# ISLAMIC BOOK SERIES FOR MUSLIM CHILDREN

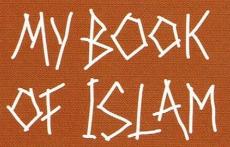




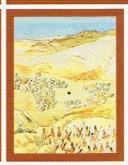














**BOOK 5** 

The Islamic School of Ottawa ©1988

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# MY BOOK OF ISLAM

- 5 Fourth Edition
2001

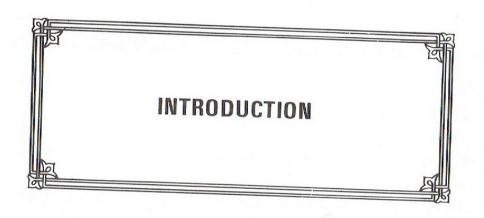
The Islamic School of Ottawa

# Contents

Introduction / Acknowledgement	
Chapter 1 — THE QUR'AN	
Lesson 1 Surat-Ut-Tin (The Fig Tree)	2
Lesson 2 Surat-Ul Inshirah (Relief)	5
Lesson 3 Surat-Ud-Duha (Morning Bright)	8
Lesson 4  Ayat-UI-Kursi (The Verse of the Throne)	12
Chapter 2 — BELIEFS	
Lesson 5 What Kind of People Were the Prophets?	15
Lesson 6  The Names of the Prophets	16
Chapter 3 — IBADAT	
Lesson 7 How Prayer Can help Us?	19
Lesson 8 Al-Qasr	20
Lesson 9 Al-Jam' (Doing Prayers Together)	22
Lesson 10 Funeral Prayer	25

Chapter 4 - SOME OF THE CHARACTERS OF THE P	ROPHET (P)
Lesson 11	28
The Prophet's Courage	
Lesson 12	30
The Prophet Always Kept His Promise	
Lesson 13	32
The Prophet Was Content with His Life	
Lesson 14	34
The Prophet Was Humble	
Lesson 15	36
The Prophet Was Steadfast in His Beliefs	
Lesson 16	38
The Prophet Showed Mercy	
Lesson 17	40
The Prophet Was Generous	
Chapter 5 — STORIES OF SOME MUSLIMS	
Lesson 18	44
Salman	
Lesson 19	47
Khalid Ibn-UI-Walid	
Lesson 20	51
Aysha	
Lesson 21	54
AI-Khansa	
Lesson 22	56
Abdulla Ibn Mas'ud	
Lesson 23	60
Tariq Ibn Ziyad	

Chapter 6 — ISLAMIC CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOL	JR
Lesson 24	64
Choosing Friends	
Lesson 25	66
Working	
Lesson 26	69
Being Careful with Money	
Lesson 27	72
Protecting Public Places	
Lesson 28	74
Forgiveness	
Chapter 7 — THE WORLD OF ISLAM	
Lesson 29	78
Sudan	
Lesson 30	80
Iran	



In the name of God the Mercy Giver, the Merciful,

For many years, the need to develop a series of textbooks for English speaking young Muslims in North America, has been felt. It was difficult for teachers and parents to provide young Muslims with information on their religion because the process of correctly extracting and simplifying information from the Qur'an and the Sunnah required techniques and expertise not available to many. The development of this series required patience, research, long hours, consultation with educators, reviewing of materials already available, feasibility testing and evaluation.

Initially, we intended for a few Muslims to write these books. However, after approaching many in North America and other countries, we were not successful in securing what we needed. We learned that the best approach would be to engage one person to write the entire series and afterwards have it reviewed by many. Muhammad Amin Abdus-Samad, a Ph.D. student of Islamic studies at Montreal's McGill University was chosen for this purpose. He wrote the texts which were re-phrased to suit the students reading levels by Friesen, Kaye and Associates, Training Consultants of Ottawa

Draft copies were sent to more than one hundred Muslim organizations, schools, teachers, imams and students. All were requested to review the material and return their opinions or any comments. Tens of Muslims participated in this exercise (may God give them the best reward).

Taking into consideration the capacity of young minds to learn, we did our best to provide basic and accurate information on Islam. The product of our labour, (this series of eight textbooks), is intended for Muslim children between the ages of 7-14 years old. For parents and teachers we have

prepared a "Teachers Guide" with recommended presentations and questions pertaining to each lesson in the textbooks.

One important problem we faced in developing this series involved the difficulties of translating from Arabic to English. Should we use "Allah or God", "Makkah or Mecca", "Issa or Jesus", etc. We decided, however, that English language required the usage of English terminology. We hope that this decision was the best one.

We do not claim perfection which belongs only to the One and Unique God. Thus, if some errors are discovered in these books, please, write to us so that we could correct the next edition.

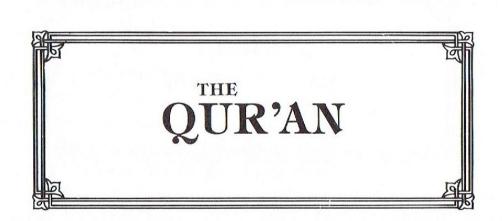
#### PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

Praise be to God Who has enabled us to print the second edition of "My Book of Islam". More than sixty schools, mostly in Canada and the U.S.A. as well as a few schools in Australia and Britain are using these books for their students. A few hundred books have also been ordered by parents for their children who have no access to Islamic schools in their areas.

We are pleased and grateful to God for giving us the opportunity to serve His Cause by providing this learning material for our beloved Muslim children.

Muhammad Amin Abdus-Samad

Qasem Hasan Mahmud



Chapter One



"At-Tin" means fig. God revealed this Surah to our Prophet (P) in Mecca. In this Surah God used the names of great and holy places. These places had been the homes of many of his prophets. Read the Surah carefully.

سورة التين ( ٩٥)

بسم الله الرّحمن الرّحيم

١ - وَالتِّينِ وَالزَّيْتونِ

١٠ - والدين والرينون
 ٣ - وَطُـور سينين
 ٤ ــ لَقَدْ خَلَقْنا الانْسانَ في أَحْسَنِ تَقْويم يا الله المنها المنهان في أَحْسَنِ تَقْويم على المنهان في أَحْسَنِ تَقْويم على المنهان المنهان المنهان المنهان المنهان المنهان المنهان المنهان الله المنهان المنهان الله المنهان المنهان الله المنهان المنهان الله المنهان المنهان الله المنهان المنهان الله المنهان المنهان الله المنهان الله المنهان الله المنهان المنهان الله المنهان الله المنهان المنها

## The Fig Tree, Chapter (95)

## In the name of God, the Mercy Giver, the Merciful

- 1. By the Fig and the Olive
- 2. By Mount Sinai,
- 3. And by this safe land,
- 4. Surely We created man in the finest mold,
- 5. Then We reduced him to the lowest of the low,
- 6. Except those who believe and do good deeds, for theirs is a boundless reward.
- 7. What, then would make you reject religion?
- 8. Is God not the Wisest of those who judge?

#### What This Surah Teaches Us?

God used the names of holy places in this Surah. Mount Sinai was the place where God spoke to Moses. Mecca was the city where our Prophet (P) was born. He was chosen as God's messenger in Mecca.

You know that God created everything. He made all the birds and animals. But He created man better than everything else. He gave man a body which can do many things. He also gave man a mind. The human mind is a great machine. Man can use his mind to think and solve problems. No other creature can do this.

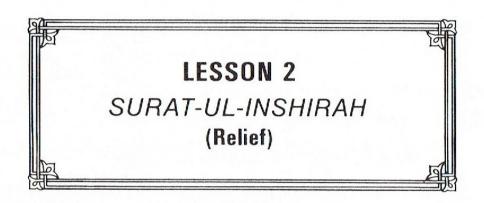
God created us so that we are the best creatures on earth, but we won't always be that way. Every man on earth will grow old. His body will get weaker and weaker. He won't be able to hear, or see or smell as well as he used to. He won't be strong anymore.

Every man will die. On the Day of Judgement God will look at each person. If he was a believer he will be rewarded. His reward will be Paradise.

If he has not been a believer he will be punished. He will be like the lowest animal.

Some people don't believe in the Day of Judgement. They aren't using the minds that God gave them. They don't see that God had great power to create them. They don't believe that He can bring them back to life on the Day of Judgement.

Muslims know that God will judge each of us. He will know who deserves a reward. These people will be given Paradise. God will also know who should be punished. These people will suffer in Hell.



This is another Meccan Surah. It means "consolation" or "relief". In this Surah God was comforting the Prophet (P). He was giving him consolation.

In his early life, the Prophet (P) was well liked by everyone in Mecca. As soon as he began to teach Islam things changed. Many people made fun of him. They tried to stop his teaching.

In Surat UI Inshirah, God consoles the Prophet (P) for his suffering. He tells him to continue teaching Islam.

He tells the Prophet (P) that things will change. Some day all people would honour the Prophet (P).

Every Muslim in the world honours the Prophet (P) every day. Each of us honours him in our daily prayers.

ســـورة الانشراح ( ٩٤ )

بِسمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحيمِ ١ ـ ألمْ نَشْرَحْ لَكَ صَدْرَكَ

٢ - وَوَضِعْنا عَنْكَ وِزْرَكَ
 ٣ - اللَّذي أَنْقَضَ ظَهْرَكَ
 ٤ - وَرَفَعْنا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ
 ٥ - فَأَنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِيسْراً
 ٢ - إنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِيسْراً
 ٧ - فَأَذَا فَرَغْتَ فَانْضَبْ
 ٨ - وَأَلَى رَبِّكَ فَارْغَبْ

# Relief, Chapter (94)

In the name of God, the Mercy Giver, the Merciful

- 1. Have we not consoled your breast,
- 2. And relieved you of your burden,
- 3. Which pressed down upon your back,
- 4. And raised up your renown?
- 5. Indeed hardship will bring ease,
- 6. Indeed hardship will bring ease.
- 7. When you have finished, still toil on!
- 8. And strive to please your Lord.

#### What does this Surah teach us?

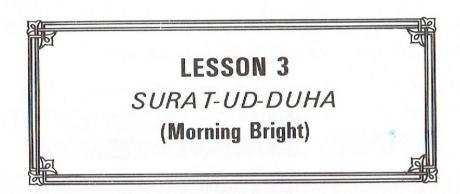
Everyone has problems. Our Prophet (P) had great problems. No \*matter how discouraged we feel, we should never give up. Instead we must work hard. Then we can solve any problem.

Some days are cold and cloudy. You may think the sun will never shine again. But it always does. It's the same with life.

Sometimes things seem really bad. Before we know it, life is good to us again. We just have to work at it.

A Muslim should always work hard. You should work hard at school and at home. Should you work to please the people around you? No. You must work hard to please God.

Sometimes when you try to please God you make others unhappy. What if your friend wants you to go skating? If you go you won't be able to do your prayers. To please God you must say "no" to your friend. This certainly won't please your friend, but it will please God. God will give you consolation. Like the Prophet (P) you will never be alone.



This Surah was revealed to the Prophet (P) in Mecca. It is the Surah of the "Morning Bright".

For a long time before this Surah was revealed God had not revealed anything to the Prophet (P). The unbelievers made fun of him. They said that God hated him and had forgotten about him. How sad the Prophet (P) felt!

That is why God revealed this Surah. He wanted to show the people that this wasn't true. God had not forgotten about the Prophet (P). He did not hate him.

