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The most
beautiful moon

Comic: Use your mind

Idioms quiz

Hamza's virtual
Ramadan party



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The most beautiful moon

Assalamualeikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, As a little girl, I remember searching the night sky with my parents trying to find the Ramadan moon. It was such a magical concept, to view the most awaited, and thus the most beautiful moon, that would signal the start of our spiritual evolution journey; the beginning of the most favourite month for all the Muslims across the globe. Following the tradition of the beloved Prophet ﷺ in going out to see the Ramadan moon for yourself, I had longed to start it off with my children this year...

The kids were already excited about the approaching month, humming rhymes they had heard on Ramadan and talking about their plans for Ibadah, however when I announced that we should be going to view the moon, they were almost jumping in the air. Then I suggested preparing a telescope to help spot the moon. Now they were over the moon (fugitively of course).

We took paper towel rolls, those big ones used in kitchens, and things to decorate it with, like wrapping sheets, stickers, markers, etc. The kids decorated their tubes as they wished.

And so the fun began. They tried to find the moon in the sky and after some calm it was eventually sighted. I could see tears in the eyes of the elder one. They read the dua of sighting the new moon and enthusiastically told me that they want to keep tomorrow's fast.

Relishing in the spirit of Ramadan with our family and friends we are reminded of the beauty of this month. However, we also realise that the cultural understanding of this blessed month has actually corrupted its spiritual purpose.

Ramadan is the month of positive change, not excessive celebration! There is a time for worship and a time for enjoyment, but if we find our-

selves spending more time cooking, eating, and socialising than reading the Quran and praying, then that's a sign that there's a serious problem. In Islam, we are meant to enjoy the halal blessings that Allah ﷻ has given us in a balanced and moderate way. However, for many, Ramadan comes with a traditional backdrop that sometimes we forget to use our better judgment and instead focus on enjoying (read: wasting) the month, cooking all day, eating all night, and shopping all night too in some extreme cases.

Our Lord is the most Kind as even when we disobey Him, He still provides for us. That is why He has brought us to another Ramadan: yet another opportunity to make our duas accepted, yet another chance to have our sins forgiven, and to soothe the sorrows in our hearts with His remembrance. The salaf (pious predecessors) would beg Allah ﷻ for another opportunity for Ramadan, so how fortunate we are that He has given us this chance once again. How fortunate we are that He has given us the yearning to meet Him in this month - and the one who loves to meet His Lord, Allah ﷻ also surely loves to meet him.

So let's not just "travel" through Ramadan, getting caught up at the rest stops (e.g iftar parties) instead of reaching the destination. Grab it. No, not your favourite samosas! Grab your favourite month, yes this limited but action-packed month, for you love it more than the samosas, don't you?

My duas for you and your family for a fantastic Ramadan, full of mercy, supplications and reflection, Insha'Allah

Was'salam,
Umm Abdullah Zubairi
Editor.radiance@gmail.com

2. They are the remains of a snowman, after a thaw.

1. He keeps ducks.

Answers

4. A coffin.

3. You do not bury survivors.



Mr Smith eats two eggs every day. He never buys any eggs, nobody gives them to him, and he doesn't steal them from anyone nor does he keep hens. Where does he get his eggs from?



A carrot, a football scarf and five buttons were found in a field. If nobody placed them there, how did they get there?



An airplace carrying sixty Mexican lawyers to a convention in Rio crashed and landed directly on the border between Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil. Under international law, where should the survivors be buried?



The maker does not need it, the buyer does not use it, and the user uses it without knowing. What is it?



Hamza's virtual Ramadan party

Tooba Saad's spectacular story teaches us valuable lessons, all in an interesting setup

Mama walked into Hamza's room and saw him sitting alone near a window in a depressed mood and teary eyes.

"What happened my dear son? Why are you sad?" Mama asked.

Hamza turned towards her with an innocent face and said, "Mama, I miss my friends! I want to invite them at my home to play, but when will this pandemic get over?"

Mama smiled and hugged Hamza with love and said, "Sadness about this pandemic is everywhere Hamza, and for everybody, it has been hard to cope up with it, but we should not feel low and never lose hope in the mercy of Allah."

Upon thinking further, she added, "Ok cheer up Hamza! I have an idea! Remember we learned, when there is a will there is a way! So I promise to plan for you a wingding virtual party connecting all your friends with an exciting surprise game."

Hamza's heart busted with joy to hear the idea of hosting a virtual party and he instantaneously jumped off the couch to start its preparations. However, his mind was filled with questions about the upcoming surprise game his mother promised.

Finally, the long-awaited day arrived that Hamza was eagerly waiting for and mama connected his friends online on one screen.

The party began with the children greeting each other

casually and chatting about how they have been in the last few months.

"Hey kids, it's now time for the special surprise activity," mama's voice from behind thrilled everyone. She further added, "It's a question game about Ramadan, followed by a beautiful hamper wrapped in red net and loaded with interesting stuff for the winner."

"Wow!" kids mumbled as mama showed them the basket on screen.

Mama took out a big bowl filled with colourful folded paper chits, "One for each," she said. The game looked really interesting and fun.

They started with Ahmer who seemed equally happy as Hamza to be a part of this unique party. Ahmer chose a red colour chit.

Mama read the question aloud to everyone, "Ahmer, can you tell us a reason why Ramadan is important for us?"

Ahmer, with full confidence, thought for a while and said:



Mama took out a big bowl filled with colourful folded paper chits, "One for each," she said. The game looked really interesting and fun.

"Ramadan is a very important month for all Muslims because it educates us to practice self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, and empathy for the unfortunate ones, hence it also reminds Muslims to perform the acts of kindness and give mandatory charity that is called Zakat."

Everybody clapped! Ahmer's answer astonished everyone and the competition seemed tough.

Next was Fahad, Hamza's evening playmate. He selected a purple chit.

Mama read his chit, "Fahad, can you tell us what is the main purpose of Ramadan for us?"

Fahad answered, "Ramadan marks the time Quran Pak was bestowed by Allah to Prophet (PBUH). During Ramadan, Muslims fasts, which begins at dawn and ends at sunset. They also refrain from sins and seek most of Allah's mercy by devoting their time and effort in prayers, Taraweeh, Quran recitations, sadaqah, and zakat."

