

WITH CHILDREN IN MIND

Islamic Lessons

Book Three

Short Stories for Children

by

Zainol A. Khan

Published by

**The TACKVEEYATUL ISLAMIC
ASSOCIATION**

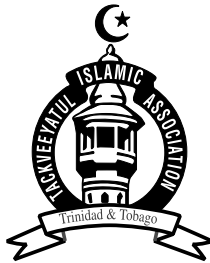
of Trinidad and Tobago Inc.

Copyright by the author 2006

ISBN 978-976-95078-1-4

2006 - FIRST PRINTING - 5000 COPIES

Published by:



THE TACKVEEYATUL ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION

of Trinidad and Tobago Inc.

Founded: 1926 Incorporated: 1931

#1 Industrial Lane, Champs Fleurs,

Trinidad, West Indies.

Phone: 868-662-2203/4 Fax: 868-645-5268

Printed by:

Sam's Printing Service Limited

No. 5 Mohammed Ville, El Socorro Road, San Juan, Trinidad, West Indies.

Phone: 868-638-4968 Fax: 868-674-7394 Email: nabdul@trinidad.net

CONTENTS

Preface.....	4
1. The pigeon and the spider	5
2. The full moon has risen	7
3. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) rewards physical abuse with kindness.....	10
4. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) - No task below his dignity.....	11
5. The Prophet of Mercy	13
6. The Conversion of the Jinns.....	15
7. Luqmaan's advice to his son	17
8. A truthful youth.....	18
9. The <i>Khaliifaa'</i> and the empty pot.....	20
10. Hazrat Ali's concern for the needy	22
11. Bring someone who knows you well	24
12. The Delinquent Father.....	25
13. Hazrat Ali (R.A) and the elderly Jew	26
14. The generosity of Hazrat Abu Bakr As-Siddique (R.A.)	27
15. Imaam Abu Hanifa (R.A.) and his Detractor.....	28
16. Sultan Salah-ud-diin and King Richard the Lion Heart	29
17. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and the Wrestler.....	30
18. The <i>Qadi</i> (Judge) rules against the <i>Khaliifaa'</i>	32
19. Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal and the luxurious guest room.....	33
20. Imaam Bukhari and the deceiver of animals	34
21. Young Sharafuddeen waits till his mother awakens	35
22. Learning to love one another.....	36
23. The fortitude of Hazrat Bilaal ibn Rabbiah (R.A.)	37
24. How the <i>adhaan</i> was introduced	39
25. The Angels.....	43
26. The Holy Prophet's (S.A.W.) Farewell Address	45
27. I am a Muslim	47

PREFACE

Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem

*“Say: ‘If ye love Allaah, follow me: Allaah will love you
and forgive you your sins: for Allaah is Oft-forgiving,
Most Merciful’.”*

Al Qur’aan, Ch. 3 - Verse 31

The short stories in this booklet relate some events in the lives of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.), a few of his companions and also some Muslims who lived over the centuries. They are intended to remind, or inform us, as the case may be, how we must conduct ourselves as Muslims under particular circumstances.

I pray that those who read these stories will be inspired to follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and other great Muslims, and that this will in turn encourage others to take example from them.

I thank those two persons who have assisted me, as they have with my other writings, for reviewing the draft stories and making valuable contributions thereon. Their reward is with Almighty Allaah.

I thank Allaah *Subhaanuhu wa Ta’ala* for once again granting me the knowledge, guidance and health to write these stories and pray that He will accept this humble service.

Khudaa Haafiz.

ZAINOL A. KHAN

Lot 1, Private Road,
Francis Street, St. Augustine, Trinidad, West Indies.
Email: zainol_khan@hotmail.com

Safar 1427 A.H.
March 2006 C.E.

THE PIGEON AND THE SPIDER

Thirteen years after the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) received the first revelation of Al Qur'aan only a few persons who had embraced the new religion, Islam, remained in Makkah. This was because the majority of the Muslims had to migrate to Yathrib (now Madinah) in order to avoid being persecuted by the unbelieving Makkans.

The unbelievers decided once again to murder the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) because of the increasing number of persons accepting Islam. They accordingly surrounded the Holy Prophet's home one night, planning to storm the house when dawn broke and murder him.

However, Almighty Allaah warned the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) of the unbelievers' plan and commanded him to leave the city for Yathrib (now Madinah), to which city most of the Muslims had already migrated. In obedience to Almighty Allaah's command the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) left his home in the early hours of the morning, reciting the first nine verses of *Suurah Yaasiin* of Al Qur'aan. As he did so he passed among the unbelievers without being seen by them. Such is the power of Almighty Allaah.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) then proceeded to the home of Hazrat Abu Bakr *As-Siddique* (R.A.). From there they both travelled swiftly to Mount Thaur where they hid in a cave, as it was by then dawn.

At daybreak the unbelievers, who were still waiting outside the Holy Prophet's home, realised they had been outwitted. They decided to look for the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and obtained the services of a tracker for this purpose. The tracker led them to the mouth of the cave

and said that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was hiding in the cave.

Hazrat Abu Bakr *As-Siddique* (R.A.) heard the unbelievers moving around the entrance to the cave and told the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) that he was fearful because they were only two. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) replied:

"Have no fear, for Allaah is with us."

(Al Qur'aan Ch. 9 V. 40)

The unbelievers considered entering the cave. However, one of them observed that a spider's web had been spun over the mouth of the cave and concluded that no one had entered it. Another observed that a pigeon was resting in its nest, which hung over the entrance to the cave. He also came to the same conclusion as the first. All concurred and as a result left.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and Hazrat Abu Bakr *As-Siddique* (R.A.), both tired, sat in the cave to rest. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) placed his head on Hazrat Abu Bakr *As-Siddique's* lap and fell asleep. A poisonous snake bit Hazrat Abu Bakr *As-Siddique* (R.A.) but he did not flinch for fear of awakening the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). The poison rushed throughout his body causing severe pain but still he did not move. However, tears filled his eyes and some eventually fell on the Holy Prophet's face, awakening him.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) assessed the situation and made an incision in Hazrat Abu Bakr *As-Siddique's* leg. He then drew out the poisonous blood.

The two spent three days and nights in the cave, before proceeding on their way to Yathrib (now Madinah).

Their arrival in that City is the subject of the next article.

Khudaa Haafiz

THE FULL MOON HAS RISEN

*(Being a continuation of the previous article entitled
"The Pigeon and the Spider.")*

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) and Hazrat Abu Bakr As-Siddique (R.A.) hid in the cave at Mount Thaur for three days and nights to avoid being captured by the unbelievers. They left the cave on the fourth morning as they then felt it was safe to do so. They then began their journey to Yathrib (now Madinah), a distance of about 270 miles, where a substantial number of Muslim immigrants and converts were living. They were led by a non-Muslim guide and travelled by night to avoid being seen by their enemies.

