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**Comic: Good for Bad  
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### Patron

Hadhrat Maulana Abdul Sattar  
Hafidhahullah



### Executive Editor

Bint Zahid



### Associate Editor

Zawjah Zia  
Bint Aftab Ahmed



### Advisory Board

Bint Nishat  
Hafsa Kamal  
Eeman Adeel  
Ayesha Marfani  
Zawjah Ibrahim  
Zohra Noushin Ahmed



### Design & Layout

Zawjah Jahangir



### Printers

wasaprinters@cyber.net.pk



### Reach us at

30-C, Basement 2nd Comm. Street,  
Phase 4, D.H.A., Karachi, Pakistan.

**P** +92 21 35313278

**W** [radiance.fahmedeen.org](http://radiance.fahmedeen.org)

**E** [radianceteam8@gmail.com](mailto:radianceteam8@gmail.com)



### For Advertising Queries

**E** [marketing@fahmedeen.org](mailto:marketing@fahmedeen.org)

**P** + 92 332 827 8537

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# You will prevail

Sometimes it feels like all is lost. Sometimes it feels like hope is out of reach. Sometimes you find yourself losing in a haze, or on a slippery, frozen ground. Your thoughts may take over; taunting you of dark, far-off dreams. You might try to take a walk back into memory lane, but what you find there may be painful because you might slip on the frozen past. When you look at the future it is even more haunting. Incessant, useless thoughts may bombard the very core of the mind, and people in the present may plague you with the seeds of negative ideas.

'Never despair!' You hear and wonder who is calling you. An old beloved friend of ours is always there waiting for us. He is there in your very home, perhaps quite within your sight too. It tells us to be patient. It tells us that there's no use being frustrated or of bitter tears at the moment. Indeed, Allah is with the patient.

That friend of ours is the Holy Quran, a friend whom we sometimes meet and sometimes we part from it. Our goal is always to reunite with it but how firm we are towards that goal determines the level of our friendship with it.

Quran tells you not to let the negative seeds grow into corrupt trees of belief. We often overlook the worldly benefits of Quran too like Ibn al-Qayyim Rahimahullah said: "We and others have read the Quran on many occasions for illnesses and we have seen that it works in ways that physical remedies do not."

That is why the beloved people of Allah ﷺ have such a strong bond with the Quran. Imaam al-Bukhaari Rahimahullah used to pray tahajjud at night until the time of suhoor and he would read between a half and a third of

the Quran, and complete it at suhoor every third night.

So how would you be able to develop a resolute relationship with the holy Quran, one which would never whither off? How would you make sure you open it up daily for recitation as well as dedicate some time for its understanding to derive its barakah in this world as well as in the hereafter?

Hats off to you! These very concerns are a sign that you want to befriend your beloved Quran. So from this issue of Radiance, we have introduced a Quran quiz starting from Surah Fatiha. Quiz is always an interesting way to learn and of course, getting the right answers is not as important as learning from the ones that you get wrong. So widen your understanding of the Book of Allah ﷻ. This journey of learning would make Quran even dearer to us, become our light in the pits of darkness of life, be our heart's joy in the moments of gloom, as well as would be a shining friend in our graves when there will be no other friend at all.

So who is our real friend? Our classmates, our luxuries, our cell phone? They don't want to be our friend. But Quran WANTS to be our friend. It WANTS to help us. We just have to be with it. We have to obey and submit to it.

A day will come when Quran will return to you. That day, you will prevail, InshAllah!

Was'salam,

**Bint Zahid**

Editor.radiance@gmail.com



# The 3 things

radiance  
of the  
pious

Who said this world was going to be a merry place? Who said that nothing would go wrong here? But yes, the thing to be happy about and what sets everything right is the obedience of Allah and His messenger ﷺ depicted by this extract from a spiritual discourse of **Hadhrat Maulana Abdul Sattar Hafidhahullah**

Translation by **Bint Aftab Ahmed**

When all seems too gloomy, and we see no hope for our sinner-selves in this world or the hereafter, the hadith of the Prophet ﷺ and Allah's Quran are two treasures of infinite hope and guidance for all. In one hadith, the Holy Prophet ﷺ stated that three things can be your safe road (In'sha'Allah), number one: fearing Allah ﷻ and fearing Him only, whether we are in a crowd or alone, just this constant thought and realisation that Allah ﷻ is watching me, HE is with me, can prevent us from sinning even when there seems to be no other way out.

Number two: speaking the truth and nothing but that, even when your honesty will not be appreciated or even when your honesty is what you will be ridiculed for. Give no care for the world and be honest; honest to others, honest to yourself and honest towards your faith. Last but not the least, number three, spending moderately, whether you are a billionaire or a beggar, spend wisely whatever you have and don't waste it away on

never-ending worldly pleasures and desires for that's a trap you need to dodge.

So let's ponder, dear readers; are we honest, God-fearing people? Do we actually fear Allah ﷻ? I don't think so, because if we did, then why would we be sinning left, right and center? Not offering Salah, mistreating the poor, backbiting and misbehaving with our elders, parents in particular; these are all sins right? Do we spend wisely, or are we always unsatisfied with the brand we can afford? I think it's more of the latter than the former. No wonder there is so much unease and be-barkati in our lives today, since all the lovely teachings of our beloved Prophet ﷺ have been forgotten. We have forgotten that the Quran, Hadith and Sunnahs are not just prime guidelines and examples of how to be secure in our Aakhirah, but also how to live peacefully in this fitnah-filled world.

