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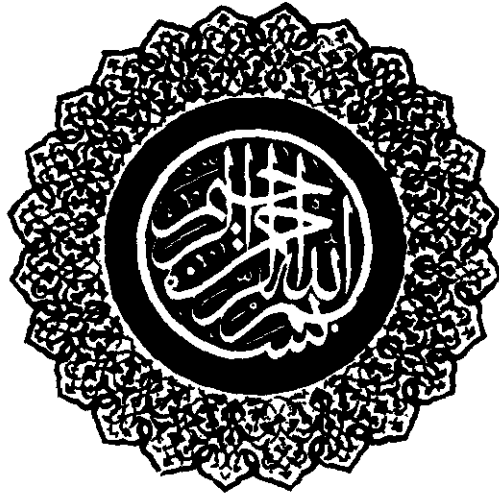


The Children's Book of Islam

Aytaullah Ibrahim Amini

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*In the Name of Allah,
the Merciful, the Compassionate*



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**THE CHILDREN'S BOOK
ON ISLAM**

BOOK ONE

**By
Ayatullah Ibrahim Amini**

آموزش دین / جلد ۱
به زبان انگلیسی
علامه ابراهیم امینی

The Children's Book on Islam
Book One
Ayatullah Ibrahim Amini
Published by: International Publishing Co.
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
P.O. Box: 14155/6319
2nd edition 1995/1416 A.H.
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ISBN 964 - 304 - 035 - 6

Foreword

Children are invaluable assets of future generations. Islam has given particular attention to their education and training as well as to their respect, love and affection. Islam provides detailed instructions for preservation of children's rights and emphasizes for their guidance so that they could endeavour for perfection as a human being with an aim of worshipping Allah and serving the humanity.

A large number of Muslim children receive their education whose medium of instructions is English language. Therefore, there is a great need for preparing suitable Islamic books in English for the benefit of such children and others who feel interested in these books. Earlier, an attempt was made in this regard; however, it was not very successful. The IPO takes pleasure in announcing the publication of four books in series in English which have been exclusively written for children in Persian by an eminent theologian and learned senior professor of *Al-Hawzah al-'Ilmiyah* (Theological Centre), Qum, Iran, Hujjatul-Islam Ibrahim Amini, who is an author of several important books on Islam.

These books have been written in a lucid language in a form of different lessons on Islam. At the end of each lesson, questions and exercises have been given

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which would be helpful to children in their learning and practice of each lesson. Illustrative photographs have also been included to make the book interesting and entertaining for children. An attempt has been made that this complete set of four books may impart necessary Islamic education to children.

The IPO hopes that these books would be well received by all concerned, particularly by children, parents and teachers, whose constructive suggestions would be most welcomed for incorporations in and modifications of subsequent editions of these books.

International Publishing Co.

Lesson One

Whatever You See...

Whatever you see, wherever you go,
Was created by Allah, be sure to know.
The sun by day, the moon at night,
The glittering stars; three kinds of light.
Plants, flowers, trees so tall,
Roses, lillies, ivy on the wall,
Deserts, jungles, mountains high,
The book of Nature, 'tween earth and sky,
All this, the wonderful creation,
Of Allah. His Might beyond estimation



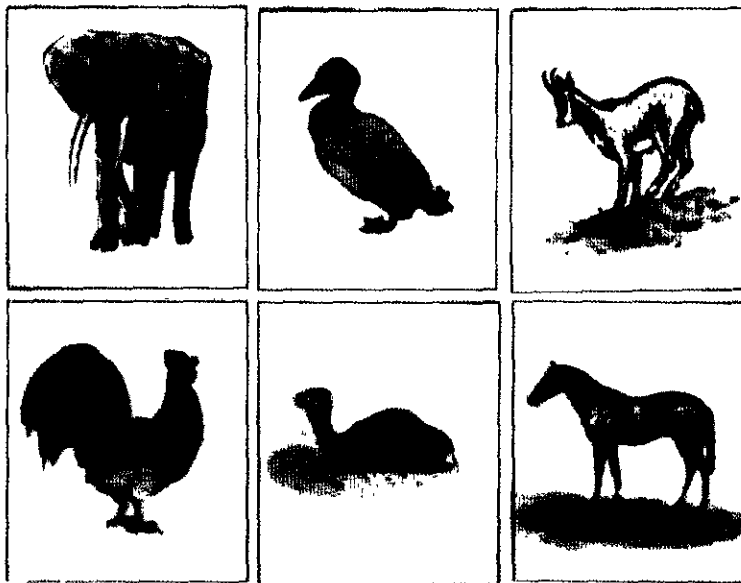
Exercises:

- a. Memorise this poem.
- b. Recite it along with your friends.

Lesson Two

Identify These Creatures

Look at the pictures of these animals.
What are their names?
Which of them have you seen?
Where do they live?
Which ones are the prettiest?
Which ones do you like most?
Who has created them?



Lesson Three

Fish

Do you have a fish in your house?

Do you like fish?

Where do fish live?

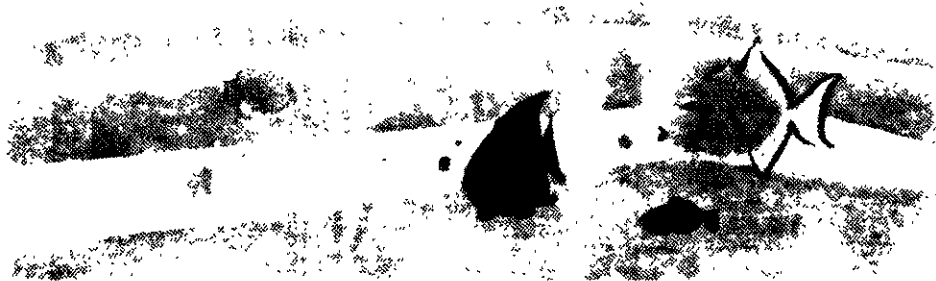
Do you know how does a fish swim in the water?

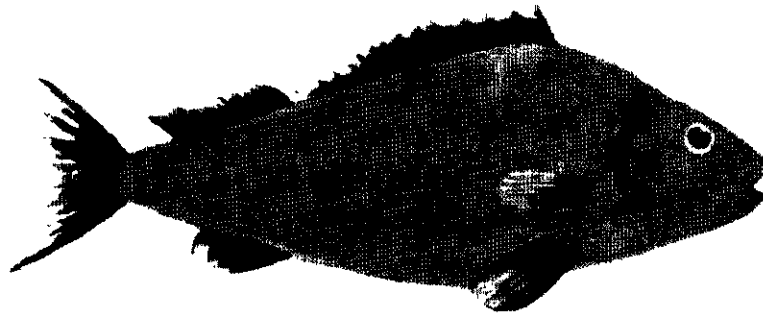
If they didn't have fins, could they still swim in the water?