In the meantime, the unbelievers in Makkah had offered a reward of one hundred camels for the capture of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). A number of persons accordingly set out in pursuit of him. Eventually, a noted warrior by the name of Suraqaah bin Maalik came upon the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). Suraqaah charged on his horse with an upraised weapon three times with the view of killing the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), but each time Suraqaah's horse stumbled and he fell to the ground. After the third attempt smoke arose around Suraqaah like a sandstorm and he realised that the Most Powerful of All Beings was protecting the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). He therefore threw away his weapons and went to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), seeking his forgiveness. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) forgave him and told him to leave. Suraqaah did so and shortly after accepted Islam. In later years he played a major role in many of the battles fought against the unbelievers.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.) then continued their journey. They eventually reached Qubaa, on the outskirts of Madinah, where they stayed for four days. During that time the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) laid the foundation for a masjid, the first masjid in Islam. This masjid is called Masjid Al-Qubaa and is referred to in Al Qur'aan as the

*"masjid whose foundation was laid from the first day
on piety."*

(Chapter 9 Verse 108)

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), still accompanied by Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.), left Qubaa for Madinah, a distance of two or three kilometres, on the morning of Friday the 12th. of Rabi-ul-Awwal. They offered the Jumu'a salaah on the way and then continued to Madinah proper.

The citizens of Madinah had been on the lookout every day for the arrival of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) since they had heard of his departure from Makkah. As he approached the city he was seen by a Jewish citizen who announced his arrival. The long-awaited news of the Holy Prophet's arrival spread throughout the city like wildfire. On hearing of it the men and the women stopped what they were doing. The men grabbed their spears and, waving them in the air, obviously in joy, rushed headlong in the direction of the Holy Prophet's entourage to see who would be the first to reach it. The women and children ran to the rooftops (which were flat) in order to obtain a first-hand view of the Holy Prophet's arrival to the city proper. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) entered the city surrounded by a multitude of men waving their spears in the air to express their happiness. As he passed through the city streets, the young Muslim girls sang:

*“Tal ‘a albadru ‘alaina Min Than-niy-yatil-wadaa’i.
Wajabash-shukru ‘alaina Ma d’a-aa lillaahi daa’i
Ayyuh-ul-mab’uusu fiina J’ila bil-amilmutaa’i”*

(“Today, the full moon arose upon us from the northern
hill, Than-niy-yatul Wada’a.

It is our duty to offer thanks for the call and teaching of
the Apostle who invited us towards Allaah.

O Prophet who has been sent among us!

You have brought us such a religion that we will bear
allegiance to it.”)

Dear children, Friday the 12th. of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the day
of the Holy Prophet’s arrival in Madinah, is a momentous
day in the history of Islam. It marks the beginning of the
Muslim calendar, which is denoted by the letters “A.H.”
(meaning “After the Hijrah - migration”). It also marks
the beginning of a new era in Islam, an era that saw the
rapid growth of the new faith in surrounding countries
and eventually to the whole world. And of course, this
is the date on which the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was born
and also departed this life.

Khudaa Haafiz



THE HOLY PROPHET (S.A.W.) REWARDS PHYSICAL ABUSE WITH KINDNESS

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) preached the message of (among others things) one God, that is Allaah, and that idols must not be worshipped. As the people in Arabia at that time worshipped idols, like their forefathers before them, they were unwilling to change their beliefs. The vast majority of them initially rejected the Holy Prophet's teachings. Some of those who rejected the Holy Prophet's teachings even went to great lengths to abuse him verbally or physically.

One particular lady took great pleasure in collecting her garbage and the sweepings from her house and throwing them on the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) when he passed her house to go and perform salaah. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) never rebuked the lady for what she did to him but would instead smile at her and send salutations to her.

One day the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) passed the lady's house as usual and was pleasantly surprised that no refuse had been thrown at him. He found this strange and thought perhaps the lady was ill. So he enquired of one of the lady's neighbours about her health and was told that she lived alone and was, in fact, seriously ill.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) went to the lady's home and knocked. On being told to enter the home, he did so. The lady was very surprised to see him. The Prophet (S.A.W.), noticing that the pitcher was empty and the dishes unwashed, took the pitcher and went to the well

and filled it. On returning to the lady's home the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) swept the house. He then washed the dishes and prepared a meal for the lady, which she ate.

The lady was so touched with the Holy Prophet's kindness to her, especially having regard to the way she had treated him in the past, that she apologized to him and accepted the new Faith.

Khudaa Haafiz



4

THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD (S.A.W.)

- No task below his dignity

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) did not find it below his dignity to do any type of work, manual or otherwise. This notwithstanding the fact that he was a prophet of Almighty Allaah and, in the course of time, the ruler of a kingdom.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) would mend his clothes, assist in the household chores and milk the sheep. When the first masjid was being built he worked as a labourer and, in the Battle of *Al Ahzaab* (the Trench), he joined with the others in digging trenches around the city of Yathrib (now Madinah).

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) helped anyone who was in need of assistance. On one occasion he saw a slave labouring to operate a hand grinding-mill. The man was crying as he ground the grain. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)

went up to the slave and asked him why he was weeping. The slave replied that he was ill and could not operate the mill. He said further that his master was a cruel person and would punish him if he did not finish grinding all the grain.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) asked the slave to move aside. He then started to operate the mill and ground the rest of the grain himself. When he was finished he told the slave that if he ever had any grain to grind again, he should let him know so that he could grind it for him.

On another occasion the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) saw an old man struggling to carry a leather container filled with water. The old man would walk a few steps and then stop to rest before continuing his journey. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) took the container from the old man, placed it on his own back and carried it to the man's home.

Dear children, as you know, we must all follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). Accordingly we must make it our duty to help others, especially the old and the infirm. Almighty Allaah will be pleased with us when we do so.

Khudaa Haafiz



THE PROPHET OF MERCY

The tenth year of the Holy Prophet's Mission is known in Islamic history as the Year of Sorrow. This is because of the death of the Holy Prophet's dear uncle, Abu Talib, and his beloved wife, Bibi Khadijah (R.A.). Abu Talib had taken care of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) from the time he was eight years old until he married Bibi Khadijah (R.A.). In addition, after the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) started receiving revelation from Almighty Allaah, Abu Talib, although not accepting the new faith, granted his protection to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). As a result the opponents of Islam were afraid to persecute the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) or to physically harm him. With the death of Abu Talib the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was now practically defenceless against his enemies. As regards Bibi Khadijah (R.A.), she was the first person to accept the new faith and had always been a source of comfort and strength to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) in his Mission.

