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LIVING AND LOVING THE YOUNG MUSLIM LIFESTYLE

All it takes
to defeat
coronavirus!

Long way
home

Ramadan goals

Comic:
When less
is more

Optimistic Hope
after despair



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All it takes to defeat Coronavirus!



A microscopic virus, something that can't even be seen with the naked eye, has brought the entire modern world to its knees. The rapid and global spread of the Coronavirus has led to various responses from governments, institutions and individuals across the world. Italy has placed the entire country under quarantine, Trump has suspended travel from Europe to the US. Local universities almost all over the world have cancelled onsite classes. They even told the on-campus students to go back home. International travel has been affected, oil prices are dipping, the stock market is crashing and there is definitely a huge global impact. The situation is changing rapidly and by the time you read this there might be much more.

All these big changes to control the spread of the virus. However, the most important thing that can put an end to the virus is not being dealt with anywhere, at least not with enough emphasis to make it a general rule. And that is to stop all means of displeasing our Lord!

Ibn Kathīr mentions that in the year 478 AH (1085 CE) a disease and plague accompanied by severe fever broke out in Iraq, Syria and Hi-

jaz. It caused both domestic and wild animals to die, leaving the people with no meat or milk. It was accompanied by black winds and thunderbolts that brought down all the trees. The people thought that the Day of Judgment had arrived!

In order to combat this epidemic, the Abbasid Caliph Al-Muqtadī bi Amrillāh (d. 487 AH/1094 CE) commanded that everyone strive to command the good and forbid the evil. All musical instruments were crushed and destroyed, bottles of alcohol were smashed and spilled, and the wicked were exiled from the land. And thus soon thereafter the disease disappeared. [Al-Bidāyah wal-Nihāyah 13/216]

This example from the past, as well as many from the life of Prophet ﷺ can serve as a sure shot yardstick in controlling any epidemic. As a general way out too, in tough times, instead of being angry and frustrated, we need to come closer to our Creator and plead Him to bestow His infinite mercy upon us.

So let's briefly discuss how we can manage our spirituality and mental health during the Coronavirus outbreak as well as the hidden unique opportunities therein.

Seek forgiveness

First up, seek forgiveness from all sins; big and small. It is not necessary that we won't sin at all. Even after seeking forgiveness, we might fall into sins again. But the thing of importance is to ask for repentance again and again, each time after falling in despair and once more become cleansed and pure.

Wash hands the sunnah way

Allah reminds us about cleanliness through the prophetic hygienic practices that Muslims are recommended to follow: washing hands upon waking, performing ablution and washing five times a day for prayers, washing before and after eating, covering mouth when sneezing, etc. Narrated Abu Hurairah: that when the Prophet ﷺ would sneeze, he would cover his face with his hand or with his garment, and muffle the sound with it.

The Prophet ﷺ also said, *“When one of you awakens from sleep, do not let him dip his hands into the vessel until he washes them three times. Verily, he does not know where his hand spent the night.”* (Bukhari, Muslim)

Do not panic

Know that nothing can harm or benefit you except with Allah's Permission. A very powerful way of quieting anxiety and fear is by being content with the decree of Allah ﷻ. Having faith in the decree of Allah ﷻ and His pre-knowledge is an integral part of Imaan. Just don't forget to read the adhkaar that Rasulullah ﷺ told us to read every morning and every evening and In'sha'Allah we will be in the protection of Allah against all kinds of harm such as magic, evil eye, diseases and sicknesses.

Something similar happened 1400 years ago. Our Mother Aishah ﷺ asked the Prophet ﷺ about the plague. He said: *“The Plague was a punishment which Allah used to send on whom He wished, but Allah made it a blessing for the*

believers. None (among the believers) remains patient in a land in which plague has broken out and considers that nothing will befall him except what Allah has ordained for him, but that Allah will grant him a reward similar to that of a martyr.” (Al-Bukhari 5734)

So even if death is written, we are granted martyrdom for it.

A blessing in disguise

All types of illnesses and diseases are a test from Allah ﷻ; they are a test of our Imaan, resilience, patience, steadfastness, and submission to Allah ﷻ. This is a reality that Allah ﷻ reminds us of in several places throughout the Quran. For example, Allah ﷻ says in Surah al-Baqarah, *“We shall certainly test you with fear and hunger, and loss of property, lives, and crops. But [Prophet], give good news to those who are steadfast, those who say, when afflicted with a calamity, ‘We belong to Allah and to Him we shall return.’”*

And the beautiful thing about this test is that in reality it is a blessing in disguise. It is a means of having our sins forgiven, being spiritually cleansed, and getting closer to Allah ﷻ. We are even learning how to be grateful for the blessings that are no longer available to us readily and we always took them for granted...going on an outing for instance.

So as we practice and endure social isolation and even quarantine, we should stop thinking of what we may be missing out on and instead start considering the ways that time could be spent in getting closer to Allah ﷻ. We pray that Allah averts this contagion from us and helps those who are sick and suffering. And most of all, may Allah grant all of us the *taufeeq* to seek forgiveness from Him over our sins. Ameen

Was'salam,

Umm Abdullah

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The sunnahs of guests

Umm Ibrahim compiles the sunnah etiquettes of being a good guest

While Islamically, there is a strong emphasis on being a good host, that doesn't mean that we have no guidelines for being a good guest. A lot of this will vary based on culture but the below are general tips which will be applicable for most people.

1. Give your host an accurate estimate of your arrival time.

If you're running behind, update him accordingly. People do have lives and responsibilities. These don't halt when they're hosting guests. If you're running two hours late, that might be enough time for your host to go run an errand instead of looking at their watch wondering where you are.