Did the fish make their fins for themselves?

No, the fish did not create their fins for themselves, nor has any other creature given fins to them.

Yes, it is God the Kind and Merciful Who, because He knows that fins are necessary for these beautiful animals, created them **fined** so that they can swim in the water.





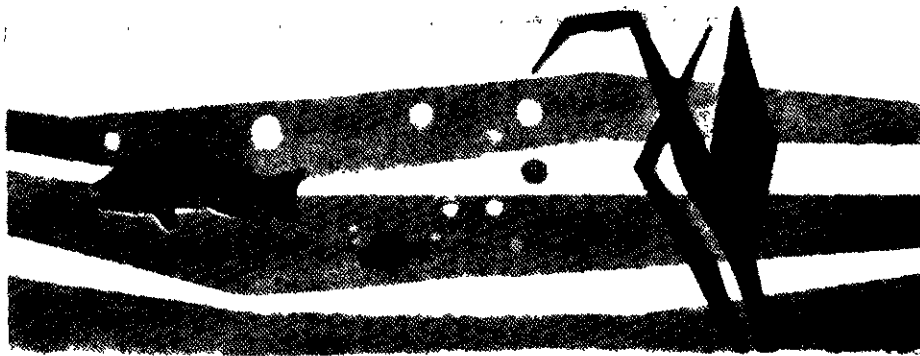
Exercises:

a. Complete these questions and then ask your friends to answer them:

1. What enables fish to in the water?
2. What is wrong with this drawing of a?
3. Can a fish swim without its?
4. Did the fish itself create its?
5. Who gave the fish its fins for it to swim in the?

b. Draw fins for this fish.

Did the fish itself draw its fins?



Lesson Four

A Theology Lesson in the Park

Daūd and Saīd went on an outing to a park with their father. The park was very beautiful. It had tall green trees, lush green fields and beautiful flowers all of different colours. A stream was flowing through the centre of the park and ducks and swans were busy in swimming in it. The ducks swam effortlessly in the water, occasionally putting their heads in the water, catching something and eating it.

“Saīd,” said Daūd to his brother, “see how easy it is for them to swim. Do you wish you could swim like that?”

“Look at that duck that has come out of the water. Look at it shaking its wings. Look at its feet. It’s quite dry, as if it was never in the water at all. Why don’t the duck’s wings soak up water? Look at that duck. Look at it flying off. If its wings soaked up water, it wouldn’t be able to fly like that.”

Saïd looked at the ducks and said, "You are right, it seems that the ducks' wings don't become wet, but I don't know why. Let's go and ask Father."

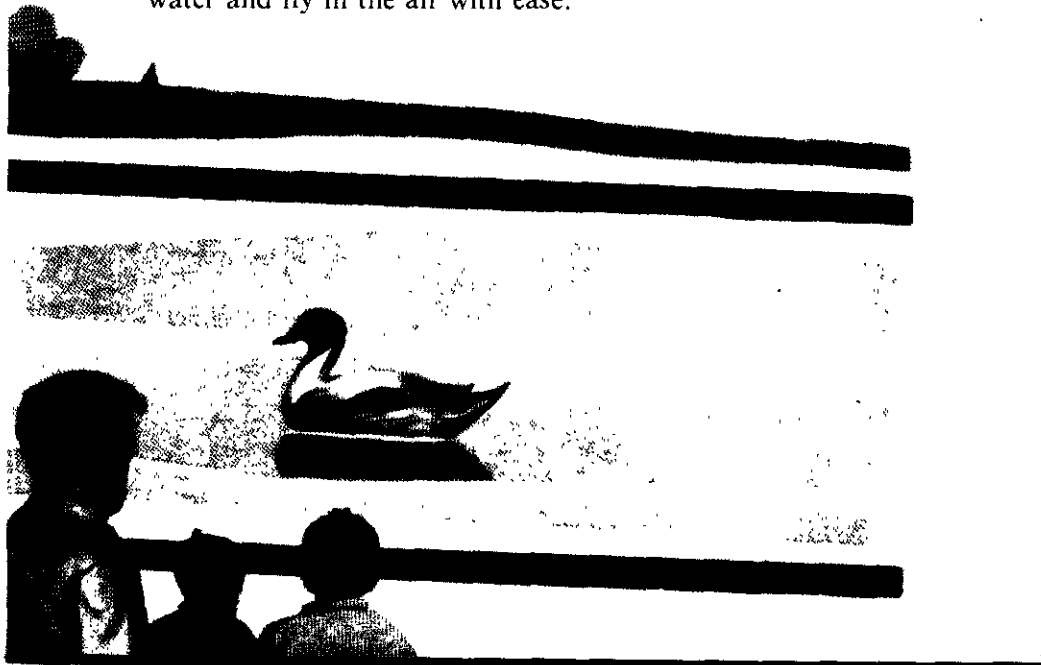
Daūd and Saïd ran up to their father and said "Father! Come and see the ducks swimming in the water; see how their wings don't become wet! Tell us, Father, why the ducks wings don't become wet?!"

All of them went together to the side of the stream. Their father said, "Well done, for now you want to understand. People must think about the things they see, and whenever they see something they don't understand they must ask someone who does, so that their knowledge increases.

The reason the ducks' wings don't get wet by water is because they are oily. If the ducks' wings weren't oily they would become wet and heavy, and the ducks wouldn't be able to swim in the water or fly in the air."

"Father," said Saïd, "who was thinking of the duck? Surely the duck itself doesn't know how to oil its wings!"

The father replied, "Allah the All-knowing and Kind. Who created all things, was thinking of the duck. Allah created the duck to swim in the water, so He created it in a way that its wings are always oily, so that it can swim in the water and fly in the air with ease."





Questions:

1. When the duck came out of the water, what did Daūd say to his brother?
2. What was Saīd's reply?
3. What did they ask their father?
4. What did their father tell them?
5. When you don't know something, what must you do?

Complete these sentences:

1. Look at its wings, it is as if it never became
2. Really, why don't the ducks wings soak up
3. Well done, for now you want to
4. God the All-knowing and Merciful created the
this way.

Lesson Five

Can This Boy See?

Can this boy see?
What would we do if we had no eyes?
Could we see, run and play?



Which one of these two boys
cannot run?
Why can't he run?
Can he play?
What would we do if we had no legs?
Could we walk, run and play?



Which one of these boys cannot
pick up the ball?
Can he eat?
Why can't he eat?
What would we do if we had no hands?



