



*O my Lord, increase  
me in knowledge.*  
[20:115]

Second Edition

# Tahir Academy Atfal & Nasirat Workbook Level 6 • Ages 14+



National Tarbiyat Department USA





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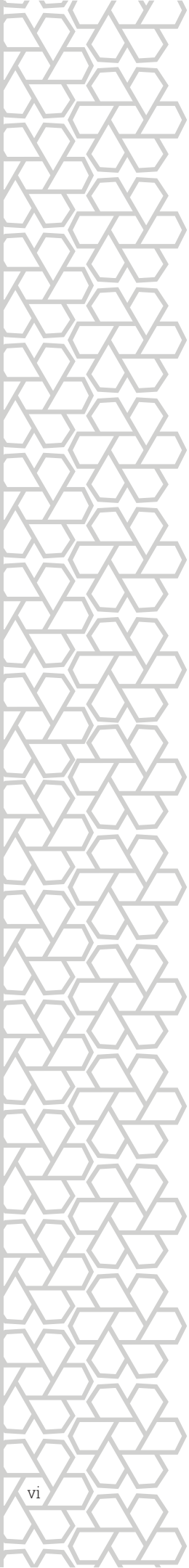
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## Salutatory Abbreviations

- sa *Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam* (sal-lal-laa-hu 'a-lai-hi wa sal-lam) – peace and blessings of Allah be upon him – whenever the Holy Prophet Muhammad is mentioned.
- as *'Alaihis-Salam* – peace be upon him – used for other prophets of Allah or the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.
- ra *Radiyallahu 'Anhu* (ra-di-yal-laa-hu 'an-hu) – may Allah be pleased with him – used with the names of companions of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> or the companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.
- rh *Rahimahullahu 'Alaihi* (ra-hi-ma-hul-laa-hu 'a-lai-hi) – may Allah have mercy on him – used for other holy personages.
- aba *Ayyadahullahu Ta'ala Bi-Nasrih-il-'Aziz* (ay-ya-da-hul-laa-hu ta-'aa-laa bi-nas-ri-hil-'a-zeez) – may Allah strengthen him with His Mighty help – used with the title of the present Khalifat-ul-Masih.

## Reference Material Used

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*Nasir Academy Workbooks*, Level 3 and Level 4, Ahmadiyya Children's Sunday School, Canada

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*Importance of Khilafat*, <https://www.alislam.org/library/q-and-a/importance-of-khilafat/>

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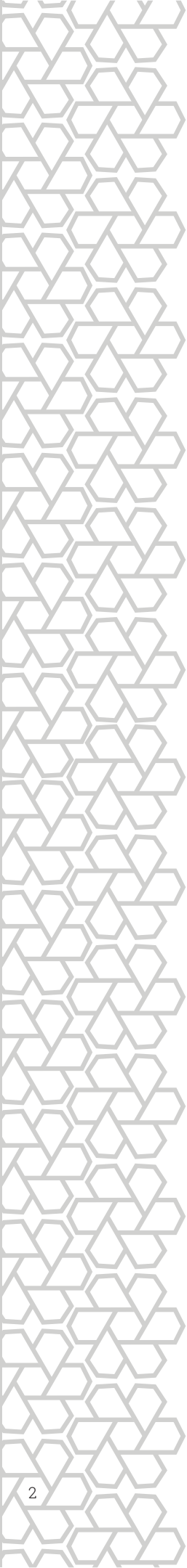
## **Images**

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The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of interlocking hexagons, creating a honeycomb-like texture. The hexagons are light gray and set against a white background.

# **Auxiliary Pledges**





### Atfal Pledge

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

*ash-ha-du al-laa i-laa-ha il-lal-laa-hu wah-da-hoo laa sha-ree-ka la-hoo wa  
ash-ha-du an-na mu-ham-ma-dan 'ab-du-hoo wa ra-soo-luh*

I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah. He is One and has no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> is His servant and Messenger.

I sincerely promise that I shall always be ready to serve my faith Islam, Jama'at Ahmadiyya Muslima, my nation, and my country. I shall always tell the truth, will not insult and abuse anybody, and I will try my best to obey all instructions given by Hadrat Khalifatul Masih. Insha'Allah.

### Nasirat Pledge

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

*ash-ha-du al-laa i-laa-ha il-lal-laa-hu wah-da-hoo laa sha-ree-ka la-hoo wa  
ash-ha-du an-na mu-ham-ma-dan 'ab-du-hoo wa ra-soo-luh*

I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah. He is One and has no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> is His servant and Messenger.

I solemnly promise that I shall always keep myself ready to serve my faith, my nation and my country. I shall always adhere to the truth and shall always be prepared to make every sacrifice for the perpetuation of the Ahmadiyya Khilafat. Insha'Allah.



# Parents' Resources

### Did You Know?

On average, male brains are about 10% larger than female brains. "However, bigger doesn't mean smarter," says Daniel Amen, MD, author of *Unleash the Power of the Female Brain*.

Women have more connections going left and right across the two halves of the brain. This could give them an advantage in pulling together information from different sources and drawing conclusions. Men's brains have more connections from front to back, which may heighten their perception. They may be more attuned to what is going on around them so they can take action.<sup>1</sup>

### Parenting Tip

Islamic philosophy teaches us that men and women are equal, but not identical. Therefore, a child's upbringing and education is more complete when they benefit from the interaction of both a mother and a father. Fathers play a significant role in the protection of the family and as providers. A mother's role tends to revolve primarily around the emotional well-being of the family. Society cannot function if they both compete to perform the same functions.

- Establish a routine schedule for the family
- Agree to disagree and be willing to compromise
- Be honest with your children, and avoid oversharing
- Do not argue with your spouse (or ex-spouse) in front of your children
- Do not ridicule or disparage your spouse (or ex-spouse) in front of your children
- If parents are divorced or separated, accept being a co-parent as your new reality



<sup>1</sup>webmd.com



## Islamic Guidance

*'O ye who believe! save yourselves and your families from a Fire...'*

*[Holy Qur'an 66:7]*

Khalifatul Masih IV<sup>th</sup> says, "As for the future generations, the Holy Qur'an educates society in a unique way. It teaches that to achieve the best of relationships between you and your children, it is highly essential that the relationships between you and your wife (spouse) should also be excellent.

If the parents really want their children to grow up into members of a righteous society, they should remember that mutual relationships between husbands and wives are going to play an important role in the making or breaking of the character of their children.

Both partners in a marriage are taught to pray for each other and their children that God may always provide them deep satisfaction and happiness from one another as well as from the children and to make their children the forerunners and leaders of a God-fearing, righteous generation.<sup>2</sup>"

## Pop Quiz

When Jazib was a young boy, one parent made an extra effort to take him to the masjid while one was busy at work and unable to give attention to Jazib's spiritual upbringing. Once Jazib becomes an adult, how do you think this imbalance will impact his actions?

- a. Jazib will go to the masjid.
- b. Jazib will not go to the masjid.
- c. Jazib has a 50% chance of going to the masjid.
- d. At some point in his adult life Jazib will stop going to the masjid.

<sup>2</sup>*Islam's Response to Contemporary Issues*, p. 108

### Pop Quiz Introspection

While any of these answers could be true and we can find examples for all these scenarios, the probability of Jazib losing connection to his faith at some point of his life is remarkably high. Allah has given the mother a role to provide religious education to her children and for the father to keep children on the right path. In cases where parents are separated due to their mutual differences, a visiting parent can continue to reinforce unified messages regarding faith for their children.

### Wonder Together

*Use the following questions to encourage a dialog with your child during everyday conversations.*

In what ways do you find that mom and dad are the same? How are they different?

What are some of the things that my father plays an active role in?

What are some of the things that my mother plays an active role in?

Are men and women equal in Islam? Are men and women identical?

### Reading Together

**The following titles are available on [amibookstore.us](http://amibookstore.us) and Jalsa book stalls**

*Islamic Teachings on an Ideal Family Life* by M. A. Cheema

**The following titles are available from online retailers**

*Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different* by Ben Brooks

*She Persisted* by Chelsea Clinton

*101 Awesome Women who Changed Our World* by Julia Adams

# Part I







# The Holy Qur'an

## Huroof Al-Izh-haar

### Al-Tarteel Lesson #9

<http://www.mta.tv/al-tarteel/al-tarteel-lesson-9>

There are 29 letters in the Arabic language. Out of the 29 letters, the following six letters are produced from the throat:

ا ء ه ع ح غ خ

These six letters are known as **Huroof Al Izh-haar** or Letters of the Throat or Letters of Manifestation.

If Noon Saakin or Tanween is followed by any of the six mentioned letters the nasal sound will be kept short and clear for about one second. Look at the following examples:

مِنْ عِبَادِنَا - تَنْجِتُونَ - مِنْهُمْ - مِنْ غَيْرِ - عَرْشٌ عَظِيمٌ  
عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ - عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا -

وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ<sup>ل</sup>  
وَمِنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ  
وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ<sup>ع</sup>  
مَا أَغْنَى عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا كَسَبَ<sup>ط</sup>  
وَأَمَنَّهُمْ مِّنْ خَوْفٍ  
وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ

## Al-Tarteel Lesson #15

<http://www.mta.tv/al-tarteel/al-tarteel-lesson-15>

**Iqlaab** means to change a letter with another letter. There are some places in the Holy Qur'an where we apply this change during recitation.

Iqlaab will take place if Noon Saakin or Tanween is followed by the letter Baa. Practice this example:

قَوْلًا يَلِيغًا أَنْبَاهُمْ  
جَنَّةِ بَرَبُوتٍ تَنْبُتُ

Noon Saakin or Tanween will be changed to Meem in pronunciation. Look at the following examples:

زَوْجٍ يَهِيْجِ	لَيَّا بِالسِّنْتِهِمْ	غَمًّا بَعَمَّ
أَيِّتٍ بَيِّنَتٍ	حَدِيثٍ بَعْدَهُ	خَبِيرًا بَصِيرًا
أَنْبَاكَ	يَسْتَنْبِئُونَكَ	مِنْ بَعْدِ
مِنْ بَيُّوتِكُمْ	سُنْبُلَتٍ	فَأَنْبَجَسَتْ

وَأَنْتَ حِلٌّ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ  
وَأَمَّا مَنْ بَخِلَ وَاسْتَغْنَى  
كَلَّا لَئِنْ لَّمْ يَنْتَهَ لَنَنْسِفَنَّ بِالْأَنفِيسِ  
فَدَمْدَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِذُنُوبِهِمْ فَسَوَّاهَا  
بِأَيِّ ذَنْبٍ قُتِلَتْ  
صُمُّ بُكْمٌ عُُمِّي فَهُمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ

## Huroof e Mustalia (Thick and Heavy Letters)

### Al-Tarteel Lesson #26

<http://www.mta.tv/al-tarteel/al-tarteel-lesson-26>

Sound wise the Arabic letters are of two kinds:

- Letters which are light in sound
- Letters which are heavy in sound

For example, Sin has a light sound like "S" in the English word "seen", while Sad has a heavy sound like "S" in the English word "salt." While reading words, an Arabic letter is pronounced mostly as heavy but sometimes it is pronounced light. The following letters will be pronounced heavy. Look at the following examples:

The nearest English approximation of Qāf is the pronunciation of "k" in talk.

ق  
قَآئِلَيْنَ + قَالِ + اِسْتَقَامُوا  
رِزْقًا + قَارِعَةً + قَابِلِ التَّوْبِ  
قَآئِمُونَ + فَتَلَمَّيْ + شِقَاقِ

The nearest pronunciation of Kha is sound in Scottish "loch" and German "achtung".

خ  
خَالِدِينَ + خَآئِبِينَ + خَاسِرِينَ  
خَاسِئِينَ + خَالِصًا + يُخَادِعُونَ  
تَخَافُونَ + بِخَارِجِينَ + اَلْخَائِنِينَ

The nearest pronunciation of Ghayn can be approximated by the pronunciation of the French "r" in such words as "Paris" and "renard".

غ

غَاسِقِي + يَتَاغَمِرُونَ + غَابِرِينَ  
إِبْتِغَاءً + بِغَابِلٍ + أَلْغَاشِيَّةَ  
غَافِرِ الذَّنْبِ + فَرِحْنَا + صَائِعًا

The following four letters are also known as "emphatic" letters. As an example, Sād is pronounced as in "saw" or "salt".

ص

صَالِحِينَ + صَادِقِينَ + صَائِعًا  
أَبْصَارَهُمْ + صَارِمِينَ + مَحِيصًا  
مَصَانِعَ + صَابِرَةً + صُغْرُونَ

ض

The English equivalent for Dād is "dul".

لِتَرْضَى + أَضَاءَ لَهُمْ + بِضَارِّينَ  
تَرْضَاهَا + مَرِيضًا + مَرَضًا  
بَيْضَاءَ + أَلْصَّا لَيْنَ + ضَا مِرٍ

ط

طَّائِفِينَ + الطَّارِقُ + الشَّيْطَانِ  
لُوطًا + سُلْطَانٍ + طَائِفَةٌ  
أَفْطَالٍ + شَطَطًا + وَسَطًا

The English equivalent for Ta is "task".

ظ

ظَالِمُونَ + عِظَامًا + حَفِيفًا  
أَيْقَانًا + تَلْظِي + حِفْظًا  
ظَالِمَةٌ + الظَّالِمِينَ + الظَّالِمَاتَيْنِ

Za has no English equivalent.

## Response Prayers

When reciting or listening to the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, response prayers are to be said after certain verses. A selection of some are given below:

**Surah Al-Fatihah**

At the end of Surah Al-Fatihah, in response to the prayer ending in

وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ۝

*And those who have not gone astray. (1:7)*

we should say:

آمِينَ

Ameen

**Surah Al-Fat'h**

In response to the phrase in Surah Al-Fat'h,

مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ ۖ

*Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah; (48:30)*

we should say:

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him!

**Surah Ar-Rahman**

In Surah Ar-Rahman, after each repetition of the question:

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَنِ ۝

*Which, then, of the favors of your Lord will you twain deny? (55:14 – 78)*

we should respond:

لَا بِشَيْءٍ مِّن تَعْمَتِكَ نَكْذِبُ يَا رَبَّنَا

None of Your favors do we deny, O our Lord! (Tirmidhi-Tafseer Surah Al-Rahman)



### Surah Al-A`la

After the second verse of Surah Al-A`la,

○ سُبِّحَ اسْمُ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى

*Glorify the name of thy Lord, the Most High (87:2)*

we should dutifully say:

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّي الْأَعْلَى -

Holy is My Lord, the Most High! (Jawahirul-Ihsan)

### Surah Al-Ghashiyah

At the end of the following verse in Surah Al-Ghashiyah,

○ إِنَّ إِلَيْنَا إِيَابَهُمْ ○ ثُمَّ إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا حِسَابَهُمْ

*Unto Us surely is their return; Then, surely, it is for Us to call them to account.  
(88:26-27)*

the following is recited:

اللَّهُمَّ حَاسِبْنِي حِسَابًا يَسِيرًا ط

O Allah, bring me to account with leniency! (Tafseer-e Kabeer, Vol. 8)

### Surah Al-Tin

At the end of Surah Al-Tin, when Allah asks –

○ أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَحْكَمِ الْحَكِمِينَ

*Is not Allah the Best of judges? (95:9)*

we agree and say,

بَلَىٰ وَآنَا عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ ط

Yes! And I am among the witnesses to that! (Jawahirul-Ihsan)

## Surah An-Nasr

Similarly, at the end of Surah An-Nasr,

فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَاسْتَغْفِرْهُ

*Glorify thy Lord, with His praise, and seek forgiveness of Him. (110:4)*

we should say,

سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا وَبِحَمْدِكَ - اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَنَا

Holy are You, O Allah Our Lord, with all Your Praises; O Allah, protect me from sin! (Bukhari Kitabut-Tafseer)

**Exercise 1.1: Memorize the Arabic response prayers and their translations.**



## Enrichment: Holy Qur'an Research

### Guidelines for Holy Qur'an Enrichment Section

- This section is **not** for testing purposes, but is designed to show that the Holy Qur'an is a living document that supports us in our every day life.
- The goal of these topics of discussion is exactly that: discussion! You may not agree on an answer, but the goal is a deeper understanding.
- Your classroom is a safe space and honest comments are welcome.
- Respect silence during discussions as this can be an indication of a deeper thought process.
- Sitting in a group style rather than a classroom style setting may help.
- Your teacher is there to help moderate your discussion. No questions are bad and if your teacher needs, they can refer to a murrabi to help obtain answers to your questions.
- Approximate timings of each section should help you stay on track.

Research: 15 minutes

Discuss: 20 minutes

Reflect: 5 minutes

To search up key words, use <https://www.alislam.org/Qur'an/app/>

Hint: Under the "Settings" tab, you can turn on the Five-Volume Commentary for better search results.

## Slander, Gossip, and Backbiting

### Exercise 1.2: Research

Use the Holy Qur'an app and search up the concepts of:

1. **Backbiting**
2. **Rumors**
3. **Suspensions**

Think about how these larger concepts relate to our interactions in-person, over texts, social media, and even the news. Then have a discussion based on the questions below.

### Discuss

- A personal rumor is bound to hurt, but how does a rumor collectively hurt a community or society?
- What problems arise when rumors become more rampant than facts?
- Is slander different from lying? Slander is making false and damaging statements about someone or something.

### Reflect

1. Islam considers backbiting to be a major sin and the Holy Qur'an compares it to the terrible act of eating the flesh of one's dead brother. Additionally, it is not permissible for one to keep quiet and listen to backbiting.
2. If you have, knowingly or unknowingly, participated in gossip, backbiting, or perpetuated rumors, pry into your soul and figure out how to avoid this situation. Ask Allah for forgiveness.
3. We are accountable for our attitudes and actions and for that over which we have control or influence, including the honor, reputation, and privacy of others.

## Justice

### Exercise 1.3: Research

Use the Holy Qur'an app and search up the concepts of:

1. **Justice**
2. **Judgment**
3. **Captives** (prisoners)

Think about these larger concepts in relation to the current social justice movements, civil rights, and criminal justice system. Then have a discussion based on the questions below.

### Discuss

- Does the Holy Qur'an make any distinctions between justice for a Muslim and that of a non-Muslim?
- What does Allah prefer, handing out punishments (penalties) in accordance to the crime, or reformation and forgiveness?
- What happens if the Qur'anic injunctions that dictate equality of justice among all people and unfair punishments begin to take over in a society?

### Reflect

1. The equality of all people, including those who are at odds with Muslims, is clearly stated in the Holy Qur'an. The obligation to do justice is absolute and does not change based upon who is involved.
2. Recent social and criminal justice movements highlight the problems that arise when unmerited force or penalties are applied in society. This is why Allah demands equity in justice.
3. A reformatory criminal system is preferred in Islam because of its benefits to society at large and the individuals who have committed crimes. In many ways, our society is only now recognizing the ill-effects of over-crowded prisons and excessive incarcerations.

**Womens' Rights****Exercise 1.4: Research**

Use the Holy Qur'an app and search up the concepts of:

1. **Woman**
2. **Female**
3. **Heirs**

Think about these larger concepts in relation to womens' rights before and after Islam. Then have a discussion based on the questions below.

**Discuss**

- What rights do women have when it comes to inheritance in Islam? What year were such rights made law in the United States?
- Why does the Holy Qur'an repeatedly mention "male and female" or "men and women" when Allah speaks about spiritual growth and morality?
- Equal, but not identical. How does the Holy Qur'an explain the equality of the sexes, while still maintaining their uniqueness?

**Reflect**

1. The equality of the status of the souls of man and woman is emphasized in the Holy Qur'an. However, because of the physical distinctions of men and women their sphere of influences and duties become different.
2. The financial freedom afforded to women in Islam was not seen in the western world until the late 1800's. Women in Islam are given rights to own their property, keep their own income, and engage in business.
3. The Holy Qur'an tells us that Allah "created you from a single soul"<sup>1</sup>. The concepts of Islam transcend the physical world and ultimately speak more to the capabilities of our souls, which are created equal, to reach a higher status.

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1 The Holy Qur'an, 4:2

## Wealth, Ambition, and Charity

### Exercise 1.5: Research

Use the Holy Qur'an app and search for the words:

1. **Wealth**
2. **Success**
3. **Prosper**
4. **Charity**

Think about how these larger concepts relate to your understanding of success, wealth, and the desire to do well in life. Then have a discussion based on the questions below.

### Discuss

- Does God need your money? If not, then what is the point of financial sacrifices?
- Is it okay for a Muslim to want success? To have ambition?
- Interest is forbidden in the Holy Qur'an. Discuss why this is? What kinds of money instruments carry interest? Do such instruments lead to spending beyond one's means, or do they keep our finances in check?

### Reflect

1. All of God's resources are at your disposal but meant to be shared, not hoarded by individuals. This is why the Holy Qur'an admonishes us to share our financial success, not because Allah needs our money, but because the well-being of our neighbors depends on it.
2. A society that can borrow money on interest is permitted, often encouraged, to spend extravagantly, without much regard for the reality of the present. In essence, you are spending what you do not have.
3. Studying hard, doing well in your career, or achieving success are not against the teachings of Islam, so long as they are balanced by your spiritual development and the needs of others.





# Salat and Prayers



## Quranic Surahs

### Surah Al-A'lā

In the Name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful.

Glorify the name of thy Lord, the Most High,

Who creates and perfects,

And who designs and guides,

And who brings forth the pasturage,

Then turns it black, rotten rubbish.

We shall teach thee the Qur'an, and thou shalt forget it not

Except as Allah wills. Surely, He knows what is open and what is hidden.

And We shall facilitate for thee every facility.

So go on reminding; surely, reminding is profitable.

He who fears will heed;

But the most wretched will turn aside from it,

He who will enter the great Fire.

Then he will neither die therein nor live.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ①  
سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى ②

الَّذِي خَلَقَ فَسُوَّى ③

وَالَّذِي قَدَّرَ فَهَدَى ④

وَالَّذِي أَخْرَجَ الْمَرْعَى ⑤

فَجَعَلَهُ غُثَاءً أَحْوَى ⑥

سَنُقْرِئُكَ فَلَا تَنْسَى ⑦

إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ ⑧ إِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ  
الْجَهْرَ وَ مَا يَخْفَى ⑧

وَنُيَسِّرُكَ لِلْيُسْرَى ⑨

فَذَكِّرْ إِن نَّفَعَتِ الذِّكْرَى ⑩

سَيَذَكِّرُ مَنْ يَخْشَى ⑪

وَيَتَجَنَّبُهَا الْأَشْقَى ⑫

الَّذِي يَصْلَى النَّارَ الْكُبْرَى ⑬

ثُمَّ لَا يَمُوتُ فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَى ⑬

Verily, he, indeed, will prosper who  
purifies himself,  
And remembers the name of the Lord  
and offers Prayers.

But you prefer the life of this world,

Whereas the Hereafter is better and  
more lasting.

This, indeed, is what is taught in the  
former Scriptures-

The Scriptures of Abraham and Moses.

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّى ۝

وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى ۝

بَلْ تُؤْثِرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا ۝

وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَى ۝

إِنَّ هَذَا لَفِي الصُّحُفِ الْأُولَى ۝

صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى ۝

### Commentary of Surah Al-A'lā

The Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> used to recite Surah Al-A'lā in the first rak'ah of Eid and Friday prayers and the first rak'ah of Vitr prayers. There are reminders in this surah for believers to reflect on Allah's names and to glorify Him. The perfect example in this regard is the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>, who surpassed everyone in his remembrance and praise of Allah. In the third verse, it is said that God is the One Who creates and perfects. This means that God has bestowed us with the faculties necessary for our advancement and has placed in us the seed of progress. With the proper use of our spiritual and mental faculties, we can become a reflection of God's attributes.

The reference to the dying pasturage is to create an understanding about why the Qur'an supersedes other holy books that came before it. Just as some things in nature have a short shelf life and are meant for a specific time, previous scriptures were meant for a particular group of people or for a specific time. However, there are other more permanent natural phenomena, like the sun, the moon, and the stars, whose usefulness to man has been there from the beginning and shall continue. The Qur'an is like those natural phenomena which will remain useful to man until the end of time.

This surah tells us that the Holy Qur'an is:

1. Easy to commit to memory
2. That its teachings are adaptable to all times, cultures, and people for all times to come
3. That Qur'anic injunctions are wise and rational

All these factors combine to make the Qur'an an easy book to follow and implement.

**Exercise 2.1: Memorize the Arabic of Surah Al-A'lā.**

**Exercise 2.2: Fill in the blanks for the statements below.**

The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> used to recite Surah \_\_\_\_\_ during the \_\_\_\_\_ rak'ah of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ prayers.

By reflecting on \_\_\_\_\_ qualities and using our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ faculties, we can become a reflection of \_\_\_\_\_ attributes.

The Holy Qur'an is like the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ because it is a phenomenon whose usefulness to man will continue until the end of time.



## Surah Al-Inshirāh

In the Name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful.

Have we not opened for thee, thy bosom

And removed from thee, thy burden

Which had well nigh, broken thy back

And we exalted thy name?

Surely there is ease after hardship.

Aye, surely there is ease after hardship.

So when thou art free, strive hard.

And to thy Lord, do thou attend wholeheartedly.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ①  
 أَلَمْ نَشْرَحْ لَكَ صَدْرَكَ ②  
 وَوَضَعْنَا عَنْكَ وِزْرَكَ ③  
 الَّذِي أَنْقَضَ ظَهْرَكَ ④  
 وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ ⑤  
 فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ⑥  
 إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ⑦  
 فَإِذَا فَرَغْتَ فَانصَبْ ⑧  
 وَإِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ فَارْغَبْ ⑨

## Commentary of Surah Al-Inshirāh

Surah Al-Inshirāh was revealed in Mecca during the second or third year of the Holy Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> call to prophethood. Even though during this time, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was not a well-known man around Arabia, he soon rose to be one of the most followed and honored men in religious history.

Allah recognizes that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> has been given a very hefty burden to bear in this surah. He was responsible for turning the moral condition of a people who were deeply entrenched in their immoral ways and also for bringing all of humanity under the fold of Allah's message. Twice in this surah, however, Allah mentions the coming of ease after hardship, which signifies that Islam will have two periods of back-breaking hardships followed by ease, and ultimately victory over its opponents. The first time was that of the Holy Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> when people were ignorant to Allah's message. The second time will be that of the latter days.

## Exercise 2.3: Memorize the Arabic of Surah Al-Inshirāh.

## Prayers

### For Success in Calling to Allah

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي ۖ وَيَسِّرْ لِي  
أَمْرِي ۖ وَاحْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّن لِّسَانِي ۖ  
يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي ۖ

*Rab-bish-rah-lee sad-ree wa yas-sir-lee am-ree wah-lul-'uq-da-tanm-mil-li-saa-nee yaf-qa-hoo qau-lee.*

O my Lord, open up for me my heart, and ease for me my task, and untie the knot of my tongue, that they may understand my speech.

(Surah Tā Hā, vv. 26-29)

This prayer is taken from the Holy Qur'an, and was recited by prophet Moses<sup>as</sup> when he was assigned the task of taking the message of Allah to the Pharaoh.

This prayer sheds light on some essential qualities that are needed in a person who wishes to spread the message to others.

1. The person must be inspired with zeal and enthusiasm for this mission and must possess strong arguments to support the cause.
2. The teachings must be easy to comprehend.
3. Good speaking skills are helpful.
4. The person should always be on the lookout for opportunities where the message can be heard with respect and attention.

**Exercise 2.4: Memorize this prayer of Prophet Moses<sup>as</sup> and its translation.**

## For a Righteous End of Life

○ رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَتَوَفَّنَا مُسْلِمِينَ

*Rab-ba-naa af-righ 'a-lai-naa sab-ran-wa ta-waf-fa-naa mus-li-meen*

O our Lord, pour forth upon us steadfastness and cause us to die resigned unto Thee. (Surah Al-A'r āf, v. 127)

This is another prayer taken from the Holy Qur'an from the time of the Pharaoh. Pharaoh was an Egyptian king who thought that he was God. He was cruel to the people of Prophet Moses<sup>as</sup> and would threaten death and painful crucifixion to any who would oppose him. When people began to recognize the signs of Prophet Moses<sup>as</sup> as true messages from Allah, they offered this prayer in response to the Pharaoh's persecution.

**Exercise 2.5: Memorize the prayer for a righteous end of life and its translation.**









# Basics of Islam



## Hadith

### Be the First to Greet

إِنَّ أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِاللَّهِ مَنْ بَدَأَهُمْ بِالسَّلَامِ

*In-na au-lan-naa-si bil-laa-hi mam ba-da-'a-hum bis-sa-laa-mi*

Allah prefers those who hasten to be the first to greet others (saying As-Salamu 'Alaikum). (*Abu Dawood*)

Saying something virtuous to someone is itself an act of virtue. When we meet a fellow Muslim, what could be a more virtuous expression of greeting than saying "As-Salamu 'Alaikum – May peace be with you". The Holy Qur'an commands us to excel each other in the performance of good deeds. So, if a Muslim tries to be the one who says, "As-Salamu 'Alaikum" first, he can earn Allah's pleasure and nearness to Him.

**Exercise 3.1: Memorize the hadith, "Be the First to Greet" and its translation.**

### The Upper Hand

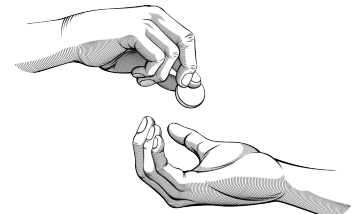
أَلَيْدُ الْعُلْيَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلَيْدِ السُّفْلَى

*Al-ya-dul-'ul-yaa khai-rum-mi-nal ya-dus-suf-laa*

The upper hand is better than the lower hand. (*Muslimi-Kitabuz Zakat*)

The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> has directed the wealthy not to turn down anyone's request for help, and give Sadaqa (charity) as sometimes even a fragment of a date given as charity could save you from punishment.

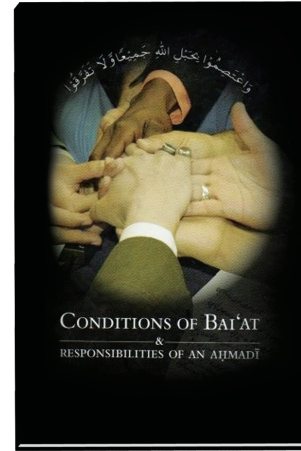
On the other hand, he advised the poor to try to abstain from begging, by saying that the giving hand is better than the receiving hand. This valuable piece of advice by the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> infused a spirit of dignity and self-respect among the companions.