2. Bring a gift.

This doesn't have to be extravagant but some token of appreciation is nice. You can never go wrong with a nice box of chocolates or cookies.

3. Bring your own things.

Your host probably will have extra toothpaste for you to use and probably won't mind if you use some of his shampoo. Still, better to bring

your own. If you get there and realize you've forgotten it, politely ask before you use any of his toiletries.

When you're there

4. Don't make a mess.

If your host puts you in a bedroom, make sure you make the bed and straighten up the room in the morning. If you're sleeping on a couch, fold your bedding and put it neatly to the side in the morning. Offer to help with the dishes but don't push the matter if he says not to worry about it. Most Muslim hosts would not want their guests helping with household chores since that is part of their own hospitality towards you.

5. Ask before you start using things.

You might have seen where the bathroom was when you came in. Still, you're a guest and should ask permission.

6. Do not snoop.

You're a guest, not a safety inspector. Don't sneak looks inside rooms, open up drawers, or look inside their medicine cabinet.

7. If you didn't come specifically to spend time with your host, let him know your schedule.

If you're leaving his house for something, let him know. Otherwise, he'll have to guess whether you're inside your room with your door shut or if you went out for something.

8. Give your host some space, especially if you're staying for more than a day.

Your host most likely doesn't want to spend every minute of each day with you. If they're working while you're on vacation, find something to do in their city during the day so they don't feel like they're neglecting you while they're at work.

9. Pray behind your host.

It doesn't matter if you're a hafidh and your host has only memorized the last three surahs of the Quran. In his house, he is the imam. The Prophet ﷺ said in a hadith found in Sahih Muslim, "No guest should lead the host in salah while in the home of the host". If he asks you to lead, that's fine, but go in with the expectation to pray behind him.

10. Do not criticise his city.

In college, we had a Muslim speaker visit our college town to speak at a conference. During lunch (paid for by his hosts), he described our city as a "dump of a hillbilly town". Not only did no Muslim guy show up to his lecture that day, he was never invited back to our community and people still remember him as "that really rude speaker". Either compliment your host's hometown and community or keep silent.

11. Be appreciative.

If your host has planned something for you and you don't find it enjoyable, keep it to yourself.

He put in effort to entertain you, it's shameful to throw that back in his face.

Leaving

12. Don't overstay.

The maximum you should stay in a person's house as a guest is three days. Beyond that, even if they protest out of politeness, you're placing a burden on their hospitality.

13. Leave as small a footprint as possible.

You don't want your host to spend the next hour after you leave cleaning up your mess. Double check that you've packed everything, wipe down the bathroom counters for toothpaste or hair, and then strip and fold the bed-sheets and leave them at the foot of the bed.

14. Express your thanks.

You should thank him three times: when you first arrive, when you're heading out the door the last day, and after you arrive back home. For the last one, a lot of etiquette manuals will say to send a handwritten thank you note but in the modern age, cell phone communication really does suffice for this. Call them or leave a text message saying you've arrived back home and wanted to thank them for being a great host.

Make du'a for the host

The sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ teaches us that the guest should make a du'a for the host, his well-being and for an increase in his sustenance, as a token of thanks for his hospitality.

The du'a is as follows: *Allaahumma baarik lahum feemaa razaqtahum, waghfir lahum warhamhum.* (O Allah, bless them in what You have provided for them, and forgive them and have mercy on them.) (Muslim)

Ramadan Goals

By little Ummatis



by **Tooba Abdul Haseeb**

13 years

Al-Badr Higher
Secondary School

Ramadan is a very blessed month in the hijri calender. In this month we fast, we pray taraweeh and do lots of ibadah in last ten days. We should start preparing ourselves for the blessed month of Ramadan. In the month of Ramadan, Allah gives us lots of blessings. I thought of some plans for Ramadan, here they are:

First, inshaAllah I will make a chart for offering salah, reciting Quran, doing tasbeehat, offering tahajud prayer, offering taraweeh etc. Secondly, I will recite two or three juz of Quran regularly, so that I complete 1 or 2 quran in the month of Ramadan. Thirdly, I will do sadaqah regularly. Fourth, I will pray tahajud salah regularly. Fifth, I will give food to needy people. Sixth, I will give clothes to needy peoples for Eid. Seventh, I will help my mother in making iftar and suhoor. Eighth, I won't do backbiting. Nineth, I will sit in itikaf in the last ten days of Ramadan. Tenth, I will do lots of ibadah and make dua for everyone.

May Allah Taala bless us all in the month of Ramadan. Ameen.

by **Musfirah Zafar**

7 years

The Brighton School

Ramadan is the month of mercy and Allah's blessings. We all should prepare ourselves for the blessed month of Ramadan . Like I have some plans for Ramadan, I have decided to make a sadqa box and will put some money in it daily and on the Eid day I'll give it to any needy person. Next I'll make a Namaz calendar so when I pray I'll tick mark the box and my last but not the least plan for Ramadan is that I will make

a Quran corner and after Iftar and prayer of Maghrib I will read Quran everyday In'sha'Allah.

by **Sunaena Ozair**

10 year

DHACSS Ph 7 campus

Ramadan is a specific month of the year. In this month Allah subhanahu watalla opens the doors of Jannah and closes the doors of Hell. Allah subhanahu watalla orders the believers to obey him, seek forgiveness, ask for Jannah and save them from Hell fire.

