

# RE (Islam) for Schools

# JUNIORS



## CONTENTS

JUNIOR SCHOOL RELIGIOUS SYLLABUS.....	1
ISLAMIC BELIEFS.....	2
ISLAM .....	4
BELIEF (IMAN)* .....	5
ALLAH - THE CREATOR .....	7
CREATION OF THE EARTH .....	10
THE HUMAN BEING.....	11
ANGELS.....	12
AMBIYAA (SINGULAR NABI) .....	13
PROPHETS MENTIONED IN THE QUR'AN BY NAME.....	14
LIFE AFTER DEATH & THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT .....	15
PROPHET MUHAMMAD.....	16
(PEACE BE UPON HIM) .....	16
PROPHET MUHAMMAD (pbuh) .....	17
WORSHIP.....	20
WORSHIP.....	21
FASTING .....	23
CHARITY .....	24
PILGRIMAGE.....	25
THE MUSLIMS .....	26
(PAST & PRESENT).....	26
THE MUSLIMS .....	27
HISTORY OF ISLAM.....	29
HISTORY .....	30
MUSLIM FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS .....	32
EID UL FITR .....	33
EID UL ADHA .....	34
MILADUN NABI .....	35
THE PROCESS OF LIFE.....	37
FAMILY LIFE.....	38
THE MOSQUE .....	41
THE MOSQUE.....	42
☪ THE STAR & THE CRESCENT .....	43
FOOD & DRINK .....	44
FOOD & DRINK .....	45
THE QUR'AN.....	47
THE QUR'AN* .....	48
THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE QUR'AN .....	50
THE SUNNAH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (pbuh).....	51
THE SUNNAH.....	52
STORIES.....	53
WHO IS ALLAH?.....	54
"WILL YOU CONTROL THE FLIES?" .....	55
THE DREAM OF IBRAHEEM!.....	56
NINETEEN SONS!.....	57
THE BABY IN THE WOODEN BOX!.....	58
THE BURNING BUSH.....	59
LET MY PEOPLE GO!.....	60
FORTY NIGHTS ON THE MOUNTAIN!.....	61
THE BABY SPEAKS! .....	62
UP TO HEAVEN!.....	63
HE WHO BROKE BREAD! .....	64
THE WELL BEHAVED BOY WITH WHITE HAIR! .....	65
AL-AMIN - (THE TRUSTWORTHY ONE).....	66
WHERE IS THE OLD LADY? .....	67
ME'RAJ .....	68
THE PLOT TO KILL!.....	69
SAMPLE WORKSHEETS.....	70

## JUNIOR SCHOOL RELIGIOUS SYLLABUS

Learn about religion by:

- developing their knowledge and understanding of Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism through:
  - a) encountering key objects, people, places, and activities associated with religions and discussing their purpose and functions
  - b) extending their awareness that certain features, e.g. festivals, worship, a sense of community are shared by more than one religion, although expressed differently between religions
  - c) learning about the historical context of religions
  - d) encountering the key beliefs of the religions
  - e) studying the lives of people who are held by members of their faith to be examples to others, looking particularly at how these people lived out the beliefs and values of their faith
  - f) considering the meaning of symbols, stories and symbolic language for members of faith communities
  - g) looking for evidence of religion in the world around and considering the impact of religious beliefs on individuals and the community.

*Taken from The Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education- 1995*

By the end of Key Stage 2 pupils should:

- Know about the origins, variety and importance of sacred writings.
- Know about the ways in which members of faith traditions express their beliefs in God or in an ultimate spiritual reality.
- Know the life stories of founders and key figures within Christianity and two other world faiths.
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of practices within Christianity and other world faiths.
- Know that symbolism is used to express meaning in religion.
- Be aware that people's behaviour is guided by their beliefs.

*Taken from the Ealing Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education- 1995*



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# ISLAMIC BELIEFS

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# ISLAM

## "Obedience to the Creator and serving His creation" Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

### What is Islam?

The word **Islam** simply means submission and is derived from the word meaning peace. People who follow **Islam** are called **Muslims**.

In a religious context it means complete submission to the will of God.

One who proclaims that he/she believes in One God and accepts Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to be the last Messenger of God is legally accepted as a Muslim.

However, it is only when one commits oneself totally to the Islamic way of life does one become a Muslim in the real sense of the word. He/she is then able to say:

*"Indeed my prayers, my sacrifice, my life and my death are all for **Allah**, the Lord of the worlds..."*

### Qur'an 6:162

**Allah** is an Arabic name for the only God and is used by Arabs - Muslims and Christians alike.

Islam is the same guidance that God revealed through all His Prophets to mankind. It is both a religion and a complete way of life for over a fifth of the world's population.

Muslims are not confined to a certain race, origin or nationality but span the entire globe from Makka to Moscow, and from America to Australia.

### What do Muslims believe?

1. There is one unique incomparable God
2. God is just.
3. God sent Prophets through whom His revelations were brought to mankind. Muslims believe in a chain of Prophets starting with Adam including Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and ending with the last one - Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon all of them).
4. The world is never devoid of divine guidance.
5. There will be a day of judgement when every individual will have to account for his/her actions.



## BELIEF (IMAN)\*

### Belief in the One and only God

#### Allah\*

\*(pronounced Imaan)

\*(pronounced ullaah)

Allah is the Arabic name for the one and only God and unlike the word God which can be made into Gods and Goddess; there is no plural for the word Allah nor a feminine version.

Besides believing that there is only one God, Muslims believe that all other idols - physical or mental must be rejected.

The following extract from a book of sermons by Ali Ibn Abi Talib (the son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) summarises the belief:

*"...we must believe that Allah is one,...He knows everything, hears everything and sees everything. He has no physical form, and cannot be seen by one's eyes in the world and in the hereafter...He is not in a particular place but there is no place where Allah is not present...He is Just (Fair) but He is also Kind and Merciful..."*

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was with his companions one day when they saw a woman working at her spinning wheel. The Prophet greeted her and asked her how she came to believe in God.

The woman replied:

*"Do you see this small spinning wheel? It does not spin unless I move it. How could this whole universe spin on its own?"*

*Who changes the night and day?*

*Who changes the seasons?*

*There must be someone doing all these things. The one who looks after it has to be the one God who is All-Knowing and Almighty."*

By teaching that there is only One God for all humans, Islam promotes the sense of brotherhood and equality in human society--all are equally related to God in the same way. The Qur'an, the holy book of Islam, says:

He (God) is One, God is Eternal;

He has neither begotten,

nor has He been begotten;

and there is no one equal to Him.

(chapter 112)

For Muslims, God is manifested through His attributes. The word Allah is the name of an essence of His 99 names and qualities like - The Merciful, The All-Knowing, The Creator....

These qualities and names form an infra-structure for human behaviour. This is why a Muslim will begin every act with the phrase - *I begin in the name of God, the Kind, the Merciful*. He/she will apply the appropriate name to the situation at hand.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) asked Muslims to adopt within them the characteristics of God. A person's soul responds to God and is drawn towards Him by the cultivation of these qualities. This therefore is the true meaning of 'submission to God'.



Muslims believe that God is just. In the Qur'an He says:  
*"...And Your Lord is not unjust to anyone..." Qur'an 18:49*

To believe in the justice of God is to believe that:

- i) He is fair to all and wrongs no-one.
- ii) He never forces anyone to do wrong and then punishes them.
- iii) He will always reward those who obey Him.



## ALLAH - THE CREATOR

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

“Allah is the Creator and the Maker. Whatever depends on others that itself is caused and created. It is Allah alone who is only a cause (and not an effect). He undertakes creation without any means or instruments...He is the source of all powers. And hence no being can have any effect upon Him...He is the Creator who does not disappear and who is never hidden from the people of knowledge and insight...”

He, also said that we can only recognise God through His creations. The following extracts from a chapter of the Qur’an gives examples of the wonderful creations of Allah.

### **The Qur’an**

#### **Chapter 16 - An-Nahl - The Bee**

##### **Verses 1-21**

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

[16.1] Allah's commandment has come, therefore do not desire to hasten it; glory be to Him, and highly exalted be He above what they associate (with Him).

[16.2] He sends down the angels with the inspiration by His commandment on whom He pleases of His servants, saying: Give the warning that there is no god but Me, therefore be careful (of your duty) to Me.

[16.3] He created the heavens and the earth with the truth, highly exalted be He above what they associate (with Him).

[16.4] He created man from a small seed and lo! he is an open contender.

[16.5] And He created the cattle for you; you have in them warm clothing and (many) advantages, and of them do you eat.

[16.6] And there is beauty in them for you when you drive them back (to home), and when you send them forth (to pasture).

[16.7] And they carry your heavy loads to regions which you could not reach but with distress of the souls; most surely your Lord is Compassionate, Merciful.

[16.8] And (He made) horses and mules and asses that you might ride upon them and as an ornament; and He creates what you do not know.

[16.9] And upon Allah it rests to show the right way, and there are some deviating (ways); and if He please He would certainly guide you all aright.

[16.10] He it is Who sends down water from the cloud for you; it gives drink, and by it (grow) the trees upon which you pasture.

[16.11] He causes to grow for you thereby herbage, and the olives, and the palm trees, and the grapes, and of all the fruits; most surely there is a sign in this for a people who reflect.





[16.12] And He has made subservient for you the night and the day and the sun and the moon, and the stars are made subservient by His commandment; most surely there are signs in this for a people who ponder;

[16.13] And what He has created in the earth of varied hues most surely there is a sign in this for a people who are mindful.

[16.14] And He it is Who has made the sea subservient that you may eat fresh flesh from it and bring forth from it ornaments which you wear, and you see the ships cleaving through it, and that you might seek of His bounty and that you may give thanks.

[16.15] And He has cast great mountains in the earth lest it might be convulsed with you, and rivers and roads that you may go aright,

[16.16] And landmarks; and by the stars they find the right way.

[16.17] Is He then Who creates like him who does not create? Do you not then mind?

[16.18] And if you would count Allah's favours, you will not be able to number them; most surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

[16.19] And Allah knows what you conceal and what you do openly.

[16.20] And those whom they call on besides Allah have not created anything while they are themselves created;

[16.21] Dead (are they), not living, and they know not when they shall be raised.....

[16.66] And most surely there is a lesson for you in the cattle; We give you to drink of what is in their bellies-- from betwixt the faeces and the blood-- pure milk, easy and agreeable to swallow for those who drink.

[16.67] And of the fruits of the palms and the grapes-- you obtain from them intoxication and goodly provision; most surely there is a sign in this for a people who ponder.

[16.68] And your Lord revealed to the bee saying: Make hives in the mountains and in the trees and in what they build:

[16.69] Then eat of all the fruits and walk in the ways of your Lord submissively. There comes forth from within it a beverage of many colours, in which there is healing for men; most surely there is a sign in this for a people who reflect.

[16.70] And Allah has created you, then He causes you to die, and of you is he who is brought back to the worst part of life, so that after having knowledge he does not know anything; surely Allah is Knowing, Powerful....

[16.77] And Allah's is the unseen of the heavens and the earth; and the matter of the hour is but as the twinkling of an eye or it is higher still; surely Allah has power over all things.

[16.78] And Allah has brought you forth from the wombs of your mothers-- you did not know anything-- and He gave you hearing and sight and hearts that you may give thanks.



[16.79] Do they not see the birds, constrained in the middle of the sky? None withholds them but Allah; most surely there are signs in this for a people who believe.

[16.80] And Allah has given you a place to abide in your houses, and He has given you tents of the skins of cattle which you find light to carry on the day of your march and on the day of your halting, and of their wool and their fur and their hair (He has given you) household stuff and a provision for a time.

[16.81] And Allah has made for you of what He has created shelters, and He has given you in the mountains places of retreat, and He has given you garments to preserve you from the heat and coats of mail to preserve you in your fighting; even thus does He complete His favour upon you, that haply you may submit.

[16.82] But if they turn back, then on you devolves only the clear deliverance (of the message).

[16.83] They recognise the favour of Allah, yet they deny it, and most of them are ungrateful.



## CREATION OF THE EARTH

(Extracts from a sermon given by Ali (pbuh) - as taught to him by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh))

*"Indeed your Lord is Allah Who created the heavens and the earth in six periods of time (stages)....."*

**Qur'an - Suratul A'raf 7:54**

...Every created thing (from the cosmic rays to the most complicated form of life) and every object had a place permanently fixed; was assigned a position in nature, which none can change. In this arrangement there was nothing accidental, but everything had a prearranged and predestined place in nature.

Allah knew the detail of everything before He brought each of them into existence. His knowledge covered the near and distant effects of the coming into being, evolution and destruction of everything which was created.

