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the joys of
submission!

radiance

LIVING AND LOVING THE YOUNG MUSLIM LIFESTYLE

Comic:
When I grow up

Name,
Place,
Animal,
Thing

My time,
my life!

Guilty
remorse





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My time, my life!

My time...sigh! Where does it fly away...sigh sigh sigh! Will I be able to find the time to do any Ibadah or anything else that's productive? Ever?

This is what most of us nowadays are found complaining about. We think we don't have time but the reality is that we are suffering from the problem of too much spare time – as we aren't involved in anything productive. No vision in life, no big dreams, and hence, no challenges to keep us occupied. And most importantly, we are not bothered about seeking guidance from the resourceful ones – the Auliya'Allah (lovers of Allah ﷺ); just by sitting in whose company we are showered with infinite blessings.

In an attempt to rid ourselves of the depression that this lack of vision brings along, we then turn

towards all sorts of evils to keep us occupied and entertained when we could and should be doing something productive. Like recently someone told me, "Whenever I have time I watch TV and I hate it. I do not really want to watch it, but I sit in front of it for ten hours."

Imagine ten hours! Sure sounds insane but then that's the least amount of time that the youth today spends in front of their screens watching silly videos and chatting away with their so-called friends. How lame is that?

This all is because we don't understand what time really is. The Prophet ﷺ said: "There are two blessings which many people do not make the most of and thus lose out: good health and free time." (Bukhari)

So if time is so important, then a Muslim should not have any free time at all, for he should be going from one act of worship and obedience to another. If he cannot spend all his time in ibadah, he may spend some of his time in permissible pursuits, in which he should ensure that his intention is correct and his goal to please Allah ﷻ, so that he may earn reward thereby as well. Like excelling in worldly studies and keeping the niyyah to spread deen through that knowledge In'sha'Allah.

Secondly, there is no doubt that wasting time causes deep depression in people because they begin to feel that they are like animals that eat so they can sleep, and sleep so they can eat again. Hence we see many disbelievers ending their lives through suicide, after being effected by depression and other mental disorders.

What good things can you do then to keep yourself busy you ask. There's reading a book for instance. The books of our righteous Salaf have such wisdom and Noor in them that even by looking and holding them we derive immense joy, so imagine how much barakah we would get by reading them. It's very rightfully said, 'readers are leaders'. We can learn a new language, Arabic especially. Listen to

tapes and lectures, and write summaries which we can distribute to those who will benefit from them. Learn some useful areas of worldly knowledge such as cooking, sewing, etc. Talk to your mom and dad. Surprise your siblings. Fulfill a dream like writing your own book someday. Go to the Masjid/Madrassah. Volunteer there as well as in their online programs. Find righteous friends with whom you can meet and get together. Adopt a cause affecting Muslims in the country where you live, such as helping to teach them a skill that you know, undertaking charitable projects, and so on. You get the point—there's SO MUCH more to do in real life, the real world than destroy our brain cells with fleeting FB chatter and fake friends.

May Allah help us to do all that is good and especially make us value our time by saving it from the scary clutches of the lions of time-wasters. These lions are worse than a real lion for a real lion would cause our body's death, but the lions of time-wasters would cause the death of our Imaans

Was'salam,

Bint Zahid

Editor.radiance@gmail.com

"Knock, And He'll open the door
Vanish, And He'll make you shine like the sun
Fall, And He'll raise you to the heavens
Become nothing, And He'll turn you into everything."

Mualana Rumi Rahimahullah

"Declare your jihad on thirteen enemies you cannot see -egoism, arrogance, conceit, selfishness, greed, lust, intolerance, anger, lying, cheating, gossiping and slandering. If you can master and destroy them, then you will be ready to fight the enemy you can see."

Abu Hamid al-Ghazali Rahimahullah

"The world is 3 days: As for yesterday, it has vanished along with all that was in it. As for tomorrow, you may never see it. As for today, it is yours, so work on it."

Al-Hasan al-Basri Rahimahullah

"The bigger the desire you have for a sin, the bigger would be your imaan if you leave it."

Ibn Qayyim Rahimahullah

"What has he found who has lost Allah?
And what has he lost who has found Allah?"

Ibn Ata' Allah al-Iskandari Rahimahullah

Respected Radiance team and the readers,
Assalamualeikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Radiance magazine has always positively influenced my life and encouraged me to make myself better. Below I am going to share three things that I had learned from the Radiance Magazine and the Radiance Whatsapp group.

1. Radiance magazine is full of interesting stories and lessons. Once I was going through its shiny fresh pages and an article 'Like a hajji' hooked me up and took me few months back when Allah ﷻ blessed me and my family with an opportunity to perform Hajj. I pelted the Shaitan with the intention of never ever being his friend again.

But after getting back home, slowly I started to get back to my previous attitude where I showed less care towards what was goods and what was bad. At times this attitude bothered me so I prayed and sought help from Allah ﷻ for my strong imaan. Alhamdulillah, Allah ﷻ helped me out and made me read this article 'Like a hajji' written by the Editor. While reading it, I kept on wondering, "Is it about me?" Now I know how to fight back shaitaan and pelt him anytime I want, by simply saying "Istighfaar" as much as I can. Especially at times when shaitaan tempts me towards the wrong by whispering in my ears.