In this month Allah subhanahu wataala shows blessings and rewards the good deeds more than 70 times than during the other months.

by **Haashir Muhammad Faisal**

8 years

The Intellect School

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calender. Muslims all over the world observe fast during in this holy month. The devils are chained, the doors of heaven are opened and the doors of hell are closed in this month. Fasting is not just to be hungry all day but to learn self control, sacrifice and taqwa. Muslims should be prepared for this holy month from Rajab only. As Rajab is like we are watering the plant, Shaaban is the month of planting and finally Ramadan is the month of harvesting.

by **Umme Haani Zeeshan**

12 years

Dawood Public School

Ramadan is the ninth month of Hijra or Islamic calendar. In this month of ramadan Muslims are expected to put more effort in following the teachings of Islam. Allah ﷻ forgives the past sins of people who observe the holy month with

fasting, prayer and full attention.

I have thought of some plans of Ramadan to share with all:

- Fast for the whole month.
- Help my mother in the kitchen to make sahur and Iftar.
- Do lots and lots of ibadah.
- Give charity to needy people.
- Offer Tarawih daily.
- Pray at least 1-2 juz of Quran daily.
- Worship Allah more.
- Don't do backbiting and bad deeds.
- Worship more in the last 10 days of Ramadan in Qiyam-Ul-Layl.

by **Hibba Shahid**

Grade 3, Hifz

Hira Foundation school

division of Jamia Darul Uloom

Ramadan is a special month when we seek forgiveness from Allah and Allah ﷻ has chained Shaytan. RAMADAN is a month for fasting and gaining Allah's mercy, not just avoiding food. Even fasting is a cure of many diseases. This Ramadan we need to change ourselves to become a good Muslim. This time we will give charity but with good intentions. I will help my mother in making iftari and in cleaning home. I will perform Taraweeh with my sister. In'sha'Allah I will complete 2 to 3 Quran in this month. I will do good for others as much as possible for me.

"Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent down the Quran." [2:185]

by **Aamna Niaz**

Grade 3, Education Bay School

I love the month of Ramadan and it will come soon. I will pray all the prayers on time. I will try not to eat anything till Iftar. I will wake up at the Sahoor. I will try to keep all the 30 roza and I so love the 30 days of Ramadan. I wish the whole year was Ramadan!

by **Fatima Niaz**
Grade 1, Beaconhouse School

The month of Ramadan will soon come. I will try to do these things:

I will try to help my mother.

I will try to pray all the namaz.

I will try to read all the duas.

I will try to help poor people with my pocket money inshaAllah.

by **Manal Fatima Zahrah**

Arqam Public Schools

As we all know that weather was too hot and days were too sunny during the last Ramadan so most important thing is to serve the needy people with cold water in hot days so make sure that you have extra ice and extra bottles in your fridge for them.

Also plant trees in Jannah by reading loads of Tasbeehaat like, Subhan Allah, Allahu Akbar, Al-humdulillah , first Kalamah.

by **Aamina Fatima**

Riyadh

Fast for the whole month

Worship Allah ﷻ more

Pray five times daily

Read at least 1-2 juz of Quran Pak daily

Give charity

Help my mother

Complete at least 2-3 Quran Pak in one month

Do lots of zikr and dua

Pray salat at tasbeeh every Friday

Revise the juz/surah I have memorized

Offer taraweeh daily

Spend last ten nights in qiyam ul layl

May Allah ﷻ accept and make it easy for me to achieve my Ramadan goals. Ameen

Continued on pg 14



Part 1 of 5

Long way home

Zawjah Junaid Mukaty brings us a spectacular tale of sacrifices, passion and patriotism

“Oh no! Feroze Bhai is here. I’m sure Amma must have sent him to drag me home,” I cried to my cousin, Yaseen, who was busy skipping pebbles in the pond with me and our friends.

“I will be dragged with you, dear Farooq, don’t you worry. Our mothers will be ready to welcome us at the door. The only difference is that Chachi Asma will be standing with a neem twig in her hand.” He winked at me mischievously because he knew how strict my mother was. She was a woman of principles and did not tolerate it if someone tried to break them while my Chachi Noor un Nisa, Yaseen’s mother, was a lenient lady who exhibited anger very rarely.

Amma expected me to return home at least half an hour before Maghrib and I was late. Our friends, Ramesh and Ahmed were also with us and I was more ashamed than frightened. I did not want Feroze Bhai to scold me in front of everybody.

Amma was a slim tall woman in her late twenties with a pretty long face. I still remember her big shining eyes, ready to take in every detail around her. She was an educated woman, though in her days, not many girls were educated. My Dadi Amma was a fan of my mother as she was mature and intelligent beyond her years, while her other three daughters in law – albeit obedient – could not think logically and sensibly like Amma.

Well, that day when I returned home, my mother was standing at the door but she was empty handed. No neem twigs. I could sense that she was worried. Not only her but everyone around the house was quiet.

We had a huge family living in the same house; my Dadi Amma, her four sons with their wives and her fourteen grandchildren. The love amongst relations way back in 1947 was nothing like the meagre one in today's times. Our joys and sorrows were not ours, they were everybody's. We all fit very easily in our huge haveli. I still fondly remember the white walls, broad verandas with swings where women sat and chatted, doing embroidery in the evening while children played, spacious bedrooms with elegantly carved furniture and a baithak on one side.

My younger sister and only sibling, Aliya, hid herself behind the white curtains hung on the windows of our magnificent haveli. She always expected from me to find her which she thought would be a tiring and difficult job. She was an angel. She got her cute oval face with a small nose and thin lips from Dadi Amma, I think. I loved my sister a lot but I was never to know what we would face in the coming days.

