

Learning Islam for Infants



4-7 years



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Preface

This manual is a compilation of notes which enables the teaching of the Q School Learning Programme. The curriculum is represented by the Learning Outcomes as laid out in the Certificate of Achievement. Each Certificate is the syllabus for the particular age group and is divided into 11 key strategies which cover all the necessary aspects of learning Islam.

Generic lesson plans have been included within this manual. Assessments and focused lesson plans are constantly being uploaded on www.qfatima.com



QCalendar - upto 7 yrs

Month	Week	Preschool – Year 2
Muharram	1	Imam Husayn (pbuh)
	2	Events of the day of 'Ashura
	3	Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh)
	4	The companions of Imam Husayn (pbuh)
Safar	1	Events after the day of 'Ashura
	2	Prophet Adam (pbuh)
	3	Habil & Qabil
	4	Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) & Imam Ali Ridha (pbuh)
Rabi ul Awwal	1	Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
	2	Prophet Nuh (pbuh)
	3	Imam Ja'fer Sadiq (pbuh)
	4	Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh)
Rabi ul Akhir	1	Sayyida Hajra & Prophet Ismail (pbuh)
	2	Imam Hasan Askery (pbuh)
	3	Prophet Yusuf (pbuh)
	4	Prophet Musa (pbuh)
Jamad ul Awwal	1	Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh)
	2	Prophet Dawud (pbuh)
	3	Prophet Sulayman (pbuh)
	4	Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh)
Jamad ul Akhir	1	Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh)
	2	Prophet Yunus (pbuh)
	3	Sayyida Maryam (pbuh)
	4	Imam Muhammad Baqir (pbuh)

Month	Week	Preschool – Year 2
Rajab	1	Imam Musa Kadhim (pbuh)
	2	Imam Ali (pbuh)
	3	Prophet Isa (pbuh)
	4	Be'that & Mi'raj
Sha'ban	1	Imam Mahdi (pbuh)
	2	Imam Mahdi (pbuh)
	3	Ulema
	4	Intro to the month of Ramadhan
Month of Ramadhan	1	Sayyida Khadija
	2	Imam Hasan (pbuh)
	3	Shahadat of Imam Ali (pbuh)
	4	Eid ul Fitr
Shawwal	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
Dhulqa'da	1	Imam Ali Ridha (pbuh)
	2	
	3	Imam Muhammad Taqi (pbuh)
	4	
Dhulhijja	1	Imam Ali Naqi (pbuh)
	2	Eid ul Hajj Eid Ghadeer
	3	Eid Mubahila
	4	



PARENTAL OBLIGATIONS: PRESCHOOL (3.5-4 YEARS)

1. Have at least a 90% on time attendance at Q School.
2. Practising lesson on learning how to recite the Qur'an for 10 minutes 3 times a week.
3. Reciting Kalima, names of Ma'sumeen, Salawat and Tasbee of Sayyida with the child.
4. Playing the nasheed/rhyme of Asmaul Husna as often as possible.
5. Doing wudhoo and praying at least one salaa of the day with the child.
6. Reciting or ensuring recitation of Adhan & Iqama loudly at home for at least one salaa a day.
7. Making the child aware of the current Islamic date and times of salaa and making Thursday night and Friday special.
8. Ensuring attendance at the centre for wafat and wiladat or talking about the Ma'sum concerned on that day at home.
9. Reciting Suratul Fatiha, Ikhlas & Qadr with the child

PRESCHOOL LEARNING RESOURCES

STUDENT	PARENT	TEACHER
QREAD AND/OR QUR'AN	INFANTS MANUAL	QSCHOOL LEARNING ALMANAC
Q RECORD BOOK	NURSERY RHYMES	INFANTS MANUAL
WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS	EXCELLENT STORIES	INFANTS SAMPLE WORKSHEETS
	Q114 MNEMONICS	EXCELLENT STORIES
		NURSERY RHYMES
		Q114 MNEMONICS



QSchools Teaching Schedule

Pre School (3.5 - 4 yrs)

Combine with Infant Schedule for Q Calendar

Week	Cross Curricular Study	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce the class to each other ○ First line of Kalima 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concept of Salaam as greeting
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salaam & Fi Amanillah ○ First line of Kalima 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Takbeeratul Ihram
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The usage of Bismillah... ○ First line of Kalima 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Takbeeratul Ihram
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Usage of Bismillah ○ Continue with first line of Kalima 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over Takbeeratul Ihram & introduce Qiyam
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Rukoo and go over previous two actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue discussion of first line of Kalima
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the 3 actions of salaam ○ Bismillah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to revise first line of Kalima introducing the second line
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue with perfecting the salaam actions learnt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue with the 1st and 2nd line of Kalima.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce sajda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explain 2nd line of Kalima, introducing the Prophet (pbuh) and salawat.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Memorisation of the first 2 lines of Kalima 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue with salaam positions learnt emphasising 7 parts touching ground for sajda
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss akhlaq of waking up ○ Continue with sajda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talk about salaam ○ The first 2 lines of Kalima
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the actions of waking up ○ Repeat the 2 lines of Kalima 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce juloos (sitting position for tashahhud & salaam)
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce the manners of visiting the toilet ○ First 2 lines of Kalima 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over all the actions of salaam learnt so far
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manners of the toilet ○ Recitation of Suratul Fatiha when they are in Qiyam ○ Introduction of Qur'an as a book of instructions from Allah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss some aspects of water and introduce the word Najis ○ First 2 lines of Kalima
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce the brushing of teeth and all the etiquette associated with it ○ Aspect of Najis continued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recitation of Suratul Fatiha ○ Introduce the 3rd and 4th line of Kalima – Imam Ali (pbuh) as first Imam of 12



Week	Cross Curricular Study	
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the waking up, toilet manners and brushing of teeth. ○ Revise the concept of Najis ○ Story of Kisaa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talk about showering introducing Ghusl of Friday ○ Revise Suratul Fatiha and it being the first sura of the Qur'an (terminology – sura/suwer pl)
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce manners of eating. ○ Ahlul Kisaa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12 Aimma ○ Test all the actions of salaa ○ Kalima revision
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eating manners ○ Introduction to names of suwer 1-5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recitation of Suratul Fatiha & Ikhlas in Qiyam of salaa
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revision of Suratul Fatiha & Ikhlas ○ Manners in the Imambada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of suwer using focus points and easy mnemonics 1-5
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise salaa actions with recitations of qiyam and introduce recitation of rukoo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce names of 5 daily salawat
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce recitation of sajda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Rahman & Raheem as names of Allah and concept of being kind
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise all recitations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ya Rahman & Ya Raheem as being a dua in calling Allah
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Tashahhud & Salaam recitations ○ Names of suwer 1-5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise names of Ma'sumeen
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Start reciting a 2 rakat salaa together with all actions and recitations 	
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respect of parents ○ Introduce Al Malik as the King 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Adhan as call to prayer
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss difference between najis and dirty ○ Adhan as call to prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise eating manners - Halal & Haram food ○ Ya Malik as a dua
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salaa actions & recitation ○ Adhan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respect of others
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing ○ Introduce actions of wudhoo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adhan ○ Names of suwer 1-5
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Friendship ○ Wudhoo actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adhan
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Importance of learning Wudhoo actions ○ 2 rakat salaa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of suwer 1-5
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manners in a classroom & Learning Wudhoo actions 	
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respect of parents ○ Wudhoo actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of suwer 1-5



Week	Cross Curricular Study	
32	○ Introduce Al Quddoos as the Holy	○ Wudhoo actions
33	○ Al Quddoos as a dua ○ Manners of sleeping	○ Go over 2 rakat salaa introducing the recitation of Tasbeehat Arba' in the 3rd rakat
34	○ Revise Tasbihat Arba' and the 3 rakat salaa ○ Introduce As Salaam as the Giver of Peace	○ Wudhoo ○ Adhan & Iqama
35	○ Ya Salaam as dua ○ Adhan & Iqama	○ Salaa
36	○ Rhyme with the 5 Asmaul Husna learnt	○ Go over the names of the Ma'sumeen
37	○ Names of Ma'sumeen introducing Ziyara by adding Assalamu 'alayka before each name	
38	○ Revise concepts taught throughout the year	
39	○ Revise topics covered throughout the year	
40	○ Go over topics covered	



PARENTAL OBLIGATIONS: RECEPTION (4-5 YEARS)

1. Have at least a 90% on time attendance at Q School.
2. Practising lesson on learning how to recite the Qur'an for 10 minutes 3 times a week.
3. Reciting Kalima, names of Ma'sumeen, Salawat and Tasbee of Sayyida with the child.
4. Playing the nasheed/rhyme of Asmaul Husna as often as possible.
5. Doing wudhoo and praying at least one salaa of the day with the child.
6. Reciting or ensuring recitation of Adhan & Iqama loudly at home for at least one salaa a day.
7. Making the child aware of the current Islamic date and times of salaa and making Thursday night and Friday special.
8. Ensuring attendance at the centre for wafat and wiladat or talking about the Ma'sum concerned on that day at home.
9. Reciting Suratul Fatiha, Ikhlas, Qadr, Kawthar, Falaq & Naas with the child.

RECEPTION LEARNING RESOURCES

STUDENT	PARENT	TEACHER
QREAD AND/OR QUR'AN	INFANTS MANUAL	QSCHOOL LEARNING ALMANAC
Q RECORD BOOK	NURSERY RHYMES	INFANTS MANUAL
WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS	EXCELLENT STORIES	INFANTS SAMPLE WORKSHEETS
	Q114 MNEMONICS	EXCELLENT STORIES
		NURSERY RHYMES
		Q114 MNEMONICS



QSchools Teaching Schedule

Reception (4 - 5 yrs)

Combine with Infant Teaching Schedule for Q Calendar

Week	Cross Curricular Study	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce the class to each other ○ Takbeeratul Ihram 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kalima ○ Allah is One
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bismillah... ○ Lunar months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Takbeeratul Ihram ○ Allah as the Creator ○ Kalima
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The usage of Bismillah... ○ Lunar months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce the action of Qiyam in salaa. ○ Kalima
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Usage of Bismillah... narrating related stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over Takbeeratul Ihram & Qiyam ○ Kalima
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of the lunar months ○ Continue discussion on Kalima 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Rukoo and go over previous two actions
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the 3 actions of salaa ○ Bismillah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of Lunar months ○ Revise names of suwer 1-5 and introducing 6-10
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the names of the Lunar months ○ Names of suwer 1-10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue with perfecting the salaa actions learnt
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce sajda ○ Introduce terminology eg Aya/ayaat in Qur'an 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explain 2nd line of Kalima, introducing the Prophet (pbuh) and salawat.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talk about a day in the life of the children and the actions they perform from the time they wake up... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce concept of Nabuwwa (a messenger) and importance of passing a message as told without changing it ○ Continue with salaa positions learnt emphasising 7 parts touching ground for sajda
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss akhlaq of waking up ○ Continue with sajda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talk about salaam ○ Introduce angels ○ Names of suwer 1-10
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the actions of waking up ○ Talk about the two angels who look after them and write down everything they do 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce juloos (sitting position for tashahhud & salaam)
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce the manners of visiting the toilet ○ Prophets – number of messengers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over all the actions of salaa learnt so far



Week	Cross Curricular Study	
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manners of the toilet ○ Recitation of Suratul Fatiha when they are in Qiyam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss some aspects of water and introduce the word Najis
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce the brushing of teeth and all the etiquette associated with it ○ Aspect of Najis continued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recitation of Suratul Fatiha ○ Introduce the 3rd and 4th line of Kalima – Imam Ali (pbuh) as first Imam of 12
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the waking up, toilet manners and brushing of teeth. ○ Revise the concept of Najis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talk about showering introducing Ghushl of Friday ○ Introduce recitation of Suratul Ikhlas ○ Story of Kisaa
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the whole day and the various aspects revising ○ Introduce manners of eating ○ Ahlul Kisaa ○ 12 Aemma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 14 Ma'sumeen. ○ Test all the actions of salaa by getting the children to demonstrate a rakat (actions only) ○ Kalima revision
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eating manners – good manners and bad manners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recitation of Suratul Fatiha & Ikhlas in Qiyam of salaa ○ Names of suwer 1-10
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce recitation of rukoo and sujood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manners in the Imambada
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise salaa actions with recitations of qiyam, rukoo & sujood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce names of 5 daily salawat
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of five daily salawat and introduce no. of rakat in each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Rahman & Raheem as names of Allah and concept of being kind
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Qunoot (action) and concept of dua in talking to Allah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ya Rahman & Ya Raheem as being a dua in calling Allah
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Tashahhud & Salaam recitations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise names of Ma'sumeen
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss manners learned to incorporate in daily life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Start reciting a 2 rakat salaa together with all actions and recitations
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respect of parents ○ 2 Rakats salaa with Qunoot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Adhan as call to prayer ○ Introduce Al Malik as the King
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss difference between najis and dirty ○ Revise eating manners - Halal & Haram food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adhan ○ Ya Malik as a dua
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salaa actions & recitation ○ Adhan & Iqama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respect of others ○ Names of suwer 1-10
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing ○ Introduce actions of wudhoo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adhan & Iqama
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Friendship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wudhoo actions ○ Adhan & Iqama
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Importance of learning ○ Wudhoo actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 rakat salaa ○ Names of suwer 1-10



Week	Cross Curricular Study	
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manners in a classroom & Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adhan & Iqama ○ Wudhoo actions
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Etiquettes of behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respect of parents ○ Wudhoo actions
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Al Quddoos as the Holy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adhan & Iqama ○ Wudhoo actions
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Al Quddoos as a dua ○ Manners of sleeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over 2 rakat salaa introducing the recitation of Tasbeehat Arba' in the 3rd rakat
34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise Tasbihat Arba' and the 3 rakat salaa ○ Introduce As Salaam as the Giver of Peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wudhoo ○ Adhan & Iqama
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ya Salaam as dua ○ Adhan & Iqama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salaa ○ Names of suwer 1-10
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encouraging identity (who am I?) ○ Rhyme with the 5 Asmaul Husna learnt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the names of the Ma'sumeen
37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss importance of niyya before doing anything 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of Ma'sumeen introducing Ziyara by adding Assalamu 'alayka before each name
38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise concepts taught throughout the year 	
39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise topics covered throughout the year 	
40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over topics covered 	



PARENTAL OBLIGATIONS: YEAR 1 (5-6 YEARS)

1. Have at least a 90% on time attendance at Q School.
2. Practising lesson on learning how to recite the Qur'an for 10 minutes 3 times a week.
3. Assist child in memorising 10 suwer of the Qur'an.
4. Doing wudhoo and praying at least one salaa of the day with the child.
5. Reciting or ensuring recitation of Adhan & Iqama loudly at home for at least one salaa a day.
6. Reciting Ziyara of the Masumeen every alternate day.
7. Making the child aware of the current Islamic date and times of salaa and making Thursday night and Friday special.
8. Ensuring attendance at the centre for wafat and wiladat or talking about the Ma'sum concerned on that day at home.

YEAR 1 LEARNING RESOURCES

STUDENT	PARENT	TEACHER
QREAD AND/OR QUR'AN	INFANTS MANUAL	QSCHOOL LEARNING ALMANAC
Q RECORD BOOK	NURSERY RHYMES	INFANTS MANUAL
WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS	EXCELLENT STORIES	INFANTS SAMPLE WORKSHEETS
	Q114 MNEMONICS	EXCELLENT STORIES
		NURSERY RHYMES
		Q114 MNEMONICS



QSchools Teaching Schedule

Year 1 (5 - 6 yrs)

Combine with Infants QCalendar Teaching Schedule and Infants Q114 Schedule
(modular study of the Qur'an)

Week	Cross Curricular Study	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce the class to each other ○ Introduce Usul as roots of religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kalima
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lunar months ○ Kalima 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revision of wudhoo & 3 Rakats of salaa ○ Tawheed – One God
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The usage of terminology such as Bismillah...Alhamdulillah... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lunar Months ○ Adala as God is fair
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Usage of terminology continued ○ Adala – understanding of being fair (just) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adhan & Iqama ○ Revision of 5 Asmaul Husna learnt
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of the Masumeen ○ Adhan & Iqama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concept of Nabuwwa (Messengers, Teachers)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the activities in their lives and associated manners ○ Toilet manners – going over the term najis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nabuwwa and Salawat on the last Prophet ○ Introduction to Furu
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Najasa & Tahara ○ Manners of talking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Imama – Story of Ghadeer ○ Introduction to Al Mu'min – The Giver of Security (Safety)
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Najasa & Tahara ○ Lying /honesty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Imama – Names of Aamma ○ Ya Mu'min as a dua
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Najasa & Tahara ○ Ma'sumeen – Ziyara as salaam before the name of each Ma'sum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anger ○ Furu discussion
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respect of parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salaa & Sawm as the first two branches of Deen
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respect of parents/grandparents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Furu with a focus on Hajj
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Giving to the poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Furu with a focus on Zakaat & Khums as sharing
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watching too much TV ○ Lunar month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Furu with a focus on Jihad as trying our best to be good Muslims



Week	Cross Curricular Study	
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Importance of not wasting time ○ Wudhoo with mustahabat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Al Muhayminu – The Guardian (as a mother bird when she looks after her chicks)
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise the concept of najasa & tahara ○ Ya Muhayminu as a dua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying images of Ka’ba, Masjidun Nabi & Masjidul Aqsa and identifying Makka, Madina & Jerusalem.
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Terminology used to remember Allah all the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 rakat salaa with Qunoot
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Importance of learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce concept of Qiyama and accountability
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of the five daily salawat and times ○ Accountability for ones actions discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manners in the Classroom
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of five daily salawat & times relating to the sun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Importance of a teacher ○ Accountability discussion
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doing their best at everything 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise the 7 Asmaul Husna learnt maybe as a rhyme
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duas for Qunoot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over names of Prophets learnt so far
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dua for Qunoot ○ Names of Ma’sumeen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Al ‘Azeez (The Mighty One)
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss manners learned to incorporate in daily life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duas for Qunoot ○ Yaa ‘Azeezu as a dua
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respect of neighbours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names of daily salawat and no. of rakat in each
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss difference between najis and dirty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise eating manners - Halal & Haram food
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss Sadaqa and remind of Zakaa & Khums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Test duas of Qunoot 2:201 and 17:24 reiterating importance of parents in dua
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing ○ Duas for qunoot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ta’qibat – tasbee of Sayyida and the 7 Asmaul Husna learnt
28	Being a friend and what it means in School and Madrasa (Q School)	
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Behaviour as little ladies and gentlemen based on manners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over manners of talking
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Etiquettes of behaviour continued in all aspects of life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manners of sleeping
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Yaa Jabbar (The One who Mends & the One who is Great) – Likeness of a splint or plaster cast which mends by being firm. 	
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build on identity (Who am I?) And responsibility to live ones’ identity 	



Week	Cross Curricular Study
33	○ Discuss intention and its necessity before doing anything
34	○ Go over the activities in their day with emphasis on manners learnt
35	○ Revise wudhoo, 3 rakats salaa and duas for Qunoot & ta'qibat
36	○ Revise Ziyara and identification of Makka, Madina & Masjid ul Aqsa and position of Makka, Madina & Jerusalam on world map.
37	○ Revision of 8 Asmaaul Husna with their meanings and usage as duas
38	○ Class discussion on any issues that students wish to discuss
39	○ Revise topics covered throughout the year
40	○ Go over topics covered



PARENTAL OBLIGATIONS: YEAR 2 (6-7 YEARS)

1. Have at least a 90% on time attendance at Q School.
2. Practising lesson on learning how to recite the Qur'an for 10 minutes 3 times a week.
3. Assist child in memorising 10 suwer of the Qur'an and Ayatul Kursi.
4. Doing wudhoo and praying at least one salaa of the day with the child.
5. Ensuring recitation of Adhan & Iqama by child at home for at least one salaa a day.
6. Reciting Ziyara of the Ma'sumeen every day.
7. Making the child aware of the current Islamic date and times of salaa and making Thursday night and Friday special.
8. Ensuring attendance at the centre for wafat and wiladat or talking about the Ma'sum concerned on that day at home.
9. Instilling a culture of giving sadaqa.