A warm round of applause came Fahad's way for explaining the purpose of Ramadan in the best way.

Moving next was Ayaan; Hamza's favorite buddy from school. Both friends couldn't stop smiling watching each other on-screen.

Ayaan picked a yellow chit.

Mama read out the chit for him, "Tell us Ayaan, is it okay to say happy Ramadan?"

He said, "Muslims across the globe are delighted when the blessed month of Ramadan commences. They cannot refrain from wishing everyone. Muslims often say "Happy Ramadan", "Ramadan Mubarak", and also "Ramadan Kareem" which means, "May you have a

generous Ramadan."

Everyone smiled and greeted each other: "Ramadan Mubarak!"

Now it was Ibrahim, Hamza's first cousin and not less than a brother.

Ibrahim was nervy, but mama's question made him happy when he chose the orange chit.

"What does Islam teach us by Fasting?" Mama questioned.

Ibrahim instantly responded: "Islam has given us the gift of fasting to teach us how to be a good Muslim by following Allah's commands with a belief that its reward will be given by Allah himself in the hereafter. Fasting allows us to realise the importance of Allah's abundant blessings that exist around us to make us more grateful towards Him.

"What a wonderful explanation Ibrahim!" Mama appreciated Ibrahim and his instinct for winning the hamper was now stronger.

Heading further in the game was Saad, Hamza's coaching fellow.

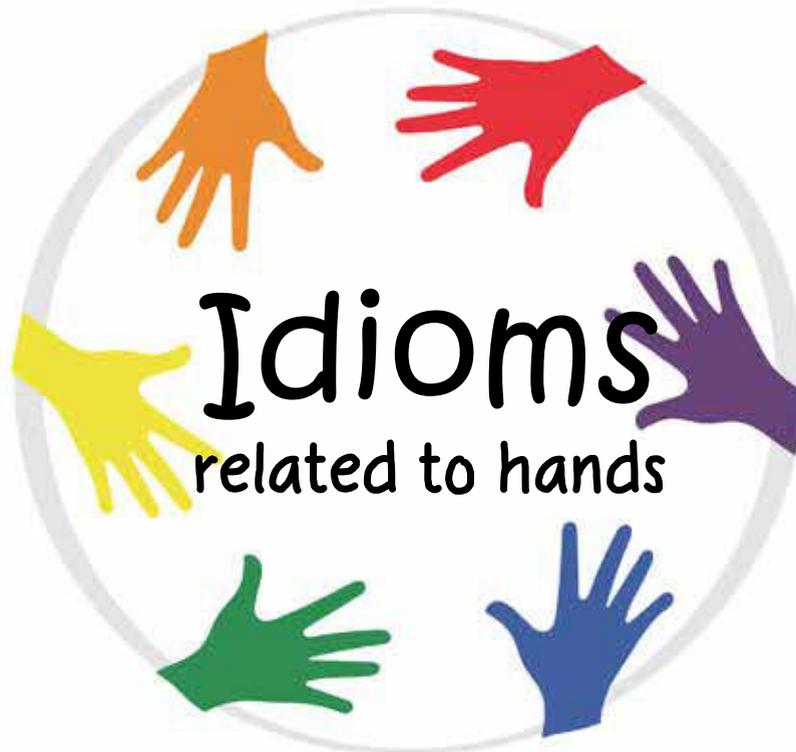
Saad is an intelligent boy, familiar to all. He cherry-picked the green chit that said: "What you should avoid while fasting?"

He promptly replied to take good numbers in his account: "Fasting in the month of Ramadan not only refrains us from eating and drinking but also prevents us to discontinue our character defects that displease Allah. We fast not only by mouth but also by our ears, tongue, hands, feet, and intentions. Habits including cursing, backbiting, quarreling, ungraciousness, ego problems, and self-centeredness are

Continued on pg 23

Training English language skills right from a school age can help children understand different aspects of the language. There are many ways to teach them, but the most effective way is through English language quiz questions that allow kids to creatively involve in learning.

This quiz related to idioms with answers is created to induce interest among children to learn more. Lets see how many you can get right.



1) Hands on a platter:

- A) Hand holding the plate
- B) The hand is like a plate
- C) To obtain something easily without any effort
- D) Hand and plate go together

2) Wash your hands of:

- A) To rub your hands
- B) To abandon something you were doing midway
- C) Washing hands
- D) To rinse your hands

3) Hand in glove

- A) To work in close association for a bad cause
- B) Removing the glove from the hand
- C) Stuffing the hand in the glove
- D) To hand over the glove

4) To Have your Hands Full:

- A) To have a lot of work
- B) To have big hands.
- C) Filling up your pockets
- D) To clean your hands

5) Like the Back of One's Hand

- A) To place the hands one behind the other
- B) To like somebody's hands
- C) To know something very well
- D) To tie the hands behind the back

6) To Have the Upper Hand:

- A) To lift your hand
- B) To have an advantage
- C) To shake someone's hand
- D) To clasp hands

7) Get out of hand

- A) To get out of control
- B) To get out of house
- C) Remove the glove
- D) Help someone

8) Change hands

- A) Wash hands
- B) Passing from one to another
- C) Removing dirt from hands
- D) changing from left side to right

9) Hands down

- A) Put down your hands
- B) Unquestionably
- C) Asking someone to put down hands
- D) Question someone

10) In good hands

- A) In clean hands
- B) In good care
- C) Liking something
- D) Asking for help

Answers

- 1C- To obtain something easily without any effort
- 2B- To abandon something you were doing midway
- 3A- To work in close association for a bad cause
- 4A- To have a lot of work
- 5C- To know something very well
- 6B- To have an advantage
- 7A- To get out of control
- 8B- Passing from one to another
- 9B- Unquestionably
- 10B- In good care

Ramadan - Discovering the delights of submission

Hadhrat Maulana Abdul Sattar Hafidhahullah's spiritual discourse enumerates how many hearts veiled by ignorance succeed in discovering the delights of obedience during the blessed month of Ramadan

The term Islam is a name for a God-conscious life. Consequently, excluding this, all other means of spending life are nothing but a sure route to materialism and selfishness. So, wherever, whatever customs and ways of life are common, with the exception of leading God-conscious lives, all of them have their foundation on self-interest. Whereas Islam has its basis on righteousness, that a Muslim is always mindful of his Allah ﷻ. Therefore, when he is about to encounter this termite of selfishness, Allah ﷻ prescribes such a therapy for this person that his disease, by far, finds its cure.