The Almighty Allah assigned places to these objects in space and the **yelm** (thick gas -maybe hydrogen - Ali (pbuh) refers to it as Ma' - water , fluid) started breaking it's continuity thereby dividing into .....swirling masses. Space was ordered to expand to provide space for this expanding mass.....

The mass was swirling and sweeping .....giving rise to huge waves....At this stage the forces of expansion were given the order to reverse to the system of condensation ....(so that in the created space each galaxy developed and condensed into billions of suns and planets).....He then bound the whole system within limits. (All the galaxies were controlled within gravitational fields although space was very vast and the fluid very turbulent).

At this point Allah brought in a third force which was like a highly strong wind. It stopped the yelm from thinning .....creating fresh waves in it ....like curd between converted into buttermilk and small globules of butter.....

The wind (the third force) was acting strongly in different ways.....till the yelm was like foam and froth which formed islands of thicker matter in the sea of thinner matter....

Thus the Lord created galactic clusters (seven skies) ..... The galaxies float in space without any support ... He then allowed each galaxy to be adorned with it's luminous stars or suns.....and satellites (moons) , each decreed to orbit within the limits.....

After having opened up space , Allah filled it with different kinds of angels . Some of them since their creation have been in sijda and not got up and some in ruku'. .....They never get tired nor does the constant work annoy them.....All angels are so created that exhaustion and fatigue does not betake them.....Some of them are trustees of His revelations acting as messengers...some guardians of His creatures...some guards of Janna....Some so created that they extend from one part of space to the other ....Having realised His greatness they do not associate Him with any form, figure, appearance, shape or size, neither do they ascribe attributes of His creatures to Him , nor confine Him to a place or position nor compare or liken anything to Him.



## THE HUMAN BEING

The Human being is the best creation of Allah. In the Qur'an, He says: "We have indeed honoured the children of Adam; spread them in the land and the sea, provided them with good things; and preferred them in esteem over many things that We have created."  
**Suratu Bani Israil - 17:70**

Islam teaches that every human being is born sinless; no child carries the burden of his or her ancestors' sins.

In the Qur'an He says,

"No carrier shall carry the burden of others."

**Suratu Fatir (The Originator) - 35 :18**

Each person is responsible for his or her own actions. Muslims believe that our actions are not predetermined by Him. We are free in our actions and are, therefore, accountable for them. God only provides guidance for us to know what is good and what is bad.

In the Qur'an He says,

"We created man of a water-drop...Surely We guided him to the right way--now whether he (follows it and) be grateful or (goes astray and) be ungrateful is up to him."

**Suratul Insaan (The human being) - 76:3**

Islam denounces racial discrimination. Allah in the Qur'an says,

"O Mankind! We have created you from one male and one female, and then We made you into different races and tribes so that you may know (and easily recognise) each other, Indeed the most honourable of you in Allah's sight is the person who is most upright in character among you."

**Suratul Hujuraat (The Chambers) - 49: 13**

Therefore, no one can claim any superiority over others based on racial or tribal differences. A person is to be judged by his character, not by his colour or race

Even gender does not count as a criterion of superiority. In Islam, man and woman are equal in rights. The only difference there exists is in their roles in society, which does not give one superiority over the other but are seen as complementary to each other.



## ANGELS

Muslims believe in the existence of angels. They are forces created by God to carry out His orders. They are a functional creation who have been assigned duties e.g. recording deeds of human beings, protecting him/her, conveying messages.....

They are not visible to the physical eye except when they assume a visible form.

Some of the angels mentioned by name are:

Jibrael (Gabriel) is the angel who conveys God's messages to the Prophets. It was he who came to Lady Maryam (Mary) in the form of a man to announce the birth of a son. It was Jibrael who brought the revelations of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

The angel through whom God sends sustenance to His creatures is called Mikaa'il (Michael).

Izraa'il is the angel of death. He removes the souls from the bodies of human beings.



## AMBIYAA (SINGULAR NABI)

### PROPHETS

According to Islamic terminology a **Nabi** is a human being who is appointed by God to guide mankind.

Muslims believe that God sent 124,000 Prophets to guide mankind. The first of them being Prophet Adam (pbuh) and the final one being Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Many of these Prophets were made responsible for only one or two villages, some even for only one family. Others were sent to a bigger area or to one tribe but none were sent for the whole of mankind as was Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Five of these prophets brought new codes of law. These were Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them all). The Qur'an mentions five divine books.

1. The Suhuf (Scrolls) given to Prophet Abraham (pbuh)
2. The Zabur (Psalms of Prophet David (pbuh)
3. The Tawrat (Torah given to Prophet Moses (pbuh)
4. The Injeel (Evangel/Gospel revealed to Prophet Jesus (pbuh)
5. The Qur'an revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Muslims believe in all the Holy Books and in all the prophets.

A Prophet according to Muslims must be the most perfect person of his time. He must be divinely sent and therefore cannot have been selected or elected by people. He must not do anything to displease God and therefore does not commit any sins. He also must be able to perform miracles. e.g. Prophet Musa (Moses) (pbuh) could with the help of God change his staff into a serpent, Prophet Isa (Jesus) (pbuh) cured the sick and raised the dead to life, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) brought the Qur'an which remains an unanswered literary challenge to the world to this day and will remain so.

Islam regards its teachings to be a culmination of the teachings of previous monotheistic religions like Judaism and Christianity. Allah in the Qur'an says:

"Say, we believe in Allah, and that which was revealed unto us, and that which was revealed unto Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob, and the tribes and that which was entrusted unto Moses and Jesus and the Prophets from their Lord We make no distinction between any of them and unto Him we have submitted"

**Suratu Aali Imran -3:84**

All the Prophets taught the same basic message. They preached the belief and worship of the one and only God, the accountability of life after death, and a common code of life. They all worked at preparing humanity for the final message which was to be brought by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) which could be only understood with reasoning and the intellect.

Thus with the arrival of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the manifestation of God's will to guide mankind had reached its culminating point. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is therefore known to Muslims as **The Prophet**.

Believing in the prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), therefore means believing in him as the perfect man. He is the example on which Muslims base their lives, following his footsteps.

*"...And for you (O people) in the Prophet of God (Muhammad) is the perfect example.."* **Qur'an 33:21**



## PROPHETS MENTIONED IN THE QUR'AN BY NAME

1. Adam (pbuh)
2. Idrees (pbuh) - Enoch
3. Nuh (pbuh) - Noah
4. Hud (pbuh)
5. Saalih (pbuh)
6. Ibraheem (pbuh) - Abraham
7. Lut (pbuh) - Lot
8. Ismaail (pbuh) - Ishma'il
9. Is-haaq (pbuh) - Isaac
10. Ya'qub (pbuh) - Jacob
11. Yusuf (pbuh) - Joseph
12. Ayyub (pbuh) - Job
13. Shuayb (pbuh) - Jethro
14. Musa (pbuh) - Moses
15. Harun (pbuh) - Aaron
16. Ilyas (pbuh) - Elijah
17. Ilyasa (pbuh) - Elisha
18. Dhul Kifl (pbuh) - Ezekiel
19. Dhul Qurnain (pbuh)
20. Uzayr (pbuh) - Ezra
21. Dawud (pbuh) - David
22. Sulayman (pbuh) - Solomon
23. Luqman (pbuh) - Eosop
24. Yunus (pbuh) - Jonah
25. Zakariyya (pbuh) - Zechariah
26. Yahya (pbuh) - John (the baptist)
27. Isa (pbuh) - Jesus
28. Muhammad (pbuh)



## LIFE AFTER DEATH & THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

The imminence of death and life after it are a fundamental belief of Islam. The Qur'an repeatedly reminds mankind of a post death existence which will be shaped by one's actions in this world which is the place of action and interaction.

Our intentions and the accompanying actions will be relived in the next life which will be subject to neither time nor space. Thus we participate in scheduling our future life after death by our actions in this world. Any excuses given later on for wrong doing will be of no avail when confronted with absolute reality.

Muslims believe in physical resurrection, in judgement and heaven and hell. Islam teaches that on the Last Day - the day of judgement, the world will come to an end. The scale of destruction on the day of judgement is beyond imagination. The entire cosmos will be destroyed. All mankind will be raised and asked to account for their lives.

*When the heavens are split open,  
When the planets are dispersed,  
When the seas are poured forth,  
When the graves are laid open,  
Then each soul shall know it's works, what it had sent before (it) and what it had left behind.....*  
**Qur'an 82:1-5**

Heaven and hell in the Qur'an are described as physical states - Heaven as a garden of tranquillity and peace and hell as a scorching fire that is never put out.





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# **PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PEACE BE UPON HIM)**

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## PROPHET MUHAMMAD (pbuh)

He was born in Makka, Arabia over 1400 years ago (in the year 570 CE). Makka was the economic and religious centre, for it was on the junction of the main trade routes between Yemen in the Southern tip of Arabia, and Syria and Iraq in the North.

### Childhood

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was born into the Hashimite family which was part of the tribe of Quraysh who lived in Makka.

His father Abdullah died whilst away on a trading trip shortly before he was born.

He was only six years old when his mother Amina died.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was then raised by his grandfather Abdul Muttalib who was also the chief of Makka.

When Abdul Muttalib too died, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was taken into the care of his uncle Abu Talib. Abu Talib loved and protected his nephew.

### Man of Character

As a young man, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) showed his concern for justice by becoming one of the founder members of a league to protect the safety and rights of strangers in Makka.

He earned the reputation of being honest and trustworthy, thus the titles **As-Sadiq (The truthful one) & Al-Amin (The trustworthy one)** were bestowed on him by the Makkans.

It was this reputation of exemplary character that led a wealthy and noble woman merchant of Makka called Khadija to invite him to take charge of her commercial affairs.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) accepted the offer and at the age of twenty five took charge of her trading caravans.

His character and honest dealings so impressed her that she proposed marriage to him. He accepted and Abu Talib arranged a big feast for the people of Makka in celebration.

### Announcing Islam

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) always detested the moral decline of the society he lived in. It was his habit to meditate from time to time in the Cave of Hira near the summit of Jabal un Nur (Mountain of Light) near Makka.

One night when he was forty years old, he was visited in the cave by the angel Gabriel who brought to him the first revelation of the **Qur'an**.

*"In the name of God, the Kind, the Merciful,  
Recite, in the name of your Lord who created,  
Created the human being from a clot of blood,  
Recite, and your Lord is the Most Generous,  
Who taught by the pen,  
Taught the human being that which he knew not."*

### Qur'an 96:1-5

This was the first of many revelations which continued for twenty three years, and is known as the **Qur'an**.



On returning home on the day of the first revelation, he confided in his wife Khadija, who immediately accepted him as the divine messenger of the one God - Allah. So did his young cousin Ali, the son of Abu Talib.

### **Persecution**

In the first few years, he had about fifty converts amongst friends and family. Then as commanded by God he announced his Prophet hood to the general public.

This led to severe persecution and in the year 615 CE Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) sent some of the Muslims to Christian Abyssinnia (Ethiopia) where he assured them they would find a just leader in King Negus. The Makkans tried to persuade King Negus to return the Muslims, bribing him with riches but the king on hearing the verses of the **Qur'an** about Jesus refused saying that the difference between him (a Christian) and the Muslims was no thicker than a line that he drew with his staff on the ground. He granted them protection and peace in Ethiopia.

### **Me'raj**

In the year 622 CE, at the age of 52 years and 12 years after having started to preach Islam, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was honoured by God by a visit to the heavens. He was first taken from Makka to Jerusalem. Then from the famous rock on which today stands Al-Aqsa mosque (Dome of the rock) he was taken to the heavens on a mode of transport that travelled faster than the speed of light. On his return he brought back the command for the five prayers (Salaa). The journey is known as **Me'raj** (the ascension).

### **Hijra**

By the year 622 CE his influence had spread to the city of Yathrib (260 miles North of Makka). A number of its citizens invited Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to Yathrib. The persecution in Makka was very fierce and there was a serious plot to assassinate the Prophet.

As commanded by God he left Makka to emigrate to Yathrib. This event, is known as the **Hijra** (the Arabic word for migration). Before the migration Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had sent over a hundred families ahead to Yathrib and more joined from Ethiopia.

So important was the **Hijra** as it was the start of a community in Yathrib run on the laws of Islam that it marked the beginning of the Muslim calendar. So 622 CE became 1 AH (after Hijra) for the Muslims.

### **Madina**

Yathrib came to be known as **Madinatun Nabi** (the city of the Prophet) & **Madinatul Munawwara** (the shining city) in Prophet Muhammad's honour. It is more commonly known as **Madina** (The City) today.

In Makka, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had preached the basic message of belief in the one God - Allah, his prophet hood, the justice of God and the day of judgement.