YEAR 2 LEARNING RESOURCES

STUDENT	PARENT	TEACHER
QREAD AND/OR QUR'AN	INFANTS MANUAL	QSCHOOL LEARNING ALMANAC
Q RECORD BOOK	NURSERY RHYMES	INFANTS MANUAL
WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS	EXCELLENT STORIES	INFANTS SAMPLE WORKSHEETS
	Q114 MNEMONICS	EXCELLENT STORIES
		NURSERY RHYMES
		Q114 MNEMONICS
		Q114 KEY CONCEPTS
		TA'QIBAT



QSchools Teaching Schedule

Year 2 (6 - 7 yrs)

Combine with Infants Q Calendar Teaching Schedule and Infants Q114 Schedule (modular study of the Qur'an)

Week	Cross Curricular Study	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manners in the classroom ○ Respect of a teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Usul revisited – Tawheed
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contract of behaviour structured through discussion to be put up in class signed by all students and teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tawheed discussion
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion on Adala 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fiqh terminology of Wajib, Haram, Mustahab, Makruh, Jaiz
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Najasa & Tahara and toilet manners ○ Wudhoo with mustahabaat revisited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to Al Mutakabbir (The one Who Has All Greatness and deserves to be Proud) ○ Adala discussion
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nabuwwa- developing on previous years ○ Yaa Mutakabbir as a dua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fiqh Terminology of Wajib, Haram, Mustahab, Makruh, Jaiz
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not to belittle others (Pride only belongs to Allah) ○ Fiqh terminology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nabuwwa – discussing teaching role of Ambiya ○ Introducing dua for Qunoot 20:114 emphasising seeking of knowledge
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fiqh Terminology including Thawab & Azhab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Imama as leadership ○ Qualities of an Imam discussion
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Taqleed in relation to needing an expert in every field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lying /honesty discussion ○ Combine discussions with need for honesty in leadership
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taqleed continued ○ Clothes in Salaa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anger and its consequence
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Qibla ○ Qiyama and accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cheerfulness and its advantages
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respecting others ○ Place of salaa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce Al Khaliq as The Creator discussing Creation
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ya Khaliq as a dua ○ Taharat for salaa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise 11 Asmaul Husna learnt through a rhyme with meanings
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wudhoo introducing duas for wudhoo in simple terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revision of Asmaul Husna learnt



	Week	Cross Curricular Study
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referring to Al Khaliq (The Creator) looking at the Creation of the human being – Recommended acts when a baby is born 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Times of salaa and importance of revolving day around salaa time Adhan & Iqama with meanings
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhan & Iqama with meanings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showing how a baby is given ghusl and encouraging ghusl of Friday
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of human being – what is done when someone dies – ghusl, kafan burial Identifying Makka, Madina, Jersusalem and Karbala on map. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying images of Ka’ba, Masjidun Nabi, Masjidul Aqsa and Haram of Imam Husayn (pbuh)
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaa – importance of intention (niyya) and introduction to meaning of Takbeeratul Ihram 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying images of Ka’ba, Masjidun Nabi, Masjidul Aqsa and Haram of Imam Husayn (pbuh) Identifying Makka, Madina, Jeruselum and Karbala on map
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaa – Introduction to meanings of Suratul Fatiha Importance of not wasting time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple concept of time management revolving around salaa times
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaa – Meanings of Suratul Fatiha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doing one’s best at everything connecting with using time effectively
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaa -Meaning of Suratul Ikhlas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping a diary and knowing Lunar dates / salaa times and important occassions
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaa – Meaning of Suratul Fatiha & Suratul Ikhlas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time management and keeping a diary
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaa – Rukoo and the meaning of the zhikr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identity and the importance of living it e.g. Khoja Shia Ithna’asheri Muslim.....
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaa – Sajda and the meaning of its zhikr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss manners learned to incorporate in daily life
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaa – Meanings of recitation in juloos (Istighfar, Tashahhud & Salaam) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept of big and small sins
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision of salaa actions, recitations, meanings 	
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duas of Qunoot (17:24, 20:114) with a focus on respect of parents and the importance of acquisition of knowledge 	
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on sighting of the moon as the beginning of the month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being a good friend
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Furu and a simple understand- ding of all 	
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ta’qibat – Tasbee of Sayyida, Ayatul Kursi and the 11 Asmaul Husna learnt so far 	
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce Al Baari’ (The Maker of the mould following from The Creator) 	
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behaviour as little ladies and gentlemen based on manners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss being fair when dealing with others



Week	Cross Curricular Study
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Etiquettes of behaviour continued ○ Discuss intention and its necessity before doing anything introducing sadaqa
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build on identity (Who am I?) And responsibility to live one's identity
34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over the activities in their day with emphasis on manners learnt
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise wudhoo, 3 rakats salaa and duas for Qunoot & ta'qibat
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise Ziyara and identification of Makka, Madina & Masjid ul Aqsa and position of Makka, Madina & Jerusalam on world map.
37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revision of 12 Asmaaul Husna with their meanings and usage as duas
38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Class discussion on any issues that students wish to discuss
39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise topics covered throughout the year
40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go over topics covered



Asmaul Husna

A name is how we recognise someone. When we hear a name it makes us think of the person. What do you think when someone says the word Mummy or Maa or Mum? Do you think of love and kindness? The more important and valuable the person or thing, the more important the name becomes.

When you remember someone's name it means that they are important to you. So a name is really something that reminds us of the character of a person.

Just as we know an author from his choice of words; in the same way we can recognise Allah through His names (qualities). There are 99 names. To get close to Him; to be able to be our best, we have to learn these names and be able to practise them in our lives. The first stage is to learn the name and its meaning. Then to understand it and make sure we live it.

Each name of Allah is a Dua in itself. In **17:110** Allah says:

“Say (O Muhammad): Call upon Allah or call upon the Merciful, whichever you call upon, He has the best names.....”

Allah

The name 'Allah' solely belongs to the One and Only God. It combines all His names and needs no introduction from others; whilst the other names are recognised when added to the name Allah. 'Allah' is not given to anyone other Him, nor should it be ever used for anyone besides Him. It means 'One Who deserves to be loved' and 'In to whom everyone seeks refuge'.

Unlike the word God which can be made into gods and goddess, there is no feminine of the word Allah and neither is there a plural.

Suratul Ikhlas tells us who Allah is. This sura was revealed in Makka when the Prophet (pbuh) was being asked to describe Allah

In the Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

1. Say! He Allah is One.
2. Allah is He on Whom all depend.
3. He does not give birth and neither was He given birth to.
4. And none is like Him.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ

لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ

وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ



Asmaul Husna for Each Day of the Week

Sunday

AL-FATTAH is the name (ism) recommended for Sunday, the first day of the week.

In Arabic, *fataha*, the verb, means "opened," and *miftaah* means key, whereas *fath* means to win.

So Allah is the One Who opens what is closed and Who has the keys to everything. He is the One Who grants victory. He opens the closed hearts and fills them with His Light, so they are at peace and are able to achieve success. To live it means we have to open the doors for everyone; to have good manners so every one wins.

A story is related about Puryaye Vali who is considered a great world champion as well as a symbol of bravery. Once he visited another country for a wrestling contest with its champion.

In the street he came across an old woman who was offering people sweets as charity and asking them to pray for her son. She approached Puryaye and offered him the sweets. He asked her what they were for.

She said, "My son is a wrestler who is being challenged by a champion from another country. We live on the income he gets from wrestling matches and if he loses this contest we will have nothing to live on."

Puryaye says he was at cross roads whether to show his strength or manliness at the contest the next day. Although he was far stronger than his opponent he wrestled in such a way as to let his opponent win.

He says that at that moment he suddenly felt as though his heart had been opened and he was surrounded with peace and contentment.

Monday

The name (ism) recommended to recite on Monday is **AL -LATEEF**. It means The Subtle one. The One who is Kind in a hidden way.

"*Al-Lateef*" is one of Allah's names that represent extreme kindness.

Al-Lateef continuously pours His blessings and what He does is always good.

It is *Al-Lateef* who makes easy everything that is difficult, Who joins everything broken. *Al-Lateef* is one who hides one thing in another. The best of foods, honey is derived from a bee. The best of cloth is derived from the saliva of a silk worm and the pearl is derived from the oyster.

The best example is in the story of Prophet Yusuf (pbuh).

Prophet Yusuf (pbuh) once dreamt that eleven stars and the sun and moon were doing sajdah to him. He told the dream to his father. Prophet Ya'qub (pbuh) realised that the dream showed his son's greatness and advised him not to tell his brothers about the dream.

The brothers of Prophet Yusuf (pbuh) were very jealous of him and one day put him into a well. There he was found by a group of traders who found him and sold him as a slave to the governor of Egypt who took him home telling his wife Zulaykha that they would adopt him as their son. Things did not work out as Potifar had wanted and Zulaykha did not see Prophet Yusuf (pbuh) as her son. To restore peace in his household, the governor imprisoned Prophet Yusuf (pbuh) even though he was innocent.



The governor had a dream which troubled him and no-one could interpret it until someone who had been with Prophet Yusuf (pbuh) in prison told him about Prophet Yusuf (pbuh). The governor released him from prison announcing that he was innocent and Prophet Yusuf (pbuh) told him the meaning of his dream and thus making Egypt successful. Prophet Yusuf was made chief of Egypt and there came a time when he was re-united with his parents and brothers who did sajdah thus making true the dream of Prophet Yusuf (pbuh). It is at this moment that he said:..... "Surely my Rabb is Lateef to whomsoever He pleases; surely He is the Knowing, the Wise". **12:100** To live Al- Lateef we have to first have a goal of always wanting to do our best. Then to work towards it taking strength from Al-Lateef knowing that in the difficult times the outcome will always be good; if we ensure that we have done our best and done everything in the right way to the best of our ability.

Tuesday

The ism recommended for Tuesday is **AL-QAABIDH** (The One who Squeezes)

It is *Al-Qaabidh* who squeezes you to be able to get the best out of you.

A man found a cocoon of a moth.

He took it home so that he could watch the moth come out of the cocoon. On that day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the moth for several hours as the moth struggled to force the body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had got as far as it could and it could go no farther. It just seemed to be stuck. Then the man, in his kindness, decided to help the moth, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon.

The moth then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shrivelled wings. The man continued to watch the moth because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened!

In fact, the little moth spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shrivelled body and shrivelled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the moth to get through the tiny opening was the way of forcing fluid from the body of the moth into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Freedom and flight would only come after the struggle. By depriving the moth of a struggle, he deprived the moth of health.

Sometimes struggles make us strong. Remember, a diamond is coal under pressure.

Wednesday

The name (ism) recommended for Wednesday is **AL_MUTA'AALI**. It means the Most High.

To apply Al-Muta'aali is to higher ourselves through taqwa for says:

"...Indeed the most honourable with Allah is the one with taqwa...." **49:13**

So Taqwa in essence is to keep away from all the Muharramaat (that which is haram) and fulfil all the Waajibaat. The first is far more difficult.

Hazrat Luqman, the wise told his son:

"O my son! Have such fear of Allah, that when you come to Him with the good deeds of both the worlds, He would still punish you; and have such hope in Allah, that if you came to Him with the sins of both the worlds He would still have mercy for you."



Two men came to Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh) and said that they would like to do Tawba (ask for forgiveness and put right) for their sins. The first man said that he had done a lot of small sins whilst the second said that he had committed two big sins.

Imam told the first man to pick one small pebble for each small sin that he had committed. He told the second man to bring a large boulder for each of his big sins.

After a while both men came back to Imam having brought what they were asked to bring. Imam now asked both of them to put back every stone in its place.

The man with the two large boulders found it difficult to carry them back in their original place but eventually he managed.

The man with the many small pebbles could not remember where he had picked all of them so he could not put them all back in their original place.

It is very difficult to do Tawba for the sins which seem small because we forget and take them for granted.

Imam Ali (pbuh) has said: "The biggest sin is that which the doer considers the smallest."

Thursday

The name (ism) recommended for Thursday is **AR-RAZZAQ**. It means the One Who Provides.

"*Ar-Razzaq*" is the provider of everything that benefit human beings, animals, plants, etc. Rain is also called *rizq*; it helps sustain every living being on our planet.

There are two types of *rizq*: one that sustains the body, such as food and drink, while the other sustains the nafs, which is knowledge and true inspiration.

Friday

The name (ism) recommended for Friday is **AN- NOOR**. *Noor* is light. That which helps us see through our eyes and through our hearts.

To live An- Noor is to show wisdom in everything we do.

There was once a rich old man who did not like to give his money to charity. He had a good son who always told his dad that he should give his money in the way of Allah. The old man told his son that he could give it all away after his death. The son told him that it would be too late for the father, for he should give it away now to be able to get the benefits in the hereafter (grave and onwards).

The old man just would not listen.

One night the old man wanted to go out. It was very dark so he asked his son to carry a lamp and walk in front of him so he would be able to see.

The son obeyed his father but half way he started walking behind his dad.

His father said:

"Why have you gone behind me?" I can't see! I need the lamp in front."

The son said:

"Father! That's exactly what I have been telling you. If you want light in the grave you have to give away what you have in the way of Allah before you die and not after."

The old man finally understood what his son had been trying to tell him!

Saturday

The name (ism) recommended for Saturday is **AI-GHANIYY**. It means the One Who is Rich.

Al-Ghaniyy has no need, needs none while everything and everyone need Him. Everyone else besides Allah is needy.



To apply Al-Ghaniyy in our lives we need to understand what is being rich (ghaniyy)? The richest person is the one who is the most content. In Suratur Ra'ad, Allah says that this is possible through zhikr of Allah – remembrance of Allah. So what is the zhikr of Allah?

We can understand zhikr simply as the repetition of particular names of Allah or as the recitation of some duas. In the second sense, zhikr refers to remembering, mentioning and meditating

The Prophet (pbuh) has said that the difference between one who remembers his Rabb and one who does not, is like the difference between one who is alive and one who is dead"

The practical way is to first introduce Allah in our language. Usage of Bismillah, Alhamdulillah, Astaghfirullah, Insha'Allah..... Then to study the Asmaa ul Husna one at a time using them at the appropriate occasions so they become part of our character and reflect in our manners.

One day Imam Ali (pbuh) was carrying a heavy bag filled with date seeds. He was asked, "What are you carrying in this heavy bag?" Imam Ali (pbuh) replied "A few date palms, *Insha Allah*." Since Imam Ali (pbuh) had faith in Allah and worked for no-one but Allah, he knew that if Allah willed, the date seeds would soon become trees.

Sure enough after he had planted them and looked after them they started growing to become trees whose fruit would feed others. With faith in Allah and hard work, anything is possible.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has said that on the day of judgement there will be some people who will have to go to jahannam because of their bad deeds.

However, from these people, there will be some who had the habit of saying Bismillahirrahmaanirraheem (I begin in the name of Allah, the Kind, the Merciful) before they did anything or entered anywhere.

Thus, when they will be taken to jahannam by the angels, they will be very sad but they will say Bismillahirrahmaanirraheem (I begin in the name of Allah, the Kind, the Merciful) before they enter the door of jahannam.

Allah will tell the angels – "Stop!"

He will tell them that He cannot let someone who says calling Him Rahman and Raheem (Kind & Merciful) enter jahannam.



I am a Muslim

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

There is no God except Allah

مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

Prophet Muhammad is the messenger of Allah

عَلِيٌّ وَوَلِيُّ اللَّهِ

Imam Ali is the loved one of Allah

وَصِيٌّ رَّسُولِ اللَّهِ

He is the successor (leader after) of the messenger of Allah

وَ خَلِيفَتُهُ بِلَا فَصْلِ

And he is the first khalifa (chosen leader).



Tawheed

This is the first root of religion – Usul e deen

Tawheed means one. It is believing that there is only one God - Allah.

Unlike the word God which can be made into Gods and Goddess, there is no plural of the word Allah and neither is there a feminine of the word Allah.

Besides believing that there is only one God, Tawheed means to reject all other idols - physical or mental. One who believes in Tawheed does everything for none but Allah.

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

- Does He have parents?
- Does He have a partner?
- Does He need anything?
- Is there someone or something like Him?

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

Imam Ali (pbuh) has said:

"...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..."



Adala (Justice)

Adala means to put everything in its right place. If you were to wear your shoes on your head than it would not be an act of adala – justice.

Sometimes we confuse adala with being equal. If everyone in the classroom was given the same marks in their test, whether they did well or not, it would not be fair (just) although everyone would get equal marks.

To believe in adala of Allah means to believe that:

1. Allah is fair to everyone. He never does anything wrong.
2. He never forces anyone to do bad things and then punish them.
3. He will always reward those who obey Him.



Nabuwwa (Prophethood)

This is the third root of religion.

According to Islamic terminology the word nabi means one who is sent by Allah to guide us. A rasul is one who is sent by Allah and brings a new shari'a (Laws of living). In the English language both nabi (pl. Ambiya) and rasul (pl. Mursaleen) are referred to as Prophets. A Prophet must be the perfect person in his time in everything like knowledge, akhlaq, taqwa, bravery.....

He must also have the following qualifications:

1. He must be sent by Allah. A Prophet cannot be chosen by the people.
2. He must have 'Isma. This means that he must not do anything to displease Allah even by mistake. A Prophet therefore does not commit any sins.
3. He must be able to perform miracles. A miracle is something that nobody else can do. Miracles are performed by permission of and power given by Allah. The miracles of Prophet Musa (pbuh) are that his staff turned into a snake whenever he threw it down and his hand shone like a lamp every time he placed it under his armpit and took it out. The miracles of Prophet Isa (pbuh) are that he could cure the sick and bring the dead back to life. The miracle of our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the Qur'an.
4. Knowledge of the unseen – i.e. past, present and future. Like miracles, it was used by the prophets to prove their prophethood, so that people could distinguish between a true prophet and a false one.
5. Divine inspiration which are the revelations of Allah to his prophets, for all humankind. This was directly or by Angels.

Allah sent 124,000 Prophets to guide us. The first of them was Prophet Adam (pbuh) and the last one was Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Many of the Prophets were sent to one or two villages, some even to one family. Others were sent to a bigger area or to one tribe. But none of them were sent for the whole of mankind like our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Five of these Prophets are known as **Ulul Adhm Prophets** (those given a great responsibility). They are:

1. Prophet Nuh (pbuh)
2. Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh)
3. Prophet Musa (pbuh)
4. Prophet Isa (pbuh)
5. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Allah sent down words to guide us. These words were written down into books. There were many books. The four important ones are:

1. Zabur given to Prophet Dawud (pbuh)
2. Tawraat given to Prophet Musa (pbuh)
3. Injeel given to Prophet Isa (pbuh)
4. Qur'an given to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)



Angels

Allah loves us so much that He takes care of us in ways that we cannot even see. Angels are one of these ways.

Allah created lots and lots of angels, all doing different things. Some are in Qiyam all the time, some in Ruku, and some in Sijda. Some deliver His messages, whilst some have special jobs like looking after each one of us.

Each of us has two angels who write down everything we do. The one on the right side (Raqeeb) writes down all our good deeds whilst the one on the left side (Ateed) writes down all our bad deeds.

We cannot see angels but we know that they are here.

We are not sure what angels really look like but we know that they have wings.

Some of the very special angels are:

Jibrail - He delivers the commands of Allah to His Prophets. It was Jibrail who brought the ayaat of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Mikail - He distributes sustenance (rizq) to Allah's creation. Rizq is the essential things required for life. E.g. air, water, food, clothing, shelter.

Israil - He is the angel who is responsible for death. He takes us back to Allah.

Israfil - He will announce the end of the world just before the day of Qiyama.



Who is Shaytan?

His name was Azazeel. He is also known as Iblis. He used to pray a lot and even used to give lectures to the angels.

One day there was a notice in the heavens which said that someone was going to be ordered out of the heavens.

All the angels were very worried because they thought it might be one of them. They went to Jibrail who was one of the most important angels to ask him whether he could do anything. Jibrail said he too was worried because it might be himself. Jibrail suggested that they go to Azazeel because he was very clever.

Azazeel told them not to worry at all for he would pray to Allah for all of them. He forgot himself thinking he was the best and it could never be him. He was proud.

Allah made the first man who was Prophet Adam (pbuh). He asked all the angels including Azazeel to do sijda to Prophet Adam (pbuh) Iblis disobeyed Allah and refused to do sijda. Allah ordered him out of heaven.

As he left heaven, Iblis said he would make people who were not good Muslims do bad things and not obey Allah and thus take them with him to Jahannam.



Imama

This is the fourth root of religion.

Imama means 'to lead'. An Imam is therefore a Leader.

The plural of Imam is AImma.

There are 12 AImma. The first of them being Imam Ali (pbuh) and the last, the Imam of our time being Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh)

Just like a Prophet, the Imam must be the most perfect person in his time in everything.

Our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) built Islam up till it was perfect, just like a builder who builds a building to it's completion. AImma are then those who look after the religion as caretakers, just as a building requires a caretaker to look after it and maintain it.

An Imam must also have the following qualifications:

1. AImma must be chosen by Allah. They cannot be chosen by the people.
2. They too must have 'Isma - They must not do anything to displease Allah even by mistake.
3. They must also be able to perform miracles.
4. They must also possess knowledge of the unseen by which he can inform the people of what they are unaware.

There are twelve AImma:

1. Imam Ali (pbuh)
2. Imam Hasan (pbuh)
3. Imam Husayn (pbuh)
4. Imam Ali Zaynul Abedeen (pbuh)
5. Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh)
6. Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh)
7. Imam Musa Al-Kadhim (pbuh)
8. Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh)
9. Imam Muhammad At-Taqi (pbuh)
10. Imam Ali An-Naqi (pbuh)
11. Imam Hasan Al-Askery (pbuh)
12. Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh)



Qiyama

This means the day of judgement.

We will not and cannot live forever. All of us have heard about someone dying. It is Allah who gives us life and death.

In the Qur'an, Allah says He created life and death to test which of us will do the best of deeds.

“It is He who created death and life, so that He may test which of you does the best of deeds.”

Suratul Mulk 67:2

By creating death, Allah wants us to compete with each other in doing good deeds.

Islam teaches us to prepare ourselves for the day of judgement. On this day, Allah will bring us back to life.

A recording (like a CD) of our whole life will be shown to us and we will have to explain everything we did.

For the good deeds we will be rewarded and for the bad deeds we will be punished.

The day of qiyama will be a long day. The Qur'an says that one day will be fifty thousand years long and it will be a very hot day. Those who have believed in Allah, obeyed Him and done good deeds will have nothing to worry about.

It will be like a report day at school. We will find out how well we did in our lives. If we get our report in our right hand, it means we will go to Janna, but if we get the report in our left hands, then we are in trouble.



Words Used in Fiqh & their Meaning

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
Wajib	MUST DO Something that has to be done and not to do it is a sin.	Salaa, Sawm, Khums, Hijab.....
Haram	MUST NOT DO Something that if done is a sin.	Stealing, eating non-halal food, lying.....
Mustahab	BETTER TO DO Something which if done is rewarded. If it is not done there is no sin.	Adhan, Iqama, Salatul Tahajjud (Shab), Reciting Qur'an, Dua...
Makruh	BETTER NOT TO DO Something which is not acceptable but if done is not a sin.	Praying salaa in front of a mirror, picture.... Wearing black shoes.
Jaiz (Mubah)	ALLOWED	All those things that do not fall in the above categories are Jaiz.
Adhab	PUNISHMENT	Jahannam
Thawab	REWARD	Janna



Taqleed

For every problem in life we go to an expert. If we are sick, we go to a doctor. If we want to build a house we go to a builder.

In the same way if we want to know about the rules (masails) of Islam we go to a Mujtahid. A Mujtahid knows all the Masails. He studies the Qur'an and the Ahadith (sayings) of the Ma'sumeen (Ahlulbayt) and gives Fatawa.

To follow a mujtahid for the masails of Islam is called Taqleed. One who does taqleed is known as a Muqallid.

Make sure that you get someone to check your wudhoo and salaa so you know that you are performing it correctly.

Learn as much as you can about life and know that it is the laws of Allah that will help you be the best of human beings.



Najasaat & Mutahhiraat

There are 11 main items which are Najis (pl. Najasaat).