2. I had many stuffed toys like polar bears, squirrel, rabbit and monkey in my room. I used to love them all and could never think of throwing them away till one day when my mother told me that I have been given an activity based homework from my favourite Radiance group. But before explaining the activity she said that first I had to listen to a bayaan. I was wondering what it could be about. She played the bayaan and the Hadhrat Abdul Sattar Sahib was saying that once our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ entered his house and saw a curtain with pictures of living creatures on it. He got very angry and at once tore it apart and then he said, "On the Day of Judgment, worst kind of punishment will be given to those who make such pictures." On another occasion, our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, "Angles (of mercy) do not enter a house where in there is a dog or a picture of any living creature."

After letting me hear this my mother asked that what did I learn from this bayaan? Instead of replying I kept silent and started to look around my room. Within few seconds I knew what I should do. I got up and collected all my stuffed toys, which used to be my favorite but now I didn't even want to look at them and threw them out of my room and told my mother that I didn't want to keep them anymore. Later I with my mother, mutilated all the other stuff like my pencil box, sharpeners, books etc and within half an hour my whole room was free from all faces and pictures; just like the way our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had taught us. I was very happy and I could even feel the angles coming in my room. I love my room even more now.

3. Last but not the least, is the section of leading light. This section of Radiance magazine by Zawjah Junaid is full of inspirations from our beloved Sahabah-e-Rasool. Every month I love to read about the blessed lives of our great Sahabah and try to be like them. They all are like shining stars and the way they used to love our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and never hesitated in sacrificing their lives for Allah ﷻ and his Messenger ﷺ was the thing I found missing in my life.

Alhamdulillah and Jazak'Allah to the Radiance team.

Was'salam,

Muhammad Abaan Atif Khan

8 years

Nakhlah School

Raised high in honour

radiance
of the
pious

*A touching extract from the spiritual discourse of
Hadhrat Abdul Sattar Hafidhahullah on the reality
of true friends*

The beloved Prophet ﷺ said, “A person will be raised on the day of Judgment in the company of whom he loves the most.”

Whoever we love the most in the world—our heroes, our idols, the people we admire and imitate, they will be the ones we will stand with on the day of Qiyamah. The man or woman we discuss with our peers, defend against haters, stand with and support with our maximum effort, he or she will guide us into Heaven or Hell. Where they stand so will we, where they will go so will we. So just imagine;—if we love and support the Sualiheen, the Chosen Ones of Allah ﷻ, the Aawliyah-Al-lah, if we defend them against their critics and support them in their endeavours, if we express our love for them with our every word and deed, then no matter what are our deeds, no matter the amount of mistakes we make, Insha’Allah we will be raised on the day of Judgment shoulder to shoulder with them; we will be identified as

their friends and will be standing in their company.

The Sahabah ﷺ said that they had never experienced more happiness than when they heard this Hadith of the Prophet ﷺ, that whoever a person loves he will be raised on the Day of Judgment in his company. The sahabah felt so because they knew that even if they made mistakes in this world, even if their good deeds were not numerous, but they were confident in their love for the Prophet ﷺ. They loved him more than their parents, their children, their wives and friends, and so were given assurance with this Hadith that on the Day of Judgment, they would be with the Prophet ﷺ.

May Allah ﷻ give us the company of pious people and fill our hearts with the love for the Sualiheen, so that on the Day of Judgement we too will stand with our heads raised high in honour for being in the company of the truly successful In’sha’Allah

Guilty Remorse

This diary by Rabia Khalid Lakhani has much food for thought for the unruly teenagers around

“Why doesn’t anybody care? Why is it always me? Where are all the smiles and praises I get when I get good grades? Are they only for my marks? Am I a wonderful daughter just because I am an excellent student? Why do I feel left out of everything? Why do I feel my life is a lie, so miserable? Why?”

Mom knows I was busy yesterday, what’s her problem? I have to study for my exams, I can’t bother with my room right now! She knows that quite well! And if I don’t get good marks,

once only. Just heard her voice on the phone. Three years since her mother had passed away. A mother herself now, she understood the dilemma she had been in years ago, how wrong she was.

Time had been a valuable teacher. Longing to hear that voice, her mother’s voice. High-pitched, asking her to study. Maliha desperately recalled the moments when she had endlessly complained and retaliated at her mother for not understanding. But now she would give

Maliha desperately recalling the moments when she had endlessly complained and retaliated at her mother for not understanding. But now she would give anything to hear that voice again.

I have to hear her lecture on how I don’t work hard enough! Even when I clean my room, half of the mess is made by my sister! This is so pointless!

She stared at the page of a diary from her past, taking in what her seventeen year old self has complained about, lost in her own thread of thoughts, her timeline...

Fifteen years since she had written this, eight years since she had gotten married, gone abroad and hadn’t seen her mother but for

anything to hear that voice again. That praise, that anger. How ungrateful had she been! It was her who had not understood, not cared, not her mother. Oh, how she wished she could travel back in time to fix her mistakes! Hug her mother, say sorry, forget those ungrateful moments.