Well, that day when I returned home, my mother was standing at the door but she was empty handed. No neem twigs. I could sense that she was worried. Not only her but everyone around the house was quiet. She called me into the kitchen and handed me a tray with a jug of Lassi and serving glasses and told me to take it to baithak where the men from that area were gathered. I was about to leave the kitchen when she called me back, took the tray from

my hands and put it hesitantly on the shelf. She then held my hands for a long time and then kissed them slowly. I could see her eyes moistened but could not understand what was wrong as I was only ten years old. I wiped the lone tear falling from her eye with my fingers and asked what was wrong. She simply murmured, "May Allah protect you and Aliya from all the evils."

I entered the crowded baithak with the tray. It was an enormous room and there were many men all talking at the same time. My father and his brothers had the whole of Ludhiana in here. "So Kareem Sahib, what do you say," Chacha Muzzaffar, a whole seller of dry fruits, living down the lane, asked my eldest Chacha, Kareem.

"This demand of Pakistan is taking so many lives. We could have driven out the British and then decided what to do next," Chacha Kareem commented, who was always unhappy with the idea of a separate Muslim state.

"Kareem Bhai, let us suppose the British leave, what will be next? This persecution will then start exactly the way it has started now. We will have to understand that we need a country where we can live according to the teachings of Islam," my father tried to get even with his brother. A whole new set of accusations and approvals started simmering between the groups who did not want Pakistan and those who wanted Pakistan.

One of the senior and well-respected citizen of Ludhiana, Kaka Allah Bakhsh, then intervened, "My sons, this is not the time to fight. This is the time to act. Bigger visions need bigger sacrifices. Our demand of Pakistan is just and in order to accomplish this vision we will have to give sacrifices. So are you all ready?" Suddenly, my friend Ahmed's father roared, "Pakistan ka matlab kiya?" and the whole room echoed, "La Ilaha Ill-Allah!"

The lassi was left untouched on the side and the whole room was echoing with the slogans of "Lay kay rahaein gay Pakistan", "Ban kay rahay ga Pakistan." Kaka Allah Bakhsh was continuously patting his white beard. Thin lines were knitted on his forehead and as he continued, he intently looked at everyone, "Muslims from neighbouring cities have started migrating towards Lahore and Sialkot because after 3rd June the riots have aggregated to the extent of murder, humiliation of women and looting. Properties are being set on fire. What should we do? I have news that Ludhiana will be attacked too."

So this was the reason my mother was crying. Many times I had heard men discussing the Pakistan issue, I had seen men from our haveli participating in the rallies organized by Muslim League, but today was different. Yaseen and I quietly stood in a corner and kept on listening to the discussion.

Chacha Saleem was younger than Chacha Kareem. He was a serious, humble and kind man. He suggested, "I think we should keep our women and children at a safe place and the men should prepare to fight." He generously added, "and the safest place for our families would be our haveli." His suggestion was met with much awe and within two days our haveli was full of women and children of the area.

Children under thirteen were not allowed to leave the haveli. Amma had made teams of

women who cooked, washed and cleaned. Dadi Amma gathered the women and children and gave short sermons and taught them to read Quran correctly.

Yaseen and I took the whole situation with an adventurous air. We desperately wanted to go out and see what was going on but to be honest I was afraid of my mother. And especially after I had seen her crying, I knew she loved me and Aliya a lot so I did not want to hurt her by disobeying her.

Aliya loved solitude. She was not comfortable in such a big crowd. Amma did not have enough time to look after her five year old daughter so I tried to give her as much attention as I could. We went up to the attic and played with her dolls. There were many old books and unwanted stuff from which we found some of Amma's old story books. I read those books to her which she really enjoyed.

It had been five days since our haveli had turned into a refugee camp. Aliya was crying and desperately wanted Amma to give her some time. Amma asked me to take her to the attic and secretly gave us two pieces of bread with ghee and sugar on it. This bread was our favourite, we quickly set onto our wooden stairs and climbed into the attic. We both had our stupendous dinner and started dozing off. It was late at night and we both wanted to sleep in a quiet corner. Soon she was snoring lightly on my lap with her silky soft hair tied in a ponytail. I slept soundly with my back against the wall, unaware of our future.

I don't know what the time was at night when I woke up. The wick of the lantern had gone off but the attic was full of light. It was not the blinding light that was frightening, it was the loud piercing cries and shrieks of hundreds of humans in pain and agony

Continued In'sha'Allah...

Optimistic Hope after despair

by Abdul Rehman Siftain
Jamia Baitussalam Link road, Karachi



The glittering moon with the shimmering light of the tiny stars began to recede from the natural view by degrees, as the dawning aura embarked on to widen; the morning sky was somewhat two hours due.

There on the dimly lit and a bit dusty corridor of first floor of the incredibly built, four storey hostel, stood tiptoed with the meek help of his folded forearms, on the net-like corridor barrier, a skinny boy who was, seemingly, at the peak of his teenage. Natty in a rounded cap and grey shawl along with the gifted grandiloquent wrist watch which he was wearing unexpectedly on his right hand, he kept gazing

at the now-sun-rising sky. Every now and then his keen eyes met the north horizon. Perturbation coupled with exasperation aroused in him like the bulging lava bursting out of the gigantic volcano.

Not standing, Arsalan tried hard to relieve a series of deep sighs to lighten the burden of problems he was facing since the past couple of days. Meanwhile, the awfully cold and biting wind blew heavily, sweeping the dust in the mid air. But it seemed as though it did not affect him, who was as if solving the mysterious tragedies of his own and answering each and every question, his burning mind popped up.

The sensation of leaving his hostel with letting no one know made him buoyant. He happily packed all his gears.