**Exercise 3.2: Memorize the hadith, "The Upper Hand" and its translation.**

## Conditions of Bai'at and Responsibilities of an Ahmadi

*Note: Please have students read the actual course book "Conditions of Bai'at and Responsibilities of an Ahmadi" for full understanding of the concepts. The online book can be found here: <https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Conditions-of-Baiat-Responsibilities-of-Ahmadi.pdf>*



### Introduction

When the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> made his claim and invited all righteous souls to respond to his call, he published the **Ten Conditions of Bai'at** for all who wished to join him with a covenant of allegiance.

### Condition 6

That he/she shall refrain from following un-Islamic customs and lustful inclinations and shall completely submit himself/herself to the authority of the Holy Qur'an; and shall make the Word of God and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> the guiding principle in every walk of his/her life.

### Exercise 3.3: Answer the questions with reference to passages in the book.

**What are some innovations we face in our daily lives that keep us away from Allah?**

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**Read the first paragraph on page 114. What two steps are given to help create a love for the Holy Qur'an?**

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**Name the two keys to finding God and His blessings from page 117.**

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**Condition 7**

That he/she shall entirely give up pride and vanity and shall pass all his/her life in humbleness, cheerfulness, forbearance and meekness.

**Exercise 3.4: Answer the questions with reference to passages in the book.**

**What form of arrogance is found in wider circles? (page 124)**

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**Read the hadith by Abdullah bin Mas'ud. What is the difference between being arrogant and being elegant? (page 126)**

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### Conflict Resolution

Are people fighting more these days, or does it just seem that way? In any case, learning to resolve conflicts can help young people break down barriers, become leaders, and even prevent deadly confrontations.

Conflict can be harmful in its ultimate form as war, but it can also be positive, depending on how it is resolved. For example, it can help get feelings out in the open, help people learn from disagreements, and resolve problems. It can also gain someone more respect or enable people to learn that others are willing to stand up for themselves and their beliefs. Conflict is a natural human process that doesn't have to lead to violence. Conflict resolution and anger management techniques can allow people to grow and improve their relationships and the quality of life of those around them despite the inevitable disagreements. Here is a quick list of things to remember when managing conflict:

- Note that anger is a normal feeling.
- How we handle our anger and how we deal with other people who are angry can make the difference between managing conflict effectively and having conflict end in violence.
- Be aware of triggers, which are any verbal or nonverbal behaviors that result in anger or other adverse emotional reactions that can get in the way of resolving conflicts.
- Triggers are like lightning bolts. When they strike, they can interfere with communication.



- To avoid pulling others' triggers, pay attention to your behavior, including your body language.
- Note that people already use strategies to control their anger, for example, walking away from a dangerous situation. All they need to do is build on the foundation of such strategies.
- We may choose to blow up sometimes and stay calm at other times. For example, there is a difference between how we handle anger with our friends and handling anger with a parent or grandparent. To resolve conflict, you must stay calm to communicate.

- The less “hot” the anger, the more you can control it.
- Even though your anger may be legitimate, it usually doesn’t help to show your anger to the other person. Sometimes the other person will take you more seriously if you remain calm and courteous.
- Remember that your goal is to be able to get angry without becoming abusive or violent, and to communicate your wants and needs effectively without threatening others.

### Exercise 3.5: Discussion Questions

- List the healthy ways people can handle and let go of anger.
- Anger can be overwhelming. Why is it so important to express your anger in a healthy way? What can happen if you don’t?
- Many people believe that violent TV shows and movies can influence how people handle their own problems. Do you think this is true?

### Modesty in the Western World

Islam is based on the laws of nature. Allah created our universe and provided Islam as guidance for us to properly and optimally benefit from His creation without getting hurt. Islam provides us a system of norms and values, a code of conduct, for a healthy, productive and peaceful life in this world and earn the forgiveness, mercy and pleasure of Allah along the way.

In our secular and ‘emancipated’ society, people seem to have difficulty seeing the significance and relevance of various Islamic norms and values, like chastity and modesty. To this society, Islamic morals seem antiquated and impractical. This view is due to a lack of understanding and comprehension of specific Islamic teachings and their philosophy.

We live in a promiscuous society where we need to remind ourselves about the pivotal role virtue plays in our daily lives and how at risk we are if we are not diligent in guarding our chastity.

We routinely hear and observe how dangerous it is to drink and drive. Yet, when people are warned about the dangers of drinking, they laugh it off, thinking that they can handle it or that nothing unfortunate can happen to them. One of the ways to get their attention is to show them the mangled bodies and vehicles after fatal accidents.

Similarly, it is ironic that living in this society, people routinely see the inevitable, devastating consequences of unchaste behavior, yet most of them do not take chastity seriously. When we study the hadith of Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, we find profound guidance to avoid risky behavior and cultivate a chaste culture.

For example, the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> admonished:

'Beware! Avoid sitting by the road sides.' The people said, 'O Messenger of Allah! We cannot avoid sitting there as we have discussions there.' The Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said, 'If you insist on sitting there, then give the roads their rights.' The people asked, 'What are the rights of the road?' He said, 'Lowering your gaze, refraining from harming others, returning greetings, and enjoining what is good and forbidding what is evil.' (Bukhari)

Ahmadi Muslims should internalize this hadith. The hadith admonishes against hanging out, whether it is physically hanging out on a street corner, gossiping on the phone, or chatting on the internet because that is when you are at risk of indiscretion. When you connect with others, connect for good purposes, not gossip or other vain talk.

Similarly, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said, "A man shall never be alone with a woman except that the third party between them is Satan." (Tirmidhi)

This hadith warns against the risky behavior and satanic inclinations if and when one visits the opposite sex in seclusion, whether it is on the phone, in chat rooms, or in person for any purpose. The keyword in this hadith is 'alone' and does not prohibit any legitimate interaction for study or work in public.

Modern society and technology offer many conveniences, but they also entice the weak and vulnerable to fall for bad company and risky temptations easily. They can inconspicuously pull the careless to uncharted waters. Therefore, to guard our chastity, we need to evaluate these conveniences carefully, avail them responsibly, and protect ourselves from their risks.

### Exercise 3.6: Discussion Questions

- Identify and discuss situations where the concept of modesty may be at risk in our everyday lives.
- What parts of Islamic culture do you think people find abnormal? Can you identify the benefits of these situations?



### Importance of Khilafat

The Muslims who should have been united and be in harmony are divided into countless sects and divisions. It is not only in the religious field but in politics, too. When there is a schism in any group, the group can not achieve goals that a united and harmonious people can. Through discord and disharmony, the power of the Muslim world has disintegrated, and Muslims are using their broken strength against one another. When such are the conditions, the aggregate accomplishments will be below zero.

The sects individually may be very powerful, but when they oppose and counteract each other in all issues and remain busy fighting, their power is scattered and diminished, and the strength is broken.

This is happening in every Muslim country. Unfortunately, it is being named as Jihad. What will they gain from all this? What resources will remain for their own nation building, defense of Islam, or fighting the enemy? Therefore, it is incumbent that Muslims should unite on the hand of one Imam. There should be one Imam of the Muslims in the whole world. But without Khilafat, this is impossible. Khilafat is the successorship after the prophet in the form of a person who is representing the deceased prophet. The Khalifa is his vicegerent and subordinate. He is the central authority. This is the basic principle of Khilafat.

Muslims do understand its need as well as importance. This need was felt after the sad demise of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> also. In Islam, this is quite clear, like broad daylight and is a part of Islamic teaching that without unity and harmony you cannot rightly work on the teachings of Islam. When you go to the mosque for Salat five times a day, there must be an Imam. Standing behind an Imam is a demonstration of unity among people. That is why the Holy Qur'an especially emphasizes the need for congregational prayer. An Imam is given so much importance that even if the Imam falters, the entire congregation must follow his mistake even if they know that a mistake has been committed. What better example can be presented for the need of an Imam and for unity in his following? If an Imam is mandatory in a small mosque, then how can the entire Muslim Ummah survive without an Imam?

For the Ummah, there is a commandment in the Holy Qur'an to turn their faces towards the Qiblah. For Muslims throughout the world, there is one and only one Qiblah. You may go anywhere in the world, the Qiblah remains the same. This is an indicator that it is incumbent for the Muslim Ummah to be united under one Imam. If the companions of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> needed to follow an Imam, how can we live without an Imam today, particularly when the condition of Muslims is crying out for it. This is the answer to the question of why

Khilafat is needed.

The issue is, once Khilafat is terminated, then it is not within the power of the people to introduce it again themselves. This is a dilemma which the Muslim world is facing today. Khilafat starts after the passing away of the prophet and if unfortunately, it is destroyed, it is impossible that it restarts without a prophet. As far as Muslims are concerned, they are victims of dual issues. According to many Muslims, the chain of Khilafat ended with the Khilafat of Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup>. After him, there was no Khilafat-e-Rashida. It was monarchy in the name of Khilafat and majority of Muslims agree that Khilafat-e-Rashida ended after Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup>. So how can you start this Khilafat once again?

The majority of Muslims are deprived of the blessings of Khilafat. Even if we accept the continuity of Imamate till today, they are unable to unite the whole Ummah on one hand. We are discussing the issue of uniting the whole Ummah on one hand and it cannot be achieved by partial or regional Khilafat. It can be achieved only by universal or global Khilafat, which will unite the whole Ummah.

Muslims believe that no prophet, of whatever category, can come now. This means that the single avenue to open the way of Khilafat has been barred. This is the big issue, which the Muslim Ummah is facing today.

The non-Ahmadi scholars present the only solution of this problem and say that they also believe in the coming of a prophet. No doubt, he will be an old prophet, but they say that when he will come, he will be a prophet. Thus, the lost Islamic Khilafat will once again be revived by Jesus Christ of Nazareth when he will descend with his old form and body. But the problem is that fourteen hundred years have passed, and there is no trace of the second coming of that Jesus<sup>as</sup>. There is no sign visible of his descent. World conditions have totally changed. Muslims have passed and are still passing through their worst phase of decline. But no Jesus<sup>as</sup> has descended from the sky so far.

No one will ever descend from skies, and this is the big and difficult problem, which the Muslim world is facing today. With this, they have not only destroyed the most important institution like Khilafat but they have also blocked the entrance of the beginning of Khilafat.



## Tarbiyat Stories

### The Violin

A divine saw a king's servant playing a violin. He grabbed the violin from him and broke it.

The servant complained to the king and said, "Today he broke my violin. Tomorrow he may belittle a minister or you."

The king was enraged. He called for the divine and had a violin by his side. The divine came to the court. The king did not say anything to the divine but picked up the violin and started playing it. The divine just kept sitting unhappily.

The king said, "You broke my servant's violin yesterday, why do you not break mine today?"

The divine answered, "Mighty King, the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, has said, if you see evil, and you have strength, use it to bring about reform. If you do not have the ability to do that then try to stop it through speech. If you do not have even that much courage, then at least feel bad in your heart. Mighty King, yesterday I could reform evil using strength, so I broke the violin of the servant. But today I do not have the strength to counter evil with strength, neither can I dare to counter it with speech and advice, but O mighty king, I am feeling averse to it in my heart."

I have read a piece from the works of an American poet. She has related a fine subject in her poetry. She says, after my death when I will be in the presence of God, the rich will present before God the diamonds and pearls that they would have given away in charity. The public servants will present their service before Him that they would have rendered to their nation and they will say that is what they did.

I will be watching with dismay sitting alone that I did not have any wealth to distribute, to give in alms; neither did I have power or knowledge that I would have served my country and nation with, but I would have shed tears in the love of God and they will be lying near His throne. I will present that gift to Him. And, O reader, do you know whose gift will be accepted by Him? He will accept the gift of my tears."

A Muslim, in the same way ... can shed tears falling at the throne of the Almighty. If Muslims can do this, then this is their Eid. Otherwise, the Eid is not the real Eid.

**Exercise 3.7: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

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**Wisdom**

Whatever is in the heavens and in the earth glorifies Him.

Every atom in the world bears witness that there cannot be an objection to whatever He does. Though some things may appear to be objectionable in a superficial view, whenever they are researched, man will have to accept that every action of Allah, the Almighty, is flawless and filled with wisdom.

A story is well known that a rigid person visited a garden once. He saw that the fruit on a mango tree was small, but a large pumpkin was attached to a delicate vine. He thought that though people say that Allah, the Almighty, is the Wise but I do not see any wisdom in having small fruit on the large tree and a large pumpkin attached to a delicate vine. Afterwards, he lay down to take a restful nap under the same mango tree. He was asleep when suddenly a mango broke and fell and hit his head hard. He got up immediately all puzzled and said, "Forgive me, O Lord, now I understand your wisdom. If the pumpkin had fallen on me, I would have died."



**Exercise 3.8: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

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### The Speechless Barber

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his moustache trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the shocked customer.

"Well, you just have to go out into the streets to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God existed, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine loving a God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a homeless man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer turned back, entered the barber shop again and told the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens is, some people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, some people don't go to Him and don't look for Him."

The stunned barber was left speechless.

### Exercise 3.9: What is the lesson learned from this story?

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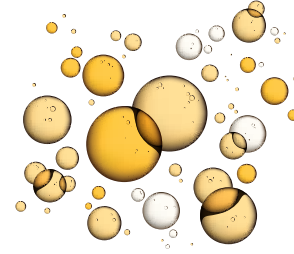
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### The Fight of Oil and Water

Once during a camping trip, a lantern was lit to have light in the camp. The lantern that was burning contained both oil and water. It was then that Oil and Water started to have an argument.

Water said to Oil,

'You are filthy and dirty and despite your filth you float above me. I am something pure and am used for purification, yet I am below you. How is that possible?'



Oil replied,

'Can you say that you have been through the same struggles I have endured? It was because of these hardships that I have been given this high status.

- I was formed and stayed hidden underground.
- I was turned into dust then I grew by the Will of God.
- I was not even able to reach full growth before I was cut.
- I was then cleaned through rigorous and painstaking hard work.
- I was then ground through an oil-press.
- When I became oil, I was set on fire.

Should I not have a higher status than you, even after enduring such hardships?"

Water was amazed by Oil's argument. He realized that to achieve success, sometimes you go through difficult times and that by happily accepting the Will of God, especially during hard times, one can be given a higher status by God.

### Exercise 3.10: What is the lesson learned from this story?

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# History of Islam



## Review of Major Religions

To fully appreciate the religion of Islam and to be able to explain its excellences to other people, Muslims must learn about the beliefs, traditions, and history of the world's other major faiths.

Some religions appeal to a specific group of people and therefore, are called ethnic. Preaching to outsiders and conversions in these ethnic faiths have always been uncommon. Other faiths claim to be more universal, with vigorous missionary work and active efforts to convert others.



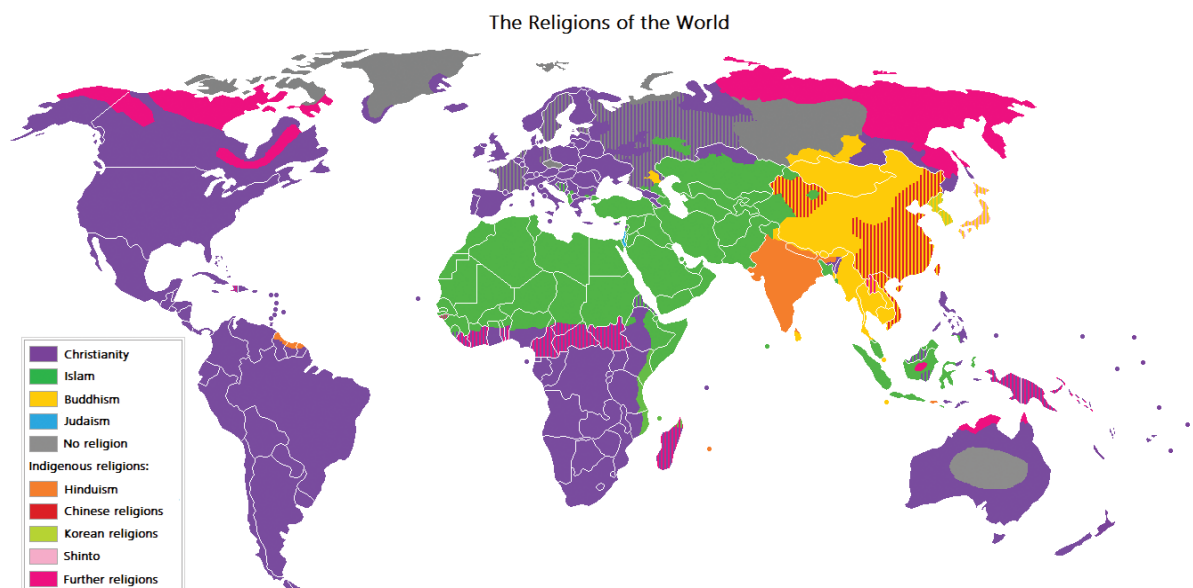
Muslims believe that God sent His messengers to all the nations (Qur'an 35:25). For this reason, Muslims should objectively carry out comparative religious study with consideration for others' beliefs.

### Names of major religions

Below are the ten most practiced, or major religions, in the world listed in alphabetical order.

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Buddhism     | 6. Jainism         |
| 2. Christianity | 7. Judaism         |
| 3. Confucianism | 8. Shinto          |
| 4. Hinduism     | 9. Taoism          |
| 5. Islam        | 10. Zoroastrianism |

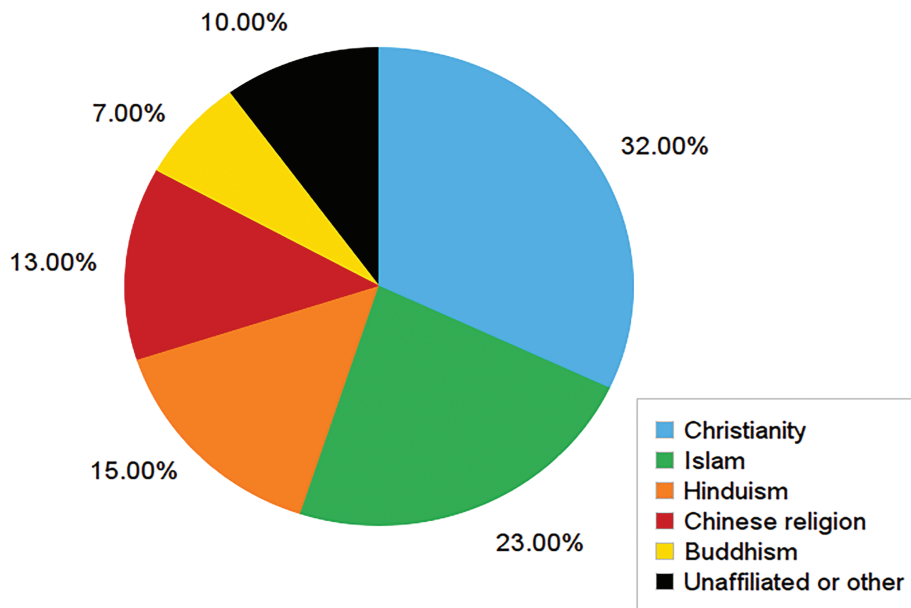
### Location of major religions



## Statistics of major religions

The percentages shown below represent estimated numbers of the top religions shown in the legend.

Major world religious groups



Source: Pew Research Center, 2010

### Exercise 4.1: Answer the questions below.

**Name the 10 major religions of the world:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the difference between an ethnic religion and a universal religion?  
Which one is Islam?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Why is it important for Muslims to study other religions?

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### Hinduism

Hinduism is the oldest living religion in the world, since it began at least four thousand years ago, and people still follow it today. It is a huge collection of belief systems that have been influenced and changed over time. Unlike most other major religions, Hinduism has no single founder like Jesus<sup>as</sup> or Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> or a central leader like the Pope, and it is because of this that Hindus worship in very different ways. Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world, with about 1 billion followers world-wide, most of whom live in India. Hinduism provided the belief structure for other South Asian religions that followed such as Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism.

Ancient writings teach the Hindu religion. **The Vedas** are the most ancient Hindu holy books. For hundreds of years, the Veda teachings were never written down—they were only spoken or sung. **The Upanishads** are another collection of holy writings. They were written down about 500 to 1000 years after the Vedas and contain most of the ideas about Hinduism and how to practice the religion.

Most Hindus believe in one supreme spirit called **Brahman**. Hindus believe God is in all things in the world—not just a spirit in the sky. Brahman does not just exist; it is existence. Brahman can be worshiped in many forms, such as other “gods” e.g. Vishnu, Shiva, Ganesh or Krishna. Many people think Hindus worship many gods, but actually all these smaller gods represent Brahman in different forms. This is like Christianity. Christians worship the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They call this the Holy Trinity in Christianity—not three different gods, but three forms of the same God.



A major difference between Hinduism and Abrahamic religions is the view of life and death. Most Hindus believe in **reincarnation**, rebirth of the soul and

the belief that when the body dies, the spirit comes back to the world but in a new form. The soul may be reborn in the world as another human or an insect or an animal. What they are reborn as depends on their **karma**. Karma is the belief that everything that people do in life determines what will happen to them in the future. If a person follows the **dharma**, he or she can expect to be reincarnated into a higher form in their next life, or have good luck in the future. Dharma is a life path of truth, duty, religion and good behavior. If a person lives the dharma they will have good karma and be reincarnated into a higher form.

### Caste System

Another major part of Hinduism and life in South Asia is the **caste system**. The Indian caste system is a way to organize society into classes of people. Everyone falls into one of 4 or 5 major castes. Earlier in history, major castes were divided into over 3,000 sub-castes. People from different castes didn't marry, work together, or socialize. People were permanently locked into their caste. Castes were usually linked to a certain job. The **Brahmins** were the highest caste; they were priests and scholars. **Kshatriyas** were kings or warriors. **Vaishyas** were merchants, traders, or farmers. **Shudras** were peasants who worked the land. Another group of people existed who were looked at as being so low, they were outside the caste system—the **Dalits** or 'untouchables'. Hindus believed if their karma was good, they would move up in caste when they were reincarnated. Today, the caste system is illegal, but is still followed in some places, especially rural areas.

The goal for Hindus is to end their reincarnation cycle and to reach Moksha. **Moksha** is a "one-ness" with God. When Hindus are finally reborn as Brahmins and if they live a life of perfection they will finally end their birth, death, and rebirth cycle and become a part of the spirit of Brahman (reaching Moksha). One way Hindus work toward spiritual Moksha is through yoga.



In Hinduism, there are 5 types of yoga. **Yoga** is a combination of breathing exercises, physical postures, and meditation that try to discipline the mind. Today, yoga has become a form of physical and mental exercise around the world. All South Asian religions practice some form of yoga.

Water is the most important resource on our planet regardless of religion. However, to followers of Hinduism some water is sacred. The river **Ganges**

in northern India is Hinduism's most holy river. Hindus personify the Ganges River with the goddess Ganga. They believe that bathing in the Ganges helps to wash away sin and move toward Moksha. When most Hindus die, they cremate (burn) the body. Sometimes the ashes are put into the Ganges.

### Worship

The following six points explain the different ways of worship in this faith:

1. **Sandhya:** Rituals performed 3 times a day including meditation, making of offerings and uttering of prayers.
2. **Puja:** Literally means worship, involves the paying of respect to gods in the form of idols.
3. **Katha:** Communal worship that involves recitation from Scriptures.
4. **Yoga:** Yoga is the general name for certain disciplines which, the Hindus believe, should be followed to achieve the state of "nirvana" or enlightenment. These disciplines are extremely ancient and are considered necessary to gain complete control of one's emotions and morals.
5. **Samakara:** In the Hindu religion, certain rituals are performed which relate to the various stages of one's life. These rituals include, name giving ceremony, shaving of the child's head, initiation into the caste, marriage ceremony, funeral sacrament and post-cremation ceremonies.
6. **Pilgrimage:** There are local, regional and national pilgrimage sites across India. The objectives of performing these pilgrimages are manifold: salvation, absolution of sins, worship, experiencing the divine, obtaining relief from illness or receiving some other specific blessings.

### Exercise 4.2: Answer the questions below.

#### How old is Hinduism?

- a. 14,000 years
- b. 1,400 years
- c. 4,000 years
- d. 40,000 years

#### What is the name of the Hindu supreme being?

- a. Sanskrit
- b. The Vedas
- c. Brahman
- d. Both a and c

Complete the table below:

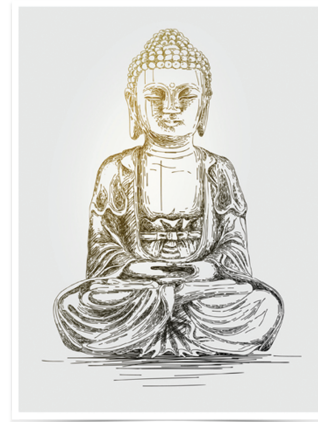
Name of Caste	Primary Jobs or Careers
Brahmins	
Kshatriyas	
Vaishyas	
Shudras	
Dalits	

Match the key words to their definition:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| ___4___ Brahman    | 1. The belief that everything you do in life will affect your future life |
| _____ Caste system | 2. Paying respect to gods in the form of idols                            |
| _____ Karma        | 3. Being one with God   |
| _____ Dharma       | 4. The Supreme Divine Spirit  |
| _____ Moksha       | 5. A life path of good behavior, duty and truth                           |
| _____ Ganges       | 6. Organization of a society into a class system, based on their birth    |
| _____ Puja         | 7. The holy river for Hindus in India                                     |

## Buddhism

Buddhism focuses on the teachings of **Siddhartha Gautama Buddha** who was born around 563 BCE. With as many as 500 million followers, Buddhism is the 4th largest religion in the world. Siddhartha was born a Hindu, but had a difficult time believing the teachings because of all the suffering he saw in the world. He also rejected the caste system. Siddhartha was born a wealthy prince but gave up everything to find a true understanding of the world. He tried many different types of Hindu beliefs, but eventually he formed his own





belief system and taught many others. He was called “**The Buddha**”, or the enlightened one. Many of Siddhartha’s teachings or what is called his “dharma” come from Hinduism. His teachings were written in Buddhist holy books called **Tripitaka** or **Sutras**.

Buddhism is a religion that is not based on the idea of God—it’s more of a way of life, so it is a philosophy, but most people still call Buddhism a religion. Siddhartha believed in a powerful spirit, but not a god. A “Buddha” is a person who discovers the true understanding of life through years of spiritual investigation and studying using meditation. There have been several Buddhas, but Siddhartha was THE Buddha. Buddhists respect all life and encourage nonviolence and kindness. Buddhism encourages its followers to reach **enlightenment**—understanding the true meaning of life and truth about the world.

Buddhists do not require a special building to worship, although there are two main types of Buddhist temples: **pagodas** and **stupas**. A stupa, seen here on the right, is a mound-like structure that often has a Buddhist relic buried underneath. A pagoda is a temple usually found in China and Japan with



several tiers or levels. Buddhist worship is called **puja**. It involves meditation, bowing, chanting, or making offerings—depending on the region.

During his time, Siddhartha viewed life as a time of great suffering. He basically said, “life is suffering... but there is a path to end the suffering”. His “path” became his dharma, or lifestyle. He said we must detach from the world around us. The aim of Buddhist life is to put an end to the sorrow of life. When someone understands the world’s reality (enlightenment), all his or her suffering will end. If a person can end the sorrow of life they will reach **Nirvana**. Nirvana is the end of all desire, ignorance, and sorrow. The spirit is freed from all possessions; it is the realization that all human desires are pointless. Nirvana is the end of reincarnation, so it is like heaven. Buddhists also believe in reincarnation and karma.

Today, there are two main types of Buddhism, **Theravada** and **Mahayana**. Theravada is more traditional--they accept fewer historical people as true Buddhas and include fewer local adaptations. Mahayana history was built along the Silk Road, adapting new ideas, people, and culture changes. All Buddhists, especially Theravada wish to achieve the end of suffering (Nirvana). To do this, Buddhists must train and purify their mind by following the **Four Noble Truths**.

1. Life is suffering (includes age, illness, death, failure, separation etc.).

2. Suffering is due to attachment to wrong things.
3. Attachment can be overcome (by getting rid of human desires).
4. There is a life path to accomplish all of this.

The “path” mentioned in the fourth Noble Truth is called the Noble Eightfold Path. The Noble Eightfold Path is often represented as a wheel with eight spokes. This is called the Buddhist dharma wheel because it shows Siddhartha’s dharma or life path to Nirvana. It is meant to focus the mind and behavior of Buddhists and help them reach Nirvana. The correct view, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration is Siddhartha’s idea of how to avoid the sorrow of life and eventually reach Nirvana.

### **The Buddhist Ten Commandments:**

1. Do not destroy life.
2. Do not take what is not given to you.
3. Do not commit adultery.
4. Tell no lies and do not deceive anyone.
5. Do not become intoxicated.
6. Eat moderately.
7. Do not watch dancing or plays nor listen to singing.
8. Wear no garlands, perfumes or ornaments.
9. Do not sleep in luxurious beds.
10. Do not accept any gold or silver.

### **The Buddhist Ten Perfections:**

1. Giving (in charity)
2. Duty (religious and worldly)
3. Renunciation (from worldly pleasure)
4. Insight (and wisdom)
5. Courage
6. Patience
7. Truth
8. Resolution (in all undertakings)
9. Loving kindness (towards friends and enemies alike)
10. Serenity (towards joy and sorrow)

### **Worship in Buddhism**

Worship is not considered extremely important in Buddhism and varies a great deal between the different branches. Some forms of Buddhist worship are noted below:

**Relic Worship:** Actual and symbolic relics of Buddha are worshiped by the followers by prostration, chanting and making offerings.

**Meditation:** Meditation is the main religious activity in which the individual attempts to control his self and tries to achieve nirvana.

**Paritta:** This involves chanting of discourses from the sacred Pali books. This chanting may be done at special events such as death, illness, danger or when embarking upon a new activity.

### **Buddhist Philosophy of Life**

Buddha strongly preached to his followers to follow what he called the “Middle Way”. He told them to avoid both extremes. One extreme is to indulge in the pleasures and comforts of this material world and the other extreme is to starve oneself, go without sleep or inflict self-punishment.

In the Buddhist philosophy of life, man can overcome the suffering in this world by controlling his desires and following the Eightfold Path. When man obtains perfect wisdom, and masters his emotions and his self, he gains salvation and is ready for the final reward that is nirvana.

Nirvana, in the Buddhist religion, is not only the blissful state in which all suffering ceases, but it also marks the release of the soul from the endless cycle of birth and rebirth.