She jerked out of her pool of guilty contemplations and turned the page with a mourn of longing and deep regret, ‘Oh Maliha! Why could you not have learned this earlier?’, her thoughts plunging her into a dark despair of remorse...

1. Guess the colour

There is a house with four walls. All of the walls are facing south. A bear is circling the house. What colour is the bear?

2. All alone

There is a dead man in the middle of a field, nothing is around him and there are no footprints of any sort. There is an unopened package next to him. How did he die?

HINT: As he approached the field he knew he was going to die.

3. Surprise party

David is throwing Robert a surprise party but he has to stay within his budget. He spent half of his money plus \$2.00 on the food. Half of what he had left plus \$2.00 was spent on balloons and streamers. Then he spent half of what he had left plus \$1.00 on candy. Now he is out of money, how much did he start with?

3. This one is best solved working backwards, the last part David spent half of what was left plus \$1.00 on candy and then was out of money. That means he must have spent \$2.00 on Candy as \$1.00 was half of what he had using the same logic backwards: \$2.00 on candy \$6.00 on Balloons and Streamers, \$12.00 on the food. Total of \$20.00.

2. Failed Parachute

1. White. If all walls of the house are facing south, the house must be on the North Pole, so the bear is a polar bear.

Answers



My favourite magazine

by Aiman Aamir
9 years
DA Public School, Karachi

I rush downstairs,
Pick up my favourite magazine!
Here is my comic,
I wonder what does it mean?
I learned from it a lot of things,
No, it's not about big kings.
It's about a boy who's of my age,
His skin colour is beige
He's always doing,
Something funny or bad.

But he always gets his lessons,
From his Mom and Dad.
Every time it's something new,
Honesty, sharing and patience,
To name a few...
I am glad that I have Radiance!
It fills my mind and heart,
With Knowledge of deen and
Guidance for eternity.

I Can Make A Difference

by Raveeha Muneer
11 years, USA

I can make a difference,
In this world,
By saving water,
Stop wasting gas,
And doing lots of other things which would be helpful.
It would be a dream come true,
If I could save the world.
It can take one person,
Just one,
And, Oh! Wouldn't it be wonderful?
If that one person could be me.

Name, Place, Animal, Thing

An ode to the good ol'
game of name, place,
thing and an insightful
experience shared by
Umm Aymun, a
home-schooling mother
of three

heavenly
highs

Yes, that old, forgotten game is the latest craze in our house. I wonder why and when this wonderful learning game was taken over by the flashy, electronic gadgets and games – even I had forgotten and abandoned it. But then our almost five-year old discovered it and for days at length, she would play nothing else but “Name, Place, Animal, Thing”. She played it orally and in writing; at home and in the car; early morning and late night; at breakfast table and at dinner; with mom, dad, sisters and I suspect, on her own too. She added the category “Food” to the game and it did become more exciting; for food you could mention any food (drink, raw or cooked) and you could use any language (Urdu, English or Arabic).

At first she needed some help and teamed up with one of us, but even when she played singly, the opponents would help her out ‘secretly’ because we knew the immense value of the game and the sheer pleasure it was for her. Hanaa had to be the winner most of the time, as is the rule in our household for the youngest one – it’s a part of our confidence building program! She didn’t mind losing once she knew that she was playing fairly.

What great surprises came along – I can’t list them all here:

Phonics of course, vocabulary building for sure but more amazingly geography, map study, independent thinking, time management, math and spelling all with leisurely learning. She already had an interest in maps and flags due to her Magnetic Flags book, but now she started doing a Flags Sticker book which she loved. Grouped by continents, it has images for each country’s flag, with matching stickers in the middle and an index of all countries at the end. Hanaa used this book for hours and used the new country names for her game. Wanting to be unique, she started mentioning countries like Andorra, Djibouti (for a place with D, not J!) Gabon, Kiribati, Luxemburg, Palau, Togo and Kyrgyzstan!! Honestly, we all were learning a lot with her too. She realised the difference between countries and cities, and the Atlas was her next stop in the ‘place’ hunt!

For animals, we used a site <http://a-z-animals.com/> to come up with difficult letters (like U, V, X) and she quickly memorised those she needed. She frequently mentioned animals that she knew from her study of

Continued on pg 13

Sweet little reminders

Life's sweet pleasures and lessons can be found in little things, we only need an eye to see deep and a heart to think clear like the mother, Zawjah Amir, did in this story MashAllah

P“Please Haniya, we are getting late for bed. Why don't you tidy up this mess and put these things in the drawer?”

It was a normal day and the usual way of putting my girls to bed. I was expecting a very casual answer from my five year old daughter and I proved to be right: “Mama I'm going to put only my things in the drawer and the rest of the things are Api's so she should put them away!” she retorted in her sleepy, tired voice.

I was about to scold her when I decided to hold my tongue and try something more effective. “Hmm.. but aren't you in a mood to earn some good deeds to end your day?”

Suddenly her tired voice was replaced with something totally opposite - an excited tone: “Oh yes Mama, of course, I would like to!”