May Allah ﷻ guide us all and make us amongst the Swaliheen. Ameen

# How well do you know your Surah Fatihah?

With this issue of the Radiance magazine we aim to bring you some easy quizzes from the different surahs of the Holy Quran so we may understand the beautiful word of our Lord better In'sha'Allah. Indeed, listening to and reciting the Quran is extremely important, however, how many of us are able to understand what is being recited? Moreover, how much importance in our lives do we attach to this understanding? So lets try and delve into the answers by taking these quizzes and strengthening our relationship with this beautiful book In'sha'Allah.

1. In spite of your busy schedule, you gave time for understanding Quran and participated in the quiz. So that Allah saves you from being among -----.

- A. مغضوب عليهم
- B. ضالين
- C. Jews
- D. Hypocrites

2. Through which ayah do we pray that Allah guide us on the footsteps of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, other Prophets and the pious?

- A. مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ
- B. إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَ إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ
- C. صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ
- D. غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَ لَا الضَّالِّينَ

3. Which of the following ayah or part of the ayah is related to Tawheed?

- A. مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ
- B. إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَ إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ
- C. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
- D. All of the Above

4. Which of the following is NOT the name of Surah Fatiha?

- A. ام القرآن
- B. ام الكتاب
- C. ام القرى
- D. السبع المثاني

5. Whenever we do any good deed we praise ourselves and expect praises from others. Especially if somebody criticizes us we defend ourselves by praising. We forget that the will of doing the good deed was given by Allah. Hence the giver of these qualities alone deserves all praises. Which ayah delivers this message?

- A. إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَ إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ
- B. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
- C. اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ
- D. صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

6. Surah Hijr- ayah 87 talks about Surah Fatiha "We have given you seven verses that are worthy of recitation over and over again". It is mandatory for us to recite it minimum ----- times daily? \*

- A. 7





- B. 17  
C. 5  
D. None of the above

7. Which of the following is NOT taught in Surah Fatiha?

- A. Only the Righteous should be our heroes and role models.  
B. Our friends must be those who are righteous.  
C. We must avoid bad company.  
D. Bad people should be treated as inferior.

8. We begin Surah Fatiha by praising and thanking Allah in third person. Then we become so close, we start directly praying and supplicating to Him. This direct conversation with Allah starts from which verse?

- A. إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَ إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ  
B. اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ  
C. صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ  
D. غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَ لَا الضَّالِّينَ

9. It is ok to seek help of someone in case of need under the worldly means. But praying and seeking help of other than Allah in a supernatural way is totally prohibited. Which of the following ayah teaches us to seek help from Allah only?

- A. إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَ إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ  
B. مُلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ  
C. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ  
D. None of the above

10. Surah Fatiha is actually:

- A. An advice  
B. A sermon  
C. A prayer  
D. Answer to the prayer

11. A man who is aware that Salah is compulsory, yet he does not offer it, comes under the category of:

- A. مغضوب عليهم  
B. ضالين  
C. صابئين  
D. نصارى

12. Which ayah tells us that Allah is the Master, Owner, Sustainer, Provider, Guardian, Ruler and the Organiser of the Universe?

- A. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ  
B. مُلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ  
C. اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ  
D. صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

13. What does the first half of Surah Fatiha contain?

- A. Praise and glorification of Allah  
B. Description of the mercy of Allah and His Lordship  
C. Description of Allah's justice and Kingship  
D. All of the above

14. Due to lack of knowledge, we might be misguided. But at times, knowledge without action can lead us to the wrath and anger of Allah. Which part of the prayer says NOT to lead us to the path of those who have earned Allah's wrath and has gone astray?

- A. إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَ إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ
- B. غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَ لَا الضَّالِّينَ
- C. اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ
- D. صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَٰ

15. In which of the following ayah does a slave make a commitment with Allah?

- A. إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَ إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ
- B. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
- C. اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ
- D. صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

16. Surah Fatiha is a cure for every disease, even for snake bitten and magic afflicted person. That is why one of its name is:

- A. Al Wafiya
- B. Ash-Shafiya
- C. Al Kafiya
- D. Al Asaas

17. Which of the following is NOT correct about Surah Fatiha?

- A. The first surah of the Quran
- B. The meaning of “Al Fatiha” is “The Opening”
- C. It was revealed during the first revelation
- D. It was revealed in the early years of Makkah

18. We supplicate with “أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم” before recitation of Quran. This is to fulfill the command of Surah \_\_\_\_\_ “So when you recite the Quran, seek refuge with Allah from the Satan, accursed”?

- A. Nahl
- B. Naml
- C. Furqan
- D. An'aam

19. The Holy Quran mentioned Rasoolullah ﷺ as Mercy to the universe (Rahmatullil Alameen). Surah Fatiha introduces Allah as \_\_\_\_\_. Alas! Still our thoughts don't go beyond our tradition, culture, caste, nations etc.