Some of the main najasaat are:

- Urine (wee wee)
- Stool (poo)
- Blood
- Dog
- Pig
- Dead Body
- Kafir (Unbeliever)
- Wine
- Beer

Najis does not necessarily mean dirty. A dog may be washed clean but it is still najis. If there is urine on the clothes which have dried, the clothes may look clean but they are still najis.

Those things which are najis can also make other things najis. When anything touches a wet najis thing, it too becomes najis.

The items that are able to make a najis thing taahir are known as Mutahhiraat. There are 12 Mutahhiraat. Some of them are:

- Water
- The Sun
- The Earth
- Islam

If you cut your knee and the blood touches your clothes, then your clothes become najis. They can only be made taahir by washing them with water.

Similarly, your knee can only become taahir by washing it with water.

When you visit the toilet, you must first remove the najis items and then wash yourself with clean water two times or better still three times to become taahir.



Manner and Tahara in the Toilet

1. You must ask permission to use the toilet if it does not belong to you.
2. It is mustahab to wear slippers whilst in the toilet.
3. While in the toilet, must at least be able to cover your private parts from others.
4. It is haram to face qibla or to keep qibla towards the back whilst using the toilet.
5. You must use taahir water to wash yourself by first removing the najis items and then pouring water at least twice, better still thrice.
6. It is makruh to urinate whilst standing.
7. It is makruh to hold on to one's want to visit the toilet, and if it harms one's health then it is haram.
8. It is mustahab to urinate before salaa and before going to sleep.
9. It is mustahab to enter the toilet with your left foot and come out with your right foot.
10. It is makruh to wash oneself with the right hand.



Wudhoo

I must do Wudhoo before I pray salaa (namaz).

I do Wudhoo before I sleep, before I eat, before I go to the mosque or Imambara; in fact I try to be in Wudhoo all the time.

When I am angry I do Wudhoo. It makes me calm.

This is how I do Wudhoo

1. Before I go to the wash basin I roll up my sleeves and take off my socks. If I am wearing a watch, ring, glasses, or hijab I take them off too. If the floor is najis, I wear slippers.
2. At the water tap I first thank Allah for having made the water available and so clean. (Alhamdulillah) All praise is for Allah.
3. I say my niyya: I am doing Wudhoo – (Qurbatanilallah) In obedience to Allah and to get closer to Him.
4. I wash my hands twice.



5. I rinse my mouth three times.



6. I rinse my nose three times.



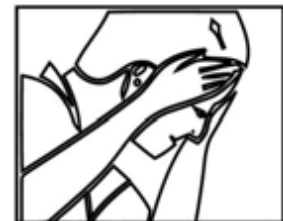
7. I take some water in my right hand and pour it on my forehead from where the hair grows. I then wipe my face with my hand stretching from thumb to the middle finger. I always wipe downwards from the forehead to the chin. Then I wipe on either side of my face downwards. I make sure that water reaches every part of my face.



8. I take some water in my left hand and pour it just above the right elbow back and front. Then I wipe my right arm with my left hand from the elbow to the fingertips making sure that the water reaches everywhere. Then I take some water in my right hand and wash my left arm in the same way as I washed my right arm.



9. With three fingers of my right hand I wipe the middle part of my head with my finger tips making sure that I do not touch my forehead.



10. Then I wipe my right foot with my right hand from the toes to the mound at the joint of the foot and leg. In the same way I wipe my left foot with my left hand.



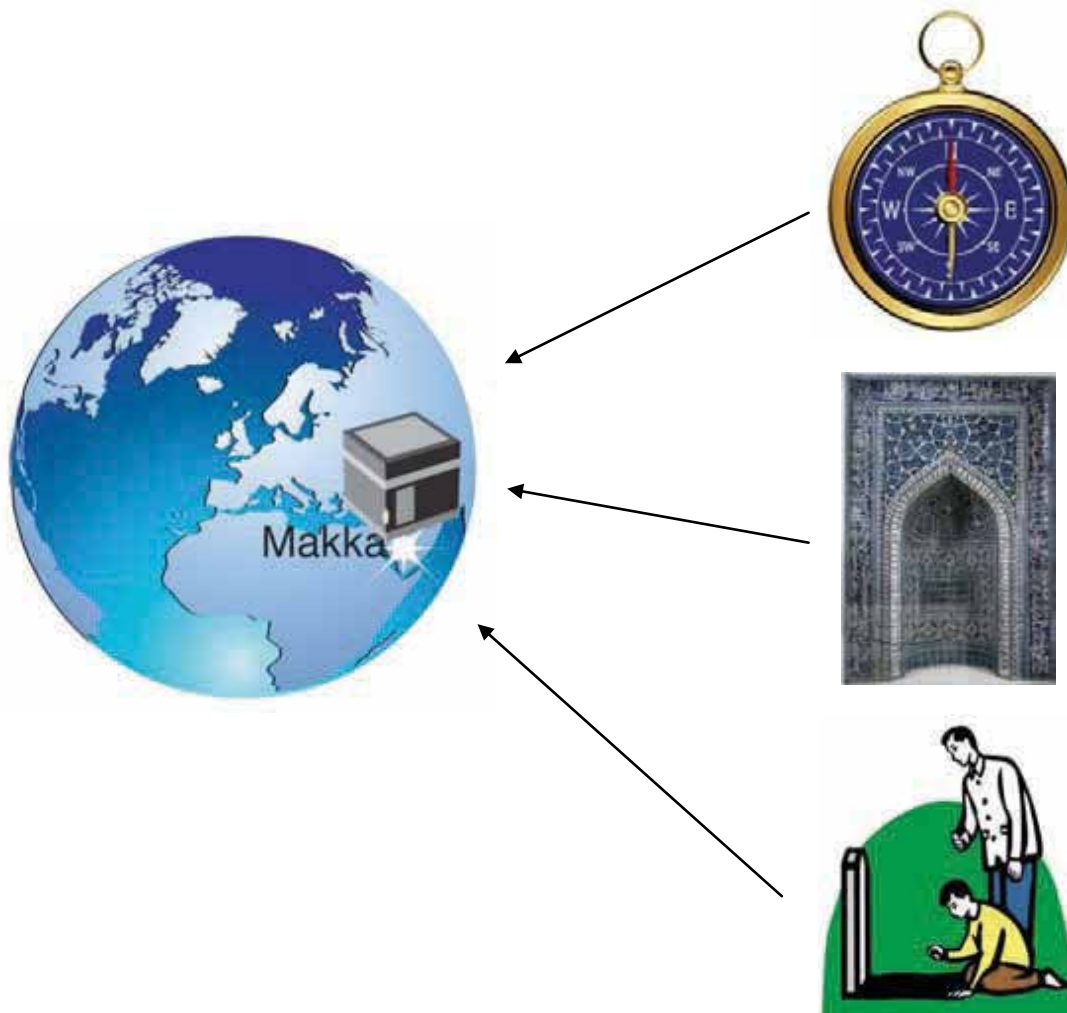
Qibla

After I have done Wudhoo I lay out my musalla and face the Qibla.

Qibla is the direction to the Ka'ba in Makka.

We can find Qibla by:

1. Asking a reliable person.
2. Using a compass.
3. Looking at a mihrab in a masjid. Mihrab is a niche (cut out arch) in the wall which is made in the direction of Ka'ba.
4. By looking at the graves in a Muslim graveyard.



Place for Salaa

A Muslim can pray where ever he likes as long as he has the permission of the owner of the place.

It is always much better to pray in a **Masjid** - mosque. The thawab for praying in a mosque are far greater than praying elsewhere.

The thawab for praying one rakaat salaa in **Masjidul Haram** (the sacred mosque of Makka which houses the Ka'ba) is equal to 100,000 rakaats.

The thawab for praying one rakaat salaa in **Masjidun Nabi** (the Prophet's mosque) is equal to 10,000 rakaats.

The thawab of praying one rakaat salaa in **Masjidul Jamia'** (central mosque of a town) is equal to 100 rakaats.

The thawab for praying one rakaat salaa in **Masjidus Suq** (the local mosque in one's area) is equal to 12 rakaats.

For women it is better to pray at home.

It is Makruh to pray:

1. In a dirty place.
2. In front of a picture of a human being or animal.
3. In front of an open Qur'an or any open book.
4. In front of an open fire or oil lamp.
5. In front of a person who is facing you.
6. On a road or a footpath.
7. In front of a grave or in a cemetery.



Clothes for Salaa

The clothes for Salaa:

- Must be Taahir.
- Must belong to you or you must have the permission of the owner to wear them.
- Must not be made from any part of an animal whose meat is Haram to eat.
- Must not be made from an animal whose meat is halal to eat but which has not been slaughtered in the Islamic way.*
- For boys the clothes must cover their private parts. It is however better to dress fully for salaa.
- For boys the clothes must not be made of pure silk or gold (which is haram to wear at all times in any case).
- For girls the clothes must cover their whole body except their face, hands upto the wrists, and the feet.

* If the clothes are made of that part of the halal meat animal which has no feeling e.g. hair, teeth, bone, horn and the animal is not slaughtered Islamically then such clothes are allowed in Salaa.



Times for Salaa

Fajr Salaa

The time for Fajr Salaa is from true dawn (subh sadiq) upto sunrise.

The best time (fadhila) for praying Salatul Fajr is from subh sadiq upto the appearance of reddish streaks on the horizon (before sunrise).

Zhuhr Salaa

The time for Zhuhr Salaa is from midday upto a few minutes before sunset.

The best time (fadhila) for praying Salatul Zhuhr is from midday up to the time when the shadow of a thing e.g. a stick becomes equal to its length.

Midday is half way between sunrise and sunset. It's time varies throughout the year.

'Asr Salaa

The time for 'Asr Salaa is from a few minutes after midday up to sunset.

The best time (fadhila) for praying Salatul 'Asr is from a few minutes after midday upto the time when the shadow of a thing becomes double its length.

Maghrib Salaa

The time for Maghrib Salaa is from after sunset up to a few minutes before midnight - 12 hours after Zhuhr time.

The best time (fadhila) for praying Salatul Maghrib is from after sunset upto the time when the reddish streaks in the horizon vanish.

Isha Salaa

The time for praying Isha salaa is from a few minutes after sunset up to midnight - 12 hours after Zhuhr time.

The best time (fadhila) to pray Salatul Isha is from a few minutes after sunset up to the third of the night, e.g. if midnight was 12.01 a.m. and Maghrib was 9.01 p.m. then a third would be upto 10.01 p.m.



Salaa

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

All praise is for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

Allah made me and looks after me. He knows when I am happy and when I am sad. He knows when I am good and when I am naughty. He has given me everything. I love Allah.

Allah loves me too and He wants to talk to me. That is why He sent us the Qur'an, the Prophets and the Ma'sumeen.

But Allah wants me to talk to Him too so in the Qur'an and through Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his AhlulBayt He has taught me how to pray salaa. Salaa is talking to Allah.

I can talk to Allah anywhere about anything. He always hears and understands. He hears me if I whisper or if I shout or even if I think of something in my mind.

However, when I stand for salaa I pray the way He wants me to because I love Him and I want to do what He says.

الله أكبر

Allah is Greater than anything and/or anyone.

He has made me so He knows what is right for me and what is wrong for me. Allah wants me to talk to Him through salaa.

Some prayers are longer than others but I just love talking to Allah.

Allah wants me to pray with other people as well. The Prophet (pbuh) has said that salaa has greater power when we pray together in Jama'a. I try to pray my salaa in Jama'a as much as possible.

Praying of salaa not only brings us closer to Allah but to each other as well. Salaa is also a reminder of all the beliefs and values of Islam.



Adhan

Adhan is the call for salaa (prayer). It is called in a loud voice. It can be called from the minaret of a masjid (mosque) or from where ever I pray. I always begin my salaa with adhan and iqama. After I have done Wudhoo, I stand on my musalla facing the qibla. With the palms of my hand facing qibla and my thumbs just under my ears I recite;

4 times Allahu Akber

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

2 times Ash hadu anl laa ilaaha illallah

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

2 times Ash hadu anna Muhammadar rasulullah

أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

2 times Ash hadu anna Aliyyuw waliyullah

أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ عَلِيًّا وَليُّ اللَّهِ

2 times Hayya alas salaa

حَيَّ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ

2 times Hayya alal falaah

حَيَّ عَلَى الْفَلَاحِ

2 times Hayya alaa khayril 'amal

حَيَّ عَلَى خَيْرِ الْعَمَلِ

2 times Allahu Akber with my palms facing qibla and thumbs under my ears

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

2 times Laa ilaaha illallah

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

If someone else is reciting Adhan loudly, I sit with respect and follow the recitations, reciting salawat after the names of the Prophet (pbuh) and Imam Ali (pbuh)



Iqama

Iqama is the call to start salaa. It is said just before salaa. With my palms facing qibla and my thumbs just under my ears, I recite:

2 times Allahu Akber

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

2 times Ash hadu anl laa ilaaha illallah

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

2 times Ash hadu anna Muhammadar rasulullah

أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

2 times Ash hadu anna Aliyyuw waliyullah

أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ عَلِيًّا وَوَلِيُّ اللَّهِ

2 times Hayya alas salaa

حَيَّ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ

2 times Hayya alal falaah

حَيَّ عَلَى الْفَلَاحِ

2 times Hayya alaa khayril 'amal

حَيَّ عَلَى خَيْرِ الْعَمَلِ

2 times Qad qaamatis salaa

قَدْ قَامَتِ الصَّلَاةُ

2 times Allahu Akber with my palms facing qibla and thumbs under my ears

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Once Laa ilaaha illallah

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

After the iqama, I begin my sala



Number of Rakaats and Times of Salaa (Namaz)

I pray five Salawat (plural of salaa) three times a day. Each salaa is divided into rakaats. In each rakaat, I do qiyam, ruku, two sajadaat and juloos.

1. **Fajr Salaa** – Early in the morning just as the night ends, I pray 2 rakaats.
2. **Zhuhr and 'Asr salaa** – At midday (halfway through the day), I pray Zhuhr followed by 'Asr salaa. (Zuhrayn)
4 rakaats for Zhuhr and 4 rakaats for 'Asr.
3. **Maghrib and Isha salaa** – Just as the day ends and the night begins, I pray Maghrib followed by Isha salaa. (Maghribayn)
3 rakaats for Maghrib and 4 rakaats for Isha.



This is how I Pray Salaa (Namaz)

I say my niyya. For example, if I am praying Maghrib salaa, I say: “I am praying 3 rakaats for Salatul Maghrib –

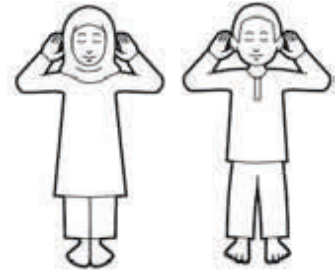
Qurbatan ilallah – قُرْبَةً إِلَى اللَّهِ

(To obey Allah and to get closer to Him).

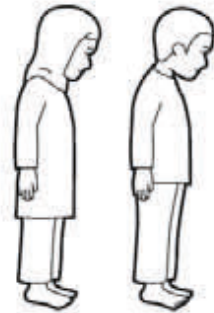
I raise my hands up to my ears for takbeeratul ihram, and I say

takbeer: “Allahu Akber اللهُ أَكْبَرُ

(Allah is Greater than anything and anyone).



Now I stand still for qiyam and looking at the ground (mohr, turbat). I recite **Suratul Fatiha** and **one other sura** from the Qur’an.

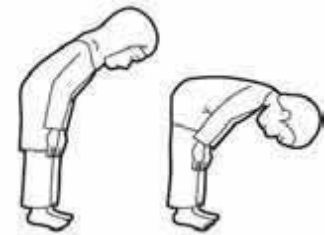


I then say “Allahu Akber” and then go to ruku and looking between my feet, I recite:

“Subhana rabbiyal ‘adheemi wa bihamdih

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْعَظِيمِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ

(Glory be to my Rabb, the Great and praise be to Him).



I stand up from ruku for qiyam and I recite:

“Samia’llahu liman hamida

سَمِعَ اللَّهُ لِمَنْ حَمِدَهُ

(Allah hears he/she who praises Him).



I then say “Allahu Akber” and then go to sijda making sure that the seven parts of my body touch the ground – My forehead, two palms, two knees, and the two tips of my toes. In sijda, I recite:

“Subhana rabbiyal ‘alaa wa bihamdi

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْأَعْلَىٰ وَبِحَمْدِهِ

(Glory be to my Rabb, the most High and praise be to Him).



I sit up from sijda for juloos with my legs tucked under me and looking at my lap, I say:

“Astaghfirullah rabbiy wa atubu ilayh

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ

(I see forgiveness from Allah, my Rabb, and I turn repentant to Him)



I go back to sijda once more and I recite:

“Subhana rabbiyal ‘alaa wa bihamdi

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْأَعْلَىٰ وَبِحَمْدِهِ

(Glory be to my Rabb, the most High and praise be to Him).



I sit up from sijda for juloos and recite:

“Allahu Akber - اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

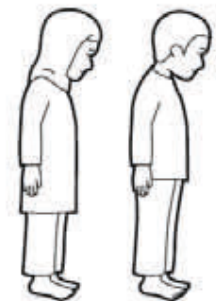
(Allah is Greater than anything and anyone)

Now I stand up for qiyam of the second rakaat. Whilst in the process of standing up, I recite: “Bihawlillahi wa quwwatihi aqumu wa aq’ud

بِحَوْلِ اللَّهِ وَ قُوَّتِهِ أَقُومُ وَ أَقْعُدُ

(With the power and strength of Allah, I stand and sit).

I stand for qiyam and recite Suratul Fatiha and Suratul Ikhlas.



I raise my hands for qunoot and recite:

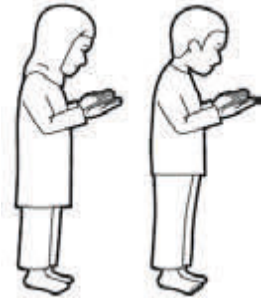
“Rabbanaa aatinaa fid dunya hasanataw wa fil aakhirati hasanataw waqinaa adhaaban naar. Allahumma salli ‘alaa Muhammadiw wa aali Muhammad

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

(Our Rabb. Grant us good in this world and good in the hereafter, and save us from the punishment of the fire).

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

(O Allah! Send blessings on Muhammad and his ahlulbayt).



I then do ruku and the two sajadaat (sijda's) just like the first raka'at.

When I sit for juloos after the second sijda, I say Takbeer “Allahu Akber” and then recite Tashahhud:

“Ash hadu anl laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa sharika lah, wa ash hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abdahu wa rasuluh, Allahumma salli ‘alaa Muhammadiw wa aali Muhammad

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ

وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

(I bear witness that there is no god except Allah, the only One and there is no partner for Him, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and His messenger. O Allah! Send blessings on Muhammad and his ahlulbayt).



After the tashahhud, I stand up for qiyam for the third raka't. In the process of standing, I recite:

“Bihawillahi wa quwwatihi aqumu wa aq'ud - بِحَوْلِ اللَّهِ وَ قُوَّتِهِ أَقُومُ وَ أَقْعُدُ - (With the power and strength of Allah, I stand and sit).

In qiyam of the third raka't, I recite tasbihaat e arba'a three times: “Subhaanallahi walhamdu lillahi wa laa ilaaha illallahu wallahu akber -

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ



(Glory be to Allah, and all praise is for Allah, and there is no god except Allah, and Allah is greater than everything and everyone).

I finish my third and final raka't of Salatul Maghrib with ruku, qiyam, the two sajadaat; and in the last juloos, I say Takbeer – "Allahu Akber" and then I recite Tashahhud and Salaam: "Ash hadu anilaa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa sharika lah, wa ash hadu anna Muhammadan 'abdahu wa rasuluh, Allahumma salli 'alaa Muhammadiw wa aali Muhammad –

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ

وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

(I bear witness that there is no god except Allah, the only One and there is no partner for Him, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and His messenger. O Allah! Send blessings on Muhammad and his ahlulbayt).

"Assalamu 'alayka ayyuhan nabiiyyu wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh; Assalamu 'alaynaa wa 'alaa ibadullahis saaliheen; Assalamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh –

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا وَ عَلَى عِبَادِ اللَّهِ الصَّالِحِينَ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

(Salaams be upon you, O Prophet and the mercy of Allah and His blessings; Salaams be upon us and upon all the righteous servants of Allah; Salaams be upon you all and the mercy of Allah and His blessings).



Activities of a Day in the Life of a Muslim Child

1. Getting up.
2. Visiting the toilet.
3. Washing in the bathroom, doing ghusl of Jumu'a on Friday.
4. Doing wudhoo.
5. Praying Fajr, Zhuhr, 'Asr, Maghrib & Isha salaa (namaz).
6. Reading Qur'an.
7. Attending school / madrasa.
8. Eating & drinking
9. Playtime
10. Doing homework.
11. Helping mummy & papa.
12. Reciting Dua.
13. Attending the Masjid/Imambada for the Weekly programmes, Eids, Ramadhan, Muharram, Wiladat and Wafat of Ma'sumeen.
14. Fasting in Ramadhan
15. Reading about, praying and thinking of the Muslim Umma.
16. Going to bed.



Waking Up

I am a Muslim. I wake up in the morning to pray Fajr Salaa (namaz). When I am getting out of bed, I say:

Alhamdulillah wallahu akber

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

(All praise is for Allah and Allah is greater than everything and everyone)

I run to my mum and dad's room and knock on the door and greet them saying:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

Assalamu 'alaykum
(Peace be upon you)

They reply saying:

وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ

Wa 'alaykumus Salaam
(And peace be upon you)

I greet everyone else in the house, put on my slippers and go to the washroom.



Toilet Manners

I close the door of the toilet and fill the water jug with water.