And before I could say anything, everything was at its place. And I couldn't help but say Alhamdulillah. As we were getting into bed my elder daughter came out of the bathroom and found her book lying around. She asked her younger sister: “Will you please put it in my bag, dear?” I knew it was too much to ask the little one now, but to my surprise, my younger and naughtier one was quick to obey. And as soon as she came back, she looked at me expectantly. “Mama, so how do we know how many good deeds have we earned?” Her eyes were shining with anticipation.

“Mama, so how do we know how many good deeds have we earned?” Her eyes were shining with anticipation.

“Well, you don’t need to know. Whenever you make an intention that you are doing a good deed for Allah ﷻ, just know that you have earned one!” I explained.

“Yes Mama, my Islamiyat teacher has told us that if we read Alif laam meem, we get 30 good deeds for it.” My elder one got interested in the conversation too.

“Oh yes, my dear! But you never know how much reward we get for one good deed. It totally depends on the weight of our good deed,” I added without realising it would cost me 10 more minutes of discussion.

“Huh, weight of deeds? What’s that mama?” the elder one was keen to know. I knew I should be clear in order to make it simple and understandable for both of the girls.

“Well, you see when you do a good deed, the reward depends on how you did it, and with what intention. Like sometimes we might do good deeds

to show people how good we are. That’s what’s called showing off. For example, if you read a few lines of the Holy Quran with the intention of pleasing Allah ﷻ you might get a lot of reward for it, depending on how sincere you were in your recitation. And if you read an entire page of Quran just to show someone how well you can recite, you might not get any reward, because Allah is the one who gives the reward and if the deed was done for that person instead of for Allah, then why should Allah give the reward for it?

In this way, the weight of the deeds actually depends on your intention and your efforts. So next time whenever you want to earn rewards, just make an intention to please Allah ﷻ and you’d have done a good deed. Right?” I wrapped up the conversation.

“Yes Mama!” both girls chorused and their faces showed that they were at ease now. And so was I. What a blessing it was to understand and remind myself many things because of my girls. Alhamdu-lillah

Continued from pg 11

For names she always preferred names of the Prophets, then names of the Sahabah and then Muslim names. She took great pride in naming the Prophets, whose stories are her favourite. She also usually preferred a Muslim country. She learned counting in tens and fives quickly for scoring up her attempts.

In the beginning her spellings were funny but as a rule, no unsolicited correction was offered. Within a couple of weeks she improved immensely on

spelling herself, and started writing some completely correct ones.

To top it all, she started writing not one but many items with an alphabet in order to win the game by being unique.

To be honest, it started getting on my nerves and thankfully for the time being she seems to be shifting towards her other craze – biking!

When I

Concept by Z

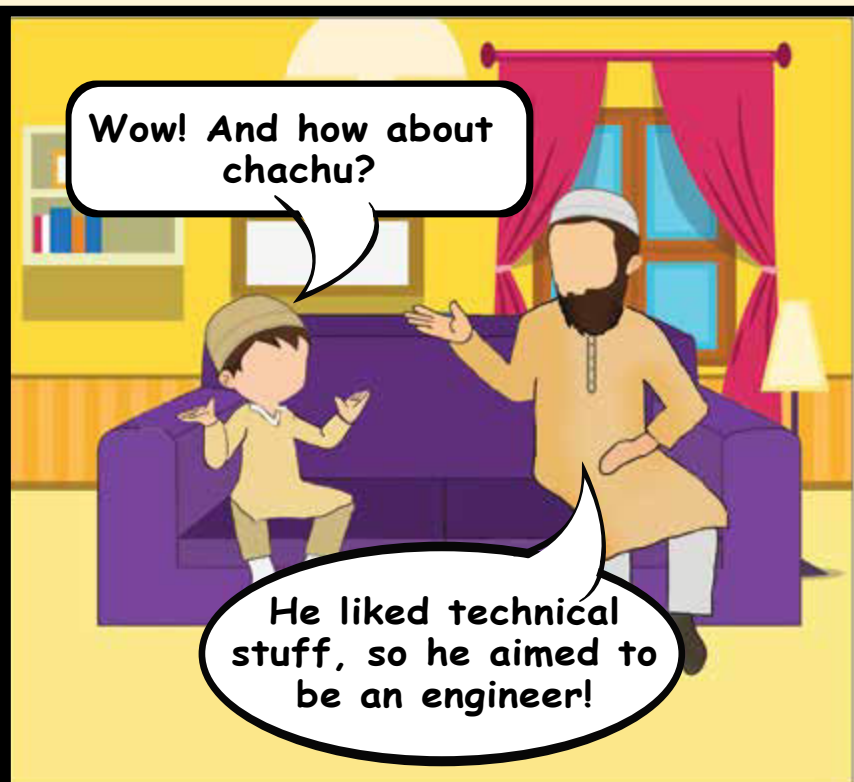
Artwork by Zaw



Grow Up

Zawjah Zia

Jah Jahangir



Riddles

Q1: How many seconds are there in a year?

Q2: I am the beginning of the end and the end of time and space. I am essential to creation, and I surround every place. Who am I?

Q3: Flat as a leaf, round as a ring; Has two eyes, can't see a thing. What is it?

Q4: A horse was tied to a rope 5 meters long and the horse's food was 15 metres away from the horse. How did the horse reach the food?

Q5: Other than being colours, what do the words orange, silver and purple have in common?

language that rhymes with them.