- A. رب العالمين
- B. رب المسلمين
- C. رب المؤمنين
- D. رب الانسان

20. Which ayah talks about the Day of the Judgment?

- A. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
- B. مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ
- C. اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ
- D. إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَ إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

- 20 - B
- 19 - A
- 18 - A
- 17 - C
- 16 - B
- 15 - A
- 14 - B
- 13 - D
- 12 - A
- 11 - A
- 10 - C
- 9 - A
- 8 - A
- 7 - D
- 6 - B
- 5 - B
- 4 - C
- 3 - D
- 2 - C
- 1 - B

Answers



# For whom

by Mariam bint Imran

When you feel life gives you sorrows after sorrows  
And you can't look forward to a better tomorrow.

Things have gone so wrong, they can go wrong no more  
Now what is it that life can have in store.  
In agony, tears fill up the eyes and flow,  
Trickling down the face row after row.

It is human nature to feel sad and cry  
What matters is for whom it is and why.

You can cry in grief and feel worse than before  
Or cry to Allah and feel better for sure.



# O Allah!

by Bint Mohsin

I am feeling so confused  
As if I am mentally abused  
With me the world has been rude  
O Allah I need to be rescued,

I know my heart has gone blind  
Comfort is what I can't find  
Something is disturbing my mind  
Please heal me, O The Most Kind,

I am awfully sinful as you can see  
But I strongly hope for your mercy  
Please forgive me and guide me  
Make me content and happy.





**Yumna Naveed**  
11 years



**Rubai Kaab**  
9 years



**Ali Murtaza**



**Muhammad Taha Junaid**  
7 yrs



**Ahmed Shafqat**



**Omama Anees**





**Amna Anees**



**Aatika Fatima,  
Riyadh**



**Tooba Abdul haseeb**



**Musaab Shahid**



**Eshal Rashid Wahab**



**Salaar Naveed  
9yrs**



# Leave me alone



## Part 2 of 2

Lets delve into this epilogue of a story by **Zawjah Amir** about the influence that our friends can have upon us

All day long Amna couldn't get the invitation out of her mind but she didn't have the courage to ask her parents. That evening, she saw her mother checking her phone. Amna went close to her mother and enquired: "Mama what are you doing?" She didn't want to sound annoyed.

"Nothing much dear, you didn't tell me much about your friends so I just wanted to have a clue," her mother was smiling with genuine concern in her eyes.

"Well there aren't many!" she was shocked at her own lie.

"Ahan, I wonder what keeps you glued to your phone then!" she laughed and didn't

wait for Amna's reply.

Amna was getting constant calls from all of her friends that they wouldn't go without her, and Amna, despite her knowing that it was a displeasing thing in Allah's sight, couldn't get the idea out of her mind. 'I am not going to do it all the time. It's just for once. And maybe that would simply be a silly concert. All I want to do is make my friends happy. And it can't be a bad intention.' Her mind was good at giving excuses. And she wanted to ignore her screaming heart which didn't want her to deceive not only her parents but Allah Almighty too.

The next day she asked her mother if she could go to her friend's house to stay for a night and



**'I am not going to do it all the time. It's just for once. And maybe that would simply be a silly concert. All I want to do is make my friends happy, and it can't be a bad intention.'**

her mother was rather swift in saying no. Amna was taken aback.

"But why?" Amna was getting irritated.

"Because we don't know them and I haven't met their families."

"Oh mama but I know her!" she retorted.

"But that's not enough beta. I can't send you somewhere I don't even trust," her mother tried to convince her. But she wasn't convinced and she didn't want to argue.

-----

Amna texted Sarah and vented out her frustration. Sarah was quick to reply and her plan was amazing. All that Amna had to do was trick her parents into thinking that she was out to visit a book fair with her friends. And that was simple. All the friends met at Sarah's place and from there they went to the musical concert in Sarah's car. Amna was dressed modestly as usual and her friends were laughing at her innocent ways. She smiled sheepishly but didn't respond. Her heart was beating at what she was doing.

The concert entrance was filled with all kinds of boys and girls. It was too loud for her ears and too glittery for her eyes to bear. The moment she entered the hall she knew it was not a place for her. A wave of boys were pushing

and pulling each other to reach the closest place near the stage. A guy with a weird hairdo and hippy attire was screaming out his lungs upon the stage; who must be the new musical sensation of the year and everyone was going mad over him. That was too much to take for Amna. Suddenly she was pushed by a group of boys and she couldn't believe her eyes. They were staring at her and her friends were laughing. That was IT. She was in tears. It was crystal clear to her what a terrible mistake she had done. She just wanted to get out of here. She took a turn and started running towards the exit not looking at the startled faces of her friends. She wanted to run away as far as she could go.

Helplessly crying, she was ashamed of what she had been thinking about her mother. Her father's voice was ringing in her ears.

"A man follows the religion of his friend. So each one should consider whom he chooses to be his friend."

