

# THE FAITHFUL FUTURE GAZETTE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION

MASJID-UT-TAQWA

The students of Masjid Taqwa's Sunday School have once again come together with enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication to produce the third edition of **The Faithful Future Gazette**, our very own student-led newsletter.



This issue will cover a variety of engaging sections and thought-provoking topics, all thoughtfully written and created by our very own Sunday School students.

The newsletter has been carefully compiled, reviewed, and edited by the entire team of dedicated Sunday School teachers.

## WELCOME NOTE

It is with great joy that I present this special edition of our Sunday School newsletter, lovingly crafted by our bright students with the support of our dedicated teachers.

Since the founding of Masjid-ut-Taqwa Sunday School in 2011, when I had the honour of serving as President, the mission has been to nurture young minds with Islamic values, strong character, and a firm faith, preparing them to become exemplary citizens of Canada.

This newsletter brings that vision to life. Inside, you'll find thoughtful reflections and research on key Islamic themes: the lives of the four rightly guided caliphs, the ten companions promised Jannah, the five pillars of Islam, and much more. Students also explored the importance of the holy land, remarkable Muslim inventions, the value of saying salam, and the real-life challenges they face in school today.

I'm truly proud of what our students and teachers have accomplished. This newsletter is a testament to their dedication, learning, and love for our deen. I encourage all readers to read, reflect, and be inspired and to continue the pursuit of knowledge and excellence.

May Allah (SWT) bless our students, teachers, and families, and keep us firm on the straight path. Ameen!

**Seyad Mubarak**

**Principal – Sunday School (Masjid-ut-Taqwa)**



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# Importance of Salam

*Written by the Junior Students (Boys)*

**As-Salamu Alaikum!** That's how Muslims greet each other, and it means "**Peace be upon you!**" Saying salam is a big part of being a Muslim, and it's also a sunnah, something the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) taught us to do.

There are different ways to say salam:

- Just "**As-Salamu Alaikum**" means "Peace be upon you" and gives you 10 rewards!
- "**As-Salamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah**" means "Peace and mercy of Allah be upon you" and gives you 20 rewards!
- "**As-Salamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh**" means "Peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you" and gives you 30 rewards!

The longer your salam, the more rewards you get!

The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said this in a hadith when three men greeted him using the different versions of salam. He replied to each one and informed them of the number of rewards they had earned. (Abu Dawud and Tirmidhi)



## Why is Salam Special?

Salam means peace. It's a kind, gentle, and respectful way to say hello. It brings people closer and helps spread love and friendship. Saying salam first is a good deed! The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said: "The ones closest to Allah are those who say salam first." (Abu Dawud). We can say salam when:

- Meeting someone
- Leaving someone
- Entering or leaving our home
- Walking into a room
- Even when texting or calling!

# Salam in the Holy Qur'an

Did you know "**Salam**" is also mentioned in the Qur'an many times? Here are two beautiful examples:

- "When those who believe in Our signs come to you, say: Peace be upon you! Your Lord has made mercy mandatory..." (Surah Al-An'am 6:54)
- "The keepers of Paradise will say: 'Peace be upon you! You did well. Enter to live there forever!'" (Surah Az-Zumar 39:73)

This shows that salam is not just a greeting; it's a part of our religion, our manners, and even something we'll hear in Jannah (Paradise) In Sha Allah!

## A Simple Word with Big Impact

Saying salam is easy, but it means a lot. It makes people feel happy and respected. When we say it with a smile, it can brighten someone's day.

And don't forget, when someone says "**As-Salamu Alaikum**" to you, you should always reply with: "**Wa Alaikum Assalam**" (And peace be upon you too!)

**Let's try to say salam more often, spread peace wherever we go, and earn lots of rewards from Allah!**



# Heroic Leaders Times

Written by the Junior Upper Level 2 Students

## 1<sup>st</sup> Khalifa: Abu Bakr RA

- Abu Bakr RA was the **first** man to accept Islam.
- He was given the title "As-Siddeeq" (The Truthful).
- He was buried next to the Prophet ﷺ when he passed away.

### His Trust in Allah SWT and Generosity

The Muslims needed money and equipment to prepare for a battle against the Disbelievers. So Abu Bakr RA gave **everything** he had!

The Prophet ﷺ asked, "What did you leave for your family?" Abu Bakr RA said, "**I have left Allah SWT for my family!**" Subhanallah! He trusted that Allah would take care of his family even though he had nothing left.

Prophet ﷺ has said, "I have paid back everyone who helped me - except Abu Bakr. He has done so much for me that *only* Allah can reward him. No one's wealth has helped me like his."

### His Love For The Prophet ﷺ

One time, the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr RA had to hide from the disbelievers. They had no choice but to hide in a cave! Abu Bakr RA asked the Prophet ﷺ to wait outside. He wanted the cave to be safe! So Abu Bakr RA *ripped* his own **clothes** to *clean* and remove harmful creatures from inside!. When there were two more holes left. Abu Bakr RA used his **feet** to cover them!

Then, as the Prophet ﷺ rested on Abu Bakr RA's lap, a **snake** bit Abu Bakr RA's foot!

But Abu Bakr RA loved the Prophet ﷺ so much. He did not want to disturb even his sleep. So he did not move or make any noise, despite his pain! **SubhanAllah!**

## Quotes from Those Who Knew Abu Bakr RA

*"No one has been a better companion to me than Abu Bakr."*

**- The Holy Prophet ﷺ, in his last khutbah**

*"Today the closest one to the Prophet ﷺ has left us. You were the first to believe in him. You were the most truthful, the most kind, and closest to the Prophet ﷺ in character. You were like a loving father to the Muslims. You always led the way and were the strongest among us."*

*"We are sad, but we accept Allah's decision. After the Prophet passed away, this is the hardest moment for us. May Allah join you with the Prophet ﷺ and reward you."*

**- Ali RA, when Abu Bakr RA passed away**

## What Students Say...

"He was very generous." - Maryam Rifaq

"He gave his daughter Aisha RA to the Prophet ﷺ in marriage." - Ahsan Safran

"He was very brave." - Safa Meraj

"He was so truthful & kind." - Haniya Khan

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Khalifa: Umar RA

- Umar RA accepted Islam when he read verses of surah Taha.
- He was given the title "Al-Farooq" (the one who distinguishes between right and wrong).
- Umar RA was buried beside the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr RA when he passed away.