After the death of Abu Talib the Quraish had no hindrance in persecuting the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and this they started to do openly. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) thus decided to journey to the city of Ta'if on a two-fold mission. Firstly, to seek the protection of the Chiefs of that city against the Quraish and, secondly, to preach the new Faith.

The city of Ta'if is situated in a valley about forty miles from Makkah, as the crow flies, and, because of its cooler climatic conditions, its citizens comprised mostly of the better-educated and well-to-do persons. In addition, a beautiful temple, second only to the Ka'aba, was located

there. This temple attracted many pilgrims to the city, and this in turn resulted in a great amount of business for the merchants there.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) accordingly journeyed to Ta'if. On reaching the City he met with the various Chiefs and explained his mission. However, they all refused to accept the new Faith and even to grant him some protection. They went further than that, and encouraged young thugs to abuse the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and to throw stones at him. Many of the stones found their mark. With blood flowing from the many wounds on his body, he left the city offering, as he did so, the following beautiful *du'a*:

"O Allaah! To Thee I complain of the feebleness of my strength, of my lack of resourcefulness and my insignificance in the eyes of people. O, Most Merciful of all capable of showing mercy! Thou art the Lord of the weak and Thou art my own Lord. To Whom Thou art entrust me, to an unsympathetic foe who would sullenly frown on me, or to an alien to whom Thou has given control over my affair? Not in the least do I care for anything except that I may have Thy protection for myself. In the light of Thy Face do I seek shelter – The light of which illumines the Heaven and dispels all sorts of darkness, and which controls all affairs in this world as well as in the Hereafter. May it never be that I should incur Thy Wrath, or that Thou should be displeased with me. I must remove the cause of Thy displeasure till Thou art pleased. There is no strength or power but through Thee."

Outside the city Angel Jibra-il (A.S.) appeared before the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). The Angel told the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) that he been commanded by Almighty Allaah, if

the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) so desired, to give the angel in charge of the mountains the command to bring together the two mountains between which Ta'if was situated and so crush the city and its inhabitants. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), Merciful Prophet that he was, responded by declining to give such a command. In doing so he said that even if the present citizens of Ta'if did not accept the Faith, some of their progeny would, in due course, do so.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) then started his return journey to Makkah. It must be mentioned however that he lived to see not only most of the citizens of Ta'if but also of Arabia and many of the surrounding countries accept Islam.

Khudaa Haafiz



6

THE CONVERSION OF THE JINNS

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was returning to Makkah from an unsuccessful visit to Ta'if * - a three-day journey – when darkness caught him at Nakhla, a suburb of Makkah. He camped there for the night with the intention of proceeding to Makkah the following day.

While performing the *Isha salaah* a company of Jinns (seven in number) from Nasiibiin was passing by on their way home. On hearing the recitation of the Qur'aan, they stopped and waited until the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had

completed his salaah. They then told him they wanted to accept Islam as their religion and become Muslims. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) granted their request. Following this the Jinns continued on their journey.

When the Jinns reached their home they told their fellow Jinns about their conversion to Islam. This incident is recorded in Chapter LXXI, entitled Jinns or the Spirits, Verses 1-2 of Al Qur'aan, which reads as follows:

"Say: It has been revealed to me that a company of Jinns listened to the Qur'aan. They said: 'We have really heard a wonderful Recital. It gives guidance to the Right, and we have believed therein; we shall not join (in worship) any (god) with our Lord.'"

Some years later the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was reciting *Suurah Rahmaan*. When he finished his rendition he asked the companions who were present why they did not respond like the Jinns did when he recited the verse

"Fabi-'ayyi 'aalaaa-'i Rabbikumaa tukazzibaan?"

("Then which of the favours of your Lord will ye deny?")

The companions in reply asked the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). what had been the response of the Jinns. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) informed the companions that the Jinns had responded by saying they did not deny any of the favours of the Lord.

Dear Reader, you should follow the example of the Jinns and reply like they did when the above-mentioned verse of Al Qur'aan is recited.

*See the previous story

Khudaa Haafiz

LUQMAAN'S ADVICE TO HIS SON

Luqmaan was an African who lived in a Middle Eastern country a few thousand years ago. He has the distinction of having a *Suurah* (Chapter) of Al Qur'aan named after him.

Luqmaan was a very simple person and earned his livelihood by tending sheep. He was gifted with wisdom and was thus known as "The Wise." His fame spread beyond his small village and people from far and wide and from all walks of life sought his advice on a wide range of matters. Once Luqmaan was speaking to a large crowd when someone asked him how, after being a simple shepherd, he could now have reached such an eminent position. Luqmaan replied that this was because he always told the truth when speaking and that he avoided vain talk. On another occasion Luqmaan told the questioner that he (the questioner) could be like him if he kept down his gaze, controlled his tongue, honoured his guests, took care of his neighbours and refrained from doing those acts which served no useful purpose.

Luqmaan the Wise gave some beautiful advice to his son, which is recorded in Chapter 31, entitled Luqmaan or the Wise, Verses 16-19 of Al Qur'aan and reads as follows:

"O my Son! said Luqmaan, 'if there be (but) the weight of a mustard seed and it were (hidden) in a rock or (anywhere) in the heavens or on earth, Allaah will bring it forth; for Allaah understands the finest mysteries, (and) is well acquainted with them.

"O my son! Establish regular prayer, enjoin what is just

*and forbid what is wrong; and bear with patient consistency
whate'er betide thee: for this is firmness (of purpose) in (the
conduct) of affairs.*

*"And swell not thy cheek (for pride) at man, nor walk in
insolence through the earth: for Allaah loveth not an arrogant
boaster.*

*"And be moderate in thy pace, and lower thy voice; for the
harshest of sounds without doubt is the braying of the ass."*

Dear children, surely you would wish your friends and many other persons to come to you to seek your views on various matters. If so, then follow Luqmaan's advice as given to his son, and *Inshaa Allaah* you may in course of time be like him.

Khudaa Haafiz



8

A TRUTHFUL YOUTH

A few hundred years ago there lived in Jilan, a small village in Persia (now Iran) a young man named Abdul Qadir (R.A.). Having learnt all he could of his beautiful religion in his small village, young Abdul Qadir (R.A.) decided, with the permission of his mother, to go to further his Islamic studies in Baghdad, which is in Iraq and many hundreds of miles away. Train and motor vehicles, much less airplanes, had not yet been invented so he had to travel the long distance by foot or on camel or horse.