### **Exercise 4.3: Answer the questions below.**

#### **What are the Buddhist holy books called?**

- a. The Vedas
- b. Tripitaka
- c. The noble truths

#### **Siddhartha Gautama Buddha was a prince who rejected the social caste system.**

- a. True
- b. False

#### **What are the Four Noble Truths?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



**What is meant by the “Middle Way” in Buddhist philosophy?**

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**Match the key words to their definition:**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| _____Nirvana       | 1. The main religious activity in Buddhism through which a person controls his self and tries to achieve Nirvana |
| _____Stupa         | 2. Understanding the true meaning of life and truth about the world  |
| _____Meditation    | 3. The end of all desire, ignorance and sorrow   |
| _____Enlightenment | 4. A mound-like platform often with a Buddhist relic buried underneath it  |
| _____The Buddha    | 5. Chanting from sacred Pali books   |
| _____Paritta       | 6. The enlightened one   |



Source: *The Human Experience*, Glencoe

### Sikhism

Worldwide, Sikhs number more than 23 million, but more than 90 percent of Sikhs live in the Indian State of Punjab, where they form close to 65 percent of the population. Sikhism is a religion that began in the 1400's CE in northern India. It is commonly understood as a compromise between the teachings of Hinduism and Islam. This religion is based on the teachings of **Guru Nanak**, the founder of Sikhism. He was the first of 10 **gurus** (teachers or masters) of the Sikh religion. The main belief in Sikhism is faith in one God—**Vāhigurū**.



### Belief in God

Nanak, the founder of Sikhism stressed that God can only be “seen” from “the inward eye,” or the “heart” of a human being. Followers are encouraged to reach enlightenment (total knowledge). Nanak emphasized understanding God through meditation, which allows communication between God and human beings. Meditation is a mental exercise where you try to go beyond regular thinking and reach a state of deep relaxation, awareness, and thought. Sikhs believe in one formless God and do not believe in idol worship. According to Sikhism, idol worship promotes attachment of God with something other than God and God cannot limit Himself in the form of an idol or a stone. He is beyond everything and in everything at the same time.

Sikhs do not follow the belief in **Avatar** or God descending on earth to protect humanity. On the other hand, they do believe that there are men who are spiritual to the highest degree and are blessed souls and are therefore, assigned the duty to liberate humanity from its continual suffering.

### The 10 Gurus

During the period of 1500 to 1708, Sikhs had ten Gurus, the last being Guru Gobind Singh. For the Sikhs, the significance of his leadership is of the greatest importance. He created the new brotherhood of the Khalsa, which means ‘pure ones’ and gave them five distinctive symbols. These include uncut hair, a comb, a steel wrist band, a sword and short breeches. The initiated Sikh took the name ‘Singh’ (lion) and women were admitted to the **Khalsa**, taking the name ‘Kaur’ (princess).

One of the fascinating evolutionary aspects of Sikhism is the process which began with a human Guru and ended with the present situation, in which full authority is enjoyed by the Sikh scriptures. Two names are usually given to the Sikh scriptures, the **Adi Granth** and the **Guru Granth Sahib**.

## The 5 Ks

Sikh men are required to follow the **5 K's**. Kesh is the requirement to not cut your hair, maintain a beard and wear a turban. Kangha is a small comb they must carry and use to brush their hair twice a day. Kara is a circular bangle that all Sikhs wear to remind them of the One God, Vahiguru. Kirpan is a knife all Sikh men must always carry. Kaccha is a special undergarment with a drawstring to remind the Sikh to protect their chastity and be ready for battle always.



Nanak stressed that a Sikh should balance work, worship, and charity, and should defend the rights of all creatures particularly fellow human beings. Since the 1600's many Sikh men have made it a tradition to join the military and Sikh warriors have been feared and respected by their enemies. This continues today, as many Sikhs are members of the Indian Army. Sikh temples are called **gurdwaras**. They are open to all people, regardless of religion, background, caste or race.

There are no rituals or ceremonies in Sikhism. In addition, Sikhs don't go on pilgrimages. Sikhs do not preach to non-believers.

### Exercise 4.4: Answer the questions below.

#### What are the 5K's in Sikhism?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

#### What is the name of the Sikhs' supreme being?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### What is the name of the Sikh holy books?

- a. Adi Granth & Guru Granth Sahib
- b. Kaur Granth
- c. Vahiguru
- d. None of the above

#### Choose True or False for each statement.

Guru Nanak is the founder of the Sikh religion.	True	False
Sikhism promotes idol worship.	True	False
Singh means lion.	True	False
Sikh temples are called pagodas.	True	False
Pilgrimages are a big part of the Sikh faith.	True	False
Sikhs believe in one God.	True	False

### Judaism

Judaism is one of the oldest religions in the world and had significant influence on the development of the two other **monotheisms** (Religions with one God), Christianity and Islam. The central doctrine of Judaism is the **Unity of God**.



It's also the smallest, with only about twelve million followers around the world. In ancient times, Jewish people were called Hebrews or Israelites. Abraham is believed to be the father of the Jewish people. The story of Abraham is told in the **Torah** or what Christians call the **Old Testament**. **Jerusalem** is their most holy city and the capital of Israel—the only nation where Jewish people are the majority in population.

The Hebrew Bible or Old Testament, consists of 39 books including the five books of the Torah.

The most important person in Judaism is **Moses**, a descendant of the Prophet Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>. According to the Torah, Moses is the leader who freed the Jews



from slavery in Egypt. However, there is no written evidence of this enslavement story in Egyptian writing. According to Jewish writing, when Moses and the Hebrews left Egypt they traveled through the Sinai Peninsula. One night he climbed Mount Sinai and it is believed that God gave him the **10 Commandments** that eventually became part of the Old Testament.

The Jewish word for god is **Yahweh**. Jews worship in synagogues. Men and women usually sit separately in the **synagogues**. Men are required to cover their heads with a hat called a **yarmulke** (yam-moo-ka). In most cases, worship takes place in the Hebrew language. The Jewish spiritual leaders are called **rabbis**. Unlike leaders in many other faiths, a rabbi is not a priest and has no special connection with god. Another difference is the belief in the afterlife. Jewish holy books mainly talk about life on Earth, and rarely mention anything like a heaven or hell.



Part of Jewish life revolves around eating the correct food. **Kosher foods** are those that follow Jewish law. This means no mixing of dairy and meat, no pork or pork products and no shellfish. Jews can eat meat from any animal that chews its cud and has a split hoof such as cows, goats, and sheep. Rabbit, pig, horse, dog, and cat are not kosher. Jews may eat fish that have both fins and



scales that are detachable from the skin.

Traditionally, Jews say prayers three times daily, with a fourth prayer added on holidays. **Yom Kippur** is the most important Jewish holiday. Jews traditionally observe this holiday with a 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue.

### Belief about Messiah

The Old Testament says a **messiah** will come to earth and save the Jewish people. Jesus was born into the Jewish religion. There were certain things about Judaism that he thought were wrong, so he began preaching new ideas. He was thought of as a rebel preacher. However, some people thought he was the Messiah. After Jesus was killed, his followers went on to start a new religion called Christianity. That is why Christianity and Judaism share religious texts, characters, and beliefs.

The Jews declare the birth of Jesus to be illegitimate and make defamatory statements against Mary, mother of Jesus. The Jews believe that Jesus died on the cross because he was a false prophet.



### Jewish Festivals

1. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year
2. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement
3. Sukkot, the feast of Tabernacles
4. Simchat Torah, rejoicing of the Law

### The Essential Beliefs of Judaism

Although there are many beliefs in Judaism, there are 13 articles of faith that are considered essential. These are:

1. The belief in God
2. The belief that there is only one God
3. The belief in the non-corporeal nature of God
4. The belief that God is the First and the Last
5. The belief that God is All knowing, All Seeing and the Lord
6. The belief that prayers should only be directed to God
7. The belief that God rewards the good and punishes the bad
8. The belief that all the words of the prophets are true
9. The belief that Moses is the chief of all prophets
10. The belief that the present Torah is the same as revealed to Moses

11. The belief that the Law of Torah is the last law from God
12. The belief in the coming of the Messiah
13. The belief in the resurrection

Judaism is not only a religion but also an ethnic group. According to traditional Jewish Law, a Jew is anyone born of at least one Jewish parent or someone who has converted to the religion of Judaism.

**Exercise 4.5: Answer the questions below.**

**How many people follow Judaism?** \_\_\_\_\_

**The father of Judaism is:**

- a. Prophet Jonah<sup>as</sup>
- b. Prophet Jesus<sup>as</sup>
- c. Prophet Abraham<sup>as</sup>
- d. Prophet Ismail<sup>as</sup>

**What is the holy book for the Jews?**

- a. The Vedas
- b. Tripitaka
- c. The noble truths
- d. None of the above

**What is the holy city for the Jews?**

- a. Mecca
- b. Medina
- c. Jerusalem
- d. Bethlehem

**The Jewish people are still waiting for:**

- a. A messiah prophesized in the Old Testament
- b. A prophet from Jericho
- c. A messiah from the western world
- d. None of the above

**Choose true or false for each statement.**

The central doctrine of Judaism is the Unity of God.	True	False
Halal foods are those that follow the Jewish dietary guidelines.	True	False
Jewish people believe that Jesus was a false prophet and died on the cross.	True	False
Moses was given the 10 commandments by God on Mount Sinai according to the Jewish faith.	True	False

### Christianity

Christianity is the faith with the largest following in the world. This monotheistic religion is based on the teachings of **Jesus of Nazareth** who later became known as Jesus Christ because his believers think he is the Son of God.



Christianity originally developed as a part of Judaism. Jesus was born a Jew in **Bethlehem**. Most of his life is a mystery, as there are no records of his life except his birth, a brief time in his early childhood, and one to three years of adulthood when he preached and was crucified. Christianity didn't just happen immediately. For nearly 100 years Christianity was a **denomination** of Judaism. The few followers of Christianity were the family of Jesus and the few apostles that were still alive. Jesus revived the Judaic teachings of Moses which were considered heresy by the Jews and Romans--it was dangerous to be a follower of Jesus. The number of followers greatly increased when Romans began to convert to Christianity.

### Christian Beliefs

Although there are over 250 sects of the Christians today, some essential beliefs are shared by all of them. These basic beliefs are:

1. Belief in God, Almighty, Creator of all things.
2. Belief in Jesus as the Messiah, and the Son of God (whether metaphorically or literally).
3. Belief in Trinity: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
4. Belief in eternal sin, which means that all men are born sinners.
5. Belief that Jesus Christ came down to earth from heaven for the salvation of mankind.
6. Belief that the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) is the only proper guidance for mankind.
7. Belief in baptism as a remission of sin.
8. Belief that sins can be forgiven through repentance.
9. Belief in life after death.
10. Belief that those who repent and follow Jesus Christ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Christian belief in God is what is called the **Holy Trinity**—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They believe these are three forms of the same “God”, similar to how water can exist in 3 forms of liquid, gas and solid.



## Belief in the Messiah

Old Jewish writings said a leader would die and rise from the dead to lead the people. Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to his **disciples** or followers, which made him the Messiah or savior who was promised in the Old Testament. Most people who lived in the time of Jesus did not believe he rose from the grave. Today, Jews are awaiting the coming of a Messiah or Savior, while Christians believe that Jesus Christ was the Savior.

Jesus was born in **Bethlehem**, in the province of Judea, between 4 and 7 BC. The Christians believe, and majority of the Muslims concur with this belief, that Jesus was born to Mary, his mother, without the agency of a human father. Joseph, the husband of **Mary**, is supposed to have married her after the conception of Jesus.

Jesus was born among the Israelites and the **Gospels** trace his ancestry to Prophet David through his adoptive father, Joseph. Jesus, therefore, was not only born a Jew but was also raised and educated according to the Judaic tradition. Christians therefore, also hold Prophet Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> in high esteem.



Jesus' ministry in the Palestinian area lasted about three years. During this short period, he is said to have performed many miracles and healed many a people of their illnesses. Jesus' teachings emphasized the gentler elements of the **Mosaic teachings** and condemned the rigid, often cruel, application of the Law. His open criticism of the Jewish rabbis and his rapidly increasing popularity among the masses made him an enemy of both the Jews and the Romans.

As a result, Jesus was first made to appear in front of the Jewish religious authorities who, after questioning him at great length, passed him on to the Roman Governor, **Pontius Pilate**. Pilate believed in the innocence of Jesus Christ, but at the demand of the people and the rabbis, condemned him to crucifixion.

Jesus was put on the cross on Friday. With the start of the Jewish Sabbath at sunset, Jesus' body was released to his followers, after the Roman soldiers had assumed that he had died. For the next two days Jesus' body was placed in a cave. After this period Jesus was seen alive by many of his disciples and ate with them. Later, according to the Christian belief, Jesus was taken up to heaven.

Jesus lived for 33 years before being crucified by the Romans. Jesus was crucified around 33 CE in Jerusalem—a very important city to Christians. The Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross in **atonement** of the sins of humanity, was resurrected soon thereafter, and then ascended to Heaven.

The Ahmadi belief in this regard is that Jesus recovered from his wounds, met and ate with his disciples and left the Palestinian area, traveling eastward to Afghanistan and Kashmir. The Ahmadis believe that Jesus lived to a ripe old age, died in Kashmir and is buried in Srinagar.

### Main Christian Sects

There are different branches or denominations of Christianity because some Christians worship in different ways and believe in different parts of the Bible. There are 3 main denominations in Christianity--**Roman Catholic, Easter Orthodox, and Protestant**. Each denomination is further divided. Methodists, Mormons, Baptists, and Quakers are just a few of the dozens of Christian denominations. They all worship in different ways, different times of the day, saying different prayers, and believing different things, but most believe in certain core ideas such as heaven and the resurrection of Jesus. The most important Christian holiday for all Christians is **Easter**, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

The Christian place of worship is called a **church**. They are often built in the shape of a cross with the altar facing east towards the rising sun. Christian spiritual leaders are called **priests** or **ministers**. Christians believe priests have a special relationship with God. **The Bible** is the Christian holy book. It is divided into the Old Testament (Jewish book written before Jesus) and New Testament. Most versions of the New Testament have 27 'books' or parts. They were written in Greek and some were written over 100 years after the time of Jesus. The first parts of the New Testament were written about 20 years after Jesus was crucified, about 51 CE to 80 CE, however, Christians believe the writing was inspired by God. The New Testament was finally put together as it is today in the mid-300's CE. There are many stories, or gospels, not included in the official Christian Bible.



### Exercise 4.6: Answer the questions below.

**How does Christianity rank among world religions?**

-----

**Who were the parents of Jesus?**

---

---

**What was the religion of Jesus? What parts of the Mosaic Law did he stress more on during his ministry in Palestine?**

---

---

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**Atonement means:**

- a. Forgiveness of all men through the death of Jesus Christ.
- b. That all men are born sinners.
- c. A special relationship with God through priests.
- d. The Christian act of worship.

**Jesus was crucified by:**

- a. The Israelites
- b. The Romans
- c. The Methodists
- d. Both a and c

**What is the holy book for Christians?**

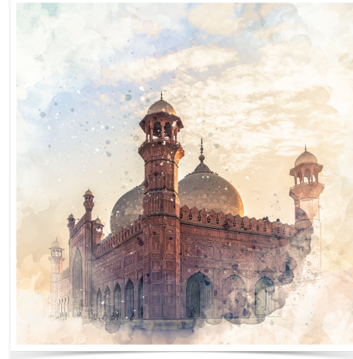
- a. The Vedas
- b. Tripitaka
- c. The Holy Bible
- d. None of the above

**Jesus was considered a rebel because he:**

- a. Emphasized the gentler parts of Mosaic Law
- b. Condemned the strict, cruel application of Mosaic Law
- c. He was becoming popular among the masses
- d. All of the above

## Islam

Islam, is a **monotheistic** religion and is the second most followed religion in the world with over a billion followers. A Muslim is someone who follows the Islamic faith. The Arabic word 'Islam' means submission. This religion began about 600 years after Christianity. A man named Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>, born in 570 CE, was visited by the Archangel Gabriel. Gabriel told Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> the final message of God, which was written down in the **Holy Qur'an**. It is the Islamic holy book. Muslims call God **Allah** – the Arabic word for god.



The Muslim place of worship is called a **mosque**. Very often mosques have a domed roof and at least one tall tower called a minaret. Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> is the founder of Islam, and Muslims believe he was the last prophet of Allah.

### Islamic Beliefs

Please refer back to five **Pillars of Islam, Six Articles of Faith** and other pertinent information as a review.

### Islamic Sects

There are 73 sects of Islam, divided into 2 main branches – **Sunnis** and **Shias**.

#### Sunni Muslims

This is the major sect of Muslims today. About 85% of the world's Muslims are Sunnis. They accept the authority of the Khulafa Rashidun and follow the sunnah of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>.

#### Shia Muslims

Shias believe Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> was the only the legitimate successor to the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and they do not accept the authority of the Khulafa Rashidun.

#### Ahmadi Muslims

**Three beliefs** held by Ahmadi Muslims distinguish them from Sunni and Shia doctrine:

1. The Finality of Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> Prophethood
  - a. In the Holy Qur'an (33:41), Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> has been given the title of **Khataman Nabiyyeen** (Seal of the prophets). A majority of the Muslims believe this means he is the last prophet and no new prophet can



come after him. They also believe revelation has ended.

- b. According to Ahmadi Muslims, this title signifies his perfection as a prophet. Ahmadi Muslims do believe that Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> was the last law bearing prophet and that no new religious law can come after the Holy Qur'an.
2. Jesus Christ's Ascension to Heaven
  - a. The majority of Muslims believe Jesus Christ was not put on the cross and that in his place, someone was placed who resembled him. Jesus, according to them, was physically raised to heaven.
  - b. Ahmadi Muslims believe Jesus was put on the cross but did not die on the cross, later travelling east to preach to the remaining 10 Tribes of Israel. They believe he passed away of natural causes in **Srinagar, Kashmir**.
3. The Identity of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>
  - a. A majority of Muslims believe that Jesus Christ himself will return as the Promised Messiah. Ahmadi Muslims believe that the Promised Messiah has arrived in the person of Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup>.

**Exercise 4.7: Complete the questions below.**

**How many sects of Islam are there and what are the 2 main branches?**

-----

**What percentage of the Muslim population is Sunni?** -----

**Sunni Muslims recognize the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and what other institution that Shia Muslims do not?**

-----

-----

**What role do Shia Muslims assign to Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup>?**

-----



**What are the three things that differentiate Ahmadi Muslim beliefs from other Muslim groups?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The word Khataman Nabiyeen means:**

- a. The last of the prophets
- b. The seal of the prophets
- c. The finality of the prophets
- d. None of the above

**According to Ahmadi Muslims, where is the last resting place of Jesus<sup>as</sup>?**

- a. Jerusalem, Israel
- b. Srinagar, India
- c. Qadian, India
- d. None of the above

**According to Sunni & Shia Muslims what happened to Jesus<sup>as</sup>?**

- a. He died on the cross
- b. Someone else was on the cross
- c. He was physically raised to heaven
- d. Both b and c

**The majority of Muslims believe that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> will be:**

- a. Jesus<sup>as</sup> himself
- b. A prophet from Jericho
- c. A messiah from the western world
- d. None of the above

**Table Summary of the three Abrahamic Religions.**

	<b>Islam</b>	<b>Judaism</b>	<b>Christianity</b>
<b>Followers are called</b>	Muslims	Jews	Christians
<b>Current adherents</b>	1.3 billion	14 million	2 billion
<b>Current size rank</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> largest	12 <sup>th</sup> largest	Largest
<b>Major concentration</b>	Middle East, Southeast Asia	Israel, Europe, USA	Europe, North and South American, rapid growth in Africa
<b>Sacred text</b>	Holy Qur'an	Torah (Hebrew Bible)	Bible (Jewish Bible + New Testament)
<b>Other written authority</b>	Hadith	Taimud, Midrash, Responsa	Church fathers, church councils, papal decrees (Catholic only)
<b>Religious law</b>	Sharia	Halakhah	Canon Law
<b>Clergy</b>	Imams	Rabbis	Priests, Ministers, Pastors, Bishops
<b>House of Worship</b>	Mosque	Synagogue	Church, Chapel, Cathedral
<b>Main day of worship</b>	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

**Exercise 4.8: Complete the review questions below.**

Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to atone the sins of humanity. True False

Early Christians who were true followers of Jesus Christ believed in one God and worshiped the one God only. True False

Buddhism focuses on purifying the mind by following "The Four Noble Truths." True False



**Hindus believe in one universal spirit called:**

- a. Rama Chandra
- b. Vaisyas
- c. Brahman
- d. Shiva

**Which religion believes in reincarnation?**

- a. Christianity
- b. Hinduism
- c. Islam
- d. None of the above

**Islam teaches us to:**

- a. Believe in all the Prophets sent by God.
- b. Only believe in Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.
- c. Only believe in Jesus<sup>as</sup>, Moses<sup>as</sup>, Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

**Buddhists follow the teachings of Gautama Buddha. Gautama Buddha's religion by birth (before he formed his own religious beliefs) was:**

- a. Islam
- b. Judaism
- c. Hinduism
- d. None of the above

**Which religion believes in the caste system?**

- a. Sikhism
- b. Judaism
- c. Hinduism
- d. Islam

**Which sect of Islam believes that Jesus was NOT physically resurrected to heaven?**

- a. Ahmadi
- b. Sunni
- c. Shia
- d. Ismaili

**Exercise 4.9: Identify the concepts listed below as Judaic, Christian, Islamic or any combination of the correct answer.**

Belief in the Old Testament	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Belief in the Unity of God	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Jesus in as an honored figure in these faiths	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Belief that Hadrat Ibrahim <sup>as</sup> is the chief of all Prophets	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Recognizes Jesus as the Son of God	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Belief in one God who has three different forms	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Belief that the birth of Jesus is miraculous in nature	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Recognize Muhammad <sup>sa</sup> as a prophet	Judaic	Christian	Islamic

## Asharah Mubashsharah

The Asharah Mubashsharah are ten companions of Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> who were given the glad tidings of Paradise during their lifetime.

### Hadrat Abu Bakr Siddiq<sup>ra</sup>

Hadrat Abu Bakr Siddiq<sup>ra</sup> was the first man to accept Islam and the first khalifa of Islam. He was with Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>, when the Prophet<sup>sa</sup> migrated from Mecca to Medina. He was Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>'s best friend and father-in-law.

### Hadrat Umar Farooq<sup>ra</sup>

Hadrat Umar Farooq<sup>ra</sup> was the second Khalifa of Islam. He accepted Islam after listening to recitation of the Holy Qur'an. Before becoming Muslim, he was one of the biggest enemies of Islam. He later became the biggest defender of Islam. Message of Islam spread around the world during his time as Khalifa. He was also Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>'s father-in-law.

### Hadrat Uthman Ghani<sup>ra</sup>

Hadrat Uthman<sup>ra</sup> was the third Khalifa of Islam. He was the fifth person to accept Islam upon preaching of Hadrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup>. He was very rich and is known to have spent a lot of his wealth for the cause of Islam. The written copy of the Holy Qur'an was compiled during his Khilafat and under his direct supervision. He was Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>'s son-in-law.

### Hadrat Ali bin Abi Talib<sup>ra</sup>

Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> was the fourth Khalifa of Islam. When Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> brought the message of Islam, Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> became the youngest person to accept Islam. Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> stayed in the bed of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, the night when the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> left Mecca for Medina. He was Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>'s first cousin and son-in-law.

### Hadrat Talha bin Ubaidullah<sup>ra</sup>

Hadrat Talha<sup>ra</sup> embraced Islam upon the preaching of Hadrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup>.

When Naufal, also known as Asad Quraish (Lion of the Quraish), heard about his conversion, he tied Hadrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> and Hadrat Talha<sup>ra</sup> together with a rope. Due to this, the two became known as 'Al-Qarinain' which means, the two tied together.

He was a member of the electoral college or Khilafat selection committee of

the third Khalifa. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> titled him as Talha Al-Khair (Talha, the excellent) and Talha Al-Jud (Talha, the benevolent). He was one of the first migrants.

### **Hadrat Zubair bin al Awwam<sup>ra</sup>**

Hadrat Zubair<sup>ra</sup> became a Muslim during his early youth. His uncle became furious when he heard about his conversion and tortured him to make him abandon Islam. He would wrap Hadrat Zubair<sup>ra</sup> in a rug and have smoke inserted into his nostrils until he suffocated. His uncle would then comment that if he wishes to escape the torment, he must abandon Islam. But Hadrat Zubair<sup>ra</sup> never wavered in his faith.

### **Hadrat Abu Ubaidah ibn-al-Jarrah<sup>ra</sup>**

Hadrat Abu Ubaidah<sup>ra</sup> was amongst the earliest to accept Islam, and did so through the preaching of Hadrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup>. Hadrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> took him, Abdur-Rahman ibn Auf<sup>ra</sup>, Uthman ibn Maz'un<sup>ra</sup> and Arqam ibn Abi al Arqam<sup>ra</sup> to the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> so they could convert together.

### **Hadrat Abdul Rahman bin Auf<sup>ra</sup>**

Hadrat Abdul Rahman ibn Auf<sup>ra</sup> was member of the electoral college of the third Khalifa. He migrated twice, first to Ethiopia and then to Medina.

He participated in all the battles and expeditions in the company of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. During the battle of Uhud, he had 21 injuries and broke two of his teeth. He was a wealthy trader and was known for his generosity.

### **Hadrat Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas<sup>ra</sup>**

Hadrat Sa'd<sup>ra</sup> embraced Islam at the age of 19. He was also a member of the electoral college of the third Khalifa. He participated in numerous battles and expeditions and showed his courage in the Battle of Uhud. He was also the commander of the army that defeated the King of Persia.

### **Hadrat Sa'eed ibn Zaid<sup>ra</sup>**

Hadrat Sa'eed<sup>ra</sup> was married to Hadrat Fatimah bint Khattab<sup>ra</sup>, sister of Hadrat Umar<sup>ra</sup>. Hadrat Sa'eed<sup>ra</sup> and his wife became Muslim when only a handful of people had accepted Islam and were also instrumental in the conversion of Hadrat Umar<sup>ra</sup>.

**Exercise 4.10: Choose the correct answer from the questions below.**

Prophet Muhammad <sup>sa</sup> was given glad tidings of entering paradise during his life time.	True	False
Mubashsharah means a person with good news.	True	False
The Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> is a part of Ashrah Mubashsharah.	True	False
All four of the Khulafa Rashidin are part of the Ashrah Mubashsharah.	True	False
Ashrah is an Arabic word for...	One	Ten

**This companion was married to sister of Hadrat Umar<sup>ra</sup>.**

- a. Hadrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup>
- b. Hadrat Sa'eed ibn-Zaid<sup>ra</sup>
- c. Hadrat Abdul Rahman bin Auf<sup>ra</sup>
- d. Hadrat Talha bin Ubaidullah<sup>ra</sup>

## Famous Mosques Around the World

1. Masjid Al-Haram (The Sacred Mosque),  
Mecca, Saudi Arabia

- ◇ Millions of Muslims arrive annually to perform the Hajj.
- ◇ This mosque surrounds the Holy Ka'bah.
- ◇ This is the holiest place for all Muslims around the world.



2. Masjid an-Nabawi, Medina, Saudi Arabia

- ◇ Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> built this mosque after migrating to Medina from Mecca.
- ◇ Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> is buried here.
- ◇ This is second holiest place for all Muslims around the world.



3. Masjid Aqsa, Jerusalem

- ◇ It is located next to Qiblat-ul-Awwal, or the first Qibla (Dome of the Rock) in old city of Jerusalem.
- ◇ This is not the mosque that is commonly misunderstood to be the mosque Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> visited during his Miraj; the Miraj was a spiritual experience, and 'Masjid Aqsa' referred to in that experience is not of this world.



4. Masjid Quba, Quba, Saudi Arabia

- ◇ This is first mosque of Islam, whose foundation was laid by Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> during the Hijrah.
- ◇ Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> had special attachment with this mosque and he used to regularly visit this mosque.





### 5. Masjid Al Qiblatain, Medina, Saudi Arabia

- ◇ This mosque is known for having two Qiblas
- ◇ While praying, Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> was instructed by Allah to switch the direction of qibla from the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem to the Holy Ka'bah in Mecca.



### 6. Masjid Mubarak, Qadian, India

- ◇ First mosque of the Jamaat built around 1883.
- ◇ The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> laid its foundation.



### 7. Masjid Fadl, London, England

- ◇ First Ahmadi Muslim mosque in London
- ◇ Hadrat Musleh Ma'ud<sup>ra</sup> laid the foundation stone on October 19, 1924.
- ◇ The Ahmadiyya Muslim Khilafat resided in Mahmood Hall, adjacent to Masjid Fadl, since the migration of Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> until 2019.



### 8. Baitul Futuh, London, England

- ◇ Largest mosque in Western Europe.
- ◇ Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> laid the foundation stone on October 19, 1999 and Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> inaugurated it on October 14th, 2003.





9. Masjid Mubarak, Tilford, England

- ◇ This mosque was inaugurated by Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> in May of 2019.
- ◇ The mosque is located on a property called Islamabad, and houses the MTA International facilities, and is also where Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> is buried.



**Exercise 4.11: Complete the following questions.**

**Masjid an-Nabawi is in city of Mecca.**

- a. True
- b. False

**Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> is buried in the Masjid an-Nabawi.**

- a. True
- b. False

**This is the holiest mosque for Muslim:**

- a. Masjid Al-Haram
- b. Bait-ul-Aqsa
- c. Masjid Faisal
- d. Bait-ul-Futuh

**Our holiest mosque is in city of:**

- a. Medina
- b. Qadian
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. Mecca

**Before Allah commanded the Muslims to pray in the direction of the Ka'bah, they used to pray towards the:**

- a. Masjid an-Nabawi
- b. Dome of the Rock
- c. Holy Ka'bah
- d. Saudi Arabia

**The first Ahmadi Muslim mosque is located in:**

- a. London, England
- b. Syria
- c. Qadian, India
- d. Western Europe

**Exercise 4.12: Match the mosque to its correct description.**

Dome of the Rock

Largest mosque in Western Europe

Bait-ul-Futuh

Foundation stone laid by Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>

Bait-ul-Fadl

The first mosque of Islam

Masjid Quba

Site of Hajj

Masjid Al-Haram

Located in Jerusalem

## Important Places & Artifacts

### The Holy Ka'bah

- ◇ The sacred heart of Islam.
- ◇ First house of worship, believed to have been built by Hadrat Adam<sup>as</sup>.
- ◇ Muslims face towards the Holy Ka'bah during their prayers.



### Qubbat as Sakhras - The Dome of the Rock

- ◇ This was the first Qibla (Qiblat-ul-Awwal) for Muslims.
- ◇ This is also known as Bait-ul-Muqaddas.
- ◇ Located on Temple Mount (also known as Mount Mariah) in the old city of Jerusalem.



