

# *Muslim*

## *Youth Magazine*

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*First Volume*  
*Ramadan 9, 1444H*  
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*The Muslim Youth Magazine*  
*By Youth For Youth*

*A periodical E magazine that embraces a community of youth who aspire to develop their societies for the better, through which they discuss the challenges and questions they face, and empower Muslim Youth to create positive impact.*

## *Muslim Youth Magazine Team*



**DR. SUHER KHIRALLAH**  
GENERAL MANAGER  
AND EDITOR IN CHIEF



**ABDULBAKI SHEHU**  
FACTS CHECKER



**HOSAM HEGAZY**  
EDITOR



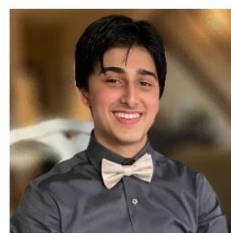
**DANIA KHAN**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER



**HAMOOD UR REHMAN**  
WRITER



**HUDA HUSSAIN**  
WRITER



**AHMED KHAN**  
WRITER



**MOHAMMED NOUR**  
PHOTO RESEARCHER



**AHMED NOUR**  
PHOTO RESEARCHER

A silhouette of a person holding a glowing lantern against a sunset background. The lantern is filled with warm, glowing lights, and the person's arm is raised, holding the lantern high. The background is a soft, blurred sunset with warm orange and yellow tones. The text "Ramadan Mubarak" is written in a white, cursive font across the center of the image.

*Ramadan*

*Mubarak*

*MYM Team members pray that Allah SWT showers our Ummah with His mercy and love during this blessed month. May Allah SWT bring peace and ease to everyone, especially our brothers and sisters in Syria and Turkey.*

*“So that you may attain piety”*

*Surat Al-Baqarah 2:183*



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST COMPASSIONATE, THE MOST MERCIFUL  
ASSALAMU ALAIKUM WA RAHMATU ALLAH WA BARAKATUH,

DEAR READERS,  
WELCOME TO OUR FIRST VOL!

WE ARE SUPER EXCITED TO START OUR NEW JOURNEY WITH YOU. WE ASK ALLAH SWT TO HELP US SERVE YOU TO BE CLOSER TO HIM, AND CREATE TOGETHER A POSITIVE IMPACT THAT EXCEED OUR EXPECTATIONS IN SHAA ALLAH.

ALHAMDULILLAH HE SWT BLESSED US TO PUBLISH OUR FIRST VOLUME IN RAMADAN, SO WE TRIED TO HELP YOU PRACTICE TAQWA/PIETY THROUGH FOUR POWERFUL TOPICS THAT CAN CHANGE OUR LIVES. WE STARTED WITH SALAH, THEN CHOSE SOME OF OUR PROPHET'S STORIES PBUH, TALKED ABOUT GOOD FRIENDSHIP, AND ENDED WITH DUAA.

WE INVITE YOU TO READ AND REFLECT ON THESE TOPICS AS THEY ARE CONSIDERED CRITICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ALLAH AND WITH PEOPLE AROUND US.

FINALLY, SINCE THIS IS THE FIRST VOL OF THE MUSLIM YOUTH MAGAZINE, YOUR FEEDBACK IS VERY IMPORTANT IN SHAPING AND IMPROVING THE FUTURE OF THIS MAGAZINE. BE PART OF THE POSITIVE IMPACT AND PLEASE USE OUR MAGAZINE EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ANY FEEDBACK YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE: [THEMUSLIMYOUTHMAGAZINE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THEMUSLIMYOUTHMAGAZINE@GMAIL.COM)

ON BEHALF OF MYM TEAM,  
SUHER KHIRALLAH, PH.D.