### His Fairness

Once a man from the Roman emperor came to Madinah to learn about who the leader of the Muslims was. He didn't see any palace and asked, "Where is your king?" The people said, "**We don't have a king, but a leader.**" He's outside the city."

The man found Umar RA sleeping on the ground under a tree. There were no *guards* or anything! The man was *amazed* and said, "Umar is so **fair** that he can sleep *peacefully*, not worrying that people might *hurt* him. While our ruler is *unfair* and always afraid of people's retaliation. **I believe your religion is true.**" This man accepted Islam after seeing how Islam made Umar RA so fair! SubhanAllah!

### His Patience

One time, a man yelled, "Fear Allah!" to Umar RA. Other Muslims said, "You shouldn't speak like that to your Leader!" Wouldn't we be angry if someone yelled at us? Especially if we were their leader? But Umar RA was patient and humble. He took the man's words as advice even though he had yelled at him!

### His Devotion

As Khalifa, Umar RA took his duty of caring for the people very seriously. He would not even sleep that much at night even though he would be very tired! Instead, he would patrol the roads to make sure no one had any problems. This is how he was able to help a woman and her children who had no food!

## Quotes from Those Who Knew Umar RA

"Even Shaytaan is scared of you, Umar!"

- **The Holy Prophet ﷺ**

"After the Noble Messenger, the best of people is Abu Bakr, then the best of people is Umar."

- **Ali RA**

## Quotes from Umar RA

"The most beloved of people to me is he that points out my flaws to me."

"Don't forget your own self while preaching to others."

## Umar RA - A Shaheed

Umar RA knew the rewards Allah SWT gave to those who passed away as *shuhadaa'*, so Umar RA would make dua that he could also pass away as a shaheed. People would ask, "**How will you die a shaheed when no one wants to kill you?**"

But Allah SWT accepted Umar RA's dua. After he led Fajr salaah one day, a man hurt him with a knife! Umar RA passed a shaheed three days later from those injuries...

## What Students Say...

"He was very brave that he wanted to die as a shaheed. He's a role model of bravery." Usman Yoonus

"He was fair." - Zara Ilham

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Khalifa: Uthmaan RA

- Uthmaan RA was the fourth person to accept Islam.
- He married two daughters of the Prophet ﷺ, giving him the title, "Dhun-Nurayn" (**The One with Two Lights**).
- Uthmaan RA compiled the Qur'an into 1 version, which is what we read today!

### His Generosity

In the battle of Tabuk, Uthmaan RA single-handedly donated enough for one-third of the entire army! He was so generous that he was also given the title, "**Al-Ghani,**" (**the Generous**).

He used his money to free slaves every Friday, and if he could not find a slave one week, he would set free two slaves the next week! SubhanAllah!

### Trouble Brews... Uthmaan RA is patient

Uthmaan RA was leading the Muslims with **fairness** and **righteousness**. But then, a Jew pretending to be Muslim named Abdullah bin Saba, did not want the Muslims to be **united** anymore!

He spent years spreading lies about Uthmaan RA to the new Muslims in faraway lands! He would say "Uthmaan is unfair! He doesn't follow Islam properly! This hypocrite also faked letters, pretending that the Sahaabah also did not want Uthmaan RA to be Khalifa anymore!

Abdullah bin Saba caused a lot of *confusion* and *anger* towards Uthmaan RA. Uthmaan RA tried to clear the misunderstandings many times, but the hypocrite and his helpers made sure people would be **deceived**. A large army had gathered and they did not let Uthmaan RA leave his house! He could not go outside to get food or water, nor could he go and pray at the Masjid!

## What Prophet ﷺ Said About Uthmaan RA

*"Even the Angels are shy of Uthmaan."*

**- The Holy Prophet ﷺ**

The Prophet ﷺ also told Uthmaan RA: "You will be tested, and people will ask you to take off your robe (your leadership). But don't take it off!" This meant Uthmaan RA would be attacked unfairly, and people would ask him to quit being Khalifah without good reason.

### Martydom

*That is exactly what happened. Uthmaan RA refused to step down as Khalifa, and that made the army more mad. The Sahaabah tried to help Uthmaan RA. Ali RA sent his sons to stand guard by Uthmaan RA's door. But Uthmaan RA did not want them to get hurt and told them to go away. After a month of being surrounded by the army in his home, Uthmaan RA had a dream where the Prophet ﷺ told Uthmaan RA to open his fast with him ﷺ. Uthmaan RA knew his time had come.. An attacker broke into Uthmaan RA's house that day while he was **reading Qur'an**, and killed him. Uthmaan RA passed away a shaheed.*

### What Students Say...

*"He always thought that fighting back would not be good for the ummah. He passed away with the Qur'an in his hands." - Usman Yoonus*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Khalifa: Ali RA

- Ali RA was the first **child** to accept Islam.
- He married one of the daughters of the Prophet ﷺ, named Faatimah RA.
- Ali RA was the cousin of the Prophet ﷺ.

### His Humility and Fairness

One day Ali RA lost his armour. After looking for it, he found out that a Jewish man had it. Ali RA kindly said to the man, "This armour is mine. I never sold it or gave it to anyone." But the man replied, "No, it's mine. I have it, so it belongs to me."

Ali RA **didn't get angry**. Instead, he said, "Let's go to the judge and ask him to help us solve this fairly." So they both went to a Muslim judge. The judge first asked Ali RA to tell his side of the story. Ali RA explained: "This armour is mine. I never gave it away or sold it." Then the judge asked the man what he had to say. The man said, "It's mine, because I have it with me."

Then the judge asked Ali RA, "Do you have any proof that this is yours?" Ali said, "Yes, my son Hasan saw that the armour was mine." But the judge said, "According to our rules, a son cannot be a witness for his father in court. Since there's no other proof, the armour belongs to the Jewish man."

Even though Ali RA was **the leader of all the Muslims** and he went to a Muslim Judge, Ali RA did not use his position to get his way like so many others would have! He **humbly accepted** what the judge said.

The Jewish man was shocked! He said, "Wow! Ali brought me to his own judge, and the judge ruled against him! This is amazing! The armour is actually yours. This must be the true religion!"