### Mecca

- ◇ This is the birthplace of Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> and the holiest city for all Muslims in the world. It is in Saudi Arabia.
- ◇ Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> grew up in this city, declared himself to be a Prophet of Allah and migrated from this city at the age of 53 after severe persecution.
- ◇ This city has holiest mosque in Islam called Masjid-al-Haram which hosts the Holy Ka'bah. All Muslims point towards this holy place for their five daily prayers.



### Medina

- ◇ This is the second holiest place for all Muslims. It is also located in Saudi Arabia. This is where Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> is buried.
- ◇ Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> spent the last 10 years of his life in this city.



- ◇ This city has second holiest mosque in Islam called Masjid an-Nabawi.

### Karbala

- ◇ Karbala is a town in modern day Iraq. This is the town where the martyrdom of Hadrat Husain<sup>ra</sup> occurred, along with his family and a few companions, on the 10th of Muharram.



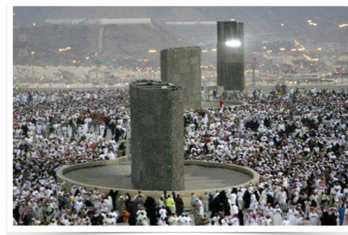
### Mount Arafat

- ◇ This is where Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> delivered his Farewell Sermon on 9th of Dhul-Hijjah.
- ◇ This mount is located 9 miles from Mecca.



### Mina

- ◇ In Mina, Hajj pilgrims perform the ritual stoning of three pillars, which represent Satan, on the last day of the Hajj.



### The Black Stone - Al-Hajar-ul-Aswad

- ◇ This is embedded on one corner of the Ka'bah.
- ◇ Its origins are unclear but it is known that Prophet Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and Prophet Isma'il<sup>as</sup> used it while rebuilding the Ka'bah.
- ◇ From whichever direction, the pilgrim enters the enclosure and approaches the Ka'bah, he begins his circuit from the corner in which the Black Stone is placed.



### Tomb of Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>

- ◇ Prophet Muhammad's<sup>sa</sup> tomb is located inside Masjid an-Nabawi, along with the tombs of Hadrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> and Hadrat Umar<sup>ra</sup>.
- ◇ This tomb is situated at the location of what used to be Hadrat Aishah<sup>ra</sup>'s house.





### Cave Thaur

- ◇ This is the cave where Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> and Hadrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> took refuge during their 'hijrat' to Medina from Mecca.



### Cave Hira

- ◇ This is where Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> used to spend his time in prayers, especially prior to becoming a prophet.
- ◇ This is where the revelation of the Holy Qur'an began when the angel Jibreel<sup>as</sup> visited the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> during Ramadan.



### Zamzam Well

- ◇ Zamzam is the name of a famous water well now located inside Masjid al-Haram.
- ◇ Under the blazing sun, Hadrat Hajra ran seven times between the two hills of Safa and Marwa to look for water for her infant son Hadrat Isma'il<sup>as</sup>. When she returned after the seventh circuit, she found that water was coming up from the ground next to Hadrat Isma'il<sup>as</sup>.



### Qadian, India

- ◇ The birthplace and hometown of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, located in Punjab, India.
- ◇ It was previously known as Islampur and Qadi.
- ◇ It hosts Masjid Mubarak and Minarat-ul-Masih.
- ◇ The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup>, and numerous other prominent companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> are buried here.



## Minaratul Masih

- ◇ Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> prophesized that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> would descend near a white minaret, east of Damascus. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> decided to literally fulfill this prophecy. He laid the foundation of this minaret on March 13, 1903.
- ◇ It is located in Qadian, close to Masjid Aqsa.



## Hoshiarpur, India

- ◇ When the Arya Samaj asked for a sign to prove the truthfulness of Islam the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> retreated to Hoshiarpur and spent 40 days in special prayers.
- ◇ During this time, he was given the glad tidings of a Promised Son, who would later come to be identified as Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>.



## Rabwah, Pakistan

- ◇ A city in Punjab, Pakistan which became the headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat after Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> migrated from Qadian, India to Pakistan in 1947.
- ◇ Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>, and numerous companions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> are buried here.



**Exercise 4.13: Choose the correct location or artifact for the descriptions provided.**

First house of worship built by Hadrat Adam <sup>as</sup> for the worship of One God.	Ka'bah	Qibla	Dome of the Rock
Place where Hadrat Abu Bakr <sup>ra</sup> and the Holy Prophet <sup>sa</sup> hid during their migration.	Cave Thaur	Cave Hira	Cave Hira
A well located inside the Masjid Al Haram.	Mina	Qibla	Zamzam
A special black stone embedded in a corner of the Ka'bah.	Al-Hajar-ul-Aswad	Hijrat Medina	Hoshiarpur
The Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> was given the glad tidings of a Promised Son after 40 days of prayers in this city.	Qadian	Hoshiarpur	Rabwah
Location of Minarat-ul-Masih and Masjid Mubarak.	Qadian	Hoshiarpur	Rabwah
Town in Pakistan where the second & third Khalifatul-Masih are laid to rest.	Rabwah	Punjab	Karachi
The farewell address of the Holy Prophet <sup>sa</sup> was given here.	Mount Hira	Mount Arafat	Karbala



## Important Dates

### Lunar Calendar and Important Dates

The Islamic Calendar follows the lunar calendar whose names and significant dates are listed below.

#	Month	Important Dates
1	Muharram	1st Muharram is Islamic New Year  10th of Muharram, also called Ashura, commemorates the martyrdom of Hadrat Husain <sup>ra</sup>
2	Safar	No significant event
3	Rabi-al-Awwal	12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, 11 AH – passing of the Holy Prophet <sup>sa</sup>
4	Rabi al-Thani	No significant event
5	Jumada al-'Awwal	No significant event
6	Jumada al-Thani	No significant event
7	Rajab	No significant event
8	Sha'ban	No significant event
9	Ramadan	First of Ramadan when month of fasting starts.  First Revelation of Qur'an.
10	Shawwal	First Shawwal is Eid-ul-Fitr.
11	Dhul-Qadah	No significant event.
12	Dhul-Hijjah	Muslims perform Hajj from 8th to 12th of Dhul-Hijjah  10th Dhul-Hijjah – Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated.

**Solar Calendar and Important Dates**

#	Month	Important Dates
1	January	12th 1889 – Birth of Hadrat Musleh Ma'ud <sup>ra</sup>
2	February	13th, 1835 – The Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> was born.  20th, 1886 – Prophecy of Promised Son in Hoshiarpur, India  1939 – Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya founded
3	March	21st, 1894 – Eclipse of moon in Eastern hemisphere occurred.  23rd, 1889 – The Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> took first bai'at in Ludhiana, India.
4	April	6th, 1894 – Eclipse of sun in Eastern hemisphere occurred.
5	May	27th, 1908 – Establishment of Ahmadiyya Muslim Khilafat.
6	June	8th, 632 – The Holy Prophet <sup>sa</sup> passes away.  22nd, 622 – The Holy Prophet <sup>sa</sup> reaches Medina. Islamic Hijri calendar starts from this day.
7	July	26th, 1940 – Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya and Majlis Ansarullah established.
8	August	21st, 1992 – MTA begins
9	September	20th, 1948 – foundation stone laid for Rabwah as Jamaat's new center.
10	October	3rd, 2003 – Inauguration of Baitul-Futuh in Morden, England.
11	November	23rd, 1934 – Tahrik-e-Jadid initiated.
12	December	25th, 1922 – Lajna Ima'illah established.  25th, 1938 – Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya established.  27th, 1957 – Waqf-e-Jadid initiated.  27th, 28th and 29th of 1891 – First Jalsa Salana convened.

## Important Events

### Eid-ul-Fitr

This festival marks the end of Ramadan and is celebrated to give thanks for the blessings of Ramadan.

### Eid-ul-Adha

This festival is celebrated approximately 10 weeks after Eid-ul-Fitr, and marks the completion of Hajj. It is also known as the Festival of Sacrifice to commemorate the obedience of Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and his son Hadrat Isma'il<sup>as</sup> to Allah.

### Hajj

The annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, mandatory for all Muslims who are financially capable and can undertake a safe journey.

### Umrah

Umrah is a visit to Mecca at any time during the year in the state of Ihram to perform the tawaf (circuits) of Ka'bah and the sa'y (running between the hillocks of Safa and Marwa).



### Jalsa Salana

An annual gathering of Jamaat members nationwide, initiated by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.



### Ijtimaa

An annual gathering of a Jamaat auxiliary to emphasize moral and physical training of Jamaat members, initiated by Hadrat Musleh Ma'ud<sup>ra</sup>.

**Exercise 4.14: Complete the following questions.**

**Qadian is holiest place for Muslims.**

- a. True
- b. False

**Ijtimia is annual gathering of all jamaat members.**

- a. True
- b. False

**Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated to remind us about sacrifice of this prophet:**

- a. Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>
- b. Prophet Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>
- c. Prophet Jesus<sup>as</sup>
- d. Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>



***Eid-ul-Adha***

**Umrah is mandatory for all Muslims during their lifetime.**

- a. True
- b. False

**Minarat-ul-Masih is located in:**

- a. Germany
- b. Qadian
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. Mecca

**Stoning in Mina is a required activity for completion of Hajj.**

- a. True
- b. False

**The 10th of Muharram is known for:**

- a. Birth of Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>
- b. Martyrdom of Hadrat Husain<sup>ra</sup>
- c. Death of Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>
- d. First Jalsa took place on this date

**The last month of the Islamic calendar is called:**

- a. Dhul-Hijjah
- b. Ramadan
- c. December
- d. Muharram

**Qadian was also called:**

- a. Islampur
- b. Qadi
- c. Both a & b
- d. None of the above

**Mecca and Medina are in the country of:**

- a. Indonesia
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. Syria
- d. Islamabad





# Part II





# The Holy Qur'an

## Madd-e-Mutasil (Attached Prolongation)

### Al-Tarteel Lesson #5

<http://www.mta.tv/al-tarteel/al-tarteel-lesson-5>

There are two broad categories of prolongation.

- Original Prolongation – Normal duration to pronounce a letter followed by a letter of prolongation is 2 seconds.

نُوحِيهَا- أُوتَيْنَا- أُوزِينَا

- Conditional Prolongation

بِمَا أُنْزِلَ- سَوَاءٌ- حَاجَّهَ- أَلْتَنَ

If a letter of prolongation is followed by a Humza, it will be prolonged up to 4 seconds. This prolongation does not involve two words, but only one word.

وَأَمَّا السَّائِلَ فَلَا تَنْهَرْ ○  
تَنْزِلُ الْمَلَكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِأَذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ ○  
إِلَيْهِمْ رِحْلَةَ الشِّتَاءِ وَالصَّيْفِ ○  
الَّذِينَ هُمْ يُرَآءُونَ ○

أُولَئِكَ- سَوَاءٌ- السُّفَهَاءُ- فَلَمَّا أَضَاءَتْ-  
السَّمَاءُ- كُلَّمَا أَضَاءَ لَهُمْ- وَ لَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ-  
بِنَاءُ- مَاءُ- شُهَدَاءُكُمْ-

## Madd-e-Munfasil (Detached Prolongation)

If a word ends at a letter of prolongation followed by Humza Alif, it will be prolonged up to 3 seconds. This prolongation involves two words in order.

خَتَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ وَعَلَى سَمْعِهِمْ ط  
وَعَلَى أَبْصَارِهِمْ غِشَاوَةٌ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ ع

بِمَا أُنْزِلَ - وَمَا أُنْزِلَ - عَلَى أَبْصَارِهِمْ -  
إِلَّا أَنْفُسُهُمْ - قَالُوا إِنَّمَا - إِلَّا إِنَّهُمْ -  
كَمَا آمَنَ - قَالُوا أَنْزِلْ - كَمَا آمَنَ -  
إِلَّا إِنَّهُمْ - قَالُوا آمَنَّا - قَالُوا إِنَّا -

## Madd-e-Lazim (Compulsory Prolongation)

### Al-Tarteel Lesson #27

<http://www.mta.tv/al-tarteel/al-tarteel-lesson-27>

Madd-e-Lazim is that madd where after the letters of madd, there is an original sukun i.e. the sukun which is part of the word whether one stops or not.

الضَّاكِّينَ - مُدَّهَا مَتْنِ - بِضَاكِّينَ - ضَّاكِّ

الظَّاكِّينَ - الضَّاكُّونَ - الظَّاكَّةُ - الصَّاكَّةُ

تَأْمُرُوْنِي - أَتَحَاجُّوْنِي - لِيَحَاجُّوْكُمْ



### Summary of Rules of Prolongation

How does a letter prolong within text of the Holy Qur'an?

م	Simple letter Meem	No restriction	Meem
مَ	Meem with Harakat	One second	Ma
مَا	Meem with Harf al-Madd	Up to 2 seconds	Maa
مَا أَغْنَىٰ	Meem with a Harf al-Madd followed by Hamza Alif (alif with a Harakat)	Up to 3 seconds	Maaa
السَّمَاءِ	Meem with a Harf al-Madd followed by Hamza	Up to 4 seconds	Ma-aaa

#### Exercise 1.6: Answer the following questions.

Identify and practice the rule of Maad-e-Munfasil in Surah Al-Saff (Chapter 61) and count the places where a consonant will be prolonged up to 3 seconds.

Identify and practice the rule of Maad-e-Mutasil in Surah Al-Rahman (Chapter 55) and count the places where a consonant will be prolonged up to 4 seconds

How much would you prolong in following two cases?

مَا أُنْزِلَ - مَا وَدَّعَكَ

## Enrichment: Holy Qur'an Research

### Guidelines for Holy Qur'an Enrichment Section

- This section is **not** for testing purposes, but is designed to show that the Holy Qur'an is a living document that supports us in our every day life.
- The goal of these topics of discussion is exactly that: discussion! You may not agree on an answer, but the goal is a deeper understanding.
- Your classroom is a safe space and honest comments are welcome.
- Respect silence during discussions as this can be an indication of a deeper thought process.
- Sitting in a group style rather than a classroom style setting may help.
- Your teacher is there to help moderate your discussion. No questions are bad and if your teacher needs, they can refer to a murrabi to help obtain answers to your questions.
- Approximate timings of each section should help you stay on track.

Research: 15 minutes

Discuss: 20 minutes

Reflect: 5 minutes

To search up key words, use <https://www.alislam.org/Qur'an/app/>

Hint: Under the "Settings" tab, you can turn on the Five-Volume Commentary for better search results.

## Immoral Relationships

### Exercise 1.7: Research

Use the Holy Qur'an app and search up the concepts of:

1. **Immorality**
2. **Adultery**
3. **Homosexuality**

Think about these concepts in relation to dating, safety, and friendships. Then have a discussion based on the questions below.

### Discuss

- How does dating culture inform young people about relationships? Does it create a feeling of stability and safety? Or one of insecurity and risk?
- Can boys and girls be friends?<sup>1</sup> What are the potential pitfalls of platonic friendships?
- What does the Holy Qur'an say about homosexuality and why?

### Reflect

1. There are more dangers involved in platonic friendships than benefits. Therefore, the Holy Qur'an admonishes us to distance ourselves to this practice as it leads, more often than not, to greater transgressions.
2. Islam considers same-sex marriages to be invalid; thus, all homosexual activity is extra-marital and outside of marriage. Therefore, these acts are a sin.
3. This position against homosexuality supports the Islamic teaching of chastity and the sanctity of intimacy within marriage. Moreover, it is consistent with a Muslim's ultimate goal of always seeking higher spiritual development and moving away from ideas that speak to nature's lower, baser side.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/men-and-women-cant-be-just-friends/>

## Existence of God

### Exercise 1.8: Research

Use the Holy Qur'an app and search up the concepts of:

1. **Existence**
2. **Faith**
3. **Proof**

Next, think about how these concepts relate to your understanding of who God is and your relationship with Him. Then have a discussion based on the questions below.

### Discuss

- Does the Holy Qur'an provide evidence that God exists?
- Is there a need for a Supreme Being? Why or why not?
- What is your personal experience of God?

### Reflect

1. We believe in many things which we have not physically seen, heard or even stopped to think about. Most of us have not seen a black hole, and may not understand the science behind them, but we believe they exist. Work towards trying to see, hear, and think about God. Your efforts will be rewarded.
2. Islam challenges an individual to foster a personal relationship with God. This is because one's own experience is more faith-affirming than the experiences of others. Muslims are to build faith in God from their prayers and experiences rather than blindly following the claims of others.
3. Contrary to what other religions' claims, God is not aloof from His creation. On the contrary, for those sincere in worship, humble in ability, compassionate in actions, and honest in speech, God is closer to them than they could ever imagine.

## Substance Abuse

**Exercise 1.9: Research**

Use the Holy Qur'an app and search up the concepts of:

1. **Alcohol**
2. **Intoxication**

Think about how these concepts relate to addiction, drugs, smoking, public safety, and an attempt to find Allah. Then have a discussion based on the questions below.

**Discuss**

- What if all people stopped drinking alcohol? What benefits would there be to society at large?
- Is there anything wrong with having a small amount of wine or drugs, as long as you don't reach the stage of intoxication?
- What are some immediate threats to you if you are intoxicated?

**Reflect**

1. The Islamic injunction concerning intoxicants, which is to completely forbid all intoxicants may seem idealistic in our society. Yet, it is the only solution. You can see that alcoholism, drugs, narcotics, vaping, and smoking have only progressed in their grip on people.
2. Your biggest judge is not society or laws, it is your God. Whether you think you are alone, or you are trying it "just once", you are always in the presence of Allah.
3. Recognize the cycle of dependency that is created when someone begins to indulge in anything that can create addiction. It can create problems far beyond addiction, including dire financial burdens, health problems, psycho-social effects, and crime to name a few.

## Interest

### Exercise 1.10: Research

Use the Holy Qur'an app and search the concepts of

1. **Interest**
2. **Usury**
3. **Hoarding of wealth**

Think about these larger concepts in relation to the way we use credit cards, accrue debt, and the economic gap in our society. Then have a discussion based on the questions below.

### Discuss

- What is interest? What are its advantages/disadvantages?
- What does the Qur'an say about interest?
- How would the life of an average American change if our economic system was not driven by interest?

### Reflect

1. Interest is a financial tool that allows your immediate purchase power to increase. You may not have \$10,000 but your credit card will allow you to make purchases up to \$10,000. Having this power means you have to exercise responsibility as well.
2. Be on the lookout for how often you are told, "Buy now, pay later!" Beware that deferring your financial obligations to satiate your immediate desires is often a road to financial distress.
3. You may have heard, "The rich keep getting richer and the poor keep getting poorer". This is exactly the trouble Islam addresses by instituting Zakat. Zakat keeps money in circulation by having Muslims donate from their unused savings back. The spirit of Zakat helps us avoid the desire to stockpile money.





# Salat and Prayers

## Quranic Surahs

### Surah Al-Duhā

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious,  
Most Merciful

By the brightness of the forenoon,

And by the night, when its darkness  
spreads out,

Thy Lord has not forsaken thee, nor  
is He displeased with thee,

Surely, thy latter state is better for  
thee than the former,

And thy Lord will soon give thee, and  
thou wilt be well-pleased.

Did He not find thee an orphan and  
take thee under His care,

And found thee lost in love for thy  
people and provided thee with  
guidance for them,

And found thee in want, and  
enriched thee?

So the orphan, oppress not

And him who seeks thy help, chide  
not,

And the bounty of thy Lord, proclaim.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ①

وَالضُّحَى ②

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا سَجَى ③

مَا وَدَّعَكَ رَبُّكَ وَمَا قَلَى ④

وَلَا خِرَّةٌ خَيْرٌ لَّكَ مِنَ الْأُولَى ⑤

وَلَسَوْفَ يُعْطِيكَ رَبُّكَ فَتَرْضَى ⑥

أَلَمْ يَجِدْكَ يَتِيمًا فَآوَى ⑦

وَوَجَدَكَ ضَالًّا فَهَدَى ⑧

وَوَجَدَكَ عَائِلًا فَأَغْنَى ⑨

فَأَمَّا الْيَتِيمَ فَلَا تَقْهَرْ ⑩

وَأَمَّا السَّائِلَ فَلَا تَنْهَرْ ⑪

وَأَمَّا بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ فَحَدِّثْ ⑫

### Commentary of Surah Al-Duhā

Surah Al-Duhā is the 93rd chapter of the Holy Qur'an. There is a powerful prophecy in this surah regarding the fact that every passing day of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> would be better than the last and that this progress would continue until he would be able to complete his mission. The remarkable triumphs that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> achieved are the fulfillment of this prophecy.

The surah also recognizes the status of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> as an orphan who had lost his caregivers multiple times. First, the demise of his father, then mother. Then, the demise of his grandfather, Hadrat Abdul-Muttalib and then

Hadrat Abu Talib, his uncle. Despite these great losses, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was loved by countless companions in his lifetime and even until today, he is loved like no other man.

The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was a man who was deeply engrossed by the love of Allah and for Allah's sake he wished for nearness to Allah and the ways to gain that nearness were shown to him. This surah points out the fact that while the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> may have been born as a poor orphan, he was the undisputed master of Arabia at the time of his demise. In the last three verses, Allah commands the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and his followers to remember these favors of His. The best way to remember these favors is to pay them forward to other orphans and those who need help and to proclaim the greatness of Allah.

### Exercise 2.6: Memorize the Arabic of Surah Al-Duhā.

#### Surah Al-Tīn

In the Name of Allah, Most  
Gracious, Most Merciful

By the Fig and the Olive,

And by Mount Sinai,

And by this Town of Security,

Surely, We have created man in  
the best make;

Then, if he works iniquity, We  
reject him as the lowest of the low,

Except those who believe and  
do good works; so for them is an  
unending reward.

Then what is there to give the lie  
to thee after this with regard to the  
Judgment?

Is not Allah the Best of Judges?

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ①

وَالْتَيْنِ وَالزَّيْتُونِ ②

وَطُورِ سَيْنِينَ ③

وَهَذَا الْبَلَدِ الْأَمِينِ ④

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ  
تَقْوِيمٍ ⑤

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ ⑥

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ  
فَلَهُمْ أَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ ⑦

فَمَا يُكَذِّبُكَ بَعْدُ بِالذِّكْرِ ⑧

أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَحْكَمِ الْحَكَمِينَ ⑨

### Commentary of Surah Al-Tin



In the first three verses of this Surah, "The Fig," "The Olive," "Mount Sinai," and "This Town of Security" have been invoked as witnesses to support the claim that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> would succeed in his mission. These four symbols represent four periods in the history of human evolution. "The Fig" represents the era of Prophet Adam<sup>as</sup>, "The Olive" that of Prophet Noah<sup>as</sup>, "Mount Sinai" that of Prophet Moses<sup>as</sup> and "This Town of Security" represents the birthplace of Islam.



Man is born with a pure nature and a tendency to do good and, Allah has given him freedom of will and action to aid with the process of moral progress. Allah has sent prophets to help man achieve his moral goals, and if he does not use good judgment, rejects the divine message, and opposes God's messengers, he will be punished by Allah, who is the best Judge.

#### Exercise 2.7: Answer the questions below.

Use the commentary of the Holy Qur'an and research when this Surah was revealed.

Four symbols were mentioned in this surah which represent four periods of evolution in human history. Complete the following table with this information.

Symbol	Period of Evolution
The Fig	
The Olive	
Mount Sinai	
Town of Security	

#### Exercise 2.8: Memorize the Arabic of Surah Al-Tin

## Surah Al-Qadr

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious,  
Most Merciful

Surely, We sent it down on the Night  
of Destiny.

And what should make thee know  
what the Night of Destiny is?

The Night of Destiny is better than a  
thousand months.

Therein descend angels and the  
Spirit by the command of their Lord  
– with every matter.

It is all peace till the rising of the  
dawn.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ١

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ٢

وَمَا أَذْرَكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ٣

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ٤

تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَكَةِ وَالرُّوحِ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ  
رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ٥

سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ٦

### Commentary on Surah Al-Qadr

This surah speaks to the majesty of the Holy Qur'an and the blessed nights during which the Holy Qur'an was revealed. The Holy Qur'an fully meets all of mankind's spiritual and moral needs and so, the nights in which it was revealed were decreed and the future patterns of man's moral journey were set. While this reference to a specific night may point towards the one night when the revelation of the Qur'an began, it could also mean the entire 23-year period of revelation during the time of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>.

When we are told that the night of destiny is better than a thousand months, we must keep in mind that in Arabic 1,000 is the highest number count that can be expressed. It does not just mean a literal 1,000 months, but can also mean countless months. This is to show that the period of enlightenment during the time of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> is infinitely better than any other period in history. This is also why in the last verse we are told, "It is all peace", because the period during the time of a prophet or a reformer gives mental peace and tranquility to his followers.

### Exercise 2.9: Memorize the Arabic of Surah Al-Qadr.



**Exercise 2.10: Fill in the blanks.**

Surely, we sent it down in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Night of Destiny is better than a \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

It is \_\_\_\_\_ till the rising of the dawn.

**Prayers**

**In Favor of Our Spouses and Children**

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ  
وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ۝

*Rab-ba-naa hab-la-naa min az-waa-ji-naa wa dhur-riy-yaa-ti-naa qur-ra-ta  
a'-yu-nin-waj-'al-na lil mut-ta-qee-na i-maa-maa*

O our Lord, grant us of our spouses and children the delight of our eyes  
and make each of us a leader for the righteous. (Surah Al-Furqān, v. 75)

Even though you are young, praying for yourself and your future family is important. Who we spend our lives with and the children we may have are blessings which we cannot control. It is therefore, very important, to ask Allah for His Help in making these relationships pleasant for us in the future.

When we pray to Allah to ask him to make us leaders for the righteous, we are asking for Allah's help in making sure that we do not cause others to go astray by any of our words or actions. It is important to be aware of the influence you may have on others and to pray that it is always a positive one.

**Exercise 2.11: Memorize this prayer in favor of our spouses and children and its translation.**



## For Protection Against the Enemy

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنَّا نَجْعَلُكَ فِيْ نُحُوْرِهِمْ وَ نَعُوْذُبِكَ مِنْ شُرُوْرِهِمْ

*Al-laa-hum-ma in-naa naj-'a-lu-ka fee nu-hoo-ri-him wa na-'oo-dhu-bi-ka  
min shu-roo-ri him*

O Allah! We make You a shield against the enemy and we seek Your protection against their evil designs. (*Abu Dawood Kitab-us-Salat*)

This is a prayer of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Islam teaches us to avoid conflict and fighting except in cases of self-defense. When we face any enmity, we are instructed to pray to Allah for His help and protection in this manner by the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>.

**Exercise 2.12: Memorize this prayer of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>.**

**Exercise 2.13: Complete the translation below using the words in the word bank below.**

O our Lord, grant us of our \_\_\_\_\_ and children, the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
our \_\_\_\_\_ and make each of us a \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_.

O Allah! We make You a \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_ and we seek  
Your \_\_\_\_\_ against their \_\_\_\_\_.

DESIGNS	RIGHTEOUS	DELIGHT	LEADER	EYES
EVIL	PROTECTION	SPOUSES	SHIELD	ENEMY





# Basics of Islam

## Hadith

### Be Moderate

خَيْرُ الْأُمُورِ أَوْسَطُهَا۔

*Khai-rul-u-moo-ri au-sa-tu-haa*

In every matter, moderation is best. (*Chehl Ahadith*)

Being moderate provides us a good balance in fulfilling our obligation to Allah and our duties to mankind. We should be moderate in our hobbies, our diet, our spending and all duties that we perform for ourselves or for others.

**Exercise 3.11: Memorize the hadith, “Be Moderate” and its translation.**

### Keep Good Company

الْمَرْءُ عَلَى دِينِ خَلِيلِهِ فَلْيَنْظُرْ أَحَدُكُمْ مَنِ يُخَالِلُ۔

A person may adopt his friend's religion (or way of life), hence he should watch who he befriends. (*Abu Dawood*)

The people who we are friends with and whom we associate with will ultimately determine who we will turn out to be. Your friends will not only influence your personality but also your actions. Not only that but other people will also judge you based on who you hang out with. The importance of having good friends cannot be stressed enough. Whether you admit it or not, we all can fall under the influence of peer pressure. This can lead us to making bad decisions just because our friends are doing the same. Bad company destroys good virtues and will force you to stray from the path towards Allah.

**Exercise 3.12: Memorize the hadith, “Keep Good Company” and its translation.**

**Exercise 3.13: Complete the translations of the ahadith below.**

In \_\_\_\_\_ matter, \_\_\_\_\_ is best.

A person may adopt his \_\_\_\_\_ (or way of life), hence  
he should \_\_\_\_\_ who he \_\_\_\_\_.



## Conditions of Bai'at and Responsibilities of an Ahmadi

*Note: Please have students read the actual course book "Conditions of Bai'at and Responsibilities of an Ahmadi" for full understanding of the concepts. The online book can be found here: <https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Conditions-of-Baiat-Responsibilities-of-Ahmadi.pdf>*

### Condition 8

That he/she shall hold faith, the honor of faith, and the cause of Islam dearer to him/her than his/her life, wealth, honor, children and all other dear ones.

**Exercise 3.14: Answer the questions with reference to passages in the book.**

**Read the first paragraph on page 140 and the hadith on page 142. What two things have we been asked repeatedly to do to honor our faith?**

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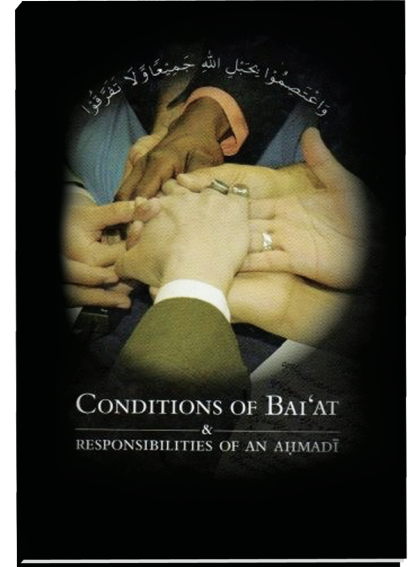
**Why does the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> stress the certainty of faith so much? (page 145)**

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### Condition 9

That he/she shall keep himself/herself occupied in the service of God's creatures for His sake only; and shall endeavor to benefit mankind to the best of his/her God-given abilities and powers.

**Exercise 3.15: Answer the question with reference to passages in the book.**

**What are the six obligations that a Muslim has towards other Muslims? (page 155)**

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### Condition 10

That he/she shall enter into a bond of brotherhood with this humble servant of God, pledging obedience to me in everything good, for the sake of Allah, and remain faithful to it till the day of his/her death; that he/she shall exert such a high devotion in the observance of this bond as is not to be found in any other worldly relationship and connection demanding devoted dutifulness.