# How to find the time and place to pray while you are at work/school

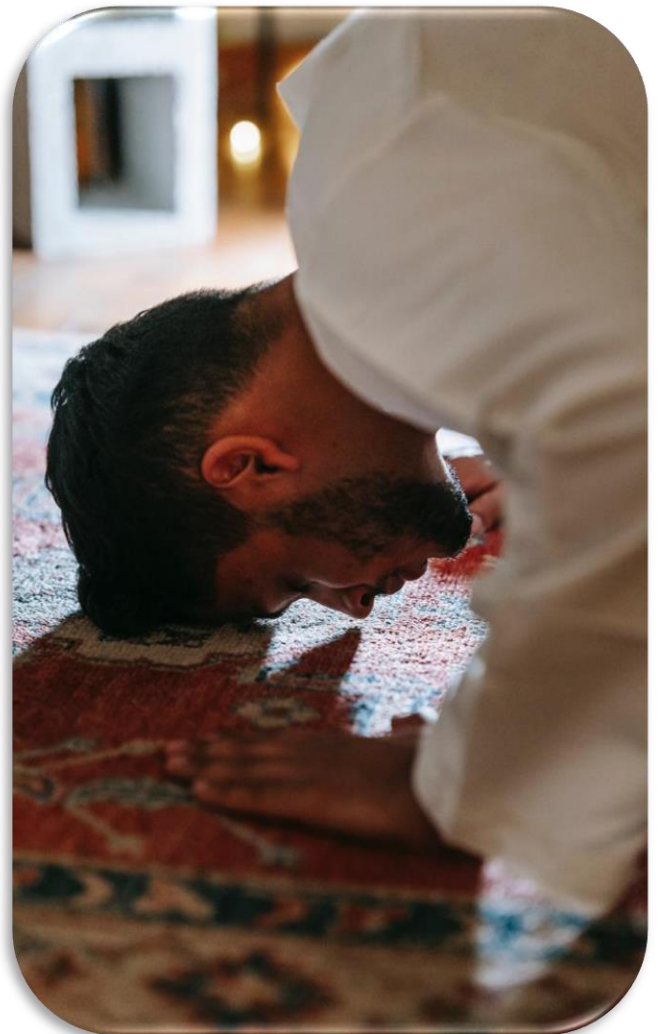
By: Dr. Suher Khirallah with the collaboration of MYM members

**“Indeed, performing prayers is a  
Duty on the believers at the Appointed Times”**

Surat An-Nisaa, Ayah 103

This Ayah explains that we the believers must perform our prayers at the appointed times. That is for 5 prayers we perform every day. These times are already established, and we can't change them according to our schedules.

Praying at Home/Masjid is easier than praying at school/work, but you can imagine the reward you will receive and the level you will rank when you apply the Hadeeth of our beloved prophet Muhammed PBUH: “Worshiping during the period of (**Al-Harj**) is like emigration towards me.” Sahih Muslim 2948a. Al-Harj in Arabic means a time or a place where there are a lot of distractions and trials. Scholars said that the reason for the abundance of the virtue of worship in that situation is that people usually neglect it,





only individuals devote themselves to it, and that is you In Shaa Allah praying outside your comfort zone to please Allah and worship Him only.

With the grace of Allah, the MYM team held many meetings and debates to help you do that with the following simple tips:

**1- Decide to pray:** Allah created us to worship Him, He says: “And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me.” SuratAdh-Dhaariyat, Ayah 56. Worshipping Allah SWT is a priority that should come first. Have a sincere intention to try your best to perform your Salah on time no matter what for the sake of Allah. Nothing must be more important than the purpose that Allah created you for. Being an obedient worshipper is the main cause of being successful in this life and the hereafter. Nothing is better for the human being than to obey His creator Who knows the best for him.

**2- Seek Allah’s pleasure:** Don’t skip your salah to please anyone. When you please Allah SWT, He will take care of all your matters. The Messenger of Allah PBUH said: “Whoever seeks Allah's pleasure by the people's wrath, Allah will suffice him from the people. And whoever seeks the people's pleasure by Allah's wrath, Allah will entrust him to the people.” Jami` at-Tirmidhi 2414

**3- Ask Allah for His help:** Make a sincere Duaa so Allah will make it easy for you. After all, we won’t be able to worship Him without His help. That’s exactly what He SWT taught us to say every time we recite Surat Al-Fatiha: “You (alone) we worship, and You (alone) we ask for help”. Surat Al-Fatiha, Ayah 5.

**4- Know your rights:** Alhamdulillah, we are blessed to live in a country that gives everyone here the freedom of religion, so you can practice any religion or not practice a religion. No one has the right to prevent you from performing your Salah as long as you are not violating others’ rights.

**5- Talk about it:** It is better to talk about your Salah, and what it means to you. Let people around you know that Salah is the second pillar of Islam, and it is obligatory for every Muslim to pray five times a day on time. Let them know the Importance of

praying on time and share the conversation between Prophet Muhammed PBUH and his companion Abdullah RAA who asked: "Which deed is the dearest to Allah?" The Prophet PBUH replied, "To offer the prayers at their early stated fixed times." Sahih al-Bukhari 527. Some people won't like it, but you will be surprised by some people who are going to support you even if they are not Muslims.