A5: There is no word in the English

reach the food.

A4: The rope wasn't tied to anything so he could

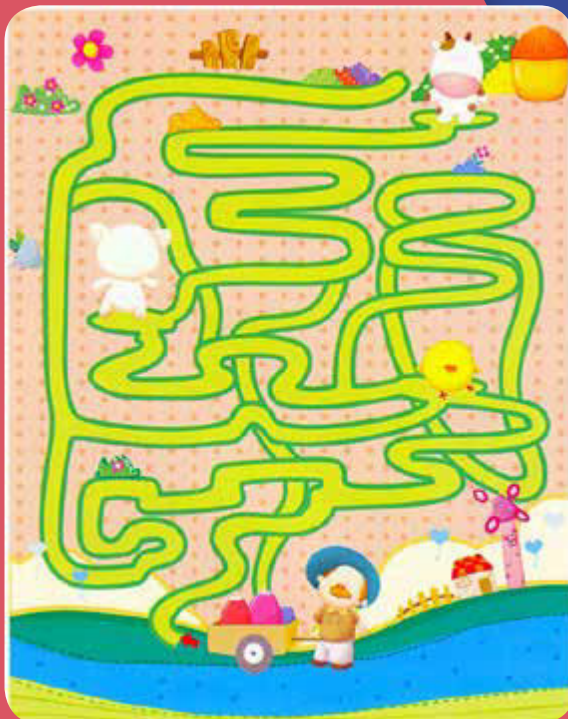
A3: Button

A2: The letter E.

February 2nd, March 2nd...

A1. Twelve—January 2nd,

Answers



Corrigendum

The poem 'The things that matter' in the July issue was written by Bint Mohsin. By mistake the writer's name was changed.

The 'Ramadan Quiz' published in the June issue of the Radiance magazine was written by Haadiyah Sajid from Islamabad. We highly regret the error of having omitted the writer's name.

In the same article, there was a question regarding taking injections during fasting and it said that taking injections is disallowed for a fasting person; what it meant was that taking an injection for nourishment purposes during fasting is unpermissible because that comes under the ruling on eating and drinking. However, we want to clarify here that apart from this, it is permissible for a fasting person to take medicine by injection, whether intramuscular or intravenous, during the day in Ramadan. Nevertheless, if the injection can be given at night, that is better.

Make a Tornado in a Bottle

What you'll need:

- Water
- A clear plastic bottle with a cap (that won't leak)
- Glitter
- Dish washing liquid



Instructions:

1. Fill the plastic bottle with water until it reaches around three quarters full.
2. Add a few drops of dish washing liquid.
3. Sprinkle in a few pinches of glitter (this will make your tornado easier to see).
4. Put the cap on tightly.
5. Turn the bottle upside down and hold it by the neck. Quickly spin the bottle in a circular motion for a few seconds, stop and look inside to see if you can see a mini tornado forming in the water. You might need to try it a few times before you get it working properly.

What's happening?

Spinning the bottle in a circular motion creates a water vortex that looks like a mini tornado. The water is rapidly spinning around the center of the vortex due to centripetal force (an inward force directing an object or fluid such as water towards the center of its circular path). Vortexes found in nature include tornadoes, hurricanes and waterspouts (a tornado that forms over water).



Test your knowledge of the world with our fun country quiz for kids! Answer a range of interesting questions related to countries from all over the globe.

How many do you know? Give it a try and find out! Scroll down and check your answers after you've finished.

1. What country has the second largest population in the world?
2. In what country would you find the cities Glasgow and Edinburgh?
3. What country has a maple leaf on their national flag?
4. What country is home to the Great Barrier Reef?
5. Tapas and paella are dishes that originated in what country?
6. What country was the first to land a man on the moon?
7. What is the largest country (by size and population) in South America?
8. In what country is the Yangtze River found?
9. The kiwi is a flightless bird that lives in what country?
10. In what country would you find the islands Santorini and Mykonos?
11. In what country was Nelson Mandela born?
12. Adidas and Volkswagen are companies from what country?
13. Zurich is the largest city in what country?
14. In what country is the Great Pyramid of Giza found?
15. In what country would you find the cities Lyon and Marseille?
16. Leonardo da Vinci was born in what country?
17. In terms of land area, what is the largest country in the world?
18. What country was known as Ceylon until 1972?
19. In what country would you find the cities Ankara and Istanbul?
20. Mount Fuji is the highest mountain in what country?