Who has given us eyes, ears, hands and legs?
Allah gave us eyes to see with,
Gave us ears to hear with,
Gave us a tongue and mouth to speak with,
Gave us legs to walk with,
Gave us hands to work with.

Allah the Merciful

Allah loves us, to have created us and given us all these blessings.

He gave us eyes so that we see, ears for us to hear, a tongue for us to speak nicely and taste the flavours of food, feet for us to walk, hands for us to work and help others, and commonsense for us to understand the good and bad.

How would we live if we didn't have eyes, ears, a tongue, hands, feet and commonsense?

Questions:

1. What do we do with our eyes?
If we didn't have eyes, what would happen?
2. What do we do with our ears?
If we didn't have ears, what would happen?
3. What do we do with our tongue?
If we didn't have a tongue, what would happen?
4. What do we do with our hands?
If we didn't have hands, what would happen?
5. What do we do with our feet?
If we didn't have feet, what would happen?
6. What do we do with commonsense?
If we didn't have common sense, what would happen?
7. Who has given us all these blessings?
8. Does Allah love us?
9. How do you know that Allah loves us?

Complete these sentences:

1. Allah us, to have us.
2. He gave us a tongue for us to and taste the flavours of food.
3. hands and others.
4. commonsense for us to understand and

Lesson Six:

Allah the Merciful and Kind

Allah the Merciful and Kind,
A mouth and tongue gave to mankind.
Commonsense He gave us,
Water and bread He gave us.
Heart and Soul on us bestowed,
Ears, eyes, fingers and toes.
And we, we can't, whatever our rank,
Allah for His blessings, properly thank.

Exercises: 6

- a. Memorise this poem.
- b. Read it along with your classmates.
- c. Copy the poem in your best handwriting.



Lesson Seven

Be Thankful to Allah

My uncle lives in a little village in the mountains. It is a very pretty village, about five miles from the main road.

“Let us go and visit your uncle in his village,” said my father one day, “and breathe some fresh air too.”

We were very happy and thanked our father. Early one morning my brother and sister and I went out with father and mother and boarded a bus. After having travelled some way my father said, “Here we have to get off. It is about five miles from here to your uncle’s village, and we can only reach there by foot.”

We got off the bus, and then my brother and sister and I ran ahead so as to arrive at our uncle’s house sooner. We ran some distance but we didn’t come to the village. So we decided to wait for our parents. We waited a while but they didn’t come. We had lost our way. However much we ran this way and that, still we couldn’t find the village. After all that running about we were tired and very thirsty. We couldn’t walk any more. We sat down exhausted, hungry and thirsty. We were almost crying and dying of hunger and thirst. Then we prayed to Allah to help us.

An old man riding on a donkey came around the hill. He got down from his donkey and gave us water from a jug he was carrying. Never did water taste so tasty! We were revived. The kind old man brought out a large napkin in which he had



some food. It was bread and cheese. We ate some bread and cheese and we recovered our strength. What delicious bread and cheese! The old man had cheered us up, and restored our strength and spirits. Now we were able to walk and talk. It was then that I appreciated the value of food and water. We thanked the old man.

“Dear children,” he said, “thank Allah Who has created food and water for us. How could we stay alive if there was no food and water? How could we walk and work? We must



thank Allah, appreciate the value of His blessings and follow His commands.”

Then the old man put us on his donkey and took us to our uncle’s village. We thanked him and ran as fast as we could towards the house of our uncle.

Questions and Exercises:

1. Why were the three children lying on the ground?
2. What did the old man do when he saw them?



3. What did he give them?
4. Why did they thank the old man?
5. What did the old man say to them?

Look at these children. Why are they lying half-unconscious on the ground?

Why is it that they were able to run before?

What happened to them?

Would they have been restored without food or water?

Who gave them food and water?

Who created food and water for us?

Lesson Eight

Allah's Blessings

Allah is very kind and has given us many blessings.

He created air for us to breathe.

He created water for us to drink and to wash ourselves.

He created trees and plants for us to eat their sweet and tasty fruits and to make good foods.

How could we live if we didn't have air, water, trees and plants? Who could have created such good blessings for us, other than Allah?

Allah is very Merciful and Kind to have created for us these blessings.

So we love Allah and thank Him. We follow His commands so as to live in happiness in this world and in the Hereafter. We help the poor and deprive , and work hard for the happiness and prosperity of all Allah's servants.

Questions:

1. How do we understand that Allah is Merciful and Kind towards us?
2. Why do we thank God?
3. Say the names of five of Allah's blessings.
4. Whose instructions must we adhere to in order to become successful and happy?

Complete these sentences:

1. Allah is and and has created many blessings for us.
2. He has created air for us to and has created water for us to
3. So we our Merciful Allah.
4. We the instructions of Allah, so as to live forever in

Lesson Nine

This Man is Working

This man is working and sowing seeds.
After some time, his land will become green and lush.
What will this man reap in summer?
Whatever good is done receives a good result.
Allah loves those who do good.
This man doesn't work and doesn't sow a thing.
What will he reap in summer?
Will his land become green and lush?
Allah does not like those who don't do good.

The Hereafter

People are two groups:

One group is religious and does good. The other group has no religion and does bad. Are these two groups equal? Are people who do good and people who do bad the same to Allah? Do those who do good receive no reward? Do those who do bad receive no punishment? Never!

Allah tells us: "People who do good and people who do bad are not the same to Me. I give a beautiful reward to those who do good, but I punish those who do bad."

Yes, Almighty Allah has another world that is called the Hereafter. When a person dies, he goes to that world. If we do good and act according to the Divine instructions, we will be



rewarded in the Hereafter and will live in perfect bliss and felicity in Paradise.

But if we are irreligious and do bad and don't follow Allah's instructions, we will receive punishment for our bad deeds and have a bad and difficult life in the Hereafter.

Allah gives those who do good a beautiful reward and those who do bad a terrible chastisement.

Questions:

1. Are people who do good and people who do bad the same to Allah?
2. Where does Allah give us the perfect reward of our deeds?
3. How do good people live in the Hereafter?
4. How about bad people?
5. What reward does Allah give to a person who does good deeds?
6. What is the reward of a person who does bad deeds and troubles people?
7. If we all follow Allah's instructions, how will we live in

the Hereafter?

8. If we are bad and disobedient, how will we live?
9. Which people go to Paradise?
10. Which people go to Hell?

Complete these sentences:

1. Mankind is two groups: one group is and
The other group have and do
2. Those who do good and those who do bad are to
God.
3. Almighty Allah has another world that is called the
.....
4. If we are good and follow Allah's instructions, in the
Hereafter we will be
5. And if we do bad and we don't follow Allah's
instructions, in the Hereafter we will have a and
life.