“Enough is enough! This is the way it’s going to be, this is the way!” his inside yelled. “I can’t cope up with these newly rising, stricter-than-ever laws. I have to resign studying in this cage-like institute before I get rude enough to be dropped out!” Arsalan emotionally explained to himself, procuring the bravado.

Now the sun rose thoroughly and the chirping of the singing birds became audible as usual. The sensation of leaving his hostel with letting no one know made him buoyant. He happily packed all his gears. Without further ado, he made his way quite scrupulously to the road outside and emitted, this time, a triumphant sigh.

He waved at the many cars but no one responded. Then he waved again and an obsolete car screeched to a halt. The driver lowered the side mirror. He was in his late forties though he had blackened his hoary hair but his wizened face could justify his exact age. To Arsalan’s utter amazement, he was his lenient teacher. Sir Khalid!

He made some futile attempts to hide himself but there was no way at all! Sir Khalid continued saying, “Beta Arsalan, you’re supposed to be in your class, it’s nine o’clock in the morning. What on earth you’re doing here!” Sweat started rolling from his forehead to his shining skin. He took a huge gulp of breath to control over the sense organs which he virtually lost. He lied that he was on his way to home due to some serious illness, but the apprehension his face wore, told the complete opposite of his story.

Anyway, Sir Khalid induced him to tell the truth and began to sensibly explain, “Look, there isn’t any organisation in the world which doesn’t depend on its strict rules and regula-

tions because they are the roots that develop us to live a disciplined life in the society. Life is a tough, challenging task; what you have to do is to face it and never give up!” he ended his advice and then politely drove Arsalan to his hostel.

Although, the formal counsel was not enough to persuade him to study, Arsalan made up his mind not to call-it-a-day and become optimistic forever

Continued from pg 09

by **Hooria Farhan**

7.11 years

Ramadan is my favorite month. It is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and it is arriving soon. Shaytan is trapped in this holy month so people do more good deeds.

I’ve few plans to implement in Ramadan this year. These are as follows:

I will try to fast every alternate day and will read tahajud prayer when I’ll wake up for sehri.

I’ll read all five times prayers daily.

I’ll read one ruku from the Quran and do zikr daily.

In the last ten nights of Ramadan, I’ll search for Layla tul Qadr, which is better than a thousand months.

I’ll not fight with my little sister.

In Ramadan, I’ll put sadqa in sadqa box daily.

I’ll help my mother in making iftar and cleaning up.

I’ll make two Eid dresses instead of three and will give away the money for the third dress in charity, In sha Allah.

It's time to share the joy of this month with

28 GOOD DEEDS FOR 28 DAYS OF RAMADAN

Earn a thousand good deeds in minutes. Recite 15 Salawaat today	Remember all those who may have hurt you. Forgive them today and make peace	Treat others the way you want Allah to treat you	Read the meaning of Surah Ma'oon and do a simple kind act, e.g. help prepare Iftar
Visit a sick muslim and spend time with them. Perhaps cook for them or recite a surah in their presence	Recite the Qur'an after Fajr prayer to see immediate internal benefits such as willpower and stillness	Read the meaning of any surah you'd like and pick a verse to reflect upon today	Read or listen to a lecture that enhances the relationship between you and the Qur'an
Learn 5 names of Allah today and try to implement those qualities this year	Engage in dhikr and find peace and tranquility e.g. Allahu Akbar, Alhamdulillah, SubhanAllah	Reflect on your habits and pick one to work on this month. It could be very simple e.g. backbiting, procrastination, etc	Make a du'a list for Laylatul Qadr i.e. everything you want to overcome, everyone you know, where you want to be, etc
Share what you've learnt this month with somebody today	Double the joy of fasting by sharing your Iftar with somebody	Complain less today	Learn 3 supplications from the Qur'an, memorize and share them with friends and family
Be extra kind and generous today	Look around you. Notice the little blessings and thank Allah for them e.g. a bed to sleep in, the plants, a house etc	Read the first 15 verses of Surah Mu'minoon to achieve success	Stop eating when you're getting full up upon breaking your fast
Make du'a before breaking your fast. It's the softest moment of the day for the heart	Donate an amount to a charitable cause to make a contribution to the world	Recite 2 units to thank Allah for the grand opportunity to see Ramadan again. Not everybody gets to	Declutter this month and give away everything you don't need. End the month clean and free of clutter
Recite 70 Istighfar today. This is the month of forgiveness and reformation	Make a prayer for the person that sends you something, smiles at you or even walks by	Make that phone call to a family member you haven't spoken to in a while	Share Eid gifts and cards with neighbours and friends, muslim or non-muslim

Balighna
Ramadan

radiance

Hadhrat Hind bin Utbah رضي الله عنها

“History recalls Hadhrat Hind bin Utbah رضي الله عنها as a woman of character with prominent traits like confidence, valour, courage, determination and dedication,” writes Zawjah Junaid Mukaty

She was the daughter of Utbah who was a rich Quraishi man. Her husband Abu Sufyan bin Harb was the famous chieftain in Makkah and a staunch enemy of Muslims. Her son, Hadhrat Muawiyah, was the founder of the Umayyad Dynasty. Thus, all her close relations were famous and powerful.

Hadhrat Hind was first married to Hafs ibn Al Mughaira, to whom she bore a son, Abaan. When he died she married his brother, Al Fakah, whom she left for reasons which are not confirmed. After Al Fakah she had many suitors but she chose Abu Sufyan for herself as he was a brave and ambitious man.

Life before Islam

While Muslims were busy thanking Allah on the magnanimous victory in Battle of Badar, the Makkans were pouring dust over their faces. This battle had killed Hind’s father, paternal uncle and brothers but she remained calm. She did not want to make her enemies hay by crying. She promised herself that she will take revenge. She profoundly planned her vengeance. She urged the polytheist in Makkah to attack Muslims and for this she gave reasons and sermons. When they were fully ignited and ready to confront the Muslims in the foothills of Mount Uhud, she said some verses which were the last nail in the coffin.

