

# **Aqaid** **(Beliefs)**



# Lesson 1

## Usul ad-Din

For a tree to be strong and healthy it needs strong roots. Islam is like a tree. And it has five strong roots. In Arabic, roots are called Usul and religion is called Din. So the five roots of our religion are called Usul ad-Din ('The Roots of Religion').

### The Five Usul ad-Din

1. Tawhid
2. Adālah
3. Nubuwwah
4. Imāmah
5. Qiyāmah

What do these five roots of religion mean?

## The meaning of the Five Usul ad-Din

**Tawhid:** Means there is no god but Allāh.

**Adālah:** Means Allāh is Just and He never does wrong to anyone.

**Nubuwwah:** Means Allāh sent 124,000 Anbiya (Prophets) to guide us

**Imāmah:** There are 12 Imāms after the Last Prophet – Rasulullāh (s) – to guide us and to teach us the Qur'ān.

**Qiyāmah:** Means after the world ends, there will be a final Day of Judgement (Yaum al-Qiyāmah). On this Day, Allāh will bring everyone back to life and judge everyone if they were good or bad in this world. The good will then go to Jannah (Paradise) and live there forever and the evil will go to Jahannam (Hellfire).

## Revision: The Kalima

Do you now know the Kalima?

لا إله إلا الله

Lā ilāha ilallāh

There is no god but Allāh

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Muhammadur Rasulullāh  
Muhammad is the Messenger of Allāh

عَلِيٌّ وَكَلِيٌّ اللَّهِ

Aliyyun Waliyullāh  
Ali is a Special Friend of Allāh

وَصِيٌّ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ

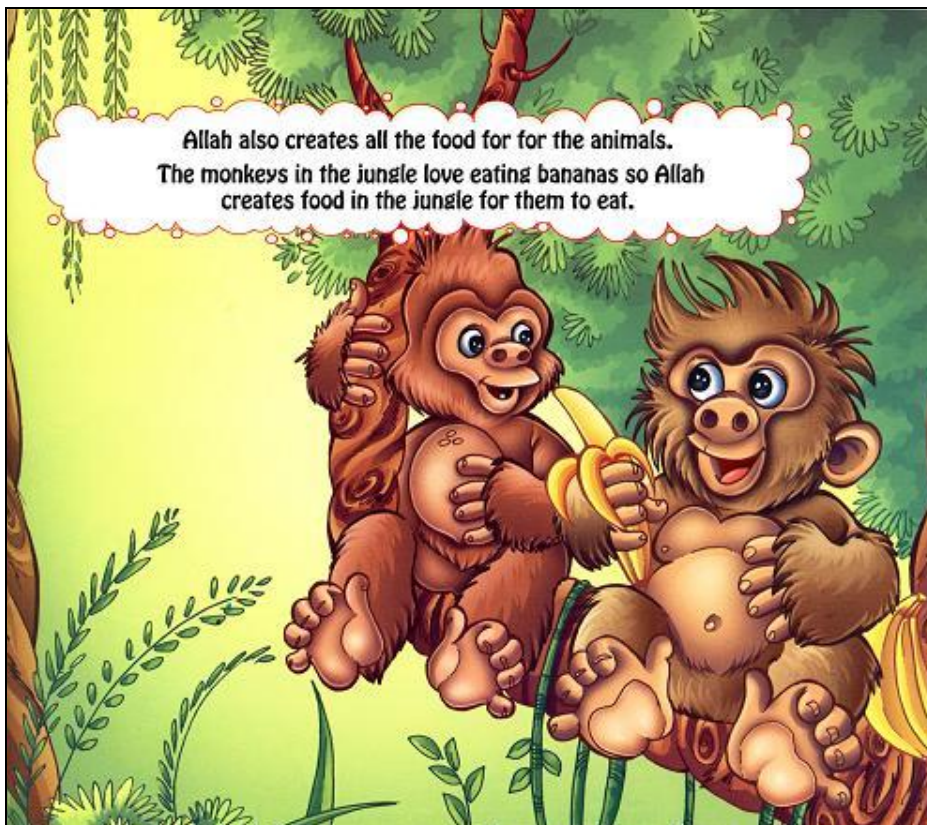
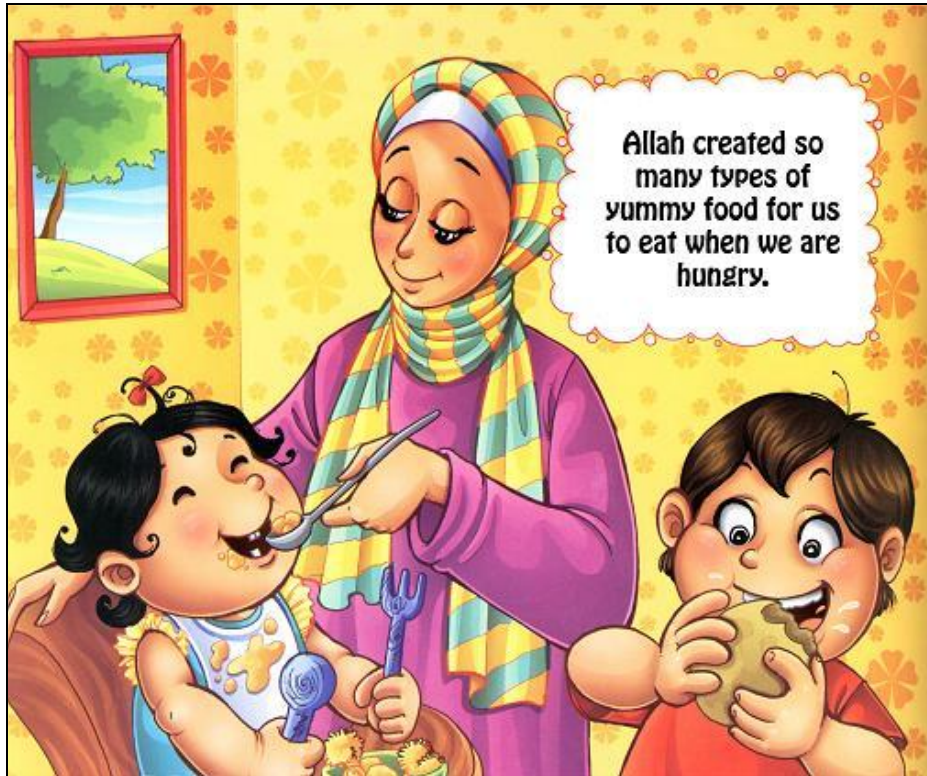
Wasiyyu Rasulillāh  
Ali is the representative of Rasulullāh