**6- Plan where you will pray:** Check if there is a place for Muslims to pray. You can also ask kindly for a place. If you are under 18, parents can help you send your school a letter about that. If you are 18 and older you and your Muslim friends (if there are any) can write this letter. If there is no way to find such a place, or it is far from where you will be, then have a small salah mat with you, check Qiblah's direction, and find a place to pray. It's better to face a wall or into a corner so people aren't crossing in front of you and you're less disturbed overall.

**7- Plan when you will pray:** [The Productive Muslim Company](#)'s advice is to always plan your life around Salah. Having an app for Salah timing can help you know when you suppose to pray. If you can plan your schedule by yourself, make sure to block salah time in your schedule before adding more tasks to it. If you can't, try your best to find out when you can perform Salah on time during your day.

**8- Be on Wudu:** The status of being pure on Wudu is very rewarding in Islam. When you are on Wudu you are ready to perform Salah whenever you want. It is better to have one task instead of 2 to do especially if you have limited time and access.

**9- Congregation:** You can arrange to pray together with your Muslim friends. In addition to the congregation reward in Islam, you will have more power and courage when you do that together. That also allows you to remind each other and strengthen each other.

**10- Enjoy the benefits of Praying on Time:** Salah is the gift that Allah SWT gave to Prophet Muhammed PBUH and his Ummah. It is an honor of meeting Him SWT 5 times every day. During Salah, we talk to Him SWT, tell Him our struggles, have the chance to taste the sweetness of being close to Him during Sujoud, and ask Him for what we need. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said: "The closest that the slave comes to his Lord is when he is prostrating, so invoke Allah much (in prostration)." Muslim 1/350.

In addition to the spiritual energy you gain from connecting yourself with Allah SWT, Salah helps you focus on the most important thing in general, trains you to be on time for your tasks, and provides you with many [physical benefits](#).

**11- Use the Fatwa when you need it:** Ask yourself first: Did I try all the tips? Did I really do my best to pray on time? If your answer is: Yes, but there is a conflict and there is no way to perform Salah during its permissible time, you can combine prayers to pray Tuhr & Asr at Tuhr or Asr time, or pray Maghrib and Isha at Maghrib or Isha Time. Please visit the following links, and be extra careful when you read the Fatwa. Make sure it is applied to your situation:

[Is Praying Zhuhr and Asr After School Permissible? | About Islam](#)

About Islam/ Sheikh Ahmad Kutty Fatwa

[Combining Prayers While In High-school | AMJA Online](#)

AMJA/ Dr. Main Khalid Al-Qudah/ Fatwa ID: 82517

[\(islamweb.net\) جمع الصلوات للحاجة ولدفع الحرج - إسلام ويب - مركز الفتوى](#)

Islam Web/ Arabic Fatwa ID: 469372

We hope you find these tips helpful, and we ask Allah SWT to allow us all to meet Him on time always.

## *Thank you!*

This is the first time the West Lafayette Schools, IU School of Medicine, and Purdue University acknowledged Ramadan. Members received a letter from the school administration alerting the staff about the needs of Muslim students during this month. Alhamdulillah. They will also make accommodations to pray Thuhr if the student wants to at the school. Thanks to everyone who helped create such a great positive change!



# Four moments from the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

By: Huda Hussain



This short article will be discussing four key moments in the life of the Prophet (PBUH) and how we can view it from a different perspective but also implement the deeper lessons in our lives for the sake of Allah.

## **1. Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) Encounter with Jibreel (AS) and After Effects:**

The first meeting between Muhammad (PBUH) and Jibreel (AS) happens as follows:

Muhammad (PBUH) often left the crowded city of Makkah and went to the cave in Mount Hira'. He liked solitude, away from all thoughts of the world and daily life, and ate and drank very little. In his fortieth year, Muhammad (PBUH) left Makkah to spend Ramadan, the traditional month of retreat, in the cave. In the second half of Ramadan, Allah began to reveal His message to mankind through Muhammad (PBUH). This first Revelation occurred as follows<sup>1</sup>. The angel Jibreel (AS) came to Muhammad (PBUH) in the cave and commanded him to 'Read!' Muhammad (PBUH) replied 'I cannot read.' At this Jibreel (AS) took Muhammad (PBUH) in his arms and pressed him until it was too much to bear. He then released him and said again 'Read!' 'I cannot', replied Muhammad (PBUH), at which the angel embraced him again. For the third time Jibreel (AS) commanded Muhammad (PBUH) to 'Read!', but still he said he could not and was again embraced. On releasing him this time, however, Jibreel (AS) said: "Read: In the Name of thy Lord who created man from a clot. Read: And thy Lord is the Most Generous Who teaches by the pen, teaches man that which he knew not. (Qur'an 96.1-5) Muhammad (PBUH) repeated these verses, just as Jibreel (AS) had said them. When the angel was sure Muhammad (PBUH) knew the verses by heart, he went away. Now that he was alone Muhammad (PBUH) could not understand what had happened to him. He was afraid and rushed out of the cave, and he looked up at the sky and wherever he turned he saw the angel Jibreel (AS). (Azzam)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Sahih al-Bukhari 4953

<sup>2</sup> From "The Life Of The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)" by Leila Azzam and Aisha Gouverneur.

What follows next is truly profound. Muhammad (PBUH) went straight to his wife, Khadija (RA). She became concerned when she saw the confused and shivering state he was in. Muhammad (PBUH) asked her to wrap him and she did. After some time he recounted everything that happened in the cave to Khadijah (RA) and she listened intently.



We can learn a lot from this. When Khadijah (RA) was listening to Muhammad (PBUH), she didn't interrupt him, make him feel insecure, or doubt him in any way. She didn't doubt what he saw despite the fact that his encounter was very bizarre. Instead, she took on the role of being a source of comfort and even went to her cousin, Waraqah Ibn Nawful, to

further validate what her husband saw and find an explanation for it. From this, we can learn that instead of doubting the people around us, whether that be our parents, spouses, children, or family members in general, we should hear them out and not be too quick to judge or invalidate them. Talk to them and listen; be someone they can trust and make them feel safe when they are mentally and/or physically distraught. Insha'Allah, this way, we will not only better our Ikhlaaq (character), but we will also better/strengthen our relationships with our kin.

## **2. Taking Off His Ring:**

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had a way of making people feel special through his body language and the attention he always made sure to give the people he would speaking to. Before we analyze his demeanor, let's take a look at a specific yet brief incident:

“The Prophet (PBUH) would not remove his hands until you removed yours, letting you know that he was all yours when you were speaking to him...The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had this ring that he liked. And the ring was silver with a ruby stone from Abyssinia. And one time the Prophet (PBUH) was wearing this ring and he looked at it a few times in the middle of a conversation. And then he was disappointed with himself, being distracted by his ring from his companions as they were speaking. So, he actually took off his ring and cast it aside. And he said that I was looking at this ring a few times but I wanted to get it out of the way because it was distracting me from you.”<sup>3</sup>

This is highly relatable to us these days, especially about our phones. Most times, we get so caught up with the motions of life that we never stop and prioritize the current moments we are having with the people directly in front of us, and rather give attention to replying to texts, emailing colleagues, taking phone calls, etc. Adopting this characteristic not only improves your Akhlaaq and moves you closer to the sunnah, but it also creates a sense of self-discipline that is highly beneficial. It doesn't matter what age you are, there are constant distractions in this world, so training yourself to focus on one thing at a time can make you a more personable and positive person to be around.

### **3. The Year of Sorrow:**

Although this isn't a specific moment/incident per se, the Year of Sorrow can teach us a lot of lessons about how to handle loss and grief. This year was 619 AD, and it is called the Year of Sorrow because Khajidah (RA), the wife and best friend, and Abu Talib, the beloved uncle and protector, of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) passed away. Seeing how already distraught he was, the Quraysh and his enemies began to treat him even worse. So much so that little children insulted him and people would throw filth on him. One day, Muhammad (PBUH) went home and his daughter, Fatima (RA), came rushing toward him, crying while cleaning him up. He

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<sup>3</sup> Sunan an-Nasa'i 5289. 'His Blessed Demeanor' | Meeting Muhammad (SAW)- Omar Suleiman



(PBUH) comforted Fatima (RA) and said, “Do not weep my little girl, for Allah will protect your father.”<sup>4</sup>

Because Abu Talib was Muhammad’s (PBUH) last tie to the Quraysh, he had no protection or voice when it came to preaching Islam to them. He traveled all the way to Ta’if and was faced with the same sense of failure. Of course, we know that the Prophet Muhammad’s (PBUH) journey was not in vain because he met a man by the name of ‘Addas who was a Christian and converted to Islam. This was the beginning of great changes.