He made a promise to the Prophet (P). From that time on, his life would be happier.

God also reminded the Prophet (P) that He had been kind to him. He had given him many things during his life. He had kept him free from sin.

God also gave some orders to the Prophet (P). He told him to be kind to orphans and poor people. He also ordered him to tell others how good God had been to him.

بِسمِ الله ِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحيمِ

٢ ـ وَاللَّيلِ إِذَا سَجى
 ٣ ـ ما وَدَّعَكَ رَبُّكَ وَما قَلى

٤ - وَلَلآ خِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لَكَ مِنَ الأولى

٥ - وَلَسَوْفَ يُعْطيكَ رَبُّكَ فَتْرْضي

٦ - أَلَمْ يَجِدُكَ يَتِيماً فَآوى

٧ - وَوَجَدَكَ ضالاً فَهَدى

٨ - وَوَجَدَكَ عَائلاً فَأَغْنى

٩ - فَأَمَّا الْيَتْيِمَ فَلا تَقْهَرْ

١٠ - وَأُمَّا السَّائُلَ فَلا تَنْهَرْ

١١ - وَأَمَّا بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ فَحَدِّثْ

## Morning Bright, Chapter (93)

In the name of God, the Mercy Giver, The Merciful

- 1. By the morning bright;
- And by the night when all is still;
- Your Lord has not forsaken you, nor does He hate you;
- 4. And verily the life to come will be better for you than this present life;
- 5. Your Lord will give you something to please you;

- 6. Did He not find you an orphan and give you shelter?
- 7. Did He not find you lost and guide you?
- 8. Did He not find you in need and make you self sufficient?
- 9. Therefore, do not humiliate the orphan;
- 10. And do not turn away one who asks you for something;
- 11. And still talk about your Lord's favour.

#### What This Surah Teaches Us?

God shows us the beauty of the morning and stillness of the night. The early hours are for working. The hours of darkness are for resting.

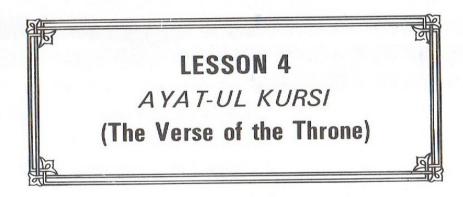
God was good to the Prophet (P) during the early part of his life. He helped him in many ways. Even so, God promised that the rest of the Prophet's life and his life in the Hereafter would be even better.

God has been good to each of us. How many things has God given you? Too many to remember. We should try and think of all the things we should tell others about the goodness of God. We should thank Him.

There are many ways to thank God. One way is to be kind to people who need our help. Look around you. You may see orphans and poor people. If you help these people, God will reward you on the Day of Judgement.

You may live for years and never see a poor person. But there are still others who need help. There may be a neighbour, or someone at school. May be a friend who needs help with homework. Perhaps there is someone who does not know much about religion.

It is your duty to help people. You may be able to show them the right way. Then, they may be able to help others. God helps you, and you should help others.



Some Surahs are too long to learn all at once. This is one verse from a very long Surah. The Prophet (P) said that this verse is the greatest part of the Quran. It is called the Verse of the Throne.

بسمِ الله ِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحيمِ

الله لا الله إلا هُو الْحَيُّ الْقَيّومُ لا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَةٌ وَلا نَوْمٌ لَهُ ما في الْسَمُواتِ وَما في الارْض مَنْ ذا اللَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إلاّ بِأَذْنِهِ الْسَمُواتِ وَما خَلْفَهُمْ وَلا يُحيطونَ بِشَيء مِنْ عِلْمِهِ إلاّ يَعْلَمُ ما بَيْنَ ايْدِهِمْ وَما خَلْفَهُمْ وَلا يُحيطونَ بِشَيء مِنْ عِلْمِهِ إلاّ يَعْلَمُ ما بَيْنَ ايْدِهِمْ وَما خَلْفَهُمْ وَلا يُحيطونَ بِشَيء مِنْ عِلْمِهِ إلاّ يعلَمُ ما بَيْنَ ايْدِهِمْ وَما خَلْفَهُمْ وَلا يُحيطونَ بِشَيء مِنْ عِلْمِهِ إلاّ يعلَمُ السَمُواتِ وَالارْضَ وَلا يَؤدُهُ حِفْظُهُمْ وَهُو الْعَلَيُ الْعَلَيُ الْعَطيمُ.

#### The Verse of the Throne

In the name of God, the Mercy Giver, the Merciful God is the living, the Eternal One;
Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him;
His is what is in the heavens and on the earth;

Who is he that intercedes with Him except by His leave? He knows what is in front of them and what is behind them, while they know nothing of His knowledge except what He wished.

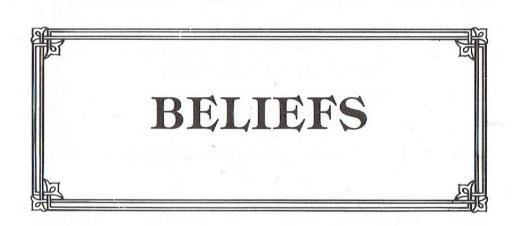
His throne includes the heavens and the earth and He is never tired of preserving them.

He is the Sublime, the Tremendous.

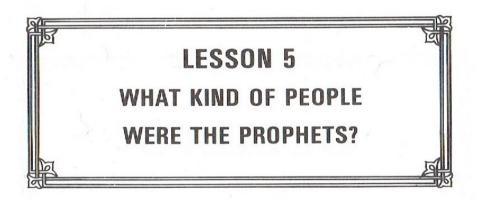
#### What This Surah Teaches Us?

This verse speaks of the oneness, the power and the knowledge of God. God preserves the universe. He keeps it going. He never rests and never sleeps. There is never even a single moment when He is not in control of the universe.

We have little power compared to God; We must sleep every night. When we are asleep, we are helpless. Only God can protect us. At night He watches over us. We should read this verse before we go to bed to ask for God's protection.



**Chapter Two** 



When God created man, He gave him a body which can do many things. He also gave him reason. With his reason, man is able to tell the difference between right and wrong. But man's reason isn't perfect. It doesn't always make man do the right thing.

To help man do good, God chose very wise men, called Prophets (P). God instructed the Prophets (P) to lead people in the ways of Islam. We should follow the teachings of the Prophets (P) so that God will be pleased with us.

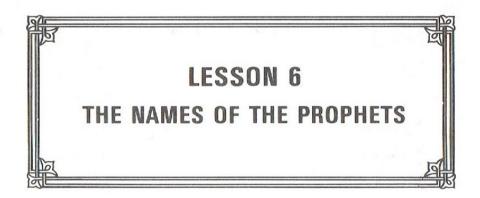
There were many different Prophets (P). They lived at different times and in different countries. But in some ways all the Prophets (P) had the same qualities.

For one thing, the Prophets (P) always spoke the truth. A Prophet (P) would never lie.

The Prophets (P) could always be trusted. They would never cheat or deceive.

All the Prophets (P) were given the same orders by God. They were to carry God's messages to their people. They told the people everything that God wanted them to know.

The Prophets (P) were also very wise. They knew more about religion than anybody else. That is why they were chosen by God to teach us.



The world is a pretty big place! Think of all the nations there are. When God sent His messenger to man, He remembered all the nations. He has sent prophets to all of them. There is no nation on earth where God hasn't sent a prophet to teach the true religion.

Many prophets were sent. No one knows the exact number. God is the only one who knows for sure.

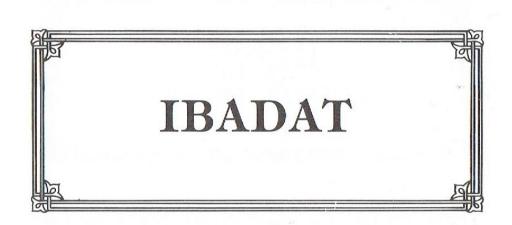
There are some prophets that we all know about. God has told us about them. Their names are mentioned in the Quran. Some of them are also mentioned in the Bible. There are 25 of them. We should know their names.

Here are their names (Peace be upon them all).

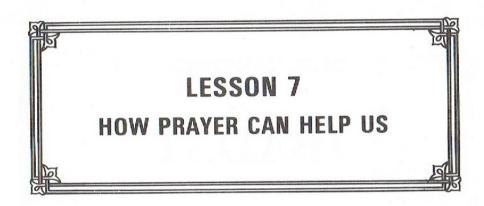
#### IN THE QURAN IN THE BIBLE (in Arabic) (in English) 1. Adam Adam 2. Nuh Noah 3. Idris Enoch 4. Ibrahim Abram, Abraham 5. Isma'il Ishmael 6. Ishaq Isaac 7. Ya'qub Jacob 8. Dawud David 9. Sulayman Solomon 10. Ayyub Job 11. Yusuf Joseph 12. Musa Moses 13. Harun Aaron 14. Ilyas Elias 15. Al-Yasa Elisha 16. Yunus Jonah 17. Lut Lot 18. Hud 19. Shu'ayb 20. Salih 21. Dhu'l kifl Ezekiel 22. Zakariya Zechariah 23. Yahya John 24. Isa Jesus

25. Muhammad

There are four prophets mentioned in the Quran who are not mentioned in the Bible. They are: Hud, Shu'ayb, Salih, and Muhammad.



Chapter Three



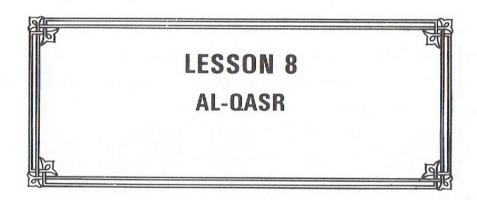
Prayer is one of the five foundations of Islam. All Muslims must pray to worship God. Those who don't will be punished. Those who do will be rewarded. Why do we pray then? To help ourselves, of course.

Prayer helps us to stay pure and good. God said that prayer protects us from sin. The Prophet (P) said that the five daily prayers make us clean. Imagine how clean you'd be if you took five baths in one day. It's the same with praying. When we do our prayers we make up for some of our sins. God will forgive some of our sins.

Muslims pray together. Whether we are young or old, rich or poor does not matter. When we pray we are all equal. We are all brothers and sister. Prayer teaches us brotherhood.

Prayer also trains us to obey our leaders. When we pray together we do what the leader does. We must pray at the right times. We must also follow the rules of prayer. Learning to follow rules and obey our leaders will help us in life.

Prayer also teaches us to keep our bodies clean. Every Muslim must do wudu before he prays.



Almost everyone travels. In the summer many people go on vacation. You may go to visit relatives or friends who live in another city.

Adults often travel on business. Does your father ever go on business trips? Some people travel all the time. Travelling is their job. Can you think of some examples?