## What Prophet ﷺ Said About Ali RA

*"Anyone who hurts or bothers Ali is hurting me."*

*"I am the city of knowledge, and Ali is its gate."*

- **The Holy Prophet ﷺ**

### His Knowledge

Ali RA was very wise and also knowledgeable from a very young age. The Prophet ﷺ appointed Ali RA as a judge in Yemen when he was **just twenty years** old! SubhanAllah! The Prophet ﷺ gave him advice to listen to both sides before making a decision. Since then, Ali RA said that he never had difficulties solving issues between two people!

### His love for the Prophet ﷺ and Bravery

When the Prophet ﷺ had to secretly migrate to Madinah with Abu Bakr RA, the Disbelievers had his home surrounded. Ali RA loved the Prophet ﷺ so much that despite the danger of the Disbelievers attacking him, he pretended to be the Prophet ﷺ! He laid in the Prophet ﷺ's bed so the Disbelievers would not know the Prophet ﷺ had already left! Ali RA was truly brave!

### What Students Say...

"He was very fair." - Zara Ilham

"He was very brave." - Safa Meraj

# WORD SEARCH

Prophet Khalifa Ali Uthmaan Abubakr Umar Shaheed  
Siddeeq Friend Generous Brave Patient Love Cave  
Quran Fair Sahaabah Dream Wise

XDHMBABUBAKROCWYGYVO  
EJNWSCSSGEIGAFYUMNTN  
ZEBSANUMARLVDRVQUGWJ  
ZIOWHVCJANEAYDRRUZOY  
LNCXAGAXVFLFDTLBVRBE  
MLSZAEPYWIJUZYVYVVUAQ  
NGLNBNMOJGSNSFNDTRVN  
ZZJVAEOXPWHQTRHNVVB  
YDYFHRNRLWAONEMPYOUQ  
PIIJPOANSBHOOALOVETM  
MSKSKULFWREMAQBRFRHE  
ORHJRSYAMAENKFFWUICP  
WDABSXQRPVDUBRWDSNPA  
HNLQNYTVJEPCAINSWEXT  
JSIUQVCZOUPWYEDIGGPI  
YPFATUCPHEHEINVWZXWE  
ORAPROPHETNDNDNWIPRN  
EFVWEYCXGAYXFLYLFKUT  
SSIDDEEQWISEHRDFAIRN  
GAFRAVQXKGLSGEMNEIYE

How can **YOU** be a hero? What **QUALITIES** does a hero have?

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# THE TEN SAHABAH GUARANTEED JANNAH

Written by the Junior Upper Level 2 Students

**The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:**

**"Abu Bakr is in Paradise, 'Umar is in Paradise, 'Uthman is in Paradise,  
'Ali is in Paradise, Talhah is in Paradise..." "**

**1**

## **Abu Bakr ibn Abi Quhafah (RA)**

**Birth:** 572 CE (2 years after the Year of the Elephant) in Makkah

**Death:** 634 CE (13 AH), age 63, in al-Madinah al-Munawwarah

**Title(s):** Originally, he was named Abd al-Ka'bah, but the Prophet ﷺ renamed him as Abdullah and As-Siddeeq.

**Important Qualities:** He freed slaves, protected the helpless and was very generous.

**Lessons we can learn from his life:** He was known for telling the truth at all times. Hence, we should speak the truth at all times because it will protect us from lying.

**2**

## **Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA)**

**Birth:** 583 CE (13 years after the birth of the Prophet ﷺ)

**Death:** 644 CE (24 AH), age 63, al-Madinah al-Munawwarah

**Title(s):** Al-Faarooq, this was a title given to him by the Prophet ﷺ

**Important Qualities:** He was the 40<sup>th</sup> person to accept Islam and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Khalifah in the history of Islam.

**Lessons we can learn from his life:** He was not afraid to speak the truth, and was martyred and buried next to the Prophet ﷺ alongside Abu Bakr (RA)

3

### Uthman ibn Affan (RA)

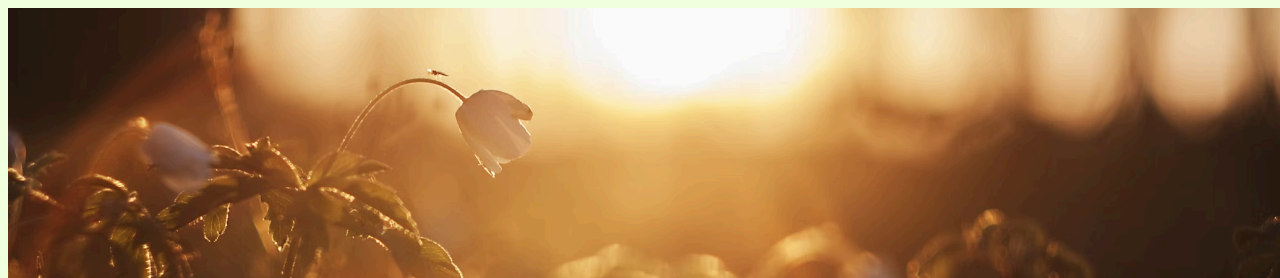
**Birth:** 576 CE (6 years after the Year of the Elephants)

**Death:** 655 CE (35 AH), age 82, al-Madinah al-Munawwarah

**Title(s):** Dhul-Noorayn, the one with two lights

**Important Qualities:** he was truthful and very polite

**Lessons we can learn from his life:** He bought a well for the Muslims and allowed them to use it for free. This shows his generosity.



4

### Ali ibn Abi Talib (RA)

**Birth:** 590 CE, in Makkah (10 years before Prophethood)

**Death:** 653 CE (40 AH), age 63, in Kufa

**Title(s):** Abu Turab

**Important Qualities:** He was the first child to accept Islam at the age of 10.

**Lessons we can learn from his life:** He remained close to the Prophet ﷺ for his entire life and was one of the most beloved people to the Prophet ﷺ

5

### Talha ibn Ubaydillah (RA)

**Birth:** 588 CE, in Makkah (12 years before Prophethood)

**Death:** 655 CE (35 AH), killed at age 64

**Title(s):** Abu Muhammad, al-Fayyaad, al-Khair

**Important Qualities:** Accepted Islam at age 15, and fought in many battles

**Lessons we can learn from his life:** He was a very strong and brave Sahabi

6

### Al-Zubayr ibn al-Awwaam (RA)

**Birth:** approx. 585 CE, in Makkah (15 years before Prophethood)

**Death:** 656 CE (36 AH), age 71 in Siba Valley

**Title(s):** Abu Abdillah and Hawariyy of Rasulullah ﷺ

**Important Qualities:** He was known for his bravery and loyalty.

**Lessons we can learn from his life:** Allah always rewards loyalty and bravery and you should always be dedicated to Islam.