He had told her. But she wasn't listening. However, now she had realised exactly what he meant. She knew what she had to do. She hailed a taxi and sat inside. All the way home she kept praying to Allah ﷻ that He forgives her and give her the strength to confide in her parents, ask for their forgiveness and give her the Tawfeeq to never fall into the trap of Shaitan ever again



# Good for Bad

Concept by Z

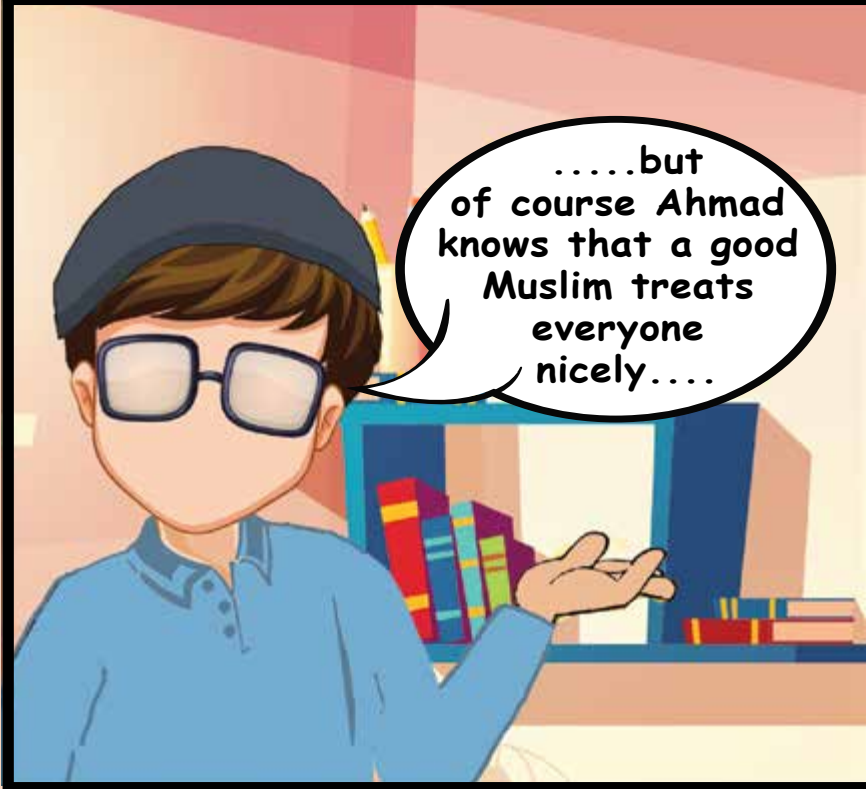
Artwork by Zaw



Ahmad you better finish your homework now as we have Khala coming over tonight Insha'Allah.



Oh!



.....but of course Ahmad knows that a good Muslim treats everyone nicely....



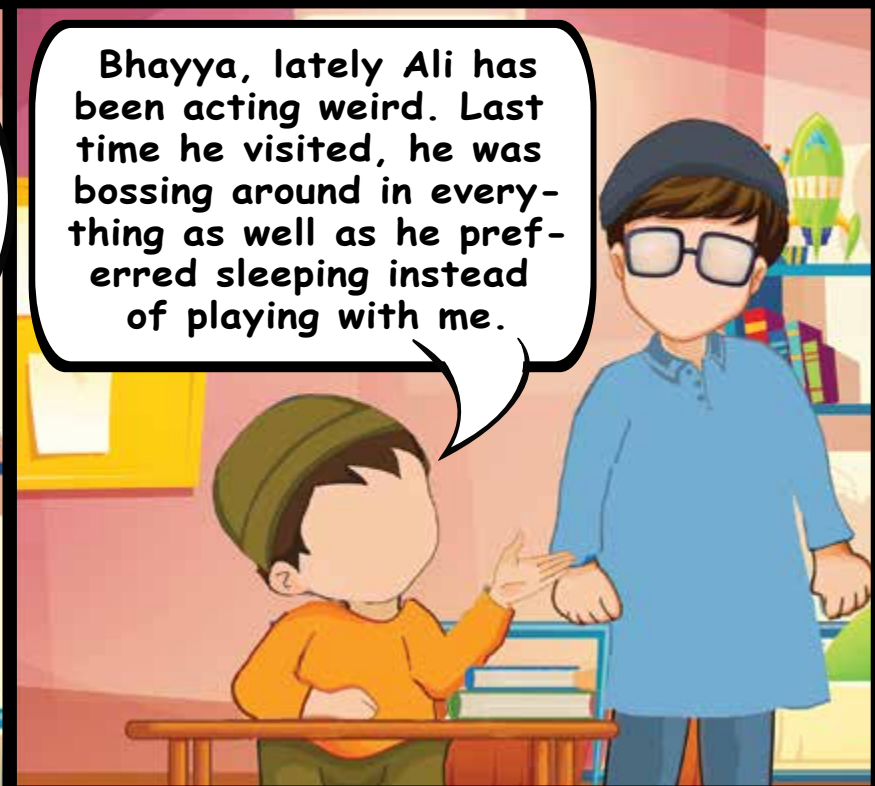
Especially if someone doesn't see to return the good and especially if they are your guests....



# Not Tit for Tat

Zawjah Zia

Zah Jahangir



# HADHRAT SAFIA BINT HAYEE رضي الله عنها

Who did Rasulullah ﷺ tell that if someone bothers her by calling her of the Jewish origin just tell them: 'Haroon is my father, Musa my uncle and Muhammad ﷺ my husband.' Yes you guessed it right, it was Hadhrat Safia Bint Hayee ﷺ!