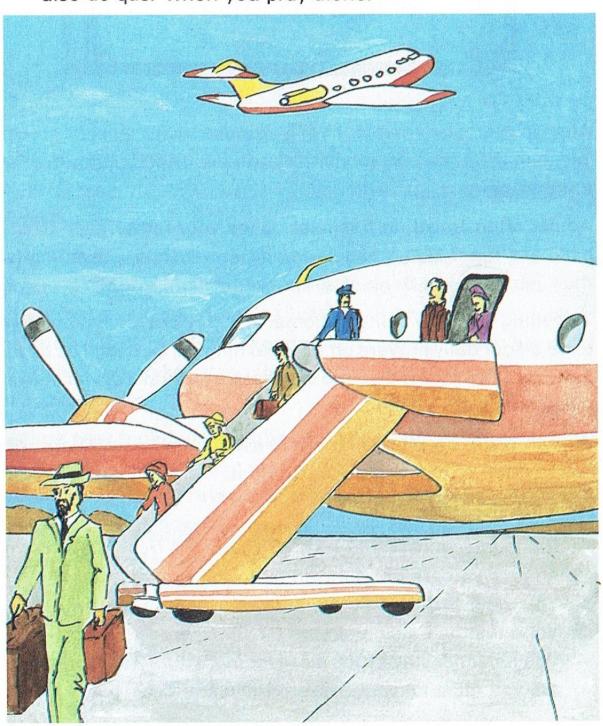
Travelling isn't like being at home. We may not always be able to do all our daily prayers on time. To help us, God tells us to do the *qasr*. This means that you can make a four-raka prayer in two rakas only. God is good to us.

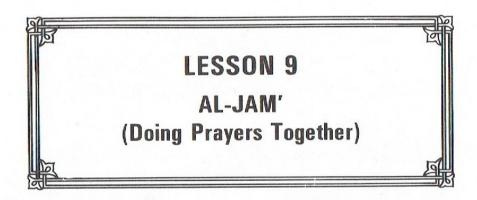
We can't do the qasr any time we're away from home. There are rules which tell us when we can do it.

#### Here are the rules:

- 1. The journey must be at least 85 kilometres from home. If it is shorter you are not allowed to do the gasr.
- 2. You may shorten only the Zuhr, Asr or Isha prayers.
- 3. You must be outside of your city or town.
- 4. You must not stay in one place for more than 2 weeks. If you do, you must do your prayers fully.

5. If you pray behind an imam, you should follow him. If he prays a full prayer, you should too. The imam may be travelling too. If he does qasr, you may do it too. You may also do qasr when you pray alone.





Al-Jam' means to bring things together (to combine). It refers to our daily prayers.

You know how to do your prayers each day.

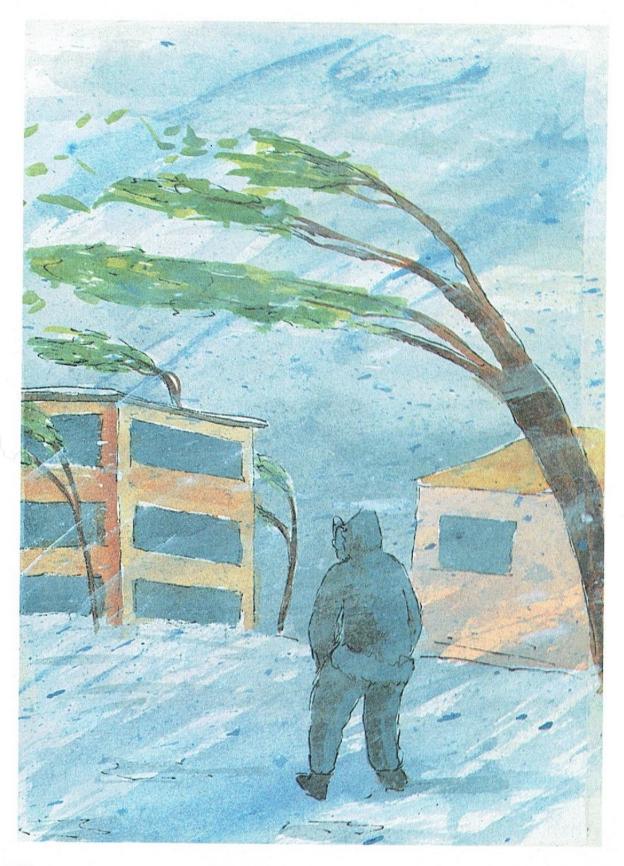
- 1. The Fajr prayer (dawn)
- 2. The Zuhr prayer (noon)
- 3. The Asr prayer (afternoon)
- 4. The Maghrib prayer (sunset)
- 5. The Isha prayer (night)

God helps us all the time. He lets us combine our prayers. This means that we can do two prayers at the same time. We can do Zuhr prayer and then right after we can do Asr prayer.

There are two ways to do this. The first way is to do both prayers in the Zuhr prayer time. The second way is to do both in Asr prayer time.

You may also combine Maghrib and Isha prayers. This means you do the Isha prayer right after the Maghrib prayer. You may do both prayers at Maghrib prayer time. You may want to do both prayers at Isha prayer time. This is also allowed.

When is Al-Jam' allowed? You must follow these rules.



#### 1. Travelling

You can do Al-Jam' if you can do Al-qasr. If you travel before Zuhr prayer time you may wait until Asr prayer time. Then you will do both prayers.

If you travel during Zuhr prayer time, you may do Asr prayer early. You will do both prayers in Zuhr prayer time.

Maghrib and 'Isha prayers are the same.

#### 2. Illness

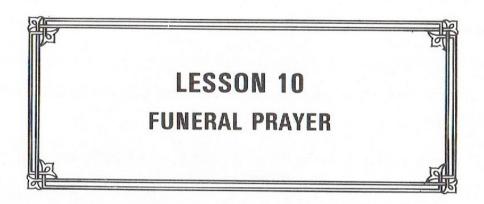
If a person is sick, he may not be able to pray on time. He may be sleeping at prayer time. He may be taking his medicine. May be the doctor is visiting him. A sick person may do Al-Jam'.

## 3. Pilgrimage

Pilgrims may do Al-Jam'. They may pray Zuhr and Asr prayers at Zuhr prayer time and Maghrib and Isha prayers at Isha prayer time. This helps them on their journey.

#### 4. Weather

Sometimes we can do Al-Jam' because of the weather. Have you ever seen a blizzard? The weather may be so severe that we can't go to the mosque. We would get frozen or sick. In such case We may do Al-Jam'.



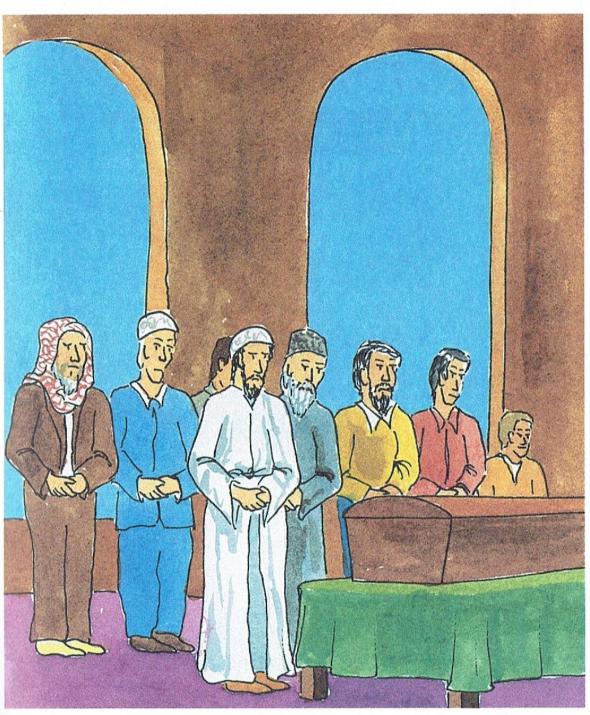
One day each of us will die. When a Muslim dies there is a special prayer to be done. It must be done over the dead person. If it is not done, all Muslims in the area will be sinful. Funeral prayer is very important.

First the dead person must be washed and then covered with a special cloth called *Kafan* (shroud).

Here is how the prayer is done. We do it while we are standing.

- 1. We must make wudu. The imam says the takbir. Then the others say it. Each person reads surat-ul-Fatiha quietly.
- 2. The imam says the takbir again. The others also say it again. Then he reads the second part of the tashahhud quietly.
- 3. The imam says the takbir Then he reads a du'a (prayer).
- 4. The imam says the takbir again. This is the fourth time. He reads another du'a (prayer).
- 5. The imam ends the prayer. He turns his head to the right and says the salam. Then he turns his head to the left and says the salam. The followers do the same. The funeral prayer is ended.

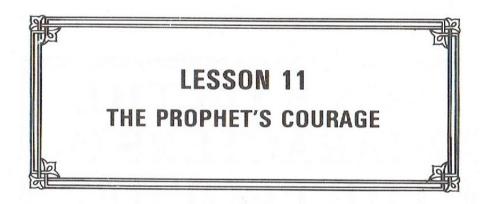
Sometimes the dead person's body cannot be with us. Perhaps he was killed in a plane crash. His body was not found. We can still do the funeral prayer. It is called 'salat al-gha'ib, the "prayer of the absent".



# SOME OF THE CHARACTERS OF THE PROPHET

(Peace be upon Him)

**Chapter Four** 



We all know what courage is. A person who is brave in the face of danger has courage. The Prophet (P) had great courage. If we read about his life, we will see many examples of courage.

Here is one story.

One night in Medina, there was a terrible noise. The people were scared. They thought that they were being attacked by their enemies. Some Muslims ran toward the noise. Then they saw the Prophet (P) coming back. He said to the people "Go home. There is nothing to worry about". He was ready to protect the people. He was not afraid. He was the first to be there.

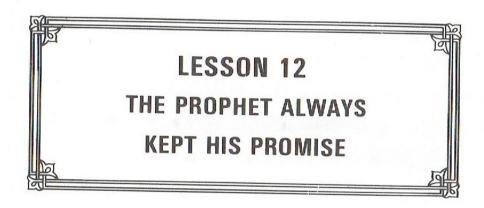
In the battle of *Hunayn* the Prophet (P) again showed his courage. Many of the Muslims ran away from the battlefield. The Muslims were almost defeated. The Prophet (P) stayed and kept fighting. He told the Muslims who were running away to stop and he said: "I am the true Prophet (P). I am the grandson of Abd-ul-Muttalib". The Muslims stopped running. They fought the enemy and won the battle.

It was said that the Prophet (P) was the closest man to the enemy. Only brave Muslims would be that close. It was also

said that Muslims used to fight near the Prophet (P) so that he could protect them.

When he was in Mecca, he preached Islam without being afraid of his people. He was almost alone. Yet he was not afraid because God was on his side.

We know that when Omar Ibn al Khattab wanted to become a Muslim, he went to the place where the Muslims were meeting secretly. He knocked at the door. When the Muslims inside knew it was Omar they were afraid. Omar was a very strong man. But the Prophet (P) told the Muslims to open the door and not be afraid. He would be ready for Omar if he wanted to make any trouble.



Do you keep your promises all the time? How often do you break your promises? You know good Muslims should keep their promises. The Prophet (P) kept his promise all the time. He never broke a promise.

Before he became a prophet, he promised to meet a man (Abdullah Ibn Abi Al-Hama) at a certain place to discuss a business deal. The Prophet (P) went there and waited. He waited there for three days and nights. The man forgot that he had an appointment. He saw the Prophet (P). Then he remembered his appointment. The man was sorry and he apologized to the Prophet (P). The Prophet (P) was not angry. He accepted the man's apology. He told the man that he had waited there for three days because he had promised to wait for him. He wanted to keep his promise.