**Exercise 3.16: Answer the questions with reference to passages in the book.**

**The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> believes that his blessings are a result of what actions? (page 181)**

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**What does it mean to shatter the cross? (page 183)**

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## Tarbiyat Topics

### Challenges at School

#### Drug Abuse

Drug or substance abuse is illegal use of products that are harmful for humans. This includes use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, stimulants, prescription drugs and steroid etc. Most of these products are prohibited for use by children under 18. While controlled use of these drugs may be allowed for adults, an overuse even by adults can be fatal in extreme cases.

Here are some disadvantages of drug abuse:

- Ability to think diminishes resulting in many wrong decisions or actions that can destroy someone's life.
- This can be fatal for the person using, or in the case of drunk drivers, it can result in many innocent victims including their own family members.
- Drug addicts often behave violently towards their family members including children, wives, or parents.
- Abusers of drugs may start stealing at home or outside which could lead to imprisonment for years, or even their entire lifetime.
- Abusers may start begging on the street and end up living on the streets.
- Children of abusers may be born with significant abnormalities.
- Abusers become a social burden to the society.
- Abusers are sinners in the eyes of God and they have a high chance of becoming criminals in the eyes of the law.
- Worst of all, drug abusers stray away from God, their Creator and their own family members.



Islam strictly forbids use of drugs even for recreational purposes. In the Holy Qur'an Allah says, "They ask thee concerning wine and the game of hazard. Say: "In both there is great sin and also some advantages; but their sin is greater than their advantages." (Chapter 2, Verse 220)

**Exercise 3.17: Make a list of the negative effects of abusing any products.**

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.

**Exercise 3.18: What is the worst effect of using drugs?**


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**Dating**

Dating is the idea of meeting the opposite gender without having any relationship. This is strictly prohibited in Islam not only because of the disadvantages that it offers in human society but also because of the benefits that it takes away from divinely sanctioned relationships.

Disadvantages of dating include:

- Pressure of finding the right girl or boy puts a mental burden on young people, especially high school students.
- Most of these relationships are temporary and end in emotional trauma.
- Temporary couples don't have any sense of responsibility towards each other resulting in unwanted risks and pregnancies.
- Temporary relationships result in selfish decision-making with significant harmful effects to the society.
- Unwanted children may be result of dating causing significant pain and burden to the couple, their families, and society at large.
- May result in STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) and even AIDS in the worst case.
- Dating objectifies women which lowers their respect and status in society.

Islam completely forbids intimate relations without marriage. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an, "Say to the believing men that they restrain their looks and guard

their private parts. That is purer for them. And say to the believing women that they restrain their looks and guard their private parts.” (Chapter 24, Verses 31-32)

On the other hand, marriage without having pre-marital relationships has the following advantages:

- Marriage assures that the couple uniting physically has a social and an emotional commitment with his/her partner.
- A married couple is obliged to fulfill the responsibilities of their union.
- Ensures that men don't use women for physical pleasure and discard them.
- Marriage makes sure that children born have both a mother and father.
- Reduces crimes like rape and diseases like AIDS and other STDs.



The Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> said, “Every deen (religion) has a natural character. The character of Islam is modesty.” (Al-Muwatta 47, 9)

### Exercise 3.19: Which condition of bai'at reinforces the importance of modest behavior when interacting with the opposite gender?

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### Doing Well in School

School is an essential part of your life. It will help you determine a future career. Studying well and effectively is an excellent capability that you can use throughout your life. There are many ways to improve your grades so that you do well at school.

**Pray for your success and knowledge.** Recite the prayer for knowledge, “Rabbi zidni ilma” often, and ask Allah to guide you in your endeavors.

**Always have your necessary materials ready.** You don't want to be unprepared for sudden notetaking or a pop quiz by discovering you forgot your pencils/pens/erasers.

**Be organized.** Being organized helps you work better, relax and be ready to find and hand in assignments on time.

**Keep a calendar.** This keeps you aware of upcoming tests and other events, so

you can study and prepare for them properly.

**Set both long and short-term goals.** Even if you don't know what you want to do when you grow up or what college you want to go to, your goal can be to give yourself as many opportunities as possible.

**Keep your attendance up.** Your attendance is essential at school. If you don't go to school, your grades will drop fast because you will have gaps in your learning.

**Write down notes.** Notes will help solidify the material in your head and serve as essential study tools before a test.

**Ask questions in class.** This will show your teacher that you're actively participating in class. But more than that, it also forces you to pay enough attention to ask/answer questions, which will result in higher engagement.

**Listen actively.** Don't just ask questions or talk; learn to listen too. Eighty percent of the questions you find on any test are explained in class.



**Revise/study at home.** Do this in a quiet place with minimal or no distractions.

**Put effort into your homework.** Though it may be cumbersome, homework is a way of controlling and making progress outside of the classroom.

**Take breaks now and then.** Instead of multitasking, set aside a certain amount of time to do homework. When that set amount of time is over, take a 20-30-minute break to keep your mind from getting tired.

**Start large assignments and projects early.** If you have two weeks to do a project, rather than putting it off until the last three days before it's due, start working early. This way, you can spend enough time planning, researching, and asking any questions you have about the project.

**Take a practice test** before the exam to further your understanding of what you need to study. Be careful, though; taking dozens of practice tests is a much less effective way to study than combining one or two with other forms of study.

**Study during the holidays and vacation from school.** Identify ways to stay sharp over summer break and vacations, for example, reading the newspaper or other books.

**Ask for clarifications** when you don't understand things. Asking for help is essential. Pretending that you understand when you don't just makes you fall back even further.



**Learn from your mistakes.** Don't see mistakes as personal flaws; failures are guidance in how to do better. You will learn a lot more if you use your mistakes and failures to guide you to the correct approaches and results.

**Ask for help.** Looking over guidebooks may help you in classes with which you are struggling. Alternatively, you could go to the teacher for extra help, have a friend coach you, or ask your parents to hire a tutor.

**Exercise 3.20: Go around the classroom and share your top three study habits. Try implementing some of these at home to improve your academic success.**

### Homosexuality

Islam is a religion that emphasizes and creates a harmonious, peaceful, and moral society in which everyone can live up to his/her full potential. Islam has maintained moral order from the beginning and we should always be working towards such a society that allows everyone to prosper, which in return permits us to have our heaven on earth. When moral crimes are committed and affect the society as a whole, they must be addressed, or the society becomes polluted.

Homosexuality is the act of involving with same sex partners. The Holy Qur'an does not condone the practice of homosexuality. In the Qur'an, Allah says:

*"You approach men with lust instead of women. Nay, you are a people who exceed all bounds." (7:82)*

*And of His Signs is that He has created wives for you from among yourselves that you may find peace of mind in them, and He has put love and tenderness between you. In that, surely, are Signs for a people who reflect (30:22)*

*He it is Who created you from a single soul and made therefrom its mate, that he might find comfort in her. (7:190)*

Allah has warned that earlier people were lead to their ruin because they watched immoralities occur and did not take steps to stop them, which led to the practices becoming rampant in society. A collective society was punished because immoral practices became the norm. The people of Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup>, as a collective society, were corrupted by such particular inclinations as a majority and therefore punished.

The Ahmadiyya Jamaat does not take the approach of other religious groups who feel homosexual couples should be condemned by society. That is not the tone or tenor of Islamic teachings on this issue. A lot of these issues are



personal choices which will always remain between a man/woman and his/her Creator. Judgment will not be in society. A stance should only be taken when the collective society is being affected as a whole. So, we must as a society avoid extremes and when you witness extremes you must step in to stop them.

Any act that has negative effect on progression of human society is wrong and forbidden by God. We have dispositions/desires to do many activities in life but we don't. In our daily life, we control our natural desires when it comes to food, spending money, doing excessive exercise, or driving fast because they are harmful desires and we must curb them to live a better life. As an argument, if someone does have homosexual desires then they should be held accountable because they are obviously unnatural, selfish and means of harm to the society.

### Prophet Lut<sup>as</sup>

Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> was the nephew of Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>. His father's name according to the Bible was Haraan but he was brought up by Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>. He, along with Hadrat Sarah were the first believers of Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>. He brought no new law but was a prophet who believed in the laws of Hadrat Ibrahim's<sup>as</sup> time.

Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> and his wife traveled with Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> during his journey of migration. When Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was in Egypt, Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> was a companion during his journey. It is narrated in the Torah that during their stay in Egypt, they both had plenty of provisions and cattle. A conflict arose between the herdsman of Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>'s cattle and the herdsmen of Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup>'s cattle. Both great prophets decided that it would be better to separate in order to maintain their love and prevent further strife. Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> migrated to Jordan and settled in Sodom and Gomorrah. Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> went to settle in Palestine.

When Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> arrived at Sodom, he saw that the people living here were involved in all kinds of vice, or immoral deeds. The Holy Qur'an mentions three specific vices that were found in the people of Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup>.

1. Violating divine laws about same sex relationships
2. Highway robbery
3. Committing crimes openly without any shame

Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> warned his people about the consequences that would come to them as a nation if they continued with all these immoral acts, but his advice had no effect on them. He explained to his people that like other nations before them who disobeyed their prophet, they too, would fall to Allah's anger.

Instead of listening to him and following his words, they told Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> that if he was so pure, then he should leave with his family or show them the anger of Allah.

Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> was very upset by the behavior of his people and prayed to Allah to help him against the wicked people. At this time, Allah sent messengers to Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> to warn him of His anger at the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Many people believe that these messengers were angels, but the Holy Qur'an tells us that they were more likely righteous, divinely guided people of that time. They told Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> that the city of Sodom and Gomorrah was going to be destroyed which made him and his wife Hadrat Sarah worry for their nephew, Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup>. The messengers also told Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and Hadrat Sarah at this time that they would be given a child by Allah. This was the prophecy about Hadrat Ishaq<sup>as</sup>.

Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> prayed to Allah to save the righteous people in Sodom and Gomorrah. The Qur'an tells us that he and Hadrat Sarah were very upset to hear about the punishment coming to the people in Sodom and Gomorrah.

When the time for Allah's punishment finally arrived, Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> was informed by messengers of Allah that he and his family should leave the city for their safety. They also told him to leave his wife as she also became one of the disbelieving people.

In the early parts of the morning, a thundering noise was heard and the whole nation was destroyed by what was likely a very violent earthquake. Violent earthquakes often turn parts of the earth upside down and fragments of earth fly off into the air and then fall down.

**Exercise 3.21: Answer the short questions below.**

**How were Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> related?**

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**Where did Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> settle after the migration from Egypt? Why did Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> not migrate to the same place?**

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**What three moral vices were exhibited by the people of Sodom?**

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**When Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was warned about Allah's anger with the people of Sodom, he also received what good news?**

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**What was the punishment for the people of Sodom?**

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**Which member of Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup>'s family was destroyed in the punishment?**

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## Tarbiyat Stories

### God Over Ego

The strong person is not he who defeats others in wrestling. The strong person is he who has full control over himself during his anger." (*Bukhari – Kitabul Adab*)

During the battle of Khandaq, Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> stepped out to fight a well known Jewish army general. Since both men were experts in combat, the fight lasted a long time. Ultimately, Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> managed to throw him on the ground and sat on his chest. He intended to slit the man's throat with his sword and end this battle.



At that moment, the Jewish general spit in Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup>'s face. Suddenly, Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> let him go and stood aside. It was as if he had completely changed his mind about the fate of this combatant. The general was completely stunned. He went from being at the brink of death to being saved.

He asked Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> why he was being let go when he had the perfect opportunity to kill him and win this battle.

Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> replied, "I was fighting with you for the sake of God. But when you spit in my face, I became angry. I realized that if I kill you now, then killing you would be for my own ego and not for the sake of God. Therefore, I let you go so that my anger would disappear, and then if I defeat you, it would not be for my ego."

### Exercise 3.22: What is the lesson learned from this story?

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## Saved in the Belly of the Fish

Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> who is known in the Bible as Jonah was a prophet of Allah. Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> lived in the city of Nineveh. He was tasked by Allah to tell the people of Nineveh to amend their ways and save themselves from punishment. Nineveh was an ancient Assyrian city which dates back to 5000 B.C It was one of the superpower cities of its time. For Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> to preach repentance to the city of Nineveh would have been similar to that of a prophet doing the same in New York or Paris today. This was no small task and required a lot of courage on his behalf. Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> did indeed deliver Allah's message to them. However, when he saw that rather than listening to Allah's warning, the people of Nineveh merely ignored the message and mocked Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup>, he lost hope that the people of Nineveh would ever understand what Allah had wanted from them.

He decided to leave the city and did so by taking a ship. While he was on the ship a huge storm appeared and the sailors decided that one of the passengers should be thrown overboard. They all decided that it would be Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> who had to go. As he fell into the sea, Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> was swallowed by a fish. You might think that this was the end of this prophet, but actually this was a trial that Allah was taking his chosen person through. Allah was doing this so that people would recognize that Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> was not an ordinary person but a prophet of Allah. Only as Allah can plan, Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> remained in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. There is no exact confirmation what kind of big fish actually swallowed Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup>, but it would need to be large enough to swallow a man whole and allow him to breathe for three days.

When Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> was thrown overboard and into the belly of the big fish, he realised that he was wrong for leaving and for having lost hope in his task. Immediately, Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> turned to Allah for help. He prayed fervently and admitted his mistake:

*There is no God but You, Holy are You. I have indeed been of the wrongdoers. (Al-Anbiya' 21:88)*



Hadrat Yunus<sup>as</sup> was spit out of the belly of the whale back into the sea and he washed up on the shores of the ocean. He returned to Nineveh to try once again to deliver Allah's message. Meanwhile, the people of Nineveh witnessed the sky turn as red as the fire and took it as a sign. They recognised their wrongdoing and sought forgiveness from Allah and asked for their punishment to be averted. They gathered on a mountaintop and called to Allah urgently for



forgiveness so that Allah may turn to them with love and mercy and save the nation from doom. Allah accepted their prayers and saved the nation.

**Exercise 3.23: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

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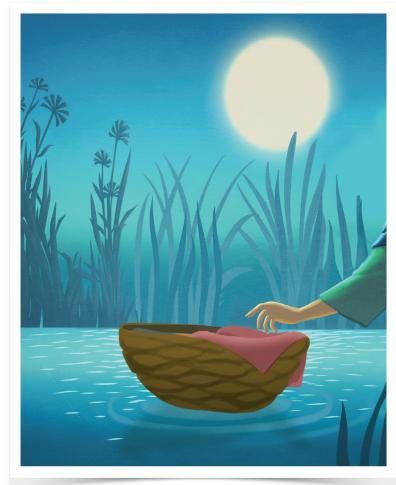
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**The Baby, the Basket, and the Belief**

Over 3000 years ago, the country of Egypt was ruled by a brutal king. He kept an entire nation of people under extreme hardship. He used them as slaves and treated them poorly. He was obsessed with staying in power and was always paranoid about someone else taking over his kingdom. If there were no boys allowed to live amongst his enslaved people, no one would challenge him. The king was an arrogant man who thought himself as God.

However, Allah, the One and the Best of Planners, spoke one day to a woman of this enslaved nation. She was a pious woman who believed in God. She had a personal relationship with Him and believed that only God was worth worship. The Holy Qur'an has told us that she is one of two women who Allah speaks with directly. When she confesses her fear of losing her newborn son to the king's evil plans, Allah assures her that her son will be saved. He instructs her to place her infant son in a small basket made of leaves and mud and He promises her that the baby will be alright. Her faith in God compelled her to follow these instructions as she believed truly that God would take care of her son. Can you imagine the amount of faith she must have had in Allah to do so?

When the basket floated down the river with the baby, it was seen by a passerby who rescued the baby out of the river. She then took him with her to see the Pharaoh's wife. The queen was so taken with the baby, that she rescued him and brought him into the house of the man who had ordered that all babies be killed. It is amazing how God saves His chosen people and creates the conditions which no one would ever think possible. The queen herself begged the king to not kill this child and let him stay in their house as





their adopted son.

When the queen began looking for a nanny to take care of this baby, he would cry and not settle down with any of them. The queen became upset and wanted her new adopted baby to be comfortable and happy. As Allah had planned, someone suggested the name of this baby's biological mother to come into the king's house and take care of this baby. In this way, Allah kept His promise to this pious, believing woman, who had put her trust in Allah and followed His instructions. Her faith in Allah became even more solid. This is how God takes care of His chosen people. Their faith in Him is always rewarded and things that we think could never happen are all possible because God is the best of Planners.

**Exercise 3.24: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

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**The Spider Web**

Imagine living in a city your whole life and then all of a sudden, almost everyone turns against you because you believe that there is one Allah. Everyone is out to get you, curse you, and make living there so hard. Their goal is to get rid of you. Once a very brave man had to put up with such people in his hometown. He lived among them for years, but then after their cruelty became too much. Allah told that brave man that he had to leave his beloved city.

This brave man went to his best friend's house and told him that he had decided to leave the city. His friend immediately asked if he could come with him because he knew that his friend was a man of Allah. He did not want his friend to be alone and unsafe. Both of them decided to make a plan to leave together.

They met outside of the city. They did not want the people of the city to find out about their plan to leave, so they climbed an abandoned mountain in order to hide there. Imagine walking around in the wilderness in the middle of the night trying to hide from people who wanted to hurt you. Both of them found a cave in the mountain and squeezed in to enter. The opening of the cave was so small that you had to lie flat in order to crawl in. There they spent their first night praying to Allah to help them.

The next morning it didn't get any easier. The cruel people of the city had realized that the brave man had escaped, and they were angry. They said that anyone who kills the brave man will get a huge reward. People started searching the whole city and a group of them followed tracks and ended up at the mountain where the two friends were hiding.

The best friend became so worried because from inside the cave he could see the people's feet and could hear their voices. He was a man of Allah, too and so did not worry about his own death but worried for the sake of his friend. He wanted his friend to live otherwise no one would believe in Allah anymore. The brave man turned to his friend and said very calmly, 'Fear not, God is with us.' This man was not only brave, but so wise. He put his complete trust in God. He reassured his friend, "There are three of us in this cave. You and me and God."

Outside the cave, people began looking around to see if anyone was hiding there. Someone suggested that they should check inside the cave, but just as quickly someone else said that it was impossible for anyone to hide in that most dangerous cave. After all, it was full of poisonous snakes and reptiles, and there were delicate threads of a spider web stretched across the entrance. There was no way, they decided, that two people could be in there. And just like that, the men looking for them with so much anger and hate, just walked away. They could have easily swiped away the spider's web and looked inside. Instead, because of God's magnificent plan, He made the delicate spider's web even more powerful than a stone wall.

The two men spent a total of three days hiding in the cave. Ultimately, they traveled to a city where they could freely believe that there is one God and tell others the same. God helps those who turn to Him and rely on Him to save them.



The brave and wise man who always turned to God was none other than the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and with him at every moment was his dearest friend Hadrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup>!

### Exercise 3.25: What is the lesson learned from this story?

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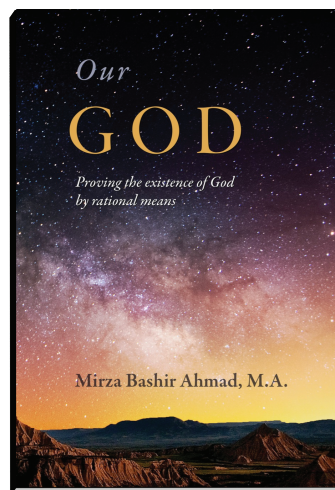
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## God and Oneness of God

*Note: This is only a summary of the book, Our God. Please have students read the actual course book "Our God" for full understanding of the concepts. The online book can be found here: <https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Our-God.pdf>*

This book takes an in depth look about the plight of faith and about belief in God in current times. It answers many questions that all people have about the existence of God. The first part of the book is in fact, divided into questions. In class, we should read excerpts as directed by the teacher to find out the answers to such questions. We have broken down the main arguments of the book into sections for easier consumption in a class setting.



### Section 1 – Why worry about God at all? (pp. 1-12)

Anyone who does not believe in God could naturally ask why he should waste time and energy in finding out whether there is a God. Therefore, it is vital to answer this question. The answer may possibly benefit us and provide some satisfaction. The other option would be to not question and forever wonder if not questioning has disadvantaged us.

#### Questions to consider & discuss:

- Do we inherit our beliefs and feel obliged to believe? (page 3)
- If there is God, why can't we see Him? (page 6) Do we see everything that we believe to exist? For example, can we see gravity? No, we cannot see gravity, however, we do believe in it.
- Is sight the only form of our senses? Are the most beautiful things on earth physical? (page 8) Consider the sentiment of love, which can neither be touched nor seen, but its existence and its absence are both very noticeable.
- Why should we try to find God? (page 12)

### Section 2 – What are the advantages and disadvantages of believing in God? (pp. 12-21)

**Exercise 3.26: Complete this exercise based on the reading of pages 12-21 of the book *Our God*.**

Advantages	Disadvantages

### **Section 3 – How do I find God? (pp. 21 – 26)**

One should always employ proper motives and methods to investigate such a question. Answers should be sought out by an internal desire to quench your thirst rather than a methodical research.

#### **Questions to consider:**

- What are the correct methods of investigation? We may waste all our efforts by adopting the wrong method. A person cannot successfully dig a water well until he selects a piece of land and digs perpendicularly in a specific manner. If one tries digging horizontally along the earth, for even two hundred miles, they will be unsuccessful as this method is incorrect!
- Does motive or intention play in this investigation?    YES                      NO

### **Section 4 – Two different levels of belief in God (pp. 37-45)**

The first level of belief in God is understanding that there must be a Creator who created heaven and earth. The second level of belief in God is the real recognition of His existence. God himself decides to enable us to know Him. Our goal should be to go beyond the preliminary level of faith and awareness.

### **Section 5 - Rational Arguments (pp. 45-112)**

Arguments presented in this section are: precautionary argument, moral argument, arguments of nature and scientific argument.

**Questions to consider & discuss:**

- What is a precautionary argument? It is reported that someone asked Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> as to what was the proof of the existence of God? He replied, "It should suffice for you to know that if there is no God then believers and non-believers are equal, and none would be at a loss. However, if there is a God, then the disbelievers will be in deep trouble indeed!"
- What are the arguments from nature? Anyone, whose nature has not been buried under external influences, often hears the voice that he has a Creator. Even those who have buried their nature under the veils of darkness and ignorance sometimes have experiences which awaken their true nature and they hear its voice beckoning them to their Creator.
- What is the scientist's view? How should we respond? There is not a single proven fact of science that can be used to raise any objection against the existence of God. The proof of the existence of God is based on experience and observation which is much more certain and convincing than the established facts of science.
- What is the moral argument? "And He revealed to it what is wrong for it and what is right for it..." (91:9) "And We have pointed out to him the two highways of good and evil." (90:11)

**Section 6 - Benefits of Knowing God (pp. 147-174)**

This section talks about universal unity, brotherhood and world peace. By knowing God, we can truly come to peace with ourselves and rid ourselves of discontent and doubts.

**Exercise 3.27: List the six main advantages talked about:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Section 7 - Refutation Arguments (pp. 177-208)**

Most of the arguments and objections about the existence of God are raised by atheists. Their arguments stem from their lack of observance of proof of the existence of God strong enough to convince and satisfy them.

#### **Exercise 3.28: List seven refutations for the arguments presented:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# History of Islam

## The Sihah Sittah

There are many books of Ahadith, but six of these are considered very reliable and treated as standard works. These are known as Sihah Sittah (The Six Authentic Ones). The hadith is the spoken word of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and serves as a supporting witness for Sunnah, the practical examples of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. A hadith or sunnah will never contradict the Holy Qur'an.



The Ahadith were narrated by the companions of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and Muslim narrators. Their compilation started about 100 years after Hijrah and it continued during a period of about 200 years, around 300 years after Hijrah.

Here is a brief introduction to the six most authenticated books of hadith.

### **Saheeh Bukhari**

This book is considered the most authentic book after the Holy Qur'an. Its compiler is Muhammad Isma'il of Bukhara, commonly known as Imam Bukhari. (A.H. 194- 256.; A.D. 816-878)

### **Saheeh Muslim**

Considered second in importance is Saheeh Muslim. This was compiled by Muslim bin Al-Hajjaj who was a native of Neshapur in Khorasan. (A.H. 202-261; A.D. 824-883)

### **Jami` al-Tirmidhi**

Third in order is Jami` Al-Tirmidhi. The compiler, Imam Muhammad bin Eesa was a native of Tirmidh. (A.H. 209-279; A.D. 831-901)

### **Sunan Abu Dawood**

Next is Sunan Abu Dawood, compiled by Sulaiman bin Al-As'ath, known as Abu Dawood. (A.H. 202-275; A.D. 24-897)

### **Sunan Ibn Majah**

Considered fifth in the degree of authenticity is Sunan ibn Majah. It was compiled by Muhammad bin Majah who was from the famous city of Qizwin in Iraq. (A.H. 209-275; A.D. 831-897)

## Sunan Nisa'ee

The sixth book is Sunan Nisa'ee. It was compiled by Ahmad bin Shu'aib, known as 'Nisa'ee' after the city of Nisa in Khorasan. (A.H. 215-306; A.D. 837-928)

### *Mu'atta Imam Malik*

Besides the Sihaah Sittah (The Six Authentic Ones), there is another very important compilation of traditions known as Mu'atta Imam Malik. The compiler, Malik bin Anas, is commonly known as Imam Malik.

### Exercise 4.15: Choose True or False for each statement below.

Hadith is a saying of the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> .	True	False
Mu'atta Imam Malik is the most authentic book.	True	False
Hadith were compiled 400 years after Hijra.	True	False
When combined, these six authentic books supersede Holy Qur'an.	True	False
Sittah means seven.	True	False
Mu'atta Imam Malik is part of the Sihah Sittah.	True	False
Sunnah are the practical examples of the Holy Prophet <sup>sa</sup> .	True	False

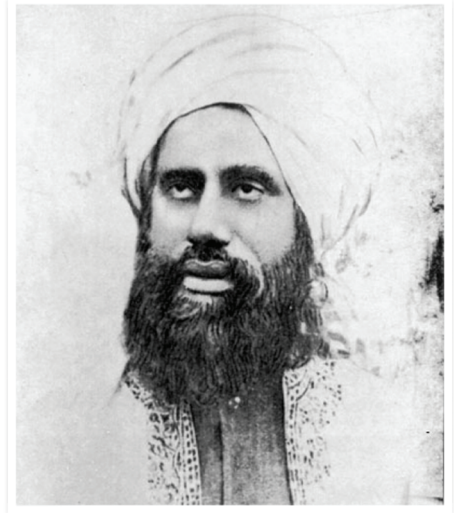
## Khalifatul-Masih

### Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih I Al Hajj Hafiz Hakeem Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup>

**Period of Khilafat:** May 27, 1908 - March 13, 1914  
(Six years)

#### Birth and Life Before Khilafat

Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> was born in 1841, at Bhera, Punjab, which is now part of Pakistan. His lineage can be traced back to Hadrat Umar<sup>ra</sup>. His father's name was Ghulam Rasool and mother's name was Noor Bakht. Maulana Hakeem Nooruddin was brilliant and intelligent from his early childhood. Firstly, he had a remarkable memory and, secondly, he was born in a very cultured family, both elements influenced and polished his early education. He learned the Holy Qur'an from his mother, and general education from public schools in Lahore and Rawalpindi.



Maulana Hakeem Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> had a deep desire for higher learning, which prompted him to leave his hometown and family in order to visit some of the cities in India known for learning. In 1865-66, at the age of 25, he traveled to Mecca and Medina to perform Hajj. There he met renowned teachers and saints to acquire religious knowledge. Then he, himself became a learned scholar of Qur'anic studies, language and natural medicine.

#### Important Events

##### Conspiracy to Kill Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup>

Due to his extensive knowledge and command of logic, Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> was gaining ground against local Muslim clerics on various issues of religious debates. Those clerics felt desperate and helpless before his logic and frank statements of the facts. Now the only way left to the Muslim clerics was to "remove him."

To fulfill their mission, they planned to lure Maulana Hakeem Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> to the main mosque of Bhera, and a fatwa be issued against him and then he be assassinated. Through sheer Divine grace, Maulana Hakeem Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> escaped unhurt. When attempts to murder or assassinate him failed, all local religious scholars joined hands to banish him from the town of Bhera.

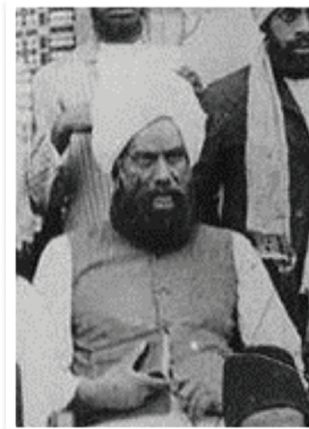


## His Profession

On his return from Arabia, he established a school of Qur'anic studies, and started a clinic that offered treatment in natural medicine. His main objective was to serve his countrymen and spread the Qur'anic teachings. At the age of about 40 years, during a journey of one month, he memorized 14 parts of the Holy Qur'an and later became a Hafiz by memorizing the entire Qur'an. God had given him a miraculous healing power and his prayers were abundantly accepted. People from remote corners of India started visiting him for treatment. When the Maharajah of Kashmir heard of his fame, Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> was appointed as his court physician.

## First Person to Pledge Allegiance

Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> first heard of Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> from a person named Sheikh Ruknuddin of District Sargodha. In 1885, he read an announcement published by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, which impressed him very deeply. Soon after, he went to see Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> in Qadian, who had not yet made any proclamation about himself. But Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup>, at the very first sight of him, recognized the truth which he personified and became his most devoted companion. Later, on March 23, 1889, when the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, accepted the first ever Bai'at in Ludhiana, Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> was the first person to take Bai'at.



## Settlement in Qadian

Soon after his first visit to Qadian, he offered to leave his job and settle in Qadian, but the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> did not accept his request at that time. Therefore, he stayed in Kashmir up to September 1892, when the new Ruler of Kashmir terminated his job. He now returned to Bhera and started the construction of a large clinic. In April 1893, the construction of his clinic was near completion. He went to Qadian on a short visit, but when the time came for him to take leave, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> asked him to forget about his hometown and make Qadian his permanent home. He stayed from that moment on and never thought of returning to Bhera. Such was his complete submission and obedience to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

## Life in Qadian

He established a clinic in Qadian and started giving free treatment to the poor. He fully enjoyed the company of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and dedicated

his life to the cause of his mission. He taught the Holy Qur'an and Ahadith to the children of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and to hundreds of other students. He served as a teacher of the Arabic language at the Talim-ul-Islam High School. He was appointed President of the Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya, Qadian. He contributed to the newspapers Al-Hakam and Al-Badr and completed the translation of the Holy Qur'an.

### **Election as Khalifa**

At the death of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, leading members of the Jamaat felt Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> should become the khalifa and conveyed it to him in a signed written document. Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> thought for a while and said that he will give his reply after prayer.