This is a very short and summarized version of what the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) actually went through in the Year of Sorrow. But to say the least, his resilience and tawakkul (conviction in the Will of Allah) cannot be ignored. In our daily lives, whenever some major or even minor inconvenience comes our way, we are very quick to blame the people around us or Subhan’Allah even go as far as to blame Allah for the punishment they are facing. Being emotional and hasty is something normal when you are young, but even then, it is important to always remember that things happen for a reason. There is no other direction to move but forward, so pushing yourself to constantly make Duaa to make your journey easier and never doubting the plan of Allah will, In Shaa Allah, have you setting yourself up for success.

#### **4. Celebrating With the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)**

These days, celebrations are extravagant and exclusive, which is exactly the opposite of how the Prophet’s (PBUH) celebrations were: simple and inclusive. Here are some things he would do during times of celebration:

- He would make it a point to greet everyone on Eid.
- On Eid, he would be closer to the people while giving his khutbah (sermon).
- He would constantly remind people to give a lot of charity on Eid.

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<sup>4</sup> From “The Life of The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)” by Leila Azzam and Aisha Gouverneur.

- Encouraged people to feast and feed the poor on wedding days even if there wasn't extravagant food available.
- He even used to make weddings potluck style so everyone could have something to eat since everyone was bringing at least a dish to share.

He (PBUH) even said, “The worst feast is the one to which only the rich are invited and the poor are excluded.”<sup>5</sup>

So, if you want barakah (blessings) in your functions, celebrate as the Prophet (PBUH) did, and invite all the financially struggling people in the community. Making a celebration extravagant or expansive are two very different things and are not mutually exclusive. You can invite a lot of people (poor and rich) to an event but it doesn't necessarily have to be lavish. In the same way, you can throw an extremely extravagant party but only have a handful of exclusive/rich people attend. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) disliked the latter, and instead encouraged inclusivity for a chance to feed the poor, create strong bonds within the Ummah/community, and overall increase barakah. This is especially good to keep in mind during Ramadan.

Alhamdulillah, that concludes this article. In Shaa Allah you step away from this with knowledge of certain moments that happened in the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) life, his character, and specific traits you can adopt from the sunnah.



<sup>5</sup> Sahih al-Bukhari 5177. 'Celebrating With Him' | Meeting Muhammad (SAW)- Omar Suleiman

# Making Friends that can help you become a better Muslim

By: Hamood UrRehman

**“Close friends on that day will be enemies to each other except the righteous.”**

**Surat Az-Zukhruf, Ayah 67**

He found himself in the middle of a vast, wide, and open barren land. There were innumerable individuals around him<sup>6</sup>, all of whom were afraid and running here and there anxiously, searching for safety. His condition was neither different from others. He was drowned in his sweat. As he raised his head, he realized that the blazing sun was unusually close, and the sweltering heat had made the situation unbearable<sup>7</sup>.. He scanned the surroundings in search of shelter, but there was no respite from the sweltering conditions of the day. The Sun didn't move even an inch from its place. He found that time had stopped! He felt weak and helpless as if he had no strength left.



Amid the crowd of fearful and restless individuals, he spotted a familiar face - his old college buddy and best friend, Harry. Rushing towards him, he embraced Harry and broke down in tears, pleading for help to withstand the unbearable conditions. Having shared many good times and even compromising his values for Harry, he was certain that his friend would come to his aid. However, to his shock, Harry pushed him away, staring at him

<sup>6</sup> Ad dukhan 40

<sup>7</sup> Sahih Bukhari 1474,1475, Sahih Bukhari 1423

with a blank expression and denying any knowledge of their friendship. "Who are you?" Harry shouted. "Leave me alone! I only care about myself today. I'd give up everything and everyone for some peace from this misery<sup>8</sup>. He gazed at Harry, whose condition appeared even more dismal than his own. He pondered; what help could Harry possibly offer him in such a pitiful state?

He estimated that he had been stranded on that desolate land, enduring unbearable conditions without any protection, for thousands of years. He wished for death, but it eluded him. He yearned to cry and scream, but he was unable to.

As he looked around, he noticed that the crowd was being organized into lines, and soon he found himself in a long queue. After a while, he saw that something was being distributed to the people. He realized that it was a book-like object that was being handed out<sup>9</sup>.