Building companionship with Allah ﷻ

Thus Allah ﷻ has blessed the Muslim Ummah with a universal worshiping month. This prestigious month is the month of Ramadan Mubarak when everywhere worship [ibadat] of one Allah ﷻ is witnessed. Many spending their lives in negligence also change the direction of their lives in this blessed month. Millions for whom judgment had been confirmed to be the dwellers of Hell, in this month, even they become the achievers of Paradise. Many previously displeased with Allah ﷻ, build up companionship with Him, earnestly beseeching Him. Many were such who had gone astray, and then in this month, they begin discerning the purpose of their lives. Many were those whose hearts were veiled by ignorance, but again, in this blessed month, they discovered the delights of obedience and submission.

So, indeed, a very holy month is near. The season of good deeds is near. The time for the sale of good deeds is about to arrive. The reward for each deed is about to be manifolds.

Ramadan of our Beloved Prophet ﷺ

Our beloved Prophet's ﷺ daily ibadah was such that the souls of his feet used to crack by

standing in night prayer. But during this blessed month, even that immense an amount of worship would be increased. We too tire our bodies day and night by working hard, in earning wealth and gathering sand. But some of Allah's ﷻ chosen people are those who exhaust their bodies by worshipping Him. They are waiting for the approaching month that would exert them to the satisfaction of their soul.

All through the year our Holy Prophet ﷺ used to spend generously in Allah's ﷻ way but during Ramadan there used to be an increase in that as well. It was Prophet's ﷺ regular practice to spend a lot of time in dua, but during Ramadan even these vigorous supplications used to find a raise. So, if Allah ﷻ bestows us an insightful heart, then we too can be amongst the ones who derive full benefit of this sacred month.

The signs of Allah's ﷻ Rahmah

Ramadan is here to liberate all those spending their lives in ignorance and fulfilling the whims and desires of their lower soul (nafs). Subsequently, Allah ﷻ is so Merciful in this holy month, that His Rahmah, more than the profuse drops of rain, pours down on us. Widespread are the decrees of bounties, decisions of forgiveness, and judgments of release from the hell-fire. Allah ﷻ is generously calling out: 'Is there anybody in need, is there anyone who wants to change the course of his life, is there anyone weeping over his past sins...my All-embracing rahmah is heavily pouring down.'

And we ourselves witness this shower of mercy - we pitiable people, for whom it is a tough task to even read some additional nafls, Al-

humdulillah, spend the entire month devotedly praying twenty Taraweehs. Many like us for whom it is even difficult to read the Fajr prayer, but due to the blessings of this sacred month, full thirty days Allah ﷻ approves us to be worthy of reading Tahajjud (Night prayer) as well. Many are those who for the whole year deprive themselves of even looking at the Quran, but the down pour of compassion of our dear Lord is such that these people too complete many Qurans in this month.

These are the signs of Allah's ﷻ rahmah onto us, which every person feels for himself, thinking that truly Allah's mercy is at its peak and Allah is firmly holding each one, bringing them onto the doorsteps of His Merciful palace.

Towards transforming ourselves

Fortunate are those who transform their entire lives in this month and win over Allah ﷻ by weeping in humility before him; earnestly pleading for forgiveness over their sin. There are many who abide by Allah's ﷻ commandments throughout the year too but during this month they get themselves registered in the list of Allah's beloved friends: Ulliya'Allah! Some of whom Allah further goes out to include amongst His most prominent people.

Therefore, that immensely magnificent month is approaching. Proclaim to all the glad tidings of this month and try to bring them with you to your virtuous gatherings. Every one of us should take it as his responsibility to do as much as he can. May Allah ﷻ bless us to recognise the real spirit of this sacred month. May He help us observe it with the true feelings of taqwa. *Aameen*

Beam of Light

Author: Adeen Ahmed

Age: 11 years

Eposide: 3

“Who was the last wife of King Henry the Eighth who also survived him?” I ask, as Leyla racks her brains.

“Anne Boleyn?” she suggests.

“No,” I answer.

“Anne of Cleves?”

“She was annulled!”

Leyla sighs and looks at the clock, it's seven, just after Maghreb. We're doing our summer quiz work. We're supposed to quiz each other on various subjects and topics. Leyla is really bad at history. I say this aloud.

“Oh, well, just because my parents and my brother are great at it doesn't mean I have to be too,” she says, a little grouchy. “Catherine Howard?”

I shake my head. “It was twice-widowed Catherine Parr,” and then, “At least you knew it was a Catherine.”

Leyla sighs, then gets up to go out of her bedroom. “Let me get the British history book from Gideon's room. I'll be right back.”

I nod, then glance at my list of topics. Under English, my eyes suddenly catch English Literature, marked with a 10/10 score in Kiran's handwriting.

“She's late,” said Leyla, looking at the clock,

which was striking seven-fifteen.

“Maybe her mother kept her in for something?”

I suggested.

Suddenly the door to Leyla's bedroom opened. It was Kiran. “Assalam alikum!” She sat down next to us on the small table in Leyla's bedroom. I smiled.

“At last!” Leyla said, jumping up to switch on the air conditioning. She then drew the curtains and bought out all her school supplies. “I think I have enough pens for everyone.” She shook her long red hair out and passed the pens to everyone.

I took off my hijab too, now that the curtains were drawn. “Where's your mother?”

“Out to attend a lecture held by Alima Maryam,” she said. “She'll be back soon.”

“Okay, so. . .” I pick up Kiran's list of subjects and topics. “Kiran, what's the square root of seven?”

Kiran doesn't look up. She was folding her hijab up into the neat pattern she always has. I can still see it to this day. She looked up, now. “What?”