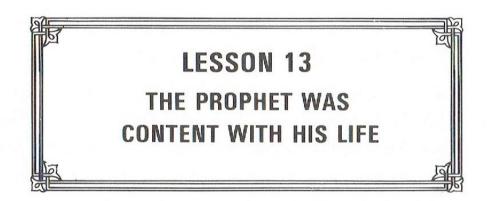
You remember when the Prophet (P) met the people of Medina at Al-Aqaba. They promised to protect him and defend Islam. The Prophet (P) promised to stay with them and never leave them. He kept his promise. He left Mecca for Medina and stayed there until he died. He was buried there. He liked Mecca, his hometown, very much. But he did not stay in Mecca when he

had conquered it. He lived in Medina because he made a promise to its people. He kept his promise.

The Prophet (P) signed a treaty with the people of Mecca known as the "Treaty of Hudaybiyah". The terms seemed to be hard on the Muslims. If a Meccan became a Muslim and went to Medina he would be sent back by the Prophet (P). Many people became Muslims and went to Medina to escape torture and abuse. The Prophet (P) kept his promise and sent them back. It was very hard for the Prophet (P) to do that, but he did not want to break his promise.

In the end, the people of Mecca broke the treaty. They attacked a tribe that was an ally of the Prophet (P). The Prophet (P) prepared his army to fight the people of Mecca. But he was not breaking any promises because the Meccans had already broken the treaty.

The Prophet (P) was known in Arabia before and after his Prophethood for never breaking any promise that he had made.



Many people think that money brings happiness. All they want is to be rich. Do you know anyone who is like that?

Wealth may not make us happy. We should be content with what we already have and thank God for it. When you see someone who has more than you, you should look around. You will see that there are many people who have less than you. You will think how lucky you are. There is an old saying: "The key to happiness is contentment".

Our Prophet (P) was a good example to follow.

He always wore plain, simple clothes that cost little. They were made out of wool. He never had more than one shirt or one pair of shoes at one time. He used to mend his own clothes and repair his own shoes.

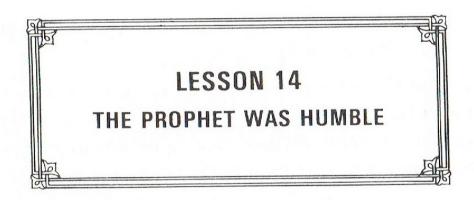
He slept on a mat. He never had a mattress or a soft bed. A Muslim lady once gave him a mattress full of soft wool as a gift, but he would not accept it. To him it was a luxury.

The Prophet's food was simple. It was dates, barley bread and rarely any meat. He never ate wheat bread for more than three days in a row. He was not fussy about food that was offered to

him. He ate whatever was offered. He never filled his stomach; he only ate a few mouthfuls.

The Prophet (P) had no money when he died. He could have been the richest man in Arabia if he had wanted to be. Instead, he gave all his money and whatever he earned to the poor. He lived like a poor man, but he was the happiest man of his time.

Islam teaches us to be content. It is unwise to worry too much about this life. The Prophet (P) told us that our stay in this life is brief. It is like the stay of a traveller in the shade of a tree. He rests for a while and then he moves on to his destination. Our destination is the Life to come.



The Prophet (P) was a great man! He was greater than princes and kings. He was the greatest man who ever lived

He was very humble. He showed this in many ways. He said the greeting first when he met people. He was the last one to release hands when he shook hands. He did his own shopping. He sewed his own clothing. He fixed his own shoes. He ate his meals with his servant. All these things show the Prophet's humility.

Here is a story which shows how humble the Prophet (P) was.

A man came from Syria to Medina to meet the Prophet (P). He thought the Prophet (P) was a king. The Prophet (P) took him to his house.

On the way, they met an old woman. She told the Prophet (P) all about her problems. He listened and tried to help her. The man was surprised. He said, "This man is not a king".

At the Prophet's house, he gave the man a cushion to sit on. The Prophet (P) sat on the floor. The man was impressed by the Prophet's humility. He became a Muslim.

The Prophet (P) let his friends drink before him. He was always the last to drink.

He used to chat with any person who wanted to speak with him, man or woman, young or old, rich or poor. He had a sense of humour and he joked with his friends and with children.

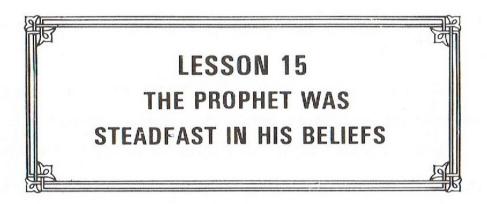
One day, the Prophet's old aunt was talking about life in the Hereafter. She asked him, "When I die, will I enter Paradise as an old lady"? The Prophet (P) smiled and said, "An old lady can never enter Paradise". His aunt started to cry and said, "Why, Prophet of God"? His reply was, "Because when you enter Paradise, God will make you young again".

When the Prophet (P) sat among the Muslims, he was not easily noticed. If a person came looking for him, he would ask which one of them was the Prophet (P).

He never let the Muslims stand for him when he arrived. He told the Muslims, "Do not stand up for me as the Persians do for their kings".

Once, a man called the Prophet (P): "Our master, the son of our master our best man and the son of our best man". The Prophet (P) told the man not to call him that and said to him, "I am Muhammad, the son of Abdullah".

The Prophet (P) was humble. Every Muslim should try to be like him.



The Prophet (P) was always a steadfast person. This means that he was firm in his beliefs.

The non-believers in Mecca tried to make him stop teaching Islam. They made fun of him. Some said he was possessed by the demon.

One of the leaders of the non-believers was *Uthah*. He promised to give the Prophet (P) money, glory and honour. All he had to do was to stop teaching Islam. The Prophet (P) would not listen.

The Meccan people knew that they couldn't change the Prophet's mind. They went to his uncle, Abu Talib. They said they would hurt his family if he did not stop the Prophet (P).

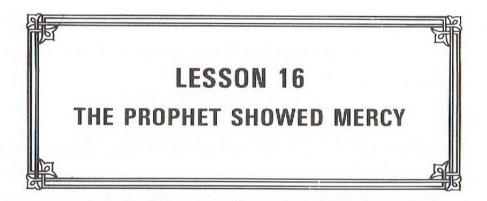
The Prophet (P) couldn't stop his teaching. He had to do what God told him. He was afraid that his uncle would desert him. He was so sad that he wept. But he was steadfast. He would not give up teaching Islam.

His uncle admired how steadfast he was. He said he would not leave him.

The Prophet (P) told the story about another prophet. He was also steadfast in his beliefs. This prophet was beaten up by his

people. His face was cut and bleeding. He wiped the blood from his face and said: "God, forgive my people. They do not know what they are doing".

Our Prophet (P) said the same thing when the people of Ta'if were throwing stones at him. He said: "God, guide my people. They do not know what they are doing". The Prophet (P) never gave up. Because he was steadfast, all the people of Arabia became Muslims in his lifetime. After his death, Islam reached many parts of the world.



It is important to be brave and strong. The Prophet (P) showed that he was. He also showed mercy to others. It is not always easy for a strong man to be gentle. Strong men are afraid that they will seem weak if they show kindness.

The Prophet (P) was not afraid. When his son was dying he wept. He was not afraid what people would think of him.

The Prophet (P) had sympathy for others. One time he went to visit his friend who was ill. He felt so sad that he wept.

The Prophet (P) was kind and gentle to children. He liked to talk to them.

The Prophet (P) used to pass a certain house every day. An old woman lived there. She was not a Muslim. She would throw garbage on his head and call him names. The Prophet (P) would not say anything unkind to her. It so happened that he passed by her house for several days and she was not at the window. He wondered if she was ill. The Prophet (P) asked about her health. When he found that she was ill, he went to visit her. He gave his best wishes for her health. The woman was so impressed with him that she became a Muslim.

The Prophet (P) showed mercy to the people of Mecca when they were taken prisoners in the battle of Badr. They were his enemies. They had abused and tortured him and the Muslims in Mecca. They had come to destroy the Muslims. The Prophet (P) protected the captives. He treated them very well. Later, he set them free.

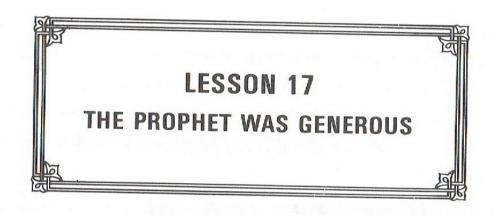
When the Prophet (P) conquered Mecca, he could have taken revenge. He could have killed anyone who had given the Muslims a hard time. Instead, he pardoned all of them.

Do you remember when the Angel of the Mountains asked the Prophet (P) if he wanted the people of Mecca and Taif to be destroyed? The Prophet (P) said, "No". He had mercy. He hoped their children would become Muslims.

God says in the Quran about the Prophet (P): "A messenger was sent to you from among yourselves, who feels sad when you face difficulties, who is anxious to protect you and who is kind and merciful to the believers".

The Prophet (P) was also merciful to animals. He instructed all Muslims to be kind to animals because God put us in charge of them.

Surely, the Prophet (P) was kind and merciful. Every Muslim should follow the Prophet (P).



The Prophet (P) was born to a poor family. His father died before he was born. His mother died when he was very young. He was an orphan. He had to work for a living. He looked after sheep for the people of Mecca.

While still a young man, the Prophet (P) married a wealthy lady named Khadijah. Her wealth was used for his work.

The Prophet (P) showed his generosity in many ways. He freed his slave. He adopted him as his own son.

The Prophet (P) helped his poor relatives. He took his cousin Ali to live with him. This was to help his uncle, who had many children.

One day, a poor man came to the Prophet (P). He needed money. The Prophet (P) had nothing left to give him. He had given all his money away. He asked the poor man to go to another man who had money. The Prophet (P) said he would pay the man back. The Prophet (P) always helped people even if he had to borrow money. He was very generous.

He said one day to the Muslims, "If I had a huge amount of gold. As huge as the mount of Uhud, I would hate for it to take me longer than three days to give it away".

The Prophet (P) was in the Mosque one day, ready to lead the prayer. The mosque was crowded with Muslims. Suddenly, he left in a hurry as if something had happened. The Muslims wondered what it could be. Soon, the Prophet (P) came back. He told the Muslims that he remembered that he had some money at home. He had gone home to tell his wife, Aysha, to give the money to the poor.

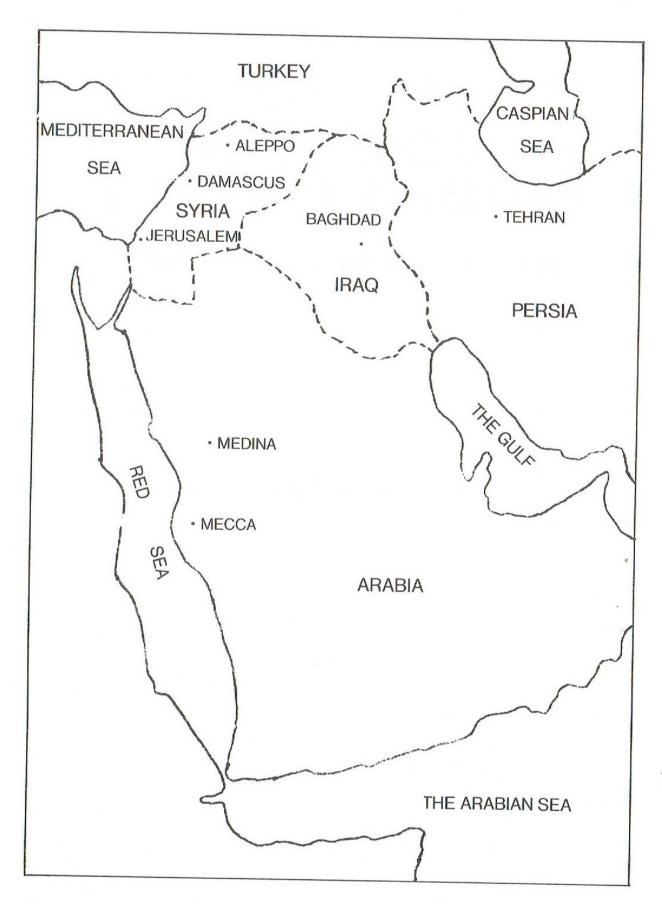
Many times he gave away his own clothes to those who needed them. Then he stayed home waiting for someone to give him or lend him a shirt. One day the Prophet (P) was teaching in the mosque. He had on a new shirt. This was given to him by a Muslim. He was interrupted by a man who asked him to give him his shirt.