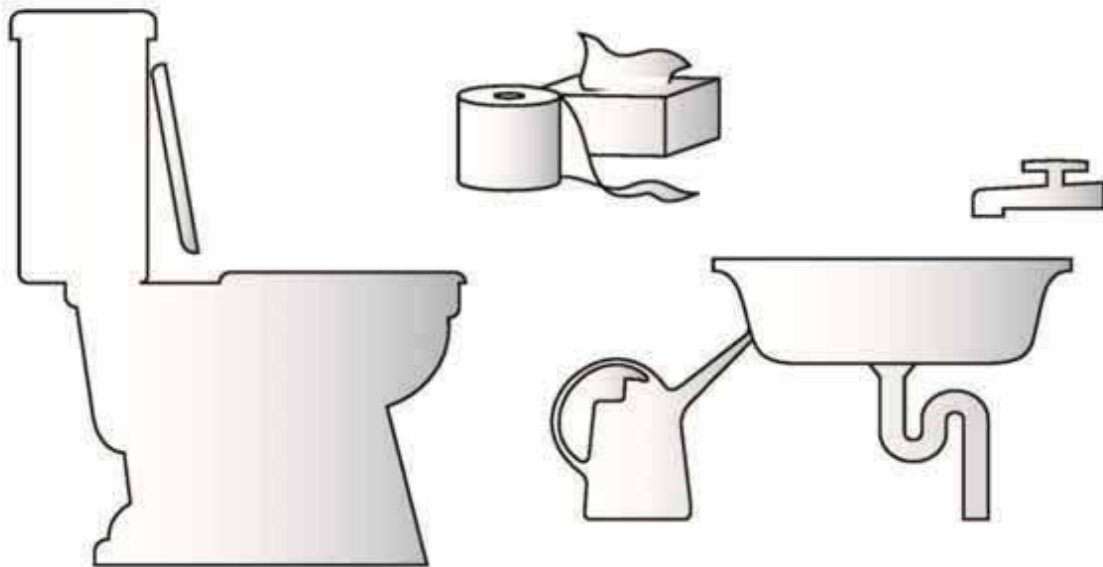
Then I sit on the toilet. A Muslim never uses the toilet standing.

When I finish, I wash myself with my left hand making sure I am clean. If I have done wee wee, I make sure that I pour water three times

If I have done poo, then I wash myself with my left hand until I am clean.

I flush the toilet and wash my hands.

I thank Allah for having made the water which cleans me. I say:
Alhamdulillah (All praise is for Allah)



Bathroom Manners

First I brush my teeth. Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh) has said:

“The thawabs for praying 2 rakaat salaa after brushing teeth is more than the thawabs of seventy rakaats salaa without brushing teeth.”

Then I have a shower.

If it is Friday, I ask mum to help me do ghusl of Jumu’a. There are a lot of thawabs for doing ghusl of Jumu’a. This is how I do ghusl:

First I do niyya – I have to know why and for whom I am doing ghusl, so I may say:

I am doing ghusl of **Jumu’a Qurbatan ilallah** (In obedience to Allah and to get closer to Him).

Then I wash my whole head down to the neck running my fingers through my hair.

After that I wash the whole right side of my body from the shoulders to the feet.

Finally, I wash the whole of the left side of y body from the shoulder to the feet.

If it is Thursday or Friday, I also cut my nails.

I comb my hair and then do wudhoo.

If the time or Fajr salaa is coming to an end then I pray first and shower after praying salaa.



Eating Manners

Before I start eating I always wash my hands.

I say:

Bismillahirrahmaanirraheem

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(I begin in the name of Allah, the Kind, the Merciful)

I always eat with my right hand.

I start my meals with a tiny pinch of salt.

I take small bites and I chew my food properly with my mouth closed.

I never talk with my mouth full.

I do not eat very hot food. I never blow on my food. I wait for it to cool down if it is hot.

I always finish all the food on my plate.

When I finish, I thank Allah for the food saying:

Alhamdu lillah

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

(All praise is for Allah)

I wait for everyone on the table to finish before I get up.

I rinse my mouth, wash my hands and dry them with a clean towel.



Manners in the Imambara

I wear neat clean respectable clothes.

I do wudhoo before I leave home to go to the masjid (mosque) or imambara.

When I get to the masjid or imambara, I enter with my right foot and say:
Allahummaftah liy abwaaba rahmatik

اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ

(O Allah! Open for me the doors of Your mercy).

I sit in a line with the others starting as near to the front as possible. I do not step over others to go and sit with my friends.

I always sit quietly and listen to the majlis. If I do not understand, I take a tasbeeh and recite the tasbeeh of Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh)
34 times Allahu Akber

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

(Allah is greater than anything or anyone)

33 times Alhamdu lillah

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

(All praise is for Allah)

33 times Subhanallah

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

(Glory be to Allah)

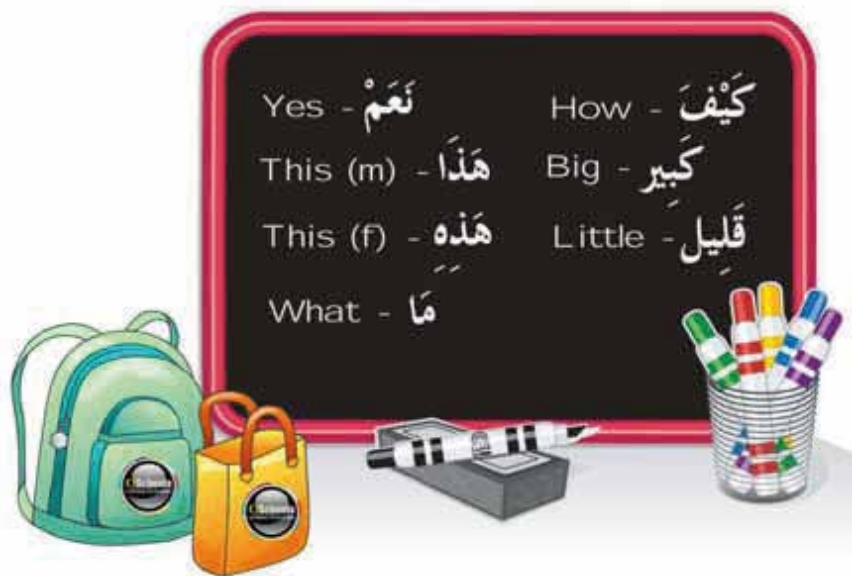
I never eat snacks in the masjid or imambara during salaa or majlis.

When I get tabarruk, I eat it being careful that I do not make a mess



Classroom Manners

1. When the teacher enters the class always stand and reply to his/her greeting.
2. Listen to him/her quietly with full attention. Then only will you understand the lesson.
3. Try not to interrupt your teacher unless it is very necessary.
4. When you are asked a question raise your hand and answer only when he/she asks you to.
5. It is very rude to answer a question that someone else has been asked.
6. Do not talk to other students whilst the teacher is teaching. This disturbs the whole class.
7. When you come to the madrasa, you should make sure that you check whether you have the following in your bag:
 - Qur'an
 - Pencil case with pen, pencil, rubber, ruler & colours.
 - Your folder with your Weekly Assignment done & signed.
 - Some paper or notepad to jot down points during the lesson.
 - A snack or money for the break.



Sharing

A Muslim always shares whatever he/she has with everyone.

In the battle of Moota, there were a number of companions of the Prophet (pbuh) who lay wounded on the ground. They were all thirsty and groaning for water. A man seeing them, took some water and offered it to the first companion who pointed to a second companion saying he needed the water more. The man went to the second mujahid who pointed to the third companion saying that he needed the water more than him. When the man got to the third mujahid he found that he had already died. He returned to the second mujahid but he too had died and so had the first companion.

All the soldiers wanted to share with the others so much that they were prepared to give to the other before themselves.



Friendship

A friend is a very important person in one's life.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has said:

"The behaviour of everyone will be according to the beliefs and principles of his/her friend".

Qualities one should look or in a friend:

Knowledge

Imam Ali (pbuh) has said:

"The best of companions (friends) are those who have knowledge and patience.

If you have friends who have knowledge or are interested in learning then, rather than waste time talking about worthless things or gossiping you will talk about events and ideas.

Good Akhlaq

Because the akhlaq of a friend affects and rubs off on you it is important to have and be friends with those having good akhlaq. There is a Spanish saying which says:

"If you go to the wolves, it is howling which you will learn from them. "A Muslim friend is a mirror for his friend.

Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh) has said:

"A friend is someone who:

1. What he/she feels towards you and what he/she says about you must be the same.
2. He/she should think your good qualities as his/her good qualities and your bad qualities as his/her bad qualities...
3. He/she should help you as much as he/she can.
4. He/she should not leave you alone when you are in trouble."



Manners of Sleeping

Before I go to sleep, I have a wash and change into my night clothes.

I visit the toilet and brush my teeth.

Then I do wudhoo.

I go to my mummy and pappa and the rest of my family and say:

Fiyamaanillah

فِي أَمَانِ اللَّهِ

(May Allah keep you safe)

I give them a hug and a kiss.

I get into bed and recite Kalima, suras from the Qur'an that I know by heart, and a tasbee of Sayyida Fatma Zahra (pbuh)

I never sleep on my tummy because that is how Shaytan sleeps. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) used to sleep on his right side with his hand under his cheek.

I never sleep in total darkness. My mummy leaves a night light on for me – sometimes the light from the hall or the street shines through.



Lying

"A liar does not lie, except when he feels lower within himself/herself."

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Lies can be small and light natured like in jokes or serious with an aim to mislead someone. Be it small or big, light-hearted or in the form of a joke, it is still hated.

Imam Ali Zaynul Aabideen (pbuh) has said:

"Keep away from lies, be it small or big, whether in a serious way or not, or by way of a joke. For everyone who tells small lies will also dare to speak big lies." One lie leads to another and soon it becomes a habit.

Lying leads to disgrace and is the key to conflict in the home and society.
It leads to false swearing and more sins.

The best way to remove the habit of lying is to study history and look at the ends of those who lied. E.g. Abu Lahab, Abu Sufyan, Muawiya, Yazid...
They rejected the truth and lied.

In the Qur'an Allah says:

"Indeed there have been examples before you, so travel on the earth and see what was the end of those who lied."
Suratu Aali Imran 3:136



Less Wanting

The Prophet (pbuh) has said:

"Allah has said:

...When my slave prefers his/her desire over My wish, I put his/her affairs into confusion, make his/her life confused in the world and his/her heart pre-occupied with the world..... If my slave prefers My wish over his/her desire, angels protect him/her, the earth guarantees his/her sustenance and I look after his/her affairs and bring the world to him/her although it may be reluctant to do so...."

It is said that the renowned Muslim scholar Abu Sina (Avicenna) once looked with scorn (in a bad way) at a poor man eating left over leaves from a grocer's shop. The man greeted him and told him: "What is the contempt for? You are the slave of my slaves!!"

Abu Sina could not understand what the man was saying. The poor man explained: "O Abu Sina! You are the slave of your desires (want of good food) whilst desires are my slaves. Therefore you are the slave of my slaves."

Abu Sina realised the wisdom of the poor man's words.

The person who is desirous (wants more all the time) is always busy in anxiety, worry and sorrow for he/she feels that whatever he/she has got is just not enough.



Manners of Talking

The following were guidelines given by Imam Husayn (pbuh) to Ibn Abbas about good and useful conversation.

"Do not begin a conversation without first greeting the person you are talking to."

"Keep away from a conversation which is without an aim or object for it lowers your position."

"...Wait to speak at the right opportunity; many speak the truth but not at the right time and therefore have to face disrespect."

"Do not argue with a patient person for he will win with the power of his patience."

"Do not argue with foolish and ignorant people as they will hurt you with their nonsense."

"You may only do that gheebat (backbiting) of a person which you would like him to speak of you."

We might know that it is polite to speak softly and clearly but we must also speak the truth and that which is useful.

Before you speak always take the mouth test:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it useful?
3. Is it hurtful?
4. Is Allah going to be pleased with those words?



Anger

In describing those who will go to Janna, Allah says in the Qur'an:

“And those who swallow their anger and forgive people; and Allah loves those who do well (to others).” **Suratu Ali Imran 3:134**

When someone hurts our feelings without it being our fault it makes us angry and sometimes we say and do things which we regret later.

Imam Ali (pbuh) has said that when you get angry, you must first sit down if you are standing and lie down if you are sitting.

Take ten deep breaths and go and do wudhoo, for the Prophet (pbuh) has said: 'Indeed anger is from Shaytan and Shaytan is made from fire. Fire is extinguished with water. So whenever you are angry do wudhoo.'

Think about what happened. If it is your fault then see the positive side and try to change yourself. If it is not your fault then have faith that the truth will always win and when the time comes you can explain. Imam Ali (pbuh) has said:

"Anger begins in madness and ends in regret."

Imam Hasan (pbuh) had a slave who once dropped a bowl of hot soup on him whilst she was serving food. She saw that Imam was in a lot of pain. She thought that Imam would get angry and started to recite the above aya of Qur'an.

When she recited... and those who swallow their anger...Imam told her he was not angry with her.

When she recited... and those who forgive people... Imam said he had forgiven her. Finally, when she recited... and Allah loves those who do good (to others), Imam set her free.

Imam not only swallowed his anger but also forgave the girl and set her free. As the followers of Imam the least we can do is to swallow our anger when a friend, relative or another Muslim says or does something which hurts us.



Be Cheerful

The Prophet (pbuh) has said:

"You cannot please all the people with money but you can meet them with a cheerful face and good behaviour so that you may be liked by them. Wealth is limited but good akhlaq and cheerfulness never finishes."

A man from Shaam (Damascus) once came to Madina arriving in the presence of Imam Hasan (pbuh).

The man started abusing Imam Ali (pbuh).

Imam Hasan (pbuh) took him to one side and said: "You must be very tired from your journey. Come with me and I shall give you food, drink and rest. We will talk later."

The man turned to Imam Hasan (pbuh) and said: "I came to Madina as your worst enemy and now I am the best of your admirers through your akhlaq."

Imam Ali (pbuh) has said: "A mu'min has a smile and cheerfulness on his/her face and sorrow in his/her heart."

Imam Ali (pbuh) was always cheerful in dealing with others so much so that some people considered it to be a weak point for a Khalifa, saying that a leader must be grim - a person others should be afraid of.

Allah says about the Prophet (pbuh) in the Qur'an: "It was by the mercy of Allah that you are gentle with them, for if you would have been stern and fierce of heart they would have run away from you."

Suratu Aali-Imran 3:159



Knowledge

"Allah makes the road to Janna easy for one who takes a step on the road to acquiring knowledge."

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

It is not enough to acquire information on a subject of study, but it is important to be able to absorb, understand and practise upon the information in order to call it 'knowledge'.

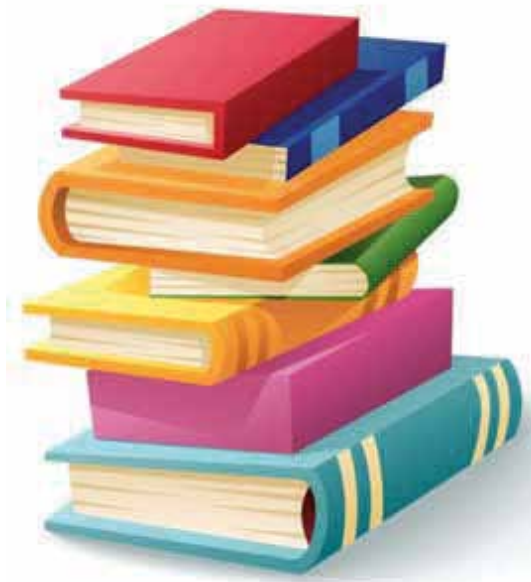
The following ahadith from the Prophet (pbuh) may throw some light on the right way of acquiring knowledge.

"The treasures of knowledge are opened by asking questions. May Allah bless you. Ask questions because four persons are rewarded - The one who asks, the one who answers, the one who hears and the one to whom it is related."

"Preserve your knowledge in writing."

"Scholarly discussions enliven dead hearts provided they lead to Allah and His commands."

"Teach others what you know so that the foundation of your knowledge may become strong and seek knowledge from others so that the level of your information may increase."



Sadaqa

"If you are poor do business with Allah by giving sadaqa." Imam Ali (pbuh)

Sadaqa is the charity given for the sake of Allah. It is a source of attaining the blessings of Allah. The best sadaqa is that which is given in secret for the Prophet (pbuh) has said it is that which puts out the flame of Allah's anger.

The Prophet (pbuh) has also said:

"On the day of Qiyama everyone will rest under the shadow of his/her sadaqa until the matters are settled between the people."

He has also said:

"Sadaqa reaches the hand of the Creator before it reaches the one you give it to."

Imam Musa Al-Kadhim (pbuh) has said:

"Beware of refusing to give sadaqa and then spending twice as much in disobeying Allah."

Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh) could not bear to see her two young sons Hasan and Husayn (pbuh) ill. She made a vow with Allah to fast for three days. With her the whole family fasted.

On the first day when they were about to break their fast, there was a knock on the door. It was a poor man who was hungry. All the family gave up their bread to the man and broke their fast with water.

Similarly on the next two days, an orphan and a prisoner came who were hungry. The family gave away their food.

Allah revealed a sura of the Qur'an in honour of their sadaqa - **Suratud Dahr (76)**.

The criteria for sadaqa is taught by the family of Fatima Zahra (pbuh) and her family in this sura:

"We feed you only for Allah's sake; we want neither reward nor thanks for it. We fear from our Rabb a difficult day of distress (Qiyama).."

Suratud Dahr 76:9, 10



Do Not Abuse

"Indeed Allah is angry with one who uses abusive language towards others."

Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh)

A man once came to the gathering where Imam Ali Zaynul Aabideen (pbuh) was present. He held a grudge against Imam and started using abusive language insulting Imam in front of all the others. He then left abruptly.

After he left Imam told those who were present:

"You have seen how abusive this man was towards me. Now I wish to go to him with all of you and to give him a reply to what he has said!"

All those with Imam thought Imam would deal with him harshly. However, throughout the short walk to his house Imam was reciting the following aya of Qur'an:

"..And those who swallow their anger and forgive people; Indeed Allah loves the righteous ones."

Suratu Aali-Imran 3:134

When they reached the man's house they knocked on the door and called out to him.

He thought Imam and his companions had come to punish him. He came out fearing the worst only to find Imam smiling at him.

Imam said: "An hour ago you came to me and used abusive language. I have now come to tell you that if you have spoken the truth and the evil that you have said I have done exists then I pray to Allah that He may forgive me; However, if you have lied then I pray to Allah that He may overlook your sin and forgive you."

The man found himself helpless in front of such a generous attitude. He said:

"Yabna Rasulillah! None of the abusive things I said exist in you. In fact I am more deserving of possessing them. Please forgive me."



Do not Belittle Others

"Do not turn your face away from people scornfully.....Indeed Allah does not love any arrogant and boastful person."
Suratu Luqman 31:18

Anyone who wishes to be above others means that he/she wishes to humiliate and belittle others. The source of this always comes from an inferiority complex for otherwise no sensible person can imagine any difference between him/her and any other person. The only criteria in the eyes of Allah is Taqwa.

Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh) has said:

The only reason a person suffers from the disease of arrogance is due to an inferiority complex which he/she sees in him/herself."

One who belittles others can identify his/her disease by the following symptoms:

1. He/she does not like to be equal to others in any matter.
2. He/she always wants to go ahead of others and sit at a higher place than others in a gathering.
3. He/she expects others to greet him/her first.
4. If anyone gives him/her advice he/she gets annoyed.
5. If he/she advises anyone it is with torment.
6. If his/her word is not accepted he/she gets angry.
7. If he/she teaches he/she belittles the students reminding them of the favour done to them and considers them to be his/her servants.



One day the Prophet (pbuh) was sitting in a circle with his companions when a poor man came in. His poverty was apparent by his tattered clothes. It is the akhlaq of a 'majlis' to sit where there is a vacant place and not look for a particular place to suit one's status, etc.

The poor man saw a space and sat down. It so happened that the space was near a rich man who gathered his clothes and pulled them towards himself as if to create a distance between him and the poor man. It seemed that the rich man was feeling a little uneasy.

The Prophet (Pbuh) was watching the behaviour of the rich man. He addressed him saying:

"Did you fear that some of his poverty might stick to you?"

The rich man replied:

"No! Ya Rasulallah! "

The Prophet (pbuh) asked:

"Did you fear that something out of your wealth might be transferred to him?"

The rich man replied:

"No! Ya Rasulallah!"

The Prophet (pbuh) asked a further question:

"Did you fear that your clothes might get dirtied by touching his clothes?"

The rich man replied:

"No! Ya Rasulallah!"

"Then why did you move yourself away from him?" asked the Prophet (pbuh)

The rich man replied:

"Ya Rasulallah! I admit I made a grave mistake. I would like to make amends and I would like to give half my wealth to this Muslim brother of mine."

When the poor man heard his words he said:

"Ya Rasulallah! I am not prepared to take his offer!"

The companions who were present there were surprised and said:

"Why?"

The poor man replied:

"I fear lest with the wealth I am offered I too may become arrogant and one day may belittle one of my brothers in ISLAM in the manner in which he (the rich man) has treated me today."



Watching TV

Watching too much television causes tiredness and headaches but worst of all it takes one away from Allah. Even watching cartoons makes us start believing that maybe Ben 10 etc, are stronger than Allah or that Captain Planet controls the universe rather than Allah.

Television can make us lazy and angry as well. It becomes a bad habit which is very difficult to get rid of.

Too much television stops us from sitting together as a family, talking and discussing things. It is a conversation stopper and a baby-sitter.

Discipline your watching of television. At most watch half an hour a day of good programmes where you will learn something.

Before you switch the Television on ask yourself:

1. Am I going to learn from this programme?
2. Have I timed myself for half an hour?
3. Are there any haram things in the programme that I should not watch?
4. If Imam Mahdi (pbuh) were to visit me, would I be able to sit with him to watch this programme?



Duties Towards Parents

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has said:

"Sitting with your parents for one hour is better than going for jihad. Even if only a word is spoken with a view to pleasing the parents, Allah is pleased."

Respecting parent's means:

1. Never raise your voice while talking to them.
2. Do not sit when they are standing.
3. Do not walk in front of them unless they tell you to do so.
4. Do not talk when they are talking.
5. Never correct them in front of others.
6. Do not make them angry or displeased with you.
7. Never argue or shout at them.

Always pray for them:

رَبِّ اَرْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَّبَّيْتَنِي صَغِيرًا

"...Lord! Have mercy on them just as they had mercy on me when I was little..."