And then I noticed her hair.

What had happened? Her hair was completely stripped off. Well, not really completely, but it was so thin. Thinner than the pencil in my hand. It was like a mere wisp.

“Great!” Kiran beamed, a beam I think made the sun look dull. She looked at us and smiled gratefully and graciously. “Thank you two so much. I’m so lucky to have friends like these!”

“Kiran, what happened to your -” Leyla gesticulated in the air helplessly.

“Oh. About that,” Kiran didn’t look embarrassed at all. She just looked calm. “Well, my hair fell out. It’s because of my chemotherapy. It makes hair fall out.” It had been two weeks since her chemotherapy.

“But - doesn’t that bother you?” I asked.

“No, it doesn’t,” she replied. “It’ll grow back soon, hopefully. Meanwhile I can wear this head cover inside my hijab.”

“How’s your chemo going?” asked Leyla.

“It’s going good, I think,” said Kiran cautiously. “That’s what Mum says. She doesn’t let me talk much to Dr. Lawson about it now. But” she looked at us both seriously “I have something to ask you two.”

“What’s that?” I asked, a little skeptical.

“I was thinking to -” she took a deep breath “To make a bucket list.”

“A what?” frowned Leyla.

“A bucket list,” repeated Kiran. “Don’t you know about it?”

Leyla and I shook our heads.

“Dad was watching this film on TV last night,” she explained. “It was called ‘The Bucket List’. It’s about two old men who make a bucket list. A bucket list is a list of things to do before you die. I had the idea that I can make one.”

“Wow, that’s so cool!” exclaimed Leyla. Then her cheeriness lowered a bit. “But - you’re not going to - to - to die, are you?”

Leyla had literally voiced the same thing I was thinking.

“Only Allah knows,” said Kiran philosophically. “Nobody knows when they’re going to die. And, well, chances are low on my side to survive. So I want to do all the things I want to do before I die.”

Leyla and I sat silent for a while. Then I said, “But - you’re not dying - soon, are you?”

“I don’t know,” said Kiran calmly. “Leukemia

has its side effects. But never mind about that. Are you in this with me or not?”

“Of course!” I jumped up.

“Count me in,” agreed Leyla enthusiastically.

“Great!” Kiran beamed, a beam I think made the sun look dull. She looked at us and smiled gratefully and graciously. “Thank you two so much. I’m so lucky to have friends like these!”

“Well of course we’re lucky, too!” I said. “So where’s this bucket list, then?”

She fished out her special notebook I had given her last Eid. “I’m trying to keep only eight things,” she told us. “And so far I’ve written two of them.”

They were:

1. Read a Surah with translation.
2. Help someone who is needy.

“That’s it?” said Leyla.

“I was thinking to discuss with you two,” said Kiran. “Any ideas?”

“Maybe read a whole book in one day?” I suggested lamely.

“Do an entire Math workbook in an hour?” Leyla’s faltering voice.

Kiran sighed. “Anything else?”

When no one said anything, she said, “I’m thinking about things that will be useful to me. Are meaningful. Got any ideas there?”

“Hmmm. . .” I mused, while the other two pondered. “How about. . .make dinner for your parents and tell them about all the things you appreciate about them?”

“Good one,” Kiran scribbled it down.

“See the Northern Lights in Alaska?” said Leyla. “That’s such a heavenly experience. Sometimes I am just so amazed at Allah’s creations!”

“Jotted down!” Kiran listed off number four.

“This is going to be a fun evening,” I voiced my thoughts out loud

Continued in sha’ Allah

Tooba Saad Shiwani suggests that we serve up these tasty starters or Iftar. However, as tough as it might be, don't overload your tummies so it's not too hard to stand up for taraweehs

Pizza Samosa

Chicken small cubes half kg
Tandoori masala 2 tablespoons
Ginger garlic paste 1 tablespoon
Yogurt 2 tablespoons
Red chili powder 1 teaspoon
Salt ¼ teaspoon
Soya sauce 1 teaspoon
Chili sauce 1 teaspoon

Method

Marinate chicken with all spices and leave it for 30 minutes.
Then take a pan, add oil and add marinated chicken, cook till it gets tender and the masala has dried.

For Pizza sauce

Tomato paste 2 tomatoes required
Ginger garlic paste 1 teaspoon
Salt to taste
Red chilli powder 1 teaspoon
Chili flakes 1 teaspoon

Soya sauce 1 teaspoon
Oregano ¼ teaspoon
Oil 5 tablespoons

In a pan add oil and tomato paste as well as add all spices. Cook till it gets thick. Add this sauce in chicken, add sweet corn, capsicum, onion and whatever you like and mix it properly. Take Samosa sheet and add this mixture. Then close it tightly and deep fry. Serve with ketchup.

Khateey Aloo

Potato 1 kg boiled
Tamarind seed half cup
Red chilli powder 2 tablespoon
Red chilli crushed 1 teaspoon
Coriander powder 4 tablespoon
Curry leaves few
Oil 1/5 cup

Method

In a bowl, add Tamarind along with seeds, add 2 cups water, add all spices and let it rest for at least half an hour. In a wok, add oil, add curry leaves then add Tamarind mixture. When it becomes thick and oil comes on top, close the flame. After 5 minutes, add boiled potato cubes and mix it. Serve with papri.