Read on this article by Zawjah Junaid Mukaty to find more about this inspiring Ummul momineen

Hadhrat Safia ﷺ belonged to one of the most respectable Jewish family of Arabia. Her father, Hayee bin Akhtab was the chief of the tribe of Banu Nazeer while her ancestral chain linked her with Prophet Hadhrat Haroon ﷺ.

She was first married to a famous poet and Rabbi Salam bin Miskam who later divorced her. She was then married to a tribal leader and a harsh opponent of our Prophet ﷺ, Kinana ibn al Rabi, who was killed by the Muslims during the Battle of Khyber.

Battle of Khyber became the last nail in coffin for the military and political power of the Jews. Many of their people and leaders were killed making them weak enough to start beating about the bush and trying to conspire a war against the Muslims. Many prisoners and armour were also another benefit of this battle.

## An Example of Courage

Hadhrat Safia ﷺ and her sister were among these prisoners. When they were brought before the Prophet ﷺ, her sister started wailing and cursing loudly looking at the dead bodies of their relatives but Hadhrat Safia controlled her nerves and soberly sat in a corner though the agony could be seen from her face.

## Marriage to Prophet ﷺ

At the time of distribution of the booty, Hadhrat Dahiya Kalbi asked for a maid servant. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ allowed him to pick one for himself. He chose Hadhrat Safia. The companions of the Prophet ﷺ felt that it would be more suitable if the Prophet ﷺ kept her for himself as she belonged to the most respected tribes of Jews and was the daughter of the



Marriage of Hadhrat Safia ﷺ to Rasulallah ﷺ brought peace for the Muslims as after that the Jews did not engage in any war against the Muslims. The attitude of many of the Jews changed as they got a chance to see Prophet Muhammad ﷺ closely.

chief of Banu Nazeer and wife of the chief of Banu Quraiza.

Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ was soft hearted and merciful. He released Hadhrat Safia ﷺ and gave her a choice: "You are free to return to your family or if you agree, you can marry me."

Hadhrat Safia ﷺ opted for the latter offer and accepted Islam. Her wedding with our honourable Prophet ﷺ took place at Khyber.

### Results of this Marriage

These marriages of Rasulallah ﷺ have much wisdom attached to them but these are only visible to those who look into the real wisdom of why Prophet ﷺ took certain decisions during the course of his life. His aura is spread through more than fourteen hundred years and these visions are visible to those who are benefitted through that.

Marriage of Hadhrat Safia ﷺ to Rasulallah ﷺ brought peace for the Muslims as after that the Jews did not engage in any war against the Muslims. The attitude of many of the Jews changed as they got a chance to see Prophet Muhammad ﷺ closely. The Apostle of Allah ﷺ established affinity and a sense of brotherhood amongst them in a practical way and on the basis of religion.

### Ummul Momineen (Mother of the Believers)

Hadhrat Safia ﷺ was brought up in a family who were harsh opponents of Muhammad ﷺ. Her first husband was also well known for

enmity towards the Muslims. She had lost her family and became the captive of those whom she had seen her family hating since always. She might have had a desire for revenge but Allah ﷻ had different plans and He executes these plans in the most aesthetic manner.

Three days before Prophet's ﷺ arrival at Khyber, she saw in her dream that a brilliant moon came from Madinah towards Khyber and fell in her lap. Later on, she narrated the dream to her husband who struck her on her face assuming that she wished for the King of Madinah. She was a beautiful woman and the marks of this aggression were seen on her face.

This dream helped her in taking the decision and she opted to become the wife of the Blessed Prophet ﷺ. She was elevated to the Prophet's ﷺ household with the title, Ummul Momineen (Mother of the Believers).

### Surpassing Bloodline

Sometimes Hadhrat Safia ﷺ got upset when women called her of the Jewish origin. Regarding this, once Prophet ﷺ said to her that she should answer the women by saying, 'Haroon is my father, Musa my uncle and Muhammad my husband.'

### Social Dealings

Seerah of Hadhrat Safia ﷺ also teaches young girls and women an important lesson on how to win the hearts of their in laws and create an atmosphere of harmony. When she reached Madinah after her marriage, Hadhrat Fatima

**Continued on pg 20**

**This story by Hafsa Kamal enumerates that before you assume, learn the facts. Before you judge, understand why. Before you hurt someone, feel. Before you speak, think. And when you do,**

# THINK TWICE

Allow me to narrate a few funny events that changed my perception on how things truly are and how I had seen them. It is so easy to have a moment of doubt and to think unjustly of someone. It takes one action to set us off against them, yeah? Yeah. I hate feeling like that, I really do. I have been chided every now and then to adopt the quality of 'seeing the good in people' even if they're throwing a pile of bricks at me. How is that even possible?

I hate being treated in a certain way and people can easily get on my nerves. And if it isn't that, I think negatively far too soon. I create scenarios and situations that haven't occurred. I jump to conclusions far too easily. My friends think I need to change that. But someone's thought process wasn't going to convince me. My experiences did.

\*\*\*

"Hafsa," My husband's aunt hugged me, "I really hope you like it."

She pushed a soft package into my clammy

hands.

I looked at it with brimming anticipation. I love gifts. Like any normal person.

"Jazakillah khayr," I beamed. I thought it was a shirt or something.

When I reached my room and tore open the package, it revealed a flow of colourful chaddar and a matching niqab.