It was very dangerous to travel long distances in those days because bandits would often attack travellers and steal all their belongings. So persons travelling formed themselves into groups (which were called caravans) and moved together.

Abdul Qadir's (R.A.) mother sewed forty gold coins in her son's jacket before he left. And her parting words to her beloved son were that he must continue to always tell the truth (to which he had been accustomed) regardless of what may happen. Then he set out with the caravan on the long, hard journey.

After a few days, the travellers were attacked by bandits who approached everyone except the youth and made them give up their money and other valuables. The bandits at first left Abdul Qadir (R.A.) alone because they felt he was too young to have anything valuable.

Eventually however one of the bandits questioned Abdul Qadir (R.A.) and he replied that he had forty gold coins sewn in the lining of his jacket. The bandit did not believe him and passed along. After a while a second bandit asked him the same question and he gave the same answer. He also did not believe Abdul Qadir (R.A.) but decided to take him to his Chief. The Chief asked Abdul Qadir (R.A.) whether he had anything valuable and he gave the same reply as he had on the two previous occasions. The Chief did not believe the youth but still gave the order for the jacket to be ripped open. When the gold coins fell out the Chief was surprised. He asked Abdul Qadir (R.A.) why he did not lie and say he did not have any money. Abdul Qadir (R.A.) replied that his mother had taught him that, as a Muslim, he must always tell the truth no matter what the consequences.

On hearing Abdul Qadir's reply the Chief was amazed

that a young man could be so truthful. He started to remember his whole life, which had been spent in crime from his youthful days. Tears filled his eyes and he immediately repented all his evil deeds. He gave back all the valuables taken from the travellers and he and his followers pledged to live exemplary lives from that time.

Young Abdul Qadir (R.A.) eventually reached Baghdad, where he spent many years in furthering his religious education and in improving himself spiritually. His writings and teachings have made a great impact on millions of Muslims over the centuries. They still continue to do so. He is known in Islamic history as Abdul Qadir Jilani (R.A.), and also as "The Saint of Jilan."

Dear Children, take example from the above incident in the life of a young Muslim and remember that the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) said:

"A Muslim may be anything, but not a liar."

Khudaa Haafiz



THE KHALIIFAA' AND THE EMPTY POT

Hazrat 'Umar Al-Faruq (R.A.), a noted warrior and wealthy merchant, was selected to be the second *Khaliifaa'* when the first *Khaliifaa'*, Hazrat Abu Bakr As-Siddique (R.A.), passed away. In spite of his onerous duties as

Khaliifaa' Hazrat 'Umar (R.A.) made it his duty, as he had done before being so appointed, to walk the streets disguised during the night seeking out people to offer help. One night as he was walking with his aide, Aslam, he saw a light outside the city limits. Thinking it might be a caravan in need of help, he proceeded in the direction of the light until he came upon a lady and some children sitting around a fire. The children were crying and looking at the pot with the apparent expectation that food was being prepared. Hazrat 'Umar (R.A.) approached the lady and looked into the pot to see what was being prepared. To his amazement, there was only water in it.

Hazrat 'Umar (R.A.) asked the lady why no food was being prepared. The lady did not recognize the *Khaliifaa'* because of the simple way he was dressed. She replied she did not have any food because of the negligence of the *Khaliifaa'* to help her. When asked, why then she was boiling water, the lady answered that the children would believe that a meal was being prepared and so they would eventually fall asleep. She further stated that Almighty Allaah would judge between the *Khaliifaa'* and herself on the Day of Judgement because the *Khaliifaa'* had neglected to assist her in her distress. Hazrat 'Umar (R.A.) then asked the lady how could the *Khaliifaa'* know about her plight. She replied that the *Khaliifaa'*, as a ruler, must make it his business to be aware of the needs of all his people.

Hazrat 'Umar (R.A.) was so touched at the lady's plight that tears came to his eyes. He quickly went back to the city with his aide, filled a bag with foodstuff, and placed it on his back. The aide attempted to take the bag from the *Khaliifaa'* in order to carry it but the *Khaliifaa'* refused to allow him to do so. Asked by his aide, why, the *Khaliifaa'* replied that he must carry it because he will be the one,

and not the aide, who will be questioned about the lady's plight on the Day of Judgement.

The *Khaliifaa'* soon arrived at the camp and prepared a meal himself, which he served to the lady and her children. He also gave them some money. The lady thanked him for his generosity and, still not recognizing him, told him that he deserved to be the *Khaliifaa'* because of his concern for the poor.

Hazrat 'Umar (R.A.) then took his leave, telling the lady that if she ever visited the *Khaliifaa'* she would find him there also.

Khudaa Haafiz



10

HAZRAT ALI'S CONCERN FOR THE NEEDY

Hazrat Ali (R.A.) was the first youth and the second person (after Lady Khadijah – R.A.) to accept Islam. He was only ten years old at the time of his acceptance of the new faith.

Hazrat Ali (R.A.) earned his livelihood as a labourer. He would draw water from wells for others for a small fee and, if required, would carry the water to the person's home or field. Some days he would earn a little money and on other days there would be no income. It was therefore

not unusual for him and his family to go without a meal at the end of a day.

On one occasion as a young man he earned a small amount of money by irrigating a field for a farmer. He bought some barley with the money and divided it into three parts, intending to cook one part at a time and so have three meals.

Hazrat Ali (R.A.) cooked one part of the barley and was about to partake of the meal when a beggar came asking for some food. Hazrat Ali (R.A.), notwithstanding his own hunger and need, gave the beggar the food. Hazrat Ali (R.A.) then cooked the second part of barley and was about to eat it when an orphan came requesting some food. Hazrat Ali, without any hesitation whatsoever, gave the orphan the second portion of barley, which he had just cooked.

Hazrat Ali (R.A.) then cooked the third and last portion of barley. As he was about to eat it a non-Muslim came to him and requested something to eat to satisfy his hunger. Again, Hazrat Ali (R.A.) had no hesitation in giving away the food, which he himself needed so much.

So Hazrat Ali (R.A.) went without food for the day, something he was accustomed to experience very often in his life.

Hazrat Ali (R.A.) continued to show concern for the poor and needy during his lifetime, even when he became *Khaliifaa'*. We should endeavour to follow in his footsteps and do whatever we can to assist the less fortunate in our community. Almighty Allaah will be pleased with us for so doing and will reward us accordingly.

Khudaa Haafiz

BRING SOMEONE WHO KNOWS YOU WELL

A man wanted a favour from Hazrat 'Umar *Al-Faruuq* (R.A.), the second *Khaliifaa'* of Islam. So the man took a friend with him to the *Khaliifaa'* to speak on his behalf. The friend spoke in glowing terms of the man, recommending him to the *Khaliifaa'*.