وَ خَلِيفَتُهُ بِلا فَصْلٍ

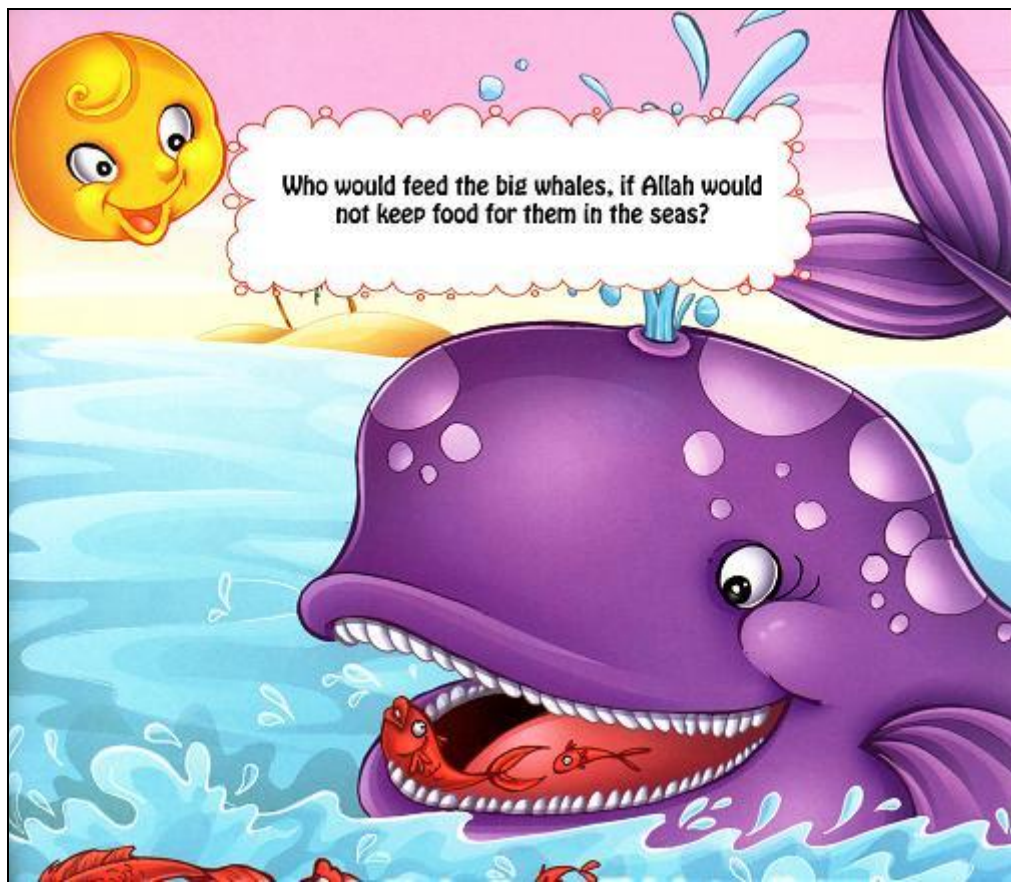
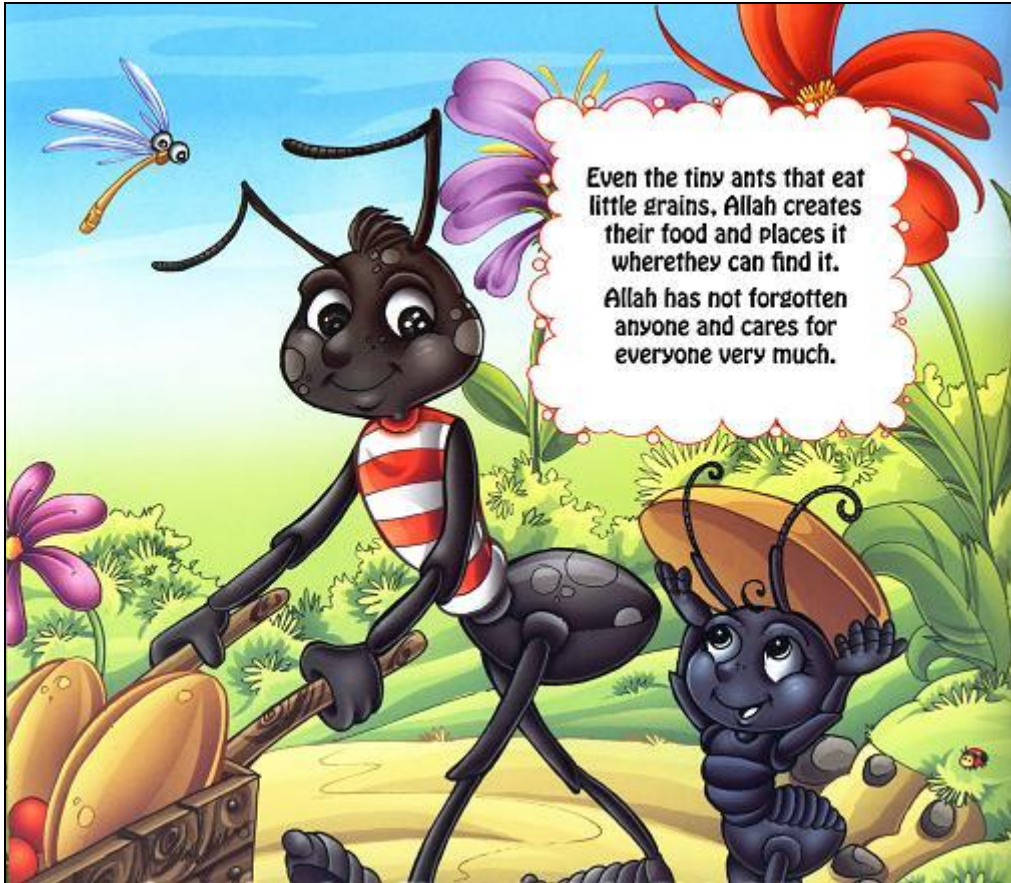
Wa Khalifatahu bilā fasi  
and his immediate successor

## Lesson 2

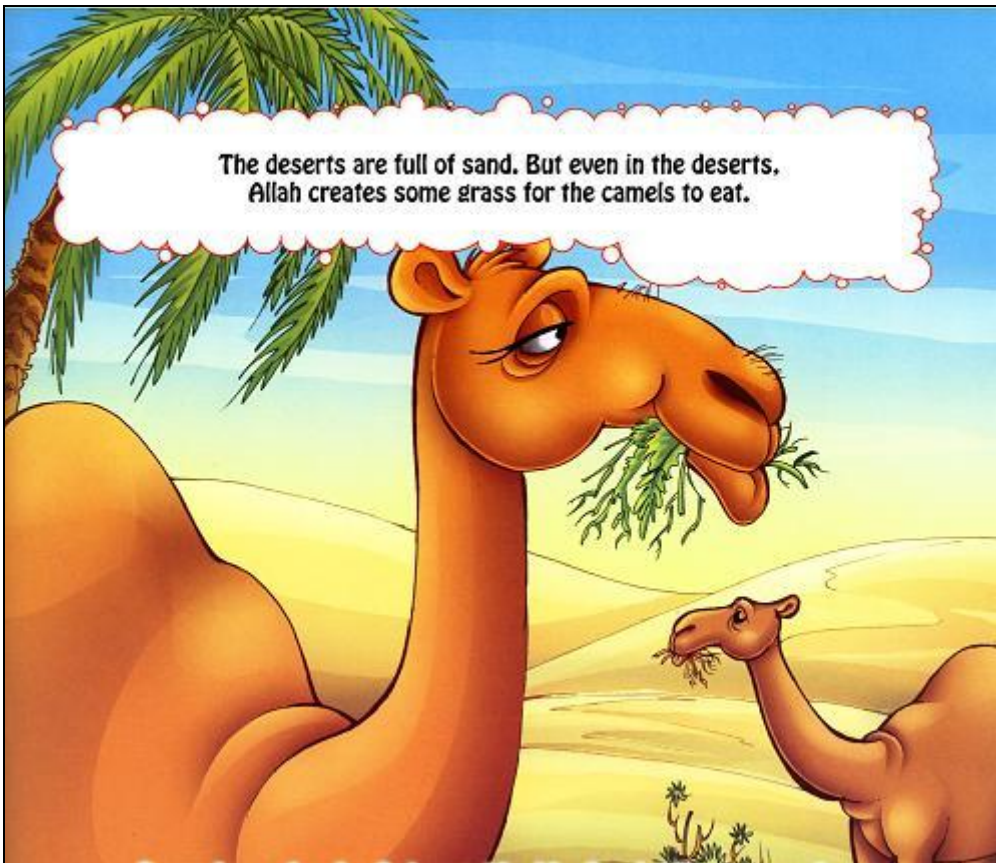
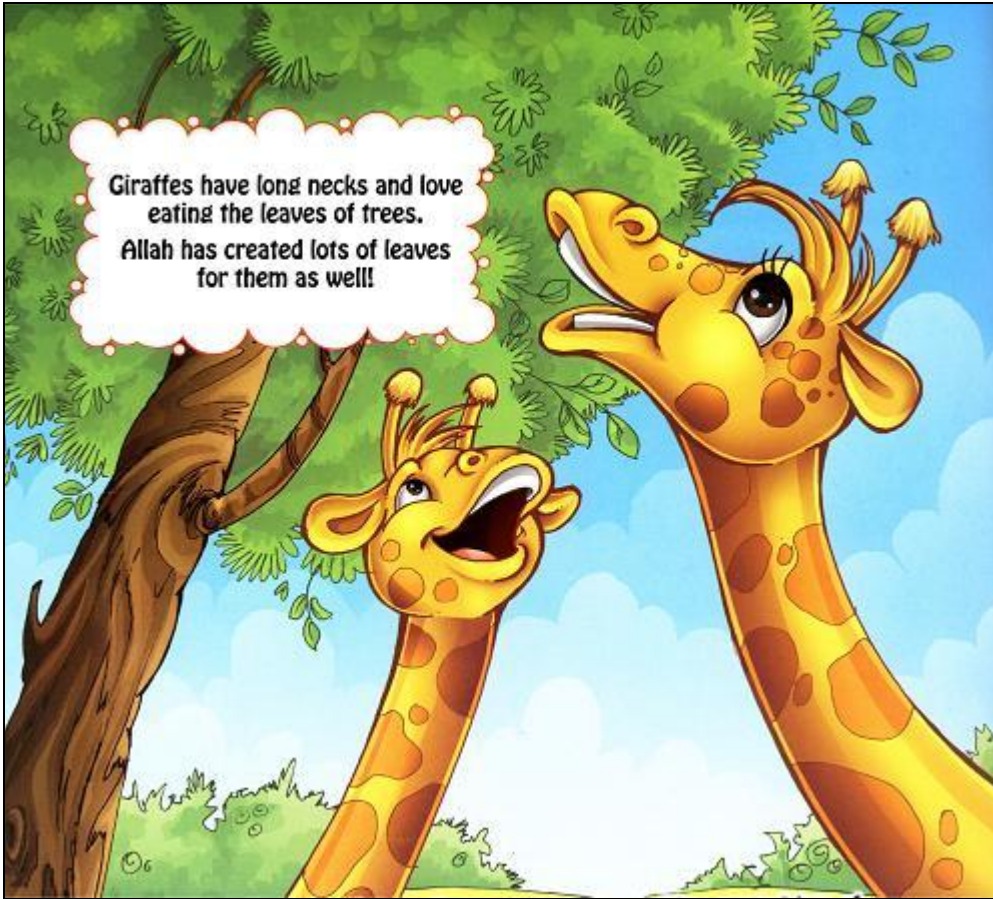
# Allah Feeds Everyone