Lesson Ten

Allah's Prophets

The Prophets are great men whom Allah has specially selected.

The Prophets deliver the message of Allah to the people and teach them the best lessons, which the people need both for this world and for the Hereafter, and they guide the people to the best kind of life.

Who taught the Prophets these lessons?

Allah taught the Prophets these lessons. He has told them to command the people to do good and refrain from doing bad, so as to live in happiness and ease in this world and in the next.

The Prophets invite the people to worship the One; Merciful Allah and to do good deeds. The Prophets tell the people:

"Be kind with each other, love those who are Allah's friends and be enemies to those who are the enemies of Allah. Fight the oppressors and help the oppressed."

The Prophets are the leaders and guides of humanity.

How could the people find the right path of life if they didn't have a leader and a guide?

Questions and Exercises:

1. Who has selected the Prophets?

2. What work have the Prophets been selected to perform?
3. What lessons do the Prophets teach the people?
4. Who has taught the Prophets these lessons?
5. What command have the Prophets been given?

Complete these sentences:

- a. The Prophets invite the people to and to do good deeds.
- b. The Prophets guide the people to the best
- c. The Prophets deliver the of our Merciful Allah.



Lesson Eleven

The Last of the Prophets

Our Prophet, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.), is the last of Allah's Prophets. He was born in the town of Meccah, in Arabia. He lived amongst the people there for forty years, and when he was forty years old, Allah chose him to be His Prophet. Allah showed him the road of true happiness in life and commanded him to be the people's guide. For three years he called the people to Islam in secret. After those three years, Allah told him to start his mission.



The Holy Prophet stood on a large boulder. He called the people. The people recognised him. They ran and gathered around him. He wanted to speak to the people and give them the good tidings.

“O People,” he cried. “I am Allah’s Prophet. I am your guide. I am the guide of the lost. I have brought the most wonderful presents for you.

“I have brought a message for you from Allah: believe in the One God and find real and lasting happiness. Say: ‘*La ilaha illallah.*’ Say: ‘There is no god but Allah’ and save yourselves from baseness and delusion.”

*** The Holy Prophet brought us the most wonderful presents.**

Questions and Exercises:

1. Where was our Holy Prophet born?
2. How old was he when Allah chose him for prophethood?
3. How did the Holy Prophet manifest his mission?
4. What did he tell the people?
5. What did he tell the people to say? How were the people to save themselves?

Complete these sentences:

- a. The people recognised and ran towards him.
- b. The Holy Prophet said to the people, “I am the of the lost.”
- c. I have brought a for you from
- d. “O People, say ‘.....’ and save yourselves from baseness.”
- e. The Holy Prophet has brought us the

Lesson Twelve

What is Religion?

Allah, the Merciful and Compassionate, has sent instruction for our happiness. His guidance and instructions were brought to us by the Prophets.

Prophets have shown us the way to knowledge of Allah and the best way of living.

The Prophets have told us:

- * How to behave with our friends.
- * How to respect our mother and father.
- * How to thank our teacher.

The Prophets have told us:

- * How to beseech Allah the Merciful and Kind.
- * What deeds to perform for Allah to be pleased with us.
- * What things we need for our future in the Hereafter.

What is Religion?

The instructions and programmes that the Prophets have brought for our lives are called "religion".

Who is religious?

A person who believes in God and in the Hereafter, and who follows the instructions of the Prophet, is "religious".

Allah loves religious people and gives them a good reward. People who are religious live well in this world, and will be blessed in the Hereafter too.

Questions:

1. What are the instructions and guidance of Allah for?
2. Which people have brought these instructions and guidance for us?
3. What things have the Prophets told us?
4. What is religion?
5. Who do we say is religious?
6. How do religious people live in this world and in the Hereafter?
7. How does Allah treat religious people?

Lesson Thirteen

The Great Prophets

Allah sent many Prophets to guide the people, and the greatest of them are these five:

The Prophet Nūh, alayhis-salam*¹

The Prophet Ibrahīm, alayhis-salam

The Prophet Musa, alayhis-salam

The Prophet 'Isa, alayhis salam

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu alayhi wa alih*²

The followers of Musa are called **Jews**.

The followers of 'Isa are called **Christians**.

The followers of Muhammad are called **Muslims**.

All the Prophets were from Allah and we respect all of them. Of all the Prophets, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) was the greatest and the best. The Holy Prophet Muhammad was the last Prophet, and after him there is no other Prophet.

*¹ **Alayhis-salam** means “upon him be peace” and we say it after the names of the holy Prophets and Imams. Sometimes we write (A.S.) instead.

*² **Sallallahu alayhi wa alih** means “Allah bless him and his House,” and we say this after we say the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. Sometimes we write (S.A.) instead.

Questions:

1. How many are the greatest Prophets and what are their names?
2. Who are called Jews?
3. Who are called Christians?
4. What are the followers of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) called?
5. What is the name of the last of the Prophets?
6. Who is the greatest and most sublime of the Prophets?

Complete these sentences:

1. All the Prophets were from and we respect
2. Of all the Prophets, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) is, the
3. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) was the..... and there is after him.

Lesson Fourteen

The Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) in his Youth

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alayhi wa alih, was born to one of the families of Meccah. His father was 'Abdullah and his mother was Aminah.

Muhammad's father died before he was born. After he was born his mother entrusted him to a wet-nurse. The name of Muhammad's wet-nurse was Halimah. Halimah took Muhammad to the hilly country for him to be brought up in the clean air.

When Muhammad was four, he wanted to go out one day with the shepherds to the hill sides, where they used to pasture their flocks. Halimah combed his hair, dressed him in new clothes, and then put a necklace of green beads around his neck.

"What's this necklace for?" enquired Muhammad.

"It's to save you from danger on the mountainside," said Halimah.

Muhammad took it off his neck and gave it back to her, and said:

"There is Someone Who saves me from all kinds of danger, while these green beads can't do anything."

"Who is that?" asked Halimah. "Who saves you from all kinds of danger?"

"Allah," said Muhammad, "our Creator."

Questions:

1. What is the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad's father? What is the name of his mother?
2. What is the name of his wet-nurse? Where was our Prophet brought up as a child?
3. Why did Muhammad (S.A.) take the necklace off from his neck?
4. What did Halimah ask him?
5. What was his reply?

Lesson Fifteen

Being Kind to Children

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) was very kind to children and loved them very much. One day, he placed his two grandchildren, Hasan and Husayn, on his lap and began kissing and cuddling them. A man who was passing by saw what the Prophet (S.A.) was doing, and became very surprised. "I have ten children," he said. "And I have not kissed even one of them."