After performing nafl, he suggested that Jamaat members gather in a garden where he would address them. In his address, he told the Jamaat that he had never desired to be their leader. He even mentioned the names of seven others that, he said, were more deserving of this honor. He then said that if they insisted, he would accept this responsibility. He reminded them, however, that a person who pledged bai'at gave up all his freedom in the cause of Islam. Finally, he urged Jamaat members to remain united. His address was well received and nearly 1,200 members of the Jamaat pledged allegiance at his hands.

### **Main Achievements**

- On May 30, 1908, Bait-ul-Mal or the Treasury was set up.
- On March 5, 1910, Hudur laid the foundation-stone of Masjid Noor. Noor Hospital was also inaugurated during his khilafat along with many other buildings in Qadian, including housing for the poor.
- On March 1, 1909, Madrasa Ahmadiyya was opened. The purpose of this branch was to produce missionaries according to the instructions of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The same Madrasa Ahmadiyya was a precursor of Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya.
- English translation of the Holy Qur'an was completed.
- In February 1911, Anjuman Ansarullah was set up which later became the current Majlis Ansarullah.
- On July 25, 1912, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> laid the foundation stone of Ta'lim-ul-Islam High School.
- On June 19, 1913, the newspaper Al-Fadl was published for the first time.
- In the same month, the first foreign mission was established in England.



- On December 26-28, 1913, he delivered two magnificent lectures in the Jalsa Salana, which turned out to be the last Jalsa Salana of his Khilafat.

### Demise

In January 1914, he fell seriously ill and continued to decline for next two months. In early March, he wrote out his will while confined to his bed. At his instruction, his will was read out to those who were present. On March 13, 1914, he passed away. At the time of his death he was 73 years old, the same age as that of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> at his passing. He was buried in Behishti Maqbarah (the Heavenly Graveyard), next to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> was truly a selfless, godly person. His most important characteristic was his unshakeable faith in God and his complete reliance on Him for all his needs. He was extremely learned in secular and religious matters. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> had great love for him and expressed it in one of his Persian poems, "How good would it be if every one of the Community would become Nooruddin".

### Exercise 4.16: Answer the questions below.

**When did the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> pass away?**

-----

**How many people accepted bai'at at the hands of the first khalifa of Ahmadiyyat?**

-----

**Where was Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> born?**

-----

**The family of Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> were descendants of whom?**

-----

**What was the profession of Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup>?**

-----

**What were the roles fulfilled by Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> in Qadian?**

-----

**List at least 3 accomplishments during the life of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup>.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 4.17: Fill in the blanks using information given in the text.**

In 1865-66, at the age of 25, he traveled to \_\_\_\_\_ to perform Hajj.

Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> established a school of \_\_\_\_\_ studies and started a \_\_\_\_\_ that offered treatment in \_\_\_\_\_ medicine.

Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> was the \_\_\_\_\_ person to take \_\_\_\_\_ at the hands of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

He served as a teacher in Arabic in the \_\_\_\_\_ High School.

He was appointed \_\_\_\_\_ of the Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya, Qadian.

On March 5, 1910, Hadrat laid the foundation-stone of \_\_\_\_\_.

Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> passed away on \_\_\_\_\_, he was \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

## Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>

**Period of Khilafat:** March 14, 1914 – November 8, 1965 (52 years)

### Birth and Life Before Khilafat

Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> was born in Qadian on January 12, 1889 and was the eldest of the five surviving children of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. He was the Promised son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, whose birth was foretold by God Almighty, in which Allah gave him the glad tidings of the birth of a pure son within a period of nine years, who would be extremely intelligent and highly learned, and whose fame would spread to the ends of the earth and nations would be blessed through him. That prophecy was published on February 20, 1886, three years before his birth.



### Education

He received his primary education in a school of Qadian and then in the Ta'lim-ul-Islam School. He could not do well in his studies due to his persistent ill-health. His academic career came to an end when he failed in the Matriculation (Grade 10) examination. He learned the translation of the Holy Qur'an and Ahadith from Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup>. He began his independent study of religion, history, literature and various other subjects and developed into a great scholar and had mastery over many subjects.

Thus, the following prophecy of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> regarding Musleh Ma'ud was clearly fulfilled in his person.

"He will be extremely intelligent and understanding and will be meek of heart and will be filled with secular and spiritual knowledge."

He received his first revelation in 1905 when he was only sixteen years old,

"I will place those who follow you above those who disbelieve until the day of Resurrection."

In 1907, an angel taught him the commentary of Surah Al-Fatihah. From then onward, he was gifted with an unusual knowledge of the commentary of the Holy Qur'an.

When the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> passed away, Hadrat Musleh Ma'ud<sup>ra</sup> was only nineteen years old. On this critical occasion, he stood by the body of his deceased father and made the following pledge, "Even if all the people should

abandon you (the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>), I will stand alone against the whole world, not caring for any opposition or enmity.”

In 1911, at the age of 22, he established Anjuman Ansarullah, a precursor to the current Majlis Ansarullah, under the auspices of Khalifatul-Masih I. This association helped educate the Jamaat and cater to the upbringing of the Jamaat's youth.

In 1912, Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> performed Hajj. In 1913, he started the publication of a weekly paper called Al Fadh, which eventually became a daily newspaper of the Jamaat.



### Election as Khalifa

The day after the death of Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup>, his will was read out to some 2,000 Ahmadi Muslims who had gathered in the mosque. In his will, Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> suggested the Jamaat elect a new Khalifa. Maulana Syed Muhammad Ahsan<sup>ra</sup> then stood up and formally proposed the name of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>. After this, the entire congregation shouted, “We second it.” Shortly afterwards, all present took bai'at at the hand of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>.

On March 14, 1914, the day after the death of Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup>, Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin<sup>ra</sup> was elected as Khalifatul-Masih II, when he was only 25 years old. About 2,000 Ahmadi Muslims present at that occasion, took Bai'at at his hands. There was a small but influential group of opponents within the community, who did not take the Bai'at. At first, they tried their best to put an end to the system of Khilafat. Then, they decided to leave Qadian and moved to Lahore. They were certain that the young khalifa would not survive without their support, and the system of Khilafat would collapse by itself. Their expectations, however, turned out to be completely wrong. The followers of the young Khalifatul-Masih grew rapidly, whereas his opponents were reduced to an insignificant group. The blessings of Khilafat prevailed!

Maulana Muhammad Ali and others who did not take the bai'at of the second Khalifa, later founded the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam. They would later come to be known as Ghair Muba'een (also known as Lahori Ahmadi Muslims) and differ with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat on two important points:

1. Ghair Muba'een regard the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> as only a reformer - not a prophet.
2. Consequently, they argue that the successors of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> should not be called khulafa.

## Main Achievements

The 52-year Khilafat of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> blessed the Jamaat in countless ways. Some highlights of his achievements are as follows:

- The first Majlis-e-Shura (Consultative Body) Session of his Khilafat took place in 1914 to formulate a worldwide Tabligh plan. In 1922 Majlis Shoora was established for the first time, as a permanent advisory body to the Khalifa.
- In December 1915, the commentary of first part of the Holy Qur'an was published.
- On January 1, 1919, various departments (Nizarats) were set up to streamline the operations of Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya.
- On September 23, 1924, he attended the Wembley Conference in England, where his article 'Ahmadiyyat - The True Islam' was read out.
- Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya, an elite institution for training and producing qualified Muslim missionaries, was inaugurated in 1928.
- In December 1930, his elder brother, Hadrat Mirza Sultan Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> took Bai'at at his hands and became the fourth Ahmadi son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Thus, the part of the prophecy regarding Musleh Ma'ud, "He will convert three into four was fulfilled".
- He wrote a large number of books, including ten volumes of the Tafseer-e-Kabeer, the detailed commentary of the Holy Qur'an.
- Many new Ahmadiyya missions were opened in many foreign countries. The Fadl Mosque was founded on October 19, 1924.
- The rapidly growing community was divided into different age groups to ensure better training of all Jamaat members. These auxiliaries are:
  1. Lajna Ima'illah
  2. Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya
  3. Majlis Ansarullah
  4. Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya
  5. Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya
- A magazine, Misbah, was introduced in 1926 solely for Lajna.
- In 1928, Nusrat Girls High School was established.
- On July 25, 1931, he was elected president of the All-India Kashmir Committee, and strived hard for the rights of the Kashmiri people. Later, in June 1948, he sent a battalion of Ahmadi volunteers called Furqan Force to fight along with the Pakistan Army for liberating Kashmir.



- Tahrik-i-Jadid was initiated in 1934 to further promote the missionary work in foreign countries. Because of this scheme, various foreign missions were opened, and mosques were built.
- In January 1944, he claimed for the first time that he was the Promised Son, mentioned in the prophecy regarding Musleh Ma'ud. The claim was based on divine revelations and dreams.
- In August 1947, when Pakistan came into being, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> along with the Jamaat members moved from Qadian to Pakistan. Some 313 Ahmadiis, called Darveshan stayed behind to take care of Qadian. In Pakistan, Hudur<sup>ra</sup> laid the foundation of the Jamaat's new center in Rabwah, a waste and barren piece of land, which has wonderfully transformed into a model town with all its religious, educational and social institutions. In addition, Rabwah is the headquarters of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, and the official residence of the Khalifatul-Masih, called Qasr-e-Khilafat. It would be of interest to note that the Arabic word Rabwah means 'an elevated land' and is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an (23:51) with reference to Jesus Christ and his mother.
- In 1951, Jāmi'a Nusrat (Women's College) was established in Rabwah.
- In 1957 Waqf-e-Jadid was initiated to expand missionary work to educate and impart religious training to rural population inside Pakistan.
- Tafseer-e-Sagheer, the short commentary of the Holy Qur'an was completed in 1957.

### **Murderous Attempt on His Life**

On March 10, 1954, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> survived an attempt on his life, but he was seriously wounded. This happened in Masjid Mubarak, Rabwah, at the time of Asr prayer. As soon as he got up to leave after the Prayer, an enemy of Ahmadiyyat, who had come to the mosque with an intention to kill him, moved forward and stabbed him in the side of his neck from behind. It was a deep wound, but God saved the life of Hudur.

### **Demise**

As a result of his extremely heavy work load and the after-effects of the deep wound in his neck, his health condition gradually worsened over a period of seven years. At last, on November 8, 1965, at nearly 2 a.m. Hadrat Musleh Ma'ud, Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>, passed away, at the age of seventy-seven. He was buried in the Behishtī Maqbarah by the side of his mother, Hadrat Ummul-Mu'mineen, Sayyidah Nusrat Jahan Begum<sup>ra</sup>.

He possessed a unique combination of qualities of leadership, organizational genius, trust in God, courage, depth of knowledge in many fields. No doubt, his 52-year long Khilafat represented a golden period in the history of Ahmadiyyat.



**Exercise 4.18: Answer the questions below.**

**Who was the father of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>?**

-----

**How old was he when he became the second Khalifa?** -----

**Why is he called the “Promised Son”?**

-----

**What were some of the qualities that were foretold in the prophecy about him?**

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**In 1934, he established the scheme of:** -----

**What was the main idea behind Tahrik-i-Jadid?**

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**What was the reason for the establishment of a new center in Rabwah?**

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**When was Waqf-e-Jadid established? And what was the purpose of this scheme?**

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**What are some of the accomplishments during the life of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II?**

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**For how many years was Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> the khalifa of the Jamaat?**

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## **Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih III Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup>**

**Period of Khilafat:** Nov. 9, 1965 – June 9, 1982 (17 years)

### **Birth and Life Before Khilafat**

Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> was born on November 16, 1909. He was the son of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> and grandson of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> became a Hafiz at the age of thirteen, when he completed the memorization of the Holy Qur'an.



In July 1929, he obtained the degree of Maulana Fadil (Religious Scholar), from Punjab University. In 1934, he graduated from Government College, Lahore. He married in August 1934. One month later, he left Qadian for England for higher studies. In November 1938, he came back to Qadian after obtaining his master's degree from Oxford University.

Soon after his return from higher studies, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> started serving, first as a professor and then, from 1939 to 1944, as principal, of Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Qadian. From May 1944 to November 1965 (until he became Khalifa), he served as principal, Talim-ul-Islam College, Rabwah, Pakistan.

He also served as Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya from 1939 to 1949. From the year 1949, when, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> himself took hold of Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya as its president, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> acted as Nai'b Sadr up to November 1954. The same year, he was appointed Sadr Majlis Ansarullah. From June 1948 to June 1950, he played an important role in the Furqan Force Battalion, an Ahmadi volunteer force, put at the disposal of the Government of Pakistan, for the cause of Muslim Kashmir. In May 1955, he was appointed Sadr of Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya (main administrative body of the Jamaat), by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>.

### **Election as Khalifa**

On November 8, 1965, after the demise of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II, the electoral college met in Mubarak Mosque, Rabwah. When the votes were cast, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> was elected by an overwhelming majority. 5,000 Ahmadi Muslims were waiting outside the mosque performed bai'at at his hand. He was 56 years old at the time.

### **Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih's First Address after Bai'at**

"This is a covenant, which I have made knowing that God is One and is

Omnipotent and Omnipresent and He knows the unseen and cursed is he who behaves fraudulently at this hour. I promise before you all that I shall try my best to convey the divine message of Islam in the whole world and treat every one of you with love and sympathy. As you have put a heavy burden of responsibility on my shoulders, I expect that you will assist me with prayers and sincere advice that Allah may take such work from me, which is essential for the propagation of Islam and Ahmadiyyat." (Ahmadiyya Gazette Canada, May-June 2003, page 22)

## Main Achievements

- In 1965, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> established the Fadl-i-Umar Foundation in memory of his father, who was named Fadl-i-Umar in a revelation of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The purpose of this foundation was to carry on all the works in which the departed khalifa had taken particular interest. An appeal was made to the Jamaat to raise Rs. 2.5 million for the foundation. Actual contributions far exceeded the initial target, which was then raised to Rs. 5.2 million. The main objectives of the foundation are to assist in:
  - ◇ Research work
  - ◇ New missionary venture
  - ◇ New educational effort
  - ◇ Economic welfare
- On October 3, 1971, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> inaugurated the Khilafat Library in Rabwah. This library can accommodate 50,000 books and has ample space for readers, research scholars and administrative work.
- In 1973, at Jalsa Salana Rabwah, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> announced that the Jamaat would celebrate its 100th anniversary on March 23, 1989. The celebrations would start on March 23 and continue throughout the year, finishing at the 1989 Jalsa Salana. Under this scheme, Hudur<sup>ra</sup> appealed to raise a fund of 2.5 million rupees in sixteen years (1974-1989)
- The main objectives of the Centenary Jubilee Scheme were:
  - ◇ To bring the message of Islam to the ends of the earth
  - ◇ To establish additional Jamaat Mission houses
  - ◇ To publish Islamic literature in 100 languages
  - ◇ To install a modern printing press in Pakistan



- ◇ To establish a radio station in an African country
- ◇ To translate the Holy Qur'an into 6 languages
- After touring West Africa in 1970, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> announced a scheme to expand Jamaat activities in West Africa through the establishment of schools and hospitals. The new scheme was named Nusrat Jehan Scheme. He also appealed to Ahmadi Muslim teachers and doctors to volunteer themselves for service in these African countries.
- Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>ra</sup> announced the scheme Waqf-e `Ardi on March 12, 1966, under which Ahmadi Muslims should spend at least two weeks of their time at a designated place, at their own expense, in teaching the Holy Qur'an and giving religious training to the local Ahmadis.
- He instituted Majlis Moosiyah / Moosiyat on August 5, 1966.
- He inaugurated Khilafat Library, Rabwah on October 3, 1971, and Masjid Aqsa, Rabwah, on March 31, 1972.
- The foundation stone of Masjid Basharat, Spain was laid, on October 9, 1980. On this occasion, he announced the golden Islamic motto – **Love for All, Hatred for None**.



### Conference in London

The Jamaat organized, "The Deliverance from the Cross" conference in London, from June 2nd to June 4th, 1978. Well-known scholars of the world's major faiths read their scholarly papers at this event.

In his address, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> refuted the Christian belief that Jesus Christ was a God and alive in the heavens. He reaffirmed the oneness of Almighty Allah and beautifully expounded the high status of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Thousands of Europeans listened to Hadrat's address and marveled at the depth and breadth of his knowledge. Media from around the world covered the event.



## Persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan

Ahmadi Muslims have faced persecution, like the Muslims of the early days of Islam. On May 29, 1974, with the attack on Rabwah railway station by the Nishtar College students, severe violence broke out against Ahmadis throughout Pakistan. It was backed by the then government of Pakistan headed by prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Houses of Ahmadis were looted and burnt, and a number of Ahmadis were killed during these acts of violence. The community members were subjected to social boycott and many high-ranking Ahmadi civil and army officials were forcibly retired. During this critical period, the Ahmadis, under the guidance of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>ra</sup>, faced all hardships with great patience, endurance and prayers.

## Debate in Pakistan National Assembly

These activities culminated in a resolution presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan on June 30, 1974. A debate was held in which the Jamaat was also allowed to present its position. The Jamaat's position, compiled in what is known as the Mahzarnama (the Memorandum) was distributed to National Assembly members. Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> personally answered allegations levied against the Jamaat. Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> was accompanied by a four-member delegation, consisting of:

1. Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup>
2. Hadrat Maulana Abul Ata Jallandhari
3. Sheikh Muhammad Ahmad Mazhar
4. Maulana Dost Muhammad Shahid

On Sep 7, 1974, The National Assembly of Pakistan passed an amendment to the Constitution, which declared the Ahmadis in Pakistan to be non-Muslims. Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who used to take great pride for declaring Ahmadi Muslims as non-Muslims, met a horrific end on July 5, 1977. He was removed from office by General Zia-ul Haq and then hanged on April 4, 1979. Bhutto's age at the time was 51 years and 3 months. This incident marked the fulfillment of an 1891 revelation to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Kalbun Yamootu 'Alaa Kalbin, which translates as, 'A dog dies upon a dog'. In Tadhkirah, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> explains, "With regard to the death of a certain person, God the Almighty revealed to me through the value of the letters of the alphabet. He is a dog and he will die according to the value of the letters in the word kalb [dog], which amounts to fifty-two. This means that his age will not exceed fifty-two years and that he will die within the course of his fifty second year."

### **Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> Prophecy Fulfilled**

A famous revelation of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> is:

"Kings will seek blessings from your garments."

This prophecy was first fulfilled during the time of the Khilafat of Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> in the person of Sir Singhate who was elected Governor General of Gambia, West Africa. Mr. Singhate, a devout Muslim, had previously been president of all the Ahmadiyya branches in Gambia.

When he was elected to this prestigious office, he earnestly prayed for some time. Then he informed Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> that he wanted to obtain blessings from the garments of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Accordingly, a piece of the clothing was sent to him from Rabwah.

### **Demise**

In June 1982, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> fell ill while visiting Islamabad. His condition worsened and, on June 9, 1982 at 12:45 P.M, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> passed away. His was buried in Behishtī Maqbarah Rabwah, Pakistan.

### **Exercise 4.19: Answer the questions below.**

**What was the purpose of the Fadl-i-Umar Foundation?**

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**What were the main objectives of the Centenary Jubilee Scheme?**

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**When were Ahmadi Muslims declared non-Muslims?**

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**What was the name of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and how did he die?**

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**Which prophecy of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was fulfilled during the Khilafat of Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup>?**

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**How long was the Khilafat of Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup>?**

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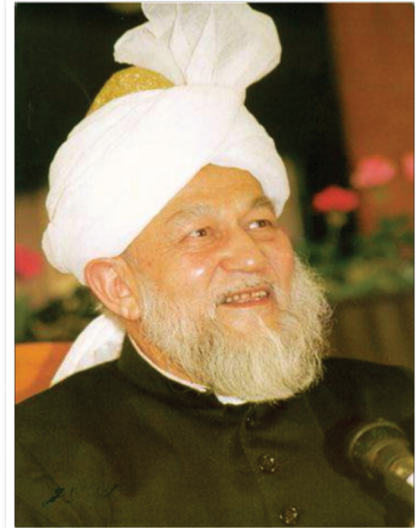
## **Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup>**

**Period of Khilafat:** June 10, 1982 – April 21, 2003 (21 years)

### **Birth and life before Khilafat**

Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> was born on December 18, 1928 in Qadian, India. He was a son of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> and the grandson of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

He obtained his high school education in 1944 at Ta'lim-ul-Islam High School, Qadian and then his higher secondary education from Government College Lahore. He obtained the degree Shahid (Religious Scholar) from Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya, Rabwah. He obtained some higher education in the School of Oriental Studies, London University.



He served as Nazim Irshad of Waqf-e-Jadid and made great efforts to promote the missionary work inside Pakistan. He also served as Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul -Ahmadiyya (1966-1969) and as a Director of Fadl-i-Umar foundation and later as Sadr Majlis Ansarullah (1979-1982). In July and August 1974, he was a member of the Jamaat's delegation, headed by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih III<sup>ra</sup>, to the National Assembly of Pakistan, to present and prove the truth of Jamaat's belief.

### **Election as Khalifa**

Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> passed away on June 9, 1982, and on June 10, 1982, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> was elected as Khalifatul-Masih IV.

### **Anti-Ahmadi Muslim Ordinance**

Despite two major outbreaks of violence against the Ahmadis in Pakistan (1953 and 1974), the divinely instituted Ahmadiyya movement continued its systematic progress during the periods of second and third Khilafat. In the face of grand new schemes launched by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup>, the government of Pakistan and its orthodox Islamic clergy mounted another wave of violence, persecution and severe restrictions against the Ahmadis, which culminated in Ordinance 20 on April 26, 1984.

Under this ordinance, Ahmadi Muslims were not allowed to recite the Holy Qur'an, Salat, Kalimah or even say As-Salamu 'Alaikum to anyone. Violating Ordinance 20 triggered the imposition of fines, imprisonment and death. Thousands of Ahmadi Muslims were jailed. Ahmadi Muslims who are jailed

for their faith are known as Aseeran-e-Rah-e-Maula (Detainees in the cause of God). It became increasingly difficult to safeguard the institution of Khilafat in Pakistan in view of the new restrictions.

After monitoring the situation, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> summoned his most senior counselors to a meeting. Recalling the meeting, the khalifa said,

"I was never in any way scared of General Zia. I had criticized him very openly in my sermons. I had told him, 'Mend your ways and your attitude. Cease this persecution or you will face the Wrath of God.' But with this ordinance, it was a different kind of situation. It was not my safety that was at stake, but my ability to speak out. With this law, Zia could silence me as the effective head of the Community. I could remain in Pakistan and speak out and then be put into prison." The advice of his counsellors was unanimous – he should leave Pakistan immediately. The khalifa accepted the advice of his counsellors, that he should leave Pakistan.

### Migration to England

At that time, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> was living in Rabwah. General Zia-ul Haq ordered his agencies to never allow Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> to leave the country. Several security agencies were assigned to this task.

The preparations for Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup>'s escape from Pakistan were put into the hands of a retired senior army officer. It was decided that Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> would leave Pakistan by KLM (a Dutch airline). A person was sent to Karachi to make reservations, because a phone reservation was impossible due to the phones being tapped.

There were two flights leaving from Karachi to Europe that week. One was very early in the morning on Monday April 30th, and the other on Wednesday May 2nd. Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> expressed the wish to take the Wednesday flight since that would give him enough time to prepare for his departure. However, the KLM manager advised him to take the earlier flight on early Monday morning. The Monday flight went straight to Amsterdam while the Wednesday flight had a stop in Gulf state. There was a chance that Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> might get arrested in the Gulf state on Pakistan's request.

Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> made it clear that he would not disguise himself or use a false passport. Early in the morning, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup>'s car, along with the normal escort, was seen leaving Rabwah. Intelligence agencies presumed that Hadrat



Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> was on his way to Islamabad. But Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> was not present in this car. His third oldest brother, Mirza Munawar Ahmad, was travelling in that car to Islamabad. Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> had already left Rabwah at 2 a.m. for Karachi.

At the airport, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> waited in the private lounge and went through passport control. The airport authorities delayed his flight to determine if Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> could leave. General Zia ul Haq had sent a letter to all seaports and airports stating that "Mirza Nasir Ahmad" – instead of "Mirza Tahir Ahmad" – not be allowed to leave Pakistan. This caused a lot of confusion amongst airport officials. The security officials tried to get a hold of authorities in Islamabad to clarify the matter but it was very late at night and no one was answering the phones.

An hour after the scheduled departure, the flight was announced and Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> boarded the plane for the flight to Amsterdam. He eventually reached London on April 30th, 1984.

In London, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> set up the Jamaat's administrative offices. He later launched several landmark initiatives to expand the Jamaat on an unprecedented level.

### Fate of Pakistan's President – General Zia ul Haq

General Zia ul Haq continued to persecute Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan. Consequently, during the June 10th 1988 Friday sermon, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>th</sup> challenged President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan and his supporters to a Mubahala (prayer contest). This meant that by offering prayers for God's judgment, God would inflict His sign of wrath on the liars. Hudur also said that God would do so even if the mubahala was not formally accepted by General Zia-ul-Haq. Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> prayed,

"Whichever of us in Thy sight are liars and fabricators, let Thy Wrath descend upon them within one year. May Thou inflict such disgrace, torment and punishment upon them that all people can witness their debasement and utter destruction ... O Almighty God, do this so that Right may be distinguished from Wrong and the difference between Truth and Falsehood become Manifest." ("A Man of God")

But General Zia-ul-Haq paid no attention to Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup>'s words. During the August 12, 1988 Friday Sermon, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> declared that since General Zia-ul-Haq had not changed





his ways, God will punish him. On August 17th, 1988, General Zia-ul-Haq's plane blew up in the sky and everyone on board died.

### Main Achievements

- The first project Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> launched was the construction of suitable houses for the needy people of Rabwah. A neighborhood of Rabwah is now called Buyut-ul-Hamd Colony where spacious, comfortable houses have been built for 87 families.
- In 1982, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> travelled to Europe to inaugurate the first Ahmadi Muslim mosque, built in Pedroabad, Spain. The foundation stone of this mosque was laid by the Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad. On September 10, 1982, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> inaugurated the mosque, which was built nearly 500 years after the last mosque was built in Spain.
- On October 10, 1982, Hudur<sup>rh</sup> announced a short time waqf scheme for Spain and to learn the Spanish language.
- On January 28, 1983, Hudur<sup>rh</sup> launched a very important scheme Da'wat Ilallah, meaning "Calling to the path of Allah." Under this grand scheme, every Ahmadi should start preaching to his friends and to all those with whom he has some acquaintance. In his various sermons, he explained very effective ways of successful preaching. This scheme has been progressing very well since it was launched.
- On December 12, 1985, the scheme of 'Waqf-e-Jadid' was extended to all the countries of the world.
- On April 3rd, 1987, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> introduced Waqf-e-Nau scheme, to urge Jamaat members to dedicate their children for the cause of Islam before their birth.
- The Centenary Celebrations in 1989 were held in all parts of the world to mark the completion of first century of Ahmadiyyat.
- In 1991 Hudur<sup>rh</sup> went to Qadian to attend the 100th Jalsa Salana. It was a historic event, as after 1947 it was the first visit of any khalifa to Qadian.
- In order to spread the message of Islam all over the world, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> launched the first ever Muslim television called Muslim Television Ahmadiyya (MTA) on August 21st, 1992 in London.
- On October 16, 1992, Hudur<sup>rh</sup> inaugurated the Bait-ul-Islam Mosque (Toronto, Canada), the largest mosque in North America, with the Friday Sermon. It was an unprecedented event – for the first time in the history of Ahmadiyyat and Islam, a Friday sermon was transmitted live to the world, thus fulfilling the revelation of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, "I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the



earth" – in an entirely new way.

- The first international bai'at (pledge of allegiance) took place in 1993.
- The weekly newspaper Al-Fadl International began publication from London on January 7th, 1994. It is printed at the Raqeem Press. The press is equipped with modern printing equipment and is owned by the Jamaat. The newspaper is also available on the Internet.
- Humanity First was established in 1994. The main purpose of this organization is to relieve suffering caused by natural disasters or man-made conflicts, to promote peace and understanding based upon mutual tolerance and respect.
- On October 14, 1994 Hudur<sup>th</sup> simultaneously, inaugurated Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Washington D.C. and the Jamaat's first satellite earth station. This station serves the western hemisphere by relaying the international transmission from the UK. On April 1, 1996, 24-hour worldwide MTA service was started.
- On October 19, 1999, Hudur<sup>th</sup> laid the foundation stone of the Bait-ul-Futuh Mosque in Morden, Surrey, UK, which was to be the largest Mosque of Western Europe.
- On February 21, 2003, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> launched the Maryam Shadi Fund to give financial help to girls in poor families for their marriage.



After his migration to United Kingdom in 1984, an addition of 13,065 new mosques and 985 new missions took place in various countries of the world. The up-to-date translations of the Holy Qur'an increased to 56 and the translations of selections from the Holy Qur'an increased to more than 100. Since 1984, Jamaat Ahmadiyya was established in 84 additional countries of the world and overall, Jamaat Ahmadiyya was established in 175 countries of the world.

### Demise

Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> delivered his last Friday Sermon at the London Mosque on April 18th, 2003 and attended a Majlis Irfan (Question & Answer session) that evening. The next morning, at approximately 9:30 AM, April 19th, 2003, he passed away in his residence, at the age of 75. He was buried in Tilford, United Kingdom.



**Exercise 4.20: Circle True or False for the statements below.**

Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad <sup>th</sup> was the grandson of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad <sup>ra</sup> .	True	False
He obtained the degree Shahid (Religious Scholar) from Punjab University.	True	False
He was born in Qadian.	True	False
The first international bai'at (pledge of allegiance) took place in 1993.	True	False
The Waqf-e-Nau scheme was started by Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad.	True	False
MTA stands for a 24-hour television station run by the Jamaat.	True	False
"Da'wat Ilallah" means calling people to Allah.	True	False

**Exercise 4.21: Complete the following short answer questions.**

**Why did Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> leave Pakistan?**

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**What is a mubahala?**

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**What happened because of the mubahala?**

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**What mistake did General Zia-ul-Haq make in his letter?**

**Due to Ordinance 20 what difficulties were faced by Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan?**

**How was the following prophecy fulfilled, "I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth"?**

## Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>

**Period of Khilafat:** April 22, 2003 to Present

### Birth and Life Before Khilafat

Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad was born on September 15, 1950, in Rabwah, Pakistan. He is the son of Sahibzada Mirza Mansoor Ahmad and Sahibzadi Nasira Begum Sahiba, a daughter of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>. Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> is also the great grandson of Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and a grandson of Hadrat Mirza Sharif Ahmad Sahib<sup>ra</sup>, the youngest son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> received his primary education at Ta'lim-ul-Islam High School Rabwah, and obtained his B.A. from Ta'leem-ul-Islam College Rabwah, Pakistan. In 1976, he earned his Master of Science degree in agricultural economics from the Agriculture University Faisalabad, Pakistan.