The *Khaliifaa'* enquired of the friend whether he lived near to the man so that he could observe at what times the man left his home and at what times the man returned. The friend replied that he did not live near the man and so he did not know.

The *Khaliifaa'* then enquired of the friend whether he had ever travelled with the man so that he could observe his habits. Again, the friend replied in the negative.

Finally, the *Khaliifaa'* enquired of the friend whether he had ever had any transactions with the man involving money. To this question the friend also replied in the negative.

The *Khaliifaa'* then told the friend that his impressions of the man must have been formed from seeing him in the *masjid* reciting Al Qur'aan and nodding his head. The friend replied in the affirmative.

At this, the *Khaliifaa'* told the friend to leave. He then looked at the man who wanted the favour and told him to bring someone who knew him well to recommend him.

Khudaa Haafiz

THE DELINQUENT FATHER

A man went to *Khaliifaa* 'Umar Al-Faruuq (R.A.) and complained to him that his son was always disobedient to him. The *Khaliifaa* called the boy and told him of his father's complaint.

The boy in turn enquired of the *Khaliifaa* whether he had any rights over his father, to which the *Khaliifaa* answered in the affirmative. On hearing this, the boy asked the *Khaliifaa* what were these rights.

In reply, the *Khaliifaa* stated that the rights of the child over the father were three in number, namely:

1. the father should choose a good mother,
2. the father should give the child a good name, and
3. the father should teach the child Al Qur'aan.

Upon hearing this the boy stated that his father had failed in his duties to him as he (the father) had married a fire-worshipper, had named him Ju'alaan (which means dung), and had never taught him anything about Al Qur'aan.

The *Khaliifaa* then told the father that he had failed in his duties to his son and as a result, the son had been disobedient to him. The *Khaliifaa* further told the father that he had wronged his son before his son had wronged him.

Khudaa Haafiz

HAZRAT ALI (R.A.) AND THE ELDERLY JEW

Hazrat Ali (R.A.) was on his way as usual early one morning to the Masjid to perform the Fajr *salaat*. He had to walk along a narrow trace which led from his home to the masjid. The trace was so narrow that two persons passing one another had to squeeze through in order to pass. On this particular morning there was a number of puddles of water on the trace because rain had fallen during the night. In order not to wet one's feet one therefore had to attempt to step on the numerous stones on the trace.

When Hazrat Ali (R.A.) reached a certain point on the trace he found a gentleman slowly wending his way in the same direction with the help of a staff. The man was using the full width of the trace as he moved along. Hazrat Ali (R.A.) recognised the person as an elderly Jew who was going to his synagogue as usual to perform his morning prayer. Hazrat Ali (R.A.) realised that it was getting late for the *salaat* and that he would miss it if he did not hurry. But the only way to overtake the Jewish gentleman would be to push pass him. This, Hazrat Ali (R.A.), as a Muslim, could not do. So he walked patiently behind the Jewish gentleman praying that he would reach the masjid in time to join the congregation.

In the meantime the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) proceeded to take his position near the *mimbar* so that he could lead the *salaat*. Having taken his position and performed the necessary preliminaries, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) attempted to recite *Suurah Faatihah*. To his utter surprise, however, no sound came out. He attempted to recite the *Suurah* for second time. But still no sound came out. He

made a third attempt, but still no sound came out.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) then looked up, and, seeing the Angel Jibra-il (A.S.) in front of him, asked the Angel why he had stopped him from reciting the *Suurah*. The Angel pointed towards the outer gate of the masjid where Hazrat Ali (R.A.) was taking off his shoes and distributing charity before entering the masjid. Continuing, the Angel told the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) that he had stopped him so that Hazrat Ali (R.A.) would not miss the blessings of the *salaat* because he had been delayed doing a good deed.

Khudaa Haafiz



14

THE GENEROSITY OF HAZRAT ABU BAKR AS-SIDDIQUE (R.A.)

Hazrat Abu Bakr *As-Siddique* (R.A.) was the first adult male and the third person to accept Islam. He was a friend of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and a rich merchant from a noble family. He spent generously in the cause of Islam and took pleasure in assisting the poor and needy. When the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) made an appeal for financial assistance to support an expedition to Tabuuk, Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.) took a few used household utensils. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) received the items and asked him what he had left for his family. In reply he stated that he had left Allaah and His Prophet (S.A.W.) for his family.

By the time Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.) passed away he had very little material things. Prior to his demise he instructed that these should be sold and the receipts therefrom used to pay any debts he may have incurred.

Khudaa Haafiz



15

IMAAM ABU HANIFA (R.A.) AND HIS DETRACTOR

Imaam Abu Hanifa (R.A.) is considered the greatest expert on *Shariah* (Islamic law). He was a very humble, pious and knowledgeable person. Muslims from all parts of the world respected him, and still do, for his in-depth knowledge of *Shariah*. In addition, the vast majority of Muslims in the world follow the School of Law which he developed.

The Imaam used to lecture regularly on various aspects of the *Shariah* and these lectures were very well attended. People use to travel long distances to listen to his lectures and to benefit from his knowledge.

One day the Imaam was lecturing to a large gathering when a man started to interrupt the lecture. The man questioned the Imaam's knowledge and integrity from time to time. The Imaam ignored the man completely and after a while the man stopped his interruptions.

At the end of the lecture the Imaam proceeded on the way home. The man followed him all the way to his house, repeating his accusations as he did so. The Imaam did not respond. However, when the Imaam reached the entrance to his home he turned around to face the man. He then invited the man to come into his home, telling him that he could sit there in comfort while continuing his abuse.

The man was, of course, not only very surprised but also very touched by the Imaam's unexpected action. He expressed regret for his own actions and sought forgiveness from the Imaam. The Imaam of course forgave him and the man became an ardent follower of the Imaam, thereafter.

Khudaa Haafiz



16

SULTAN SALAH-UD-DIIN (SALADDIN) AND KING RICHARD THE LION HEART

Sultan Salah-ud-diin was head of the Muslim empire at the time the various kings in Europe joined together to destroy Islam. A number of battles, known as the Crusades, was fought and the enemy was eventually defeated.

Sultan Salah-ud-diin led the Muslims in battle. He possessed all the traits of a Muslim such as humility,

kindness, mercy and generosity notwithstanding the fact that he was a warrior of note.

During the battles his greatest enemy, King Richard of England, known in history as Richard the Lion Heart, fell ill. Sultan Salah-ud-diin, in keeping with his Islamic upbringing, sent fresh fruits for the King to nourish himself and also snow so that the King could keep his drinks cool in the hot desert temperature.