The Prophet heard what this hard-hearted man said and became very annoyed. "I do not think this man will attain Paradise," he said.

Our Holy Prophet loved children. He used to carry them on his shoulders. The children would become very happy and laugh. The Prophet, too, would become happy at the pure happiness and laughter of the children and a smile would appear on his face.

Our Holy Prophet used to give his salam to children and would tell his companions:

"I give my salam to children and respect them, and Muslims should follow my behaviour and always be warm and loving with children."

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) used to speak about children — boys and girls — and Say:

"O Muslims, O fathers and mothers, O my followers, be kind and compassionate towards children, for someone who



is not kind to children has no place amongst the Muslims.”
*** Our Holy Prophet was kind to children and became happy at their pure and innocent laughter.***

Questions and Exercises:

1. Why was the man surprised at the behaviour of the Prophet?
2. What did he say?
3. What did the Prophet say after hearing this?
4. What has our Holy Prophet told us about children?

Complete these sentences:

- a. Our Holy Prophet tells us: “I give to children and respect them.”
- b. “And Muslims should my behaviour and always be and with children.”
- c. Our Holy Prophet used to children on his blessed shoulders.
- d. Seeing the pure smiles of children, the Holy Prophet would become and
- e. “Be to children, for someone who is not kind to has amongst the

Lesson Sixteen

The Religion of Islam

The Best Religion for the Best Life

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) used to tell the people, "I have brought for you all the good of this world and the Hereafter, and Allah has commanded me to call all the people of the world to Islam."

What is Islam?

All the instructions that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) brought from Allah are called "the religion of Islam". Islam is the best and most perfect of all religions.

Who is a Muslim?

A Muslim is a person who strives to follow all the instructions that the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) brought from Allah.

What is the name of our Holy Book?

The name of our Holy Book is "The Quran". The Quran is a programme of life that Allah has sent for us.

We Muslims respect the Quran, and this means we follow its instructions.

*** The Quran is the Last Heavenly Book. ***

Questions:

1. What did the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) tell the people?
2. What command did Allah give to Muhammad (S.A.)?
3. Is the religion of Islam only for some of the people of the world?
4. What things are called “the religion of Islam”?
5. What kind of religion is Islam?
6. Who is a Muslim?
7. What is the name of the Muslims’ Holy Book?
8. How do we respect the Quran?

Complete these sentences:

1. The religion of Islam is for all the people of the
2. The instructions of Allah that the Holy Prophet Muhammad(S.A.)brought are called
3. A Muslim is a person who follows in all his works and deeds.
4. The Quran is our book and the of our lives.
5. We Muslims respect the and we try to its instructions.

Lesson Seventeen

The Orchard that Burnt

The owners of the orchard were sitting, talking amongst themselves. "Tomorrow early in the morning," they said, "We will go to the orchard to pick all the fruits, and we'll give none of the fruit to the poor."



One of them, who was better than the others, said, "Let us go and give some to the needy."

The others became angry. "Why are you interfering?"



they said. "The orchard and its fruit are ours, why should we give any to the poor?"

Night fell. It was very dark and they were all asleep. By Allah's command a thunderstorm occurred; and the fruits and trees of the orchard were struck by lightning and the whole orchard burnt to a cinder.

Morning dawned. The owners of the orchard woke up. "Quickly, let's go and pick the fruit," they said. "Don't make any noise, we don't want the poor to find out."

Quietly they set out until they reached the orchard. They saw a strange sight.

"No..." said one of them in a very strained voice. "This is not our orchard. We've come the wrong way."

"Of course it is," said another. "This is our orchard, but it's been burnt."

"Friends," said the good man, "I told you not to forget Allah. I told you to obey His commands. Didn't I tell you to help the poor? This is your punishment in the world, while the chastisement of the Hereafter is more severe and painful. This is the reward of those who don't help the poor."

The punishment in the Hereafter is more severe and painful.*

Reflect and Answer:

1. What were the owners of the orchard saying to each



other?

2. What did one of them say to the others?
3. Why did the orchard burn?
4. What were the owners saying to each other early the next morning?
5. What did they say when they reached the orchard?
 - a. Tell this story to your friends.
 - b. Draw some scenes from this story.

Complete these sentences:

- a. One of them, who was a good man, said: "Friends, don't forget; let us give some to the"
- b. "Quickly, let's go and pick the fruit," they said. "Don't make any noise. We don't want the poor to"
- c. The good man told them that, "This is your wordly punishment, and the chastisement of the Hereafter is and"

Lesson Eighteen

Who is an Imam?

The Imam is the successor of the Prophet and carries on his work after him.

Who appoints the Imam?

The Prophet appoints the Imam according to the Divine decree, and entrusts his work to him. The Imam continues the leading and guiding of the people and clarifies for them Allah's message and commands. The Imam is the leader of the people and the guardian of religion.

The Imams call the people to worship of Allah and to do good deeds and help others. The Imams were the enemies of oppressors and opposed and strived against them. The Imams worked hard to make the people aware of Allah and to establish justice amongst themselves. If the people have no leader and guide after the Prophet, how can they find the right path of life?

*** The Imam is the leader and guide of the people and the guardian of religion.***

Questions and Exercises:

1. Who appoints the Imam?
2. The Imams are enemies to which people?
3. What goal do the Imams strive hard for?
4. What is the responsibility of the Imam?

Complete the following sentences:

- a. The Imam is the of the Prophet and carries on his work
- b. The Imam and the people and makes for them the message of Allah.
- c. Our Imams call the people to and and
- d. Our Imams were enemies to and them.
- e. Imam is the and of the people and the of religion.

The Twelve Imams:

We have twelve Imams after the Holy Prophet (S.A.), who all came one after the other.

First- Imam 'Ali, alayhis-salam

Second- Imam Hasan, alayhis-salam

Third- Imam Husayn, alayhis-salam

Fourth- Imam 'Ali Zayn al-'Abidin, alayhis-salam

Fifth- Imam Muhammad al-Baqir, alayhis-salam

Sixth- Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq, alayhis-salam

Seventh- Imam Musa al-Kazim, alayhis-salam

Eighth- Imam 'Ali ar-Riza, alayhis-salam

Ninth- Imam Muhammad at-Taqi, alayhis-salam

Tenth- Imam 'Ali an-Naqi, alayhis-salam

Eleventh- Imam Hasan al-'Askari, alayhis-salam

Twelfth- Imam Muhammad al-Mahdi, al-Hujjat, Imam al-Zaman, alayhis-salam

Lesson Nineteen

Loving Children

Imam 'Ali(A.S.) was very kind to children, especially to orphans. If he ever saw an orphan crying, he would stop whatever he was doing, bend down, give the child his salam,



wipe away the child's tears, put his hand on the child's shoulder and say, "My child, why are you crying? Has

someone hurt you? Come, let me take you to my house.”