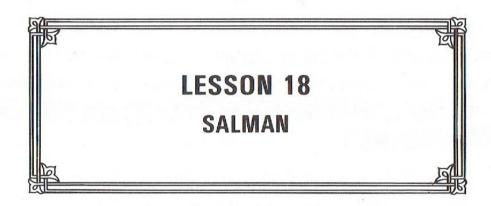
When the Prophet (P) finished his teaching, he gave his shirt to the man. Then he went home. When the Prophet (P) left, the other Muslims jumped on that Muslim and told him: "Don't you know that was the only shirt the Prophet (P) had"? The man replied, "Yes, I know. I am sorry I don't want to wear it. I wanted something from the Prophet (P) to take with me to my grave when I die. This was the only thing I could see that I could get".

The Prophet (P) gave generously without worrying about himself or his family. Muslims who lived with him at the time were also generous. As Muslims we must be generous too.

## STORIES OF SOME MUSLIMS

**Chapter Five** 





Salman was a companion of the Prophet (P). He was well known for his idea to dig a trench. That was what stopped the enemy in the Battle of the Trench.

Salman was the son of a great man in a village in Persia. He was not an Arab. He was called Salman-ul-Farisi (The Persian). As a boy he wanted to learn about Christianity. But at that time the Persians worshipped fire. So, he left his house and went with a Christian monk. He met many other monks who taught him.

In his search for knowledge, he travelled far. One day, he arrived in Syria. A monk in Syria was his last teacher. The time came when the monk was dying. On his death bed, he told Salman that a prophet was coming. He said he would appear in Arabia. This prophet would teach the religion of Abraham. The monk even told Salman what the prophet would look like.

After hearing this, Salman set out for Arabia to find the coming prophet. On the way, he was betrayed by a tribe of Bedouins. They sold him as a slave to a Jew. But the Jew was also travelling to Arabia. After many months, they arrived in Medina. (Medina was called Yathrib in those days.)

Not too long after they got to Medina, the Prophet (P) made his migration there. Salman recognized him from what his teacher had said. He knew this was truly the Prophet. He became a Muslim. The Prophet (P) helped him gain his freedom from his Jewish master.

It had taken Salman many years to find the Prophet (P). He had come very far. His route took him over 2,400 km.

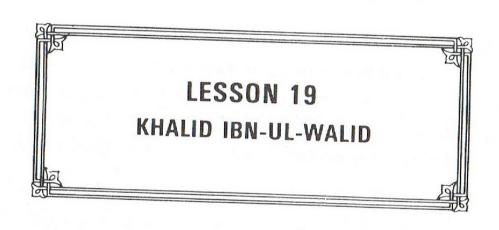
In those days, camels were the only way to travel a long distance. They can go for days without water. They used to be called "the ships of the desert". But they are also very slow. So, it took Salman many years, wandering from place to place, in his search for the true religion.

Salman was a pious and humble man. Once he was listening to a group of Quraysh. They were talking about the glories of their families and clans. They all thought they were pretty good. When they had finished speaking, Salman said, "As for myself, I was created from clay. I shall return to clay when I die. On the Day of Judgement, my deeds shall be weighed. If my good deeds are heavier than my bad ones, I will find my salvation and I will be honoured, but if my bad deeds weigh more than my good deeds, I shall be disgraced".

When Omar became the Caliph he made Salman the governor of Medina. Salman got a good salary for his job. He gave most of it away to the needy, and to those who had left their jobs to study Islam. He often went to the market. There, he would buy palm leaves. He would weave the leaves into mats and sell them. Only half of his profit went to his family. The other half was spent for charity.

Salman's simple life led him to wear simple clothes. Often he looked like one of the poor. One day a stranger saw him and thought he was poor. He asked Salman to carry a bundle of hay from the market to his house. Right away Salman picked up the bundle and carried it on his head.

Other people soon recognized him. They did not want their governor working like a slave. They tried to take the bundle from him. Salman refused and said, "I did it for the sake of God and I shall keep it to its destination". You can imagine how the stranger felt when he found out who was giving orders to. He was very sorry, and he apologized to Salman.



Khalid Ibn UI-Walid was one of the greatest generals in Islamic history. He came from a wealthy and noble family. They were the Bani Makhzum of the Quraysh tribe.

Bani Makhzum were famous for their bravery, and their mastery of horse-riding and fighting on horseback. Khalid learned these skills as a child.

Before he became a Muslim, Khalid had fought with the Quraysh. He had fought in Uhud and the Battle of the Trench against the Prophet (P). He did not know the true message of the Prophet (P). It was Khalid who led the Quraysh cavalry to victory at Uhud.

Khalid's brother, Walid, had become a Muslim during the pilgrimage of 7 A.H. During his stay in Mecca, Walid looked for his brother. He could not find him, so he wrote him a letter. The letter said: "It is so strange that you do not know the truthfulness of Islam. The Messenger of God, peace be upon him asked me about you and said: 'Where is Khalid'? I told him, 'God will bring him'."

After reading the letter, Khalid went to Medina to see the Prophet (P). There, he embraced Islam. The Prophet (P) said to

him, "Praise be to God, who has guided you. I know you are a bright man".

"Messenger of God", said Khalid, "pray to God that He may forgive me for what I did against you. I did not know any better".

"Islam washes away sins done before being a Muslim", said the Prophet (P): "God, forgive Khalid for what he did".

In that same year, 8 A.H., Khalid became one of the leaders of the Muslim army that conquered Mecca.

Later, in a village in Syria called *Mu'tah*, he became the fourth leader. The Prophet (P) appointed Zayd as commander. He said that should Zayd be killed, Ja'far Ibn Abi Talib would take command. If Ja'far died, Abdullah Ibn Rawahah would lead the army. Should he be killed also, the army would have to elect a new Commander.

As it happened, each of the men fell in battle. Khalid was chosen to lead the army. He gave his men new orders. Then he went to fight. He was very brave. Nine swords he used and nine were broken in his hands. But his surprise attack confused the enemy. They had to retreat. There were only 3,000 men in the Muslim army, while there were 200,000 in the Roman army. It was Khalid's skill that brought the Muslims to victory. After seven days of battle only 12 Muslim soldiers had been martyred.

The Prophet (P) could see what was going on with his prophetic vision. While he was speaking to his congregation in Medina he said, "Know that Zayd has been martyred. Ja far also has been martyred; Abdullah Ibn Rawahah held the banner and he too

has been martyred. Now Khalid Ibn-Ul-Walid, Sayfullah ("the Sword of God") leads the army, and turns the battle in our favour". After that, Khalid was known as "the Sword of God".

After the Prophet (P) died, Abu Bakr became the Caliph. There were rebellions in the Muslim land. Some Arabs turned away from Islam. They said that if the Prophet (P) was really a prophet, he would not have died. Some of them did not want to pay zakah.

Tulayhat-ul-Asadi and Musaylimah said they were now prophets. They called people to follow them. Abu Bakr sent his army to fight them. One of the leaders was Khalid.

Another leader was al-Muthanna. His army was fighting the Persians in Iraq. Abu Bakr sent Khalid and his army to help. They fought the Persians at Hafir and beat them.

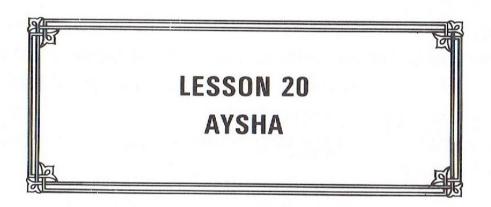
In Syria the Romans were fighting the Muslims. They needed help. Abu Bakr ordered Khalid to march from Iraq to Syria to help. Khalid found the army getting ready for the battle at Yarmuk. Together the two armies defeated the Romans.

The year was 13 A.H. During the battle, Khalid got a letter from Omar. It said that Abu Bakr died and that Omar was now the Caliph. It also said that Omar was making Abu Ubaydah the commander of the army. The job was no longer Khalid's.

Khalid hid the letter until the Muslims had won the battle. Then he showed it to Abu Ubaydah. Khalid was made his assistant. He was sent to northern Syria to fight the Romans there.

Khalid also won that battle. Omar removed him from the leadership of the army. It was not because Omar was not happy with him. The trouble was that because Khalid was such a great leader, the people were starting to hero-worship him. Omar felt that without Khalid the people would put their faith in God to win for them.

Khalid spent the rest of his life in Homs in Syria. He never went to battle again. In 21 A.H. when he was over 90, Khalid was dying. He was not happy. He wanted to die fighting, but he was dying a natural death. He wanted to be a martyr. On his death bed, he said, "I have joined in many battles. My body is covered with scars and wounds. But now, I am dying a natural death". His last wish was that his horse and weapons were to be given to the Muslim army.



Aysha was the Prophet's youngest wife. She was the daughter of Abu Bakr. She lived with the Prophet (P) near the mosque in Medina. One day Omar paid them a visit. He found the Prophet (P) laying on a mat with his head on a leather pillow filled with palm fibres. Tears came to Omar's eyes.

"Why are you crying, Omar"? asked the Prophet (P).

"Messenger of God," said Omar, "The king of Persia and the Emperor of Rome are the enemies of God. They sleep on mattresses with silk and brocade. They are your enemies and they live in luxury. Yet you, His prophet and chosen one, use only a mat and a pillow of palm fibres".

Aysha lived the same hard life as the Prophet (P), but she was happy. It was in her room that Jibril came to the Prophet (P). It was in her room that the Prophet (P) died and was buried. Later, Abu Bakr and Omar were also buried there.

Aysha loved the Prophet (P) very much. The Prophet (P) once told her a story about a woman who loved her husband very much. Aysha replied that she loved our Prophet (P) even more than that.

Aysha was also pious and generous. Once, her nephew sent her 70,000 dirhams. She gave the money to the poor and the needy. Aysha also helped the Prophet (P) during times of battle. She helped the soldiers, and brought them food and water. She cared for the wounded.

She was very bright. She learned Arabian history and poetry. Her nephew, Urwah, was once praised for his reading of poetry. He said that his poetry was nothing compared to hers. Aysha learned religion from the Prophet (P). He told her many hadiths (traditions). She told the people of more than 2,000 of these hadiths.

People would come to her to ask questions about religion. One day Shurayh came to her, "Mother of Believers, Abu Hurayrah says that the Prophet (P) said, "Whoever would like to meet God, God would also like to meet him. Whoever does not want to meet God, God also does not want to meet him! But to meet God, we must die. So if this is true, then we will all be ruined. None of us likes death".