Living in a joint family has become so much easier with sets like these which cover us till knees, thanks to the initiative of my sister-in-law who introduced the concept. I love it.

Anyhow, I only had a few in my closet and revealed in the one my husband's aunt gave me. It was beautiful. I quickly changed into it and wore it for a couple of days before giving it for washing. That was that. The other day, I saw my husband's relative (who lives with us) wearing a similar chaddar while offering her prayers. I was shocked. And bemused. Con-



## Just when I had this mature, sensible thought, one of the maids came knocking into my room.

flicting thoughts racked my brain and I tried to think of the course of action I should take lest my new chaddar come into her possession. I also had a nagging suspicion on why she would wear something that didn't belong to her, it could be likely that she might have something eerily similar. I tried to think that, I really did. Yet I failed. I stormed to my room and complained to my husband.

"How could the maid even do that?" I whined, "that's such a beautiful gift I'd received a couple of days earlier. How can I ask for it back?"

"You don't even know if it's yours," he tried to reason with me.

"It looks exactly like the one I have!" I replied, "I am really going to let the maid have it." I spoke far too soon.

I was furious at the maid for she keeps our laundry back in everyone's cupboard and I was sure that she was responsible for having swapped my gift in someone else's cupboard.

But as soon as I swung my cupboard open, I saw the gleaming chaddar folded neatly on top of the rest.

My husband came over to see what had stopped me on my tracks, glimpsed over my shoulder and gave a loud guffaw. He continued laughing till I said, "Um, let's forget we had this conversation, ok?"

"You thought my aunt was wearing your chaddar," he continued, "and you were about to tell off the maid."

He wasn't going to let me hear the end of it. I guess I sort of deserved that.

\*\*\*

I wear my gold earrings literally 24/7. I can't wear an artificial pair ever since I had an abnormal growth behind my earlobe and had to have it surgically removed. I can't even take them off otherwise my ear hole would clamp shut quickly.

My son is very naughty, to be honest. He likes to take a swipe at my ears for the oddest reasons. Curiosity, I think. But yes, he pulls at my glasses, my ears, my nose, everything. And for that reason, I felt that my earring had been brutally knocked off my ears. To where? God knows.

I frantically searched the room before searching for it in the entire house. I couldn't find it. I honestly had a horrible thought then. What if?

The problem was that when I felt my ears during my bath, I could feel that they weren't there. (I reread this sentence later on while editing and smiled, it sounds as if my ear wasn't there. Please forgive me, I meant my earring). I panicked. Where could it be? How could I have not known that they weren't in my ears?

I suspected.

*"Avoid suspicion as much (as possible): for suspicion in some cases is a sin: And spy not on each other behind their backs."*

I really didn't want to think it but I am known

for concocting the worst-case scenarios in my head.

The other day, I tactfully told the maids of what I knew, "I lost my earrings and I want you both to search for it. Clean the house as thoroughly as you could so you can hopefully find it Inshaa'Allah."

Two weeks later, I nearly forgot. Or, nearly gave up. Whatever you like to call it but that was the only time I ever gave them any instructions and I couldn't give harrowing nudges to them for not finding it. If it's gone, it's gone. I had to be more responsible.

Just when I had this mature, sensible thought, one of the maids came knocking into my room.

"Baji, I found something but you have to reward me for it," she gave me a twinkling smile.

"Really?" I was so shocked I couldn't find my tongue for a second before I spoke, "Where did you find it?"

"Beneath the living room curtains, behind the sofas."

I couldn't imagine how it got there but I really

### **Continued from pg 17**

ﷺ came to meet her. She gave Hadhrat Fatima her earrings as a gift. She also gave presents to other wives of Prophet ﷺ. She had good social manners and this was the main reason that Prophet ﷺ loved her too. She was a nice cook as well. Hadhrat Ayesha ﷺ had said, "I have not seen a better cook than Safia."

### **Service to Islam**

Hadhrat Safia ﷺ was a woman with sharp memory and intelligence. She showed keen interest in learning about her new faith and being a quick learner. She soon attained the

didn't want to waste time pondering over it.

"What do you want?"

"A slice of chocolate cake."

That was so cute though. I cracked a smile.

"It's kind of strange how these things happen, eh?"

\*\*\*

I could go on and on and I wish I could but that's for another day, another topic and another page. Hopefully these stories were uplifting and inspiring enough for any person to realise that the easiest thing to do is to think negatively when life gives lemons but let's not forget, even the smallest incident can be a lesson if we learn from it. The biggest lesson I've learned? Don't think of the worst-case scenario, just the opposite in fact. Do it for your own peace of mind. Do it to make yourself a happier, better, more forgiving person. You should better believe it, these trivial times do cross our paths every now and then. How we handle a situation and solve the matter is what will make us come out bigger and better, Inshaa'Allah

position where she could solve problems of the ummah. A few traditions are also narrated by her.

When Hadhrat Usman ﷺ was besieged at his residence, she tried to reach him with food and water but she was not successful. She then supplied the food through a plank placed between her and Hadhrat Usman's house.