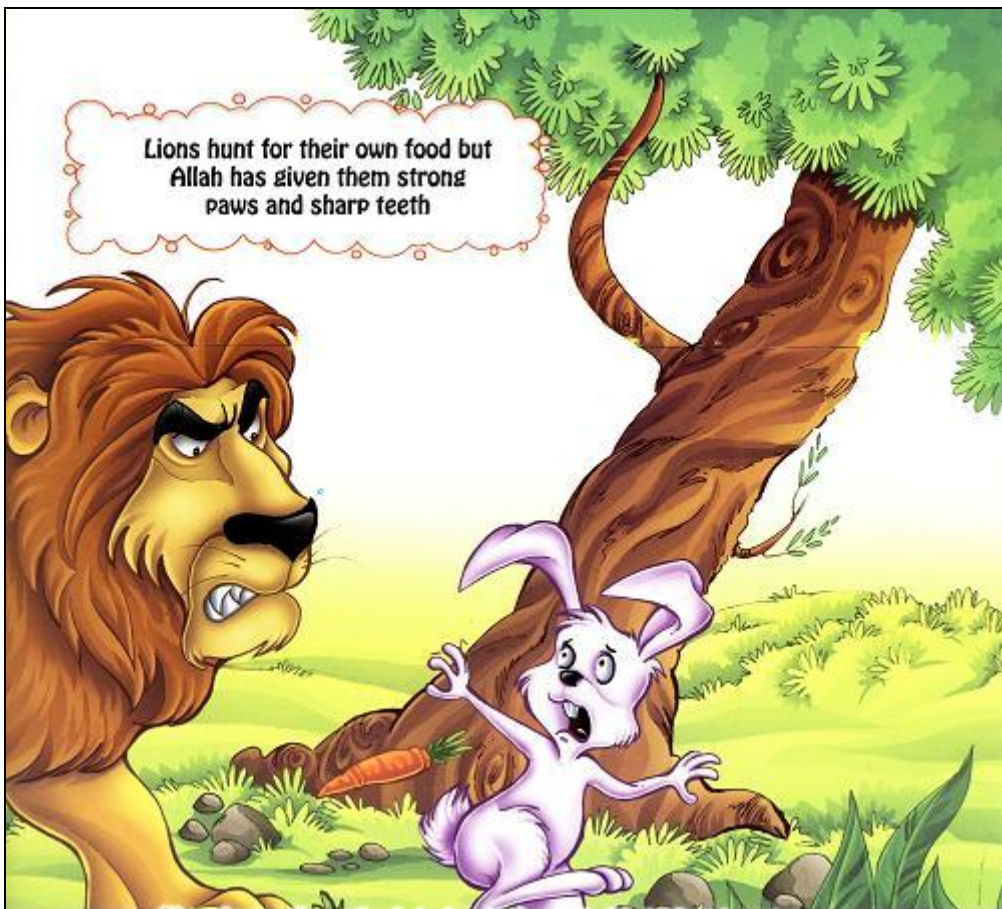
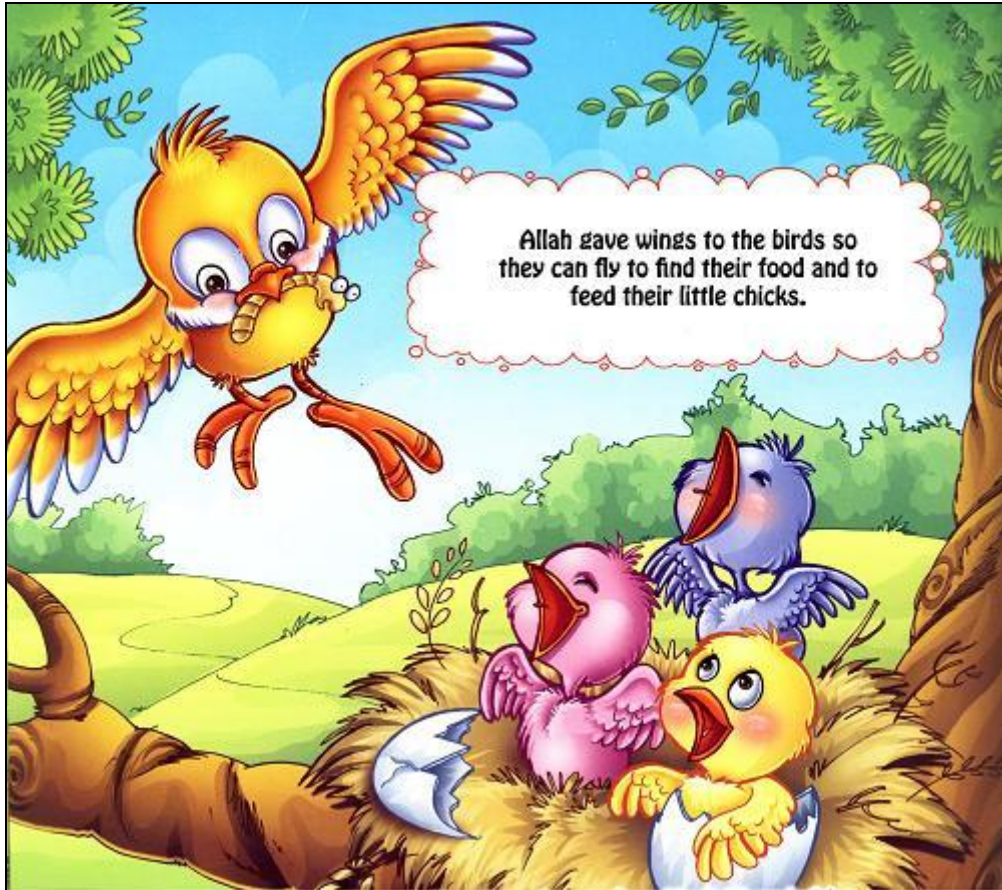




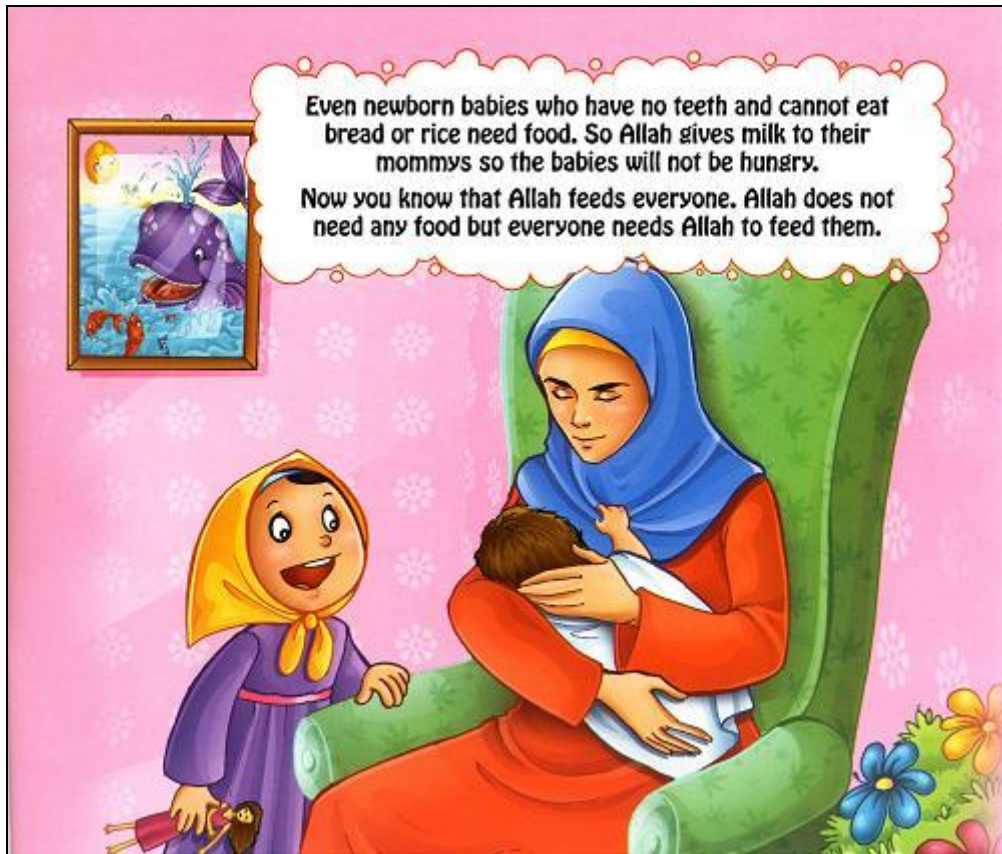
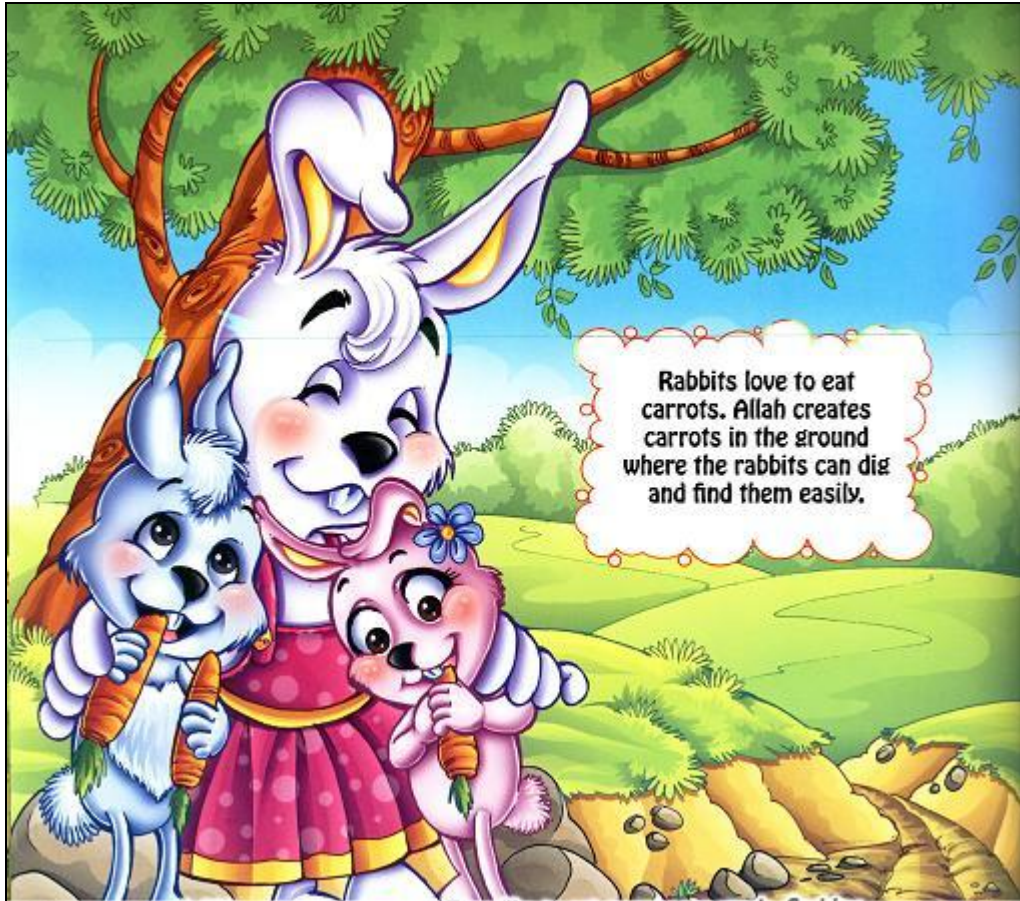












وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي

الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ

رِزْقِهَا

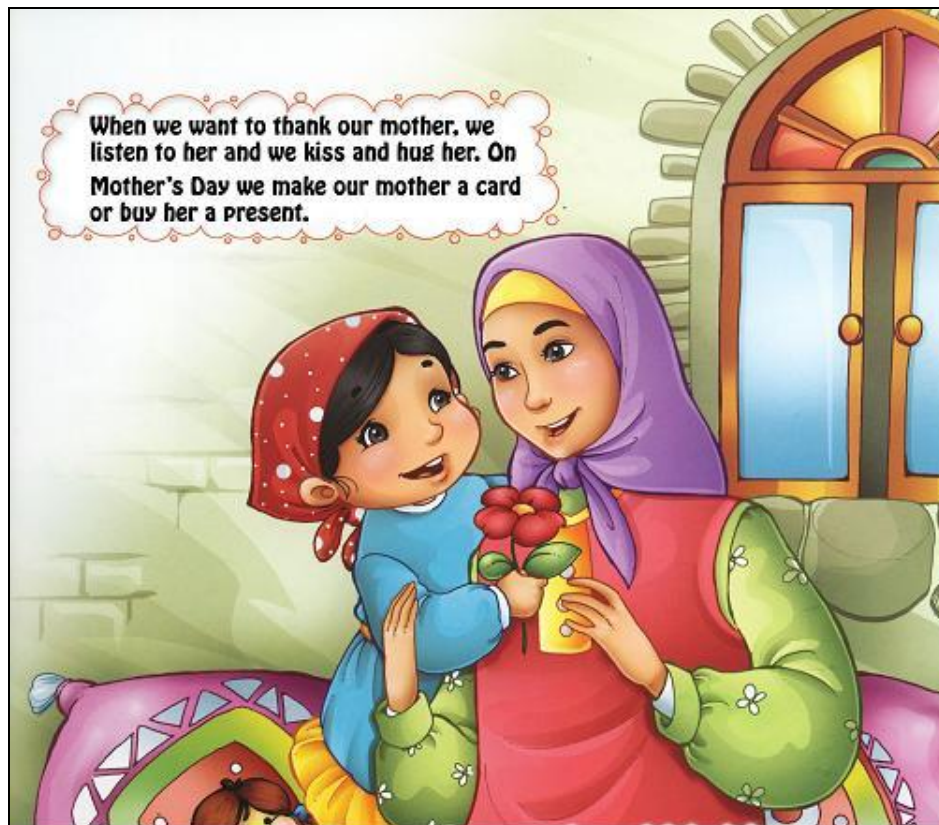
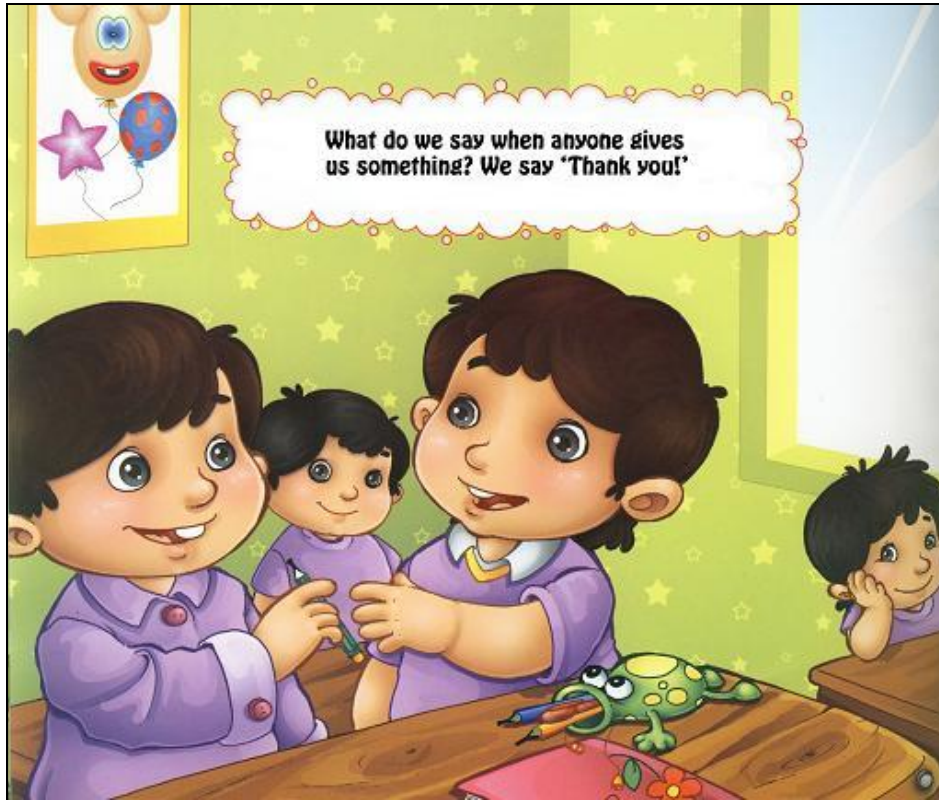
There is no creature  
on the earth except  
that its food is with  
Allah.