In 1977, he devoted his life (Waqf-e-Zindagi) for Islam and went to Ghana under the Nusrat-Jahan Scheme, which supports a large number of hospitals and schools in West Africa. He became the founding principal of the Ahmadiyya Secondary School in Salaga, where he served for two years. Next, he served for four years as principal of the Ahmadiyya Secondary School at Essarkyir. He served for a further two years as Manager of the Ahmadiyya Agricultural Farm in Depali.

Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> returned to Pakistan in 1985 and served in various senior administrative posts within the Jamaat during the next 18 years, including local Amir and as Nazir-e-Ala (Chief Executive of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community) in Pakistan from 1997 until his election as khalifa.

In 1999, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> had the honor of becoming a 'prisoner in the name of Allah' in Rabwah, Pakistan. He was arrested on the false charges of 'Blasphemy' and 'Disturbance of Public Order', as part of the growing wave of persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan. He was imprisoned on 30th April 1999 and freed on 10th May of the same year.

### Election as Khalifa

Following the demise of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV on April 19, 2003, the Majlis Intikhab-e Khilafat (the electoral college) met at Fadl Mosque, London, UK, on April 22, 2003, whereupon Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> was elected

as Khalifatul-Masih V (Fifth Successor to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>). It was the first time in the history of the Jamaat that the election of a khalifa was held outside of the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent and Ahmadi Muslims from around the world, as well as others, could follow the proceedings surrounding the election live on MTA International. After the election, Hudur<sup>aba</sup> delivered his first address requesting the Jamaat to focus on prayers. Then, the members of the electoral college as well as thousands of other Ahmadis waiting outside the Fadl Mosque, had the privilege of taking the Pledge of Initiation (Bai'at) at the blessed hand of Hadrat Amirul-Mu'mineen, Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup>.

### Main Achievements

- From 1994 to 1997, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> served as Chairman of the Nasir Foundation and President of the Rabwah Beautification Committee. He expanded the Gulshan-e-Ahmad Nursery and his personal efforts helped transform Rabwah into the lush green city that it has become.
- In September 2003, Hudur<sup>aba</sup> announced the establishment of the Tahir Foundation.
- In September 2003 Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> ordered the compilation and publication of all Friday Sermons, Majalis Irfan (Question Answer sessions in Urdu language) and other Question-Answer sessions, as well as the considerable collection of other works of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV<sup>rh</sup>.
- On October 3, 2003, Hudur<sup>aba</sup> delivered his Friday Sermon inaugurating the Baitul-Futuh Mosque, Morden, Surrey, London, the largest mosque of the Western Europe.
- On November 6, 2004, Hudur<sup>aba</sup> announced the start of Office V of Tahrik-i-Jadid.
- In 2004, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> launched the annual National Peace Symposium in which guests from all walks of life come together to exchange ideas on the promotion of peace and harmony. Each year the symposium attracts many politicians, religious leaders and other dignitaries.
- On October 1, 2005, Hudur<sup>aba</sup> inaugurated the first Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya of Europe in London.
- On May 27, 2008, the Centenary of Ahmadiyya Khilafat was marked by grand events world-wide to express thankfulness to Allah for the completion of 100 years of Khilafat. This historic event was shown live



world-wide through MTA from London, England. In his address, Hudur<sup>aba</sup> took a historic pledge from the members of Jamaat world-wide, affirming to spread Islam and Ahmadiyyat to the corners of the earth, to safeguard the institution of Khilafat, and to ensure that the upcoming generations continue to remain attached to Khilafat.

- In 2009, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> also launched the annual 'Ahmadiyya Muslim Prize for the Advancement of Peace'; an international peace award for individuals or organizations that have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment and service to the cause of peace and humanitarianism.

Since the start of his Khilafat, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aba</sup> has travelled to various countries of Europe, Africa, North America and Asia. In these countries, Hudur<sup>aba</sup> met with thousands of Jamaat members, missionaries and office bearers. He also met with the leaders of those countries and numerous dignitaries from various sectors, who welcomed Hudur<sup>aba</sup> and commended the services of the Jamaat in the fields of agriculture, education and healthcare.

Under the leadership of Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has built many schools and hospitals that provide high class facilities in remote parts of the world.

## Peace Initiatives

Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> is the world's leading Muslim figure promoting peace and inter-religious harmony. Through his sermons, lectures, books, and personal meetings, His Holiness has continually advocated the worship of God Almighty and serving humanity. He also continually advocates for the establishment of universal human rights, a just society and a separation of religion and state.



## Response to Persecution

Despite the continued sectarian persecution that Ahmadi Muslims are subjected to in various Muslim majority nations, Hudur<sup>aba</sup> expressly forbid any violence. On 28 May 2010, anti-Ahmadiyya terrorists attacked two mosques belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Lahore, Pakistan. 86 Ahmadi Muslims were martyred during their Friday Prayers, whilst scores



more were injured. Despite the barbaric nature of this pre-meditated crime against humanity, His Holiness instructed Ahmadi Muslims worldwide to respond only through prayers and entirely peaceful means.

**Exercise 4.22: Complete the following short answer questions.**

**When and where was Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> born?**

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**Where did he receive his primary education?**

-----

**Which country did he go to after devoting his life for the service of Islam?**

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**What was his biggest achievement in Ghana?**

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**What was the reason for his arrest in 1999?**

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**When was he elected as a Khalifa?**

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**How did Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> respond to the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims?**

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**What can we do to promote peace in the world?**

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**Exercise 4.23: Review of Khulafa-e-Ahmadiyyat.**

**Write the names of the Khalifatul-Masih in chronological order.**

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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4. 

---
5. 

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**Exercise 4.24: On a separate sheet of paper, write down one major achievement from the period of each khalifa.**

**Exercise 4.25: Assign each student in class a scheme to research and present to the rest of the class.**



# **Enrichment Material**

## Attributes of Allah

<b>Al-Maajid</b> الْمَاجِدُ	The Glorious One	Allah is magnificent and full of splendor. All of existence glorifies or praises God and is a sign of His how amazing He is.
<b>Al-Waahid</b> الْوَّاحِدُ	The Unique, The Singular	Allah is unique in His oneness. He is the One through which everything else stems forth. Without Him, nothing else would exist.
<b>Al-Ahad</b> الْأَحَدُ	The One	Allah is the One God. There are no other God's besides Him. Nothing and no one else shares His Lordship.
<b>As-Samad</b> الصَّمَدُ	The Independent and Besought of All	Allah has no needs, but everything in creation depends on Him and therefore, everyone beseeches Him to fulfill their needs.
<b>Al-Qaadir</b> الْقَادِرُ	The Processor of Power and Authority	Any power imaginable by man is small compared to that of Allah. Al-Qaadir shows men His signs of Power every now and then so that they do not forget that all creation is under Him.
<b>Al-Muqtadir</b> الْمُقْتَدِرُ	The Omnipotent	Allah has the ultimate power and authority over everything and everyone. He is the unconquerable source.
<b>Al-Muqaddim</b> الْمُقَدِّمُ	The Provider of the means of Advancement	All factors of life are under Allah's control, so He can allow something to happen or deny its occurrence with any and all means.
<b>Al-Mu'akkhir</b> الْمُؤَخِّرُ	The Postponer (of events or punishments)	Allah controls the timing of everything, and so He has the power to delay. Through prayer, we can hope to earn Allah's delay in our punishments.

<b>Al-Awwal</b> الْأَوَّلُ	The First	Allah is the first. There is nothing before Him, and everything begins with Him. He has no beginning.
<b>Al-Aakhir</b> الْآخِرُ	The Last	Allah is the last. There is nothing after Allah and everything and everyone must return to God at last. He has no ending.
<b>Az-Zaahir</b> الظَّاهِرُ	The Manifest	Allah and His signs can be seen clearly everywhere we look. He is not hidden somewhere in the heavens, but exists everywhere.
<b>Al-Baatin</b> الْبَاطِنُ	The Hidden	Allah's essence is hidden until we try to get to know Him. He is hidden to our eyes but is visible to those who look from their soul.
<b>Al-Waali</b> الْوَالِي	The Ruler	Allah is the one who governs, protects, and runs all of creation. Like a good ruler, Allah protects all His people.
<b>Al-Muta'aal</b> الْمُتَعَالَى	The Most-High, The Incomparably Great	No other person or thing can compare to God's greatness. Allah is high above anything humans can imagine.
<b>Al-Barr</b> الْبَرُّ	The Beneficent	Allah is the one through whom all goodness flows down to us. He is the source of all generosity and good.
<b>Al-Tawwaab</b> التَّوَّابُ	The Acceptor of Repentance	Allah forgives those who sincerely repent for their sins. He has the power to help us keep our intention of repentance.
<b>Al-Mun'im</b> الْمُنْعِمُ	The Bestower of Favor	All of the blessings we receive in life come from Allah. He grants endlessly.
<b>Al-Muntaqim</b> الْمُنْتَقِمُ	The Awarder of Punishment	Allah's punishment is meant to rectify or change us. God is not vengeful, but He can end cruelty or injustice if His commands are ignored.
<b>Al-'Afuww</b> الْعَفُوُّ	The Pardoner	Allah forgives so completely that His forgiveness erases our sins as if they never happened in the first place.



<b>Ar-Raof</b> الرَّؤُفُ	The Compassionate	Allah is tender and kind towards His creation, and when they call on Him, He answers with sympathy and love.
<b>Maalik-ul-Mulk</b> مَالِكُ الْمُلْكِ	The Lord of Sovereignty	Allah is the owner and creator of all creation. Everything is in His hands.
<b>Dhul-Jalaali-wal-Ikraam</b> ذُو الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ	Lord of Majesty and Bounty	Allah is mighty, strong, and powerful but also gentle, giving, and generous. He is the ultimate balance of power and mercy.
<b>Al-Muqsit</b> الْمُقْسِطُ	The Equitable	Allah is always fair, just, and balanced. He is equitable in all matters.
<b>Al-Jaami</b> الْجَامِعُ	The Gatherer	All of us will be gathered by Allah on the Day of Judgment. He will be the one to gather us.
<b>Al-Ghaniyy</b> الْغَنِيُّ	The Self Sufficient	Allah exists without any aid or need from anything or anyone else. Because He is the source of all sufficiency and has no needs of His own, we rely solely on Allah for all our needs.
<b>Al-Mughnee</b> الْمُغْنِي	The Enricher	Allah enriches our lives with blessings. These may be material, like wealth, or they may be invisible, like love, friendship, and contentment.
<b>Al-Maani'</b> الْمَانِعُ	The Withholder, The Prohibitor	Allah guards us against harm, physical and spiritual. He prohibits bad things from happening to us, sometimes, even before we can recognize it as harmful.

<b>Ad-Daarr</b> الضَّارُّ	The Inflictor of Punishment	When Allah needs to use force to correct a situation, He may punish us. This punishment is out of a desire to see our return to the right path after giving us many chances to correct ourselves.
<b>An-Naafi'</b> النَّافِعُ	True Benefactor	Allah gives us many chances to correct our behavior. He overlooks mistakes and champions us so that He does not have to punish us.
<b>An-Nur</b> النُّورُ	The Light	Allah is the divine light that brings clarity of wisdom and clear guidance. His Being illuminates all creation.
<b>Al-Hadee</b> الْهَادِي	The Guide	Allah does not want us to be directionless. So, He is our Guide. Through His Prophets and His revelations, He provides counsel to all people.
<b>Al-Badeei'</b> الْبَدِيعُ	The Originator	Allah is the creator of this universe without having any other precedent before it. He is the sole architect of everything.
<b>Al-Baaqee</b> الْبَاقِي	The Ultimate Survivor	Allah is eternal ,and so will never age. He has no beginning and no end. Nothing else is eternal in this universe.
<b>Al-Waarith</b> الْوَارِثُ	The Ultimate Inheritor	Ultimately, all of us will return to Allah, and so will everything else in the universe. Everything will go back to Him, including our souls.
<b>Ar-Rasheed</b> الرَّشِيدُ	The Director of the Right Path	Allah is the supreme authority of guidance. He sends guidance and teaches us how to stay on the right path.
<b>As-Saboor</b> الصَّبُورُ	The Patient	Allah is never in a hurry with us. He gives us many chances and many opportunities to learn, grow, and get better. Getting to know Allah takes time, practice, and patience.

## Additional Coursework

The following content is being listed here to include items from the Waqf-e-Nau syllabus. This material can be covered by parents at home.

### Holy Qur'an

- Surah Al-Kahf vv. 1-11
- Surah Al-Kahf vv. 103-111 with translation
- Surah Al-Azhab vv. 70-74 with translation
- Surah Al-Hashr vv. 19-25
- Surah Al-Saff vv. 1-15
- Surah Al-Jummah vv. 1-12
- Translation of parts 5 and 6 of the Holy Qur'an
- Translation of parts 7 and 8 of the Holy Qur'an

### Salat and Prayers

Learn the following prayers:

- On entering a cemetery
- On seeing a new moon
- On wearing new clothes

### Basics of Islam

Learn the following Ahadith in Arabic with translation:

- "A little that suffices one's need is better than plenty that makes him forgetful."
- "He who knows his own worth, will never perish."
- "Promote sending greetings of peace on each other."
- "One who boycotts will not enter Paradise."
- "Poverty may well turn to disbelief."
- "False oaths can ruin (the prosperity of) homes."
- "Some poetry can be full of wisdom and some oratory can be mesmerizing."
- "None amongst you can be a true believer unless he likes for his brother what he likes for himself."
- "Avoid suspicion because suspicion is the worst form of falsehood."
- "Jealousy consumes virtue like fire consumes its fuel."

## History

Read the following books:

- *Shumail-e-Ahmad*
- *Deeni Malumat*
- *Sirat Khatamun-Nabiyyinsa*
- *Kishti Nuh*

Learn the names of the four imams of Fiq'ha.:

- Hanafī – Abu Hanifah
- Hanbalī – Ahmad ibn Hanbal
- Malikī – Malik ibn Anas
- Shāfi'ī – Muhammad ibn Idris al-Shafi'i

## Poetry

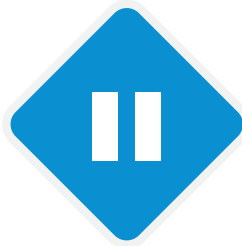
- Nur-e-Furqan
- Ek Na Ek Din
- Naune Halan-e-Jama'at
- Hay Bada Mast Bada

## Rumuz-i-Auqaf -The Qur'anic Stop Signs



**One MUST  
stop at  
these signs**

○  
ط  
م



**One should  
pause at  
these signs**

سکته  
وقفه  
قف



**One may OR  
may not stop at  
these signs**

ص  
ج  
و



**One should  
NOT stop at  
these signs**

لا  
ز  
ق  
صلے

# **Answer Key**



## Part I

### Exercise 2.2: Fill in the blanks for the statements below.

The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> used to recite Surah \_\_\_**Al-A'lā**\_\_\_ during the \_\_\_**first**\_\_\_ rakah of \_\_\_**Friday**\_\_\_, \_\_\_**Eid**\_\_\_, and \_\_\_**Vitr**\_\_\_ prayers.

By reflecting on \_\_\_**God's**\_\_\_ qualities and using our \_\_\_**spiritual**\_\_\_ and \_\_\_**mental**\_\_\_ faculties, we can become a reflection of \_\_\_**God's**\_\_\_ attributes.

The Holy Qur'an is like the \_\_\_**sun**\_\_\_, \_\_\_**the moon**\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_**stars**\_\_\_ because it is a phenomenon whose usefulness to man will continue until the end of time.

### Exercise 3.3: Answer the questions with reference to passages in the book.

**What are some innovations we face in our daily lives that keep us away from Allah?**

Television, Internet, Social Media, cell phones, technology, movies etc.

**Read the first paragraph on page 114. What two steps are given to help create a love for the Holy Qur'an?**

1. Every Ahmadi should make it obligatory on themselves to recite a minimum of two to three rukus of the Holy Qur'an daily.
2. Every Ahmadi should read the Holy Qur'an with translation.

**Name the two keys to finding God and His blessings from page 117.**

The two keys to finding God and His blessings are:

1. One should shun associating anyone with God and indulging in innovations.
2. One should be obeying the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and not following personal lusts and base desires.

### Exercise 3.4: Answer the questions with reference to passages in the book.

**What form of arrogance is found in wider circles? (page 124)**

On page 124 of the course book, there is mention of a form of arrogance among wider circles. It is said that due to arrogance some nations, countries, and governments look down upon the rest. They despise poor nations and countries.

**Read the hadith by Abdullah bin Mas'ud. What is the difference between being arrogant and being elegant? (page 126)**

Dressing up in nice clothes and looking good is not arrogance. Allah is Elegant and likes elegance, that is, He likes beauty. Real arrogance is when man rejects what is true, considers people lowly, holds them in contempt and treats them badly. If you can wear and have nice things, but be very conscious of how you treat others, then owning nice things is not against the spirit of Islam.

**Exercise 3.7: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

Allah rewards us for the intentions in our hearts and not for the effects that our actions may or may not have on others. We may judge our contributions through worldly standards, but Allah looks in our hearts for the ultimate judgment.

Context and the relative scale of what we can do for God's sake varies. Allah looks at what, when, how and why we do good deeds. We should strive to stop all ills that we see around us. Sometimes that struggle may just be in your heart and that internal struggle itself is dear to God.

**Exercise 3.8: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

Allah's creation is full of wisdom and shows His superiority in design. From the placement of heavenly bodies, to fruits, to the moon and everything else in nature, all creation gives testimony to God's Greatness.

It is very possible that our prayer is not answered because it may not be good for us. In His Wisdom, Allah knows best.

Sometimes we might face an illness or fail at a task, despite our best effort and prayers. The faithful understand that these trials can either bring us closer to our Creator, or take us further away from Him. Those who turn towards God in the face of difficulty become even closer to Him. Those who turn away from God in such situations, jeopardize their relationship with God.

**Exercise 3.9: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

Just because we can not see something, does not mean it does not exist. We can not see air or love, but both of these exist in our world.

The more you try to look for God, the more you will find Him. If we never think, speak of, talk to or look for God, we can not expect to know or find Him.

**Exercise 3.10: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

Don't give up when Allah tests you with failures in life. This failure can be a health issue, loss of a job, loss of loved one or any other trial. Just as you discover who your real friends are in hard times, so too does Allah test you to find how much you love Him.

Godly people attain high status after persevering through various trials and tribulations. You cannot enter the ranks of *Saddiqin* (the Truthful) without striving hard or going through the process of spiritual purification.

**Exercise 4.1: Answer the questions below.**

**Name the 10 major religions of the world:**

Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Shinto, Taoism, Zoroastrianism

**What is the difference between an ethnic religion and a universal religion?**

**Which one is Islam?**

Some religions appeal to a specific group of people and are, therefore, called ethnic religions. Universal religions are global and appeal to all people rather than a group of people. Islam is a universal religion.

**Why is it important for Muslims to study other religions?**

Muslims believe that God sent His messengers to all the nations. For this reason, Muslims learn about comparative religious study and learn consideration for others' beliefs.

**Exercise 4.2: Answer the questions below.**

**How old is Hinduism?** c. 4,000 years

**What is the name of the Hindu supreme being?** c. Brahman

Name of Caste	Primary Jobs or careers
Brahmins	priests and scholars
Kshatriyas	kings or warriors
Vaishyas	merchants, traders, or farmers
Shudras	peasants who worked the land
Dalits	untouchables

**Match the key words to their definition:**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| -- 4 -- Brahman      | 1. The belief that everything you do in life will affect your future life |
| -- 6 -- Caste system | 2. Paying respect to gods in the form of idols                            |
| -- 1 -- Karma        | 3. Being one with God   |
| -- 5 -- Dharma       | 4. The Supreme Divine Spirit  |
| -- 3 -- Moksha       | 5. A life path of good behavior, duty and truth.                          |
| -- 7 -- Ganges       | 6. Organization of a society into a class system, based on their birth    |
| -- 2 -- Puja         | 7. The holy river for Hindus in India                                     |

**Exercise 4.3: Answer the questions below.**

**What are the Buddhist holy books called?**

b. Tripitaka

**Siddhartha Gautama Buddha was a prince who rejected the social caste system.**

a. True

**What are the Four Noble Truths?**

1. Life is suffering (includes age, illness, death, failure, separation etc.).
2. Suffering is due to attachment to wrong things.
3. Attachment can be overcome (by getting rid of human desires).
4. There is a life path to accomplish all of this.

**What is meant by the “Middle Way” in Buddhist philosophy?**

Buddha strongly preached to his followers to follow what he called the “Middle Way”. He told them to avoid both extremes. One extreme is to indulge in the pleasures and comforts of this material world and the other extreme is to starve oneself, go without sleep or inflict self-punishment.

**Match the key words to their definition:**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| __ 3 __ Nirvana       | 1. The main religious activity in Buddhism through which a person controls his self and tries to achieve Nirvana |
| __ 4 __ Stupa         | 2. Understanding the true meaning of life and truth about the world  |
| __ 1 __ Meditation    | 3. The end of all desire, ignorance and sorrow   |
| __ 2 __ Enlightenment | 4. A mound-like platform often with a Buddhist relic buried underneath it  |
| __ 6 __ The Buddha    | 5. Chanting from sacred Pali books   |
| __ 5 __ Paritta       | 6. The enlightened one   |

**Exercise 4.4: Answer the questions below.**

**What are the 5K's in Sikhism?**

Kesh, Kangha, Kara, Kirpan, Kaccha

**What is the name of the Sikhs' supreme being?** Vahiguru

**What is the name of the Sikh holy books?**

a. Adi Granth & Guru Granth Sahib

**Choose true or false for each statement.**

Guru Nanak is the founder of the Sikh religion.

True

False

Sikhism promotes idol worship.

True

False

Singh means lion.

True

False

Sikh temples are called pagodas.

True

False

Pilgrimages are a big part of the Sikh faith.

True

False

Sikhs believe in one God.

True

False

**Exercise 4.5: Answer the questions below.**

**How many people follow Judaism?** 12 Million

**The father of Judaism is:**

c. Prophet Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>

**What is the holy book for the Jews?**

d. None of the above

**What is the holy city for the Jews?**

c. Jerusalem

**The Jewish people are still waiting for:**

a. A messiah prophesized in the Old Testament

**Choose true or false for each statement.**

The central doctrine of Judaism is the Unity of God.

True

False

Halal foods are those that follow the Jewish dietary guidelines.

True

False

Jewish people believe that Jesus was a false prophet and died on the cross.

True

False

Moses was given the 10 commandments by God on Mount Sinai according to the Jewish faith.

True

False

**Exercise 4.6: Answer the questions below.**

**How does Christianity rank in world religions?**

Christianity is the faith with the largest following in the world.

**Who were the parents of Jesus?**

Hadrat Maryam was the mother of Jesus, but he had no biological father

**What was the religion of Jesus? What parts of the Mosaic Law did he stress more on during his ministry in Palestine?**

Jesus was raised in a Jewish family. Jesus' teachings emphasized the gentler elements of the Mosaic teachings and condemned the rigid, often cruel, application of the Law.

**Atonement means:**

a. Forgiveness of all men through the death of Jesus Christ.

**Jesus was crucified by:**

b. The Romans

**What is the holy book for Christians?**

c. The Holy Bible

**Jesus was considered a rebel because he:**

d. All of the above

**Exercise 4.7: Complete the review questions below.**

**How many sects of Islam are there and what are the 2 main branches?**

73 sects. Shias and Sunnis

**What percentage of the Muslim population is Sunni? 85%**

**Sunni Muslims recognize the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and what other institution that Shia Muslims do not?**

Khulafa Rashidun

**What role do Shia Muslims assign to Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup>?**

Shias believe Hadrat Ali<sup>ra</sup> was the only the legitimate successor to the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>.

**What are the three things that differentiate Ahmadi Muslim beliefs from other Muslim groups?**

The finality of Hadrat Muhammad<sup>sa</sup>'s prophethood

Jesus Christ<sup>as</sup>'s ascension to heaven

The Identity of the Promised Messiah



**The word Khataman-Nabiyeen means:**

b. The seal of the prophets

**According to Ahmadi Muslims, where is the last resting place of Jesus<sup>as</sup>?**

b. Srinagar, India

**According to Sunni & Shia Muslims what happened to Jesus<sup>as</sup>?**

d. Both b and c

**The majority of Muslims believe that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> will be:**

a. Jesus<sup>as</sup> himself

**Exercise 4.8: Complete the review questions below.**

**Which religion believes in reincarnation?**

b. Hinduism

**What does Trinity mean? Which religion centers around this concept?**

The Trinity is a Christian belief. Christians believe that God can be seen in three forms—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Hindus believe in one universal spirit called:**

c. Brahman

**Buddhists follow the teachings of Gautama Buddha. Gautama Buddha's religion by birth (before he formed his own religious beliefs) was:**

c. Hinduism

**Islam teaches us to:**

a. Believe in all the Prophets sent by God.

**Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to atone the sins of humanity.**

a. True

**Which religion believes in the caste system?**

c. Hinduism

**Early Christians who were true followers of Jesus Christ believed in one God and worshipped the one God only.**

a. True

**Buddhism focuses on purifying the mind by following The Four Noble Truths.**

a. True

**Which sect of Islam believes that Jesus was NOT physically resurrected to heaven?**

a. Ahmadi

**Exercise 4.9: Identify the concepts listed below as Judaic, Christian, Islamic or all three.**

Belief in the Old Testament	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Belief in the Unity of God	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Jesus is an honored figure in these faiths	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Belief that Hadrat Ibrahim <sup>as</sup> is the chief of all Prophets	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Recognizes Jesus <sup>as</sup> as the Son of God	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Belief in one God who has three different forms	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Belief that the birth of Jesus <sup>as</sup> is miraculous in nature	Judaic	Christian	Islamic
Recognize Muhammad <sup>sa</sup> as a prophet	Judaic	Christian	Islamic

**Exercise 4.10: Choose the correct answer from the questions below.**

Prophet Muhammad <sup>sa</sup> was given glad tidings of entering paradise during his life time.	True	False
Mubashsharah means a person with good news.	True	False
The Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> is a part of Ashrah Mubashsharah.	True	False
All four of the Khulafa Rashidun are part of the Ashrah Mubashsharah.	True	False
Ashrah is an Arabic word for...	One	Ten

**This companion was married to sister of Hadrat Umar<sup>ra</sup>.**

b. Hadrat Sa'eed ibn-Zaid<sup>ra</sup>

**Exercise 4.11: Complete the following questions.**

**Masjid an-Nabawi is in city of Mecca.**

b. False

**Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> is buried in the Masjid an-Nabawi.**

a. True

**This is the holiest mosque for Muslim:**

a. Masjid Al-Haram

**Our holiest mosque is in city of:**

d. Mecca

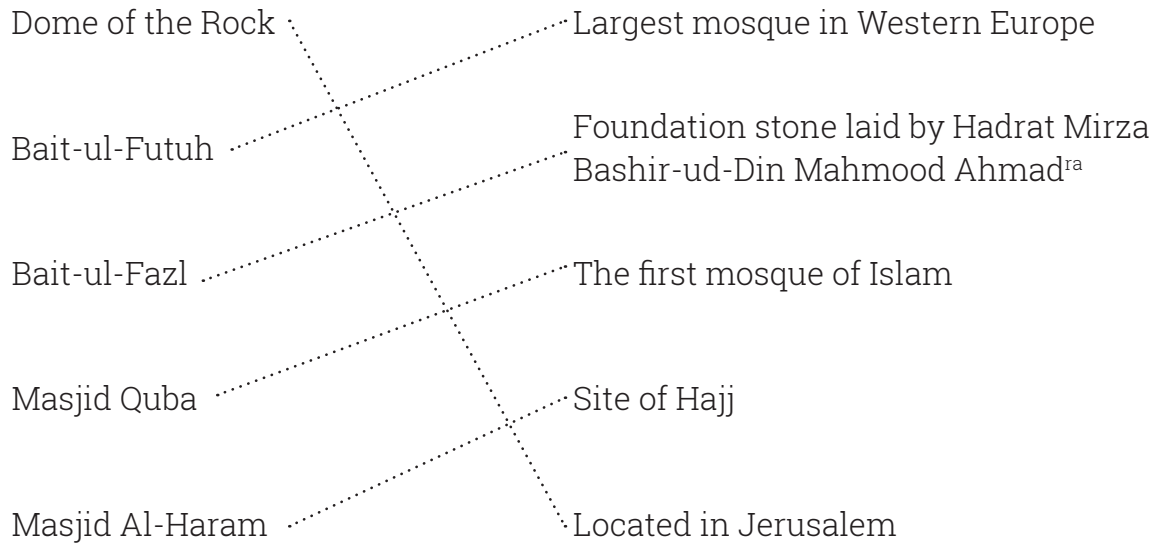
**Before Allah commanded the Muslims to pray in the direction of the Ka'bah, they used to pray towards the:**

b. Rock of the Dome

**The first Ahmadi Muslim mosque is located in:**

c. Qadian, India

**Exercise 4.12: Match the mosque to its correct description.**



**Exercise 4.13: Choose the correct location or artifact for the descriptions provided.**

First house of worship built by Hadrat Adam <sup>as</sup> for the worship of One God.	Ka'bah	Qibla	Dome of the Rock
Place where Hadrat Abu Bakr <sup>ra</sup> and the Holy Prophet <sup>sa</sup> hid during their migration.	Cave Thaur	Cave Hira	Cave Hira
A well located inside the Masjid Al Haram.	Mina	Qibla	Zamzam
A special black stone embedded in a corner of the Ka'bah.	Al-Hajar-ul-Aswad	Hijrat Medina	Hoshiarpur
The Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> was given the glad tidings of a Promised Son after 40 days of prayers in this city.	Qadian	Hoshiarpur	Rabwah
Location of Minarat-ul-Masih and Masjid Mubarak.	Qadian	Hoshiarpur	Rabwah
Town in Pakistan where the second & third Khalifatul-Masih are laid to rest.	Rabwah	Punjab	Karachi
The farewell address of the Holy Prophet <sup>sa</sup> was given here.	Mount Hira	Mount Arafat	Karbala

**Exercise 4.14: Complete the following questions.**

**Qadian is holiest place for Muslims.**

b. False

**Ijtima is annual gathering of all jamaat members.**

b. False

**Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated to remind us about sacrifice of this prophet:**

b. Prophet Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>

**Umrah is mandatory for all Muslims during their lifetime.**

b. False

**Minarat-ul-Masih is located in:**

b. Qadian

**Stoning in Mina is a required activity for completion of Hajj.**

a. True

**10th of Muharram is known for:**

b. Martyrdom of Hadrat Husain<sup>ra</sup>

**The last month of the Islamic calendar is called:**

a. Dhul-Hijjah

**Qadian was also called:**

c. Both a & b

**Mecca and Medina are in the country of:**

b. Saudi Arabia

## Part II

**Exercise 2.7: Answer the questions below.**

**Use the commentary of the Holy Qur'an and research when this surah was revealed.**

This surah was revealed very early at Mecca.