7

### Abd al-Rahman ibn Auf (RA)

**Birth:** Approx. 580 CE , in Makkah

**Death:** 652 CE (32 AH), age 72, in al-Madinah al-Munawwarah

**Title(s):** Abu Muhammad

**Important Qualities:** He was known for his intelligence, wisdom and generosity.

**Lessons we can learn from his life:** Abd al-Rahman (RA) was poor when he did Hijrah to al-Madinah. But he started a business and soon became very rich. He dedicated himself to sharing his wealth and helping the less fortunate. He used his wealth to make Allah happy.

8

### Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas (RA)

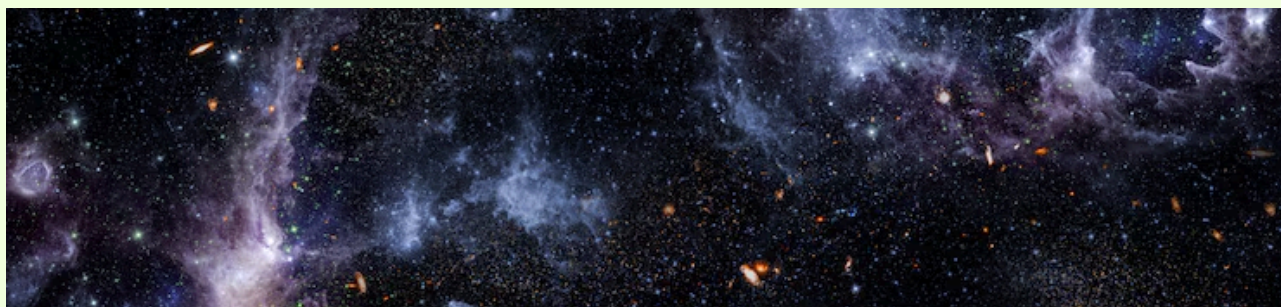
**Birth:** 581 CE (approx. 19 years before Prophethood)

**Death:** age 88, 675 CE (56 AH), in Aqeeq, al-Madinah al-Munawwarah

**Title(s):** Abu Ishaaq

**Important Qualities:** He became Muslim at age 17. He was an extremely brave man and also an expert archer

**Lessons we can learn from his life:** Despite facing a lot of difficulty, he never gave up his faith



9

### Sa'eed ibn Zayd (RA)

**Birth:** 593 CE, Makkah

**Death:** 629 (51 AH), age 73, in Aqeeq

**Title(s):** Abu al-A'war

**Important Qualities:** He avoided idol worship even before he became Muslims and followed the religion of Ibrahim (AS)

10

### Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah (RA)

**Birth:** 581 CE

**Death:** 639 CE (18 AH), age 58, in Jordan (because of plague)

**Title(s):** His actual name is Aamir, but he is more well-known by the title Abu Ubaidah. He is also called Ameen al-Ummah

**Important Qualities:** He remained close to the Prophet ﷺ his entire life

**Lessons we can learn from his life:** He accepted Islam when Abu Bakr (RA) invited him in secret

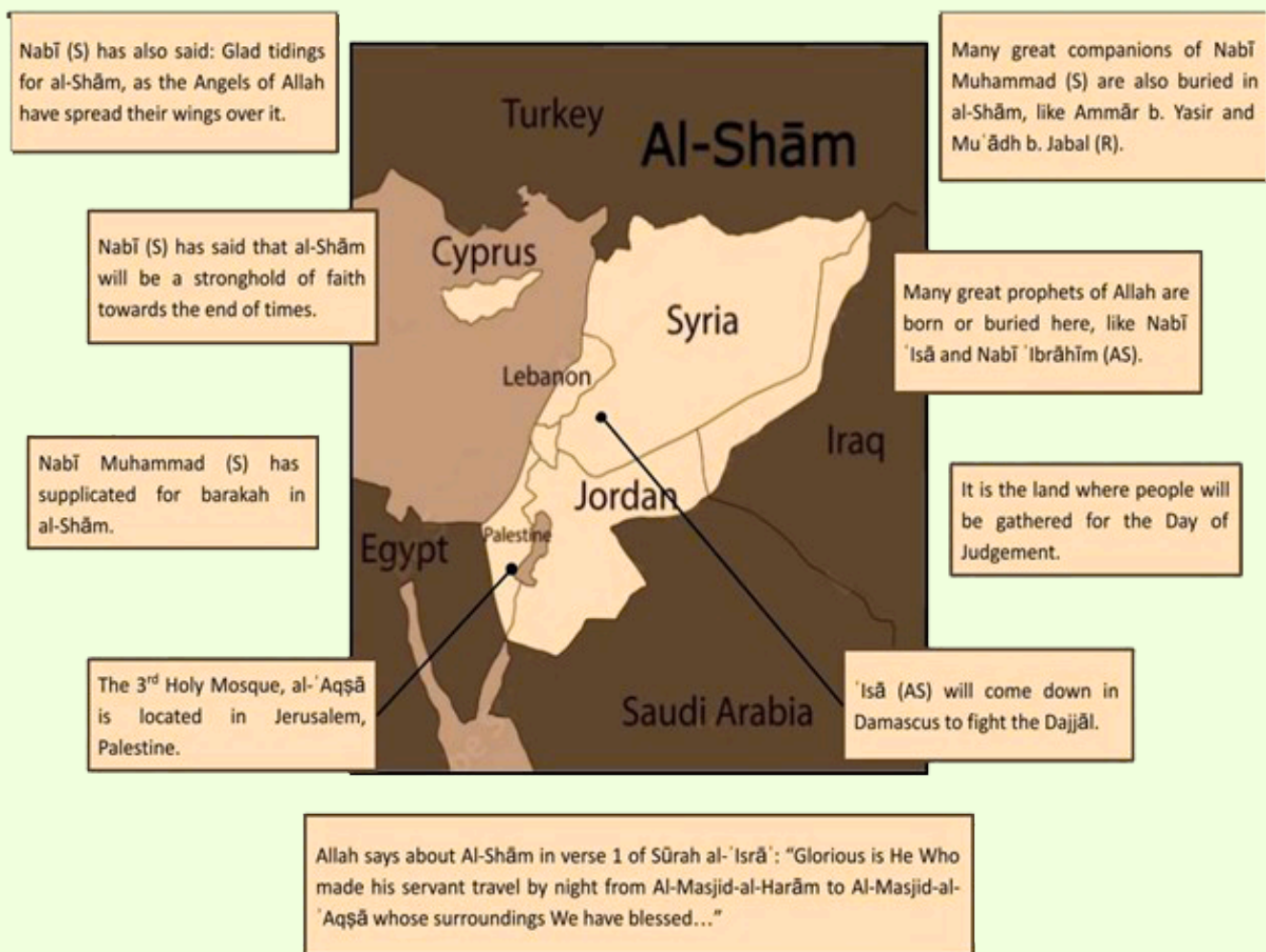
***...Az-Zubair is in Paradise, 'Abdur-Rahman bin 'Awf is in Paradise, Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas is in Paradise, Sa'eed bin Zaid is in Paradise, and Abu 'Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah is in Paradise."***  
***(Jami' al-Tirmidhi # 3747)***