In Madina with the establishment of the first Islamic state, the Islamic laws on prayers (**Salaa**), fasting (**Sawm**), charity (**Zakaa**), pilgrimage (**Hajj**)... were gradually introduced. He also preached on behaviour in all spheres of life thus making Islam a religion that is a way of life. All he said and did was directly as a command of God. He never spoke or acted on his own accord.

### **Battles against Muslims**

The equality of all mankind in the eyes of God including slaves, the rights of women and other such issues which had aroused hostility against Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) from the Makkans grew. The establishment of the Muslim state in Madina infuriated them for it not only opposed their beliefs but



also affected them socially and economically. Some significant battles were fought. In 624 CE although outnumbered heavily by the Makkans, the Muslims won a resounding victory in the battle of Badr, not far from Madina.

In the following year, the Muslims sustained losses in the battle of Uhud against a massive army from Makka who came to revenge their dead of Badr.

In 627 CE, the Makkans besieged Madina in coalition with the Jewish tribes outside Madina but the city survived, and the Muslims won due largely by the digging of a trench around Madina. The battle came to be known as the battle of the trench.

Finally, a truce was agreed, the Hudaibiya peace treaty which allowed the Muslims to visit Makka for Pilgrimage.

The Makkans persisted in breaking the agreement of the treaty, and in 630 CE, the Muslims were strong enough to advance on Makka with a huge army of 20,000 men. There was no resistance. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) spared all his enemies, cleansed the Ka'ba of all the idols and established it as the centre of Islam for eternity.

### **Completion of revelations**

In the year 632 CE, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) accompanied by thousands of Muslims went on a pilgrimage to Makka for the last time.

On his return journey to Madina in a place called Ghadeer, the angel Gabriel brought the last revealed verse of the **Qur'an**.

*"...This day I (Allah) have perfected your religion for you, completed My favours upon you, and have chosen for your Islam as a religion"* **Qur'an 5:4**

A few months later at the age of 63 years Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) died in Madina. He is buried under the green dome of the mosque he had built when he first entered the city during Hijra.



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# WORSHIP

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## WORSHIP

One of the distinctions of Islam is the importance which is attached to ritual purity - *tahara*. In the Qur'an, God says:

*.. "Indeed He (God) loves those who ritually purify themselves."*

**Qur'an 2:222**

Ritual purity is a pre-requisite for the prayers -Salaa and other forms of worship. The washing before salaa is called wudhoo. In the Qur'an, God says:

*"O you who believe; when you stand up for salaa (prayer), wash your faces and your hands as far as the elbows, and wipe your head and feet as far as the two mounds."*

**Qur'an 5:7**

Wudhoo is an act of worship in itself. For every act of worship, a Muslim begins with an intention called *niyya*. This is a conscious effort to focus the mind on God and do the prayer for Him. The obligatory washing is as the Qur'an states: the washing of the face and two arms as far as the elbows, and the wiping of the head and the feet upto the mounds.

Each act of wudhoo is accompanied by a prayer which signifies it's spirituality. e.g. When washing the face, one asks God to remove the darkness of sins and illuminate the face with His light on the day of judgement. Whilst wiping the feet, the prayer is for keeping steadfast on the right path ...and asking God to accept one's efforts in pleasing Him.

### **SALAA**

#### **(The ritual prayer)**

Salaa (prayer) is a pillar of religion and connects the human soul to God. From a social point of view, the requirements of cleanliness, prohibition of usurped clothes and place of prayer for prayer ensures righteousness in society. It keeps away corruption and evil from a society.

One of the distinctions Islamic communities enjoy over others is the prayer. Each and every day at the appointed time, Muslims gather together for the congregational prayer ensuring unity and co-operation.

Likewise on Friday, whole populations of villages, towns and cities gather together to form a massive congregation. In the Friday sermon, current issues are raised to increase awareness.

Muslims pray five prayers in a day:

1. Fajr - The morning prayer prayed between dawn and sunrise.
2. Dhuhur - The noon prayer prayed just after midday.
3. 'Asr - The after noon prayer
4. Maghrib - The evening prayer prayed after sunset.
5. 'Eisha - The night prayer.

Muslims are called to prayer with the adhan. The adhan is called out by a muaddhin. It is in Arabic but the translation is as follows:

**God is Great (x4),**

**I bear witness that there is no God but Allah (x2)**

**I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of God, (x2)**

**Hurry to prayer (x2)**

**Hurry to success (x2)**

**Hurry to the best of deeds (x2)**

**God is Great (x2)**

**There is no God but Allah (x2)**



A second call to prayer called the *Iqama* is given just as prayers are about to begin.

Salaa consists of a set of phrases and verses of the Qur'an which are recited from memory. The words are accompanied by set actions. A cycle of postures and recitations forming a unit is called a *raka'a*. Each of the five prayers requires a particular number of these units.

- ☉ Morning (Fajr) salaa has 2 units
- ☉ Noon (Dhuhr) salaa has 4 units
- ☉ Afternoon ('Asr) salaa has 4 units
- ☉ Evening (Maghrib) salaa has 3 units
- ☉ Night (Eisha) salaa has 4 units

There are three basic postures -

*qiyam* - standing

*rukoo* - bowing

*sajda* - prostration

Each of these postures goes down further than the previous one showing an increase in submission to God.

For prayers, Muslims face in the direction of the *Ka'ba* in the grand mosque in Makka. This direction is called the *qibla*. It can be found using a compass. At a mosque, the direction is signified by the *mihrab* (the alcove in the wall built for this purpose).

As in wudhoo, the prayer begins with an intention - *niyya* which concentrates the mind on God for whom the prayer is performed.

Salaa is prayers whose words and form are set. There is also *DUA* (pronounced *du'aa*) which literally means 'asking'.

Dua can take various forms.

It can be in Arabic as taught by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) or in one's own language.

It can be the repetition of God's praise, asking for forgiveness etc. or on prayer-beads - called *tasbeeh*, or *subha*, or *misbaha*.

Dua is often accompanied with the hands raised as in the position shown below

### **The Friday congregational prayer**

On a Friday, Muslims are required to leave all worldly activities for an hour or so from the time the believers are called for the special Friday noon prayers to its completion, as ordained in the verse of the Qur'an below:

*" O you who believe, when the call is made for prayers on Friday, then hasten to the remembrance of God and leave your trading; that is better for you, if (only) you knew. And when the prayer has ended then disperse on the earth and seek the grace of God...." Qur'an 62:9,10*

A sermon precedes the prayer. The Imam normally talks on the state of the Muslim Umma in the sermon.

**The Friday prayer develops a condition through which the local community meets weekly creating unity and togetherness.**

**The larger community meets twice a year at the congregational prayers of Eid, and an international meeting is assured annually at Hajj.**



## FASTING

### SAWM

Ramadhan is the ninth month of the Lunar calendar. It is the month in which the Qur'an was revealed. For this reason, it is a special month. As ordered by God in the Qur'an, it is obligatory for Muslims to fast (called sawm) for the whole of the Lunar month of Ramadhan.

*"O you who believe, Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may achieve taqwa - self restraint"* **Qur'an 2:183**

All Muslims who are capable of fasting must do so; but no one should endanger ones life or health because of fasting.

Fasting is exempt for those who are ill, those who travelling, and for those women who are pregnant, are breast feeding, or having their period.

Those who miss fasting on any days try to make up for the fasts they have missed at another time.

Except for those who due to illness or disability cannot fast at all.

Elderly people are not expected to fast if they cannot, but they are asked to feed the poor in lieu of each fast if they can afford it.

Young children are gradually introduced to fasting for it becomes obligatory on reaching puberty - girls at the age of nine lunar years and boys at the outset of the signs of puberty.

Fasting is both external and internal. During a fast, a Muslim must not eat, drink, smoke, or have sexual intercourse between dawn and sunset. Normality is permitted between sunset and dawn. Thus, it cultivates the ability to control hunger, thirst, and the sexual desire. One gradually gains control over these rather than the desires controlling the self.

The spiritual fast means also to refrain from lying, quarrelling, jealousy, back biting, swearing.... Those who do not refrain from these are the people for whom Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

*"There are many whose fasting is nothing beyond being hungry and thirsty."*





## CHARITY

### ZAKAA

The word zakaa means 'to purify' and to increase.

It the Islamic way of redistributing wealth to make a fairer society. It is a relatively small tax of about 2.5% on certain commodities. It is obligatory on all Muslims.

Additional obligatory taxes are also set like **khums** which is income related and **Zakatul Fitr** payable on Eid ul Fitr, the Eid following the month of Ramadhan).

Optional charity is called **sadaqa** and is encouraged in the Qur'an and by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

The recipients of charity are the poor, the needy, the travellers in the way of God, and whatever may enhance the religion. Most Muslims have central organisations headed by religious scholars who will distribute it in the best way possible.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has said:

*"He/she is not a Muslim who sleeps contented whilst his/her neighbour sleeps hungry"*

In today's world where communication and mobility has created a global village, each being a 'neighbour'; it is the duty of every Muslim to share and care for all humanity.

Giving **loans** (without interest of course) in the way of God is another aspect of charity in Islam which is highly recommended.



## PILGRIMAGE

### HAJJ

"..And the hajj to the house (Ka'ba) is obligatory on all for the sake of God, upon all who are able to undertake the journey to it..."

#### Qur'an 3:97

Every year, in the Lunar month of Dhul hijja, Muslims from all over the world go for the pilgrimage if they are able to.

Hajj is in two parts:

One can be performed at any time of the year and is called **the Umra**.

The other can only be done on specific days once a year. This is called **the Hajj**.

At a certain distance before entering Makka, the pilgrims wear the *ihraam* which is two pieces of seamless white cloth for men. It is a sign that all which connects them to their daily lives is put off, in order to concentrate totally on God.

On entering Makka, the first act is to circle the Ka'ba anti clockwise seven times. The circling demonstrates the unity of believers in worship of God, all moving in harmony together reciting verses of the Qur'an.

Next comes the walking between the hills called Safa and Marwa which today is a covered way which extends out from the sacred mosque. On performing this act, the pilgrims re-enact Hajra's (Hagar) search for water for her young son Ismaeel (Ishma'il). They were saved from dying by thirst when a spring of water gushed forth near Ismaeel where Hajar had left him. This spring is known as the well of *Zam Zam*. It is within the precinct of the great Mosque and pilgrims drink the water from the spring till today.

On the eighth day of the month of Dhulhijja, in performing **the Hajj**, pilgrims must be on the plains of Arafat (24 kms East of Makka) from noon to sunset. To gather here together asking for salvation and enlightenment is the highest form of worship. It is an amazing sight to see several million people out in the heat of the desert engrossed in their devotion to God.

After Arafat, two more symbolic acts take place at Mina in the desert. The first is to stone the 'devil' (pillars built in representation) in a re-enactment of what Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) did when an inner voice whispered to him not to sacrifice his son as God had commanded. The other reason is a much more personal one. As the pilgrims stone the 'devils', it is an expression of one's rejection of evil and a resolve to withstand temptation and apply self restraint.

The other act is to sacrifice an animal as Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) did when having resolved to sacrifice his son in the way of God, a ram appeared. This is performed on Eid al Adha (the festival of sacrifice).

Apart from the social benefit of Hajj to the individual, it is a major social, cultural, and political market place of universal proportions. It is here that Muslims from all over the globe meet and interact. It links the whole of the Muslim world forming the hub of one of the greatest physical internets of the world all abandoning personal desires in pursuit of knowledge and closeness to God.

Any person who has been for Hajj is addressed as Haji.



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# **THE MUSLIMS (PAST & PRESENT)**

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## THE MUSLIMS

Not only did Islam emphasise the equality of all mankind under its laws and submission to God but encouraged the seeking of knowledge from the cradle to the grave in any land no matter how remote.

Inspired by this message of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the Islamic world has and continues to contribute tremendous expansion in every field. Here we look at some of the Muslims who have affected our lives.

### **Thabit ibn Qurra (826 -901)**

The history of medicine ascribes the first use of anaesthesia in Ophthalmic operations to Junken in 1850. In reality its first use was by the Muslim physicians a thousand years earlier, the most prominent of whom was Thabit ibn Qurra who was also a mathematician and astronomer.

**Anaesthesia** is one of the ingenious and unprecedented **contributions of Muslims to Medicine.**

### **Jabir bin Hayyan (702-765)**

*Known in Europe as Geber*

He is credited to be the father of chemistry. (The word Al-Chemy comes from the Arabic word Al-Kimiya). He introduced a more scientific method in the study of chemical processes. He described the manufacture of steel and glass. He described the properties of various elements like sulphur, mercury...