Khudaa Haafiz



17

THE HOLY PROPHET (S.A.W.) AND THE WRESTLER

Rukaana Al-Muttalib was the undisputed wrestling champion of Makkah and the surrounding areas at the time the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) received the first revelation of Al Qur'aan. He was known as a mean wrestler and such was his prowess that only a few accepted his challenge or challenged him.

One day the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) met Rukaana alone near Makkah. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) took the opportunity to invite Rukaana to believe in Almighty Allaah and to become a Muslim. Rukaana replied that he would follow the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) only if he believed that what the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) was preaching was the truth.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) in turn enquired of Rukaana if he would believe in him if he defeated him in a wrestling match. Rukaana, confident of his prowess as a wrestler, replied in the affirmative. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and Rukaana then started to wrestle. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) threw Rukaana to the ground after a short while, thus winning the bout. Rukaana expressed dissatisfaction with the result and asked for a re-match. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) agreed and they started the second bout. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) again won in a very short time.

Rukaana was very surprised that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had beaten him a second time and said so. In reply the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) told Rukaana that he could give him a bigger surprise by calling a tree some distance away to come to them. Rukaana asked the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to do that. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) responded by telling the tree to come to them and it did so. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) then told the tree to return to its original position and it did so immediately.

By now Rukaana was convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Holy Prophet's Message was indeed the truth and he immediately became a Muslim.

Khudaa Haafiz



THE QADI (JUDGE) RULES AGAINST THE *KHALIIFAA'*

Hazrat Ali (R.A.) was the fourth *Khaliifaa'* in Islam. He was known for his piety and bravery, among other attributes.

Once the *Khaliifaa'* lost his armour while leading the army to a battle. On returning from the battle, the armour was found in the possession of a Jew. The *Khaliifaa'* asked the Jew to return the armour but he refused. The *Khaliifaa'* accordingly asked the *Qadi* (Judge) to rule in the matter.

The case was called and the *Khaliifaa'*, in accordance with the law, was asked to produce two witnesses. The *Khaliifaa'* called his son, Hassan, and his slave, Quambar, to give evidence on his behalf. The *Qadi* stated that under Islamic law witnesses must be independent, and the two called by the *Khaliifaa'* were not. He accordingly dismissed the case brought by the *Khaliifaa'*.

The Jew was so impressed with the principles of Islamic law and the impartiality of the *Qadi* that he not only returned the suit of armour but accepted Islam.

Khudaa Haafiz



DR. IQBAL AND THE LUXURIOUS GUEST ROOM

Allama Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal was perhaps the greatest Muslim poet, philosopher and thinker of the last century. He was born in the Indian subcontinent and was a lawyer by profession. He received numerous honours during his lifetime, including a knighthood from the British Government. His writings received acclaim from Muslims and non-Muslims alike. He was also the architect of the proposals which led to the creation of Pakistan.

Dr. Iqbal, notwithstanding the high esteem in which he was held nationally and internationally, followed in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) and so lived a very simple life. On one occasion he, along with some other persons, was invited to spend a few days at the home of a well-to-do gentleman to discuss matters of a legal nature.

On arriving at his host's palatial dwelling Dr. Iqbal was shown to a luxurious room in which he was expected to stay. As he looked at the large room and the beautiful furnishings in it, he thought of the simple room in which the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had lived and of the fact that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) slept on a mat on the floor. His eyes became filled with tears and he declined to sleep on the luxurious bed. He asked his host to have a cot placed in the bathroom and slept there instead.

Khudaa Haafiz



IMAAM BUKHARI AND THE DECEIVER OF ANIMALS

Imaam Bukhari was born towards the end of the second century of the Islamic era. He excelled in the collection of *Ahadith* and his collection of these is considered to be among the best.

Imaam Bukhari went to great lengths to ensure that any *Hadith* he entered in his collection was authentic and thus could bear the minutest scrutiny. He would travel long distances to meet and question anyone who he was told knew a *Hadith*.

On one occasion the Imaam was told of a certain man who was reputed to know a *Hadith*. The man lived a long distance from the Imaam. This did not deter the Imaam from setting out to meet the man with the view of questioning him. The Imam sought directions to the man's village and eventually reached the village as he travelled.

Eventually, someone pointed to a man as being the person the Imaam was seeking. The man was holding a basket while encouraging a horse to approach and eat from it. The Imaam remained where he was to observe what was happening. He saw the horse reach the basket and place its mouth in it to eat. To the Imaam's disgust, and the horse's disappointment, the basket was empty.

The Imaam thought, quite rightly, that if the man could deceive a dumb animal then the man could not be trusted. So he turned around and started his journey back home without even questioning the man.

Khudaa Haafiz

YOUNG SHARAFUDDEEN WAITS TILL HIS MOTHER AWAKENS

Young Sharafuddeen tried his utmost to follow the teachings of Islam. Among his obligations he knew that his duties to his parents were second only to his duties to Almighty Allaah. So he made every effort to please his parents: he would speak respectfully to them; he would show love and affection to them; he would respect their wishes; and he would be attentive to their needs.

Once Sharafuddeen's mother was not feeling too well. His mother asked him to bring a glass of water. He hastened to do so but on returning to his mother's side he found that she had fallen asleep. He was in a quandary what to do. He could either disturb her rest by awakening her, or he could wait until she awoke and give her the water. He, naturally, took the latter course of action.

After quite a while Sharafuddeen's mother awoke and saw him waiting with the glass of water. She asked him whether he had been waiting with the water all the time and he replied in the affirmative. She was of course very happy that she had such a loving and caring son and made du 'a to Almighty Allaah to keep him forever on the Path of Islam. Her du'a was answered as young Sharafuddeen grew up to be one of the most respected persons in the community.

Dear reader, remember that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) said:

"Paradise lies at the feet of thy mother."

Khudaa Haafiz

LEARNING TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) said:

"You cannot enter Paradise until you acquire piety and you cannot attain piety unless you learn to love each another. Let me tell you of a device. If you use it, you will learn to love one another. Make the practice of offering salaam to each other common among you."

As you know, when two or more Muslims meet they must exchange *salaams*. The way to do this is one says "*Assalaamu Alaikum*" (Peace be unto you), and the reply to this greeting is "*Wa alaikum Ussalaam*" (Peace be unto you also). It is recommended however that the person replying add the words "*wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatuhu*" (and Allaah's Mercy also)".

The *salaam* has a great deal of significance because "*Assalaam*" is one of the ninety-nine attributes of Almighty Allaah. The words mean 'The Source of Peace'. So that when you tell a person "*Assalaamu Alaikum*" you are in fact praying that Almighty Allaah will grant Peace to the person and protect the person and his family against all evils.