# THE MAP OF AL SHĀM

*Designed by the Junior Upper Level 2 Students (Girls)*

The land that is known as Al-Shām in Arabic, refers to the area of the Levant or Greater Syria. It roughly encompasses what is known today as Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and the southern-most part of Turkey.

It is a very blessed land, and some of its virtues are mentioned below.



*The map of Al Shām*

# VIRTUES OF AL SHĀM

*Written by the Junior Upper Level 2 Students (Girls)*

- Al-Sham is a blessed land because Allah says in the first verse of Surah al-Isra: "Glorious is He Who made His servant travel by night from Al-Masjid-al-Harām to Al-Masjid-al-Aqsa whose surroundings We have blessed..."
- The 3rd Holy Mosque, al-Aqsa is located in Jerusalem, Palestine.
- Many great prophets of Allah are born or buried here, like Prophet Isa and Prophet Ibrahim AS.
- Many great companions of the Prophet ﷺ are also buried in al-Shām, like Ammar ibn Yasir and Mu'ādh ibn Jabal.



- The Prophet ﷺ has supplicated for barakah in al-Shām.
- The Prophet ﷺ has also said: Glad tidings for al-Shām, as the Angels of Allah have spread their wings over it.
- Isa AS will come down in Damascus to fight the Dajjal.
- It is the land where people will be gathered for the Day of Judgement.
- The Prophet ﷺ has said that al-Shām will be a stronghold of faith towards the end of times.

# 5 PILLARS – TRIVIA

*By the Junior Lower Level Students*

**1. How many pillars does Islam have?**

- A. 12
- B. 50
- C. 10
- D. 5

**2. What does Shahada mean?**

- A. To believe in one Allah
- B. To not eat or drink
- C. To give charity
- D. Pilgrimage

**3. What is salaah?**

- A. To believe in one Allah
- B. Daily prayers
- C. To give charity
- D. Pilgrimage

**6. What does Saum mean?**

- A. To believe in one Allah
- B. Fasting
- C. To give charity
- D. Pilgrimage

**7. Which month do Muslims fast in?**

- A. Muharrum
- B. Rajab
- C. Ramadan
- D. Dhul Hijja

**8. What does Zakaat mean?**

- A. To believe in one Allah
- B. To not eat or drink
- C. To give charity
- D. Pilgrimage



**4. What do Muslims do before performing salaah?**

- A. Shower
- B. Go for a jog
- C. Make wudhu
- D. Go shopping

**5. How many times do Muslims pray in a day?**

- A. 12
- B. 50
- C. 3
- D. 5

**9. What did Ibrahim AS build in the city of Makkah?**

- A. CN tower
- B. Kabah
- C. Masjid Nabwi
- D. Masjid Aqsa

**10. Where do Muslims go for Hajj?**

- A. Mecca
- B. Tokyo
- C. Palestine
- D. Toronto

# THE FIVE PILLARS

## WORD SEARCH

*By the Junior Lower Level Students*

P	I	L	G	R	I	M	A	G	E
O	H	F	R	O	N	W	N	H	F
N	A	A	I	S	L	A	D	R	D
Y	J	S	M	A	Z	A	K	A	H
T	J	T	A	W	A	P	A	I	Z
I	Z	I	G	M	R	R	H	T	H
R	A	N	E	A	A	A	A	Y	A
A	K	G	Y	K	N	Y	Z	N	L
H	A	E	F	E	I	L	E	B	A
C	R	H	A	D	A	H	A	H	S

SHAHADAH	SALAH	ZAKAH	SAWM	HAJJ
BELIEF	PRAYER	CHARITY	FASTING	PILGRIMAGE

# INVENTION OF ALGEBRA

*Written by the Senior Upper Level Students*

## Introduction

Algebra is the branch of math that is taught from middle school and is a core part of math in high school. Algebra uses variables to represent missing pieces of information. A variable is a letter that stands for a specific number. In algebra, we solve problems by finding the unknown values represented by the variable. Algebra was formulated and discovered many years ago by many people at many times.

However, due to the lack of information and discoveries being passed on from one place to another, the findings and evolution of algebra did not reach the ears of other inventors who contributed to the basics of it.

## Who invented it and what did he do?

**Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi**, known as the "**Father of Algebra**" revolutionized the field by improving techniques for solving algebraic problems. He contributed to mathematics, geography, astronomy, and cartography, making algebra and trigonometry possible and influencing its growth in the Middle East.

Brahmagupta, an Indian mathematician, scholar, and astronomer, invented the concept of the number zero. Mohammed ibn-Musa al-Khwarizmi further investigated Brahmagupta's concept and took it further to some of the concepts we know today.

Al-Khwarizmi also created a book called *Kitab al-jabr*, which is Arabic for "**The reunion of broken parts**." This book discusses solutions for equations and how to use the new form of algebra. Al-Khwarizmi helped popularize the decimal system, making the use of the number zero more common.

Al-Khwarizmi was born in Khwarizm, today's Khiva, South of the Aral Sea, in 780 CE, and studied sciences at Baghdad. He was **appointed Head of the House of Wisdom** in Baghdad in 820 CE, where he wrote on Hindu Arabic numerals, astronomy, and conducted detailed studies. His guidebook on Astronomy has been used by both Islamic and Western inventors and astronomers.