Her next strategy was to hire Wahshi, a slave and skillful archer, to target Hadhrat Hamza, a close friend, uncle and foster brother of Prophet ﷺ. She wanted to target him because he had killed her father Utbah and helped Hadhrat Ali in executing her brother in Badar. She offered gold to Wahshi for his services.

She herself was among the women who sang and danced, urging the warriors to fight bravely. Whenever she passed Wahshi, she called, “Come on, satisfy your vengeance and ours.” Wahshi was successful in his job. He left behind the battlefield after this action as he did not desire anything else. Hind was still not content after getting Hadhrat Hamza killed. She mutilated his body and gouged out his liver and bit it but she was unable to swallow and thus spat it.

Conversion to Islam

Months and years passed and the enmity between the Muslims and Kuffar went on. In the eighth Hijra, when Muslims were moving towards Makkah before the conquest, Abu Sufyan stood on to one of the hills to view the prodigious army of Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ. While he was impressed, he was frightened too. Hadhrat Abbas, uncle of Prophet ﷺ and a close friend of Abu Sufyan, advised him to accept Islam before the Muslims enter Makkah as this was the only true religion. And ultimately Allah changed this enemy of Islam into a true practicing Muslim.

Since Hardhat Muawiyah's childhood, she trained him to become the leader of Ummah.

After converting, he went to his people and invited them too. At first Hind got angry on her husband but when the Muslims entered Makkah and stayed there, she was highly inspired by them and their ways of worship. The doors of enlightenment opened on her and she accepted Islam in front of Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ. She also admitted in front him that she used to despise Muhammad ﷺ the most but now she considers him the dearest in this whole universe.

Life After Islam

Her love for Prophet ﷺ was visibly seen. Once she sent some food and a small leather bag carrying water with her slave to the Apostle ﷺ while he was at Abtah. She also conveyed the message that their goats were giving less offspring. Messenger of Allah ﷺ made dua of Barakah. The slave returned and told Hadhrat Hind about the dua, she got immensely pleased. She was now sure that the goats will have better offspring. She was not wrong.

Battle Of Yarmouk

In the Battle of Yarmouk, the Muslims were outnumbered by the Byzantines and it was one of the most difficult battles for them. In this battle, the two companions of Prophet ﷺ who were staunch enemies of Islam in their days of ignorance, served Islam bravely and daringly. One of them was Hadhrat Khalid bin Waleed for whom this became the greatest military victory and the other was Hadhrat Hind bin Utbah. She along with other women raised the spirits of Muslim men by delivering poetries and helping them in the fight.

As a Wife

Hadhrat Hind was a zealous and dutiful wife to Hadhrat Abu Sufyan. Whether she was a polytheist or a Muslim, she always helped her husband in every way. She was the wife of the chief of Makkans therefore her duties were also of a more responsible kind. She always supported him and gave him courage in difficult times.

As a Mother

She had set very high goals for herself as mother. Since Hardhat Muawiyah's childhood, she trained him to become the leader of Ummah. This was not an easy task and for this she gave sacrifices, faced hardships and never compromised for less. At first, Hadhrat Muawiyah served as a commander and governor to Rashidun Caliphs and after them he became Ameer ul Momineen and founder of the Umayyad Dynasty. He was a successful ruler whose subjects were happy and satisfied.

Her role in educating him was also very vital. In those days, few men knew how to read and write. He was one of the seventeen literate members of Quraish then. Being literate, he also served as Prophet's ﷺ scribe. This successful leader always praised his mother for her efforts.

She was a great well versed poet. Many of her poetries are famous today also, specially the ones she said during the Battle of Uhud which she again read during the Battle of Yarmouk. Apart from poetry, many of her meaningful quotes are also famous. Because of her intelligence, her advice was heartily accepted and her wisdom continued till the end of her life. This noble and noted lady died during Rashidun Caliphate

Chocolate Covered factors

Rumaisa Naimetullah compiles some interesting activities for understanding equivalent fractions and factors of numbers

Students will discover why some kinds of chocolate bars come in 12 pieces, as they use division to share

Directions

1-Give a chocolate bar or model to each group. Ask students how the bar could be shared evenly by two people. Then ask each group to prepare a chart showing all the other ways the bar could be evenly divided. In each instance, the chart should include the number of people sharing the bar and the number of whole pieces each person would get.

2-Have students repeat with an 8-sections, 10-sections, 14-sections and 20-section bar.

3-When groups have completed their charts, talk with students about the results. Which bars were able to be divided in the most ways? Student should realize that the more factors a number has, the more ways it can be divided. For example, since 12 has more factors (1,2,3,4,6 and 12) than 10 (1,2,5 and 10), a chocolate bar divided into 12 pieces can be shared in more ways than a bar divided into 10 pieces.

Assessment

Observe students chart to see that they've found all the factors of each number. Suggest

that they use manipulatives if they're having difficulty with the "chocolate bar" of 8,10,14 and 20 pieces.

Variation

This activity can also be used as a lesson for equivalent fractions. By dividing a 12-piece of chocolate bar in half, for example, students can see that $\frac{1}{2}$ is equal to $\frac{6}{12}$, since there are 6 chocolate pieces in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the bar.

Grouping

Small groups

You'll Need

Chocolate bar divided into 12 equal sections, one bar per group

Teaching Tip

In place of real chocolate bars, you can make a copy of the model for each group.

