. Think of it as a test. If you pass the test, or make the right choice, you go to the next level in your closeness to Allah. You become stronger in your resolve to make the right choices and making the right choices becomes easier. Without having the test though, you won't have the chance to become a better person. Just like in school, if you didn't have a math test, would you really sit down and try to learn math? I know I wouldn't!

Remember, in the end, it is not the things we have in this life that matter. **It is the decisions we make and the actions we take.** A long time ago, there was a very, very good woman named Rabia Basri. Allah blessed her with a

lot of goodness and people really looked up to her. On her street corner, there was another poor woman who was very poor and had very little in this life. But that other woman tried very hard to deal with her hard life and be patient and not get upset that she was hungry sometimes or didn't have nice things. When these two women died, someone saw Rabia Basri in a dream, and she said that the poor woman did such a good job of making the right decisions in life even though she had a hard life, that she became a very strong and spiritually beautiful person. In fact, she was so high in Allah's eyes, that Rabia Basri said, when she looked at her in Heaven, it was like looking up at a star. The reason she was able to become so spiritually elevated is that she lived a difficult life and had lots of chances to make good choices that made her a good person. Even though Rabia Basri was a very good person and very spiritually blessed, and did lots of good things, she was not *as* elevated because the life she led was easier than the poor woman's. So, in a way, you can think of difficult situations as being kind of lucky!

Dear Ayesha, why do I have to learn how to read the Quran in Arabic. Why can't I just read the translation instead?

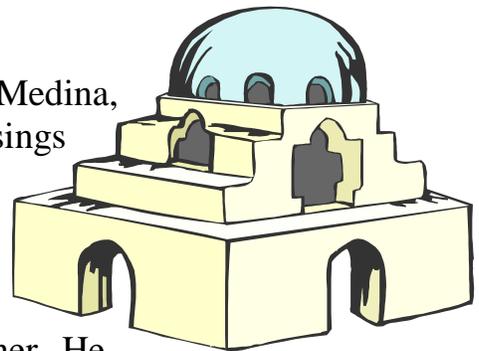
Learning to read Arabic can be tricky. But it is very important. The reason for this is that we are all supposed to pray in Arabic so we can have a common language and be unified with our Muslim brothers and sisters while we stand before Allah. Reading the Quran in Arabic is important so we will be able to learn more surah's to recite in our prayers. Remember though, the most important thing about reading the Quran is not just reading it, it is understanding and learning from it, so you should read the translation with the Arabic.

Equality of Mankind

by Mrs Munira Rahman, California, USA.

A poor old women used to sweep the mosque in Medina, where the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to say his prayers. She used to sleep in one corner of the mosque and was fed out of charity by the people who prayed there. One day the Prophet (pbuh) noticed that she was missing and asked about her. He

was told that she had died the night before and had been buried. The people did not think it important enough to inform the Prophet (pbuh) about it. The



Prophet (pbuh) was upset about this and told the people so. He then immediately asked to be taken to her grave, where he, along with other people, recited the funeral prayers for the forgiveness of her soul.

This hadith shows us that in our Holy Prophet's (pbuh) eyes, all were equal whether rich or poor. We should treat everyone with love and respect as the poor have the same rights as the rich.

Donations to help spread the Holy Quran in the world

By Mrs Samina Malik, Ohio, USA.

A little girl asked her grandmother, "why should we give money for the Quran to be spread in the world?" The grandmother explained to her the importance of the Quran. Still, there was doubt in the little girl's mind and she kept on asking, "but why?"

So the grandmother hugged the little girl and said, "My dear little one, the Quran was sent from Almighty Allah to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to give His message to the people. The Quran teaches us to do good things like help the poor, tell the truth, be kind to people and animals, obey our parents, and say our prayers five times a day like the holy Prophet Muhammad."

The Grandmother continued, "So we are very lucky to be Muslims and have a Quran which teaches us to do these good deeds. We are supposed to read the Quran every day and do good deeds which the Quran teaches us. The Quran will guide us on the right path. But there are many people in the world who are so poor that they cannot afford to buy a copy of the Quran for themselves. Or they do not have a translation of the Quran, in their own language. They cannot understand Arabic, so they need a good translation to understand the meaning of the words of Allah. We all need to help those needy brother and sisters so they all have their own Quran that they can read, understand and act upon."

The little girl was very happy to hear this from her grandmother, and said she would give money for the Quran. The grandmother said "Dear girls and boys, try to give one dollar from your pocket money every month to help the Quran reach everyone in the world. When your parents give you money to buy books and toys, then you should first take out one dollar out of your shopping money and give it for the Quran. In this way we can give needy people the Quran for free. May Almighty Allah Bless all the children of the world to read and learn the Holy Quran. Ameen.