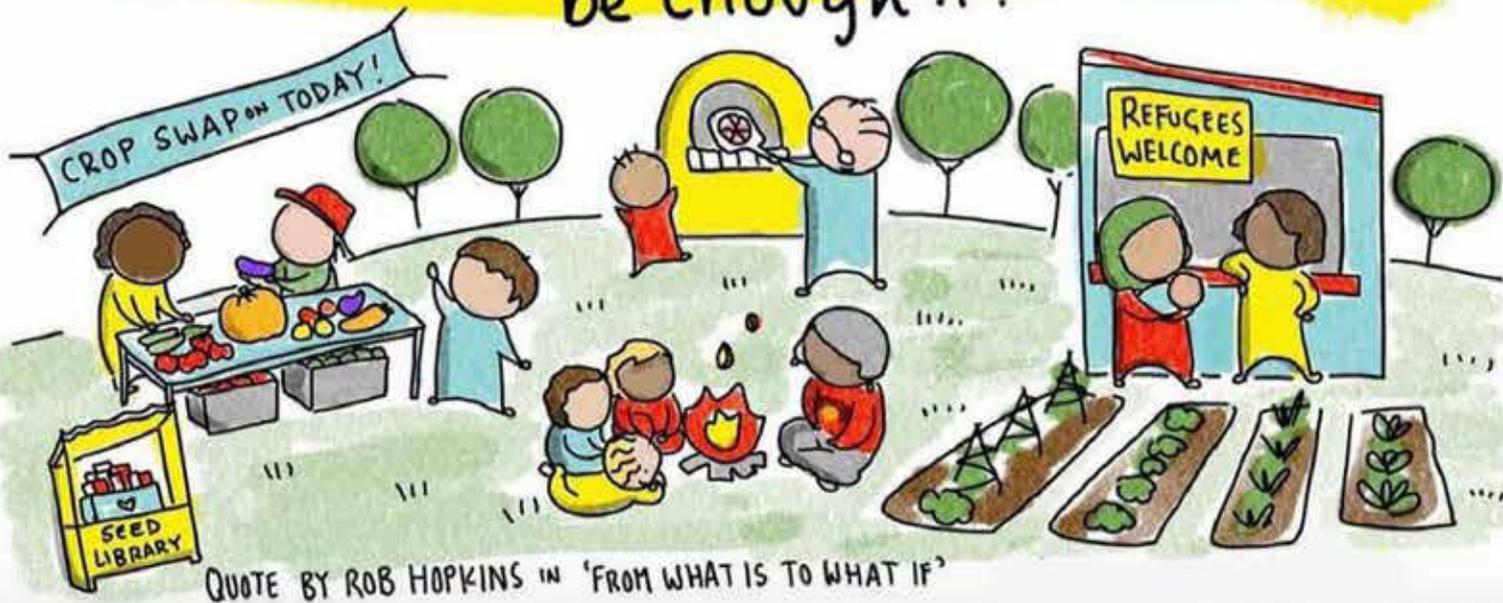
if we wait for the government
it will be too late...



...if we act as individuals
it will be too little...



...if we act as communities
it might just be enough...



QUOTE BY ROB HOPKINS IN 'FROM WHAT IS TO WHAT IF'

Hadhrat Abdullah bin Amir

رضي الله عنه

The life chronicles of Hadhrat Abdullah bin Amir by Zawjah Junaid Mukaty this month are all about love, bravery and piety

More often we consider the companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to be converts but there are many companions who were born in Muslim families too. One of them is Hadhrat Abdullah bin Amir. His father, Amir bin Kurayz was the son of Prophet ﷺ's paternal aunt, Umm Hakeem bint Abdul Muttalib which made Hadhrat Abdullah the nephew of Prophet ﷺ. Hadhrat Arwa bint Kurayz, mother of Hadhrat Usman bin Affan, was the sister of Hadhrat Amir bin Kurayz, hence, they were direct cousins. His impressive lineage and adequate brought up turned him into a proficient warrior and a humble humanitarian.

As a Humanitarian

Once Rasulullah ﷺ saw Hadhrat Abdullah when he was a small child and said, "This child will be a thirst quencher," and he actually became one. Further in his life, he got two canals dug in Basra, one in Ubullah, a lake in Arafat for pilgrims and wells and springs on different dry lands. He also started agriculture in An-Nihaaj and Qaryatain. Not only this, but many other welfare activities are also associated with him.

As a Warrior

He is very well known for his administrative and military prowess, a quality that became his identity. His list of conquests is long and extended, so let's begin with the conquest of Kabul.

Conquest of Kabul

Though Sassanid was conquered during the caliphate of Hadhrat Umar but Kabul was yet to be conquered which was then included in its area. In 25th Hijra, Hadhrat Usman sent him on this conquest. The enemy fought outside the fort of Kabul and faced defeat. This victory was temporary as the natives rebelled as soon as the Arab army left.

Conquest of Kerman

In the 29th year of Hijra, he replaced Hadhrat Abu Musa Ash'ari as the governor of Basra on the orders of Hadhrat Usman. Soon after holding the post, he sent the Muslim troop to Kerman. This army reached Nishapur and met the opponents which resulted in a fierce fight

and ultimately in the death of the governor of Kerman.

Conquest of Faris

A bigger part of Persia was conquered by Hadhrat Umar formerly but after his martyrdom, a revolt broke out there. Hadhrat Abdullah attacked with a huge army and defeated the rebels executing each one of them as a punishment. Apart from this, he also made Durrab, Jard and Jor art of Islamic kingdom.

Reconquest of Kabul

Hadhrat Abdullah bin Amir made Hadhrat Abdullah bin Umairishi the Sassanid governor. He marched towards Kabul and fought daringly against the rebels and reconquered Kabul.

Conquest of Khorasan

Hadhrat Abdullah's correct and operational warship strategies, choice of generals, and deep understanding of geographical locations resulted in the conquest of many places in South Asia which today are from Iran, Afghanistan and Baluchistan.

His commanders defeated the rebels there and made sure that peace prevails. The conquest of Khorasan was a long and strenuous job. It began from Basra with a large army accompanied by Hadhrat Saeed bin Al Aas from Kufa. They captured many forts in Khorasan and kept on moving within Afghanistan. Bayak, Tabisan, Hirat, Asfarain, Khudashband, Merv, Balkh, Nishapur and many other lands forming Afghanistan and Turkmenistan were added to Islamic Sultanate. One of his general, Hadhrat Abdul Rahman bin Samrah, conquered many areas of Baluchistan which means that the first companion of Prophet ﷺ to enter the lands of Hindustan was Hadhrat

Abdul Rahman bin Samrah. He then also conquered Dadan, Zabil and Bast.

During the Caliphate of Hadhrat Amir Muawiyah

After the death of Hadhrat Ali, his son Hadhrat Hassan became the next caliph but soon stepped down for Hadhrat Amir Muawiyah upon certain conditions. Hadhrat Abdullah was chosen to oversee the whole situation and agreement. This appointment was done due to his problem-solving intelligence, rational and mature personality.