### **Al-Khwarizmi (780-846)**

He was the first to use what we today call 'Arabic numerals' in his work and in his book on Arithmetic. He was a mathematician and for centuries the science of Arithmetic was named **Al-Gorithmic** after him. The word *Logarithm* used today is from his name.

The Muslims were also responsible for introducing the decimal sign. Al-Khwarizmi was also the pioneer of **Algebra** (from the word Al-Jabr).

### **Abu Bakr Muhammad Ar-Rhazi (844-926)**

*Known in Europe as Rhazes*

A physician who wrote 131 books. One of his books 'Kitab al-Hawi' was translated in Latin as the 'Liber Continens' - with 20 volumes it covered every branch of medicine known at that time. It was the most highly prized and frequently used text book in the Western world for several centuries. It comprised as one of the nine books that constituted the entire library of the medical faculty at the University of Paris in 1395. He was the first physician to distinguish between Smallpox and measles.

### **Abu Sa'id Al-Sijzi (951-1024)**

Galileo was threatened with torture as a heretic for advocating that the sun was the astronomical centre of the universe and not the earth. He would have not been made to recant if the theory of Al-Sijzi who stated the fact 6 centuries earlier had been developed. He not only proposed that the earth was in constant motion but also proposed the whole orbital system.

### **Abu Ali ibn Al-Haytham (965 - 1042)**

*Known in Europe as Alhacen.*

The first reference to the use of solar energy was made by Al-Haytham. He put forward the idea of converting the light of the sun into energy. His influence upon European scientists is due to the Latin translation of his books. His book -'The book of optics' was used by Roger Bacon.



**Abu Ali bin Sina (980 - 1037)**

*Known in Europe as Avicenna*

He is one of the great Muslim philosophers who wrote on physiology, hygiene, therapy and pharmacology. He wrote on the erosion of the earth and earthquakes; the formation of the earth and the heat of the sun. His book on pharmacology called 'Qanun fil Tibb' (Canon of Medicine) was translated in the 12th century into Latin and was the main textbook used at European Medical schools.

**Abul Qasim Al-Zahrawi (936-1013)**

*Known in Europe as Abulcasis*

He was physician to the Spanish court and is the father of the modern plaster-cast. He was numbered amongst the best of Muslim surgeons and he wrote a monumental encyclopaedia of medicine - 'Al-Tasreef' which also contained 3 books on surgery. These later became standard reference books for Western surgery for several centuries.

**Nasiruddin Al-Tusi (1201-1274)**

He was an astrologer, astronomer, mathematician and physician. He compiled astronomical tables proposing a model for the study of planetary motion. He built the first astronomical observatory at Maragha, Turkey.

**Ibn Batuta (1304-1378)**

An explorer and traveller known as the 'Arab Marco Polo'. He travelled extensively from North Africa to Egypt, Arabia, Syria, Persia, East Africa, the Crimea, Afghanistan, India, China, Java, Sumatra... He dictated his travels in a book which was the most accurate account of the countries seen by the most far ranging traveller of the time.

**Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406)**

Known as the 'Father of historiography'. His most famous work 'Muqaddima' (translated as Prolegomena) on history stands as a president for history books. Unlike other recorders, he saw effects in causes and endeavoured to find the underlying causes for historic changes.

**Sir Muhammad Iqbal (1873-1938)**

He was a Muslim philosopher and poet. He studied at the Government college of Lahore, at Cambridge and at the University of Munich. He practised law. He wrote poetry in Urdu and is the author of many works on self-advancement.

**Muhammad Ali Jinna (1876-1948)**

The first President of Pakistan. He led to the partition of India at independence and the birth of Pakistan. He was a brilliant lawyer.

The list of Muslim women personalities is extensive but the lack of recording is due to the general traditions of women being the 'hidden' teachers who do not feel the need to announce themselves. e.g. The great Muslim mystic - Ibn Arabi gained his first foundation in mystics from two learned women.

Today, Muslim scholars and personalities still flourish. The lack of recognition is mainly because they work under organisations which are European based. Of recent, Dr. Abdussalam, Nobel Laureate - A Muslim physicist received the noble Physics prize. He is the founder of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) at Trieste in Italy.



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# HISTORY OF ISLAM

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## HISTORY

When looking at Islamic History, there are two major points to consider; natural historic cycles, and the extent to which people adhere to the religion. The first describes how dynasties rise, are governed, and then perhaps fall victim to their own weaknesses. The second describes how Islam is accepted and lived out by the people.

Throughout the history of Muslims, these two patterns have been recurring. Rulers have ruled through growth and decline, morally and materially. One factor has remained constant however, throughout the history of Muslims, there have always been people who have not only intellectually understood, accepted and received the message of the Qu'ran, but also have been transformed by such knowledge.

Immediately following the death of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) there was some confusion in the Muslim community of Madina as to who should succeed him as leader (Caliph). A few of the companions who were convinced that the Prophet had chosen a successor at a place called Ghadeer on the way back from his last Hajj - (also where the last verse of the Qur'an was revealed) rallied around his son-in-law and cousin - Ali ibn Abu Talib.

However, Abu Bakr, the Prophet's elderly companion was proclaimed the leader. The question of succession and authority after the Prophet is a major issue which shaped the subsequent course of Muslim history.

The next leader (*Caliph*) - Umar took Islam beyond Arabia. First, his armies invaded Palestine, and then subsequently to Syria, Egypt and Iran. Umar himself left Madina for the first time to go and receive the keys of Jerusalem. With consideration to the feelings of the Christians there, when it was time to pray he left the church of the Holy Sepulchre in order to pray outside, so as not to set a precedent for other Muslims to take over the churches from the Christians.

It was during the time of Umar that the year of migration (*hijra*) was adopted as the starting point of the Muslim calendar. Under the next *Caliph* Uthman (644-656 CE) Cyprus, Sicily, Rhodes and other Mediterranean ports came under Muslim rule. Uthman's death saw civil war resulting in the popular election of Ali Ibn Abu Talib as the fourth Caliph.

The rule of Ali ibn Abu Talib saw justice and Islamic values once again prevailing. The Governor of Syria, Muawiya who had inherited the Umayyad clan and who had been Governor for some 20 years was opposed to Ali and had built up a well trained large army. The mutinies and corruption instigated by Muawiya led to break away groups. One such group killed Ali ibn Abu Talib in 661 during dawn prayers in the mosque of Kufa (the then established capital of Muslim rule).

The Muslims paid allegiance to Ali's son Hasan who was the appointed successor. Muawiya used bribery and intimidation to lure the Muslims away from Hasan. After some months, in order to avoid blood shed and widespread fighting, Hasan accepted a truce with Muawiya.

Muawiya declared himself Caliph in Damascus, thereby establishing the first Muslim dynastic rule.

Muawiya managed to stamp out revolts establishing centralised administration. Most Muslims regard this era as that of betrayal of the *sunna* (the path of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)). The piety and submission to God, justice and morality became upheld only at face value.

In the name of Islam an empire was created, with its capital being Damascus. Muawiya ensured that his unworthy son Yazid was recognised as his successor.



Yazid ruled for four years (680-683 CE). The Muslims of Madina knew of his corrupt behaviour. His violence, drunkenness and loose morals were well known. When the grandson of the Prophet -Husayn refused to pay allegiance to Yazid, he ordered their killings. Isolated in the desert of Kerbala, Husayn, his family and companions were massacred in 680 CE. The message of Husayn was to prefer death rather than compromise of beliefs.

The Crusades were Christian expeditions undertaken between 1095 & 1291 to 'recover' the holy lands from the Muslims. There were 8 major Crusades. Great numbers of Muslims and Jews were massacred. The children's Crusade of 1212 saw thousands of children killed or sold into slavery and was the most shameful of them all. The Crusades had been launched to save Eastern Christians from the Muslims, yet by the time they ended, the East was entirely under the Muslim Ottoman empire.

The Mongols launched their raids around 1220-1230 bringing destruction in their path. However, they converted to Islam bringing it renewed vitality. From then until the early sixteenth century, there was the rise and fall of various kingdoms in various areas.

The Ottoman empire. (until 1922) -including Turkey, Egypt, Azerbaijan, Rhodes, Vienna, Hungary.

The Mughal empire based in India (1526-1723)

The Safavid empire in Iran (1509-1779)

The interaction of the West with the Muslim world during the 14th and sixteenth centuries (via Spain) formed the background of The Renaissance. The power of the churches dwindled and secular powers dominated the world.

Up until the fifteenth century no European city was more advanced than any other Muslim city in the world. However, by the seventeenth century Muslim lands were slowly infiltrated by the Europeans. The skills and scholastic advances were dominated and exploited by Europe seeing a shift in the balance of strength. With Napoleon's entry into Egypt in 1798 and subsequent British rule in the Middle East which introduced Arab nationalism as opposed to the Muslim identity taught by the Prophet; European worldly dominance became supreme.





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# MUSLIM FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS

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## EID UL FITR

When the new moon is sighted and the month of fasting (Ramadhan) comes to an end, the first of the new month (Shawwal) is the day of Eid ul Fitr. 'Fitr' means to break and it is called thus as God has permitted the breaking of the fast on this day.

It is also a 'festival of charity'. It is incumbent upon all Muslims to begin the day by paying Zakat ul Fitr - a special religious tax. This is paid before the prayers. It is an act of worship just as important as the prayers.

The special Eid congregational prayer consists of a brief two unit prayer followed by a sermon. After the prayers, it is the norm to visit relatives and friends, exchanging greetings. Culture dictates the food that is prepared for Eid. However, in many parts of the Muslim world a special kind of sweet is prepared with thin vermicelli. It is said (no religious reason) that it was to signify harmony and unity amongst Muslims. The strands of vermicelli despite the diversity of size, colour and thickness all intertwined.

Eid ul Fitr becomes a means of strengthening family and friendship ties as well as serving to be an occasion for a get together for the community at large.



## EID UL ADHA

Eid ul Adha means the major festival. It is also called the Eid of sacrifice or the Eid of Hajj.

Eid ul Adha is a commemoration and a reminder to Muslims of several things:

- ☪ The story of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) and Prophet Ismaeel (Ishmael) (pbuh) and their willingness to make great sacrifices for God.
- ☪ To be ready to make sacrifices for religion.
- ☪ For those who have not gone for Hajj, it is showing support for their fellow Muslims who are completing the Hajj on that day.

In remembrance of the aspect of sacrificing all for God as Prophet Ibraheem & Prophet Isma'il did, the Muslims who are in Hajj sacrifice an animal at a place called Mina, near Makka. Muslims around the world join them in making a sacrifice if possible on this day.

Like Eid ul Fitr, there is a special congregational prayer followed by visiting family and friends, exchanging greetings and sharing a meal together.



## MILADUN NABI

### **Birthday of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)**

The main objective is to remember the Prophet. Muslims use this occasion to remind themselves of the life, history and the everlasting legacy the Prophet has left behind.

For Muslims, love of God, and of the Prophet must supersede all other loves. Through recitations, discussions and narrations, the birthday is celebrated in all the languages of the world.

It falls on either the 12th or the 17th of Rabi ul Awwal - the third month of the Lunar calendar. It has, therefore no fixed day in the solar calendar.

### **Laylatul Bara't (Laylatul Mubarakah)**

#### **The blessed night**

This is the night which precedes the day of 15th Sha'ban - the 8th month of the Lunar calendar. As it is a night of blessings, Muslims engage themselves in prayer either at home or in the mosque, staying awake for the whole night. They ask for forgiveness, righteous livelihood and removal of suffering.. They remember their family and friends in their prayers, not forgetting those who are dead.

For the Shia sect, it is also the birthday of the 12th Imam whom they believe is the saviour who will re-appear with Prophet Isa (pbuh) - Jesus and bring justice and righteousness to the world.

### **Ramadhan -**

The 9th month of the Lunar calendar is by far the most important month for Muslims. Fasting for the month brings spiritual elevation and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has said that mankind are the guests of God in this month.

The **iftaar**- breaking of the fast everyday is also an institution of great importance. All Muslims are keen to share their *iftaar* with others. It brings together the rich and the poor, the people of a locality with the passing visitors.

All over England, in local mosques, individuals share the *iftaar* everyday. In large mosques such as that which houses the Ka'ba and the mosque of the Prophet in Madina, this type of *iftaar* is not possible; but thousands of people bring their individual *iftaar* with them sharing it with those around them.

### **Laylatul Qadr - The night of decree**

One of the odd nights out of the last ten days of the month of Ramadhan (from the 20th to the 30th) is the night of decree. It is the night in which the Qur'an was sent down and as the verse of the Qur'an (97:3) says - *The night of decree is better than a thousand months.*

Because, of this Muslims, young and old try their best to keep awake through out the night in remembrance of God and asking for forgiveness.