Answers

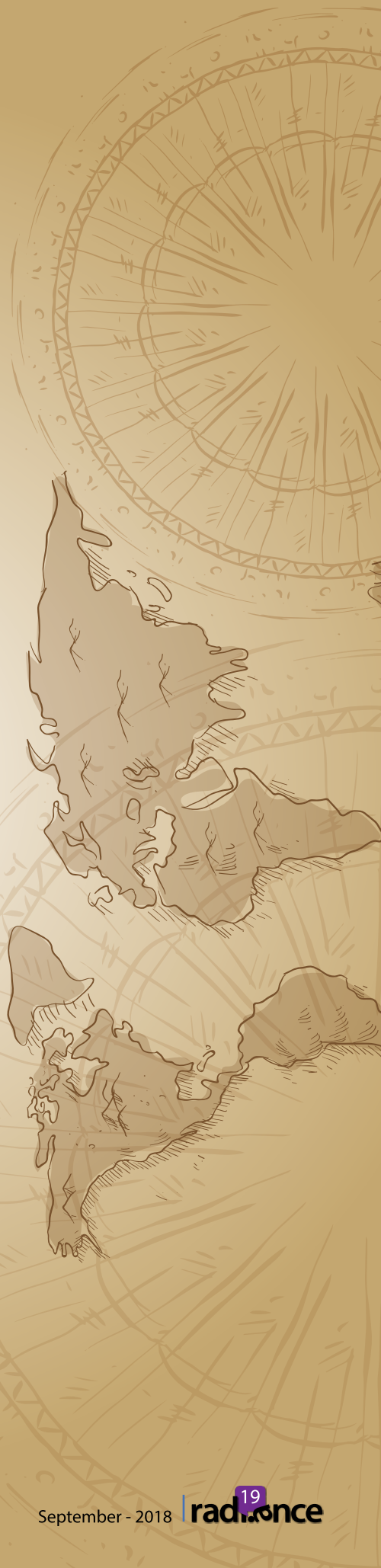
Country Word Scramble

Answers

1. PNISA
2. IHLCE
3. TARAALISU
4. YRWOAN
5. IIDAN
6. NELAGND
7. MIEUBLG
8. NJAPA
9. ADAANC
10. CRFENA
11. BIALZR
12. SGPNROIEA
13. NDRMAEK
14. RUTALPOG
15. PYETG
16. JIIF
17. GMYNAER
18. TYUKRE
19. EDRLINA
20. IEAANTNGR

1. SPAIN
2. CHILE
3. AUSTRALIA
4. NORWAY
5. INDIA
6. ENGLAND
7. BELGIUM
8. JAPAN
9. CANADA
10. FRANCE
11. BRAZIL
12. SINGAPORE
13. DENMARK
14. PORTUGAL
15. EGYPT
16. FIJI
17. GERMANY
18. TURKEY
19. IRELAND
20. ARGENTINA

1. India
2. Scotland
3. Canada
4. Australia
5. Spain
6. USA
7. Brazil
8. China
9. New Zealand
10. Greece
11. South Africa
12. Germany
13. Switzerland
14. Egypt
15. France
16. Italy
17. Russia
18. Sri Lanka
19. Turkey
20. Japan



Sahla Aman



Hasan Fareed
7 years



Maria Armoghan



**Muhammad Ibrahim
Jahangir**



Haniya M. Waqas
4years



Rumaisa Siddiqui
9yrs



Maira Naveed
11 years



Barika Mughal
10 years



Zahra Azhar



Maliha Imran



Hafsa Asad
4.5 years



Emaan Ahsan
6.5 years



HADHRAT SALMAN FARSI رَضِيَ عَنْهُ



Zawjah Junaid Mukaty brings to us an enchanting narration of Hadhrat Salman Farsi's ﷺ quest for the true deen and the vast ocean of knowledge that he was

Maba had just managed to break the fetters and escape his father's house. He was a guardian of a fire temple, and son of the chieftain of a village in Isfahan. He was destined to be a Zoroastrian priest until one day when he heard the Christians in a church. He was greatly moved by their manner of calling upon God. He liked it. He found it better than his own religion.

This affection for a new religion was not acceptable to Maba's father. Thus he put his son in chains, however Maba managed to flee. From his hometown he travelled with a business caravan to Syria in his quest for the truth. Upon reaching there, he presented himself before the priest of the church and requested him to allow him to

stay with him and learn about Christianity.

His request was accepted but unfortunately, the priest turned out to be a fraud. After sometime, the priest died and another priest was appointed, who was pious and ascetic. Maba spent most of his time in his company and devoted himself in worshipping God.

When the time of death of this priest came, he advised Maba to go to Mosul where he would find a priest like himself. Maba set off and joined him there but it was not long when he was also on his deathbed and told him to go to Naseebain. The long journey of Maba was not about to end in Naseebain as the bishop there, who was about

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to die, told him to go to Ammuriyah (area close to Rome).

Maba was a man with strong willpower. He wanted to learn the right religion, therefore he headed towards Ammuriyah. This destination was not his last. The bishop there said, "There is no other place where I can send you. The time of a new predestined Prophet has come. He will rise from the deserts of Arabia and will migrate towards the oasis. Between his shoulders will be the seal of prophethood. He will eat food, provided it is a gift and not a donation. If you can reach that city, then do so, you are very close to his era."

Maba's excitement was at its peak. He asked people of Kalb tribe who were passing through Ammuriyah to take him along in exchange of whatever he possessed. They agreed. When they reached Wadi ul Qura (a valley between Syria and Medinah), the Arabs betrayed him and made him a slave and sold him to a Jew in Medinah. Eventually, Maba reached Banu Qurayzah in Medina, the oasis, which was how the bishop at Ammuriyah had described it.