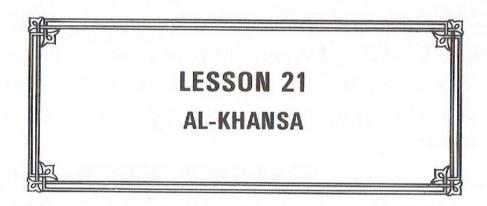
Aysha told him that the Prophet (P) had indeed said those words, but not the way Shurayh thought. The Prophet (P) meant God would like to meet them, but only when they were dying. God would not take someone's life just to meet him. This story shows how wise Aysha was.

Aysha also knew medicine. Her nephew, Urwah, said to her, "I am not surprised that you know Islamic law. You were the Prophet's wife. I am not surprised that you know poetry. You are the daughter of Abu Bakr. But I am surprised that you know

medicine. How do you''? Aysha told him that the Prophet (P) was ill in his old age. Many Arabs had come to see him. They taught her medicine to treat him.

After the Prophet (P) died, Aysha never got married again. She was called Umm-ul-Mu'minin'. This means "Mother of the Believers".

Aysha died in 58 A.H. She was 70 years old. She was buried at Al-Baqi, the graveyard at Medina.



In this short story, you will learn how truly devoted to God one woman was.

Al-Khansa was a lady poet. She lived in Arabia before Islam. She lost her brother, Sakhr, whom she loved very much. She cried about her brother's death until she became blind. She recited poetry about her grief for his death. Anyone who listened to her poetry cried because of her sadness and deep love for her brother.

When she heard about Islam, she became a Muslim. She stopped crying for her brother but she kept making poetry. The Prophet (P) liked her poetry and he often listened to her reciting her poems.

Al-Khansa changed when she became a Muslim. She went to the battlefield with her four sons. Before the battle started Al-Khansa gathered her sons and said:

"You know that God promised you with great goodness to fight the enemy. You know that the Hereafter is better than the life you lead now. In the morning, if God wills it, you are going to fight the enemy".

In the morning they all went to battle. They fell dead one by one. They were all martyrs. When Al-Khansa heard the news she said: "Praise be to God. He has honoured me with their martyrdom. I hope that my Lord will one day let me join them in His Paradise".

You see, to Al-Khansa, the news of her sons death was not bad. They had been blessed with Paradise by God. She knew they had died for a good cause? Islam. She also knew that God rewards the believers with Paradise.



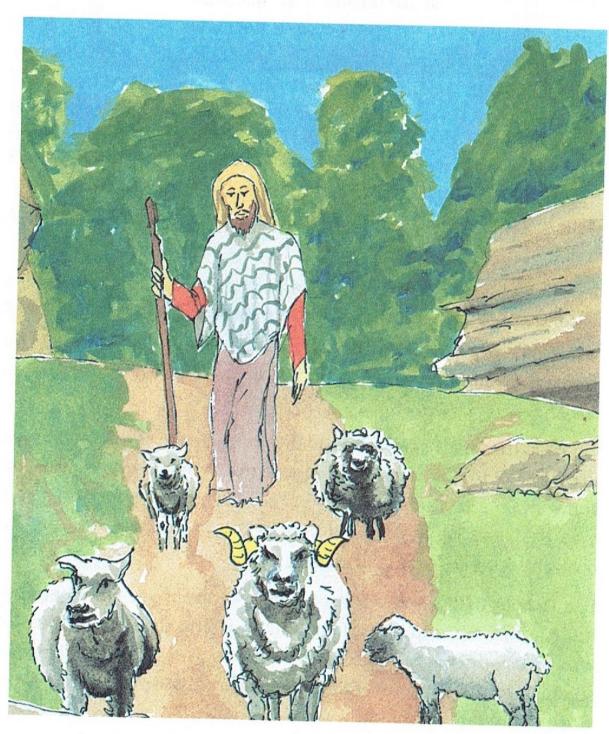
Abdullah ibn Mas'ud was one of the companions of the Prophet (P). He was born in a place called Najd, in Arabia. His father was from the *Hudhayl* tribe there. His mother was of the Quraysh in Mecca. When his father died, he and his mother went to Mecca to live.

Finally, Ibn Mas'ud found a job as a shepherd. One day he was watching the sheep on a mountain pass. The Prophet (P) and Abu Bakr were walking by. They were both very thirsty. The Prophet (P) said to Ibn Mas'ud, "Can you give us some milk to drink"?

Ibn Mas'ud said, "These sheep are in my trust. I am not allowed to give milk to anybody. If they were my sheep, I would give you some milk". So the Prophet (P) said, "Well, can you bring us a ewe that has no milk"? "Of course" said Ibn Mas'ud, and he brought a ewe (female sheep).

The Prophet (P) touched the breasts of the ewe. They became full of milk. He and Abu Bakr milked it and drank. Ibn Mas'ud was amazed. This miracle led him to become a Muslim. He was so close to the Prophet (P) that some people thought they were close relatives.

The Prophet (P) taught Ibn Mas'ud 70 Surahs of the Quran. The Prophet (P) liked the way he read the Quran. He said that people who liked to read the Quran should read it like Ibn Mas'ud. Then they would be reading it well.



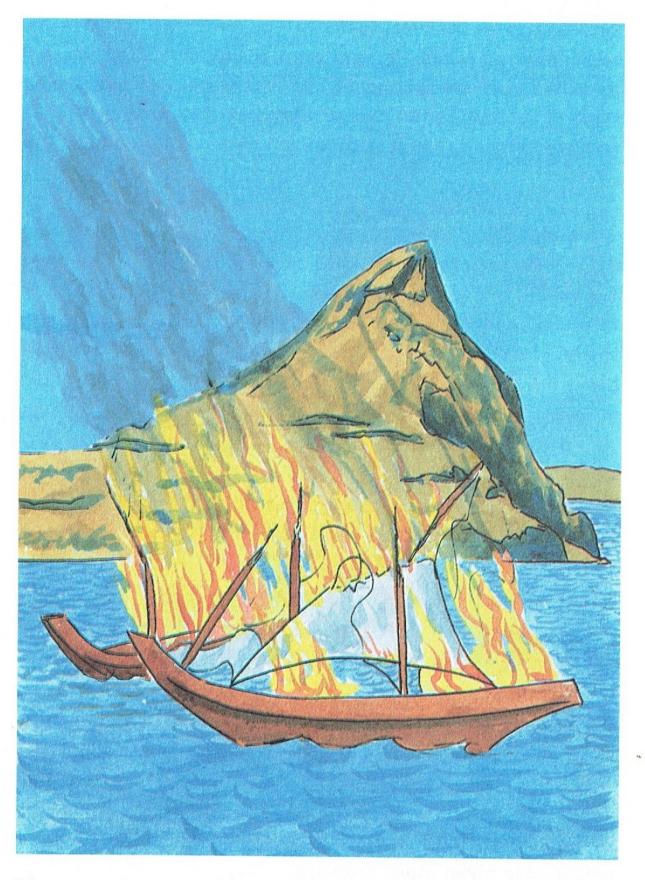
Ibn Mas'ud was the first Muslim to read the Quran loudly. In the early days of Islam, it was read in secret. Some of the companions of the Prophet (P) said the Quraysh would never learn about the Quran unless they heard it. They said that someone should read it to them. Ibn Mas'ud offered to do the job.

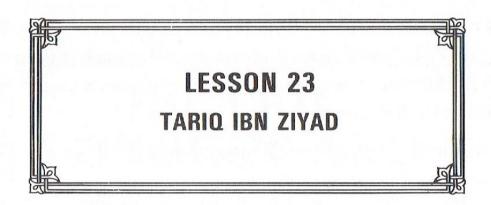
He went to the Quraysh gathering place and read the Quran loudly. The Quraysh were not too happy about this. "Stop that noise and get out of here," they said. Ibn Mas'ud kept reading. They came and beat him. But the more they beat him, the louder he read. Finally, a man named Abu Jahl hit his head with a bow. His head started to bleed. He tried to fight back. There were too many men. But Ibn Mas'ud had done his duty.

Ibn Mas'ud also fought in the battle of Badr. It was there that Abu Jahl was wounded. Ibn Mas'ud heard that he was dying. He went and found him. He sat on his chest to hurt him even more. He said to Abu Jahl: "You are being disgraced because you are the enemy of God. Taste this worldly punishment I give you. Your punishment on the Last Day will be even worse".

When the Muslims migrated to Medina, Ibn Mas'ud went with them. After the Prophet (P) died, he went to Homs in Syria. He became one of the soldiers who protected that city. Later, Omar put him in charge of the Public Treasury at Kufah in Iraq.

Ibn Mas'ud reported many hadiths that he learned from the Prophet (P). Once he said, 'I asked the Prophet, Messenger of God, 'what is the best work'? The Prophet said, 'Doing your prayers on time'. 'Then what'? I asked again. 'Then the struggle in the path of God'. Then I kept silent. If I had asked more, he would have given more answers.





Back in the 8th century, Spain was ruled by a cruel king. His name was Roderick. Another man ruled a state in Spain. His name was Count Julian. King Roderick had taken Count Julian's daughter away from him.

\*Count Julian had to find a way to get his daughter back. He told the king that her mother was very ill. He said that she would die if she did not see her daughter. The king finally agreed.

"When you visit us again," said King Roderick to Count Julian, "do not forget to bring an African Eagle".

"Your Majesty," replied Julian, "I will bring eagles the likes which you have never seen". But Julian planned revenge on the king. What he really meant by eagles was soldiers. The king did not know this.

Count Julian went to North Africa. There, he met the Muslim governor Musa ibn Nusair. He asked for help to fight King Roderick. Musa agreed that Spain should be freed from the evil king.

In 711 A.D., the Muslim fleet landed at Gibraltar. Gibraltar is a small rocky hill on the southern part of Spain. The fleet carried 7000 Berber Muslims. Their commander was a young Muslim named Tariq ibn Ziyad.

On the shore, Tariq gathered his soldiers. What he said to them has become a famous speech:

"Brothers, we come here to bring justice and destroy evil and hatred. This is the land of God. We will fight until we win or die. We fight in the path of God. We are going to burn our ships so that there will be no way to go back".

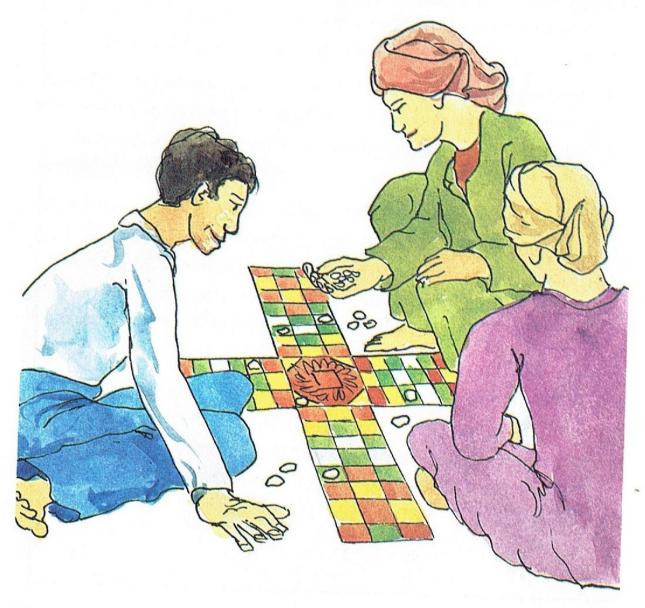
When all the ships were burned, Tariq went on, "Now brothers, the enemy is before you and the sea is behind you. There is no retreat. Let us have trust in God. Let us advance and fight until we win or die as martyrs".