Some Muslims give up all worldly activities except those which are necessary in the last ten nights and days. Some Muslims stay in the mosque as the Prophet did for these ten days. The staying is optional and is called *I'tikaaf*.

### **Laylatul Mi'raaj - The night of Ascension**

On this night, described in the Qur'an, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) travelled through time to the heavens meeting all the Prophets who had come before him. It is on this visit that the order for the five prayers was given to the Prophet by God.

Muslims assemble in mosques or keep awake at home in the remembrance of God.



## 'Ashura

**(The tenth day of Muharram - the first month of the Lunar calendar)**

This day has a special significance for Muslims because on this day, Husayn - the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was martyred. He, his family, and a number of his companions were assassinated at Kerbala, in Iraq by an army sent by Yazid - the unjust ruler of the time who flouted Islamic laws publicly. Husayn had refused to pay allegiance to him.

The massacre in Kerbala has had the greatest impact in the history of Shia Muslims. The message of Husayn was that he chose death rather than compromise his belief.

Ashura and the nine days of Muharram preceding it is commemorated each year with gatherings and processions. The whole Shia Muslim world is in mourning during this period and keep alive the message of Husayn.



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# THE PROCESS OF LIFE

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## FAMILY LIFE

Islam is a way of life which governs every aspect of life. The family is an institution of primary importance, for it is the fabric of society.

### Marriage

The foundation of a family is based on marriage. Marriage is highly recommended in Islam for it provides an arena for opposites to combine and contentment to be awakened within the individual.

There is a great deal in the Qur'an about the relationship between man and woman and about the practical details of marriage and divorce.

Islam teaches that the right place for sex is within a marriage. Sex is regarded as a natural part of life but in order to benefit from it; it must be used in the way God intended, and not abused. Muslims are encouraged to marry young. According to Islamic Law (Shari'a) both parties must give their free consent.

The duties and responsibilities of the husband and wife are complimentary in a Muslim society.

Divorce is permitted but is the last resort. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) warned:  
*"Among all the permissible things, divorce is the most hateful to God."*

### Children

Parental responsibility in Islam begins at the time a man and a woman decide to have a family. Great emphasis is laid on the diet - both physical and spiritual prior to conception. During pregnancy the responsibility of the mother to refrain from unhealthy food and unhealthy thoughts is stressed. The child is named as soon as his/her presence is known (in the womb). The right name is very important for Muslims. The final name is given on birth depending on the child being a boy or a girl.

### Birth

As soon as a baby is born, the *adhan* (pronounced *adhaan*)- call to prayer is recited in the child's right ear and the *iqama* (pronounced *iqama*)-call indicating the beginning of prayer is recited in the left ear. The sound of Adhan and Iqama will dominate the whole life of the child for he/she will hear and/or recite it for five prayers in a day.

It is recommended that the baby's head be shaved when he/she is seven days old. Traditionally the shaved hair is weighed and the equivalent amount in gold or silver is given to the poor and needy to thank God for the gift of a new life. Today, a donation is given in lieu. A sacrifice of a sheep or a goat is done and distributed between the midwife, the poor and family and friends. This ceremony is known as *aqiqã*.

Only Boys are circumcised in Islam. This is done as soon as possible after the birth. Circumcision of girls is not part of Islam.

### Education

Islam is a way of life and therefore a Muslim's whole life is governed by Sharia' - Islamic Law. From a young age children are taught everything according to Islamic Law.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) made it clear that seeking knowledge was obligatory for every Muslim man and woman. He also said:

*"Seek knowledge even if it be in China"*



This implied that a Muslim should go to great lengths to seek useful knowledge. Muslims, however did not have to go as far as that before they excelled in literary, scientific, artistic, philosophical and other fields. The use of manufactured paper from the ninth century onwards made the copying of books easier. It was the spread of these Muslim books that led Europe out of the dark ages.

Since gaining knowledge is compulsory, schooling is very important. Most children in the West go to local schools hoping that their beliefs will be respected. Some of the issues which raise concern with Muslims at local schools may be the wearing of Hijab (the modest dress with head covering for girls), separate PE & swimming lessons for boys and girls, fasting.

## Food

Eating and drinking are the basic necessities for sustaining life. Islamic law does not prohibit the partaking of '**good**' food. In the Qur'an, God says:

*"O you who believe! Eat of the **good** things We have provided you with and thank God if it is He that you worship"*

**Qur'an 2:172**

The general criterion for food and drink being permissible is their being '**good**'.

## What is 'good' food and drink?

1. The food must be obtained by lawful means. It is forbidden to eat any food which is obtained by stealing, and deceit.
2. It must be **halal** which means permitted and not **haram** which means *forbidden*. Most fish and all vegetables are permitted, alcohol is forbidden and there are restrictions on meat. The following are some of the meats that are forbidden.
  - All products from the pig
  - Animals that eat other animals or excrement for food
  - Animals and birds that died of themselves (not slaughtered)
  - Animals which are strangled or stunned to death
  - Animals which are killed for food without being slaughtered in the Islamic way.
3. Alcoholic drinks, wine, beer, and all drugs which affect the brain are forbidden as well.

## Dress

The order for woman to dress modestly has become an issue that is focused on greatly. All Muslims, men and women alike must cover themselves and avoid wearing revealing clothes which enhance physical beauty. For women, the details are more specific as their gender is allied with beauty.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did not prescribe any particular style or type of dress but gave a description of what is acceptable and what is not allowed.

The word *hijab* in Arabic means a barrier, cover or veil. It provides the necessary dignity and self respect to be able to lead a balanced social life. It is to wear simple clothing to cover the body and hair. The face and hands upto the wrists may be left un-covered.

## Culture

Muslim culture is not bound by geographical boundaries. Islam is a universal religion and therefore accessible to all people. Muslims are represented in every race ranging from African and Arab to European, Chinese, Mongolian, Indian & Turkic.

The belief in one God, the imminence of death, and the belief that this life is a preparation ground for the next one directs the life of all Muslims to one goal and therefore they identify themselves as Muslims before nations, societies, or races.





Although Islam unites Muslims, it cannot be claimed that it produces cultural uniformity. The everyday life in a household living in England will not be the same as one living in China. However, there are strong common factors that would make a Muslim from Iceland feel at home with a Muslim in India. These are:

1. Every aspect of life has a unifying character in Islam. The way a Muslim regards water, the modesty regarding one's body, the ethics of trade and business, the uniformity of salaa (prayers) and other religious worship like Hajj. Islam brings people from diverse cultures and places them on a platform of equality at the spiritual universal gathering of Hajj.
2. The use of Arabic. Because the Qur'an and the recitation of the salaa must be in Arabic, Muslims naturally learn it and this common denominator generates a sense of connection between them. Arabic words have been incorporated by Muslims in most languages of the world.

Many English words come from the Arabic language:

Al-Jabr	Algebra
Limun	Lemon
Retina	Retina
Makhazin	Magazine
Atlas	Atlas
Qutun	Cotton
Zirafah	Giraffe
Sukkar	Sugar
Amir Al-Rahl	Admiral
Sharba	Sorbet
Talq	Talc

### **Death**

Death for a Muslim is not annihilation but a transition from the physical world to the spiritual world. The body is washed according to the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and then shrouded. The burial takes place as soon as possible after death. Special prayers are said prior to burial. Cremation is forbidden in Islam. The body is therefore buried. It is laid on it's side in the grave with the face towards the *qibla* - direction towards Makka.



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# THE MOSQUE

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## THE MOSQUE

A mosque is called a *masjid* (pronounced *musjid*), in Arabic. It literally means a 'place of prostration'.

A mosque is not necessarily that which has a dome and a minaret and may therefore be difficult to recognise in non-Muslim countries.

A mosque has three functions:

1. It is a place of prayer/worship.
2. A place of learning.
3. A community centre.

Its rooms and facilities must meet all these needs.

### Some Features Of A Mosque

#### **Dome**

In hot countries it allows the air to circulate. It also allows a large area to be covered without the use of pillars.

#### **Minaret**

It is a tall tower used to deliver the 'Adhaan' (call to prayer). The minaret became an ideal astronomical observatory. By the 10th century Muslims had invented the 'astrolabe' by which the movement of the stars and planets was calculated. This enabled the Muslims to tell the time at night and thus was the fore runner of the clock we use today for time keeping.

#### **The Prayer Hall**

It is a large hall with no furniture but with a floor covering to sit on.

#### **The Mihrab**

It is an alcove in the wall showing the direction towards the Ka'ba in Makka (direction of prayer). This direction is called qibla.

It also amplifies the voice of the prayer leader (Imam).

#### **The Mimbar**

It is a set of at least three steps used to raise the Imam for delivering sermons.

#### **Washing facilities**

Before praying Salaa (the ritual prayer), Muslims must wash in a particular way as instructed in the Qur'an. The washing is called wudhoo and has a spiritual aspect to it. Each part of the wash is accompanied by a prayer. e.g. Whilst washing the face, a Muslim prays to God to remove the darkness of sins and illuminate it with His light especially on the day of Judgement.

#### **Decorations**

Some mosques are decorated with verses of the Qur'an whilst some have calligraphic patterns or are plain. In any case, there are no pictures or statues.



## ☾ THE STAR & THE CRESCENT

The minarets and domes of mosques sometimes have a crescent and a five pointed star on top of them. Many Muslim countries also use these symbols on their flags.

☾ Muslims follow the Lunar calendar, and the new moon marks the beginning of the new month. The Lunar calendar is approximately 11 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar.

☾ A new day starts not at midnight but in the evening with the sunset.

☾ Stars were used to find the direction of Makka which houses the Ka'ba and towards which all Muslims turn to pray every day. Astronomy became an important science in Islam (see notes on minaret).



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# FOOD & DRINK

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## FOOD & DRINK

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3. Alcoholic drinks, wine, beer, and all drugs which affect the brain are forbidden as well.

In this manual we will look at **Honey, dates, figs and olives**, which are some of the foods mentioned in **the Qur'an** and are **highly recommended** by the Prophet (pbuh) for healthy living.

### Honey

"And your Lord taught the bee to build its hives in the hills, on trees and in what men build. Then to eat of all the fruits, and walk in the path of its Lord submissively. From within their bodies issues a **drink of varying colours, in which there is healing for men**. Most surely there is a sign in this for those who reflect."

**Qur'an 16:68,69**

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) recommended honey for the following:

1. Curing depression.
2. Sharpening the memory.
3. As an eye salve for brightening one's vision.
4. As a preventative measure for a number of diseases.
5. To cure acute indigestion (taken with hot water).

### Dates

"And shake towards you the trunk of the palm tree, it will drop on you **dates** - fresh and ripe; So eat and drink and refresh the eye..."

**Qur'an 19:25,26**

When Mary felt the birth of Jesus approaching, she rested upon the trunk of a dead palm tree. As she leaned against the trunk, lonely and in pain, it suddenly became green spreading new leaves and bearing ripe fruit.

A voice told her to shake the palm tree and eat of the dates which would refresh her...



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has recommended dates for:

1. Instant energy (especially recommended for those suffering from low blood pressure).
2. As an antidote against stomach bugs.

### **Fig & Olive**

"By the **Fig** and the **Olive**, and the Mount of Sinai, and this city of security (Makka); We have indeed created human beings in the best of moulds."

#### **Qur'an 95:1-4**

Figs & Olives are mentioned in the Qur'an to identify their distinctive health benefits over other fruits.

### **Figs**

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) recommended them for several ailments including:

- i) Curing bad breath.
- ii) Strengthening bones.
- iii) Improving the growth of hair.
- iv) A cure for piles.
- v) A cure for general aches and pains.

### **Olives**

Olive oil had been recommended in several traditions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) for:

- i) A cure for food poisoning.
- ii) Massaging the body.

The leaves of the olive tree have been recommended for eczema, and other skin ailments.



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# THE QUR'AN

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## THE QUR'AN\*

\*pronounced Qur-aan

**To things immortal, time can do no wrong, And that which is never to die, forever must be young."**

The Qur'an is the word of God passed on to mankind through Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is therefore not the author but recited accurately what was revealed to him by God through the angel Jibraeel (Gabriel).

According to the occasion, sometimes a complete **surā** (chapter) was revealed whilst at other times only one **ayā** (verse) was revealed. The Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) over a period of some 23 years.

The first five verses that were revealed were :

*"In the name of God, the Kind, the Merciful,  
Recite in the name of Your Lord who created,  
Created the human being from a clot of blood,  
Recite and Your Lord is the most Generous,,  
Who taught by the pen,  
Taught the human being that which he knew not" -*

**Qur'an 96:1-5**

The last verse that was revealed was in a place called Ghadeer where Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) halted whilst returning to Madina from his last pilgrimage to Makka.