In 825 AD, he **invented Algebra**, which includes sections on how to calculate the area of geometric figures. The concept of Algebra and the number zero continued to play a role in the development of various fields, including physics, economics, engineering, and computing.

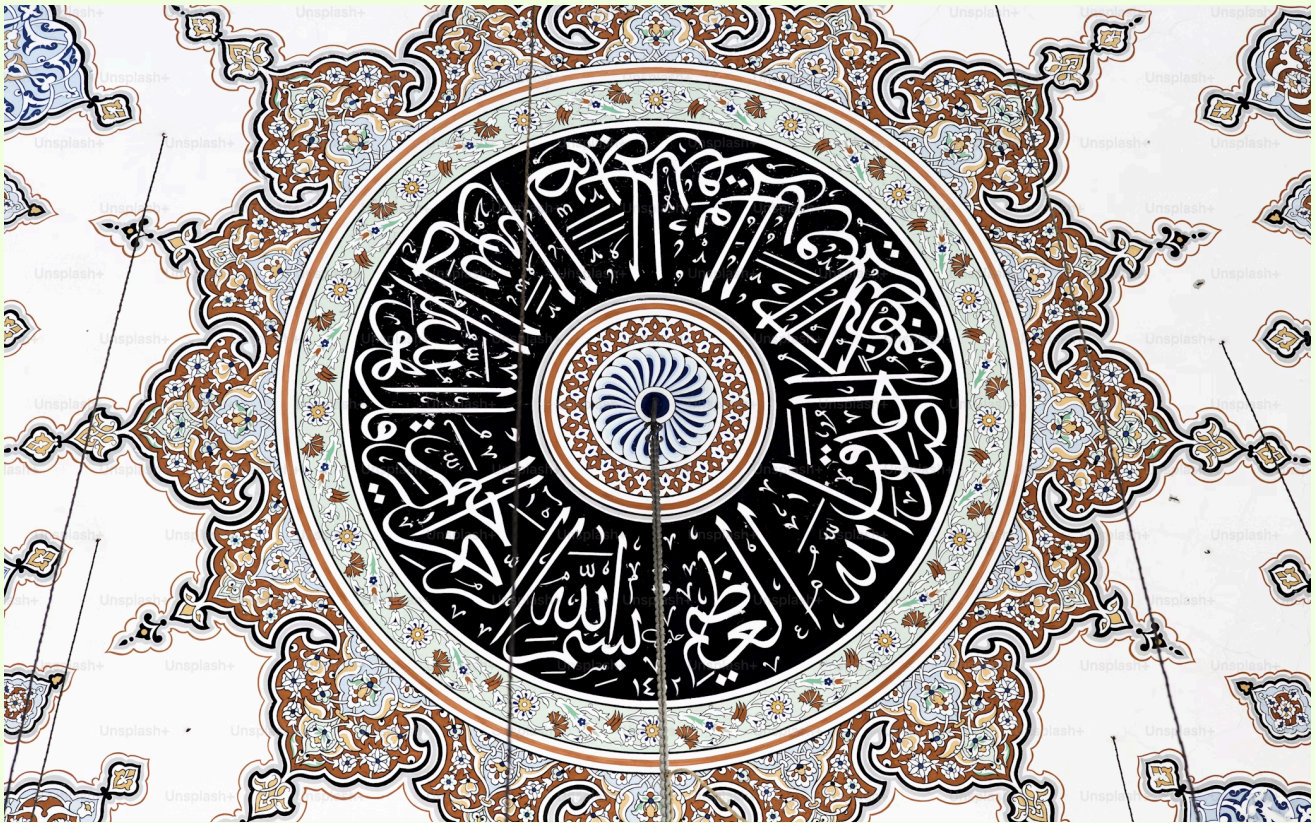
## How does Algebra impact the world today?

Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi's innovations in algebra have significantly impacted modern society, making it a core principle in high school, university and even elementary.

Algebra enhances **problem-solving abilities** and practical application in academic and practical settings. It can explain the rapid contamination of water and the impact of water contamination on people in third-world countries. Geometry studies can provide insights into architecture worldwide.

Algebra provides a foundation for understanding complex problems and serves as a foundation for future math classes and non-math related classes, making Al-Khwarizmi's contributions to mathematics, particularly algebra, a worthy recognition.

Mohammed ibn-Musa al-Khwarizmi's theories and inventions have been helping humanity take steps closer to new theories and discoveries. His invention of the number zero, Algebra and many other amazing discoveries and theories have done so much in our era, and will do more in the future.



# INVENTION OF COFFEE

*Written by the Senior Upper Level Students*

*Have you ever wondered how coffee was made? In the article below we will be talking about the invention of coffee.*

## Where was coffee invented?

Coffee was first invented in the **Arabian Peninsula** by a Muslim herbalist named Khalid. While the story of an Ethiopian goat herder named Kaldi is often shared, the true development of coffee as a beverage began in the Islamic world. Khalid's experiments with the coffee berries led to the creation of the drink we know today. His discovery **spread rapidly across the Middle East**, especially in Yemen. From there, coffee expanded to other parts of the world through trade.

## Who invented coffee?

Coffee as a drink was invented by a **Muslim herbalist named Khalid**. After observing that his goats became more energetic after eating certain berries, he decided to experiment by making a drink from them. Khalid realized that the drink helped him stay awake during prayer and meditation. His discovery laid the foundation for coffee's role in religious, cultural, and social life. Eventually, his work sparked the growth of the global coffee industry.

## What is coffee used for?

Originally, coffee was used for **religious and medicinal purposes in Islamic culture**. It helped worshippers stay away during long hours of prayer and allowed people to meditate for extended periods of time. Over time, coffee also became a popular drink for social gatherings and intellectual discussions. Its ability to increase focus and alertness made it valuable beyond religious uses. Today, coffee is an essential part of many people's daily routines around the world.

## How does it impact the world today?

Today, coffee has become one of the most consumed beverages globally, impacting economies, cultures, and social habits. Coffee shops are important social spaces where people meet, work, and relax. The coffee industry also provides jobs to **millions of farmers, workers, and business owners around the world**. Coffee continues to be valued for its energizing effects and its role in bringing people together. Khalid's original discovery still influences global society centuries later.