Writing Connection

Have student make a list of other types of foods that are sold in easily divisible numbers.

Number of people who share

2

Number of pieces each person gets

6

Number of people who share	Number of pieces each person gets
2	6



Closer Than Your Jugular Vein

poetic
rush

Manahil Waqas

When your heart feels so empty
And the world seems all bleak
Don't worry my friend
Don't consider yourself weak

Because the One who loves you
The Rafeeq, The Wadood is there
Closer to you than your jugular vein
Listening to you seeing your every tear

No matter what you're feeling neither where
you are
The Almighty is there, don't you despair
No matter if you are unable to utter a single
word
With a whisper in your heart, your feelings, you
can share

Because He is As-Samee,
The Listener best of all
Just pour out your worries, your confusion
He will listen,
Even though he knows them all.



Allah

by Umm Hani Mansoor
10 years
Generations School

Allah is the one,
Who created the sun,
He made the moon and stars,
Also the planet mars.

He created valleys and mountains,
With lovely fountains,
He made the beautiful sky,
So thank Him and do not shy.

He created us with sand and clay,
So that we can thank Him and pray,
He is watching us at every moment,
So be thankful and be a loving person,
Just remember that Allah is the one!

HAHAHA!

1. What do you call a dinosaur that is sleeping?
A dino-snore!

2. What is fast, loud and crunchy?
A rocket chip!

3. Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert?
Because she was stuffed.

4. What has ears but cannot hear?
A cornfield.

5. What do you get when you cross a vampire
and a snowman?
Frost bite!

6. What did one plate say to the other plate?

Dinner is on me!

7. Why did the student eat his homework?
Because the teacher told him it was a piece of
cake!

8. When you look for something, why is it al-
ways in the last place you look?
Because when you find it, you stop looking.

9. What is brown, hairy and wears sunglasses?
A coconut on vacation.

10. How do you stop an astronaut's baby from
crying?
You rocket!

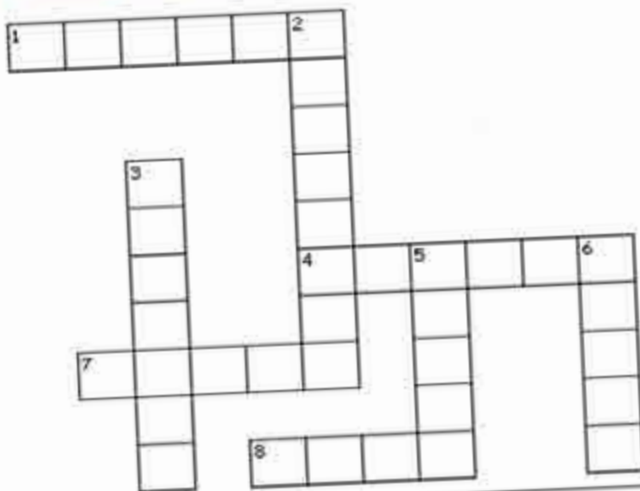
Rhymes to Remember

Finish this sentence, "Fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus..." Almost everybody knows this little rhyme to help remember when Columbus discovered America (answer: "... sailed the ocean blue"). You probably learned this fact several years ago, and you will always remember it because it has been imprinted into your memory using a rhyme.

You can use this technique to help you remember things in your daily life. For example, if you need to remember that you have a doctor's appointment, you could remember the phrase, "When I put on my sock, remember the doc." Now, every morning when you put on your socks, it's likely that you'll remember your rhyme and thus the appointment. Likewise, if you need to remember that your dad is allergic to nuts, you could remember "I'll feel like a klutz if I feed him some nuts."

A day in the park

Can you spot the 5 differences between these two pictures?



Across

1. is the English word for Masjid.
4. are created from light.
7. A Muslim enters the Masjid with his foot.
8. A Muslim enters the bathroom with his foot.

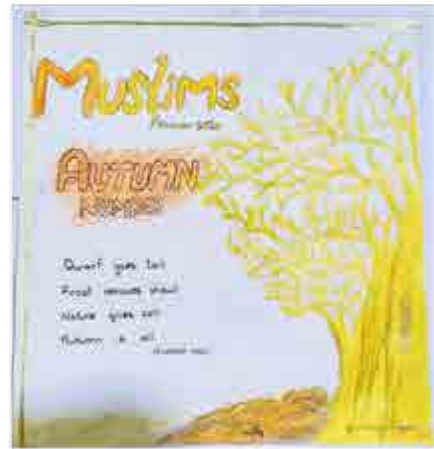
Down

2. Prophet Muhammad (SAAW) was born in the year of the
3. Prophet Muhammad (SAAW) married in the year 595.
5. Prophet Muhammad (SAAW) said "whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him be generous to his"
6. Any container that a dog has licked must be completely washed times.

fresh
artist



Hareem Faisal
Reflections



Hassan Tayab



Zainab Wazir
The Intellect School



Syed Farukh Shah



Zainab Farhan
3 years



Aiman Aamir

Brady's

The nourishing taste of Scott Baking

Plain Cake



Delicious & Delightful

Detective riddles

1. 5 and 1

Maria and Javeria went out for drinks together. They ordered the same drink. Javeria was really thirsty and finished five in the time it took Maria to finish one. The drinks were poisoned, but only Maria died. How?

2. Sherlock Holmes Cipher Puzzle

Sherlock, a detective who was mere days from cracking an international smuggling ring has suddenly gone missing. While inspecting his last-known location, you find a note:

710 57735 34 5508 51 7718

Currently, there are 3 suspects: Bill, John, and Todd. Can you break the detective's code and find the criminal's name?