He found himself waiting in line, his turn eventually coming up. As he approached, he felt as though his hand was moving on its own. To his surprise, he saw that his name had been written in a book being handed out. Opening the book, he discovered a screen inside, showing a movie in which he was the main character<sup>10</sup>. The film began with his childhood, showing his parents teaching him to walk and talk. He saw the moment he spoke his first word, "Allah," and how overjoyed his parents were.

As he watched his life play out on the screen, he couldn't help but feel like someone had been constantly focusing the camera on him, recording every second of his life without leaving a single moment unrecorded.

As time flies by, he finds himself in his teenage years in the movie, attending high school and gaining knowledge every day. His parents' advice echoes in his mind,

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<sup>8</sup> Ma'arij 11-14, Abasa 37

<sup>9</sup> Isra 13

<sup>10</sup> Kahf 49

**"Associate with those who call upon their Lord morning and evening, seeking His countenance, and do not let your eyes drift away from them."<sup>11</sup>**

As time swiftly moves forward, he suddenly finds himself in a new phase of life, living in an apartment. He had gained admission to a prestigious university and was now responsible for himself. For the first time, he was free to make his own decisions and choose his path without any supervision. He felt a mix of emotions - elated for being admitted to a prestigious institution, but also saddened to be separated from his parents for the first time. He reminisces his father's words of advice to pray regularly, recite the Quran, lower his gaze, and seek the company of good friends who would guide him toward righteousness and remind him of Allah. His father told him the saying of the Holy Prophet SAW:

**"The example of a good companion in comparison with a bad companion, is like that of the musk seller musk and a blacksmith's bellows; from the first you would either buy musk or enjoy its good smell. While the bellows would either burn your clothes or your house, or you get a bad smell thereof."<sup>12</sup>**



He promised his father to act upon his advice.

Time passes by and he found himself praying in the room. His apartment was at a distance from the Masjid that's why he started praying in his room. He started feeling isolated and gloomy until he noticed a new tenant in the adjacent apartment. He discovered that the person was a fellow community member named Harry, who also happened to be in his class. They quickly became acquainted, and the

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<sup>11</sup> Kahf 28

<sup>12</sup> Sahih Bukhari 2101

protagonist invited Harry to his apartment for dinner. During the meal, they engaged in lively conversation. While sitting together the time for Isha approaches, the protagonist suggested they pray together but Harry replied that he would pray later. And after saying this he asks for his permission to leave. Before leaving, he invites him to his apartment on weekend and tells him that he has also invited other friends, so It will be good If you also come.

On Sunday, he visited Harry's apartment where Harry's other friends had already gathered. Harry introduced him to his friends, and they greeted him warmly, quickly becoming casual with each other. Harry invited him to play video games, and even though he wasn't good at it, he gave Harry a tough time, which surprised Harry and his friends. They praised him, and he felt a sense of satisfaction. While they were playing the game, he received a prayer notification on his phone, but he chose to ignore it, believing that he could pray later. He was concerned about offending his friends if he left, so he decided to stay and continue playing with them, preferring their company over prayer. As the game progressed, he became so engrossed that he forgot about the prayer. As he left, he felt remorseful about missing the prayer, and he discussed his concerns with Harry, who reassured him that Allah is forgiving and would pardon him. Although he still felt uneasy, he kept his thoughts to himself. Over time, he visited Harry more often, enjoying his company and that of his friends, who became very close friends. However, he noticed that some of Harry's friends, including Harry himself, smoked, which he disapproved of, but he found it challenging to leave their appealing company.

While reading the book, he came across a scene where he realized that he didn't feel like he belonged with his friends. To fit in, he began smoking cigarettes and stopped caring about his prayers, just like Harry and the others. Although he still had some good friends, he felt guilty when he was around them. To avoid this feeling, he started avoiding them and spending more time with Harry and his friends, who often went to dancing clubs and other places. He vividly remembered the first time he used foul language, and how his friends laughed so hard. Although it was difficult for him at first, he eventually became accustomed to it and started using abusive

language routinely. In their company, he began smoking, drinking wine, and going to clubs. He realized that even though he participated in their activities, he never experienced genuine happiness. Instead, he felt a profound sense of emptiness and lost his inner peace. Although they seemed to have fun together, they were all restless and unhappy deep down.

As time passed, he and his friends landed jobs at different companies. They used to talk on the phone every week, but as they got busier with work, they had less and less time for each other. This was the opposite of what they expected during their college days. He found himself alone once again and learned an important lesson: every bond has a cause, and the bond will only persist as long as the cause does. Their bond was based on enjoying each other's company and having fun together, but now that they were separated, they no longer had that common cause. As a result, their bond weakened and eventually broke.