Hadhrat Amir Muawiyah again made him the governor of Basra on the basis of his merits. Immediately resuming his post he ordered Hadhrat Qais bin Al Haisam to crush the rebels of Khorasan who had started agitating again. Hadhrat Qais captured Balkh and the famous fire temple, Naubahar there. In the 43rd year of migration, Hadhrat Abdullah bin Sawar took control of Makran and punished the trouble makers of Qaiqaan. The next year, he sent Hadhrat Muhlab bin Abi Sughra who conquered the areas of Sindh. Some historians report that Hadhrat Muhlab entered through Khyber Pass as in those days the area from Peshawar to Multan was included in Sindh.

Death

Hadhrat Abdullah bin Amir held the post of Governor of Basra for three years. After that, he came back to either Makkah or Madinah and spent the rest of his life there.

Such lion-hearted, daring and intelligent men are few in history. Since his childhood his brought up was done under the umbrella of Islam. Our children are also a precious gift of Allah who should be nurtured to transform into daring leaders of the Ummah. May Allah help us to accomplish His pleasure

10 astounding facts about the Ka'aba

The Ka'aba is the symbolic House of Allah. It is in the centre of Masjid Al-Haram in Makkah.

Every Muslim on the planet faces the Ka'aba when performing salah. Isn't that amazing?

Would you like to know some more amazing things about the Ka'aba?

Here are ten things about the Ka'aba that you probably didn't know.

1. The Ka'aba is the only building on earth to have had three Prophets build it

Prophet Ibrahim and his son Prophet Ismail built the Ka'aba when Allah commanded them to build a house of worship. Many centuries later when the Ka'aba was being reconstructed due to damage, Prophet Muhammad (saw) himself put the Black Stone back in its place. No other building on earth has this honour of being built by the hands of so many Prophets!

as interest, cheating, stealing, gambling and so on. Even though the Quraysh were wealthy, there was not enough halal money to rebuild the entire original structure. So it was made smaller. This is how the Ka'aba went from a rectangular shape to the cube shape it is today.

4. There's actually an invisible Ka'aba!

There is actually a Ka'aba for angels that we cannot see! It is called Al-Bait-al-

2. The Ka'aba didn't always have a roof

Originally, the Ka'aba had only four walls without a roof. It was only centuries later, during the time of Kusayy who was the leader of the Quraysh, was the Ka'aba rebuilt with thicker walls and a roof to give it the shape of a sanctuary.

Ma'mur and it is situated in the seventh heaven. Every day in heaven, 70,000 angels visit Al-Bait-al-Ma'mur to worship Allah, just as we go to the Ka'aba to worship Allah.

3. The Ka'aba was rebuilt using halal money only

When the Ka'aba was reconstructed during the lifetime of Prophet Muhammad (saw), the Quraysh wanted to rebuild it using halal money that did not come from haram sources such

5. The Black Stone used to be white

Hajar al-Aswad is known as the Black Stone, and it is placed in the Eastern corner of the Ka'aba. It was brought from heaven and given to Prophet Ibrahim to be placed in the corner of the Ka'aba. However, when it was first brought down, it was not black! Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said that Hajar al-Aswad came from Jannah

whiter than milk, but the sins of the sons of Adam turned it black.

6. The door of the Ka'aba is made of gold

The door of the Ka'aba didn't always used to be made of gold. In 1977, when King Khalid was praying inside Masjid Al-Haram, he noticed scratches at the bottom of the door. He immediately ordered for the door to be remade and coated in gold. The golden door was installed in 1982. It weighs 300kg, is more than three metres high, and has 15 of the 99 names of Allah embroidered in calligraphy. Even the door's lock is embroidered!

7. The Kiswah that covers the Ka'aba is replaced every year

Every year, on the 9th day of the month of Dhul Hijjah, the Ka'aba gets a

new black covering.

This black covering, known as the Kiswah, is made out of 670kg of silk and its embroidery of the Quranic verses contains 150kg of gold thread. It is wrapped around the Ka'aba and held down by copper rings.

8. It hasn't always been black

Different Caliphs and rulers kept changing the colour of the Kiswah. Once, the grandmother of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ offered a white Kiswah. Caliphs Umar and Uthman also covered the Ka'aba in white cloth. During the time of Caliph Al-Mamoon, the Ka'aba was draped

three times a year with a different colour each time; red, white gabati, and then red again. In 1160, Al-Nasir started a green Kiswah. When Al-Mamoon and Al-Nasir disagreed on the many colour changes, they decided to change the colour to black. The black Kiswah remains as tradition up to this day.

9. The Ka'aba has many names

The Ka'aba is called by many names in the Quran and hadith, including Bait ul Haram (Sacred House), Bait Ullah (House of Allah), Bait al-Ateeq (Ancient House), and Awal ul Bait (First House).

10. Even floods did not stop the pilgrims!

Before there was flood control systems and sewage, floods would frequently happen at Masjid al-Haram whenever it rained heav-

ily. Sometimes, the Ka'aba would be half submerged in water for days. Muslims did not let this stop them from having the honour of worshipping Allah at the Ka'aba, and they would simply swim around the Ka'aba to perform tawaf!

KIDS CORNER



Ramadan Quiz

Ramadan is the _____ month of the _____ calendar. Muslims believe that the _____, the holy book of _____, was sent down from heaven during Ramadan. For the entire month, Muslims are expected to pray and to concentrate on their _____ in spite of their everyday lives. Ramadan is also a month of _____; Muslims are not allowed to eat or drink anything between _____ and _____.

The end of Ramadan is celebrated with a holiday called _____, the Feast of Fast Breaking.

Word List

- a. Eid-al-Fitr
- b. sunrise
- c. Muslim
- d. Holy Quran
- e. fasting
- f. faith
- g. Islam
- h. sunset
- i. ninth

Answer

The correct order in which the answers appear: Ninth, Muslim, Holy Quran, Islam, faith, fasting, sunrise, sunset, Eid-al-Fitr

Vowels

Lauren: Dad, do you know what the most commonly used letter in a girl's name is?