This courteous, bold, devoted and loving lady died in 50 Hijrah at the age of sixty during the reign of Hadhrat Muawiyah ﷺ. She was buried in Jannat ul Baqi. She left one hundred thousand Dirhams behind. May Allah reward her immensely and shower His blessings upon her. Aameen



Let's try out these delicious sweets  
from a young food expert Eeman  
Adeel

**Fool-Proof BEST Chocolate Cake with icing**

**Ingredients:**

- 2 cups flour
- 1 ½ cup sugar
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup oil
- 1 cup warm water with  
2 tsp coffee dissolved
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup cocoa powder
- ½ cup chocolate chips/chunks/walnuts  
etc (optional)



**Method:**

Preheat the oven to 180 C. In a medium sized bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder and soda, then stir in the salt. In another bowl, whisk the eggs on high, add the sugar and whisk for a minute. Add the oil and vanilla extract. Sift in the cocoa powder so there are no lumps. Then slowly add the flour mixture, alternating with the boiling water, and whisk only until there are no flour streaks. Do not over mix. Fold in any additions if you want. Transfer to a greased and floured baking pan, and bake for about 30-40 minutes (depending on the size on the pan). Insert a toothpick and take out the cake if the toothpick comes out clean. Cool for at least 15 minutes before taking out of the pan. Fully cool before icing.

**Icing:**

Whisk a packet of Olper's cream until it sticks to your whisk when you lift it. Add ½

tsp vanilla extract and 1/4cup icing sugar. Whisk again. Now add ¼ cup cocoa powder and a pinch of salt. Taste to check sweetness and adjust as you wish. Ice the cake and decorate with your favourite toppings: sprinkles, chocolate chips, crushed biscuits, nuts, anything!

**Danish Butter Cookies**

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup softened unsalted butter
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 2 cups all-purpose flour  
(sifted after measuring)



**Method:**

- Position the rack in the center of the oven. Heat the oven to 350°F.
- Cream together the butter and sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 1 minute.
- Add salt, vanilla and egg to the butter mixture. Mix on medium speed until combined, about 1 minute.
- Gradually add the flour to the bowl, mixing on low speed until cookie dough is just mixed.
- Line two large sheet trays with parchment paper.
- Scrape the dough into a piping bag fitted with a 1/2-inch star tip or desired tip.
- Pipe 1 1/2 to 2-inch circular shapes or any other shape onto the lined sheet trays, at least 2 inches apart.
- Sprinkle tops of cookies with granulated sugar if desired.
- Bake until lightly golden on the bottom, about 11 to 13 minutes.
- Cool on baking sheet for 3 minutes, remove and cool on a baking rack. Enjoy immediately with a cup of tea or coffee!

cook  
some  
fun

# The sense of humour of our great Imams

Imam Shabai was once asked about the method of doing masah of the beard. Imam answered that this is done by running your fingers through the beard. The man said that this way he is uncertain about the beard getting completely wet. The Imam replied that then he should soak his beard overnight.

-----

Hazrat Sheikh Ibn Asemeen and Bin Baaz were at a gathering when a man came up to them and asked that his friend wants to invent a machine that will point out the mistakes made in Salah, so is creating such a machine permissible? Bin Baaz stayed quiet but Ibn Asemeen began to laugh and replied that ask your friend if the machine will point out the mistakes by saying SubhanAllah or by clapping?

-----

A man came up to Imam Shabai and explained that he had married a woman and later found that she is a cripple, so could he return her? The Imam replied that if racing is what he wants to do with her then he may.

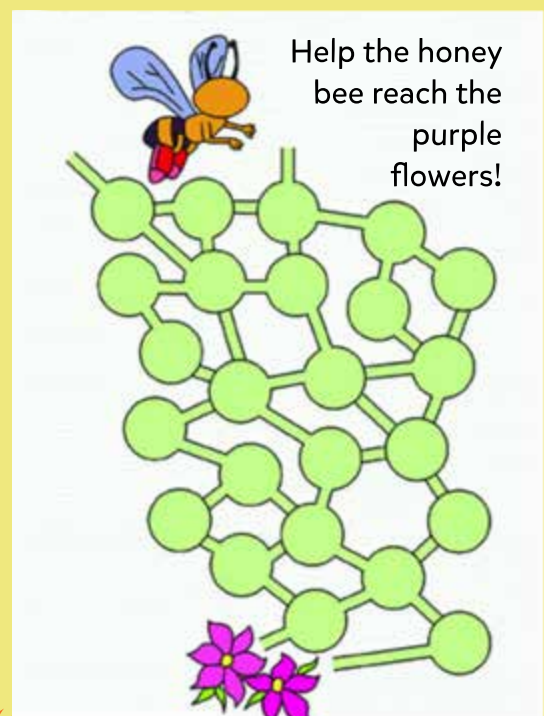
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A man once asked Sheikh Ibn Asemeen that what must one do after making dua, the Sheikh replied : he should put his hands down.