*"....This day I (Allah) have perfected your religion for you, completed My favours upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion..."*

**Qur'an 5:4**

The Prophet had entrusted some companions to write down the verses as they were revealed and he would fix the position in the relevant chapters.

The language in which the Qur'an was revealed is Arabic. It is written from right to left and the book opens in this direction too.

As it is divine in origin; every word, every letter is sacred to Muslims. That is why it is very important for Muslims to be in *wudhoo* (ritual wash) before they touch the words.

It is also very important for Muslims to keep the Qur'an in Arabic. Although translations of the Qur'an are found in numerous languages they are never called the Qur'an but referred to as "translations of the Qur'an".

Even Muslims who cannot speak or understand Arabic will learn how to recite it and will memorise the opening chapter and many other short chapters which form part of the daily prayers. This is why the vocabulary of a non-Arab Muslim is full of Qur'anic words and verses. Of these, some become habitual from child hood.

The verse *Bismillā hir rahmā nir raheem* is one such phrase. It means - '(I begin) in the name of God, the Kind, the Merciful'. A Muslim says this sentence constantly before embarking on anything - be it eating, reading, writing, playing.....

The Arabic language combined with the divinity of the Qur'an gives a wealth of hidden meanings, ideas, thoughts and feelings which are not fully appreciated by reading a translation. It is to this inexhaustible supply of meanings that the Qur'an says:

*"And if it were that all the trees on the earth were pens, and the seas added to seven more seas (were ink); yet the words of God would not be exhausted..."*

**Qur'an 31:27**



The Qur'an is full of great thoughts which are not organised with a beginning, middle or end. It is not only, history, philosophy, science, prophecy or a code of life; rather it is a combination of all of it and more... It is as though all knowledge in the language of man has been summarised by God into just over 6000 sentences and then fragmented into billions of truths to guide mankind forever.

All Muslims, throughout the world use the same Qur'an. There is no difference whatsoever amongst any of the publications.



## THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE QUR'AN

### Suratul Faatiha (The Opening)

This chapter is recited by every Muslim in each of his/her daily prayers.

[1.1] In the name of Allah, the Kind, the Merciful

[1.2] All praise belongs to Allah, the Nourisher/Sustainer of the worlds

[1.3] The Kind, the Merciful

[1.4] Master of the day of Judgement

[1.5] Only You do we serve, and only You do we ask for help

[1.6] Guide us on the right path

[1.7] The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favours, not the path of those upon whom You are angry nor those who have gone astray.



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# **THE SUNNAH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (pbuh)**

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## THE SUNNAH

This means the actions and sayings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) which is seen as a model of behaviour to be followed by Muslims.

**Hadith** literally means 'talk'. In Islamic terminology it means the recorded words of the Prophet (pbuh) and the narrations which describe his actions.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) actively encouraged Muslims to write down whatever they heard from him.

Not only do Muslims have to pray, fast, give zakaa, perform the hajj etc... but they are also required to look after their families and be active useful members of the society they live in. Islam is a total code of life. No sphere of life is left ignored and each is governed by divine laws. In order for Muslims to be able to obey these laws, sincerity alone is not enough. Knowledge of what and how to follow the laws is required. For this there must be an understanding and interpretation of the Qur'an and the Sunnah. This is done by the scholars (known as 'Ulema) who have devoted their lives in studying the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

Some ahadith (pl of hadith) of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

- Seeking knowledge is the duty of every Muslim.
- Cleanliness is half of religion.
- Powerful is not he who knocks the other down. Indeed powerful is he who controls himself when he is angry.
- Actions are judged according to their intentions, and every person will be judged (in the hereafter) according to what he or she intends.
- The world is green and beautiful, and God has appointed you His stewards over it.
- God will show no compassion on the one who has no compassion towards all humankind.
- He who eats his fill while his neighbour goes without food is not a believer.



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# STORIES

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## WHO IS ALLAH?

The people kept asking Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) who Allah was?

*Does He have a partner?*

*Does He have parents?*

*Does He need anything?*

*Is there someone or something like Him?*

The angel Jibrail brought the following chapter of the Qur'an from Allah to answer their questions.

“(I begin) In the name of Allah, the Kind, the Merciful.

Say! He Allah is one.

Allah - The Independent

He does not give birth and neither was He given birth to.

And there is none like Him.”

**Suratul Ikhlas (Chapter of Unity) -Chapter 12**



## "WILL YOU CONTROL THE FLIES?"

A wise man was once asked a question by a tyrant king who promised him a thousand gold coins for the right answer.

If he failed than he would be humiliated in front of all the people of the city.

The wise man said:

*"I do not need any worldly wealth or money from you, but if I reply correctly, will you control the flies that are harassing us?"*

The king replied:

*"That is not possible!"*

The wise man said:

*"What could be expected from one who cannot even control a fly, but expects to control the Creation of God with no respect for the laws of God."*





## THE DREAM OF IBRAHEEM!

Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) was resting not far from Makka on Mount Rahma in a place called Arafat when he had a dream.

He dreamt that he was sacrificing his son Prophet Ismail (pbuh).

For three days he had the same dream.

He loved Ismail (pbuh) very much but he realised that Allah wanted to test him. How much did he love Allah?

Ismail (pbuh) was thirteen years old. Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) told Ismail (pbuh) about his dream. Ismail (pbuh) wanted his father to do what Allah wanted.

Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) laid Ismail (pbuh) down. He tied his hands and feet and blindfolded him and himself.

He opened his eyes after he thought he had sacrificed his son but Lo and Behold! standing near him safe and sound was Ismail (pbuh) and a ram (daddy sheep) was in the place of Ismail (pbuh)

Allah had accepted the sacrifice of Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) and he had passed his test of faith.

We remember the sacrifice of Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) on Eid ul Adh'ha (Hajj).



## NINETEEN SONS!

Prophet Dawud (pbuh) had nineteen sons. Allah had granted Prophet Dawud (pbuh) the Zabur (The psalms). He also became King of his people.

Each of his sons hoped to inherit their father's throne. Allah revealed to Prophet Dawud (pbuh) some questions to put to each of his sons. Who ever answered the questions correctly, would inherit his father's throne.

One day, Prophet Dawud (pbuh) called all his sons in the presence of all the scholars and leaders of all the tribes in his kingdom. He asked them all the following questions:

1. Which is the nearest thing to a human being?
2. Which is the furthest thing to a human being?
3. Which two things are attached to each other?
4. Which is the most shocking thing?
5. Which two things remain unchanged?
6. Which two things are always different?
7. Which two things are opposed to each other?
8. What is the action the result of which is good?
9. What is the action the result of which is bad?

Only the youngest son, Prophet Sulayman (pbuh) stood up and gave the following answers

1. The nearest thing to a human being is the hereafter(death may come at any moment)
2. The furthest thing from a human being is the time which has passed away.
3. The two things that are attached to each other are the body and the soul.
4. The most shocking thing is a dead body (a body without a soul).
5. The two things which remain the same are the sky and the earth.
6. The two things which are different are the night and day.
7. The two things opposed to each other are life and death.
8. The action, the result of which is good is patience at the time of anger.
9. The action, the result of which is bad is haste at the time of anger.

Prophet Sulayman (pbuh) was appointed the successor to his father's throne.



## THE BABY IN THE WOODEN BOX!

Firaun was furious!! His astrologer (a person who forecasts what will happen in the future) had just told him that a baby was to be born who would be the king of Egypt and will take the place of Firaun.

Firaun ordered his soldiers to kill all the baby boys born in the land.

The mother of Prophet Musa (pbuh) was very worried. She was going to have her baby soon. She prayed to Allah to keep her baby safe.

When Prophet Musa (pbuh) was born, his mother went to the carpenter and asked him to make a waterproof box. He made her a box out of wood and lined it so the water would not seep in. She placed Prophet Musa (pbuh) in the box and let the box float down the river. She knew that Allah would keep him safe as He had given her the idea.

Firaun's wife, Sayyida Asiya, found the box and when she opened it she saw the most beautiful baby she had ever seen. She had no children of her own and she asked Firaun if she could keep the baby as her own. Firaun agreed.

The baby however would not take milk from anyone. Prophet Musa's sister was watching all this. She went to Sayyida Asiya and said that she knew someone who was very good with children. Asiya agreed for her to bring the lady. Prophet Musa's (pbuh) sister ran back to her mother and took her to Sayyida Asiya. As soon as prophet Musa (pbuh) saw his mother he took milk from her. Sayyida Asiya asked her to look after the baby.

Allah had saved Prophet Musa (pbuh). He was brought up in the palace of Firaun, looked after by his own mother.



## THE BURNING BUSH

It was a cold night in the desert! Prophet Musa (pbuh) and his family were tired and very cold. Suddenly Prophet Musa (pbuh) saw a light. He told his wife to stay where she was and he would go and see what it was. If it was fire he would bring some back and they would be able to keep themselves warm.

As he came near the light he saw that it was indeed a fire but the fire was burning from a green bush. Suddenly a voice told him :  
*"O Musa! I am your Lord!....  
I have chosen you to be My messenger...*

Allah then asked him:  
*And what is this in your hand O Musa?*

Prophet Musa (pbuh) replied:  
*This is my staff, I rest on it and I beat down leaves for my sheep, and use it for other things...*

Allah said:  
*Throw it down O Musa!*

When Prophet Musa (pbuh) threw it down it became a running snake. Allah asked him to pick it up but Prophet Musa (pbuh) was a little scared. Allah told him not to be frightened and when Prophet Musa (pbuh) picked it up it became a staff again.

Allah then asked him to place his hand under his armpit. When Prophet Musa (pbuh) did that and took it out again there was a bright shining light on it.

These were the great miracles given to Prophet Musa (pbuh) by Allah.

Allah then asked him to go to Firaun to tell him there was only one God -Allah because Firaun used to claim that he himself was a God.

Prophet Musa (pbuh) asked Allah if he could take his brother Prophet Harun (pbuh) with him as his helper. Allah allowed him to do so.



## LET MY PEOPLE GO!

Prophet Musa (pbuh) and Prophet Harun (pbuh) went to see Firaun as Allah had commanded. When they met Firaun they told him to believe in Allah.

*"And who is the Lord of you two? O Musa!"* Firaun asked.

Prophet Musa (pbuh) told Firaun about Allah but Firaun just made fun of them.

Prophet Musa (pbuh) showed Firaun the miracles that Allah had given him. His staff which turned into a snake and his hand which when put under his armpit had a shining white light. Firaun still would not believe.

Firaun was very cruel to the people of Bani Israil. He was using them as slaves. Prophet Musa (pbuh) told him to let his people, the Bani Israil go but Firaun refused and made them work even harder.

Allah sent his punishment on the people of Firaun. He sent a storm of locusts and frogs everywhere, worms that got into people's noses and clothes. The river Nile turned to blood. Every time a punishment came Firaun would agree to let the Bani Israil go but when it was over he would say: *"NO!"*

Finally Allah told Prophet Musa (pbuh) to take the people away at night. At last they were on their way. When they got to the river Nile, Prophet Musa (pbuh), hit the river with his staff and 12 roads appeared for them to cross on.

Firaun and his soldiers were chasing them but when they got onto the roads in the river the waves folded over them and they were drowned.



## **FORTY NIGHTS ON THE MOUNTAIN!**

Prophet Musa (pbuh) climbed Mount Sinai to keep his appointment with Allah to be on the mountain for 40 nights.

He had left his brother Prophet Harun (pbuh) in charge to look after the Bani Israil.

Allah gave Prophet Musa (pbuh) some rules for the people to follow so they could be good Muslims. The rules were written in a book called the TAWRAAT.

Some of the rules were:

Don't worship any gods except Allah

Do not steal.

Do not lie.

Do not blame anyone wrongly.

Whilst Prophet Musa (pbuh) was on the mountain, the Bani Israil did not listen to Prophet Harun (pbuh) They listened to a bad man called Samiri who told them to make a statue of a cow out of gold and to worship it.

When Prophet Musa (pbuh) came back he was very angry. He burnt the statue and threw the ashes into the sea.

He asked the people to ask for forgiveness from Allah.



## THE BABY SPEAKS!

Imran was a good man. His wife was called Hanna.

Hanna made a promise to Allah that she would give her baby to serve Allah. She asked Allah to keep her baby safe from Shaitan. When her baby was born she called her Maryam.

Hanna kept her promise and took Baby Maryam to the temple in Jerusalem. Here Sayyida Maryam was looked after by Prophet Zakariyya (pbuh) who was her uncle.