Suratu Bani Israil 17:24



Behaving Like Little Muslim Ladies and Little Muslim Gentlemen

Etiquettes at Home

Say Assalamu 'alaykum in the morning and Fiamanillah at night to parents and siblings

1. Respect the privacy of others at home. Don't listen in to phone conversations, read their mail or look in their cupboards and bags.
2. Knock gently on a closed door before entering.
3. Remember your table manners.
4. Ask permission before borrowing things.
5. Spend time with parents and siblings. Don't hibernate in your bedroom.
6. Pick up after your mess.
7. Never sleep on a fight with anyone at home.

Being a Lady & a Gentleman

- Always be the first to say Salaam and address others with respect
- Stand up straight. Don't slouch.
- Hold your head high, and look people in the eye when you speak to them.
- Smile often.
- Don't use slang, sloppy words street talk, or swear. e.g. gonna instead of going to, lemme instead of let me, wanna instead of want to.....
- Speak slowly.
- Dress smart except when you are chilling at home.
- Always say "please" and "thank you."
- Take small bites when eating, eat with your mouth closed.
- Sit straight.
- Don't wipe your face with your sleeves



Process of Life

As soon as a baby is born, the adhan is recited in the child's right ear and the iqama in the left ear. The sound of Adhan and Iqama will dominate the whole life of the child as he will hear and/or recite it for five prayers in a day.

It is recommended that the baby's head be shaved when he 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 aqiqā.

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

Becoming baligh means to be responsible to perform all the wajibat. A Muslim girl becomes baligha at the age of 9 Lunar years. A Muslim boy becomes baligh when there are certain changes in his body which make him a man like his voice changing.

The foundation of a family is based on marriage. Marriage is highly recommended in Islam. There is a great deal in the Qur'an about the relationship between man and woman and about the practical details of marriage. Muslims are encouraged to marry young. According to Islamic Law both parties must give their free consent. The duties and responsibilities of the husband and wife are complimentary in a Muslim society.

Death for a Muslim is going from the physical world to the spiritual world. The body is given ghusl and then kafan. The burial takes place as soon as possible after death. A special salaa called salatul mayyit is recited prior to burial. It has 5 takbirs. The body is laid on its side in the grave with the face towards the qibla.

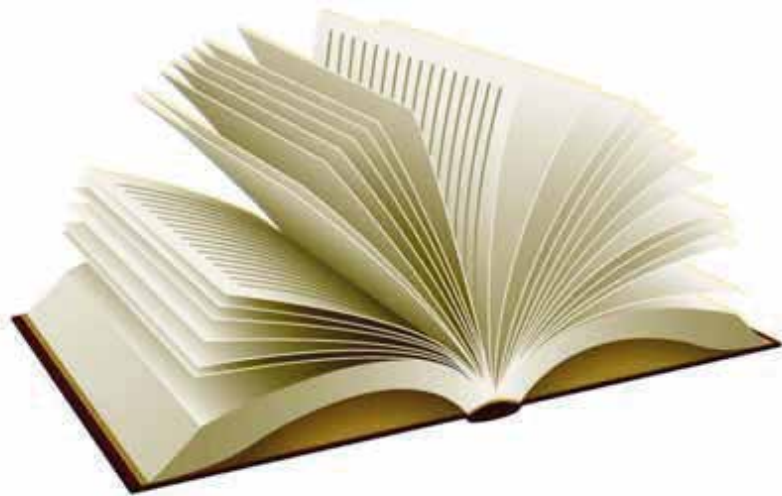


Manners for Reciting the Qur'an

- I always do wudhoo before I start reciting the Qur'an.
- I sit facing the qibla respectfully holding the Qur'an in my hands. If possible I place the Qur'an on a table or a Qur'an stand.
- I cover my head as a sign of respect. (Cap for a boy and a scarf for a girl).
- I always start the recitation with:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

- I read clearly and distinctly without rushing.
- I never leave the Qur'an open or unattended.
- As Imam Ali Zaynul Abedeen (pbuh) has taught us I always ask Allah:
"O Allah! Make the Qur'an a ladder by which I may climb to the place of safety."



The Qur'an

The Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet (pbuh) over a period of approximately 23 years.

The Qur'an is the direct word of Allah. Not only are the meanings holy but so are the words, so much so that even mere recitation is commendable and is considered an act of worship.

Looking at the word whilst reciting holds more thawaab.

It is **haram** to touch the words of the Qur'an without Wudhoo.

The first **ayaat** that were revealed were the first five of Suratul Alaq:

“Read in the name of Your Lord Who created,
He created man from a clot,
Read and Your Lord is the most Honourable,
Who taught by the pen,
Taught man what he knew not...”

The last **aya** revealed was the 3rd aya of Suratul Maidah (5):

“This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and chosen for you ISLAM as your religion.”

This was revealed at Ghadeer e Khum on 18th Zulhijjah 10 a.h.

There are **114 suwer** in the Qur'an. The longest **sura** is Suratul Baqarah (2) with 286 **ayaat** covering one twelfth of the Qur'an; and the shortest being Suratul Kawthar (108) with 4 **ayaat**.

Suratul Inshirah (94) and Suratud Duhaa (93) are regarded as one **sura**; similarly Suratul Feel (105) and Suratul Quraish (106) are regarded as one. This is why they are not to be recited singly in salaa.

The Qur'an is divided into 30 equal parts (**Juz – pl. Ajza**) to enable the reader to finish the recitation in a month.

The Qur'an is also divided into 7 equal sections (**Manzil – pl. Manazil**) to enable one to complete in a week if so desired.

According to the AhlulBayt **Bismillahirrahmanirraheem** is the first **aya** of all the **suwer** and is a part of the **sura** except Suratut Tawba (9). It appears twice in Suratun Naml (27).



Let us use Correct Words

Aya	One verse of the Qur'an. Aya means sign, every verse is a Sign of Allah.
Ayaat	Plural of Aya.
Juz	The Qur'an is divided into thirty equal parts. Each of these parts is a Juz (more commonly known as sipara).
Ajza	Plural of Juz.
Manzil	The Qur'an is also divided into seven parts. Each of these parts is a manzil.
Manazil	Plural of manzil.
Ruku	A group of ayaat marked with a ؤ representing a section (paragraph) of the sura (more commonly known as makra)
Sijda	Prostration
Sajadaat	Plural of sajda.
Sura	One chapter of the 114 chapters of the Qur'an. Literally meaning enclosure.
Suwer	Plural of sura.



Suratul Kawthar

The Prophet (pbuh) had a son called Tahir who died in infancy. When he died some people (Umar & Hakam bin Aas) taunted him calling him 'Abtar' which means an animal without a tail - one who had no succession.

This sura was revealed in reply to those who taunted the Prophet (pbuh)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَكَ الْكَوْثَرَ

Indeed We have given you Kawthar - the heavenly fountain of plenty.

'Kawthar' comes from the word 'kathara' which means plenty. The traditional description of Kawthar is that of a spring in Janna to which we can all have access to provided we stick to those who have been granted it.

'Kawthar' also means abundance of descendants. It is a fact that none can correctly count the descendants of the Prophet (Pbuh) whereas those who taunted the Prophet (Pbuh) are unknown.

'Kawthar' also implies the abundance of good given to the Prophet (Pbuh) in this world and in the hereafter.

فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحِرْ

Therefore pray to your Lord and make a sacrifice.

Although the verses are addressed to the Prophet (Pbuh) it is directed to us to follow.

'Nahr' means sacrifice but means the raising of the hands to the (neck) when Takbeer is said - implying that God is greater than any/everything and we would sacrifice all for Him.

إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ

Certainly, your enemy shall be the one cut off.

This aya refers to those who taunted the Prophet (Pbuh) as 'Abtar'.



Suratul 'Asr

The sura begins with Time and ends with sabr (Patience). Sabr is the shrinking of time. e.g. if we want to eat a fruit which is not yet ripe, we know we have to wait for it to ripen and we agree to do so. What we are doing is shrinking the time into "zero time".

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

وَالْعَصْرِ

I swear by Time!

'Asr' literally means squeezing. It has been used for Time - in the sense of it's meaning the squeezing of the past unfolding as future.

It may refer to the era of the Prophet (pbuh) or the time of Asr on Ashura; or as per a hadith of our 6th Imam - the era of Imam Al-Mahdi (pbuh.) Time is the most valuable commodity which man has...

If you look at the lives of great people - there is one thing in common that we all have with them and that is - 24 hrs in a day. The way they use their time has made the difference.

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ

Most certainly the human being is in a state of loss;

Man's lower nature is to be at a loss. Man's basic nature is to be confused, and dissatisfaction without any calm and peace - man fluctuates from one thought to the other, one idea to the other ... No sooner is one situation under control then he must move to another which is chaotic...

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَّاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَّاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ

Except those who believe, and do good deeds, and advise each other to truth, and advise each other to patience. Advising each other to truth and to patience is 'Amr bil Ma'ruf ' and 'Nahyi anil Munkar '. The highest degree of patience is that which is exercised when one keeps away from 'haram'.



Suratul Lahab

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

تَبَّتْ يَدَا أَبِي لَهَبٍ وَتَبَّ

May the two hands of Abu Lahab perish, and may He perish.

Abu Lahab means father of flames.

His actual name was Abdul Uzza, and he was a man with a fiery character.

When the Prophet (pbuh) called all his relations first to announce for the first time his prophethood; he asked them all whether they would believe him if he told them that there was an army waiting behind the mountain. All replied that they would for they had never heard the Prophet (Pbuh) lie.

The Prophet (pbuh) then announced that he had come from the one God as a messenger to preach the oneness of God.

Abu Lahab said "May you perish (die)! Is this why you have called us?"

He was once found walking behind the Prophet (pbuh) throwing stones at him and shouting at the people not to listen to the Prophet (pbuh)

He raised a large stone to throw at the Prophet (pbuh) but his hands froze. The Aya refers to his raising of hands to throw the stone.

"Tabba" also means - to be lost or to lose - and it refers to the fact that whatever his hands did (whatever his actions were), he was to be at a loss.

مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا كَسَبَ

His wealth and what he gains will be of no use.

When Abu Lahab was warned against the fire of Jahannam he said he would buy Jahannam with his wealth and escape it. This aya said that nothing will be of use to him.

سَيَصْلَىٰ نَارًا ذَاتَ لَهَبٍ

Soon shall he burn in the flaming fire.

When Abu Lahab will be in the fire; then only will he realise the return for his disbelief and the value of his wealth.

وَأْمْرًا تُهْجَىٰ حَمَالَةَ الْخَطَبِ



فِي جِيدِهَا حَبْلٌ مِّن مَّسَدٍ

And his wife, the carrier of firewood,
Upon her neck is the halter (leash) of twisted rope.

Abu Lahab's wife was called 'Umme Jamila'. She was Abu Sufyan's sister. She also had a bad temperament like her husband.

Umme Jamila used to collect thorny sticks and bundle them up with a rope. In the night she used to spread them along the path that the Prophet (pbuh) used to take to go to the mosque for prayers early in the morning.

The Prophet (pbuh) used to move them aside but some of the thorns used to prick his feet and get entangled in his clothes.

She also used to incite people by carrying tales from one place to the other (gossip) and this also gave her the title as the 'carrier of firewood'.

It showed her inner discontentment which showed in what she did outwardly; her inner thorns were carried on her back outwardly.

The twisted rope around her neck implies that she was strangling her soul with the rope of her own making.

Note: Umme Jamila died strangled with the rope with which she carried the wood.

Abu Lahab died a week after the Battle of Badr and his body smelt so badly that no-one would bury him. In the end some slaves were hired to bury him.



Suratul Feel

This sura refers to the event that took place in the year of the birth of the Prophet (Pbuh). The people of the places around Makka were very jealous of the Quraysh and their position as guardians of the Ka'ba. One of these people was the Emperor of Abyssinia. He ruled over Yemen. Through his representative in Yemen whose name was Abraha he built a large church in San'a (in Yemen) to compete with the Ka'ba. The church did not attract as many people as the Ka'ba in Makka as he had hoped for.

He therefore decided to destroy the Ka'ba under the leadership of Abraha. An army of elephants marched to Makka to attack and destroy the Ka'ba.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ

Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the companions of the elephant?

At that time the weapons that people had were either swords or spears. One who owned an elephant was regarded almost as an emperor. It was the best of 'weapons' one could possess. Imam Khomeini (A.R.) recited this sura when the Americans sent their best helicopters (the most advanced of weapons) to Iran to rescue their spies and their helicopters were destroyed by 'sand'.

أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضَلُّلٍ

Did He not cause their plans to end in confusion?

It refers to the confusion caused by the action of the tiny birds in the army of Abraha. Those who were hit by the pellets immediately fell dead, and the others created chaos amongst themselves.

وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ

تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ مِّنْ سِجِّيلٍ

فَجَعَلَهُمْ كَعَصْفٍ مَّا كُوِلَ

And sent down flocks of birds upon them;
Pelting them with stones of baked clay;
So He made them as eaten straw.



'Abaabil' means flocks; and it does not necessarily refer to only birds but also to large overwhelming numbers.

God sent upon them a huge flock of birds with small stones in their beaks.

'Sijjeel' means stones like lumps of dry clay. There are many interpretations of this Aya . We do not know whether there was an actual storm of small creatures who pelted them with 'sijjeel' which penetrated their skins; or whether it was an illness brought by these birds which affected them so drastically.

We know that the mighty army was suddenly devastated, just as it was approaching the Ka'ba.

The result of the attack was that the enormous army became like straw eaten up. It is said that after this destruction the ground appeared as if a flat sheet made up of the thousands of men of the enemy army and their elephants had been laid down on it.



Prophet Adam (pbuh)

Prophet Adam (pbuh) was the first human being created by Allah. Allah asked the angels to bring different types of clay from the earth. The clay was then mixed with water and left for a while (like bread dough). He then shaped it into the form of a man and left it to set. When it was strong He made the man come alive and it was Prophet Adam (pbuh) As soon as he was alive Prophet Adam (pbuh) sneezed. As soon as he had sneezed he said:
Alhamdulillah (All praise is for Allah)

After Allah had made Prophet Adam (pbuh) He called all the angels and asked them to do sajda to Prophet Adam (pbuh) Shaytan (Iblis) was there as well and was asked to do the same. All the angels obeyed Allah and did sajda but Shaytan refused! When he was asked why he had refused he said he was better than Prophet Adam (pbuh) because he was made of fire and Prophet Adam (pbuh) was made of clay.

Shaytan was only looking at the outside of Prophet Adam (pbuh) and not his inside (nafs). Allah was very angry that Shaytan disobeyed Him. He sent Shaytan away from the heavens. Ever since then Shaytan has tried to make people disobey Allah. He succeeds when our faith in Allah is not strong.

Allah asked Prophet Adam (pbuh) and his wife Sayyida Hawwa (pbuh) to live in Janna. They were allowed to eat whatever they wanted but they were advised not to go near one tree. Shaytan got jealous and he went to visit Prophet Adam (pbuh) and Sayyida Hawwa (pbuh) in Janna pretending to be a wise man. He told them that if they ate the fruit of the tree which they were not supposed to go near, they would become angels and will never die.

As soon as they ate the fruit of the tree they realised that they had been tricked by Shaytan. They turned to Allah and said sorry asking Him to forgive them. Allah forgave them but they were asked to leave Janna and were sent down to the earth.



The Sons of Prophet Adam (pbuh)

Prophet Adam (pbuh) had two sons. One was called Habil and the other was called Qabil.

Habil was a good son and Prophet Adam (pbuh) chose him to be his successor. Qabil did not like that and argued with his father. Prophet Adam (pbuh) asked them both to offer a sacrifice to Allah. Whoever's sacrifice is accepted would be his successor.

Habil used to look after sheep and brought his best sheep as a sacrifice whilst Qabil, who was a farmer, only brought some withered ears of corn.

Allah accepted the sacrifice of Habil.

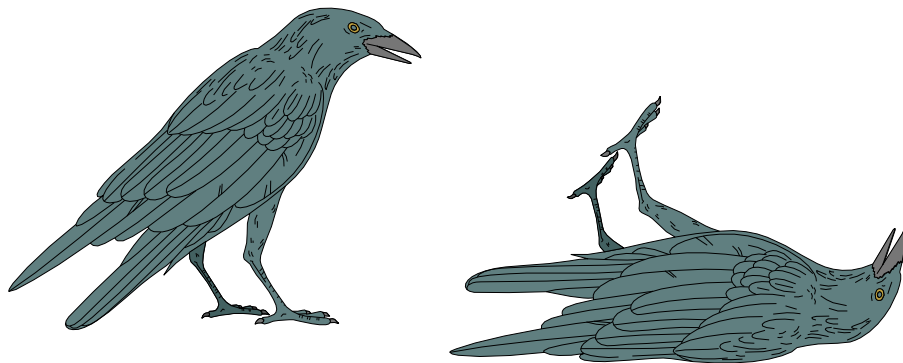
Qabil was so jealous of his brother that he said to him:
"I will certainly kill you!"

Habil replied:

"If you stretch out your hand to kill me, I will not stretch out my hand to kill you, because I fear Allah, the Lord of the worlds!"

Qabil killed Habil but did not know what to do with his brother's body.

Allah sent two crows to show him. One killed the other and then buried the dead body. Qabil learnt what to do from the crows and buried his brother's body



Prophet Nuh (pbuh)

Prophet Nuh (pbuh) was sent by Allah to tell his people that there is only One God – Allah and to be good Muslims (There is no God except Allah).

Prophet Nuh (pbuh) tried hard for many years but his people just laughed at him. They would put their fingers in their ears when he started to talk to them. Sometimes they would throw stones at him. The angel Jibrail used to come and help Prophet Nuh (pbuh) get up from under the pile of stones that were thrown at him.

Prophet Nuh (pbuh) complained to Allah that his people would just not listen. Allah told him to build a big ark (boat).

When the people saw Prophet Nuh (pbuh) and some of his family and friends building the ark, they laughed at him and teased him. There was no water near there and the sea and rivers were far away. Prophet Nuh (pbuh) carried on as Allah had ordered him to.

When the ark was ready, Allah told Prophet Nuh (pbuh) to take in it all the believers, and two of every kind of animals and birds.

As soon as they had entered the ark and the doors were shut, water began to pour from the skies and gush out of the land. All those who did not believe in Allah were drowned.

One of the sons of Prophet Nuh (pbuh) refused to come into the ark. He climbed onto a high mountain thinking he would be saved but he too drowned.

The ark was tossed around the big waves. Prophet Nuh (pbuh) prayed to Allah to make them land safely. He asked all the people in the ark to say:

“There is no God except Allah.”

Allah answered his dua and made the earth swallow all the water. It stopped raining and the ark came to rest on a mountain called Judi.



Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh)

They picked up the heavy stones one by one. The angel Jibrail showed them where to put each stone.

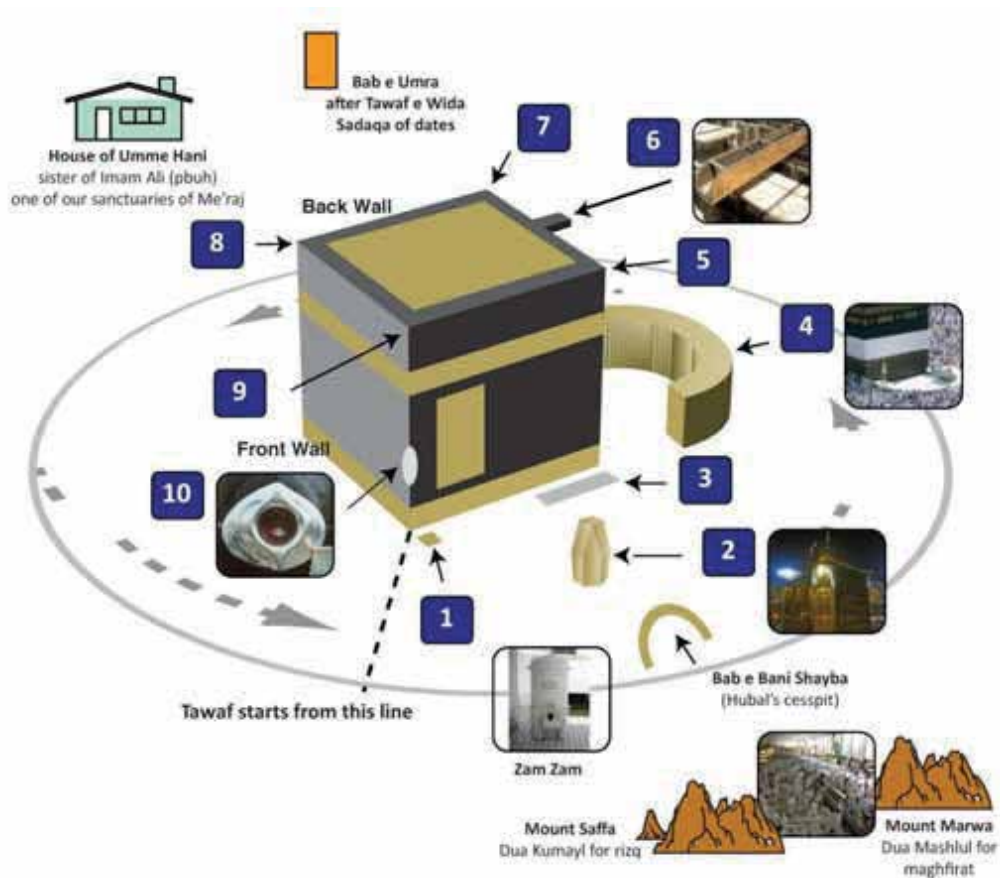
Soon the Ka'ba was nearly finished. Jibrail also showed them where to put the special black stone.

Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) and his son Prophet Ismail (pbuh) worked very hard. Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) used to stand on a stone. The stone moulded his footprints. Today it still stands near the Ka'ba and is known as Maqame Ibraheem.

When they finished building the Ka'ba, father and son raised their hands and prayed:
 .."O our Lord! Accept this from us. Indeed You are the All-hearing and the All-Knowing."

Suratul Baqara 2:127

Prophet Ismail (pbuh) settled in Makka and lived there all his life. His mother Bibi Hajra (pbuh) is buried next to the Ka'ba.



Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh)

Prophet Ibrahim (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 Ibrahim (pbuh) told Ismail (pbuh) about his dream. Ismail (pbuh) wanted his father to do what Allah wanted.

Prophet Ibrahim (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 Ibrahim (pbuh) and he had passed his test of faith. We remember the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) on Eid ul Adha (Hajj).

The people of the town where Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) lived worshipped statues, the sun, the moon and the stars.

Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) always told them to worship only Allah, the one and only God.

There is no God except Allah

The people did not listen to him. One day when all the people had gone out of the town to celebrate a festival, Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) went to the place where they kept all the statues. He broke all of them except the biggest one and tied the axe which he used around the neck of the biggest statue.

When the people of the town came back they were very angry and asked Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) who had broken the other statues. He told them to ask the biggest statue which was not broken. Of course the statue could not answer their question. The people realised that their gods (statues) were useless because they could not even protect themselves; but they were very stubborn and still did not want to believe that there is no god except Allah.

They decided to kill Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh).



A big bonfire was built and Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) was thrown into the fire. Allah told the fire:
“...O fire! Be cold and safe for Ibrahim...” **Suratul Ambiya 21:69**

The ruler who was called Namrud saw from the top of his palace that the fire had become a garden for Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) but he still did not want to believe in Allah. Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) left and went away to another country.



Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) was given the title 'Khalilullah' which meant the friend of Allah.

When the angel of death came to Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) and said that it was time for him to return to Allah; Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) told him that he was a friend of Allah so why would a friend kill a friend.

Israil, the angel of death took his message to Allah.

The answer came:

"O Ibrahim! Does a friend refuse an invitation from a friend to come to Him?"



Prophet Ismail (pbuh)

Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) was an old man when Allah granted him a son called Ismail (pbuh). He too was a prophet.

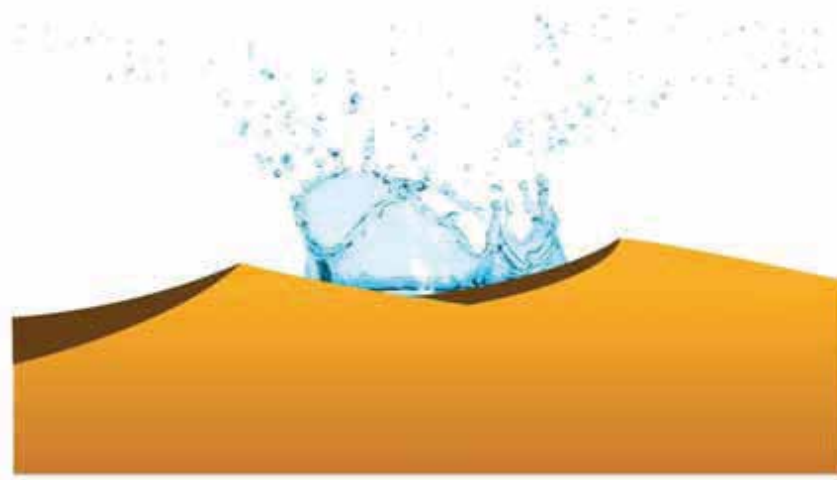
The mother of Prophet Ismail (pbuh) was Sayyida Hajra (pbuh). She was a very good lady.

Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) took Sayyida Hajra (pbuh) and his son Prophet Ismail (pbuh) to a place which is today called Makka. He left them there as Allah had ordered him to do and went away.

Soon Sayyida Hajra (pbuh) found that all their food and water had finished. She went to look for water. There were two mountains called Safa and Marwa in Makka. She climbed up on the mountain of Safa first and looked around. She saw water and ran towards it until she reached the mountain of Marwa. Then she looked back and saw water again. She ran towards it until she reached Safa. She was seeing a mirage. But she did not give up! She ran back and forth seven times.

As she ran backwards and forwards, she used to glance towards her baby son Ismail to keep an eye on him. Suddenly she saw her baby son Ismail (pbuh) with a spring of water near his feet. The spring is still there today and it is called Zam Zam which means - Stop! Stop! (As this is what Sayyida Hajra said when she saw the water for she feared that her baby would drown). It may also mean 'lots of water'.

Because of the spring of Zam Zam many people came to live there and soon Makka became the central town of Arabia.



Prophet Yunus (pbuh)

The people of Ninevah just would not listen. Allah had sent Prophet Yunus (pbuh) to them to tell them to believe in Him and to be good Muslims. Prophet Yunus (pbuh) tried very hard but the people would laugh at him and just not listen.

Prophet Yunus (pbuh) got so fed up that he decided to leave the town of Ninevah. He went to the seashore and when he saw a boat leaving he boarded it and sailed away. Soon the sea became rough and the waves rose high as a storm hit them. The wind was blowing hard and the boat was being tossed from side to side.

The people on the boat decided to throw one man out to make the boat lighter. They drew lots and the name of Prophet Yunus (pbuh) came. He was thrown into the sea.

Allah sent a big fish which swallowed Prophet Yunus (pbuh) He found himself in the darkness of the tummy of the big fish. Prophet Yunus (pbuh) realised his mistake of leaving the people of Ninevah.

He prayed to Allah asking for forgiveness. He said:

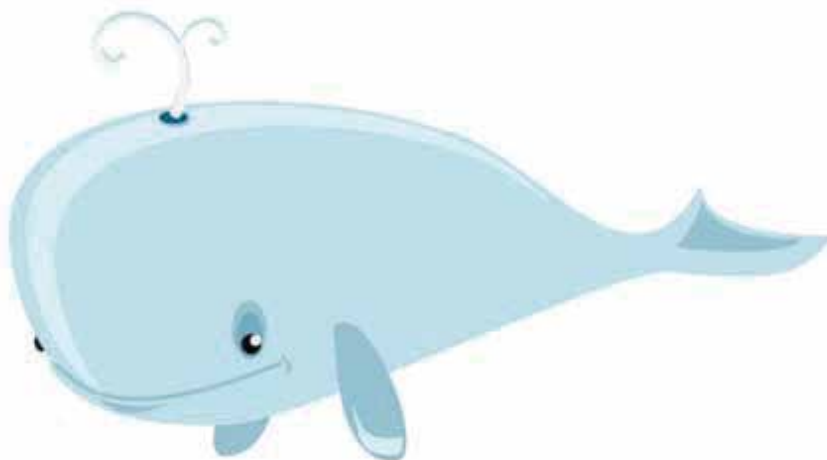
.... There is no god except You; Glory be to You; Indeed I have done wrong.

Suratul Ambiya 21:87

Allah accepted his dua and told the big fish to drop Prophet Yunus (pbuh) on the seashore.

Prophet Yunus (pbuh) was feeling very sick. Allah made special plants to grow around him and give him shade until he was better.

When he was better he went back to the people of Ninevah and started telling them about Allah. Finally, they believed in Allah.



Prophet Musa (pbuh)

Firawn 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 Firawn.

Firawn 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.

Firawn's wife, Sayyida Aasiya, 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 Firawn if she could keep the baby as her own. Firawn agreed.

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

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



Prophet Musa (pbuh)

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!"

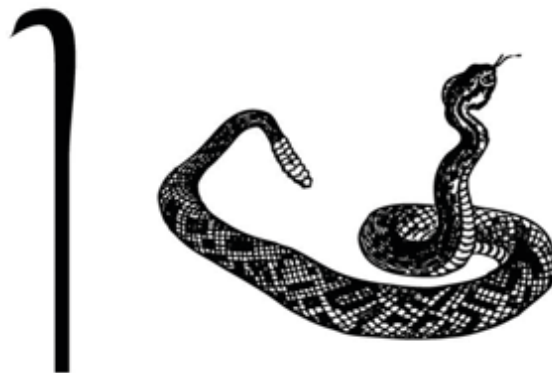
When Prophet Musa (pbuh) threw it down it became a running snake. Allah asked him to pick it up but Prophet Musa (pbuh) was a little scared. Allah told him not to be frightened and when Prophet Musa (pbuh) picked it up it became a staff again.

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 Firawn to tell him there was only one God - Allah because Firawn 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.



Prophet Musa (pbuh)

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

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

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

Prophet Musa (pbuh) showed Firawn 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. Firawn still would not believe.

Firawn 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 Firawn refused and made them work even harder.

Allah sent his punishment on the people of Firawn. 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 Firawn 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.

Firawn 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.



Prophet Musa (pbuh)

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 TAWRAT.

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.

Tawrat



Prophet Sulayman (pbuh)

As Prophet Sulayman (pbuh) was walking through the valley of the ants, the chief of the ants warned his fellow ants of the coming of the army, advising them to go into their homes to avoid being crushed.

When Prophet Sulayman (pbuh) heard the warning of the chief of ants, he smiled and walked up to him, gently lifting him on the palm of his hand.

"Don't you know that I am the Prophet of Allah and that I would not harm any of Allah's creatures?" Sulayman asked the chief ant.

"Of course I do!" Said the chief "But, I feared that if my fellow ants would see the grandeur of your army, they would underestimate the grace of Allah which they receive and may become ungrateful."

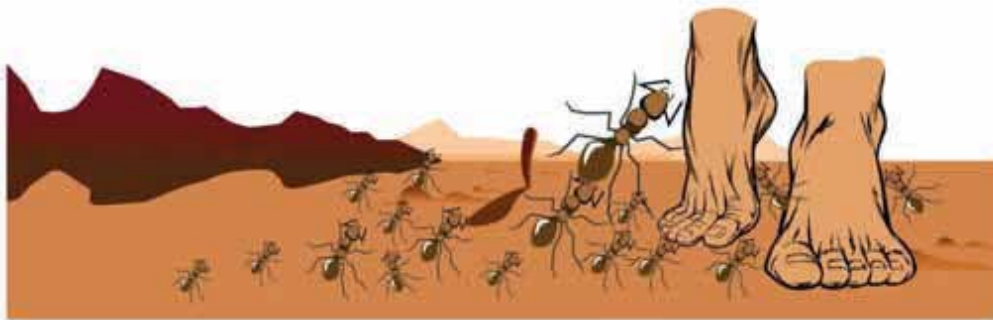
The chief ant then asked Prophet Sulayman (pbuh) "May I ask you a question?"

"Yes!" said Prophet Sulayman (pbuh)

"Who is better at this moment in time?" asked the chief ant

"Why don't you answer the question yourself!" Prophet Sulayman (pbuh) said.

The chief ant replied:" At this moment in time, I am better than you for I am standing on the palm of a Prophet of Allah, whilst you O Prophet! are standing on the ground!"



Prophet Isa (pbuh)

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 Shaytan. 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, the angel Jibrail 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 he was a baby in the cradle.

Sayyida Maryam was surprised. She asked the angel how she could have a baby without a husband. The angel told her that Allah could do whatever 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 baby Isa talk.

When the people of the town asked her about the baby, she pointed to him
“I am a servant of Allah; He has given me the book (Injeel) and made me a Prophet.”

Suratu Maryam 19:30

The book that Allah gave him is called the Injeel.

He grew up to teach the people about Allah telling them that there were no gods except Allah. He was given the miracle of curing the sick and making dead people come back to life.

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.



Aamul Feel the Year of the Elephant

The king of Yemen built a beautiful church. There were beautiful silk carpets hanging on the walls and it was decorated with the best of everything. He wanted people to come to pray in Yemen rather than go to visit the Ka'ba in Makka.

In spite of all his efforts people still went to Makka.

He decided that the only solution was to destroy the Ka'ba. He chose one of his strongest and bravest man called Abraha to take an army of elephants to destroy the Ka'ba.

On the way to Makka, the army of Abraha destroyed everything in their way and stole hundreds of camels. Amongst them were some camels that belonged to Abdul Muttalib who was Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) grandfather.

Abdul Muttalib knew that Abraha was coming to destroy the Ka'ba. He ran to the Ka'ba and prayed to Allah.

"O Allah! Save Your house and do not let them destroy it!"

Then he went to Abraha.

"Why do you wish to see me?" said Abraha.

Abdul Muttalib said he wanted his camels returned.

Abraha was shocked!!

"I have come to destroy the Ka'ba. You are the chief of Makka and the guardian of the Ka'ba and all you are worried about is your camels!"

Abdul Muttalib replied:

"The camels belong to me, and so I ask for their return. The Ka'ba belongs to Allah and He will look after it Himself".



When Abraha heard this he returned the camels and marched forward to destroy the Ka'ba. Allah sent a flock of birds that flew over the army pelting them with small stones of baked clay which killed the elephants and the soldiers.

All except Abraha were destroyed and he rushed back to Yemen to tell the King what had happened. He was followed by one of the birds.

"What sort of amazing birds were these!" asked the furious king.

Abraha looked up and showed him. The bird threw a stone and Abraha died on the spot in front of the King.

It was in this year that our Prophet, Muhammad (pbuh) was born on the 17th of Rabi ul Awwal.



Abdul Muttalib

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).



Hazrat Abdullah (pbuh) & Sayyida Amina (pbuh)

The Christian priests had a shirt that belonged to Prophet Yahya (pbuh). They knew from their scriptures that when the father of the last Prophet would be born, blood would appear on the shirt.

They knew therefore when Hazrat Abdullah (pbuh) was born and were searching for him. He was his father's favourite son.

Abdul Muttalib had vowed that when he had ten sons he would sacrifice one. He drew lots and the name of Abdullah came up. Abdullah was very good and much liked by the people of Makka. When they saw that Abdul Muttalib was going to sacrifice him they persuaded him to go to a wise woman in Yathrib who could tell him of an alternative sacrifice.

It was agreed that lots would be drawn using camels. 10 lots were drawn of 10 camels each. Eventually 100 camels were sacrificed and Abdullah was saved. The Prophet (Pbuh) used to say that he was the son of two sacrifices - Ismail & Abdullah.

Abdul Muttalib dreamt that Abdullah should be married to Amina daughter of Wahab. They were married a year before the 'Year of the Elephant'.

When Sayyida Amina (pbuh) was pregnant, Abdullah went with a trade caravan to Syria. On the way back he fell ill and died before the Prophet (pbuh) was born. He is buried in Madina.

He left some camels, goats and a slave girl called Umme Ayman which were given to the Prophet (pbuh)

Sayyida Amina was very sad after her husband died. When the Prophet (pbuh) was six years old she too died on the way back from visiting Abdullah's grave. She is buried in Abwa, a place between Makka and Madina.



Birth of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh) has said that Allah created the light of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) before any of his creations.

He was born in the year of the Elephant (570 C.E.) in the month of Rabi ul Awwal. It was just after sunrise on Friday the seventeenth.

Shaytan who had been previously allowed to visit the heavens suddenly found that he could not go.

He went to the Ka'ba disguised as a little bird and saw angels celebrating. Jibrail saw him and recognised him. He was asked to leave but asked Jibrail to tell him what had happened. Jibrail told him that the last of the Prophets; Muhammad (pbuh) was born. Shaytan left weeping and wailing. It is said that he wept for forty days.

It is also said that all the idols fell on their faces and the palace of Kisra who was emperor of Persia started shaking and had cracks in it.

Abdul Muttalib saw a white cloud shadowing the house of Sayyida Amina (pbuh) and ran to enquire. He was told of the birth of Muhammad (pbuh)

Inspired by Allah, Abdul Muttalib named the child Muhammad. When asked why; he replied that he wished that Muhammad should be praised in the heavens and in the earth (Muhammad means one who is praiseworthy).

It is said that Sayyida Amina (pbuh) had named him Ahmed before Abdul Muttalib called him Muhammad.



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was looked after by his grandfather Abdul Muttalib and his uncle Abu Talib because his father had died before he was born.

When he grew up he got married to Sayyida Khadija (pbuh) she was a very good lady who gave all her money for Islam. They had a daughter called Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh)

The people of Makka used to believe in many gods which they made out of wood, flour, stones and other things. They kept them in the Ka'ba. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) told the people of Makka that there is no God except Allah and that he Muhammad was the messenger of Allah. Allah sent him messages through the angel Jibrail. One message is called an aya. The messages are the ayaat of the Qur'an.

The Makkans did not like Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and wanted to kill him so he left Makka and went to Madina. This journey of his is called Hijra from which date the Muslim calendar begins. Most of the people of Madina became good Muslims.

As ordered to him by Allah the Prophet (pbuh) chose Imam Ali (pbuh) to be the leader after him at a place called Ghadeer. At Ghadeer the Prophet (pbuh) also told the Muslims that he would soon be returning to Allah and that after him they should follow the Qur'an and his Ahlulbayt. He died on the 28th of Safar in Madina when he was 63 years old.



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 its 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 its special place. All the people were pleased. He had not yet declared his prophethood but even then the people of Makka used to turn to him to settle their differences.



Announcement of Prophethood

As soon as the Prophet (pbuh) announced that there are no gods but Allah, he was rejected totally. He remained the same person - with the excellent akhlaq but what had changed is that he had declared his belief in Allah.

When he was forty he got the first revelations in the cave of Hira in mountain of Noor (Light) where he used to meditate. It was brought by angel Jibrail and it was the first five ayaat of Suratul Alaq.

"Read in the name of your Lord who created (all);
He created man from a clot of blood;
Read! Your Lord is the most bountiful,
Who by the pen taught man what he did not know".

It was the 27th of Rajab (The day of Be'that) in the 14th year of the life of the Prophet. He was busy in remembrance of Allah in his usual place in the cave of Mount Noor (a mountain situated in the north of Makka). The angel Jibrail came to him and recited to him the above ayaat of the Qur'an. The Prophet had not been taught to read and write by any on earth but his abilities were taught to him by the Lord.

The first person who the Prophet told of this was his wife - Sayyida Khadija. She immediately testified to his Prophethood and gave him her full support.

The Prophet began the preaching of his mission to a limited circle for the first three years. Then he was asked by Allah to invite his near relations to Islam.

"And warn your nearest relatives."

Suratush Shu'ara 26:214

The Prophet (pbuh) arranged a meal inviting 40 of his relations. This is known as 'Da'watul Dhul Ashira'. He invited them towards Allah and introduced himself as the Messenger of Allah. He then asked thrice:

"Which one of you will support me so that he may become my brother, wasi and successor after me?"

Each time Imam Ali (pbuh) who was 15 years old at the time stood up and said:

"O Prophet of Allah! I am prepared to support you!"

The Prophet (pbuh) held Imam Ali's (pbuh) hand high and told his audience that Ali (pbuh) would be his successor and they should listen to him and follow him. The others who were present taunted Abu Talib saying he would now have to take orders from his son. The meeting ended.

After this he began preaching openly to the Quraysh who reacted violently. The Prophet and his followers were constantly harassed. The Prophet was not allowed to worship in the Ka'ba. Thorns were strewn in his path, dirt and filth were thrown at him, he was accused of being a madman, magician and poet and was taunted and insulted. His faithful companions too were tortured.



Some were placed on the hot sands and heavy stones were put on their chests, nooses were put round their necks and they were dragged in the streets. The first martyr of Islam was Sumayya, the mother of one of the companions of the Prophet, Ammar Yasir.

The Prophet had about 100 followers and physical cruelty made life unbearable in Makka. The Prophet advised his followers to go to Abyssinia under the leadership of Jaffer Tayyar. This was the first Hijra in Islam (in the fifth year of Prophet hood) and 15 people took part in it. The Prophet then advised a second Hijra.

When the Quraysh found out that the Muslims were living peacefully in Abyssinia, they sent expensive gifts to the ministers of the King of Abyssinia to bribe them. Then they sent their representative Amr Al-Aas who visited King Najashi (of Abyssinia) asking for the return of the Muslims claiming that they had invented a new religion. The ministers loudly supported the request.

King Najashi asked whether the Muslims had killed anyone, stolen property or committed any crimes. Amr replied that their only crime was the invention of a new religion. King Najashi called Ja'fer bin Abu Talib to the court and asked him why the Muslims had abandoned the religion of their forefathers and started a new religion. King Najashi was impressed with what Ja'fer said and asked him to recite some ayaat from the Qur'an. Ja'fer recited ayaat from Suratu Maryam which moved the King and his ministers. Frustrated that they could not overcome the Prophet, the Quraysh boycotted the families of Hashim and Muttalib, having no contact with them nor allowing food or drink to reach to them. Abu Talib had no choice but to take them to a valley belonging to him called Shib-e-Abu Talib.

For three long years from Muharram in the 7th year after declaration of Prophethood they stayed there under so much hardship that at times they lived on leaves and grass. They came out when the Prophet told Abu Talib that the agreement signed by all the Quraysh to boycott them had been eaten up by insects and only the words "In the name of our Lord..." remained. Abu Talib went and told this to the Quraysh who found it to be true and had no choice but to stop their boycott.

Shortly after Abu Talib and Khadija both died and this grieved the Prophet so much that he called the year Aamul Huzn (The year of grief).



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

“The hour drew near and the moon was split apart; and if they see a miracle they turn aside and say: It is magic! ...”
Suratul Qamar - 54:2, 3

The people of Makka once came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said:
“If you are a Prophet of Allah, then make the moon split into two!”

The Prophet (pbuh) pointed to the moon and with Allah’s help the moon was seen split into two parts.

A man called Ibn Abbas says that he saw the peak of Mount Hira between the two parts of the moon.

The people then asked for the two parts to be joined together and it was done.

They saw the miracle with their own eyes. The Jews who were present became Muslims but the Makkans like Abu Jahl said it was magic and walked away.

The crack is present in the moon even today.



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

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 Salatul 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. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is a perfect Muslim who obeyed Allah all the time and so is very close to Allah.



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Hijra to Madina

The people of Makka who did not believe in Allah had tried everything. They tried to stop the Prophet (pbuh) from believing in 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 Imam Ali (pbuh) to sleep in his bed that night. On hearing the request Imam Ali (pbuh) immediately did a sijda of shukr to thank Allah for having given him the honour of protecting the Prophet (pbuh).

The Prophet (pbuh) recited some ayaat of Suratu Yaseen and slipped out of the house under the very noses of the killers. Imam Ali (pbuh) had never slept more peacefully.

Later in the night, the killers burst into the house. They lifted the blanket to find Imam 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.