Surah Hud, 11:6

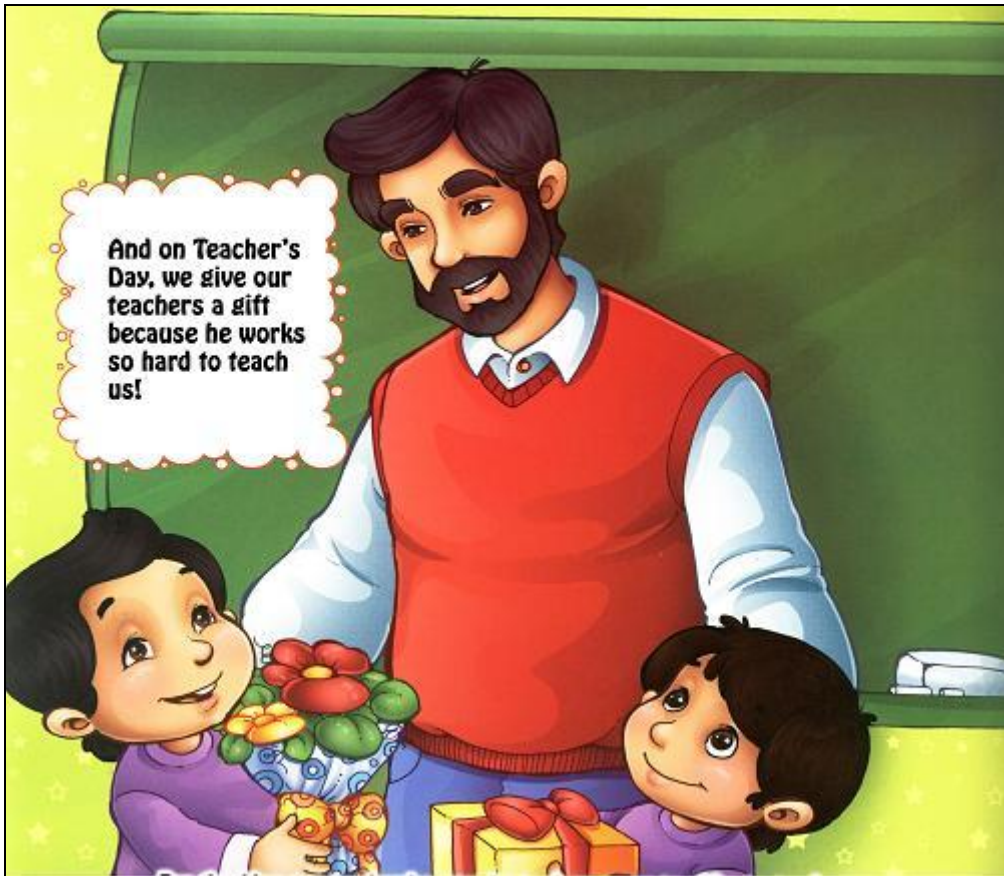


## Lesson 3

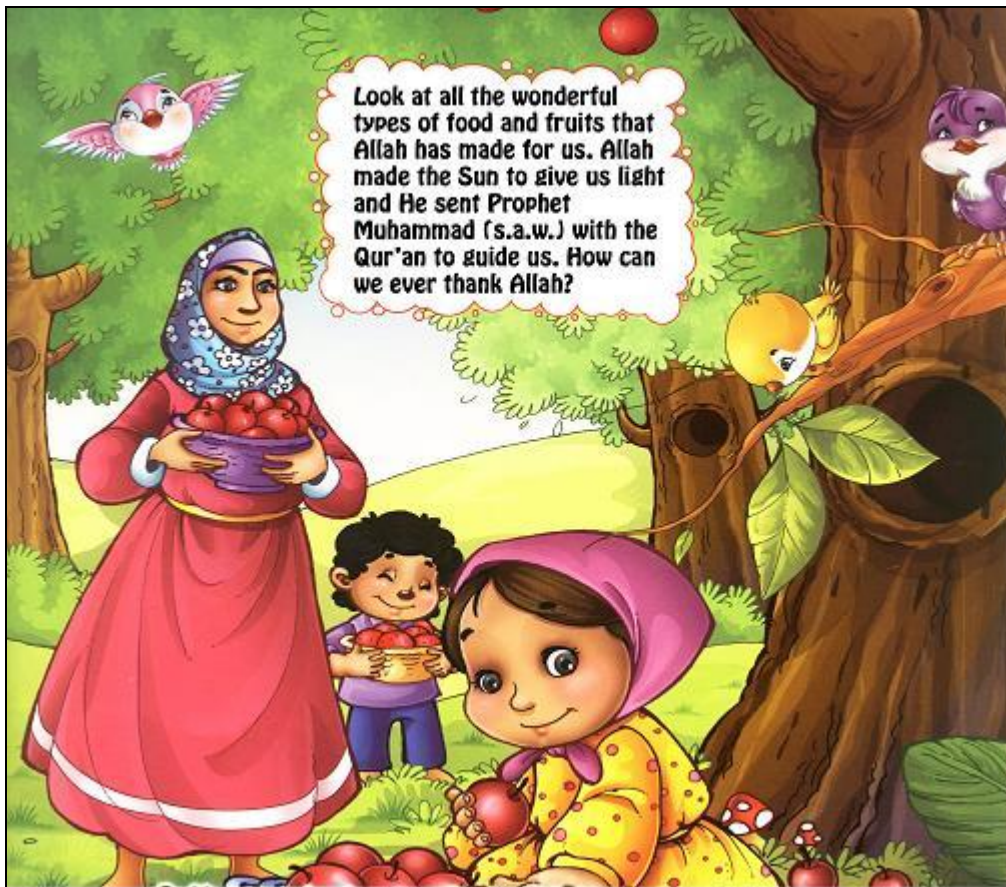
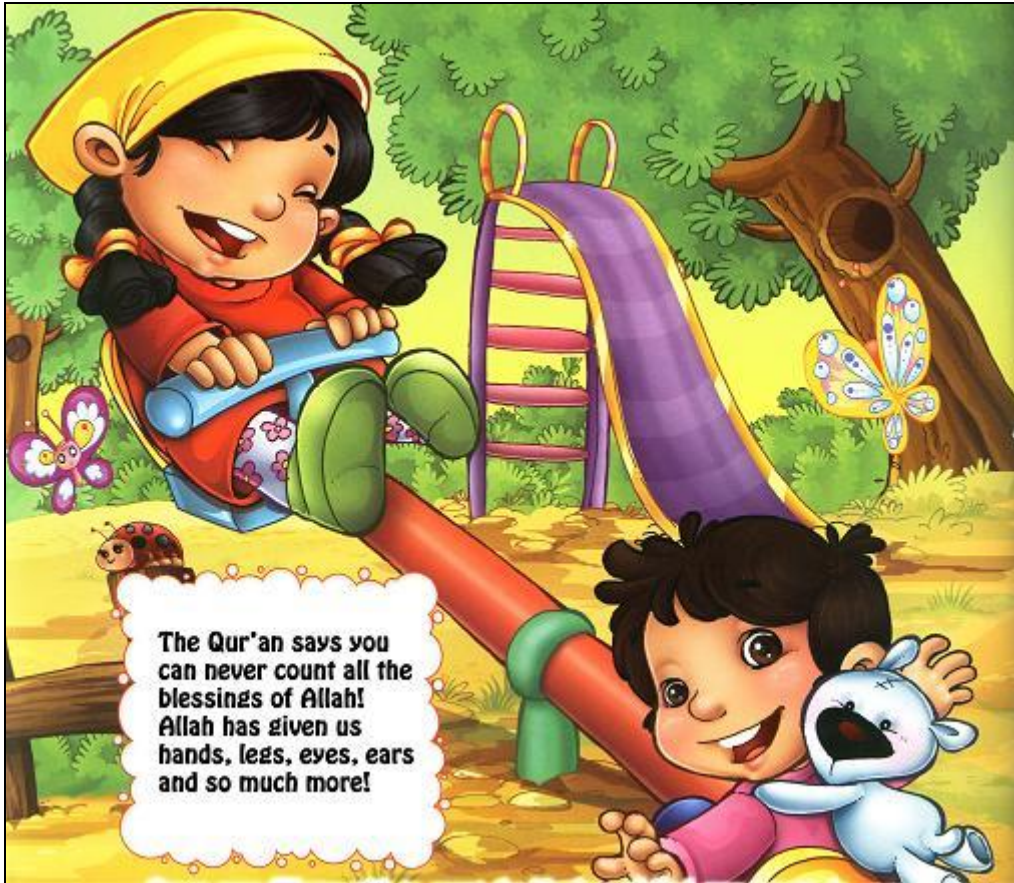
# Give Thanks to Allah