Maba kept on working at his master's orchid. One day he heard the news of a Prophet migrating to Medina. He was thrilled to hear the news, but it was now time to check for the signs that the bishop had told him. He took some dates to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his companions and offered them as Sadaqah. He observed that the Apostle ﷺ distributed the dates amongst his companions but did not eat them himself. Next time he took eatables with him and offered them as a gift, Prophet ﷺ distributed them and ate himself too. Another sign was positive.

One day Prophet ﷺ was walking in a funeral, draped in two pieces of cloth. Maba followed him trying to steal a look at the seal of prophethood. Prophet ﷺ saw him glancing. He dropped his cloak a little bit for him to see the seal. The last sign was also positive. Maba threw himself down before Prophet ﷺ crying and kissing his hands.

Prophet ﷺ heard his whole story and changed his name from Maba to Salman, who we all know as Hadhrat Salman Farsi ؓ.

Hadhrat Salman's ؓ master put forward a very difficult deal in order to set him free. He wanted hundred date palm trees and sixteen hundred silver coins. The date palms were collected with the help of Sahabah and were planted with the blessed hands of the Prophet ﷺ. Hadhrat Salman ؓ narrates, "I swear by Allah, who has sent Prophet ﷺ with the truth, not a single plant died away."

The coins were still to be paid. This issue was resolved when some gold came to Muhammad ﷺ and he gave it to Hadhrat Salman ؓ to earn his freedom. When someone asked him whose son he was, he would reply, "I am Salman, son of Islam from the children of Adam ؑ."

The next battle after he accepted Islam was Ghazwa Khandaq. It was his idea of digging a trench around Medinah to defend the city from a huge army of ten thousand infidels. Such military strategy was never used before by the Arabs.

During this battle a group of Muhajireen said,

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A mystical personality - Imam Al-Ghazali Rahimahullah

By Arsalan Ullah Khan
Hyderabad

Abu Hamid Muhammad ibn Muhammad al-Ghazali al-Tusi (1058_1111), famous in the world of learning as al-Ghazali in Arabic was a multifarious Islamic scholar who worked in diverse fields of knowledge. He was not only a great theologian, jurist, philosopher, and mystic but also an immaculate debater and expert in the principles of doctrine and those of jurisprudence.

He was born in Tus (modern Mash'had in Iran). He attended the village madressa and as a young man went to the Nizamia Madressa.

After studies and the death of his favourite teacher, Al-Ghazali departed from Nishapur and joined the court of Nizam al-Mulk who appointed the 33-year-old Al-Ghazali as a professor of the school. Offering free education, it has been described as the 'largest university of the medieval world'.

Later he was appointed as a Professor at the Nizamia, a famous University in Baghdad, where he proved very successful in imparting knowledge to the scholars under his care. This valuable gift of sustaining interest of his pupils and passing on his knowledge to them made him so famous that students from all parts of the country flocked to study under him.

Late in his life, Imam Al-Ghazali rahimahullah wrote an autobiography with the name of "Al-Munqidh min al-dalal" which means "The Deliverer from Error".

It was in Damascus, Syria, that Al-Ghazali began writing books on religious philosophy which later made him famous throughout the world. He was a prolific writer and wrote nearly 400 books on a variety of subjects which covered several volumes.

Al-Ghazali contributed significantly to the development of a systematic view of Sufism and to its integration and acceptance in mainstream Islam.

It is said that it requires approximately 40 years not to study but to read the books of Ghazali.

This unforgettable genius with colossal writings and massive intelligence died in 1111 at the age of 53 in Persia at Tus the same city where he was born. As reported by the Turkish news media, during an official state visit by the then PM and current President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan (2010), it was agreed that construction would take place on a mausoleum and a small museum in honour of Imam Ghazali at the site of his tomb at the outskirts of Tus.

Al-Ghazali had an important influence on both later Muslim and Christian philosophers. Margaret Smith (1884 -1970) the scholar who is considered as an authority on early Christian and Muslim mysticism, in her book "Al-Ghazali: The Mystic " pays tribute to this legend as: "There can be no doubt that Al-Ghazali's work would be among the first to attract the attention of the European scholars."

Some famous quotes by Imam Al-Ghazali are as follows:

We are creatures that love to blame the external, not realising that the problem is usually internal.

Do not allow your heart to take pleasure with the praises of people nor be saddened by their condemnation.

Verily the soul becomes accustomed to what you accustom it to. That is to say: what you at first burden the soul with becomes nature to it in the end.

If we had perfect power to determine our destinies, and perfect vision to see the future and know what is best for us, we would choose exactly the fate that Allah has chosen for us

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"Salman is one of us." The Ansaar immediately responded to this and tried to prove that he was amongst them. A lively argument began between the two groups with each of them claiming Hadhrat Salman belonged to their group and not to the other one. Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ arrived on the scene and heard the argument. He was amused by the claims but soon put an end to the argument by saying: "Salman is neither a Muhajir nor an Ansaar. He is one of us. He is one of the Ahl ul Bayt (People of the House)."

Hadhrat Salman ؓ was of a noble intellect. He was known for his vast knowledge and wisdom. "He was like Luqman al Hakeem," said Hadhrat Ali. Hadhrat Ka'ab al Ahbar said, "Salman is full of knowledge and wisdom. He is an ocean that does not dry up." These are the kind of statements the Sahabah gave about him.