One day when she was a young lady, an angel came to her room and told her that she was to have a baby whose name would be Isa - son of Maryam. He told her that he would be a Prophet of Allah and would speak even when an infant.

Sayyida Maryam asked the angel how she could have a baby without a husband. The angel told her that Allah could do anything He wished.

After Prophet Isa (pbuh) was born, Sayyida Maryam was worried as to how she would tell the people of the town about him. She was ordered by Allah to keep silent and let the baby talk.

When the people of the town asked her about the baby she pointed to him in her arms. Baby Isa (pbuh) said:

*"I am a servant of Allah; He has given me the book (Injeel) and made me a Prophet"*

**Qur'an - Suratu Maryam 19:30**

The book that Allah had given him is called the Injeel.

He grew up to teach the people about Allah telling them there was only one God.

He was given the miracle of curing the sick and making dead people come back to life.



## UP TO HEAVEN!

The enemies of Prophet Isa (pbuh) wanted to get rid of him. They did not like him talking about Allah and asking people to be good Muslims.

They made a plan to kill him. When Prophet Isa (pbuh) found out about their plan he went to live away in a secret hideout which only his close companions knew of.

The enemies gave 30 pieces of silver to one of the companions of Prophet Isa (pbuh) to tell them where he was. When the enemy soldiers came to the hideout to arrest him, Allah had raised him up to heaven.

The soldiers did not find anyone but Allah had changed the face of the companion who had given away the secret to look like that of Prophet Isa (pbuh)

The soldiers arrested him and nailed him to a cross thinking it was Prophet Isa (pbuh)

Allah saved His Prophet.

Prophet Isa (pbuh) is still alive in the heavens and will come back to earth when Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh) re-appears.





## **HE WHO BROKE BREAD!**

His real name was Amr. His people in Arabia were having difficult times. No rain had fallen for months and therefore nothing grew from the hard baked earth.

Amr took all that he had and went to another country to swap it for food.

He got flour and when he came back home to Makka he made bread for his people.

He killed all the camels he had to make meat gravy for the people to soak their bread in.

The people were so grateful. They called him HASHIM which means one who breaks bread.

Hashim was the great grandfather of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)



## THE WELL BEHAVED BOY WITH WHITE HAIR!

He was born to Salma in Yathrib, the city which was later to be called Madina. His father Hashim had died in Makka and did not see his son.

When he was born he had a patch of white hair on the front of his head and so his mother called him Shayba which means one with white hair.

He grew up to be a very well behaved young boy with excellent akhlaq. The people of Madina were so impressed with his akhlaq that they called him Shaybatul Hamd which means the one with white hair who is praiseworthy.

A man from Makka once visited Madina and saw Shaybatul Hamd. When he returned to Makka he told Hashim's brother Muttalib that he had seen his brother's son.

Muttalib went to Madina and with Salma's permission he brought the young Shaybatul Hamd to Makka.

When the people of Makka saw Muttalib with the young boy entering the town they thought he was Muttalib's slave. In Arabic slave is 'abd' and so they called him **Abdul Muttalib** which means slave of Muttalib.

Muttalib tried to explain that this was his nephew but the name stuck.

Abdul Muttalib grew up to be the chief of Makka. He had lots of sons of whom one was Abdullah (pbuh) who was the father of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



## AL-AMIN - (THE TRUSTWORTHY ONE)

Once, the Ka'ba was being rebuilt. The people of Makka were all working together to build it.

When the walls reached the level where they had to place the 'Hajar al-Aswad' (The black stone) the work stopped. Everyone wanted to place the black stone in it's position because it was so important.

There was a big argument and it seemed like there would be a civil war in Makka.

A wise man spoke out and said:

*"Do not make war because it destroys homes and cities. It causes misery and hardship. Find a solution to your problem."*

He suggested that they choose a person who would decide what to do from themselves.

The people asked who and how they should choose. The wise man suggested that they appoint the first person who enters Masjid al-Haram through a particular door which he pointed towards.

Everyone agreed and all eyes were fixed on the door.

A young man entered. Everyone was glad for it was Muhammad Al-Amin (pbuh) (The Trustworthy One). They crowded around him and told him what had happened.

He told them:

*"All the leading men of Makka must share in this important work."*

The people looked surprised:

*"How is that possible?"*

Muhammad (pbuh) gave instructions for all the leaders of the tribes to be present. When they had all assembled he took off his cloak and placed the Hajar al-Aswad in the middle. He asked all the leaders to pick the cloak and bring it to the side of the Ka'ba.

Muhammad (pbuh) gently guided the stone to it's special place.



## WHERE IS THE OLD LADY?

There was an old lady who always threw rubbish on Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) whenever he went past her house. She did not lie him being a Muslim.

Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) would brush off the rubbish and greet her politely.

One day as he walked past her house he was surprised there was no rubbish thrown on him.

He asked "Where is the old lady?"

Someone told him she was ill in bed.

Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) went to her house and asked if there was anything he could do for her. He helped her in whatever way she wanted.

The old lady felt ashamed of herself and asked Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) to forgive her.

She said to him that his manners had made her believe that there is no God except Allah. And he Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) is the messenger of Allah.



## ME'RAJ

One night the angel Jibrail came to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and said that he was to go on a special journey.

The Prophet (pbuh) rode on a special animal called Buraq which travelled faster than lightning. In Arabic lightning is Barq.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was taken from the Ka'ba to Madina where he was later to go. From there he was taken to Mount Sinai where Prophet Musa (pbuh) had an appointment with Allah for forty nights.

From there he went to Baytulhaam (Bethlehem) where Prophet Isa (pbuh) was born and then to Baytul Muqaddas (Jerusalem) where in the mosque of Aqsa he led Salaatul Jama'a praying with all the other Prophets sent before him.

From Baytul Muqaddas, Buraq took him to the heavens where he met all the other Prophets and saw the places of punishment and the places of blessings.

He also went to the masjid in the heavens.

Allah says in the Qur'an that the Prophet (pbuh) was taken on this special journey so he could see some of the wonderful signs of Allah.

When we have a very good friend we too want to show them our secrets and treasures.



## THE PLOT TO KILL!

The people of Makka who did not believe in Allah had tried everything. They tried to stop the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) from teaching about the one God - Allah by offering him riches and comfort but that did not work. They tried to be nasty to him and his followers but that too did not work so they decided to kill him.

They chose one person from each tribe to meet one night and kill the Prophet (pbuh) whilst he was sleeping.

Allah had told the Prophet (pbuh) of their plan through the angel Jibrail. The Prophet (pbuh) asked his son in law - Ali (pbuh) to sleep in his bed that night.

The Prophet (pbuh) slipped out of the house under the very noses of the killers.

Later in the night, the killers burst into the house. They lifted the blanket to find Ali (pbuh) sleeping in the Prophet's (pbuh) place.

Their plan had failed.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was on his way to Madina where the people had invited him to come.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his companion Abu Bakr were exhausted. They had fled Makka where the people had tried to kill the Prophet (pbuh).

They came to some caves just outside Makka. They made their way into a cave to rest for a while.

Meanwhile in Makka the Quraysh were furious. Ali (pbuh) had been sleeping in the Prophet's (pbuh) bed to fool them. Their plan of killing the Prophet (pbuh) had failed miserably. They offered a reward of one hundred camels to anyone who would bring the Prophet (pbuh) back.

The Prophet (pbuh) and Abu Bakr were in the cave and could hear the sound of hooves nearing the cave. Abu Bakr started crying:

*"What shall we do? There are only the two of us against all of them!"*

The Prophet (pbuh) told him that Allah too was with them.

The Quraysh came near the entrance of the cave but on seeing the web and the nest of a dove there they turned back thinking that there could be nobody inside as the web was not broken and the nest of the dove had eggs in it.



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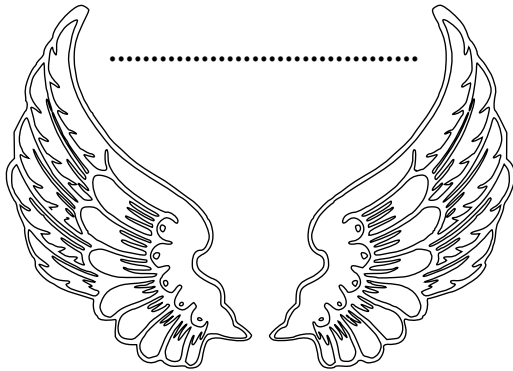
# SAMPLE WORKSHEETS

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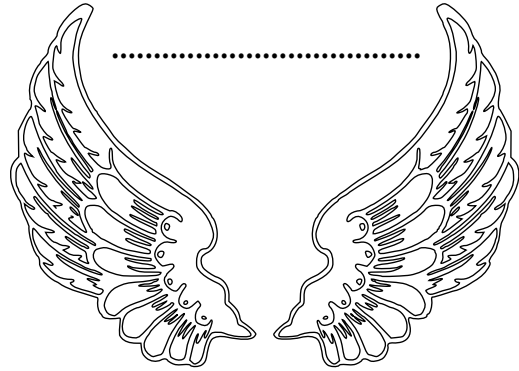


# Angels

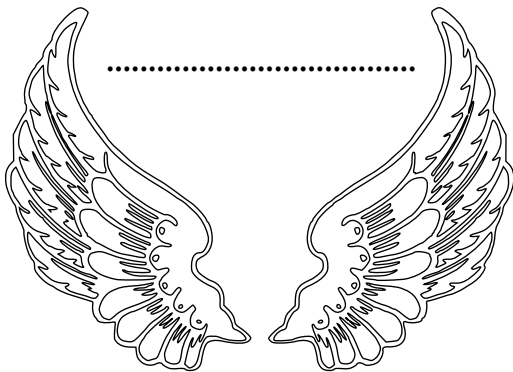
Colour and fill in the names of the four special angels and write below of what they do:



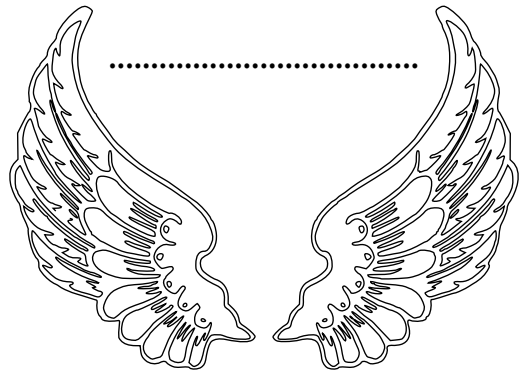
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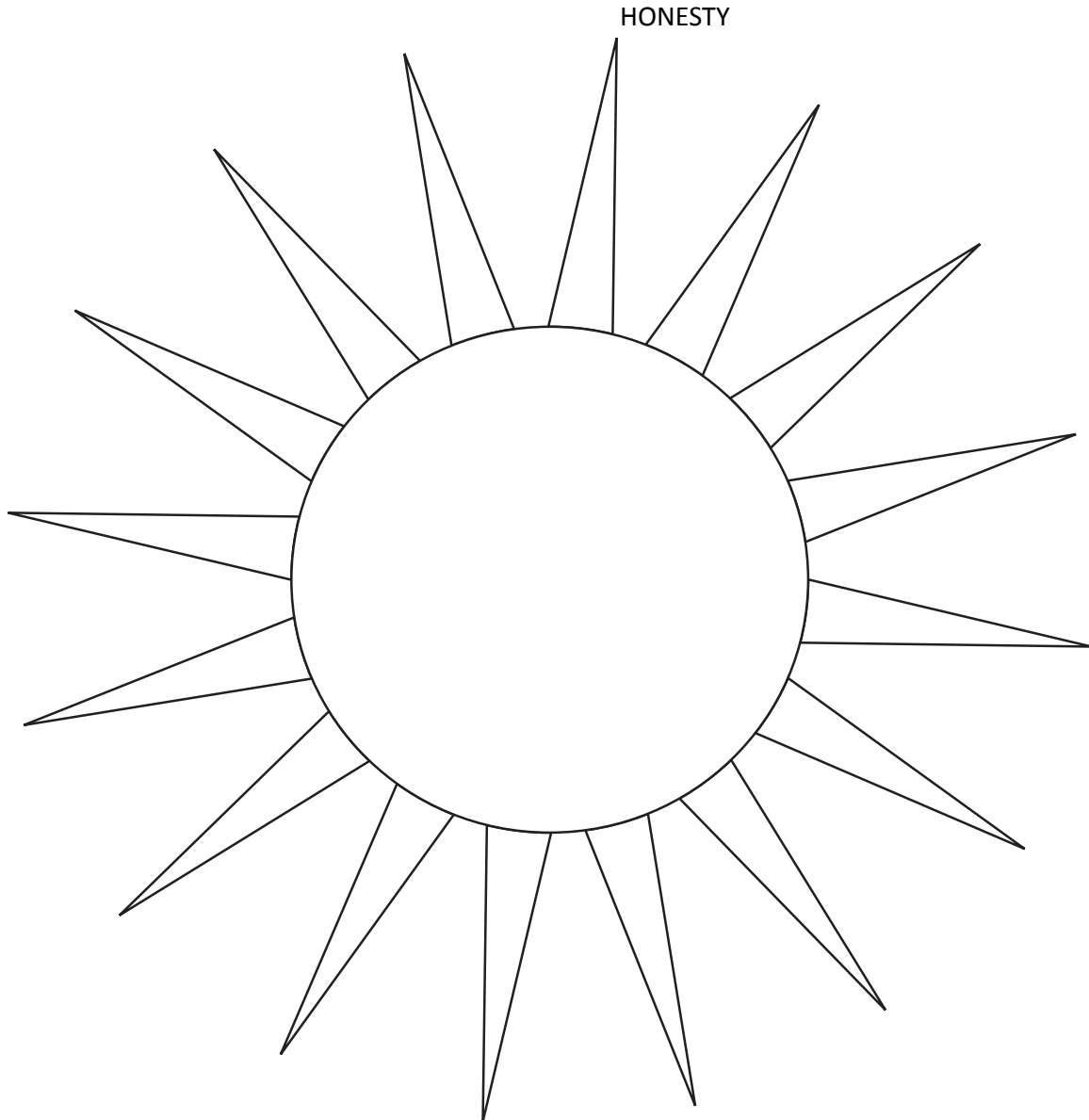
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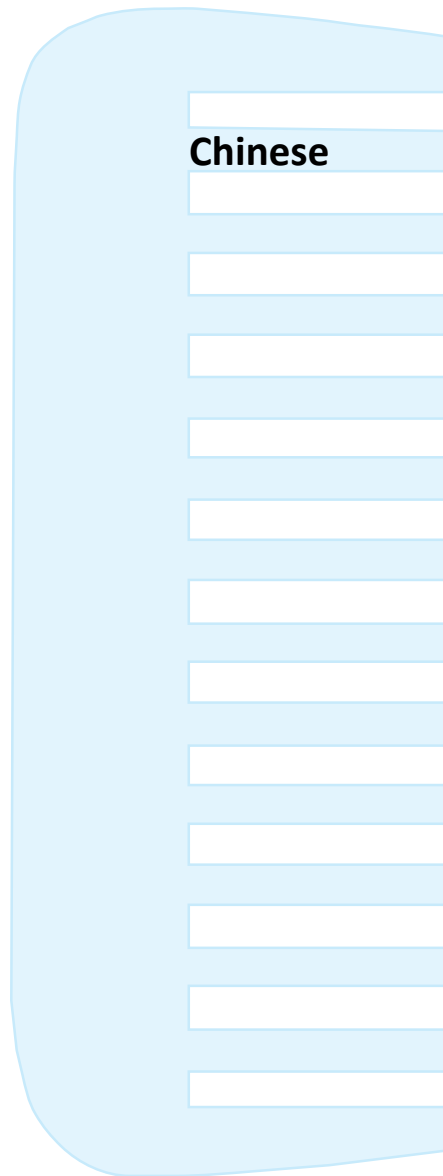
**PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)  
THE SUN OF KNOWLEDGE TO OUR PATH**

Colour the sun below and for every ray that you see write down the different things that Rasulullah has taught us. One has been done for you.



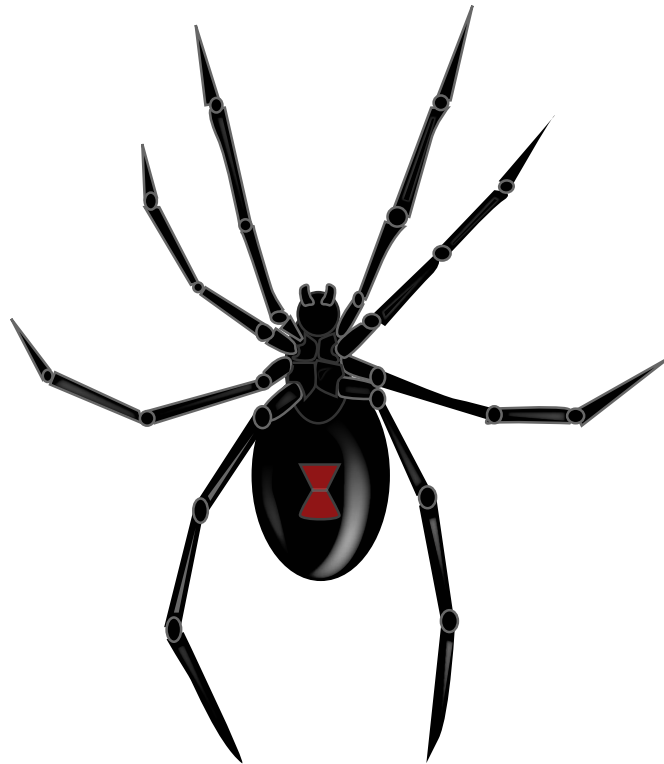
## ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL- THE PROPHET HATED NATIONALISM

“ Human beings from Adam to this day are like the teeth of a comb, there is no superiority for an Arab over a non Arab, nor for one colour over another except with God awareness “  
On the teeth of the comb below write down all the different nationalities of people that you know. One has been done for you.



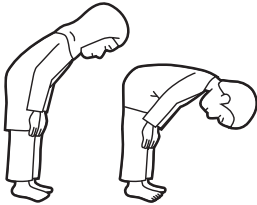
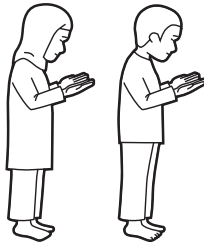
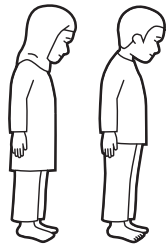
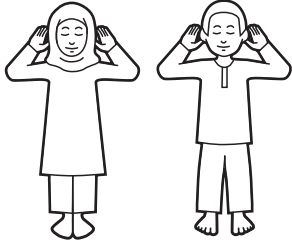
## PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

Draw the web which the spider made to protect the Prophet (pbuh)



# My actions of Salaa

Match the different salaa positions with the correct name.



Sajda

Qunoot

Rukoo

Qiyam

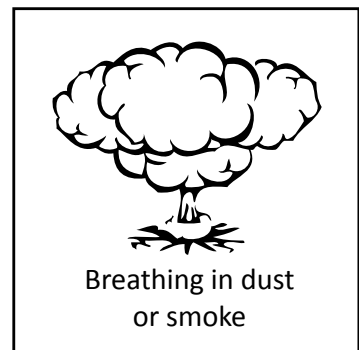
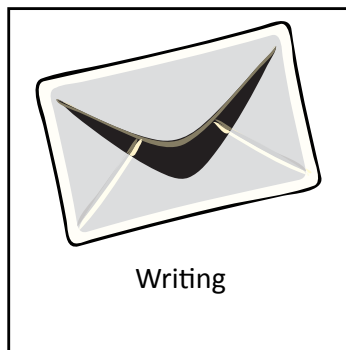
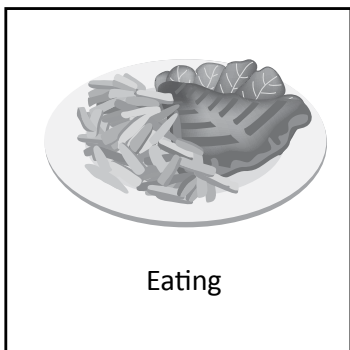
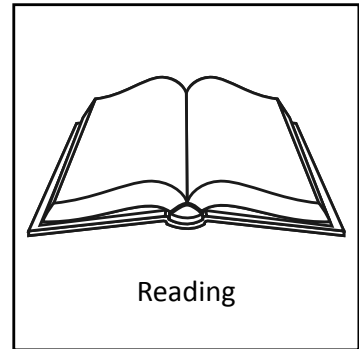
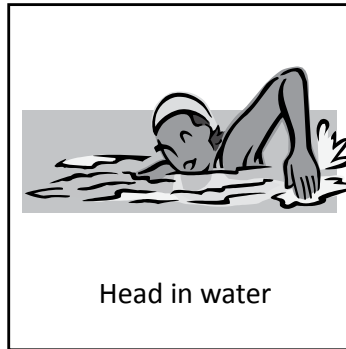
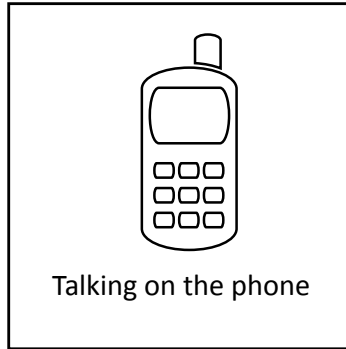
Takbeeratul  
Ihram

Juloos



# Sawm

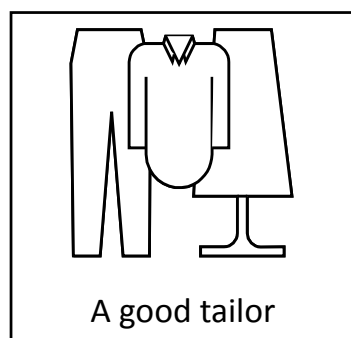
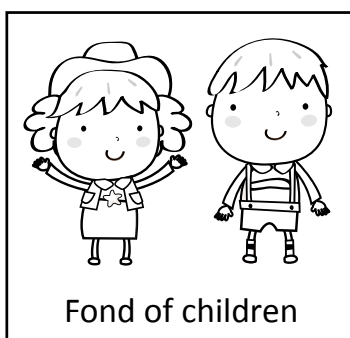
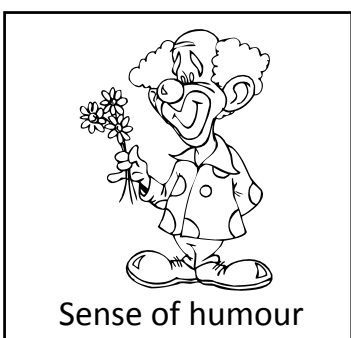
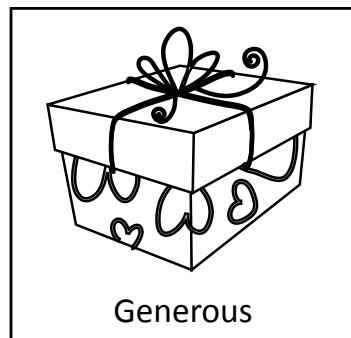
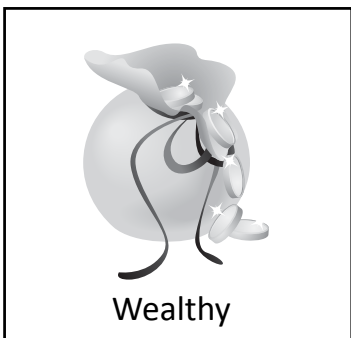
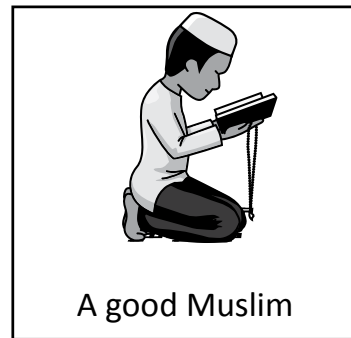
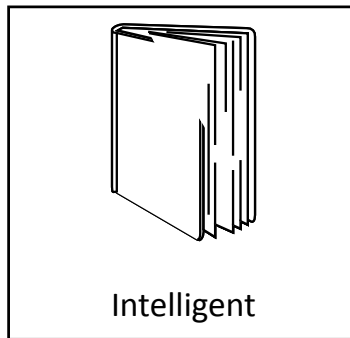
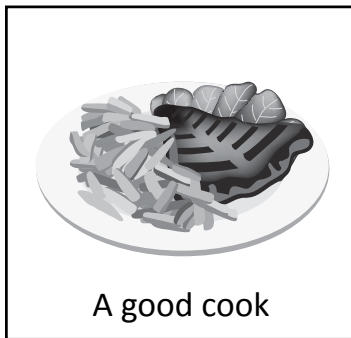
Circle all the things that would break sawm.



# Parents Dua

“...Lord have mercy on them (parents) as they had mercy on me when I was little...”

When you become a parent (inshallah) what qualities do You think are the most important for a parent. Put the qualities below in order of importance.



# Suratul Feel

## The Year of the Elephant

Colour the picture below