**Four symbols were mentioned in this surah which represent four periods of evolution in human history. Complete the following table with this information.**

Symbol	Period of Evolution
The Fig	Hadrat Adam <sup>as</sup>
The Olive	Hadrat Nuh <sup>as</sup>
Mount Sinai	Hadrat Musa <sup>as</sup>
Town of Security	Birth place of Islam

**Exercise 2.10: Fill in the blanks.**

Surely, we sent it down in the \_\_ **Night** \_\_ of \_\_ **Destiny** \_\_.

The Night of Destiny is better than a \_\_ **thousand months** \_\_.

It is \_\_ **all peace** \_\_ till the rising of the dawn.

**Exercise 2.12: Complete the translation below using the words in the word bank below.**

O our Lord, grant us of our \_\_ **spouses** \_\_ and children, the \_\_ **delight** \_\_ of our \_\_ **eyes** \_\_ and make each of us a \_\_ **leader** \_\_ for the \_\_ **righteous** \_\_.

O Allah! We make You a \_\_ **shield** \_\_ against the \_\_ **enemy** \_\_ and we seek Your \_\_ **protection** \_\_ against their \_\_ **evil designs** \_\_.

**Exercise 3.13: Complete the translation below using the words in the word bank below.**

In every matter, \_\_ **moderation** \_\_ is best.

A person may adopt his \_\_ **friend's religion** \_\_ (or way of life), hence he should \_\_ **watch** \_\_ who he \_\_ **befriends** \_\_.

**Exercise 3.14: Answer the questions with reference to passages in the book.**

**Read the first paragraph on page 140 and the hadith on page 142. What two things have we been asked repeatedly to do to honor our faith?**

1. Worship only One Allah
2. Surrender yourself completely to Allah and everything should be purely for Allah, and nothing should be considered our own possession

**Why does the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> stress the certainty of faith so much? (page 145)**

Certainty rescues one from sin and gives one strength to do good. Certainty makes one a true lover of Allah. Without certainty, one cannot come out of a dark life, nor can one attain the Holy Spirit.

These words mean when we are confident in our faith, we make better daily decisions about situations. When we are underconfident about our faith, we may easily be moved into a path of vices and ills. In order to remain on the good path, it is necessary to be firmly resolved in your belief.

**Exercise 3.15: Answer the question with reference to passages in the book.**

**What are the six obligations that a Muslim has towards other Muslims? (page 155)**

Every Muslim has six obligations with regard to other Muslims:

1. When he meets him, he should say 'Assalamo Alaikum'
2. When one sneezes, he should say, 'Yarhamukumullah' [may Allah have mercy on you]
3. When he is sick, he should visit him
4. When one calls him for help, he responds to him
5. When one dies, he comes to his funeral
6. And he desires for them what he desires for himself, and even in his absence he wishes him well

**Exercise 3.16: Answer the questions with reference to passages in the book.**

**The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> believes that his blessings are a result of what actions? (page 181)**

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> believes that his blessings are purely as a result of the Grace of Allah and not due to any actions that he has taken. In this way, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> gives Allah all the praise and considers himself to be just a resource through which God's commands are being carried out. It is a sign of humility and meekness.

**What does it mean to shatter the cross? (page 183)**

It means to find holes in the Christian doctrine which would cause people to understand that their belief in this doctrine is unwarranted. It did not mean,



ever, that one person would go around physically shattering all the crosses of the world.

**Exercise 3.17: What is the worst effect of using drugs?**

The worst effect of abusing drugs is that you lose your connection with God and stray away from a path that can bring you closer to Him.

**Exercise 3.18: Which condition of bai'at reinforces the importance of modest behavior when interacting with the opposite gender?**

The second condition of bai'at reinforces Ghadd Basar or lowering of the eyes, keeping away from adultery, and fornication.

**Exercise 3.21: Choose the best answer.**

**How were Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> related?**

Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> was the nephew of Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>

**Where did Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> settle after the migration from Egypt? Why did Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> not migrate to the same place?**

During their stay in Egypt, they both had plenty of provisions and cattle. A conflict arose between the herdsman of Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>'s cattle and the herdsmen of Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup>'s cattle. Both great prophets decided that it would be better to separate in order to maintain their love and prevent further strife. Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup> migrated to Jordan and settled in Sodom and Gomorrah. Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> went to settle in Palestine.

**What three moral vices were exhibited by the people of Sodom?**

Violating divine laws about same sex relationships, highway robbery, and committing crimes openly without any shame

**When Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was warned about Allah's anger with the people of Sodom, he also received what good news?**

The angel warned Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> about God's anger, but also told Hadrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and Hadrat Sarah at this time that they would be blessed a child by Allah. This was the prophecy about Hadrat Isaac<sup>as</sup>.

**What was the punishment for the people of Sodom?**

The people of Sodom were destroyed by a terrible earthquake.

**Which member of Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup>'s family was destroyed in the punishment?**

Hadrat Lut<sup>as</sup>'s wife was among those who did not believe in Allah's punishment. When she chose to stay behind, she was destroyed in the earthquake.

**Exercise 3.22: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

You are not stronger or better because you can beat someone in a competition. You are only strong if you follow the right path and always keep Allah in your mind.

Anger is a vice mentioned even in the Holy Qur'an. It can blind a person to the reality of things, so it is best to avoid anger.

**Exercise 3.23: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

If we believe we are guided by Allah, we should not give up on our tasks. Although the path may be difficult, it is one that Allah wants you to travel.

Nothing is impossible for Allah. When it seems that the impossible has happened, Allah can still deliver us from our hardships.

Admitting to Allah that you have failed is a way of asking for forgiveness. Admit your mistakes and resolve that with Allah's help you will not indulge in that mistake again.

**Exercise 3.24: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

A person may be very powerful but Allah is the best of Planners. He can make things happen as He wills.

Pious people put their trust in Allah's word and not their own capabilities.

Allah always keeps His promises. If He is with you, no one can hurt you and if He is not with you, then no one can help you either.

**Exercise 3.25: What is the lesson learned from this story?**

Even when it seems something is impossible, remember that nothing is impossible for Allah.

Allah has the ability to change what people see in situations by using the infinite creations under His Power.

**Exercise 3.26: Complete this exercise based on the reading of pages 12-21 of the book *Our God*.**

**Advantages**

Human reasoning will make us wonder who or what created us. When we investigate this, we will find God.

A recognition of God and a strong relationship with Him is greater than all the

gains in the world.

To achieve the goal for which we have been created.

### **Disadvantages**

Being unaware of God is the greatest loss one can suffer in the world.

Your life may pass by in vain.

You will not understand your purpose in this world.

### **Exercise 3.27: List the six main advantages talked about:**

1. Belief in God creates unity and brotherhood
2. Belief in God stops one from committing evil
3. Belief in God promotes good
4. Belief in God helps in study of the reality of things
5. Belief in God brings about satisfaction of the heart
6. Belief in God sets moral standards

### **Exercise 3.28: List seven refutations for the arguments presented:**

1. Both these scenarios are beyond human comprehension since we cannot understand how something can exist by itself since eternity or since a particular time. The state of the universe and all that it contains prove that they have not existed on their own since eternity.
2. Presence of design in this universe and purpose of life argues for a Creator and a Controller.
3. Extinction of some species and survival of the others denotes an underlying wisdom and proves that there is a design and final cause for this universe and purpose of life.
4. There is a Conscious, Wise, and Omniscient Being who has the capacity and wisdom to run this universe toward a particular goal. Religious teachings about the creation of the universe and creation of human beings are not inaccurate in light of the theory of evolution.
5. God has ordained two different sets of laws for this world. One is the law of nature which relates to the organization of this universe. This comprises of the system of cause and effect and the properties of various elements. The second is the law of Shariah, which relates to the moral and spiritual aspects of man and is revealed through Prophets and Messengers, and it operates on the principle of reward and punishment that will be experienced in the life after death. The law of Shariah only determines the recompense of a good or bad deed within Shariah and has no bearing on the recompense determined by the law of nature, and vice versa.
6. There is nothing in this world that is useless and does not serve any purpose. It is due only to a lack of knowledge that man does not understand the purpose of certain things, is ignorant of their benefits, and forms his opinion after seeing some of their harmful effects.

7. The assumed possibility is far-fetched and the same applies to other possibilities understood by the Western philosophers. Thus, generally speaking, the theory of jealousy and a mental vacuum is no more than mere conjecture. To adopt an unnatural walkway in preference to a natural highway and deny God on the basis of a far-fetched possibility, is no more than wishful thinking.

**Exercise 4.15: Choose true or false for each statement below.**

Hadith is a saying of the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> .	True	<input checked="" type="radio"/> False
Mu'atta Imam Malik is the most authentic book.	True	<input checked="" type="radio"/> False
Hadith were compiled 400 years after Hijra.	True	<input checked="" type="radio"/> False
When combined, these six authentic books supersede Holy Qur'an.	True	<input checked="" type="radio"/> False
Sittah means seven.	True	<input checked="" type="radio"/> False
Mu'atta Imam Malik is part of the Sihah Sittah.	True	<input checked="" type="radio"/> False
Sunnah are the practical examples of the Holy Prophet <sup>sa</sup> .	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True	<input type="radio"/> False

**Exercise 4.16: Answer the questions below.**

**When did the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> pass away?**

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> pass away on May 26, 1908

**How many people accepted bai'at at the hands of the first khalifa of Ahmadiyyat?**

1200 people accepted bai'at at the hands of the first khalifa of Ahmadiyyat.

**Where was Khalifat-ul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> born?**

Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> was born in Bhera, Punjab

**The family of Khalifat-ul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> were descendants of whom?**

The family of Khalifat-ul-Masih I were descendants of Hadrat Umar

**What was the profession of Khalifat-ul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup>?**

Khalifatul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> was a learned scholar of Qur'anic studies, language and natural medicine. He was a physician.

**What were the roles fulfilled by Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> in Qadian?**

He taught the Holy Qur'an and Ahadith to the children of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and to hundreds of other students. He served as a teacher of the Arabic language at the Taleem-ul-Islam High School. He was appointed President of the Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya, Qadian. He contributed to the newspapers Al-Hakam and Al-Badr and completed the translation of the Holy Qur'an.

**List at least 3 accomplishments during the life of Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup>.**  
List any 3 from page 128.

**Exercise 4.17: Fill in the blanks using information given in the text.**

In 1865-66, at the age of 25, he traveled to \_\_ **Mecca** \_\_ to perform Hajj.

Khalifat-ul-Masih I<sup>ra</sup> established a school of \_\_ **Qur'anic** \_\_ and started a \_\_ **clinic** \_\_ that offered treatment in \_\_ **natural** \_\_ medicine.

Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> was the \_\_ **first** \_\_ person to take \_\_ **bai'at** \_\_ at the hands of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>.

He served as a teacher in Arabic in the \_\_ **Ta'lim-ul-Islam** \_\_ High School.

He was appointed \_\_ **President** \_\_ the Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya, Qadian.

On March 5, 1910, Hudur<sup>ra</sup> laid the foundation-stone of \_\_ **Masjid Noor** \_\_.

Hadrat Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup> passed away on \_\_ **March 13, 1914** \_\_, he was \_\_ **73** \_\_ years old.

**Exercise 4.18: Answer the questions below.**

**Who was the father of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>?**

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was the father of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>.

**How old was he when he became the second Khalifa?** 25 years old

**Why is he called the "Promised Son"?**

He was the Promised son of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> because his birth was foretold by God Almighty.

**What were some of the qualities that were foretold in the prophecy about him?**

He would be extremely intelligent and highly learned, and his fame would spread to the ends of the earth and nations would be blessed through him.

**In 1934, he established the scheme of:** Tahrik-i-Jadid

**What was the main idea behind Tahrik-i-Jadid?**

Tahrik-i-Jadid was established to promote missionary work in foreign countries. Because of this scheme, various foreign missions were opened and mosques were built.

**What was the reason for the establishment of a new center in Rabwah?**

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup> along with the Jamaat members moved from



Qadian to Pakistan after Pakistan became an independent country in August 1947.

**When was Waqf-e-Jadid established? And what was the purpose of this scheme?**

In 1957, Waqf-e-Jadid was initiated to expand missionary work to educate and impart religious training to rural population inside Pakistan.

**What are some of the accomplishments during the life of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II<sup>ra</sup>?**

See page 133/134.

**For how many years was Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> the khalifa of the Jamaat?**

Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad<sup>ra</sup> was the khalifa of the Jamaat for 52 years.

**Exercise 4.19: Answer the questions below.**

**What was the purpose of the Fadl-i-Umar Foundation?**

In 1965, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>th</sup> established the Fadl-i-Umar Foundation in memory of his father, who was named Fadl-i-Umar in a revelation of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The purpose of this foundation was to carry on all the works in which the departed khalifa had taken particular interest. The main objectives of the foundation are to assist in research work, new missionary venture, new educational effort, and economic welfare.

**What were the main objectives of the Centenary Jubilee Scheme?**

- To bring the message of Islam to the ends of the earth
- To establish additional Jamaat Mission houses
- To publish Islamic literature in 100 languages
- To install a modern printing press in Pakistan
- To establish a radio station in an African country
- To translate the Holy Qur'an into 6 languages

**When were Ahmadi Muslims declared non-Muslims?**

On Sep 7, 1974, The National Assembly of Pakistan passed an amendment to the Constitution, which declared the Ahmadis in Pakistan to be non-Muslims.

**What was the name of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and how did he die?**

The Prime Minister of Pakistan was Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who used to take great pride for declaring Ahmadi Muslims as non-Muslims. He met a horrific end on July 5, 1977. He was removed from office by General Zia-ul Haq and then was hanged on April 4, 1979.



**Which prophecy of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was fulfilled during the Khilafat of Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup>?**

"Kings will seek blessings from your garments." This prophecy was first fulfilled during the time of the Khilafat of Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> in the person of Sir Singhate who was elected Governor General of Gambia, West Africa. When he was elected to this prestigious office, he earnestly prayed for some time. Then he informed Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> that he wanted to obtain blessings from the garments of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Accordingly, a piece of the clothing was sent to him from Rabwah.

**How long was the Khilafat of Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup>?**

The Khilafat of Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> lasted for 17 years

**Exercise 4.20: Circle True or False for the statements below.**

Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad <sup>rh</sup> was the grandson of Hadrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad <sup>ra</sup> .	True	<input checked="" type="radio"/> False
He obtained the degree Shahid (Religious Scholar) from Punjab University.	True	<input checked="" type="radio"/> False
He was born in Qadian.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True	False
The first international bai'at (pledge of allegiance) took place in 1993.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True	False
Waqf-e-Nau scheme was started by Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad <sup>rh</sup> .	True	<input checked="" type="radio"/> False
MTA stands for a 24-hour television station run by the Jamaat.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True	False
"Da'wat Ilallah", means calling people to Allah.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True	False

**Exercise 4.21: Complete the following short answer questions.**

**Why did Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> leave Pakistan?**

Another wave of violence, persecution and severe restrictions against the Ahmadis started, which culminated in Ordinance 20 on April 26, 1984. Under this ordinance, Ahmadi Muslims were not allowed to recite the Holy Qur'an, Salat, Kalimah or even say As-Salamu 'Alaikum to anyone. Violating Ordinance 20 triggered the imposition of fines, imprisonment, and death. Thousands of Ahmadi Muslims were jailed. It became increasingly difficult to safeguard the institution of Khilafat in Pakistan in view of the new restrictions. Due to all these reasons Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup> left Pakistan.

**What is a mubahala?**

Mubahala is a prayer contest. This meant that by offering prayers for God's

judgment, God would inflict His sign of wrath on the liar.

**What happened because of the mubahala?**

On August 17th, 1988, General Zia-ul-Haq's plane blew up in the sky and everyone on board died.

**What mistake did General Zia-ul-Haq make in his letter?**

General Zia ul Haq sent a letter to all seaports and airports stating that "Mirza Nasir Ahmad" instead of "Mirza Tahir Ahmad" not be allowed to leave Pakistan.

**Due to Ordinance 20 what difficulties were faced by Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan?**

Under this ordinance, Ahmadi Muslims were not allowed to recite the Holy Qur'an, Salat, Kalimah or even say As-Salamu 'Alaikum to anyone. Violating Ordinance 20 triggered the imposition of fines, imprisonment and death. Thousands of Ahmadi Muslims were jailed.

**How was the following prophecy fulfilled, "I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth"?**

For the first time in the history of Ahmadiyyat and Islam, a Friday sermon was transmitted live to the world through MTA, thus fulfilling the revelation of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, "I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth" – in an entirely new way.

**Exercise 4.22: Complete the following short answer questions.**

**When and where was Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> born?**

Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> was born on September 15, 1950, in Rabwah, Pakistan.

**Where did he receive his primary education?**

Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> received his primary education at Taleem-ul-Islam High School Rabwah.

**Which country did he go to after devoting his life for the service of Islam?**

He went to Ghana.

**What was his biggest achievement in Ghana?**

He was the founding principal of the Ahmadiyya Secondary School in Salaga.

**What was the reason for his arrest in 1999?**

He was arrested on the false charges of 'Blasphemy' and 'Disturbance of Public Order', as part of the growing wave of persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan.

**When was he elected as a khalifa?**

He was elected as khalifa on April 22, 2003.

**How did Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> respond to the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims?**

His Holiness instructed Ahmadi Muslims worldwide to respond only through prayers and entirely peaceful means. Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup> expressly forbade any violence.

**What can we do to promote peace in the world?**

We can promote peace in the world through prayers and entirely peaceful means.

**Exercise 4.23: Review of Khulafa-e-Ahmadiyyat.**

**Write the names of the Khalifatul-Masih in chronological order.**

1. Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih I Al Hajj Hafiz Hakeem Maulana Nooruddin<sup>ra</sup>
2. Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad<sup>ra</sup>
3. Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih III Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup>
4. Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV Mirza Tahir Ahmad<sup>rh</sup>
5. Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V Mirza Masroor Ahmad<sup>aba</sup>



# **Glossary**

**Abū Bakr** ابوبكر : The first successor to the Holy Prophet, Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be on him.

**Abū Dāwūd** ابو داود : A collection of Ahadith. The compiler of this collection.

**Aḥādīth** احاديث : Plural of ḥadīth.

**Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Bashīr-ud-Dīn Maḥmūd (1889-1965)** حضرت مرزا بشير الدين محمود احمد : Second successor (1914-1965) to the Promised Messiah, peace be on him.

**Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām (1835-1908)** حضرت مرزا غلام احمد : **peace be on him**: The Promised Messiah. Claimed to be the Second Advent of Jesus.

**Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor (1950-...)** حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد : **may Allah strengthen him with His mighty support**: Fifth successor (2003-...) to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

**Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Nāṣir (1909-1982)** حضرت مرزا ناصر احمد : **Allah's mercy be on him**: Third successor (1965-1982) to the Promised Messiah, peace be on him.

**Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ṭāhir (1928-2003)** حضرت مرزا طاہر احمد : **Allah's mercy be on him**: Fourth successor (1982-2003) to the Promised Messiah, peace be on him.

**‘Alaihis-Salām** عليه السلام : may peace be on him.

**‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib** علي ابن ابي طالب : The fourth successor to the Holy Prophet, Muhammad, his cousin and son-in-law.

**Allāh** الله : The one and only God.

**Āmīn [Āmeen, Aameen]** آمين : So be it. Amen. Ceremony to commemorate the completion of the first reading of the Holy Quran.

**Ansar, Anṣār** انصار : Plural of nasir. Helpers. Medinites who helped and supported the Holy Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, and the Muslim immigrants from Mecca. Members of Majlis Ansarullah. Anṣār is already a plural so it will be wrong to add an s to it (anṣārs) to make its plural.

**Anṣārullāh, Anṣār Allāh** انصار الله : Helpers of Allāh.

**‘Arafāt** عرفات : ‘Arafat (‘a-ra-faat). A place to the east of Mecca that is part of pilgrimage rites.

**‘Ashrah Mubashshirah** عشره مبشره ‘Ashrah Mubashshirah (‘ash-rah mu-bash-shi-rah) : Ten Sahaba given the tidings of paradise.

**As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum** السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ : May peace be upon you (The formation assalam-o or assalam-u is incorrect as there is no waw و after mīm م, hence the abbreviation AoA or A.O.A. or A-o-A is also incorrect.)

**As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum Wa Raḥmatullāh** السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ : Peace be with you and blessings of Allāh.

**Aṭfāl** اطفال : children. Plural of ṭifl. Members of Majlis Aṭfāl-ul-Ahmadiyya.

**Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya (MAA)**: established on July 26, 1940.

**Ayyadahullāhu Ta‘ālā Bi-Naṣrihil-‘Azīz** اَيَّدَهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى بِنَصْرِهِ الْعَزِيزِ : May Allah, the Exalted, support him with His Mighty help.

**Bai‘at** بَيْعَت : pledge of initiation, covenant of association. Entering the pledge of allegiance with the Ahmadiyya Khilāfat. pledging of allegiance.

**bait** بيت : house

**bait** بيت : couplet (poetry)

**Behishtī Maqbarah** بهشتی مقبره : heavenly graveyard. Graveyard established by the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

**Bukhārī:** بخارى : The most reliable source of the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, peace and blessings of Allāh be on him.

**Darwaish. Dervesh. Darvesh. Dervish.** درویش : mendicant. calender. saint. In the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, 313 members who volunteered to abide in Qadian in life threatening circumstances after Indo-Pak partition (August 1947) to protect and safeguard the sacred heritage of the Community.

**darveshān** درویشان: plural of darwaish. See derwaish.

**Dhū al-Ḥijjah, Dhul-Ḥijjah** ذو الحجة : A month in Islamic lunar calendar. Also Dhu al-Ḥajjah, Dhul-Ḥajjah . ذو الحجة .

**Dhū al-Qa‘dah, Dhul-Qa‘dah** ذو القعدة , **Dhul-Qa‘dah:** A month in Islamic lunar calendar. Also Dhū al-Qi‘dah, Dhul-Qi‘dah . ذو القعدة .

**Dhū al-Qi‘dah, Dhul-Qi‘dah** ذو القعدة : A month in Islamic lunar calendar. Also Dhū al-Qa‘dah, Dhul-Qa‘dah.

**Eid** عيد: See ‘Īd

**Eid-ul-Adha:** See ‘Īd-ul-Adha

**Eid-ul-Fitr:** See ‘Īd-ul-Fitr

**Ḥadīth** حديث : Saying of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, ṣallallāhu ‘alaihi wa sallam. a verified account of a statement or action of the Prophet Muhammad. Plural Aḥādīth.

**Ḥaḍrat** حضرت[Hadhrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

**Ḥajj** حج : Formal pilgrimage to Mecca during appointed time of the year.

**Al-Ḥajar-ul-Aswad** الْحَجَرُ الْأَسْوَد : The Black Stone.

**Ḥalāl** حلال: lawful

**Ḥurūf** حُرُوف : characters

**Husain Ḥaḍrat** حضرت حسين : son of Ḥaḍrat ‘Alī (may Allah be pleased with both)

**Ijtimā‘, Ijtemā** اجتماع: Rally.

**‘Īd** عيد : Muslim religious celebration, festival. Eid.

**‘Īdul-Aḍḥā** عيد الاضحي : Festival of sacrifices

**‘Īd-ul-Fiṭr, ‘Īd al-Fiṭr** عيد الفطر : Celebration at the end of Ramaḍān.

**‘Īd mubarak** عيد مبارك : Felicitation of ‘Īd.

**Islām** إسلام : submission. Name of the religion introduced by Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be on him, in A.D. 610.

**Jalsa Salāna** جلسة سالانه: Annual Convention

**Jamā‘at, Jamā‘ah** جماعت: Community, Organization. community of believers.

**jāmi‘** جامع: comprehensive, inclusive, universal, generic, general, mosque, compiler, author, writer, typesetter

**Jāmi‘a Ahmadiyya** جامعہ احمدیہ: Ahmadiyya University, training missionaries from members who have devoted their lives for the service of Islam.

**Ka‘ba** (sukūn on ‘ain) كعبه : a cube. House of God in Mecca. Also Ka‘aba (fatha on ‘ain) and Kaaba.

**Kauthar** كوثر: A fountain in paradise.



**Khalīfatul-Masīḥ, Khalīfat-ul-Masīḥ خَلِيفَةُ الْمَسِيح**: Successor to Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad of Qadian (1835-1908), the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him.

**Khātaman-Nabiyyīn (as appears i the Holy Qur’ān; otherwise Khātamun-Nabiyyīn) خَاتَمُ النَّبِيِّينَ**: Seal of the prophets. Best of the prophets. Muḥammad, peace and blessings of Allāh be on him.

**Khilāfat خلافت** : Succession

**Khuddām خدام** : Plural of khādim. Servants, attendants. Member of Majlis Khuddāmul-Aḥmadiyyah.

**Khuddāmul-Aḥmadiyya خدام الاحمدية**: see Majlis Khuddāmul-Aḥmadiyyah

**Lajnah Imā’illāh لجنة اماء الله** : Committee of bondmaids of Allāh. Organization of Ahmadi Muslim ladies above 15 years of age.

**Majlis مجلس** : Society, organization.

**Majlis Anṣārullāh مَجْلِسُ أَنْصَارِ اللَّهِ (Literal meaning: Organization of Helpers of God)**: The organization of all Ahmadi men over 40 years of age.

**Majlis Aṭfāl-ul-Aḥmadiyya (society of Aḥmadi children) مجلس اطفال الاحمدية** The organization of all Aḥmadi boys between 7 and 14.

**Majlis Khuddāmul-Aḥmadiyya مَجْلِسُ خُدَّامِ الْأَحْمَدِيَّةِ (Organization of Servants of Ahmadiyyat)**: The organization of all Ahmadi men from 16 to 40 years of age.

**Masjid Nabawi مسجد نبوي** : Mosque of the Prophet. The mosque built by Muḥammad in Madinah, Arabia, after his migration there.

**Muhājirīn مهاجرين**: immigrants. Muhājirūn.

**Muḥammad مُحَمَّد**: Praiseworthy, commendable, laudable. Holy Prophet and founder of Islām (571-632), peace and blessings of Allāh be on him.

**Muṣliḥ Mau‘ūd, Muṣliḥ-i-Mau‘ūd, Musleh Mau‘ood: مُصْلِحُ مَوْعُود (The Promised Reformer)**: Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Bashīr-ud-Dīn Maḥmūd Aḥmad (1889-1965), Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II, raḍiyallāhu ‘anhu, who fulfilled the prophesy of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, about the advent of a Reformer.

**Muslim مسلم**: A follower of the religion of Islam. A book of Ḥaḍīth, second in the six most authentic compilations.

**Nāsirāt ناصرات** : helpers (feminine). A member of Majlis Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya, association of young Ahmadi girls.

**Nizārat نظارت** : Supervisory organization.

**Qadi قاضى** : judge

**Qiblah ( قبله )**: direction to face, for Muslims, when they worship.

**Qur’ān, Quran, Koran قُرْآن**: recitation, a book most read. The Holy Book revealed to Muḥammad, ṣallallāhu ‘alaihi wa sallam, in Arabic over 23 years.

**Radiyallahu ‘Anhu (ra-di-yal-laa-hu ‘an-hu)** : may Allāh be pleased with him – used with the names of companions of the Holy Prophetsa or the Promised Messiahas.

**Rahimahullahu ‘Alaihi (ra-hi-ma-hul-laa-hu ‘a-lai-hi)** : may Allāh have mercy on him – used for other holy personages.

**raka‘āt رَكَعَات**: Plural of rak‘at

**rak‘at, rak ‘ah رَكْعَة**: A section of the prescribed Prayer. Plural: raka‘āt

**Ramaḍān (Ramadhān, Ramazān, Ramzān) رَمَضَان**: Islamic lunar month ascribed for prescribed fasting.

**ṣadaqah** صدقه: alms

**Sadr ṣadr** صدر: president.

**Ṣalāt** صَلَوة: Formal Prayer offered according to a prescribed procedure. Thus, Ṣalātut-Tahajjud, Ṣalātul-Fajr, Ṣalātuz-Zuhr, Ṣalātul-‘Asr, Ṣalātul-Maghrib, Ṣalātul-‘Ishā.

**ṣallallāhu ‘alaihi wa sallam** (sal-lal-laa-hu ‘a-lai-hi wa sal-lam) صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: peace and blessings of Allah be on him, whenever the Holy Prophet Muhammad is mentioned.

**Sa’y** سَعَى (sa’y): Hurrying between the hills of Safa and Marwa honoring the memory of Hagar

**Sūrah** سُورَة: A chapter of the Holy Qur’ān. There are 114 Sūrahs (chapters)—of various lengths—in the Holy Qur’ān.

**Tahrik-i-Jadid, Tahrik Jadid, Tahreek Jadeed, Tahreek-i-Jadeed** تحريك جديد: new scheme. A scheme among Ahmadi Muslims started by their second successor to arrange for propagation in countries other than the subcontinent of India.

**Tirmidhī** ترمذی: Tirmidhi’s collection of Ahadith.

**Uḥud** أُحُد: Place where the second battle with Meccans took place.

**Uthmān (Osman, Usman, Othman)** عَثْمَان: Third successor to the Holy Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alaihi wa sallam.

**Waqf-i-Āridī** وَقْفٍ عَارِضِي: Temporary Devotion

**Waqf-i-Jadid, Waqf Jadid, Waqf-i-Jadeed, Waqf Jadeed** وَقْفٌ جَدِيدٌ: New Devotion. A scheme among the Ahmadiyya community to arrange for the educational and medical support of the people of the less endowed countries of the world.





## **A Righteous Man Leaves an Impact on His Children**

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> states:

“A righteous man leaves an impact on his children and they also benefit from him. The fact of the matter is that even if he were to die, he won’t be forgotten.

Prophet Davis (as) states that I have lived my whole life: from childhood, to become a young man, to know being old. I have never met someone who is a true worshipper of God ever in a state of helplessness. I have never seen that his children have been left to fend for themselves, have nothing and go around begging. God takes on the responsibility of their care upon Himself. It is mentioned in the Hadith that a wrongdoer not only harms himself, but his family as well. They also are negatively impacted by his wrong doings.”

(Malfoozat Vol 1 pg 117)



**Tahir Academy USA**

Home of Atfal and Nasirat

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