As he sat alone, feeling restless and isolated, he decided to go to a nearby mosque for Friday prayer. The imam's sermon reminded him that peace of heart could be found through remembrance of Allah<sup>13</sup>, and he recalled the Quranic verse about finding contentment in the company of those who call upon their Lord. The words resonated deeply with him, and after the prayer, he felt a sense of lightness and happiness that he hadn't experienced in a long time. With tears in his eyes, he prayed for Allah's guidance and the gift of good friends.

While he was praying, he saw a familiar face in the mosque - it was his childhood best friend, Ali. They embraced and caught up after a long time. Ali told him that he worked in a nearby company and was a regular visitor to the mosque. He invited Ali over for dinner, where he poured out his heart and shared his story about how he had fallen in with a bad crowd and engaged in destructive behavior. He confided in Ali about how he had begun neglecting his prayers, smoking, drinking, and committing other sins.

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<sup>13</sup> Ar ra'd 28



Ali offered words of comfort and encouragement, assuring him that it was never too late to turn over a new leaf. He promised to support him on his journey. Taking Ali's advice to heart, he began to visit the mosque regularly and spend time with his new friend and other members of the community. He found that he could have just as much fun and enjoyment while practicing his faith as he did before, but in a way that was more fulfilling and meaningful. He discovered that his new friends were always there to motivate and support him when he felt unmotivated or discouraged in his faith. He valued their relationship and loved them for the sake of Allah, seeing them as kindred spirits who shared his beliefs and values.

After the car accident on his way back home, he did not survive. He saw his parents and friends weeping over his lifeless body, and Ali led his funeral prayer, pleading for Allah's forgiveness. His masjid friends were also there, grieving his loss, but he did not see any of his college friends. They buried him in a dark grave, leaving him alone. And then, he found himself on the Day of Judgment.

Standing in the desolate landscape, he raises his eyes from the book and surveys his surroundings. He feels as though he has lived only a few hours on earth compared to the length of the Day of Judgment. He observes as hell is brought forth and hears the deafening roar and clattering of the inferno, flames billowing out of its mouth. The massive creations, the angels, struggle to control the fiery pit, with 70,000 chains each held by 70,000 angels binding it<sup>14</sup>. As-Sirat, a bridge thinner than the

<sup>14</sup> Sahih Muslim 2842



width of a hair, is stretched over the chasm of hell, and people are commanded to traverse it<sup>15</sup>. Some pass over the bridge in the blink of an eye, while others struggle and feel the searing heat of the flames. Still, others fall from the bridge and plummet into hell. Watching their plight and considering his own, he begins to bite his hands and bemoans his fate, lamenting, "Oh, woe is me! I wish I had not befriended that person (Harry)." As he gazes at the inferno, he curses the friend who was going to lead him to this dismal end.

He heard his name being called to cross the bridge, As-Sirat. Despite not wanting to, he had no choice but to step onto it. At first, he made good progress as he had led a righteous life in its early stages. However, as he reached the midpoint, he began to stumble just as he had stumbled in the middle of his life. He tried to keep his balance but failed and fell, injuring his hands in the process. The flames of hell burned his skin, and he cried out in pain, but it was no use. He was falling into the depths of hell when suddenly an unseen force lifted him out and placed him on the other side of the bridge.

He was surprised and overjoyed to see Ali and his other friends there. The angels informed him that his friends had interceded with Allah on his behalf, asking for his forgiveness and citing his good deeds and prayers as evidence of his righteousness. Allah had accepted their intercession and forgiven him, allowing him to enter heaven and live with his friends for eternity. He realized that the love they shared for the sake of Allah was forever, and they would always be there for each other because you loved each other for sake of Allah, your cause was Allah, and Allah is forever, and so your love is, and you will always be with each other from now on. Didn't you experience that, "close friends will be enemies of each other except the righteous ones?" Congratulations on your righteousness and your companionship with the righteous. Peace be upon you, and welcome to paradise.