Hadhrat Abu Huraira had referred to Hadhrat Salman ؓ as Abu al Kitabain (The Father of the Two Books) i.e. the Bible and the Quran.

He translated the Quran in the Persian language becoming the first person to interpret and translate the Quran into a foreign language.

Hadhrat Salman participated in the conquest of the Sasanian Empire and became the first governor of Sasanid capital after its fall at the time of the second Rashidun Caliph. According to some sources, he had disappeared from the public life after Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ demise; until 656 when Hadhrat Ali became Caliph, and appointed Hadhrat Salman ؓ as the governor of Al-Mada'in.

Hadhrat Salman Farsi dedicated his whole life in search for the right religion until he found peace in Islam. As Muslims it should be a source of aspiration for us to achieve at least some of the dedication that Hadhrat Salman Farsi had towards faith and strive hard to gain knowledge of our deen like he did, Subhan'Allah

Visiting the Sick



The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: Whoever comes to his Muslim brother and visits him (when he is sick),

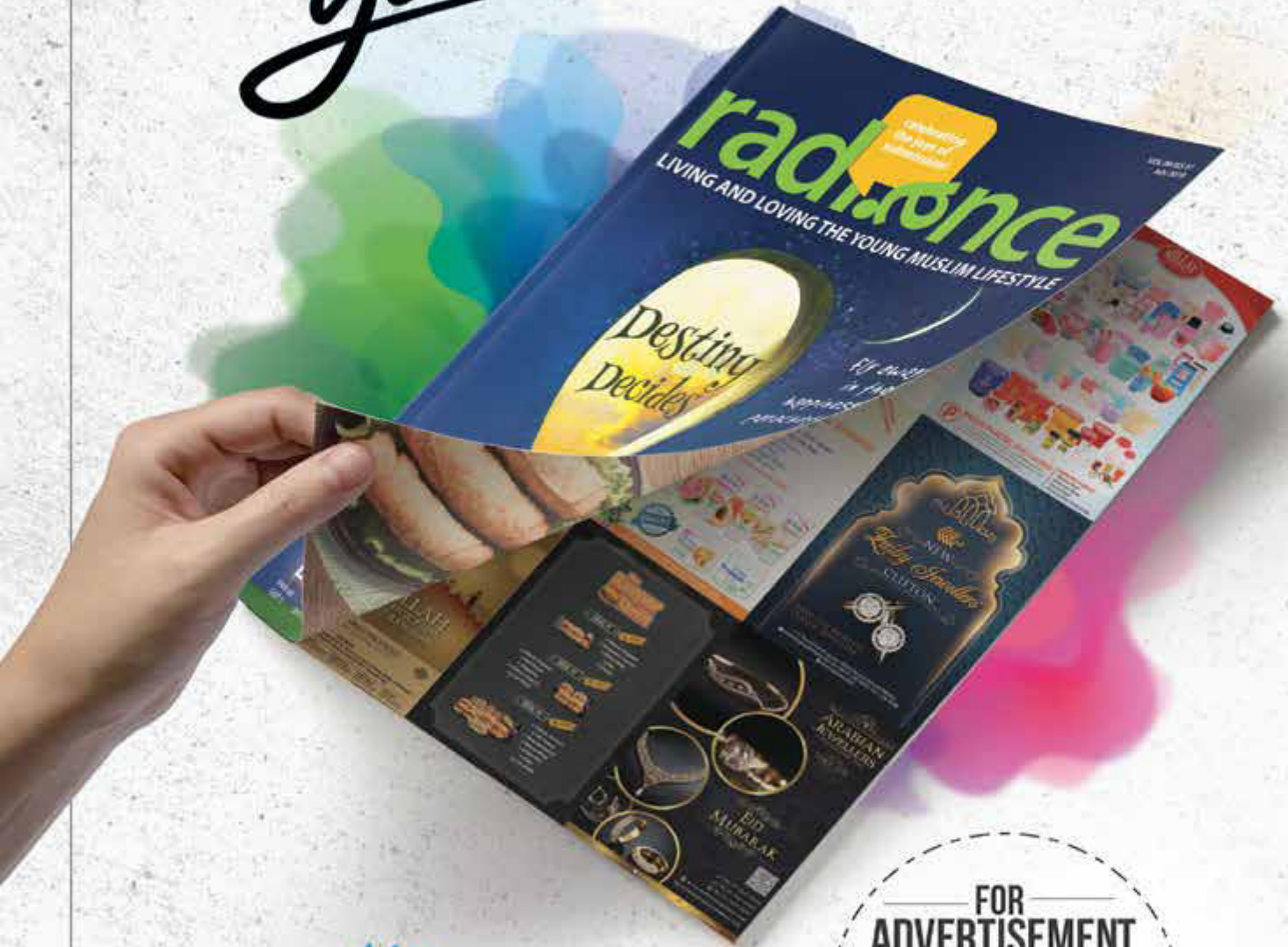
- He is walking among the harvest of Paradise until he sits down
- And when he sits down he is covered with mercy
- If it is morning, seventy thousand angels will send blessings upon him until evening
- And if it is evening, seventy thousand angels will send blessings upon him until morning.

(Sunan Ibn Majah)



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