-----

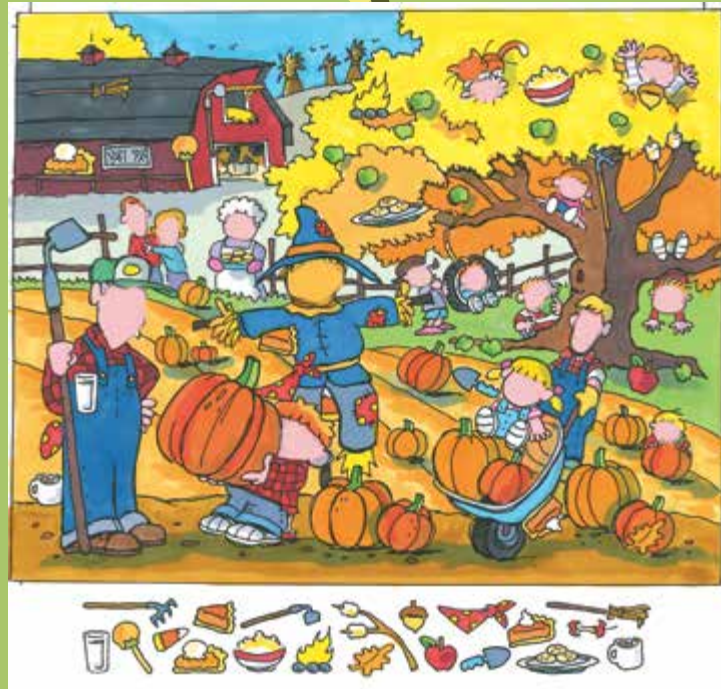
A man once asked Sheikh Ibn Asemeen that if the Holy Quran is being listened to on a cassette tape then do we have to prostrate at the Ayat e Sajdah. The Sheikh replied that (he should do so) only if the cassette performs sajdah as well.

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Find the hidden  
pictures



## Why do people get white hair?

Each strand of hair is made by a part of the skin called a hair follicle. The colour of the hair comes from a chemical called melanin. The hair follicle adds melanin as it makes the hair. For many of us, the hair follicles stop making melanin as we age. Hair looks white or gray because of the lack of added colour.

# Try Kindness

Written by: Muqaddas Ali

“No act of kindness no matter how small is ever wasted.”

As I was stuffing my back pack with chocolates and brownies, I noticed a small girl beside me peeping inside. I followed her gaze and was abashed to see that my bag was overflown with junk and two bars of snickers were laying on the ground. I grabbed the chocolates and pushed them in my bag and zipped it up. When I retired from the mart, I looked behind my back and saw the little girl coming with her father holding a straw in between her teeth and clutching the can with her both hands.

“Excuse me?” I reached for her.

“Excused miss,” her father replied and at the very sight of me the girl lowered her sprite can like she was afraid that I would snatch the can and put that in my bag too.

“This is for you,” I took her hand and kept the box there.

“No please,” his dad took it and tried to give it back to me but I shook my head and walked away.

I smiled all my way to the university.

Three days later when I was coming back from a long hectic day I sensed that someone was following me, I was already too tired so I gave up the thought of running and walking fast. When I stopped on the service road to cross I heard a little low ‘Aapi!’ I turned and was delighted to see that sprite can kid on a bicycle holding her small hand toward me. I took her hand. She offered to take my bag and I readily accepted because I was quite tired and my



shoulders were aching badly. I put my bag behind her as she pedaled slowly beside me.

“Jazak Allah so much!” I touched her dimple softly as I picked the bag.

“Can you please sign it for me?” she searched in her pocket and there was that sticky note which I had pasted on the box that day saying ‘thanks for being so cute’. I laughed.

I am not a celebrity but I felt like one at the very moment.

talk to the girl but immense worry written all over her face couldn’t make me to begin. So I wrote a note ‘It will be Ok’ and placed it next to her with a juice.

I could see the tears in her eyes sparkling as she smiled while looking at what I did.

I buried my face again in the novel which I was reading, a little bit relaxed.

When I came out after seeing my dermatologist, she was nowhere to be seen but as I was

## I could see the tears in her eyes sparkling as she smiled while looking at what I did.

I signed and hugged her. She made my day.

.....

I watched her carrying her mother on a stretcher and making her way to the emergency. She was frightened I can tell by the colours of her eyes.

I felt sorry for her although I didn’t know her. I was waiting for my dermatologist. The staff took her mother to the Intensive care building and a doctor in white overall was squeezing her shoulder. She sat on the chair, terrified and scared like a kid with no one beside her to comfort her.

I checked my watch. I had thirteen more minutes to wait. I stood up and walked to the cafeteria.

After five minutes, I came back and tried to

buying the medicines she suddenly appeared beside me and said, “Thank you my mother is all better now. It was a minor angina attack.”

.....

“Oh my... I am so very sorry,” she sat beside me on the road and picked up my mobile phone (which was undamaged somehow) and my bag. She was seriously worried and ashamed despite the fact that the fault was totally mine, I was the one who stepped in front of her car without realising that the signal has turned green but yet she was apologising again and again. She offered me a ride home because my ankle and knees were hurt. But I was just a little hurt, and I was so grateful to Allah ﷻ, considering what worse could have ensued.

Don’t you think that our little acts of kindness come back to us? 

# 7 Ways for Increasing Tawfeeq

"I only intend reform as much as I am able. And my success is not but through Allah." - Quran, 11: 88

1 Show Sincere Intent



2 Rely on Allah



3 Believe in Hereafter



4 Perform Istikhara Prayer



5 Ask for a Good End



6 Seek Good Friends



7 Be Grateful to Allah



At- tawfeeq  
bill'Allahi  
Ta'ala





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