Hazrat Abdullah, the son of the *Khaliifaa'* Hazrat 'Umar (R.A.), loved the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) very much and tried to emulate him in every possible way. He had seen the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) extending *salaam* to everyone he met regardless of age or rank. So Hazrat Abdullah made it his duty to do the same. He also knew the full significance of the *salaam* and so he would go to the shopping district everyday and walk around, extending

salaams to each and everyone as he did so.

One day someone asked him why he came to the bazaar everyday but most of the times he did not purchase anything. He replied that he came to the bazaar solely for the purpose of extending *salaam* to everyone.

Dear reader, you too must follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and extend *salaam* to all your Muslim brothers and sisters everytime you meet them.

Khudaa Haafiz



23

THE FORTITUDE OF BILAAL IBN RABIAH (R.A.)

Bilal ibn Rabiah (R.A.) was the son of an Abyssinian slave. He lived in Makkah at the time when the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) received the first revelation of Al Qur'aan. His master or owner was a rich merchant of Makkah.

Hazrat Bilal (R.A.) was tall, handsome, intelligent and perhaps, above all, honest. So much so that his master would send him as his representative on trade missions to Syria. Hazrat Bilal (R.A.) also had a beautiful voice and would sing for his fellow slaves during the night, and for the benefit of his fellow travellers while riding with the caravans. In addition, the friends of Hazrat Bilal's master would request that Bilal sing at various

functions to entertain their guests.

Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) became very friendly with Hazrat Abu Bakr (R. A.) while on one of his journeys with a caravan and secretly accepted Islam at the hands of Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A). shortly after the latter became a Muslim. When Hazrat Bilaal's master found out that he had accepted the new religion he tried to persuade Hazrat Bilaal, by speaking to him at first then by inflicting physical punishment, to revert to his former belief. But Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) refused to go back to his pagan ways and would only reply "*Ahad*" (One God) when punished.

The physical punishment inflicted on Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) by his master kept increasing in intensity but still Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) kept to his new faith. Hazrat Bilaal's master, out of frustration and in the hope that an extremely severe punishment would cause Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) to recant, had him clothed one morning in a suit of metal armour. He then chained him and laid him in the hot desert sun with a stone on his chest. As the sun kept rising, Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) kept suffering more and more from the terrible heat. In addition, he was taunted and stoned by some of the polytheists. but all he would say, as he did when punished in the past, was "*Ahad*", "*Ahad*".

Late in the day Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.) happened to be passing the place where Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) was put to lie down and saw his good friend and fellow Muslim being tortured. Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.) then approached Hazrat Bilaal's master and successfully negotiated his purchase at an exorbitant price. Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A.) then gave Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) his freedom.

Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) went on to serve Islam with great

distinction, being appointed the first *muadhin*, and also treasurer of the *Bait ul Mal* (Treasury). In addition he took part in all the battles in which the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) fought.

Of Bilaal, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) said: "On the Day of Judgement I will be carried on *Al-Buraaq* (the steed which carried the Holy Prophet – S.A.W. – on the night of the *Mir'aaj* to Jerusalem), Faatimah (the Holy Prophet's daughter) on my own she-camel – *Al Qaswa'*, and Bilaal will be carried on a she-camel from Paradise."

Khudaa Haafiz



24

HOW THE 'ADHAAN WAS INTRODUCED

In the early days of Islam in Makkah there was no '*adhaan* or other announcement to inform the Muslim community of the times to offer the various compulsory *salawaat* or prayers. This was due in part to the fact that the Muslims were few in number and also a closely knitted community so they could automatically congregate at the prescribed times to offer their *salawaat*.

After the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) migrated to Madinah in the eleventh year of his mission, one of his first acts was to construct a masjid. There was initially still no '*adhaan* or other call to prayer. This naturally created some problems as the Muslim community in that City

was fairly large due to two reasons. Firstly, most of the Muslims from Makkah had migrated to Madinah and secondly, a large number of the population of Madinah had already accepted the new faith.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) eventually felt there was need to institute some method by which the Muslims would be informed that the *salaat* was about to commence. At first, he thought of using a trumpet for this purpose but discarded the idea because the Jews used this instrument for informing their followers of the time to offer their prayers.

After considering several other methods, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) eventually decided to use a pair of clappers and ordered that a set be made.

Before the clappers could be used however one of the companions, 'Abdullah bin Zaid, told the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) that he had a dream in which he saw a man in green garments carrying a pair of clappers in his hands. Continuing, Abdullah bin Zaid said he asked the man to sell the clappers to him and the man asked him the purpose for which he wanted them. Abdullah said he told the man the reason and the man advised him that a better way to achieve the purpose was to announce:

Allaahu Akbar (four times)

(Allaah is the Greatest)

Ashadu anlaa illaaha ilallaah (twice)

(I bear witness that there is none worthy of being worshipped except Allaah)

Ashadu anna Muhammadar rasuulullaah (twice)

(I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah)

Hayya 'alas-Salaah (twice)
(Come to prayer)

Hayya 'alal-falaah (twice)
(Come to success)

Allaahu Akbar (twice)
(Allaah is the Greatest)

Laa ilaaha illallaah (once)
(There is no deity but Allaah)

After Abdullah finished relating his dream to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) said that it was a true vision. He then instructed him to go and request Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.), who had a beautiful and resounding voice, to announce that it was time to perform the prayer by repeating the words he said he had heard in his dream.

Abdullah accordingly went and informed Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) of the Holy Prophet's decision. When the appropriate time came for the next prayer Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) climbed to the rooftop of a high house near the masjid and loudly repeated the words. On hearing the announcement from his home Hazrat 'Umar (R.A.) went to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and told him he had had a vision in which a man had informed him of the exact words as recited by Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) to call the prayer. Upon hearing this the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) sent praise to Almighty Allaah.

Thus Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) became the first *muadhin* in Islam. He continued to call the '*adhaan* until the Holy Prophet's death. When the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) passed away and it was time to call the '*adhaan* for the Zuhur salaah, Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) broke into tears while he was repeating the Holy Prophet's name. His love for the Holy

Prophet (S.A.W.) was so great that he could not call his name without breaking out into tears. He struggled to control his feelings and was able to complete the call only after regaining his composure to some extent. Immediately thereafter, he announced that he would discontinue the practice of calling the '*adhaan*'.