Me: Hmm, is it a consonant or a vowel? (Silence.) Please tell me you know what consonants and vowels are.

Lauren: You're no fun, Dad. Forget it.

Me: What is a vowel?

Lauren: OK, OK. A vowel is ... ahh ... eh ... well, oh ... uh ...

Me: Close enough.

Repeat That, Mate?

If you understand English, press 1. If you do not understand English, press 2.

Recording on an Australian tax help line

How To Translate Work Emails

I have a question. = I have 18 questions.

I'll look into it. = I've already forgotten about it.

I tried my best. = I did the bare minimum.

Happy to discuss further. = Don't ask me about this again.

No worries. = You really messed up this time.

Take care. = This is the last you'll ever hear from me.

Cheers! = I have no respect for you or myself!

Making Amends With The IRS

After hearing a sermon on lies and deceit, a man wrote the IRS, "I can't sleep knowing that I have cheated on my income tax. Enclosed is a check for \$150. If I still can't sleep, I'll send the rest."

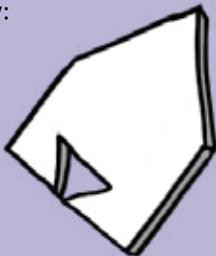
Soap-powered boat

What you need:

- A foam tray (like the kind meat comes in) or a piece of non-corrugated cardboard
- A tray, bowl, or cookie sheet full of water
- Liquid dish soap
- A toothpick

What to do:

Cut the foam tray or cardboard into a boat shape as shown below:



A good size seems to be about 2 inches long. Dip the toothpick into the liquid soap and use the toothpick to put soap onto the sides of the notch at the back of the boat.

That's it! Now carefully place the boat onto the surface of the water and watch it scoot across the water for several seconds – you've made a soap-powered boat! To demonstrate the boat again, you will need to rinse out the tray to remove any soap from the previous demonstration.

How does it work?

Soap is a surfactant – that means that it breaks down the surface tension of water. As the surface tension is broken up, it creates enough of a force to push the lightweight boat across the surface.



Ramadan Word Search

Instructions :

Find out the words given in this list from the puzzle.

O	H	E	C	W	T	E	I	C	B	Q	V	O	L	K	H	
B	R	O	T	H	E	R	H	O	O	D	M	R	N	D	I	T
I	V	Y	W	S	H	Y	D	F	B	I	U	A	N	P	Y	B
W	R	I	C	N	F	H	X	A	O	S	R	M	C	M	J	M
U	N	J	R	M	N	P	K	S	A	L	S	A	C	Q	W	M
T	M	J	U	U	O	J	Y	T	Q	A	E	D	J	D	T	Y
A	P	A	I	H	B	Q	D	I	W	M	W	A	P	S	W	A
B	D	S	Q	A	F	B	E	N	Q	I	I	N	J	R	U	U
S	N	P	U	M	X	D	Q	G	K	G	D	W	B	L	O	H
T	O	F	A	M	I	C	V	D	H	U	X	U	T	P	J	W
I	F	W	L	A	F	G	O	Z	B	C	N	L	C	G	X	G
N	D	D	L	D	Y	C	B	B	I	X	K	L	Y	V	N	V
E	P	R	A	Y	E	R	S	S	K	G	A	N	Y	K	G	P
N	G	R	H	Y	L	X	A	Y	P	U	O	D	F	J	A	K
C	C	R	W	B	V	C	H	A	R	I	T	Y	R	R	R	U
E	R	D	R	S	U	A	W	Q	S	C	O	Y	B	H	D	Z
Q	H	X	J	S	F	E	G	N	X	C	Q	U	R	A	N	X

WORD LIST

ALLAH
RAMADAN
ISLAM
QURAN
FASTING
CHARITY
PRAYERS
ABSTINENCE
BROTHERHOOD
MUHAMMAD

Shanze Faisal
The Patriots School

Dreadful

She rolled her tongue around her parched lips. Her face was as pale as an egg yolk, her honey brown eyes were now caged with red nerves making her look fierce. Sweat drops down her flushed cheeks. All around her she could see wide-dark circles blocking her view. She buried her face in the pillow lying next to her. The scene she just saw was breathtaking. Her heart was pounding like a beat in a piece of pop music. The last thing she could hear was the slamming of the door with a well-known smell that filled the room.

Gradually, she lost her senses and went unconscious. Everywhere Hafsa could see was white lining covering the roof, walls, and the floor. On one side of her cold bed, she could see a metal rod standing beside her. The rod has tires and a branch hangs a plastic bag filled with liquid which traveled through a tube to her hand. Suddenly, loads of questions tricked her mind. "Am I in a hospital? What happened to me? Why am I here? Where is Lila?"

Before she could think anything else, the door opened and a woman wearing a white gown entered the room. She came near Hafsa and passed a polite smile. Her face was tan with grey eyes glistening in the light. Her aligned pipes were covered with pink lipstick making

it more beautiful. She looked at the bundle of files lying next to Hafsa on a metal table. She asked Hafsa with a sweet tone, "How are you feeling, little girl?"

"I'm good! But why am I here? Who brought me here?" Hafsa asked everything in a breath.

The doctor curled her lips and trying to make herself normal she said in a whisper, "It's nothing dear, you were just knocked on the head and nothing more. Please don't think too much it is not good for you."

She tried to calm her trembling voice and to hide the panic-stricken facial expression she turned her face towards the ceiling. Her gaze followed a spider finding the best place to make its web. Her voice was not supporting her words.

"Was she just consoling me?" Hafsa thought.

Hafsa's brain shuttered for a moment and her eyes took in more light than expected, every part of her went on pause while her thoughts caught up.

"Knocked? By whom? Why thinking is not good for me?" Hafsa's head started breaking

out of its crust. She couldn't understand what was happening around her.

"Was there really anything which is too much vile that is hard to be expressed in words?" Hafsa thought, "No! That can't be!" she suddenly flipped her notion and tried to divert her mind.

The lady left the room, her sight pointing down so that she couldn't see Hafsa even by mistake. Hafsa closed her eyes and tried to remember when and how she fainted.

A series of flashes flickered in her mind. Her room, Lila, and dolls.