### **Why did muslims invent coffee?**

Muslims invented coffee mainly to support their religious practices. Khalid discovered that the drink helped him stay awake during long prayers and periods of meditation. Coffee quickly became a useful tool for people who sought to extend their meditation sessions. It's energizing properties made it essential for spiritual devotion and later for everyday life. As a result, coffee became deeply rooted in Islamic culture before spreading globally.



### **How was coffee made?**

Coffee was first made by using the berries of a specific plant that Khalid observed his goats eating. Curious about the berries' effects, he prepared a drink by either crushing or boiling them to extract their energizing properties. This early version of coffee helped him stay alert during prayer. Over time, people improved the methods of brewing and roasting the beans to create better-tasting coffee. These developments eventually led to the coffee beverages we enjoy today.

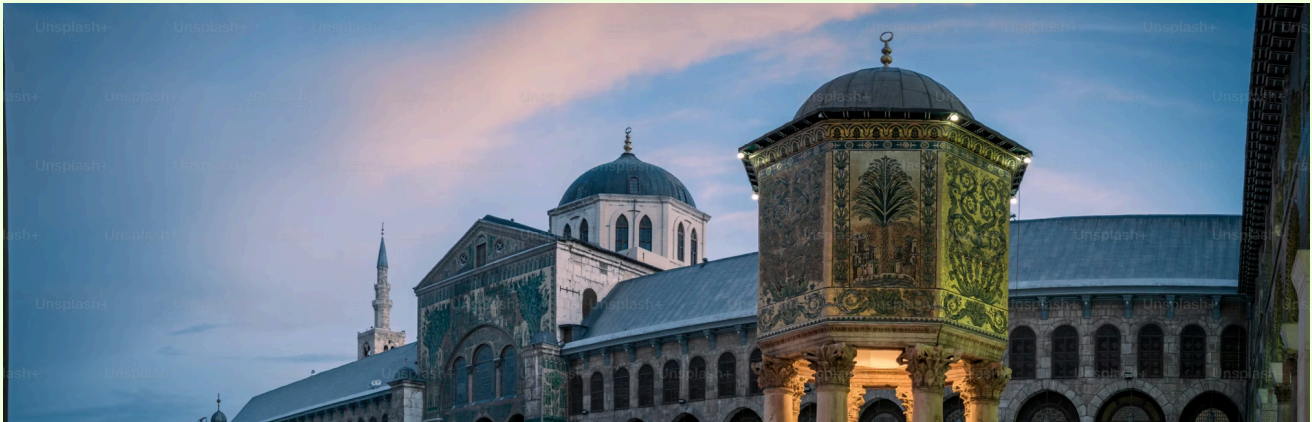
# INVENTION OF UNIVERSITY

*Written by the Senior Upper Level Students*

## Who invented University?

When we think about who invented the first university, we would think of a European man, when in fact neither a man nor a European invented the first University, but it was a Muslim woman named **Fatima Al-Fihri**. Fatima Al-Fihri was born in 800 CE to a merchant family in Qayrawan (present-day Karaouine), Tunisia. In 824 CE, the Caliph in Baghdad granted Ibrahim ibn al-Aghlab full control over a region, starting the Aghlabid Dynasty. Fatima's family opposed the Aghlabids, so her family, also with 2,000 other Shia families, were expelled from that land. They settled in Fes, Morocco, where it was a perfect place for business to bloom. Her father was able to save the business and make himself a wealthy and well respected merchant in the city once again.

After the death of her father she inherited a large fortune which she used to establish the world's first university, the **University of Al-Qarawiyyin**. Universities were established to provide a space for learning and knowledge. Fatima al-Firhi turned a mosque into a university. It was a place where people could study and expand their knowledge. In the University of Al-Qarawiyyin there were different things to learn such as **grammar, mathematic, medicine, astronomy, and many more.**



## When was it invented?

Fatima's father was very passionate about Fatima and her sister Mariam's education, so they were tutored at home. After getting married, Fatima lived her life the way devoted women would by taking care of the household, spending time studying, and giving charity, but her life completely changed after her brother and father died. Her father left a big amount of inheritance for her and her sister, and both would use it in good ways by helping their community. Fatima used her father's inheritance to establish a mosque/madrassa and in **159 CE Al-Qarawayaan was established.**

## Why was it invented?

Al-Qarwayan was initially invented to support students financially and provided them with knowledge. Fatima would put her charitable efforts into people's education to make it more affordable, as education back then was expensive.



*The University of Al-Qarawiyyin*

## How did it impact the world?

Fatima's idea of building Al-Qarwayan as a higher place of knowledge paved the way for many education centres to be built globally. Fatima's invention gave people all around the world the idea of building places of higher education in their country, which is where the idea of establishing school's, colleges, and universities came from. Fatima's invention gave people all across the world a chance to be educated at an affordable price.

Not only that, but the system of degrees also came from her as Al-Qarwayan offered '**ijazah**' or licence in a subject to students who had regular attendance for a period of five years, and showed a great effort in learning the subject. Without Fatima's invention of an education centre, many of our modern-day education systems would be different, from pricing to awarding degrees. To conclude, Fatima Al-Fihri's invention of the first university named Al-Qarawiyyin, paved the way for people to seek more knowledge and for more education centres to be built globally.

# MODERN DAY CHALLENGES FACED BY MUSLIM STUDENTS

*Written by the Senior Students (Boys)*

Living as a Muslim student in Toronto can be both exciting and challenging. While schools are full of learning, friendship, and activities, they also present situations where staying true to Islamic values can be **difficult**.

Many of us, students, face struggles every day, some are visible, while others are more personal. Let's explore some of these challenges and how we are learning to stay strong in our faith



## **Navigating Beliefs that Conflict with Islam**

One of the most commonly shared concerns among Muslim students is the pressure to support ideas that go **against Islamic teachings**. For example, during certain months or school events, students are encouraged to show support for Pride and LGBTQ lifestyles. While Islam teaches us to treat all people with kindness and respect, it also has clear boundaries about what is halal (permissible) and haram (forbidden).

Some of us have felt uncomfortable when teachers openly promote values that contradict Islamic beliefs. It can feel even more confusing when people say things like "there are Muslim LGBTQ individuals," which may lead young Muslims to question their values. To deal with this, we say that having a strong understanding of Islam helps us stand firm. **Sunday schools, youth programs, and family discussions** can play a big role in helping Muslim youth understand Allah's guidance on these matters.