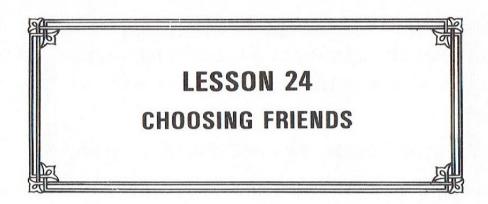
King Roderick heard of the invading Muslims. He sent an army of 100,000 men to meet them. Musa ibn Nusair had sent another 5,000 soldiers to help Tariq's army. Now there were 12,000 Muslims this was still a small number compared to King Rodericks army, but they fought bravely.

Seven days passed. Neither side was winning. Then, on the eighth day, King Roderick was killed. This was too much for his army. They surrendered. Julian had his revenge and Islam had spread even further. Gibraltar was named after the young brave Muslim commander, Tariq. It is called "Jabal Tariq" in Arabic.

## ISLAMIC CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR

**Chapter Six** 





All of us have friends. Some are very close friends. These are the ones who will always help you.

We must be careful when choosing friends. if you find a friend who is bad, some of his bad habits might rub off on you. If he causes trouble, people might think you helped him. This poor friend might even try to blame you. Would you call him a good friend? Of course not. People might even think you are bad, just because you are his friend.

There is a good proverb that says: "It is better to be alone than to be in bad company".

As Muslims, we believe in friendship. God said:

"True believers, both men and women, are friends to each other. They hold dear what is just and forbid what is evil. They attend to their prayers and pay zakah, and obey God and His messenger. On these God will have mercy. He is Mighty, Wise".

We are also brothers and sisters in our faith.

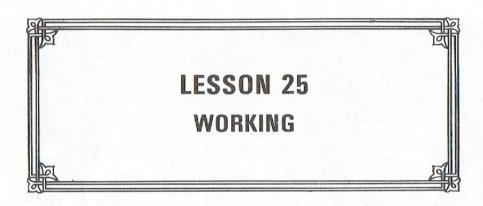
Choosing long-lasting friends is easy if you know how. Make

sure they are good people, and are like you. Offer them help when they need it, but do not ask them for help unless you really need it. No one wants to be bothered with all your little problems.

If they are good friends, they will offer to help anyway.

Don't hold grudges. Forgive them if they hurt you. If you make a promise to someone, do not break your word. A big part of friendship is trust.

If you do these things, you will have good friends for a long time. God will be pleased.

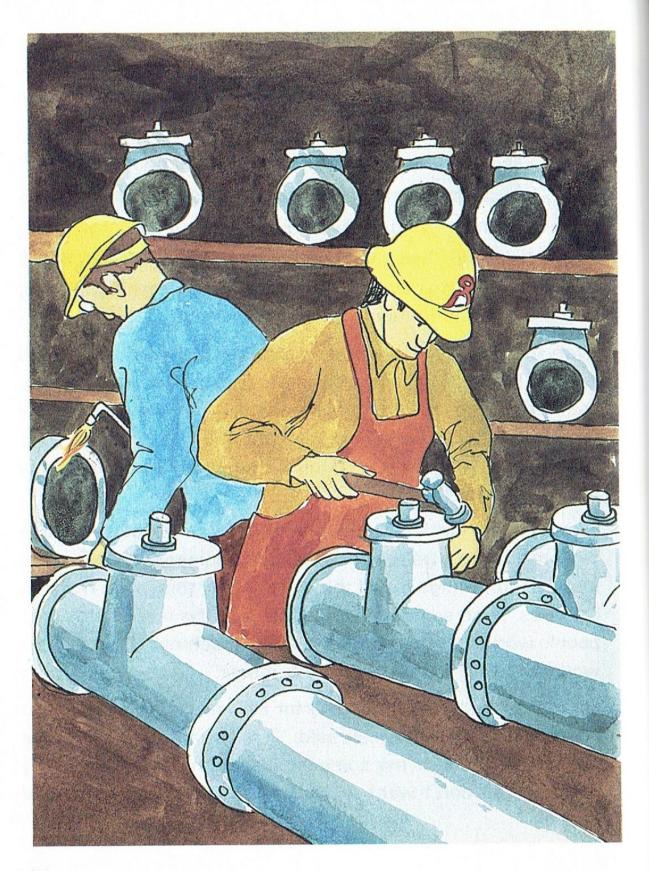


Does the word "working" remind you of homework? For a student, work also means going to school and learning lessons. You are not paid in money, but in knowledge.

Every living thing must work to support its life. A father works to support his family. A mother works to feed the family. When you see birds flying around, they are not playing. They are usually looking for food. Sometimes they are building nests for their young. They are always working. Other animals work this way too, looking for food.

Everything on earth was created for us by God. But we have to work to earn it. A tree gives us wood, but someone must work to make useful things out of the wood. Many things are made in factories. First, someone worked to build the machines. Then, people worked to make things with the machines. Then, people worked to earn money to buy the things.

Islam tells us to work not only for ourselves, but also for our community. The Prophet (P) said: "It is better for you to carry a pile of wood than to ask someone else for help". Living poorly because you don't want to work is against the teachings of Islam.



One day, while many people were working, Omar saw a man praying. He was saying: "God, give me subsistence". Omar said, "How do you expect to get anything if you do not work"? The man said, "Did not God say that there is not an animal on earth whose sustenance is not provided by God"?

Omar laughed and said, "If you want to be like an animal you must crawl around and search for your food. This is how God gives sustenance to them. They must find their own food".

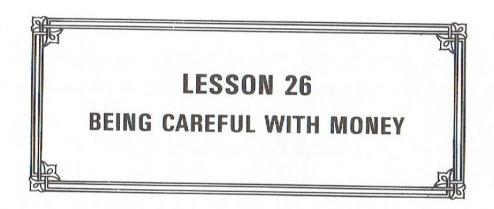
Besides working to live, God ordered us to work to seek knowledge. Seeking knowledge is an act of worship to God.

## How to Work Well

Do not overwork your body. When it needs a rest, give it a rest. Do not put off until tomorrow what you can do today. Do your work perfectly. The Prophet (P) said, "God loves those who master their work". You can never stop learning about your work.

Take care of your tools. A farmer takes care of his machines. As a student, your pencils and books are your tools.

If you start a job, finish it. This is more than a good habit. It will make you feel good too.



People earn money by working. Money is something we need to survive. Money buys our food and clothing. It also pays for nice things that we want to have.

Our money really belongs to God. He has trusted us to spend it in the right way. It is one of our duties to Him. He holds us responsible for the way we use money. God will reward us for being careful with our money

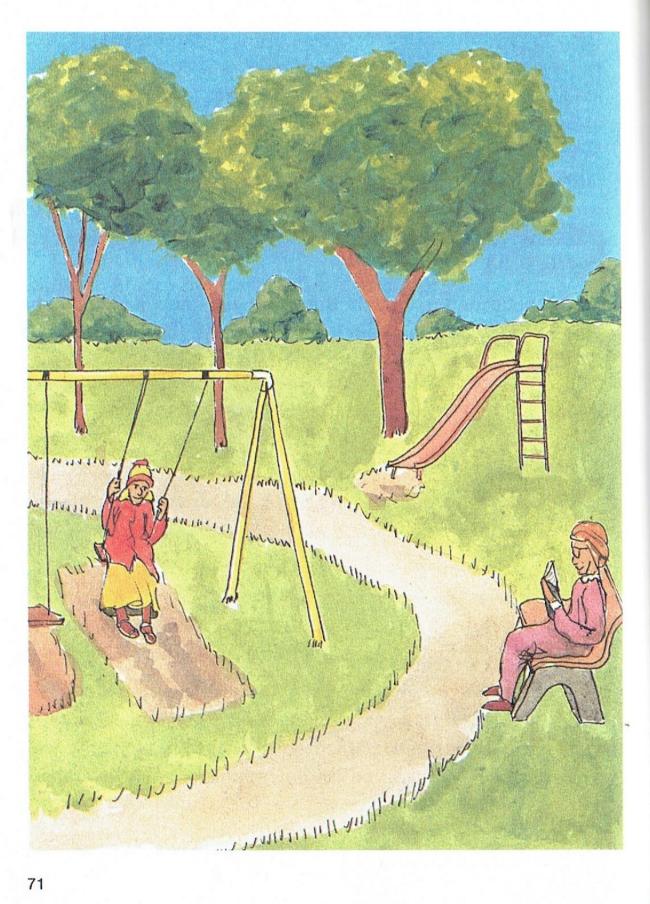
There are wrong ways to spend money. Gambling with it or buying alcohol is wrong. Spending too much money is wrong. If we do these things, we will be punished in the Hereafter.

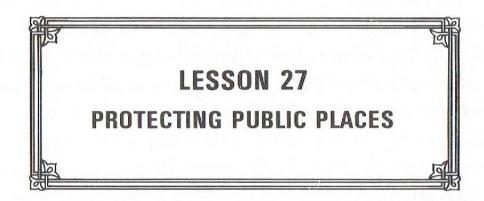
The Prophet (P) said, "Only two persons are worthy of being envied: a person upon whom God bestows riches and gives him wisdom to spend it in a good way; and a person upon whom God bestows wisdom by which he judges and which he teaches".

God will also reward us for spending money for our families. This is not the same as spending for yourself. Doing things for other people is called "generosity". The Prophet (P) said that what we spend to please God will be rewarded, even if it is just to feed your family.

Even though He wants us to be careful with money, God does not want us to be cheap. He wants us to seek the good things in life too. That is why He created them. Once the Prophet (P) saw a man dressed in rags. "Do you have enough money to buy clothes"? he asked. When the man said yes, the Prophet (P) told him to buy some. "God likes to see the trace of grace upon His servants". So, we should not save all our money. Only save what you need for the future and to help other Muslim brothers and sisters.

But do not spend too much. Buy what you need, and do not be greedy. Many people are in trouble because they do not spend wisely.





Public places are for everybody. They are there for us to use. Some are there to help us do things or go to other places. Here are some public places:

Hospitals

Public gardens

Schools

Parks

Places of worship

Buses

Libraries

Subways

Museums

God trusts you not to damage public places. Some people like to ruin a place by writing on the walls or they draw pictures on the desks. Other people throw garbage on the ground. You may have seen flowers in a park that someone stepped on.

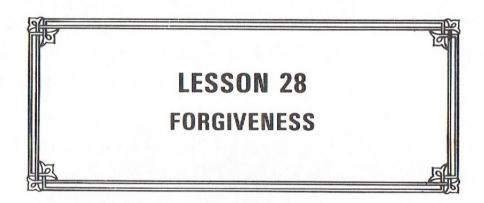
These public places were made to help us, not for us to destroy. The Prophet (P) said, "Whoever cuts uselessly, wrongly and unjustly a lotus tree, in a desert, under which travellers and animals take shelter, his head will be put by God into Hell". But he wasn't just talking about the lotus tree. He meant it is wrong to ruin anything.

You can help to keep your city clean. That will make everyone happy. It is our duty as Muslims to protect public places.