Farewell Hajj

Since the time when Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) had built the Holy Ka'ba, it had been a place of worship. Over the years, this worship had deteriorated into strange and undesirable practices. People used to dance naked around the Holy Ka'ba, and they had put idols inside it. Even after the conquest of Mecca when these idols were broken, the people did not know how to perform the Hajj ceremonies properly. The Prophet (pbuh) therefore performed Hajj in 10 A.H., so that the people would remain in no doubt as to how it should be done.

He could also instruct the people about the boundaries of Mina and Arafat and teach them about the times of departure from these places.

In Dhulqa'da he announced that he was going to perform the Hajj that year. Thousands gathered outside Madina awaiting the departure of the Prophet (Pbuh). The Prophet (Pbuh) appointed Abu Dajana as his representative in Madina and proceeded toward Makka taking with him 60 animals for sacrifice.

At Zil Hulaifa, in the mosque of Shajara, he put on his Ihram.

At Arafat, the Prophet (pbuh) whilst mounted on his camel, delivered his famous and historical speech to the thousands of people who had gathered. He addressed the people and went through a summary of his teachings to them. He repeated all the major and minor elements of Islamic principles so that there could be no doubt left in their minds. When he finished he offered his noon and afternoon prayers with 100,000 men.

The Prophet (pbuh) then completed the Hajj

This Hajj is known as Hajjatul Wida (the Farewell Hajj) because it was the last Hajj that the Prophet (Pbuh) performed in his life. During this Hajj he demonstrated every feature of the ceremony, so that there could be no confusion later.



A Very Special Announcement

It was a hot sunny day. Lots and lots of people were coming back from Makka after doing hajj with the Prophet (pbuh). They stopped at a place near Johfa which was known as Ghadeer e Khum.

The angel Jibraail came and told the Prophet (pbuh) that he had a special announcement for the Prophet (Pbuh) to make to the people.

The Prophet (pbuh) asked Bilal to give the adhaan. Bilal had a beautiful voice and he was the Prophet's favourite muadhin (Someone who gives adhaan). When the people heard the adhan, they all came to hear the Prophet (pbuh). Even those who had gone forward came back. After the Dhuhr salaa, Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) stood on a pulpit made out of saddles.

He told the people that he was soon to die. He was leaving behind two very important things which the Muslims should always follow:

The Quran and The AhlulBayt.

He then held the hand of Imam Ali (pbuh) high up and told the people that as per the command of Allah, Imam Ali (Pbuh) would be the leader of the Muslims after him. He said:

For whosoever I am the mawla (master), Ali is his mawla (master).

He repeated this three times.

As soon as he had announced this, Jibraail brought another message from Allah which said that Islam was now complete and perfect. This was the last aya of the Qur'an to be revealed. It is aya 3 of Suratul Ma'ida.



Wafat of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

In the Muharram of the year 11 A.H. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) became very ill.

Three days before he died he asked for a paper, pen and ink so he could write some advice for the Muslims so that they would always stay on the right path.

On the 28th of Safar 11 A.H. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) died with his head resting in the lap of Imam Ali (pbuh)

The last thing he said was:
Salaa! Salaa!!

Imam Ali (pbuh) gave him ghusl and kafan and it was he who buried him in his house which was joined to the mosque of Madina.



The Prophet (pbuh) and His Ahlulbayt

The Ahlul Kisaa are:

1. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
2. Imam Ali (pbuh)
3. Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh)
4. Imam Hasan (pbuh)
5. Imam Husayn (pbuh)

The 14 Ma'sumeen are:

1. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
2. Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh)

And the 12 A'imma

1. Imam Ali (pbuh)
2. Imam Hasan (pbuh)
3. Imam Husayn (pbuh)
4. Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh)
5. Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh)
6. Imam Jafer As-Sadiq (pbuh)
7. Imam Musa Al-Kadhim (pbuh)
8. Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh)
9. Imam Muhammad At-Taqi (pbuh)
10. Imam Ali An-Naqi (pbuh)
11. Imam Hasan Al-Askari (pbuh)
12. Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh)

Salawat

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Surely Allah and His angels bless the Prophet; **O you who believe! call for (Divine) blessings on him and salute him with a (becoming) salutation.** Suratul Ahzab 33:56

Salawat is an expression of our love for the Prophet and his Ahlulbayt. In the Qur'an, Allah asks us to recite salawat just as He and the angels do, so as to reward us and bless us for following His command.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

O Allah; Send blessings on Muhammad and the family of Muhammad



Sayyida Fatima Az-Zahra (pbuh)

Sayyida Fatima Az-Zahra (pbuh) is the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and Sayyida Khadija (pbuh). She was born in Makka on the 20th of Jamad ul Aakher. Her mother died when she was only 5 years old.

The people of Makka used to laugh and throw things at her father - Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) because he taught that there was no god except Allah. She used to help her father brush the rubbish off his clothes.

Whenever she entered a room where the Prophet (pbuh) was, he used to stand up out of respect for her.

The Prophet (pbuh) gave her a gift - Tasbeeh of Sayyida Fatima Az-Zahra (pbuh) to recite:
34 times 'Allahu Akber'
33 times 'Alhamdulillah'
33 times 'Subhanallah'

She got married to Imam Ali (pbuh) and they had five children:

1. Imam Hasan (pbuh)
2. Imam Husayn (pbuh)
3. Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh)
4. Sayyida Umme Kulthum (pbuh)
5. Baby Muhsin (pbuh) - who died in his mother's womb

After the Prophet (pbuh) died, the bad rulers tried to burn down her house and even pushed a door down on her. She was hurt badly and this is when baby Muhsin (pbuh) died in her tummy.

She died soon after. Imam Ali (pbuh) was very sad. He buried her at night so nobody could find her grave to trouble her any more.

She is buried in Madina.



Imam Ali (pbuh)

He was born in the Ka'ba in Makka on the 13th of Rajab - the year 30 'Aamul Feel.

His father was called 'Imran but is better known as Hazrat Abu Talib (pbuh)

His mother was Sayyida Fatima binte 'Asad (pbuh)

He was a very brave man and the hero of all the battles of Islam. He had a special sword called Zulfikar.

He was very clever. The Prophet (pbuh) said:
"I am the city of knowledge, and Ali is its gate"

When Imam Ali (pbuh) was 22 years old, the Prophet (pbuh) went from Makka to Madina because the bad people of Makka wanted to kill him. Imam Ali (pbuh) slept in the Prophet's bed so that the bad people would not know that he had left.

He married the Prophet's daughter - Sayyida Fatima Az-Zahra (pbuh) and they had five children.

The Prophet (pbuh) on Allah's command had chosen Imam Ali (pbuh) as the leader (Imam) of the Muslims after him.

On the 19th of Ramadhan 40 A.H. in the masjid of Kufa a bad man called Abdur Rahman ibn Muljim hit him on the head with a poisonous sword. Imam Ali (pbuh) died two days later.

He is buried in Najaf (Iraq).



Imam Hasan (pbuh)

He was born in Madina on the 15th of Ramadhan 3 A.H.

His father is Imam Ali (pbuh) and his mother is Sayyida Fatima Az-Zahra (pbuh)

He is the first grandchild of the Prophet (pbuh). When the Prophet (pbuh) heard of the birth of Imam Hasan (pbuh) he was very happy.

When Imam Hasan (pbuh) was 7 days old, the Prophet (pbuh) arranged for his hair to be shaved off. The hair was then weighed against silver which was then given to the poor. An animal was also sacrificed. The Prophet (pbuh) also arranged for a feast for all the people of Madina. This ceremony is called 'aqeeqa'.

When Imam Hasan (pbuh) was older, he always went to listen to the lectures of the Prophet (pbuh) in the Masjid. When he came home from the masjid his mother would ask him about the lecture, and he would relate to her whatever the Prophet (pbuh) had said.

Whenever he went to do wudhoo, he used to tremble and his face went pale. When he was asked why - he answered:

“Do you not know that I am standing in front of Allah?”

There was a bad man called Muawiyah who said bad things about Imam Hasan (pbuh). He also paid people to be the enemies of Imam Hasan (pbuh). He even gave money to Imam Hasan's wife so that she would poison him.

Imam died of the poison that his wife Juhda gave him.

He died on the 7th of Safar 50 A.H.

He is buried in Jannatul Baqee in Madina.



Imam Husayn (pbuh)

Imam Husayn (pbuh) was born in Madina on the 3rd of Sha'ban 4 A.H.

His parents are Imam Ali (pbuh) and Sayyida Fatima Az-Zahra (pbuh).

On the day he was born, Allah told the angel Jibrail to go and congratulate the Prophet (pbuh), Imam Ali (pbuh) and Sayyida Fatima Az-Zahra (pbuh). On the way down from the heavens, Jibrail passed an island where the angel Fitrus was banished to (as a punishment for taking too long in doing something Allah had ordered him to do). His wings had also been taken away.

"Where are you going, Jibrail?" Fitrus asked.

Jibrail told him he was going to congratulate the Prophet (pbuh) and his family on the birth of Imam Husayn (pbuh)

"Can I come with you?" Fitrus asked

With Allah's permission, Jibrail took Fitrus with him. They congratulated the Prophet (pbuh).

The Prophet (pbuh) asked Fitrus to touch the cradle of Imam Husayn (pbuh). As soon as he touched the cradle, with the permission of Allah his wings were restored. He thanked the Prophet (pbuh) When Fitrus returned to the heavens; all the other angels asked him what perfume he had used because there was a fragrance coming from him. Fitrus replied:

"I am the lucky one who has touched the cradle of Imam Husayn (pbuh)."

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) loved Imam Husayn (pbuh) and he said that there would come a day when Imam Husayn (pbuh) would save Islam.

Yazid was an evil man who became the ruler of the Muslims. He tried to change everything that the Prophet (pbuh) had taught. He even dressed monkeys like 'ulema (learned people) and sat them on the mimbar of the Prophet (pbuh). He killed anyone who did not obey him. Yazid wanted Imam Husayn (pbuh) to promise to obey and follow him. When Imam refused, he became very angry.

Yazid got a large army together and surrounded Imam Husayn (pbuh) and his family and friends in Karbala.

On the day of 'Ashura 61 A.H., Imam Husayn (pbuh), his friends and male family members including baby Ali Asgher who was 6 months old were killed. The women, children and Imam Ali Zaynul Aabedeem (pbuh) who was ill were taken prisoners.

Imam Husayn (pbuh) and the other shuhada (martyrs - those killed in the way of Allah) are buried in Karbala.



Imam Ali Zaynul Aabideen (pbuh)

Imam Ali Zaynul Aabideen (pbuh) was born in Madina on the 5th of Sha'ban 38 A.H.

His father is Imam Husayn (pbuh) and his mother was a princess from Iran. Her name was Sayyida Shahrbanu.

He was given the title 'Zaynul Aabideen' which means the 'best of worshippers'. He is also called 'Sayyidus Saajideen' meaning 'one who is the leader of those who do sijda'.

After the day of 'Ashura, when his father, uncles, cousins, brothers and friends were killed in Karbala, he was taken prisoner along with all the women and children of Ahlulbayt. He was tied in chains and a spiked collar was put around his neck. He was made to walk behind the camels which carried the women and children prisoners through towns and villages from Karbala to Kufa to Shaam (Damascus) where Yazid was.

Even though Imam was beaten and tied up, he told Yazid what a bad man he was and that Allah would punish him for his sins.

The prisoners including Imam Ali Zaynul Aabideen (pbuh) were put in a prison in Shaam which had no roof. It was very hot during the day with no shade from the sun and very cold at night with no blankets to keep them warm.

When he was freed from prison, Imam told everyone about Islam and standing up for the truth even if it means giving your life. He did this by holding and encouraging the majalis of Imam Husayn (pbuh). He also wrote a book of duas which is called 'Sahifatus Sajjadiyya' or 'Sahifatul Kamila'.

He was poisoned by the bad ruler Waleed and he died on the 25th of Muharram 95 A.H.

He is buried in Jannatul Baqee in Madina.



Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh)

He was born in Madina on the 1st of Rajab 57 A.H.

His father is Imam Ali Zaynul Aabideen (pbuh) and his mother was Sayyida Fatima bint Al-Hasan (pbuh) (She was the daughter of Imam Hasan (pbuh))

He was 3 years old in Karbala and was taken as prisoner with the women and children of the family of the Prophet (pbuh)

Imam was called Baqir al Uloom which means one who splits open knowledge, he taught many students.

He was the first to start writing books of Fiqh.

Although he was an Imam he still worked hard in the fields under the hot sun.

The ruler of the time wanted an idea of what to write on the coins of that country called Deenar which was the money of that time. Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh) advised him to write:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

There is no god except Allah' on one side and

مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

'Muhammad is the messenger of Allah' on the other side.

The bad ruler of the time called Hisham sent Imam a poisoned saddle as a present. When Imam sat on it, the poison went into his body and he died on the 7th of Dhulhijja 114 A.H.

He is buried in Jannatul Baqee in Madina.



Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh)

Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh) was born in Madina on the 17th of Rabi ul Awwal 83 A.H. He has the same birth date as Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

His father is Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh) and his mother was Sayyida Fatima better known as Umme Farwa. She was a very clever lady who taught the laws of Islam.

After Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh) was poisoned the bad rulers were busy fighting each other and this allowed Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh) to open schools (madrasas) without any interference.

He taught many subjects including medicine, chemistry, geography, fiqh (laws of Islam), and explanation of the Qur'an.....

He had some very clever students like Jabir bin Hayyan who is known today as the 'Father of Chemistry'. Jabir always started his writings with "...I have learnt this from my master Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh)....."

We are known as Ja'fery because we are the followers of the Fiqh (laws of Islam) as compiled by Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh).

When Imam was 65 years old, a bad ruler called Mansur sent him poisoned grapes.

Imam died on the 25th of Shawwal 148 A.H. and is buried in Jannatul Baqee in Madina.

One of the companions of Imam - Abu Baseer went to the house of Imam to give his condolences to the family after Imam had died. Imam's wife - Sayyida Umme Hameeda was very sad. She told Abu Baseer that just before Imam had died he called his family members close to him and said: "Those who take salaa lightly will not get our shafa'a (intercession)"



Imam Musa Al-Kadhim (pbuh)

He is the son of Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh) and Sayyida Hameeda.

He was born on the 7th of Safar 128 A.H. Because Safar is a sad month we celebrate his wiladat (birthday) on the 7th day of the 7th month (as he is our 7th Imam).

He was born in Abwa which is a place between Makka and Madina. Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) mother - Sayyida Amina is buried there.

He was given the title Al-Kadhim which means 'someone who swallows his anger'. One who does not show his/her anger is patient.

Like all the other Aimma, he too could speak with wisdom from birth.

Once when Imam was 5 years old, a visitor of his father saw the young Imam with a lamb telling the lamb to bow down saying:

"Bow down to the One who made you."

A bad ruler called Harun Rashid put Imam in prison for 19 years. The prison was so small that Imam could not even stretch his legs. He was given only 2 pieces of dry bread and a glass of hot water per day.

The same bad ruler killed the Imam by giving him poisoned dates. Imam died in Baghdad on 25th Rajab 183 A.H.

He is buried in Kadhmayn - a part of Baghdad (Iraq).



Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh)

Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) was born in Madina on the 11th Dhulqa'da 148 A.H.

His father is Imam Musa Al-Kadhim (pbuh) and his mother was Sayyida Ummulbanin Najma.

His grandfather Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh) used to tell his companions to await the birth of his grandson who would be very clever and known as 'Aalim aali Muhammad' - the learned one from the household of the Prophet (pbuh).

He was also known as Imam Zaamin (pbuh). Zaamin means safety.

One day Imam was walking through the market place when he saw a hunter about to kill a deer. The deer was struggling. When the deer saw Imam she said something to him which he understood. Imam asked the hunter to free her so that she could feed her little ones who were hungry. The deer would then return to the hunter.

The hunter thought Imam was making a fool of him, so Imam stood with the hunter until the deer came back with her young ones. She asked Imam to look after them.

The bad ruler Mamun had ordered that nobody was allowed to visit Karbala for Ziyara. Anybody who dared to go was killed.

When Mamun forced Imam to become the heir apparent (to be ruler after him) just to become popular with the people, he said those who got a safety order from Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) could go for Ziyara to Karbala. Imam encouraged the Ziyara and gave safety orders to who so ever wished to go.

When Mamun saw that Imam was becoming more popular than him he invited him one evening and gave him poisoned grapes.

Imam died on 29th Safar 203 A.H.

He is buried in Mash'had in Iran. He is also known as 'Gharibul Ghuraba' meaning one who is a stranger and far from family and home (Imam's home was in Madina).



Imam Muhammad At-Taqi (pbuh)

He is the only son of Imam Ali -Ar-Ridha (pbuh)

His mother was Sayyida Sabika Khaizarun.

He was born on the 10th of Rajab 195 A.H. in Madina.

One day when he was 5 years old, he was with some other children. The bad ruler Ma'mun who had poisoned his father passed by in his carriage. All the other children ran away but Imam stayed. Mamun stopped his carriage and asked the young Imam why he was standing there. Imam told him that the road was wide enough for all of them and he had not done anything wrong. Ma'mun asked him who he was. When Imam told him that he was the son of Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) Ma'mun asked him if he knew what was in Ma'mun's hand (Ma'mun was hiding a tiny fish in his hand).

Imam said:

"Allah has made tiny fish in the rivers. These fish are hunted by the rulers and it is the Aimmah who reveal the secrets of the rulers."

Imam Muhammad At-Taqi (pbuh) prepared the Muslims for the time when the 12th Imam would come. He did this by training the Muslims to ask questions and take advice from those who had learnt the Qur'an, the laws of Islam and who were muttaqee (those with taqwa - who did all the wajib things and did not do haram things). This is called taqleed.

After Ma'mun died the bad ruler Mu'tasam arranged for Imam to be poisoned.

Imam was only 25 years old when he was poisoned and he is buried near his grandfather in Kadhmayn (Iraq). His wafat (death day) is on the 29th of Dhulqa'da 220 A.H.



Imam Ali An-Naqi (pbuh)

He was born in Surba (a district of Madina) on 15th Dhulhijja 212 A.H.

His father is Imam Muhammad At-Taqi (pbuh) and his mother was Sayyida Sumaanaa.

The ruler of the time was a bad man called Mutawakkil. Like Saddam Tikriti he too tried to destroy the shrine of Imam Husayn (pbuh) and was very cruel. He even tried to flood the grave of Imam Husayn (pbuh) so nobody would know where it was. He did not like anyone to visit Karbala. Imam Ali An-Naqi (pbuh) encouraged people to visit Karbala even though it was very difficult. He told them to do majaalis of Imam Husayn (pbuh) as much as possible.

He, like his father also prepared the rules of taqleed - to follow someone who knows the Qur'an, laws of Islam, and has taqwa. This was to prepare Muslims for the ghayba of Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh)

Imam Ali An-Naqi (pbuh) opened schools (madrasas) in Madina where many students came to study. The bad ruler Mutawakkil did not like this and summoned Imam to Samarra where he would not let Imam leave his house or let anyone visit him (kept him under house arrest).

Another bad ruler called Mu'taz poisoned Imam and he died on the 3rd of Rajab 254 A.H.

He is buried in Samarra (Iraq).



Imam Hasan Al-Askery (pbuh)

Imam Hasan Al-Askery (pbuh) was born in Madina on the 10th of Rabi ul Aakher 232 A.H.

His father is Imam Ali An-Naqi (pbuh) who is our 10th Imam and his mother was Sayyida Sulail.

Once when he was a little boy he fell into a well near his house. His father was praying salaa and his mum started crying. When Imam Ali An-Naqi (pbuh) finished praying he was told what had happened. Smiling he went to the well. The water rose up to the top and the young Imam Hasan Al-Askery was sitting on it.

Imam Hasan Al-Askery (pbuh) was put into prison from a young age. The prison was a tunnel under the bad ruler's bedroom with no space to stand or lie down. His daily meal was a piece of dry bread and a glass of hot water.

Like his father and grandfather, he prepared the Muslims for the ghayba of Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh) He compiled all the laws of fiqh completing his fathers' work. He also set up a system whereby people could contact his representatives. This system today in the ghayba of Imam helps us to turn to the mujtahideen when we are in need of guidance.

He was poisoned by the bad ruler Mu'tamad. The poison made him very ill and he was in pain for 8 days.

He died on the 8th of Rabi ul Awwal 260 A.H. and is buried in Samarra.

His salaa alal mayyit was led by Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh)



Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh)

He was born on the 15th of Sha'ban 255 A.H. in Samarra.

His father is Imam Hasan Al-Askery (pbuh) and his mother was Sayyida Nargis.

Imam is still alive. He is OUR Imam. Every week he gets a report of what we do from the angels recording our deeds with Allah's permission. He feels very sad when he sees if we have done something that is naughty or bad.

Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh) is in ghayba. This means that although he is amongst us we do not recognise him when we see him.

Whenever we need help we must ask Allah through Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh)

Whenever we hear his name we should bow down, put our hand on our head and recite Salawat.

When Allah orders, Imam will make himself known to us. We must pray to Allah to make this happen quickly and to keep Imam safe.

When he makes himself known to the world, he will want us to be his soldiers so that the world can be a better place. A world of justice. We should prepare to be his soldiers by being the best of Muslims - by having taqwa (keeping away from all haram acts and doing all the wajib acts).



Qunoot

Qunoot means to be humble when praying to Allah.

In salaa it refers to when I raise my hands for dua to Allah in the second rakaat just before I go to ruku'. Allah loves listening to my dua.

Before I raise my hands for Qunoot I say **اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ**

I raise my hands keeping them together just below my face with the fingers together and thumbs apart. I am asking from Allah humbly.

I recite my dua loudly. These are some of the duas that I recite. Allah has taught them to us. They are all found in the Qur'an.

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

"Our Lord! Give us good in this world and good in the hereafter, and save us from the punishment of the fire."

Suratul Baqara 2:201

رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا

"Lord! Have mercy on them (my parents) just as they had mercy on me when I was little..."

Suratu Bani Israil 17:24

رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

"Lord! Increase my knowledge.."

Suratu Taha 20:114

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ

"Our Lord! Forgive me, my parents and the believers on the day of accounting"

Suratu Ibrahim 14:41



Ta'qibaat

Ta'qibaat means the tasbeeh and duas that follow salaa.

After I have finished my salaa I first recite 'Allahu Akber'

الله أكبر three times.