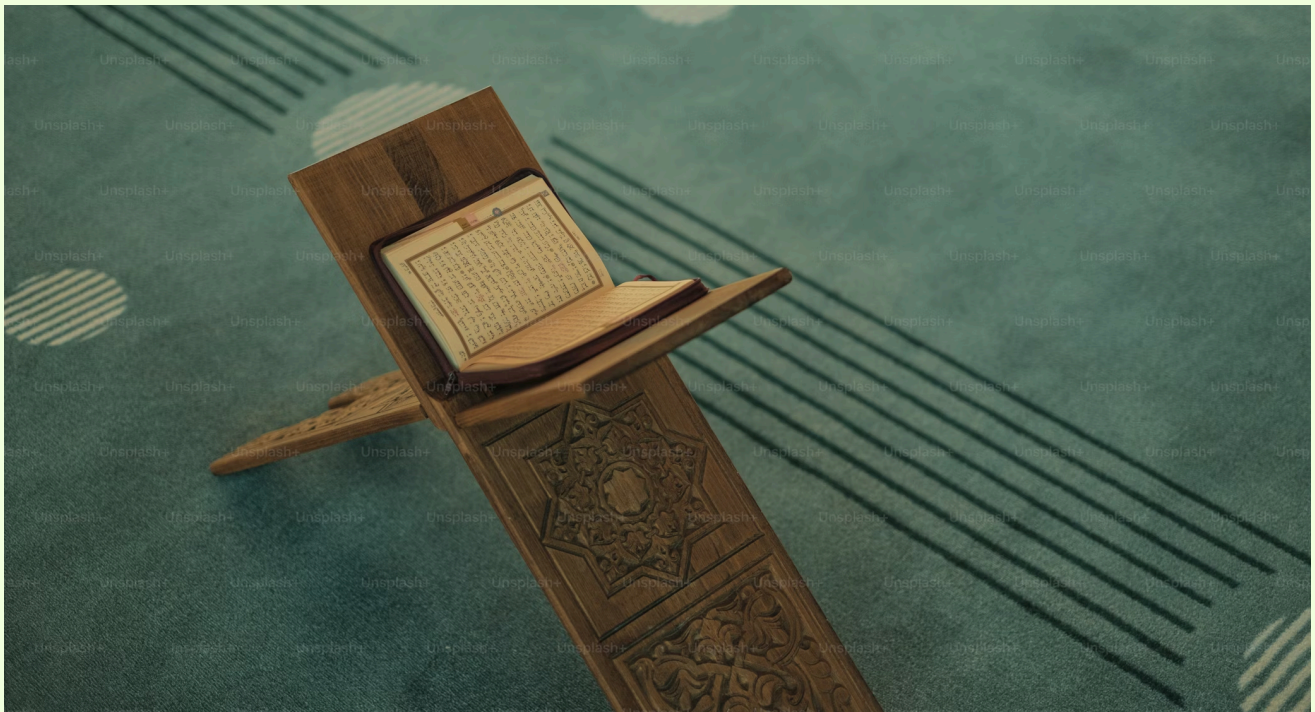
## Peer Pressure: Vaping, Dating, and Drinking

Another challenge many Muslim teens face is peer pressure to engage in harmful activities like **vaping, smoking, or dating**. These habits are seen by some as normal or even “cool” in today’s culture. However, Islam teaches us to take care of our bodies and avoid anything that causes harm.

Vaping and smoking are both considered **haram (forbidden)** because they damage the lungs and body, even if it’s just “flavoured air.” Dating is another issue where Muslim students feel tension.

Although many teens in the West date or have relationships, Islam teaches us that love and marriage should come in a respectful, halal way, with the involvement of families and only after a person is mature. Some of us feel saddened when we see fellow Muslims openly ignore these teachings, thinking they can simply ask for forgiveness later.

**It’s important to remember that true taqwa (God-consciousness) means striving to follow Allah’s commands even when it’s hard.**



## Modest Clothing and Islamophobia

Wearing modest clothes, including **hijab or long garments**, can sometimes feel challenging in schools where uniforms or fashion trends don't align with Islamic values. Some students feel left out or even judged for dressing differently. In certain cases, schools may have uniform rules that make it hard for Muslim students to follow proper dress codes.

Parents and students can talk to school administrators to request accommodations. It helps when students know how to explain that **modesty is a big part of their faith**. Sadly, some Muslim students also face Islamophobia, discrimination or bullying because of their religion. This can include hurtful comments, unfair treatment, or being left out of group activities.

The best way to fight ignorance is with **knowledge**. By learning about Islam and confidently sharing its peaceful message, students can help others understand and reduce stereotypes. A **kind heart, patience, and wisdom** can go a long way.



## Struggling to Keep Up with Religious Duties

Many of us know how hard it can be to keep up with daily prayers (salah) at school. With a full schedule of classes, there isn't always a quiet place to pray, and some schools may not allow students to leave class. During Friday prayers (Jumu'ah), it can be even harder to find time or permission to attend a khutbah.

Some schools do already provide prayer rooms or allow students to gather for Jumu'ah prayers, which is a wonderful example. We should be encouraged to ask respectfully for a private space to pray during lunch or breaks. At home, tools like prayer reminder apps or adhan clocks can help students like us pray on time, even when we have lots of homework.

## Fasting During The Holy Month of Ramadan

Fasting in Ramadan is a beautiful and spiritual time, but it comes with challenges, especially in schools. Many students feel tired or find it hard to focus in class while fasting. It's even harder during gym or when others are eating around them. Despite this, many of us stay strong and show amazing patience and discipline during Ramadan.

It's helpful when teachers and classmates understand why a student is fasting. Some schools even allow students to skip lunch breaks or gym classes if needed during Ramadan. Small accommodations can make a big difference in helping Muslim students observe their fasts peacefully.



## Final Thoughts

Being a Muslim student in Toronto or anywhere in the West requires courage, knowledge, and strong faith. Whether it's saying no to peer pressure, standing firm in beliefs, or finding time to pray, every challenge is also an opportunity to grow closer to Allah.

**Let's support one another, keep learning, and always remember that Allah sees our efforts. With the right support from family, school, and community, we as Muslim youth can stay proud of their faith and become strong leaders of tomorrow.**

# **“THE FAITHFUL FUTURE GAZETTE”**

A PROUD PUBLICATION OF  
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS  
OF



**MASJID-UT-TAQWA**