Our Prophet (P) said: "Removing a harmful thing from the road is a charity". This means that if you pick up a piece of garbage from a public place and put it in a garbage can, God will give you a reward for doing that. This is a very nice thing to do. You shouldn't say, I did not throw that thing there, so I am not responsible and then you walk away. Here is your chance to please God and to get some reward. Pick it up and put it where it belongs. That is a good character.

If you see a person doing some damage to a public place, you should tell about him. Even if that person is your best friend.

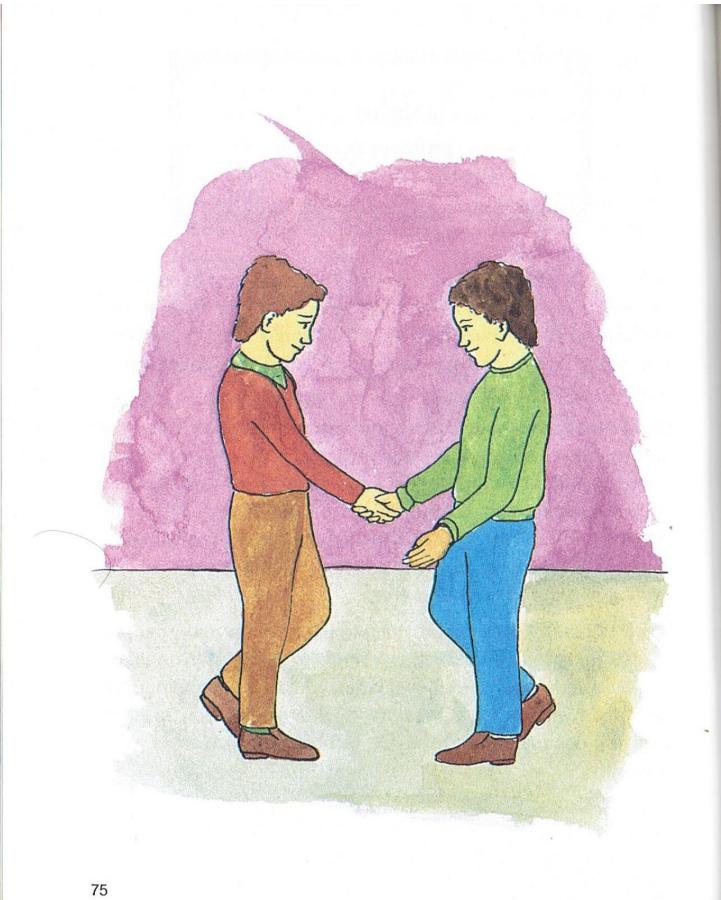
Treat a public place as your own. In reality, you own part of it. Your parents pay taxes to the government and to the municipality to buy, build and maintain public places. When you work you will also pay taxes like your parents. So, your parents money and your money are partly used for public places.



Sometimes, people make mistakes. They do wrong to others. It happens to everybody. Most of the time, we don't mean it. We are only human. We might even think we are right at the time. We might do wrong because we are upset and not thinking clearly.

Many times other people do something wrong to you. They may hurt you physically. Or they may hurt your feelings. It is best for you to be patient and to forgive. You should not have any hatred in your heart for your brother or sister. Our Prophet (P) told us that it is not right for a Muslim to desert his Muslim brother for more than three days. God will be angry at both of them, but He will reward the first who forgives.

Our Prophet (P) was abused, ridiculed and hurt by many people, but when he was able to take revenge he did not. Instead, he forgave these people. Forgiving when you can take revenge is a very good quality in a Muslim. It shows that you are not forgiving because you are weak, but because you are a good person.



Even if a criminal is put in jail for a crime, he may be let go before he finishes his jail sentence. This is because the prisoner behaves well and feels sorry. He is forgiven.

Sometimes people don't have the chance to ask forgiveness for all the little wrongs they do to one another. So we have special times each year to help us. Two of these times are the Eid days (Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha).

On the Eid day, we attend prayer and listen to the Khutbah. When it is over, we shake hands with other people and forgive each other for our wrongs. Just shaking hands is not enough. Inside we must want to forgive. Doing something and meaning it are two different things. Remember, God knows when we are doing something which we don't mean.

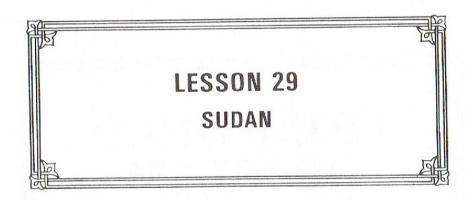
This is how Muslims forgive each other in Indonesia. After the Khutbah, people shake hands and say, "Happy Eid Day, let us forgive each other". Or they say, "Happy Eid Day, please forgive me if I have done you any wrong". The other person will answer, "Happy Eid Day, please forgive me if I have sinned against you too".

At home, the whole family shakes hands and forgives each member. Then they visit friends and relatives and do the same thing. They send cards to friends out of town. The cards send good wishes and ask forgiveness.

Doing these things cleans peoples hearts. It keeps them friends. God says, "Those who forgive are good people, and God loves the good".

## THE WORLD OF ISLAM

Chapter Seven



Sudan is the largest country in Africa. There are over 30 million people living there. That is almost as many people as in Canada. But it is only one-third the size of the United States.

To the north of Sudan is Egypt; West is Libya, Chad, and the Central African Republic; south is Zaire, Uganda, and Kenya and to the east is Ethiopia.

Sudan is one of the Arab countries. The people speak Arabic. More than eighty percent of the population is Muslim.

The capital of Sudan is Khartoum (or al'Khartum, which is Arabic for "the trunk of the elephant").

The southern part of Sudan has a tropical climate. It is very humid, and much rain falls during the year. Northern sudan is cold and dry in winter, and very hot in summer. Near the Red Sea, it rains in winter.

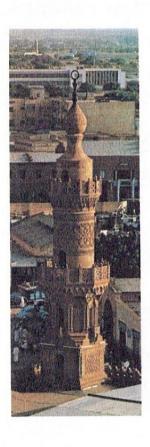
## Resources

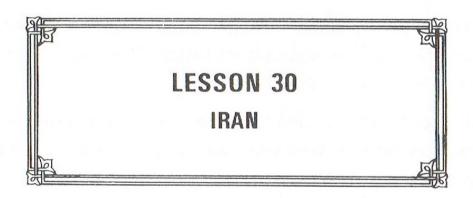
Gum Arabic is Sudan's main export. Sudan supplies eighty percent of the world's total gum Arabic. Other crops are: cotton, sesame, peanuts, rice, coffee, sugar cane, wheat and dates. Sudan also has gold and copper, and many cattle and sheep. Raising poultry is also important in Sudan.

The River Nile passes through Sudan. Sudan depends on rainfall and the Nile to supply its water. The Nile is the longest river in the world, at 6670 km.

The land of Sudan is good for agriculture. There are more than 200 million acres of land that can be cultivated. Less than ten percent of these acres are presently cultivated. But as you can see Sudan will become in the future a bread basket for the world. It will become a very important and prosperous country.

Sudan was occupied by Britain for more than sixty years. It became independent in 1956. Britain, as any colonizer, did not care about the Sudanese, their living or their education. She left them poor and uneducated. But since independence, Sudan is progressing well.





Iran is in Asia. Its population is 67 million. Ninety-eight percent are Muslim. The capital of Iran is Tehran.

Iran used to be called Persia. It was a great empire about 2500 years ago. Then the Muslims conquered Persia at the time of Omar and Uthman. Salman came from Persia. Abu Hanifah, founder of the Hanafi School of law, came from Persia. So did many other Muslim scholars (ulama).

To the west of Iran are Turkey and Iraq; on the north is the Soviet Union; Afghanistan and Pakistan lie on the east and the Arabian Sea and the Gulf lie on the south.

Iran is a mountainous country. There are also many salty deserts, as well as oases and forests. It has a sub-tropical climate. That means summers are long, hot and dry. At a certain height in the mountains, the summers are very pleasant. Iranians call this area "sardsir", the cool land.

People speak Persian. When Persia became Islamic, many Arabic words were introduced into the Persian language. Arabic script is also used.

## Resources

Grains, barley, rice, sugar beets and cotton are Iran's crops. Cotton is the most important. There is also oil, gas, copper, iron, sulphur, coal and zinc. The persian rugs are the best in the world. They are hand made and it takes many years to finish some rugs.

Iran is an important oil producing country. Oil has made Iran wealthy. It is the fourth largest oil producing country in the world.

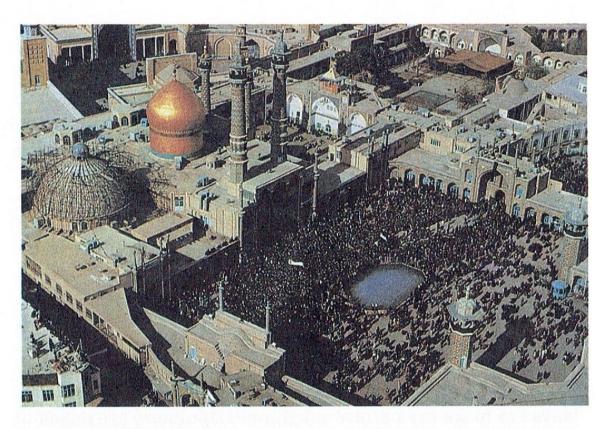
Iran is famous for its blue green turquoise which is cut and sent to many countries. Turquoise is used to make jewelry.

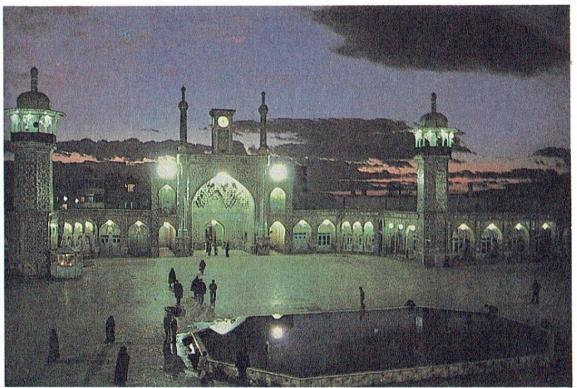
There are lots of mulberry trees in Iran. Silkworms feed on their leaves to make the natural silk threads. Mulberry is a delicious fruit too. Orange and lemon groves are also grown in Iran. Not to speak of apples, pears and apricots. Do you like pistachio? It is also grown in Iran. Iranian pistachio is slim and long.

Have you ever tasted caviar? If you did not you are going to ask what caviar is?

Iranian fishermen catch from the Caspian sea, the world's largest lake, in the north of their country fish called the sturgeon. One fish may be as big as a man.

Fishermen catch these fish with eggs inside. There are millions of eggs inside a female fish. The meat of these fish is delicious but their eggs are more delicious and much more expensive. They are a special treat. They are called caviar.





There are many beautiful mosques in Iran. Because Persians love architecture and fine arts, they built beautiful buildings. Many famous Muslim poets, philosophers, doctors, mathematicians, scientists and artists were born and raised in Persia.

Qum is a city in Iran known for being a centre of Islamic education. There are many schools and universities in the city that specialize in teaching Islam. Many *ulama* live in Qum. They are very much respected by the people. In 1979 the ulama and the people of Iran, led by Imam Ayatullah Al-Khomeini, revolted against the Shah Muhammad Reza Bahlavi. They forced him to leave the country and they established the "Islamic Republic of Iran."

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