Then I recite Salawat - اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

After Salawat I recite the tasbee of Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh)

34 times اللهُ أَكْبَرُ

33 times الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

33 times سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

After the tasbee I recite a sura from the Qur'an and then one of the recommended duas. I then go into sijda to thank Allah for everything and to ask for forgiveness.

In sijda I recite the following as many times as I can

شُكْرًا، شُكْرًا، شُكْرًا

Thank you, Allah

عَفْوًا، عَفْوًا، عَفْوًا

Forgive me

Finally, I get up and face qibla to recite the ziyara of the ma'sumeen.



Remembering Allah All The Time

Before I do anything I recite:

Bismillahir rahmaanir raheem

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(I begin) in the name of Allah, the Kind, the Merciful

In every situation - happy or sad I recite:

Alhamdulillah

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

All praise is for Allah

When I thank someone I say:

Jazakumullah

جَزَاكُمُ اللَّهُ

May Allah reward you.

Whenever I decide to do something I say:

Insha'Allah

إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ

If Allah wishes.

When I am parting from someone I say:

Fiamanillah

فِي أَمَانِ اللَّهِ

(I leave you) in the care of Allah.



The Islamic Year

There are 12 months in a year.

As a Muslim I follow the Lunar calendar.

The Lunar month is the time between two new moons. Lunar comes from the Latin word Luna which means moon. A Lunar month is either 29 or 30 days long.

The Lunar year is approximately 11 days shorter than the Solar year (January to December).

The months are:

- Muharram
- Safar
- Rabi ul Awwal
- Rabi ul Aakher
- Jamad ul Awwal
- Jamad ul Aakher
- Rajab
- Sha'ban
- Ramadhan
- Shawwal
- Dhulqa'ada
- Dhul hijja

Salatul Ru'yatil Hilal

On the 1st of every month, it is mustahab to recite a 2 rakat salaa and give out sadaqa, Allah will take care of You and keep you safe throughout the whole month.

Muharram

It is the opening month of the Islamic year. This is one of the four months declared as sacred by Allah.

The month is of mourning and sorrow. In this month on the tenth day 'Ashura' 61 A.H. (680 C.E.), Imam Husayn (pbuh) his family, relatives and companions were martyred. Majalis are held in this month to commemorate the tragedy of Karbala reminding us that the values of Islam taught by the Prophet (pbuh) must be maintained in their original form under all circumstances.

It is mustahab to fast on the first nine days of the month.

On the day of 'Ashura, it is recommended to remember the martyrs of Karbala, recite Suratul Ikhlas 1000 times and recite the Ziyara of Imam Husayn (pbuh).

Important dates in Muharram

10th Day of 'Ashura

25th Shahadat if Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh)



Safar

The second month of the Islamic year sees the wafat of the Prophet (pbuh) and Imam Al-Ridha (pbuh). It is a month in which the battle of Siffeen was fought by Imam Ali (pbuh)

The 'arba'een of Imam Husayn (pbuh) falls in this month. Imam Hasan Al-Askery (pbuh) has said: 5 things identify a mu'min –

1. One who prays 51 raka'ts of salaa in a day.
2. One who recites Ziyarat Arba'een
3. One who wears a ring in the right hand.
4. One who uses a 'turbat' for sajda.
5. One who recites Bismillahirrahmanirraheem loudly in Salaa.

It is recommended to give sadaqa in this month and pray to Allah taking refuge in Him from trials and tribulations.

Important dates in Safar

- 7th Shahadat of Imam Hasan (pbuh)
- 20th 'Arba'een of Imam Husayn (pbuh)
- 28th Wafat of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Rabi ul Awwal

Rabi' ul Awwal is the third month of the Islamic calendar and is significant in Islamic history for it is the month in which humanity was blessed by the birth of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The name means the first month/beginning of spring. However since the lunar calendar year 11 to 12 days shorter than the solar year. Rabi'ul Awwal migrates through the seasons.

Important dates in Rabi' ul Awwal

- 8th Shahadat of Imam Hasan Al - Askery (pbuh)
- 17th Birth of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
- 17th Birth of Imam Ja'fer As – Sadiq (pbuh)

Rabi ul Akher

Rabi'ul Akher is the fourth month of the Islamic calendar. The literal meaning of this month is the second spring.

Important dates in Rabi' ul Akher

- 10th Birth of Imam Hasan Al-Askery (pbuh)

Jamad ul Awwal

This is the fifth month of the Islamic Calendar. The word Jamad implies dryness & lack of rain, with this month being the first of the dry months.

Important dates in Jamad ul Awwal

- 5th Birth of Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh)



Jamad ul Akher

This is the sixth month of the Islamic calendar. The origin of the word Jumada, from which the name of the month is derived, is used to denote dry, parched land (land devoid of rain) and hence denotes the dry months; the first of which was Jamad ul Awwal

Important dates in Jamad ul Akher

- 3rd Wafat of Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh)
- 20th Wiladat of Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh)

Rajab

The months of Rajab, Sha'ban and Ramadhan are important months of the Islamic calendar. In many Muslim communities, children are named after these months – such is their greatness.

The Prophet (pbuh) is reported to have said that the month of Rajab is the month when Allah's mercy descends on His creation like gentle rain. He further said that it is the month of Istighfar – a month when one should seek forgiveness of sins.

It is highly recommended to fast in the month of Rajab.

It is also said that there is a river in Janna called Rajab which is whiter than milk and sweeter than honey. The Prophet (pbuh) has said that he/she who fasts in this month will drink from this river.

Important dates in Rajab

- 1st Birthday of Imam Muhammad Al Baqir (pbuh)
- 3rd Death anniversary of Imam Ali Naqi (pbuh)
- 13th Birthday of Imam Ali (pbuh)
- 15th Death anniversary of Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh)
- 25th Death anniversary of Imam Musa Kadhim (pbuh)

Sha'ban

The Prophet (pbuh) has said: "Sha'ban is my month and who so ever fasts even once during this month will certainly go to Janna."

Someone once asked Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh) what the best deed was in the month of Sha'ban. He replied:

"To do istighfaar (repent for sins) and to give sadaqa. Sadaqa given in this month would be nurtured by Allah like a camel looks after its young and will be returned on the day of Qiyama".

Important dates in Sha'ban

- 3rd Birthday of Imam Husayn (pbuh)
- 4th Birthday of Hazrat Abbas (pbuh)
- 5th Birthday of Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh)
- 15th Birthday of Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh)



Month of Ramadhan

The Prophet (pbuh) has said about the month of Ramadhan:

“..It is the month which invites you to be the guests of Allah and invites you to be one of those near Him...”

It is the only month mentioned by name in the Qur’an as the month in which the Qur’an was revealed. It is the month in which we fast and try to get closer to Allah.

Important dates in month of Ramadhan

- 10th Death anniversary of Sayyida Khadija (pbuh)
- 15th Birthday of Imam Hasan (pbuh)
- 23^{rd*} Most likely night of Qadr according to ahadith - Laylatul Qadr
- Last Friday - Jumua’tul Widaa

Ash-Hural Hajj

Shawwal, Dhulqa’da and Dhulhijja are the three months named as "*Ashhur al-Hajj*" (i.e. the months of Hajj). Although the major acts of Hajj are normally performed in the first ten days of Dhulhijja, yet the whole period starting from the first of Shawwal up to the 10th of Dhulhijja is held to be the period of Hajj because some acts of Hajj can be performed any time during this period. For example, an 'Umra performed before Shawwal cannot be treated as the 'Umra of *Tamattu*: while the 'Umra performed in Shawwal can be affiliated to the Hajj. For these reasons these three months have been named as the 'months of Hajj' and the month of Shawwal has the distinction of being the first of these.

Important dates in month of Ash – Hural Hajj

- 1st Eid ul Fitr
- 25th Death anniversary of Imam Ja’fer As-Sadiq (pbuh)

Important dates in month of Dhulqa’da

- 11th Birthday of Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh)
- 25th Dahwul Ardh
- 29th Death anniversary of Imam Muhammad At-Taqi (pbuh)

Important dates in month of Dhulhijja

- 7th Death anniversary of Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh)
- 9th Day of Arafat
- 10th Eid ul Adha
- 15th Birthday of Imam Ali An-Naqi (pbuh)
- 18th Eid ul Ghadeer
- 24th Eid ul Mubahila



Friday*

* The night precedes the day and therefore Friday begins at Maghrib on Thursday.

“Indeed the 24 hours of the night and day of Friday belong to Allah. In every hour there are 600,000 opportunities of freedom from the fire.”

“The thawab of deeds on Friday is twice as much, so avoid sins and perform good deeds to gain more thawab.”
Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh) has said: “The sunrise of Friday is better than all the other days, and the birds too when they meet on Friday say Peace, Peace..... on this righteous day.”
This implies that there is no better day than Friday from its dawn.

Some of the recommended a’maal for the night of Jumua’ (Thursday night)

1. To recite salawaat as many times as possible. It is related from Imam Ja’fer As-Sadiq (pbuh) that from ‘Asr on Friday the angels record the thawaab of those who recite salawaat on silver paper with gold pens.
2. To pray for one’s mu’min brothers and sisters just as Sayyida Fatima (pbuh) used to do.
3. To eat a pomegranate if possible.

Some of the recommended a’maal for the day of Jumua’

1. To recite Suratul Jumua’.
2. To recite Salawaat
3. To recite Suratul Ikhlaas
4. To recite Ayatul Kursi as many times as possible from Fajr to Zhuhr as our 4th Imam did.
5. To do ghusl of Jumua’. The Prophet (pbuh) said to Imam Ali (pbuh):
“Ya Ali! Perform ghusl of Friday even if it means that by purchasing the water you will have to give up a days food for there is no better good deed than it.”
It is recommended to do ghusl between Fajr and Zhuhr (as near to Zhuhr as possible).
6. To cut nails and trim hair, wear neat clean clothes and apply perfume.
7. To eat pomegranate for breakfast.
8. To utilise time in learning about religion.
9. To visit the graves of parents, relations and mu’mineen.
10. To recite Dua e Nudba



Eid ul Fitr

"O Allah ! Bless us in the day of our Eid and our fast breaking and let it be the best day that has passed over us."

Imam Ali Zainul Abedeen (pbuh) - Sahifa Al-Sajjadiyya

Eid is an Arabic word derived from root of a-w-d. Literally it means a recurring event. In Islam it denotes the festivals of ISLAM. The word Eid occurs in the Qur'an once meaning a joyous recurring occasion.

"Isa the son of Maryam said: O Allah, our Lord! send down to us food from heaven which should be to us a Eid (joyous recurring occasion), to the first of us and for last of us, and a sign from You, and grant us means of subsistence, and You are the best of Providers."

Suratul Maida 5:114

Human history has known festivals from the earliest days of man on earth. Man has celebrated festivals ever since he knew communal life. Ancient Egyptians had one called the day of adornment. It was during one such festival that Prophet Musa (pbuh) defeated the magicians.

Suratu Taha 20:57-59

Eid ul Fitr is the festival that marks the end of the month of Ramadhan. Fitr means to break and it therefore marks the breaking of the fasting period and of all evil habits. Happiness is observed at attaining spiritual upliftment after a month of fasting.

Imam Ali (pbuh) has said that Eid is a day of happiness for those whose fasts and prayers have been accepted by Allah. He has also said that Eid is the day in which one has committed no sins.



Eid ul Hajj / Eid ul Adha (Sacrifice)

The 10th day of the last month in the Islamic Calendar is commemorated by Muslims all over the world as the festival (Eid) of Sacrifice. It marks the end of the annual pilgrimage of Muslims to Makka with communal prayers. It is celebrated with prayers, gifts for children and the distribution of meat to the needy and at social gatherings. Muslims exchange the greetings - Eid Mubarak meaning Blessed Eid.

It is the commemoration of the sacrifice of Prophet Ismail by his father Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) Ismail was not only a son for his father but the result of a whole life's expectations. He was then the only son of a very old father. He was asked to sacrifice his son. Satan tried to create a rift in his conscious by putting his love for his son above his love of Allah. The love of Ismail was a test for Ibraheem.

He found his son wanting to be obedient to Allah.. Putting all their trust in Allah, Ibraheem puts the knife to Ismail's throat and lo! behold a sheep was placed instead. Allah had accepted his love - his total obedience (submission).

All the rituals of the Hajj concentrate around the family of Ibraheem (pbuh). The Hajj which is a reformation of the spiritual self culminates with this great 'Eid reminding mankind that *"...righteousness can never be reached unless one spends out of what one loves in the way of God."*

Suratu Ali Imran 3:91

Mankind strives for contentment which is only to be found in perfection. In the Qur'an, God says that contentment lies only with His remembrance. Only He (God) is perfection. To achieve this contentment there needs to be total submission to His will which is only achieved when one sacrifices that which he/she loves most in the way of God. One must sacrifice one's own 'Ismail'. It could be a person, an object, a rank, a position or even a 'weakness'.

On Eid ul Hajj, therefore when Muslims sacrifice an animal it is a sacrifice instead of one's Ismail, and not a sacrifice for the sake of it for then it would be merely 'butchery'.



Eid ul Ghadeer

In Dhulqa'da the Prophet (pbuh) announced that he was going to perform the Hajj that year. Thousands gathered outside Madina awaiting the departure of the Prophet (pbuh). The Prophet (pbuh) appointed Abu Dajana as his representative in Madina and proceeded toward Makka taking with him 60 animals for sacrifice. This Hajj is known as Hajjatul Wida (the Farewell Hajj) because it was the last Hajj that the Prophet (pbuh) performed in his life. During this Hajj he demonstrated every feature of the ceremony, so that there could be no confusion later.

On Thursday 18th Dhulhijja 10 A.H. the returning caravan of Hajjis reached Johfa. On it's borders is a pond (called Ghadeer in Arabic). The place is called **Ghadeer Khum** because of it's location.

Jibrail brought a message for the Prophet (pbuh):

"O Prophet! Deliver what has been revealed to you from Your Lord, and if you do not then you have not delivered His message and Allah will protect you from the people; Indeed Allah does not guide the unbelieving people." **Suratul Ma'ida - 5:68**

It was terribly hot; the Prophet (pbuh) gave instructions for making a pulpit (mimbar) so he could deliver the message of the Lord.

A pulpit of saddles was hastily made and Bilal gave the Adhan (call to prayers).

After prayers he stood on the pulpit and delivered the following sermon;

"All glory is exclusively for Allah. We seek his help and have faith in him and rely on him. We seek refuge in him from our evil doings and indecent deeds. He is the Lord besides whom there is no guide. There will be none to mislead one whom he guides.

I testify that there is no God but Allah and Muhammed is his servant and his messenger. O people!

I may soon accept the divine invitation and depart from amongst you.

I am responsible and you too are responsible.

What is your opinion about me?"

At this stage those present said loudly:

"We testify that you have carried out your mission and made efforts in this behalf. May Allah reward you for this."

The Prophet (pbuh) continued:

"Do you testify that the Lord of the world is one and Muhammed is his servant and messenger and that there is no doubt about life in the other world?"

All the people said:

"It is correct and we testify it!"

Then the Prophet (pbuh) said:

"O my followers! I am leaving behind two heavy (valuable) things as legacies to you and it is to be seen how you behave with these two legacies of mine."

At this moment a person stood up and said with a loud voice:



"What do you mean by these two valuable things?"

To this the Prophet (pbuh) replied:

"One of them is the book of Allah and the other thing is my progeny and my Ahlulbayt. Allah has informed me that these two things will not get separated from each other. "O People ! don't seek precedence over the Qur'an and over my progeny, and do not be negligent in your behaviour towards them, lest you be destroyed."

At this moment he took Imam Ali's hand and raised it so high that the whiteness of both of their armpits was seen. He introduced Imam Ali (pbuh) to the people and said:
"Who enjoys more rights over the believers than themselves?"

All of them said:

"Allah and His Prophet (pbuh) know better".

Then the Prophet (pbuh) said:

"Allah is my mawla (master) and I am the mawla of the believers and I am more deserving and enjoy more rights over them than they themselves."

"O people! Of whomsoever I am mawla, this Ali is also his/her mawla."

Then he raised his hands for dua:

"O Allah! Love those who love Ali, and be the enemy of those who are the enemies of Ali. O Allah! help Ali's friends and humiliate his enemies and make him the pivot (centre) of truth."

Just then Jibrail appeared and brought the following revelation:

"This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed my favours to you and have chosen Islam as your religion....."

Suratul Ma'ida 5:3

At this moment the Prophet (pbuh) pronounced takbeer loudly and then added:

"I thank Allah for having perfected His religion and for having completed His favour and for His having been pleased with the master ship and succession of Ali after me."

Then the Prophet (pbuh) stepped down from the pulpit and said to Imam Ali (pbuh):

"Sit in a tent so that the chiefs and distinguished personalities of Islam may shake hands with you and congratulate you." The two shaykhs (Abu Bakr & Umar) were the first to congratulate Imam Ali (pbuh) and call him their mawla.



Eid ul Mubahila

"To those that argue with you concerning Jesus after the knowledge you have received say: Come, let us gather our sons and your sons, our women and your women, ourselves and yourselves. We will pray together and call down the curse of Allah on every liar." **Suratu Ali Imran 3:61**

When real arguments fail to produce the desired effect, then to wish for the intervention of Allah's judgement in order to sift the right from wrong; is called Mubahila.

In the year 9 A.H. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) wrote to the heads of different tribes and countries of the world inviting them to Islam. One of the letters was written to the Christian community of Najran. A large delegation was appointed to go to meet the Prophet (pbuh). Warmly welcomed by the Prophet (pbuh) they were put up in one part of the mosque where they were allowed to perform their prayers comfortably. They asked the Prophet (pbuh) what he thought of Jesus and he said: "He was a human being created by God and was a prophet."

"Have you ever seen any child born in this world without a father?" they asked.

The Prophet (pbuh) replied: "Jesus is like Adam in the sight of Allah. He created him from dust and then said to him 'be' and he was "

Suratu Ali Imran 3:59

They could not answer to this argument, but continued to debate the issue when the aya inviting them to a Mubahila was revealed. They accepted the challenge and at the appointed hour arrived at the place where the Mubahila was going to take place. There they saw the Ahlul Kisaa - The Prophet (pbuh), Imam Ali ((pbuh) Imamayn Hasanayn (pbuh) and Sayyida Fatima (pbuh) and immediately their leader Abu Harith said:

"I see such faces that if they raise their hands in supplication and pray to God that the biggest mountain may be moved from its place, the same will happen immediately. We should in no circumstance engage in a Mubahila with these sacred people because it is possible that.....not even one of us may remain alive on the face of the earth."

They withdrew from the Mubahila.



Ziyara

Ziyara (Commonly referred to as, Ziyarat) is a pilgrimage to sites associated with the Ma'sumeen, their companions and Islamic scholars.

The Prophet (pbuh) told Imam Husayn (pbuh)

“My son! If someone visits me whilst I am alive or dead, or visits your father, your brother or yourself, it becomes WAJIB on me to visit him on the day of Qiyama and rescue him from his sins.”

Ziyarat can also refer to sending salaams to them from afar.

The main cities of Ziyara are Makka, Madina, Najaf, Karbala, Mashhad, Kadhmayn & Samarra.

It is highly recommended to send salams to the Ma'sumeen every day.

Map to show places of Ziyara of the 14 Ma'sumeen



Key: Places of burial of 14 Ma'sumeen

Saudi Arabia - Madina

- Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
- Sayyida Fatima (pbuh)
- Imam Hasan (pbuh)
- Imam Zaynul Abedeen (pbuh)
- Imam Muhammad Baqir (pbuh)
- Imam Ja'fer Sadiq (pbuh)

Iraq - Najaf

- Imam Ali (pbuh)

Karbala

- Imam Husayn (pbuh)

Kadhmayn

- Imam Musa Kadim (pbuh)
- Imam Muhammad At Taqi (pbuh)

Samarra

- Imam Ali An Naqi (pbuh)
- Imam Hasan Al Askery (pbuh)

Iran - Mashhad

- Imam Ali Ridha (pbuh)



Other Important Places of Ziyara



Saudi Arabia
Makka – The Ka’ba



Saudi Arabia
Madina – Masjid un Nabi



Saudi Arabia
Madina – Jannatul Baqee



Israel - Jerusalem
Masjid Al Aqsa



Iran - Mashhad
Imam Ali Ridha (pbuh)



Iraq – Najaf
Imam Ali (pbuh)



Iraq – Karbala
Imam Husayn (pbuh)



Iraq – Kadhmayn
Imam Musa Kadim (pbuh)
Imam Muhammad At Taqi (pbuh)



Iraq – Samarra
Imam Ali An Naqi (pbuh)
Imam Hasan Al Askari (pbuh)



Daily Ziyara

Peace be upon you; O Prophet of God

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ

Peace be upon you; O Ali

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

Peace be upon you; O Fatima Zahra

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا فَاطِمَةَ الزَّهْرَاءِ

Peace be upon you; O Khadija

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا خَدِيجَةَ الْكُبْرَى

Peace be upon you; O Hasan

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا حَسَنَ الْمُجْتَبَى

Peace be upon you; O Husayn

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَبَا عَبْدِ اللَّهِ الْحُسَيْنِ

And on the 9 AImma from your progeny.

وَعَلَى تِسْعَةِ الْمُعْصُومِينَ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِكَ

Ali Son of Husayn, And Muhammad, son of Ali,

عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ وَمُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عَلِيٍّ وَجَعْفَرِ بْنِ

And Ja'fer, son of Muhammad,

مُحَمَّدٍ وَمُوسَى بْنِ جَعْفَرٍ وَعَلِيِّ بْنِ مُوسَى وَ

And Musa, son of Ja'fer, And Ali, son of Musa,

And Muhammad, son of Ali,

مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عَلِيٍّ وَعَلِيِّ بْنِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَالْحَسَنِ بْنِ

And Ali, son of Muhammad, And Hasan, son of
Ali, And the Hujjat (Proof of Allah) , son of

Hasan

عَلِيٍّ وَالْحُجَّةَ بْنَ حَسَنٍ

O Allah hasten his reappearance

عَجَّلَ اللَّهُ فَرَجَهُ وَسَهَّلَ اللَّهُ فُجْرَهُ وَظَهَّرَهُ

Peace of Allah be on all of you and the mercy

of Allah and His blessings

وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ



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