3. Alexander puzzle

Alexander is stranded on an island covered in forest.

One day, when the wind is blowing from the west, lightning strikes the west end of the island and sets fire to the forest. The fire is very violent, burning everything in its path, and without intervention the fire will burn the

whole island, killing the man in the process.

There are cliffs around the island, so he cannot jump off.

How can Alexander survive the fire? (There are no buckets or any other means to put out the fire)

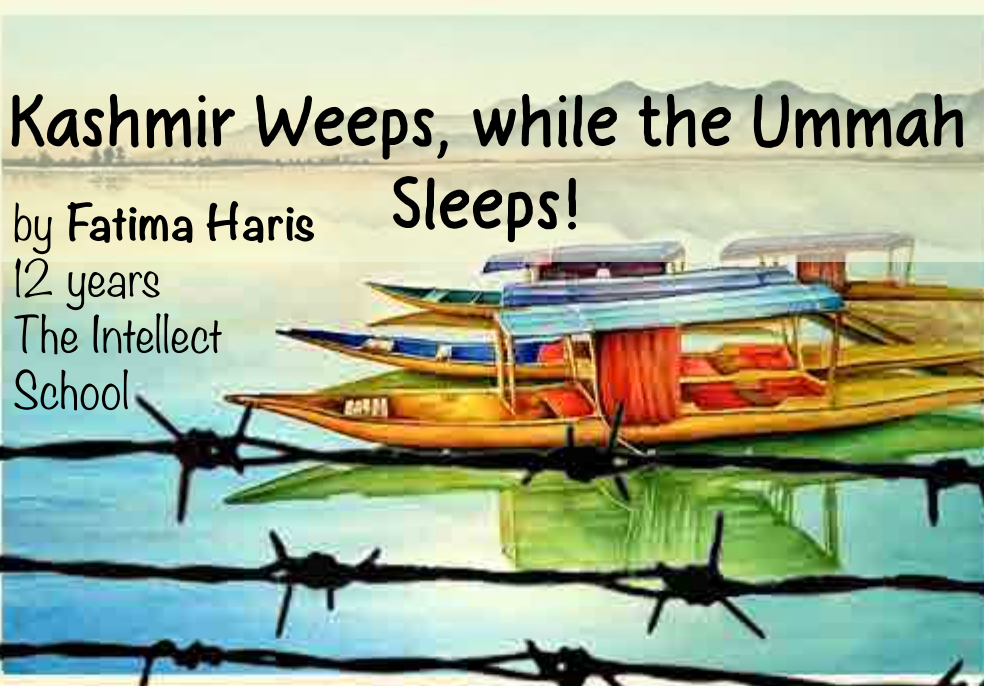
1. The poison was in the ice. Since Maria's ice had time to melt, she was poisoned but Javeria wasn't.
 2. Bill. If you read the message upside down, you'll notice that the numbers resemble letters and that those letters form legible sentences. The message is 'Bill is boss. He sells oil.'
 3. Alexander picks up a piece of wood and lights it from the fire on the west end of the island. He then quickly carries it near the east end of the island and starts a new fire. The wind will cause that fire to burn out the eastern end and he can then shelter in the burnt area.
 Alexander survives the fire, but dies of starvation, with all the food in the forest burnt... hehehe

Answers

Kashmir Weeps, while the Ummah Sleeps!

by Fatima Haris
12 years
The Intellect
School

fresh
pens



Oh Muslims! How! How do you sleep in your soft beds and rest your heads on pillows of quill when your brethren, the poor Kashmiris are being tortured and tormented? How can you remain guiltless while they endure the most inhuman treatment meted out to them? Are they not right to stand up for their self-determination?

Take a moment to put yourself in their shoes: they are locked up in their houses for more than seven months! Imagine yourself being locked up and if and when you get some respite, imagine being hit by an avalanche of fi-

rhyme, reason or feeling. It sends shivers down my spine....

Question yourself, what are we doing for them? Are we not supposed to be a single brotherhood, where the thorn of one, pains all others? Have we brought any change in our routines to at least ponder over and pray for their plight? We sleep, talk, eat, drink, laugh and go out, as if nothing has happened. Just think about it; we use the social media every day, can we not flood it with articles supporting the Kashmiris? They cry, they scream and they shout but they remain helpless.....

Maybe became the whole world is silent to their plight, no one cares or speaks for the lock down that they are facing, thus Allah is now surrounding the whole world in a lock down of the fear of Coronavirus.

ery, blinding pellets, as heartless soldiers try to break into your house and pull away your kith and kin.

Fact: 13,000 boys have been taken away from their homes into unknown, dreary lockups till now and many men are missing too. Their family members don't know if they are alive or dead!

Sometimes, I wonder how people can become so heartless; to hurt and torture without

Maybe became the whole world is silent to their plight, no one cares or speaks for the lock down that they are facing, thus Allah is now surrounding the whole world in a lock down of the fear of Coronavirus.

Come on Pakistanis, show the world that we are with the Kashmiris.

May Allah taala's infinite help descend upon all the oppressed Muslims around the world.
Ameen

When less is more

Concept by Zawjah Zia

Artwork by Zawjah Jahangir



Here's your pocket money Ahmad betal.

Yesss! JazakAllah khair Baba.



Don't forget to take out some sadaqa from it dear, even just a bit that you spend for Allah ﷻ It shall put barakah in what you have ان شاء الله!



Umm, how will I know if the barakah came or not?!



You'll feel as if even a little is more than your needs...barakah makes less feel more..



Wow! You know baba....I think I already have barakah in my exams datesheet.... its only 15 days but feels like ages!!



Ehh, yes if you want to put it that way!

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