‘Ali(A.S.)would take the child home and treat him better than any father. He would bring the child sweets and cakes and honey, and put them in the child’s mouth himself.

Imam ‘Ali used to tell his followers to love and be kind to orphans, especially the orphans of martyrs killed in the path of Allah. “They have lost their loving fathers,” he used to say. “So cheer them up and look after them just like a father.

“Their fathers were martyred in **jihad** and for the sake of Islam, and they have rights on you. Make their souls pleased with you by cheering up their children and looking after them.”



Imam ‘Ali was always attentive to orphans, especially to those of the martyrs. He used to visit them and sit and chat and play with them. He used to take care of their education and training. He would strive to solve their difficulties and always offered them guidance and advice. He would bring them gifts and, if they were poor, he would respectfully provide their expenses.

Imam ‘Ali(A.S.)was so kind to orphans and laid so much stress on them in his teachings that one of his companions

said: "How I wish that I too was a young orphan so that I would receive such kindness and love from Imam 'Ali (A.S.),"

*** Love and be kind to children, especially orphans. ***

Questions and Exercises:

1. What did Imam 'Ali(A.S.) use to tell his followers about children, especially orphans?
2. What did Imam 'Ali's companions say about Imam's treatment of orphans?
3. If Imam 'Ali(A.S.) saw a young orphan, what would he do?

Complete the following sentences:

1. Imam 'Ali was very kind to
2. Imam 'Ali would bend down and give the child his
3. He would take him home and treat him better than a
4. Imam 'Ali was continually telling his followers to love and be kind to

Lesson Twenty

The Guests of Imam Hasan (A.S.)

Imam Hasan, 'alayhis-salam, was a friend of the poor and was kind to them. One day, he was going along the road when he saw some poor people sitting on the ground eating their food. Their food was a few pieces of dry bread.



When they saw him they called him saying, "Come on! Join us, eat with us! Don't be shy!"

Imam Hasan dismounted from his horse and sat down to eat with them on the ground.

“O brothers,” he said after a while, “I accepted your invitation. Now I beg you to be my guests and come to my house.”

They accepted his invitation and Imam Hasan went to his house. “I have very important guests,” he told his household. “Provide them with the best food.”

The guests came to his house and Imam Hasan catered for them with great respect and they became very happy.

Imam Hasan was very kind to the poor. He used to help them, and several times during his life he gave to the poor half of all his possessions.

*** Imam Hasan was a friend to the poor and very kind to them.***

Questions:

1. Who were the people who were Imam Hasan’s guests?
2. What kind of food did Imam Hasan provide for them?
3. How did Imam Hasan behave with the poor and needy?
4. How do you behave with the poor and needy?
5. What do we learn from this lesson?
6. How do we follow Imam Hasan?
7. Is it not our duty to defend the trampled rights of the poor?
8. How do we defend their rights?

Complete these sentences:

1. Imam Hasan was to the poor.
2. Imam Hasan dismounted from his and sat down beside them on
3. He told his household, “I have, provide the best for them.
4. Imam Hasan catered for them with

Lesson Twenty-one

Being Kind to Animals

One day Imam Hasan, 'alayhis-salam, was busy eating when a dog came and stood in front of him, gazing at him. Imam Hasan put a mouthful of food in his own mouth and then threw some in front of the dog. The dog ate it, wagged his tail in thanks, barked, and again lifted its head to gaze at Imam Hasan.



Imam Hasan threw another mouthful of food in front of the dog. A man who was passing by came forward and said, "It's not right that this dog stands in front of you and stops you from eating in peace. With your permission I will beat it and drive it away."

“No, no, don’t do that.” Imam Hasan told him. “Allah has created this animal and Allah loves it. It is hungry and I am ashamed before Allah to eat His food and His blessings and not give anything to this creature that is His creation. After all, it is hungry and is looking at me.”

Questions:

1. How did Imam Hasan, ‘alayhis-salam, give food to the dog?
2. Have you ever given food to animals?
3. How did that dog say “thank you”?
4. Why did that man want to make the dog go away?

Lesson Twenty-two

The Child Who Does Beautiful Deeds



Ahmad is an extremely good boy. He doesn't trouble anyone and is a friend to his brothers and sisters and is kind to them.

He helps his sister, Mahin, who is in class one to learn her lessons well.

In his spare time, he helps his classmates to prepare for their lessons.

Ahmad is kind and gentle with all the children. His heart wants all of them to learn their lessons well.

If one of his friends finds himself in need of a pen or paper, Ahmad gives it to him.

Because Ahmad is a kind boy who does beautiful deeds, everyone likes him, and he is valued and respected by all.

Above all, Allah also loves him and will give him a beautiful reward. Allah loves those who do beautiful deeds, and in the Quran he tells us:

*** Allah loves those who do beautiful deeds. ***

Questions:

1. Why does everyone like Ahmad?
2. Does Allah love Ahmad?
3. When Allah loves a person, what does He do?
4. What must we do if we want people to like us?
5. What does Allah tell us in the Quran about those who do beautiful deeds?
6. How do you help your mother and father?

Complete these sentences:

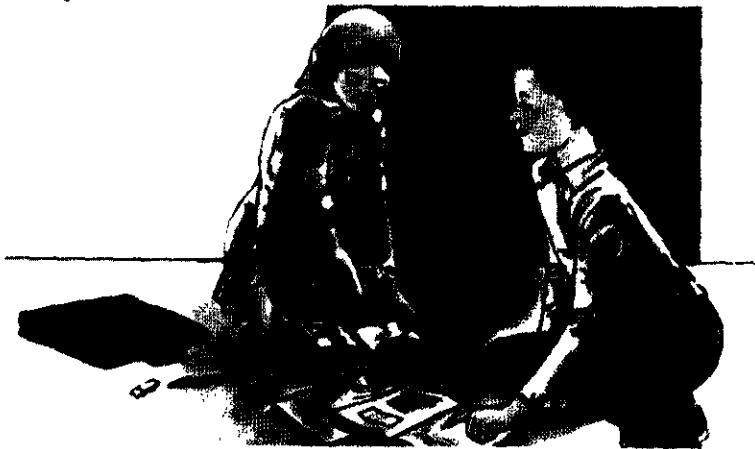
1. Ahmad is a to his sister and is to her.
2. He his sister to learn her lesson well.
3. Because Ahmad is a boy who, everyone him.
4. Above all, Allah him and will give him
5. Allah tells us in the Quran;

Lesson Twenty-three

The Child Who Doesn't Trouble Anyone

Hamid is an extremely good boy. He doesn't trouble anyone. He doesn't annoy any of the pupils in his school. He doesn't throw stones at people's doors and windows. He doesn't draw pictures on doors and walls or write on them.