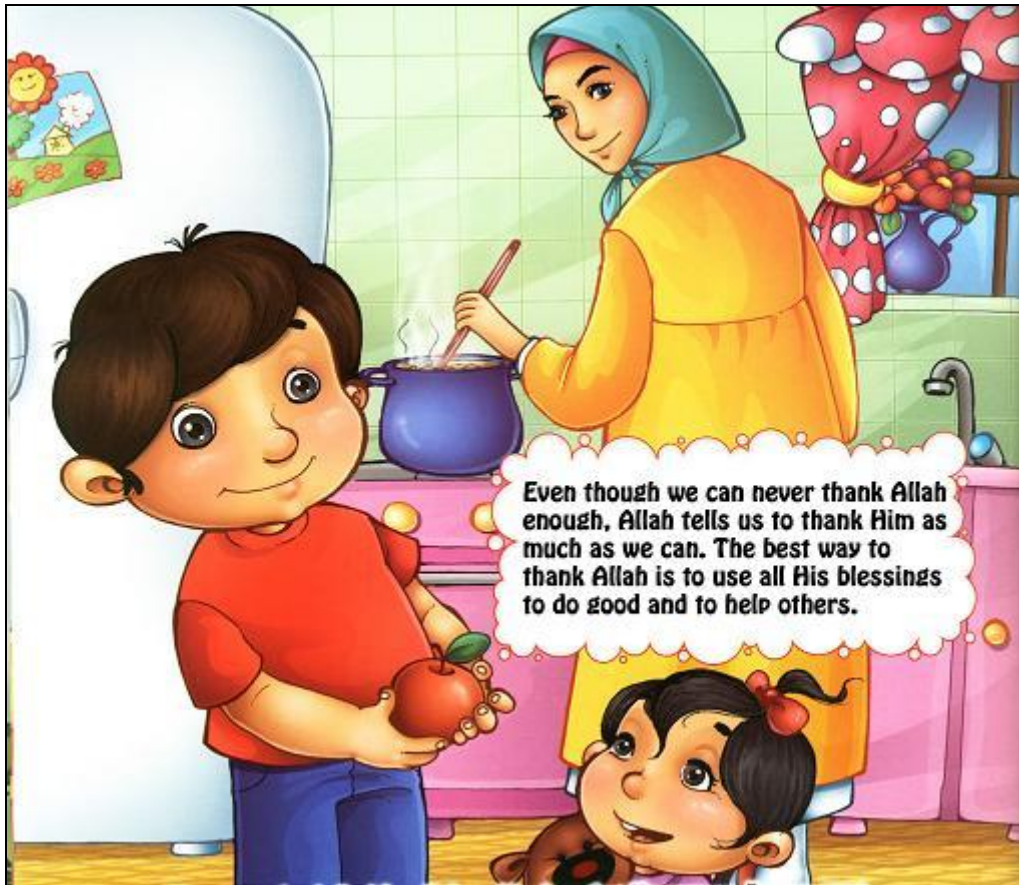




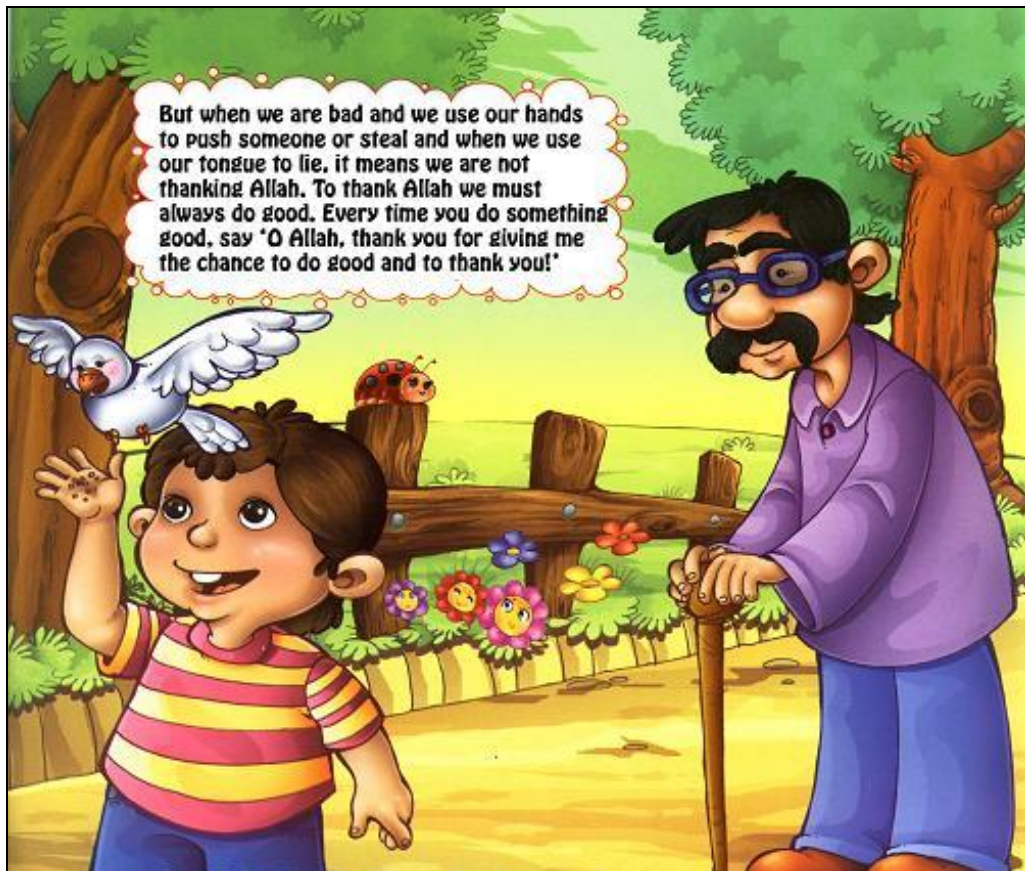
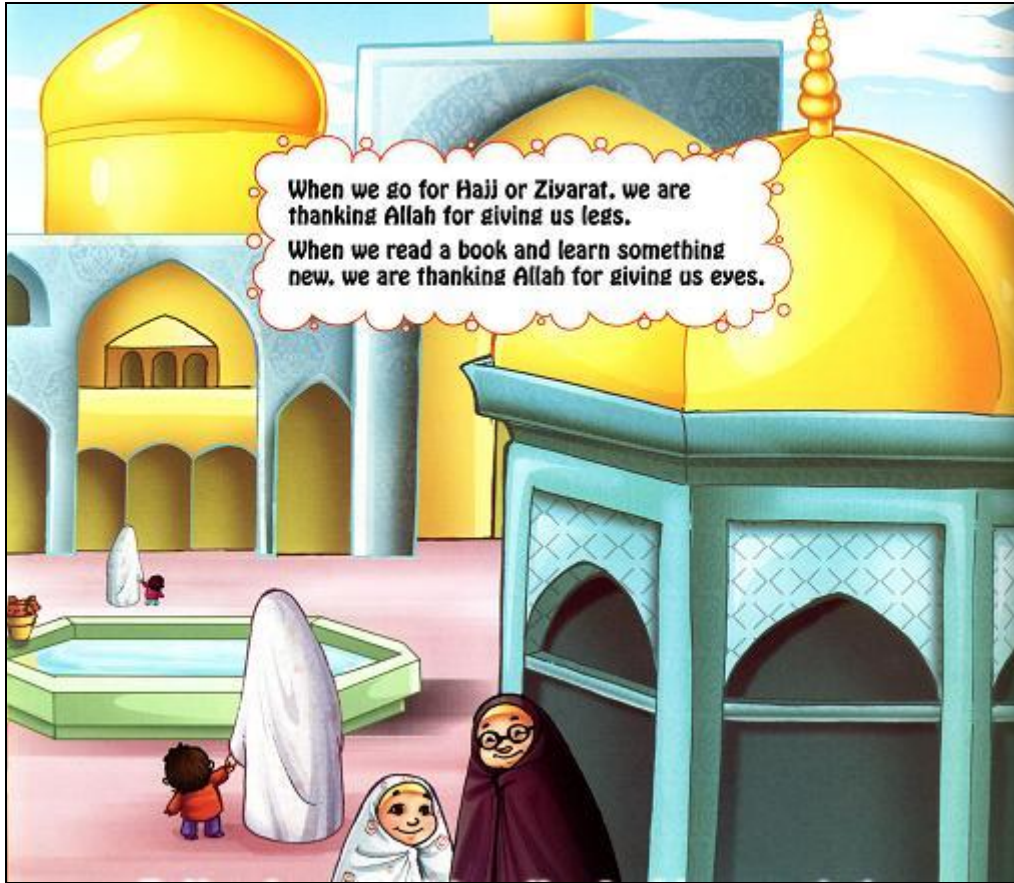














وَاشْكُرُوا لِي وَلَا

تَكْفُرُونِي

Thank Me  
and do not be  
ungrateful to  
Me

Surah al-Baqarah, 2:152

## Lesson 4

# The Qur'án

We now know that Allāh sent 124,000 *anbiya* (prophets) to guide us.

Out of all of these *anbiya*, five prophets are very special. They are called the **Ulil 'Azm** Anbiya.

The Ulil 'Azm Prophets are:

1. Nabi Nuh ('a)
2. Nabi Ibrahim ('a)
3. Nabi Musa ('a)
4. Nabi 'Isa ('a), and
5. Rasulullāh Muhammad (s)

Allāh also sent four Books to guide us.

First Allāh sent: Tawrat to Nabi Musa ('a). But some people changed it.

Then Allāh sent: Zabur to Nabi Dāwud ('a). But some people changed it also.

Then Allāh sent Injil to Nabi 'Isa ('a). But some people changed that too.

And so finally, Allāh sent the Qur'án to Rasulullāh Muhammad (s).

The four Books of Allāh are:

1. Tawrat given to Nabi Musa (‘a)
2. Zabur given to Nabi Dāwud (‘a)
3. Injil given to Nabi ‘Isa (‘a), and
4. Qur’ān given to Rasulullāh (s).

The Qur’ān is the miracle of Allāh given to Rasulullāh (s). Allāh protects the Qur’ān and no one can ever change it or write a book like the Qur’ān. The Qur’ān will remain forever until the world comes to an end.

We should learn to recite the Qur’ān, because it is the Word of Allāh and the Final Book of Allāh. We should also try and memorize the Qur’ān.

What if we cannot memorize the whole Qur’ān or we forget some of it? That’s ok. We should still try because when we try and memorize the Qur’ān, it cleans our heart and makes us very special. Allāh loves anyone who tries to memorize the Qur’ān.

Now let us read a story about memorizing the Qur’ān:

### Grandpa and the Basket

Rabāb’s grandpa lived in a small cottage at the top of the hill. Below the hill was a beautiful lake.

Rabāb loved going to visit her grandpa because he would sit her on his lap and tell her interesting stories.

One day Grandpa was telling Rabāb about the Qur'ān and why she should memorize it.

'What does "memorize the Qur'ān" mean?' asked Rabāb.

'It means to learn to read it all by heart,' replied Grandpa.

Then Rabāb said to her grandpa, 'But grandpa, every time I try and memorize the Qur'ān, it all comes out and I forget! What is the use of memorizing the Qur'ān when I keep forgetting?!'

Grandpa decided to show Rabāb why it was still important to try and memorize the Qur'ān. So Grandpa went to his fireplace and brought out a small dirty basket where he usually kept the coal and wood for the fireplace.

Then Grandpa gave the dirty basket to Rabāb and said, 'dear Rabāb, can you please run down the hill to the lake and fetch me some water in this basket?'

Rabāb was very happy. She loved running up and down the hill and she wanted to help her grandpa. So off she went down the hill.



Rabāb quickly filled the basket with water and began walking up the hill. As she walked up the hill, she saw the water slowly dripping out of the basket.