"Was I at my home when I lost my consciousness?" A new question arose in her mind.

Her thought's session broke when she heard someone calling out her name and the next moment her mother stepped in the room.

The moment she saw her mom's face, everything dawned upon her. She kept looking at her mom and both of them hugged each other and started crying.

"That was a heavy price I had to pay for not listening to you my dear Amma," Hafsa managed to remark between tears.

"Yes, but In'Sha'Allah you'll be all well soon and maybe Allah taala saved you from the greater harm by not taking you to that late night party where you were headed towards." Her mother was composed, yet broken.

"Yeah, now I realize how precious is your advice always, hope everyone realises it the easy way instead of how I did!" Hafsa spoke softly and wisely

Continued from pg 07

not liked during fasting.

In the end was Hamza's turn that mama was zealously looking forward to. Hamza hastily pointed to the only pink colour chit left in the bowl.

Hamza was overjoyed, as he knew his mama teaches him every year about the importance of Ramadan before it commences but mama was nervous to test her upbringing.

The Pink chit was unfolded and the question came to Hamza's way: "In Ramadan and everyday life, what should be your intentions of ibadat?"

Hamza immediately answered, "Our intention of praying should be pleasing Allah entirely and not mama or anyone else. It is Allah who has created us and to him we are answerable."

Mama's heart was filled with emotions and her eyes with tears of happiness to see her own sadaqah e jariya.

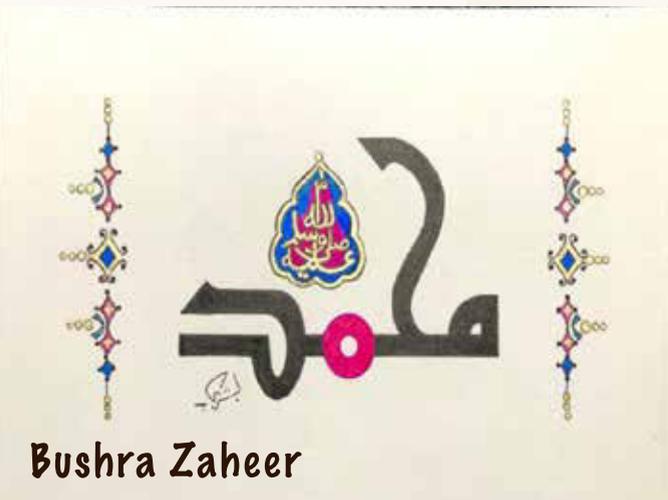
The competition ended with a great piece of training for kids in a fun way. Mothers sitting behind appreciated the great activity of teaching Ramadan's importance to their children.

Hamza's mama happily announced everyone as a winner of this competition for their incredible answers and sent contactless delivery hampers to every child's house.

Kids later shared pictures of their gift to Hamza, thanking him for the amazing Ramadan Hamper they received that enfolded a personalized prayer mat, a tasbeeh, a Ramadan activity booklet and a chocolate date cookie box.

And this is how a wonderful Ramadan get-together ended in a delightful way

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Madiha



Mariyah



Sara huzafa



Lababah



Madiha



Nargis ghaffar

Use your mind

Concept and artwork by Adeen Ahmed

Look at this, Kiran! you know Nisha, the popular girl at school? She's bought a new scarf and now everyone is buying and wearing it!

Oh? oh well...who cares! I like my own scarf.

Hey...why aren't you wearing the new scarf like Nisha? you look like a weirdo in that simple blue hijab, Alisha!

Uhh...well...um...I don't have...erm...

What?! Oh hahal you're SO different from us!

In computers class...

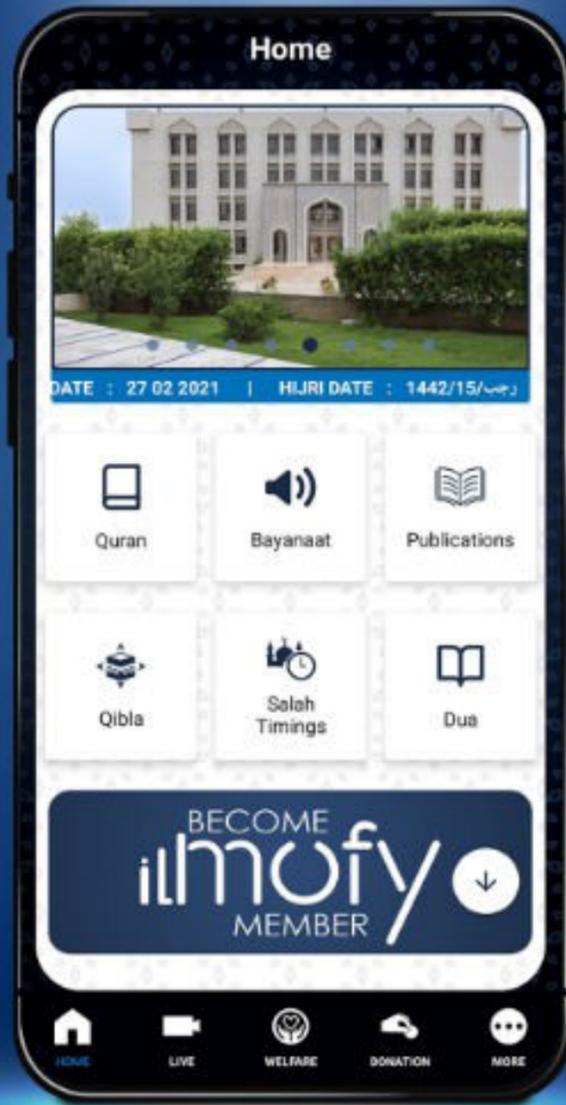
Listen guys...I want that scarf too! everyone is having one and I want one too! They'll single me out if I don't get one! I don't want to be different!

Later at Leyla's house...

Look Alisha, my mama says that it's foolish to just do what others are doing without thinking first that is a good thing or beneficial for us.

And don't worry if other people call you different just because of a scarf. You should accept yourself as an amazing unique muslimah!

You're right, I should focus on what's right and use my mind that Allah has given me!



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03

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