Hamid knows that to trouble people is bad and sinful. He knows that to cause someone distress is a sin, and until it is compensated and the victim becomes content, Allah won't



forgive it. When Hamid is playing he is careful not to trouble his neighbours, and not to make them unhappy with a lot of noise, nor disturb their leisure and sleep. Hamid knows that Allah doesn't like those who trouble their neighbours. Since

Hamid is such a thoughtful boy who doesn't trouble anyone, everyone likes him, and Allah also loves him.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) tells us:

“A person who troubles his neighbours will not go to Paradise.”

Questions and Exercises:

1. What has the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) told us about neighbours?
2. When Hamid is playing, how does he take care not to trouble his neighbours?
3. What things does Hamid take care not to do?
4. Why does Allah love Hamid?

Complete these sentences:

- a. Hamid knows that to trouble people is and
- b. He knows that to cause someone is a sin.
- c. Until it is compensated and the victim becomes, Allah won't it.
- d. Because Hamid is a boy, Allah loves him.

Lesson Twenty-four

Let's Be Clean

Our Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) once saw a man who had dust and sand all over his face. His hair was ruffled and dirty, his hands and face were unwashed. His mouth was dirty and stank, and his clothes were grubby and untidy.

The Holy Prophet became unhappy at the sight of that man and told him, "Why do you live like this? Don't you know that cleanliness is part of religion? Don't you know that Allah loves those who are clean? A Muslim must be clean and



make use of Allah's blessings.

"Since there is water," he continued, "wash yourself and keep yourself clean and tidy."

*** Cleanliness is a part of religion. Muslims must always be clean. ***

Questions and Exercises:

1. Look at your hands, are they perfectly clean?
2. What about your fingernails?
3. Look at your teeth in a mirror, are they clean?
4. Do you wash your teeth? How many times a day?

When?

5. Do you take care to keep your body and your clothes clean?

Complete these sentences:

- a. "Why do you live so and ?"
- b. "Don't you know that is a part of religion?"
- c. "A Muslim must be"
- d. "Don't you know that Allah loves?"
- e. "Since there is water, keep yourself and"

This boy is dirty and untidy.

He hasn't washed his hands and face.

His clothes are dirty and scruffy.

For these reasons, no one likes him.

Karim is a very clean child.

He washes his hands and his face with soap and water.

He keeps his clothes clean.

For these reasons, everyone likes him.

Allah, too, loves people who are clean.

Lesson Twenty-five

Let's Offer Prayer

Let's offer prayer and, in the prayer, talk to our Kind and Merciful Allah. Prayer is a pillar of religion, and the Prophet tells us:

“Whoever thinks little of the prayer and neglects it is not one of my followers.”

Islam instructs fathers and mothers to teach the prayer



to their children, to train them in the habit of praying from the age of seven, to constantly remind them to pray, and to

call them to prayer.

For boys and girls who have reached the age of maturity it is obligatory for them to offer the prayer themselves, and if they don't offer their prayers, they have been disobedient and are just like criminals.

*** God loves children who pray and gives them beautiful rewards. ***

Questions:

1. Who do we speak to in prayer?
2. What has our Prophet (S.A.) told us about people who think little of prayer?
3. What is the duty of mothers and fathers towards their seven-year-old children?
4. Who teaches you how to pray?
What does it mean that "prayer is a pillar of religion"?

Lesson Twenty-six

Wuzu

A person who wants to pray must first take “wuzu”.
Wuzu is a religious wash that is taken in this order:

1. We make intention that we take wuzu to please Allah.
2. We wash our faces from the place where our hair begins to grow, to our chins, from up to down with our right hand.
3. We wash our right arm from our elbows to the tips of our fingers from up to down.
4. We wash our left arm from our elbows to the tips of our fingers from up to down.



5. We wipe our right hand, with the wetness still on it, across the top of our heads from the back to the front.

6. We wipe our right hand, with the wetness still on it, across the top of our right foot, from the tip of our toes to the place in front of the two ankles.



7. We wipe our left hand, with the wetness still on it, across the top of our left foot, from the tip of our toes to the place in front of the two ankles.

*** Take wuzu in front of your father, mother or teacher and ask if you have done it properly.***

Lesson Twenty-seven

Table Manners

The religion of Islam teaches us the noblest ethics and manners of daily life and contains programmes for us to live in the best way. If we put all these programmes into practice, we will live in happiness and bliss forever. It has even explained the best way for us to eat and drink.



Table Manners:

1. Before eating, wash your hands with clean water, for it is possible that your hands are dirty and are carrying germs and if the germs enter your body, you will become ill.
2. Begin your meal in the name of Allah, and say "Bismillahir- Rahmanir- Rahim."

3. Take your food in small mouthfuls and chew it till it is soft and smooth, for the smoother food is chewed the sooner and better it is digested, and this assists the body's health.

4. Always take the food that is in front of you, and don't stretch your arm to reach the food that is in front of someone else.

5. Stop eating when you are nearly full and don't eat too much.

6. After finishing the meal, be grateful to Allah and say: "Alhamdu-lillahi Rabbil-'alamin" ("Praise be Allah's, Lord of the Universe).

7. We think about the poor and those who are hungry, and we help them.

*** We begin our food with the name of Allah and thank Him when we have finished.***

Questions and Exercises:

1. What must we do before we eat?
2. With whose name do we begin to eat? Why?
3. Do we eat small mouthfuls? Why?
4. Whom do we thank after our meal?

Complete these sentences:

- a. Islam teaches us the noblest.....
- b. If we put these programmes into practice, we will live in forever .
- c. Islam has even explained for us the
- d. Stop eating before you are completely.....
- e. After you have finished eating, say: "....."

Lesson Twenty-eight

The Status of the Teachers

Our Prophet Muhammad (S.A.) tells us: "I am the teacher of the people and I give them lessons in religion."

Imam 'Ali(A.S.)tells us: "Rise from your place in respect for your father and your teacher."

The Fourth Imam, Imam Zain al-'Abidin (A.S.), tells us: "A teacher has certain rights over his students:

First- that the students treat their teacher with great respect.

Second- that they listen carefully to what he says.

Third- that they constantly face towards him.