Hazrat Bilaal (R.A.) lived for ten years after the demise of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). He only called the *adhaan* on two special occasions during that period. The first was at the desecrated site of the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem, which had been located after the fall of that city to the Muslim army. The second was when, in response to a yearning to visit the city of his beloved Prophet and offer salutations at his grave, he visited Madinah. While visiting the Holy Prophet's grave he was prevailed upon by the Holy Prophet's two grandsons, Imaams Hassan and Hosein (for whom he had a great deal of love and affection) to call the *adhaan*. He did so for the *Fajr* salaah the next morning. On both occasions many of the companions of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) who heard the *adhaan* recognised Hazrat Bilaal's voice and broke down in tears, as memories of the Prophet of Allaah (S.A.W.) were brought back.

Khudaa Haafiz



ANGELS

Belief in the existence of angels is one of the seven Cardinal Articles of Faith in Islam.

Angels are created from light, jinns from smokeless fire, and man from clay.

Angels obey Almighty Allaah implicitly and cannot act on their own. They are, among other things, spiritual in nature, have no relatives, are neither male nor female, do not eat or drink or sleep, have no bodies like man, do not grow or age, do not get tired and can assume any shape they wish.

The angels have feet, shoulders, ears, hands and from between two to six hundred wings.

Angels have specific duties. The best known angels and their respective duties are:

1. **Jibra-iil**, who is the angel with the highest status and is the Messenger of Almighty Allaah to the Prophets. Sometimes he was sent to assist the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) in battles against the enemies of Islam,
2. **Asraa-iil**, who is the angel of death,
3. **Asraa-fiil**, who will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgement,
4. **Mika-iil**, who is in charge of the rain and provisions to Almighty Allaah's creatures,
5. **Ridwaan** who is in charge of Paradise,
6. **Maalik**, who is in charge of Hell,

7. **Rafaa-iil**, who is in charge of relieving the sadness of believers,
8. **Ismaa-iil**, who is in charge of 12,000 other angels, and
9. **Munkir** and **Nakir**, who question the deceased in the grave.

There are also a number of angels assigned to each person. These include:

- The two angels (*kiraaman kaatibiin*) sitting on one's shoulders: the one on the right shoulder recording a person's good deeds and the one on the left shoulder recording the bad deeds;
- the angel in front of a person, who guides the person to do good acts,
- the angel behind the person, who prevents the person from performing undesirable acts, and
- the angel near a person's forehead, who writes down the *Daruud Shareef* the person recites and conveys it to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.).

In addition, there are numerous angels with other duties. Among these are those who:

1. carry the 'Arsh (throne of Almighty Allaah);
2. roam the earth and join assemblies where Almighty Allaah is being praised, leaving only when the last person has departed from the gathering; and
3. work under the direction of other angels of superior rank.

On Fridays the angels position themselves at every entrance to the masajid and write down the names of every one entering and also the time of the person's

entrance. As soon as the Imaam sits on the *mimbar* the angels close the books in which they have been writing and prepare to listen to the *khutbah*.

Khudaa Haafiz



26

THE HOLY PROPHET'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) gave his famous and instructive Farewell Address on the evening of the 9th. of Zil Hajj in the year 10 A.H. at Mount Arafaat during the Hajj (Pilgrimage). The main points made in that Address are given below:

1. The life and property of all Muslims must be regarded as sacred.
2. Everyone will have to appear before Almighty Allaah and account to Him for his or her actions.
3. Husbands and wives have certain rights over each other, and wives must be treated kindly.
4. One should always be careful of Satan, because he wants to prevent us from worshipping Almighty Allaah and following His Commands.
5. All Muslims are brothers.
6. No person is superior to another, except in obedience to Almighty Allaah and in piety.

7. He was leaving two things, namely Al Qur'aan and his example, for all mankind to follow and anyone following these would never go astray.
8. We must always worship Almighty Allaah, offer our five daily prayers, pay our zakaat, and fast during the month of Ramadaan.
9. He (Prophet Muhammad – S.A.W.) is Almighty Allaah's last Prophet and there will be no prophet or new religion after him.
10. Those who were present must convey the Message to others and the others who heard the Message must convey it to other persons.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) ended his Message by turning his face to the heavens and asking the assembly, which numbered 120,000, whether he had conveyed Almighty Allaah's Message to them. All present replied that he had indeed done so.

Dear children, the instructions given by the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) can go a long way towards solving the problems that face the people of the world today. You must therefore understand fully the meaning and importance of all these instructions. If you do not, ask your teacher or parents to explain them to you. Once you understand the Holy Prophet's instructions, you have a duty to tell others about them. When you have done so, on the Day of Judgement you can stand before Almighty Allaah with the full knowledge that you have not only heard and understood the Message, but you too have conveyed it to other persons, as indeed you are duty-bound to do.

Khudaa Haafiz



I AM A MUSLIM

1. I am a Muslim so I believe in Allaah, and His angels, and His books, and His messengers, and in the Day of Judgement, and that all things, good or bad, are decided by Allaah, and in the Resurrection: that is, the coming to life again after death.
2. I am a Muslim so I believe that Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) is Allaah's last Messenger.
3. I am a Muslim so I believe that the Holy Qur'aan, which was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.), is Allaah's last Book of Guidance to mankind.
4. I am a Muslim so I pray at the five prescribed times every day.
5. I am a Muslim and, if I am in the necessary financial position, I pay the Zakaat or poor-rate that is due from me.
6. I am a Muslim so I fast during the month of Ramadaan from the break of dawn until the sun sets.
7. I am a Muslim so I will, if I have the financial means, perform the Hajj or Pilgrimage to the Holy City of Makkah at least once in my lifetime.
8. I am a Muslim so I do not eat any haraam (unlawful) foods, and I do not partake of any alcoholic drinks or any drugs such as marijuana and cocaine.
9. I am a Muslim so I do not take part in any games of chance such as Lotto, Play Whe etc.
10. I am a Muslim so I always respect and honour my parents.

11. I am a Muslim so I always respect my elders.
12. I am a Muslim so I always maintain my family ties.
13. I am a Muslim so I always tell the truth and I am always honest in my dealings with everyone.
14. I am a Muslim so I do not steal from or cheat anyone.
15. I am a Muslim so I always assist the poor, the sick, the infirm, those suffering from physical disabilities etc. in whatever way I can.
16. I am a Muslim so I do not speak loudly to anyone, or abuse anyone, or disrespect anyone.
17. I am a Muslim so I always conduct myself with dignity and decorum.
18. I am a Muslim so I do not speak ill of anyone.
19. I am a Muslim so I always keep my promises.
20. I am a Muslim so I never envy anyone.
21. I am a Muslim so I am always kind to animals and dumb creatures.
22. I am a Muslim so I always protect the environment.
23. I am a Muslim so I do not backbite anyone.
24. I am a Muslim so I do not betray any trusts.
25. I am a Muslim, so I will endeavour to always follow the teachings of Islam, *Inshaa Allaah*.

Khudaa Haafiz