Drip, drip... the water came out from the bottom of the basket. When Rabāb got to the top of the hill, the basket was empty!

So she ran down again and tried once more. This time Rabāb walked faster up the hill. But by the time she got to the top of the hill, all the water had still flowed out.

So Rabāb tried a third time. This time she ran up the hill and when she got there, there was just a little bit left. She rushed to the door of her grandpa's cottage and knocked on it furiously. 'Coming,' shouted Grandpa. And by the time he opened the door, Rabāb was standing with an empty basket.

'Oh! It's no use Grandpa!' said Rabāb.

'Why? What happened?' asked Grandpa with a smile.

'Well,' said Rabāb with a huff, 'every time I fill the basket with water, all the water comes out from the bottom.'

'That's ok,' said Grandpa, 'But look at the basket now Rabāb. Do you see any difference?'

Rabāb looked inside the basket and was very surprised. The basket had been very dirty before, full of soot and chips of wood and coal. And now it was clean and shiny again.

‘You see?’ said Grandpa as he hugged little Rabāb. ‘You think it was no use trying to keep the water in the basket but even by trying, the basket has become so clean inside. In the same way, if you try and learn the Qur’ān by heart, even if some of it comes out and you forget, your heart will become so clean inside!!’

This made a lot of sense to Rabāb and from that day onwards, she tried to remember as many surahs of the Qur’ān as she could. Rabāb prayed to Allāh every night to help her memorize the whole Qur’ān one day, inshā Allāh.

## Lesson 5

# Memorize the Qur'án

In this lesson we will read another story about the importance of memorizing Qur'án and even memorizing duas and the sayings (hadith) of Rasullāh (s) and the Imāms ('a).

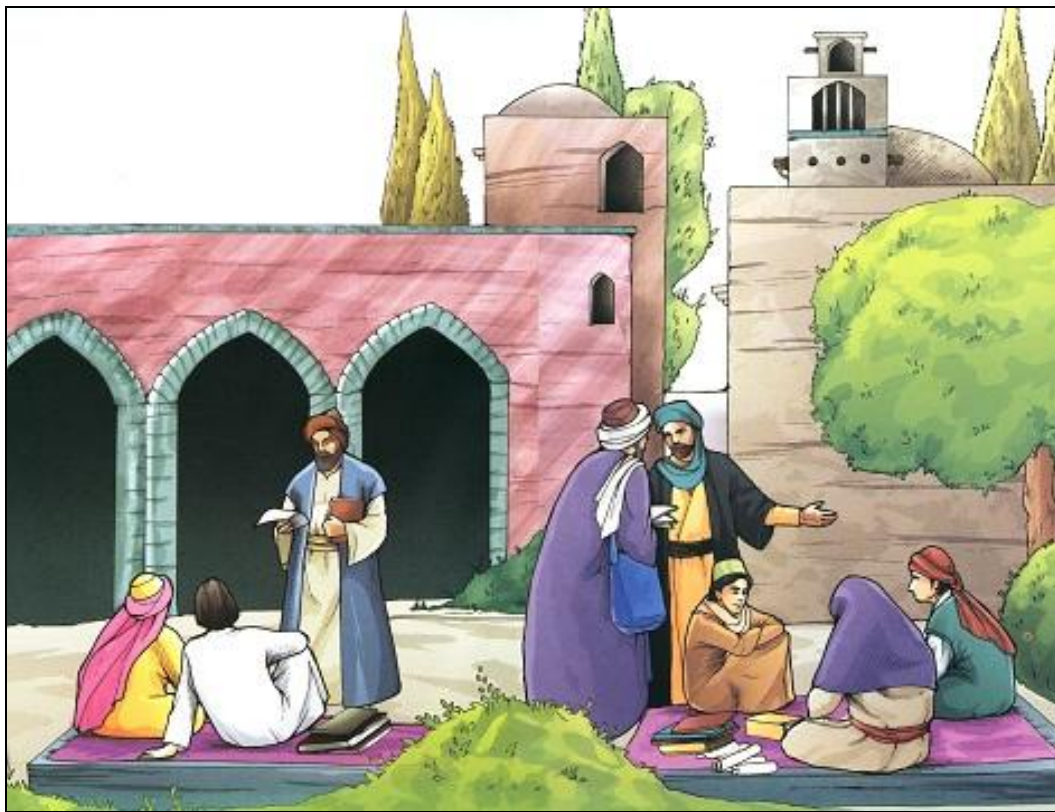
Whatever you memorize as a child, will always stay with you all your life.

The best thing you can memorize is the Qur'án, Duas and the sayings (hadith) of the ma'sumeen ('a). Try and memorize as much of them as you can before you grow up into an adult and you will always have lots of knowledge with you wherever you go.

Remember the moral of the story you are about to read is: 'The knowledge that can be stolen from you is not knowledge. Knowledge is what no one can steal from you and what you practice after you memorize it.'

Therefore true knowledge of the Qur'án is to memorize it and then to practice what it says.

## Ghazali and the Highway Thieves



Ghazali was a man who lived in a village called Tus in the province of Khorasan in Iran. He was one of the most learned scholars in Islamic history. During his time, Nishābur was the centre of studying and knowledge and all the students of knowledge and wisdom would go and study there. Between the city of Nishābur and the village of Tus there was quite a distance and it took several days to travel from one to the other.



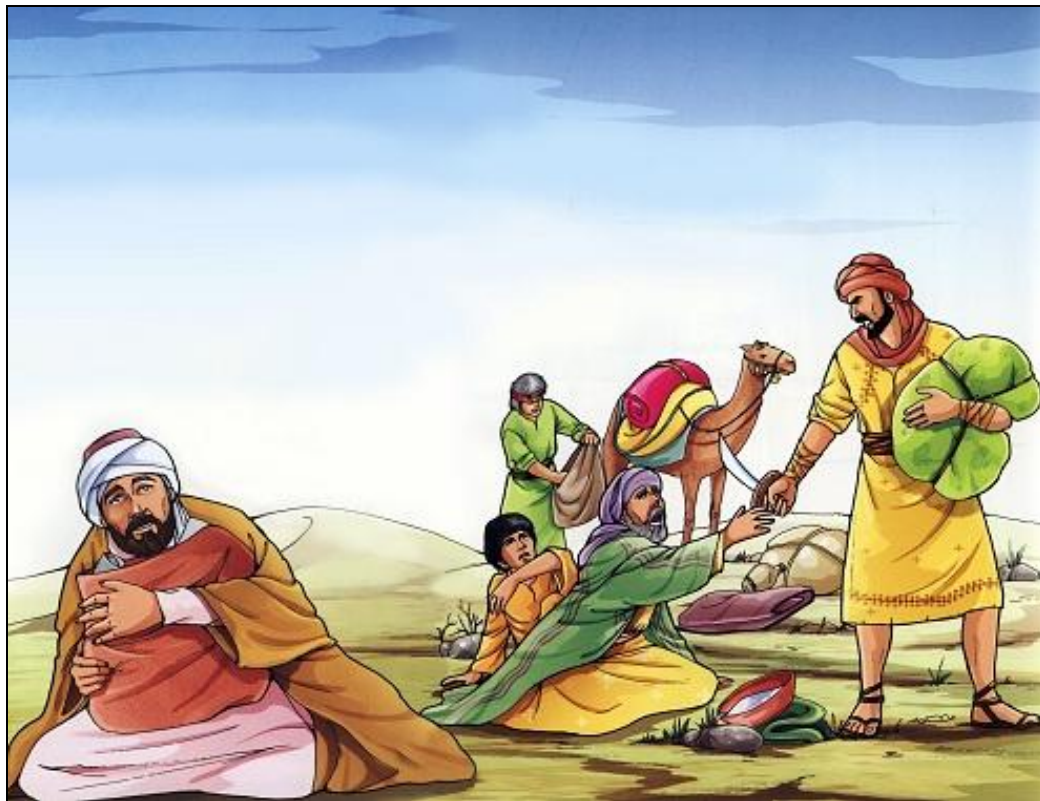


Ghazali was one of those who came to Nishābur to study and soon became famous because he was very intelligent and worked very hard. He would write down everything he heard from his teachers and soon he had collected a large amount of writings from his studies.



After some time had passed, Ghazali completed his studies in Nishābur and he decided to go back to his hometown of Tus. So he gathered all his papers and

writings, which were the total knowledge of all his studies in Nishābur and he set out with a caravan towards his village.



On the way... the caravan was attacked by highway thieves who began stealing everything of value such as gold, jewellery and any precious objects. When they came to Ghazali he refused to give them his bags that had all his writings and books. The robbers became even more curious and forced him to give up his bags because they thought it must be full of money or gold.