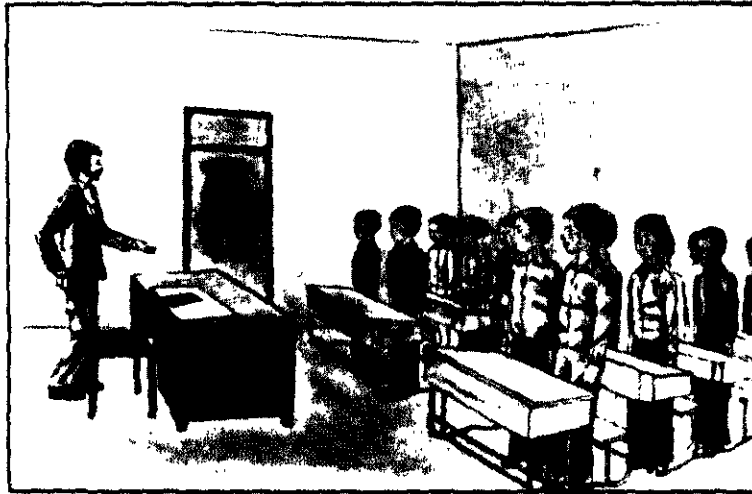
Fourth- that their wits are totally engaged in learning the lesson.

Fifth- that they appreciate and are thankful for their lesson."

We follow all this guidance. We like our teacher, we respect him, and we know that, like our parents, he has many rights over us.

Questions:

1. Who taught you how to read and write?
2. Who teaches you the things you don't know?
3. Who is the greatest teacher of mankind?
4. What instructions does our first Imam give about our father and our teacher?



5. What has the fourth Imam told us about the right of our teacher?

6. What must we do when the teacher enters the classroom?

7. In your class, which person acts according to the instructions of the fourth Imam about the teacher?

Write a letter to your teacher and thank him.

Lesson Twenty-nine

An Important Health Instruction

A Christian physician once asked Imam Sadiq (A.S.); "Is there anything concerning health in your Quran and in the instructions of your Prophet?"

Imam Sadiq (A.S.) told him, "Yes! In the Quran man is told: 'Eat and drink; but in eating and drinking don't be immoderate.' and our Prophet has told us: 'Don't eat until hungry for it is the source of all illnesses, while eating little and wisely is the source of all cures.'"



The Christian physician stood up and said, "What good and perfect health instructions your Quran contains! And

what a sensible recommendation your Prophet has made about health.”

Allah tells us: “Eat and drink; but don’t be immoderate.

Questions:

1. What did the Christian doctor ask Imam Sadiq (A.S.)?
2. What did Imam Sadiq (A.S.) tell him in reply?
3. Explain a health instruction that is in the Quran.
4. Relate a health instruction of the Prophet.
5. What is the outcome of eating when full?
6. What did the Christian physician say after listening to Imam Sadiq (A.S.)?
7. How do we follow this guidance of Imam Sadiq (A.S.)?

Complete these sentences:

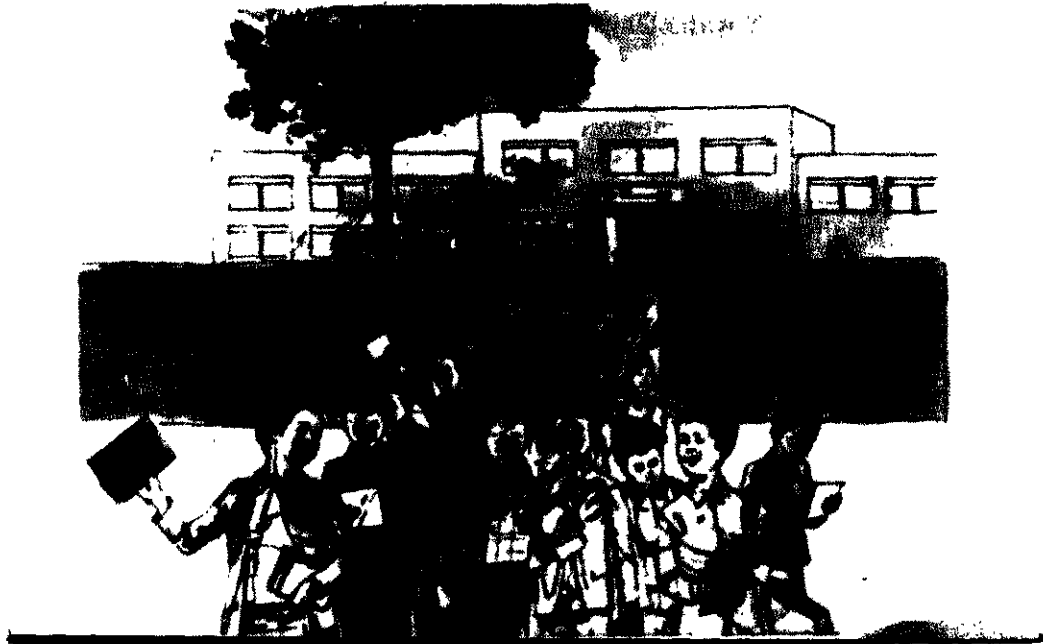
- a. The Quran tells us: “.....: but don’t be immoderate.”
- b..... until hungry for this is the
- c. Eating little is the.....
- d. What and instructions our Quran contains about.....
- e. What a recommendation our Prophet has made.

Lesson Thirty

The Day of Separation

At the end of the year, when the pupils receive their school reports, some of the children are happy and smiling. They show their reports to others and everybody congratulates them; these children have worked hard and have succeeded.

And some of the children become unhappy when they take their reports. They hang their heads in shame and say to themselves, "How I wish I had learnt my lessons! How I wish I had worked hard! How I wish..."



On the Day of Resurrection too, some will be happy and smiling and will receive their reports in their right hands. They will go to Paradise and will live there with good friends in lush gardens full of fruits.

Paradise is the reward for their good and beautiful deeds.

But some of the people will receive their reports in their left hands. These are unhappy and crying and they hang their heads in shame and say to themselves, "How I wish I had been good in the world. How I wish I didn't make trouble for anybody. How I wish ..."

These go to hell and they receive nothing but pain and fire. The burning hell is the punishment of their bad and oppressive deeds.

The Day of Resurrection is the Day of Separation.

Questions:

1. On the Day of Resurrection, who will receive their reports in their right hands?
2. Who will receive their reports in their left hands?
3. What do these people say to themselves?
4. Why is the Day of Resurrection called the "Day of Separation"?

Complete these sentences:

1. On the Day of Resurrection, those who do beautiful deeds will be happy and and will go to and will live there with friends in
2. On the Day of Resurrection, oppressors and bullies are unhappy and and they their heads inand they say to themselves, "How I wish! How I wish"
These go to hell and receive.....