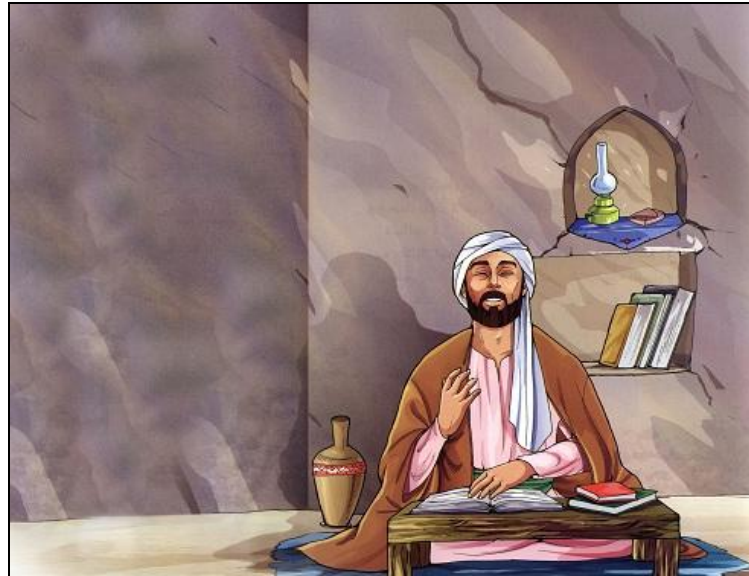
When they open the bags by force, they found them filled with papers that had no value to them. So they asked him why he was afraid of losing them. He said, 'It is the work of many years of studying and it is all my knowledge. If you steal it from me, then I will lose all my knowledge and all my years of hard work!'



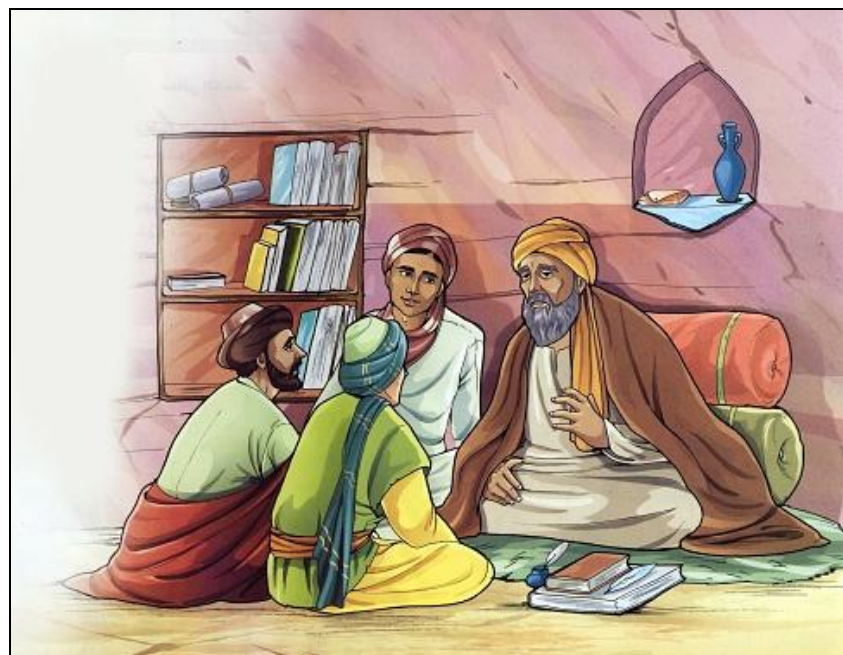
So they laughed at him and said to him, ‘The knowledge that can be stolen from you is not really knowledge!’

The words of these thieves left a deep impression in Ghazali’s heart and changed the course of his life forever. From that day onwards, Ghazali decided that he would never depend on books for his knowledge and that he would memorize everything he had written down or read.





His memory became like a huge library that he could refer to whenever he pleased!



And so Ghazali began relying on his memory for all his knowledge. He even used to teach others without a book or paper. After many years, Ghazali told this story to his students and said, 'One of the best advice I ever got in life was from those thieves!'

## Lesson 6

# There are 12 Imáms

Allāh sent 124,000 messengers to teach us what is good and what is bad so that Allāh will be happy with us and we can go to Jannah and live there happily forever.

The last messenger is Rasulullāh (s). After Rasulullāh (s), Allāh gave us 12 Imāms and Sayyida Fatima az-Zahra ('a), the daughter of Rasulullāh (s), to guide us and teach us the Qur'ān and what is halāl (allowed) and harām (not allowed) in Islam.

The 12 Imāms and Sayyida Fātima az-Zahra ('a) are the family of Rasulullāh (s). They are called the Ahl al-Bayt ('a) of Rasulullāh (s). And all together they are called the 14 ma'sumeen ('a).

So the 14 fourteen ma'sumeen ('a) are:

- |                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| ▪ Rasulullāh Muhammad (s)      | 1     |
| ▪ Sayyida Fātima az-Zahra ('a) | 1     |
| ▪ And 12 Imāms                 | + 12  |
|                                | ----- |
|                                | = 14  |
|                                | ----- |

Now let us learn the names of the 12 Imāms.

## Our 12 Imāms

- 1 Imām Ali (‘alayhi salām)
- 2 Imām al-Hasan (‘alayhi salām)
- 3 Imām al-Husayn (‘alayhi salām)
- 4 Imām Ali Zayn al-Abidin (‘alayhi salām)
- 5 Imām Muhammad al-Bāqir (‘alayhi salām)
- 6 Imām Ja’far as-Sādiq (‘alayhi salām)
- 7 Imām Musa al-Kādhim (‘alayhi salām)
- 8 Imām Ali ar-Ridā (‘alayhi salām)
- 9 Imām Muhammad al-Jawād (‘alayhi salām)
- 10 Imām Ali al-Hādi (‘alayhi salām)
- 11 Imām al-Hasan al-Askari (‘alayhi salām)
- 12 Imām al-Mahdi Sahib az-Zamān (‘ajjalallāhu dhuhurahu)**

+

Rasulullāh Muhammad (salallāhu ‘alayhi wa ālihi wa salām)

+

Sayyida Fātima az-Zahra (‘alayha salām)

=

14 Ma’sumeen (‘alayhim as-salām)!

Our Living Imām is the twelfth Imām  
Imām Mahdi Sahib az-Zamān (‘ajjal Allāhu dhuhurahu)  
Whenever we remember his name, we should stand up  
and put our hand on our head to show respect to him



Class Activity: Listen to and memorize the nasheed 'There are 12 Imāms in Islam' (on the Teacher's DVD).

### Poem

## There are 12 Imāms in Islam

There are 12 Imāms  
 There are 12 Imāms  
 There are 12 Imāms in Islam x2

Imām Ali al-Murtada, Imām Hasan al-Mujtaba, Imām Husayn, alayhim as-salām

Imām Ali Zayn al-Abidin, Imām Muhammad al-Bāqir, Imām Ja'far as-Sādiq, alayhim as-salām

There are 12 Imāms  
 There are 12 Imāms  
 There are 12 Imāms in Islam x2

Imām Musa al-Kādhim, Imām Ali ar-Rida, Imām Muhammad al-Jawād, alayhim as-salām

Imām Ali al-Hādi, Imām Hasan al-Askari, Imām al-Mahdi, alayhim as-salām

He's our living Imām  
 He's our living Imām  
 He's our living Imām in Islam x2

There are 12 Imāms

There are 12 Imāms

There are 12 Imāms in Islam x2

Idea: Students can recite this as a group during a regular programme at the local masjid.

## Lesson 7

# Yawm al-Qiyāmah

Yaum al-Qiyāmah means 'The Day of Judgement'. All Muslims must believe in Yaum al-Qiyāmah.

To believe in Yaum al-Qiyāmah means to believe that one day, everyone will be brought back to life and stand before Allāh for judgement.

On Yaum al-Qiyāmah Allāh will tell us everything we did in this world – good and bad. When we do good in this world, Allāh makes it bigger and bigger everyday until it becomes a lot of good deeds. When we do bad things and then we say sorry to Allāh and ask Him to forgive us, then Allāh wipes away the bad deed. This is because Allāh loves us very much.

On Yaum al-Qiyāmah, after Allāh finishes judging everyone's deeds, the good people will all go and live in a beautiful land called Jannah. Jannah is filled with beautiful palaces and angels, and rivers and gardens and fruits and lots of fun. No one ever dies in Jannah and no one falls sick or gets tired or bored in Jannah. Everyone is a friend in Jannah and everyone gets to live with his or her family and friends there.

Those who love Allāh and Rasulullāh (s) and the Ahl al-Bayt ('a) will get to live in the best place in Jannah near Rasulullāh (s) and the Ahl al-Bayt ('a). Everyone in Jannah will live forever and ever and never die.

And all the evil people will go to Jahannam (Hellfire), which is a place where only very bad people will live. In Jahannam there is only fire and very scary punishments. This is for people who are evil, who kill other people and hurt other people and always lie and cheat and are rude and disobey Allāh and their parents.

There was once a Muslim man who began to drink alcohol, which is harām. He used to do it secretly in his house. One day a small boy walked into his room and saw him. Now the man got really scared!



Would the boy tell someone what he had seen? What would the man do when he meets his family and friends in the masjid? He could not sleep all night as he worried about everyone finding out about his drinking.

What a strange man! He was more scared of a little boy than of Allāh. Allāh sees all we do and He will ask us about everything we did in this world. That will be the Day of Judgement.

Every time we pray to Allāh, we should ask Him to forgive us our mistakes and to make us live in Jannah near Rasulullāh (s) and the Ahl al-Bayt (‘a). If we always obey Allāh and follow what the Qur’ān and what Rasulullāh (s) and the Ahl al-Bayt (‘a) teach us, we will insha Allāh live in Jannah forever!