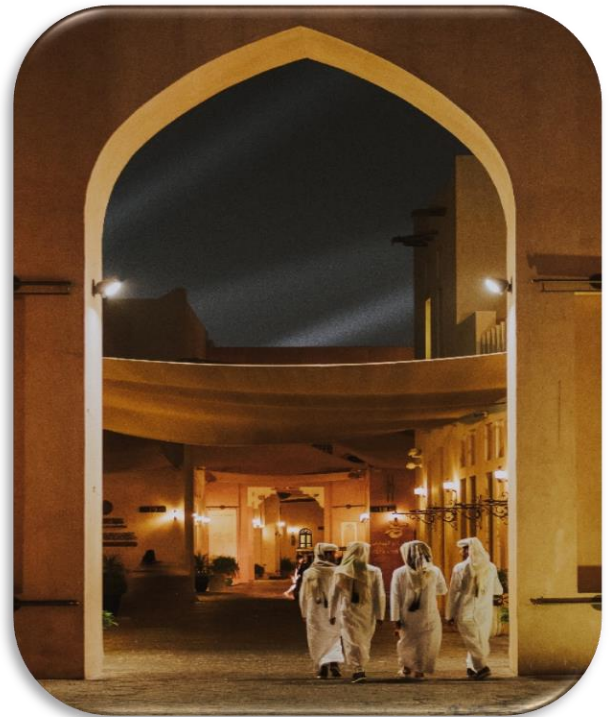
Upon hearing these words, he rushes towards Ali, overwhelmed with gratitude, and embraces him in a tight hug. He then humbly lowers his head and prostrates

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<sup>15</sup> Sahih Muslim 195, Tirmidhi 3159

himself before Allah, praising Him with heartfelt gratitude, repeatedly saying Alhamdulillah, Alhamdulillah, Alhamdulillah.

As the sound of the Azan called out, he awakened from his dream, and lying in his bed at home, he couldn't help but say, "Alhamdulillah, Alhamdulillah, Alhamdulillah." The dream had left a profound impact on him, and he realized the importance of staying on the straight path and surrounding himself with righteous friends who would support him on his journey toward the hereafter. He resolved to live a life pleasing to Allah and to strive to be among the righteous ones, so that he may one day enter Jannah, just as he had in his dream.



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**NB: The references cited are not the direct translation.  
The story is to portray the occurrences of the hereafter.**

## Duaa Series -1

By: Ahmed Khan

**“Our Lord do not let our hearts go crooked after You have guided us, and bestow upon us mercy from Your own. Surely, You, and You alone, are the bestower.”**

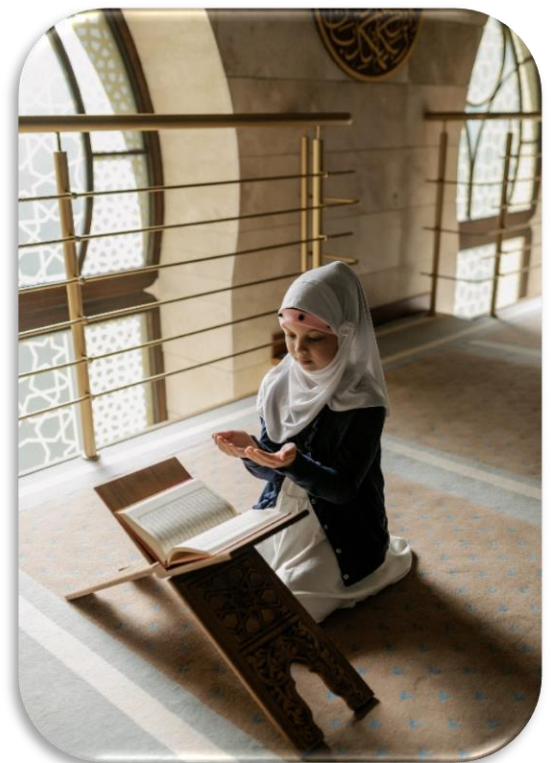
### Surat Ali Imran 3:8

There are many key takeaways within this Duaa that will be mentioned further, such as “our hearts going crooked,” and Allah’s mercy and guidance.

First off, this Ayah comes from Surah Al- Imran, the third chapter of the Quran. This Surah affirms how Allah (SWT) instructed his messengers to call people to Islam, and proves the oneness and revelations of the Quran.

Many ayahs from the Quran talk about the fact that our hearts can easily deviate. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) would constantly make Duaa for a righteous heart, and as Muslims, we should follow the Sunnah of the Prophet, (PBUH) and supplicate for a beautiful heart as well.

In this Duaa, Allah (SWT) is imposing that our hearts are liable, and we should ask for direction to turn our hearts back to obedience. Our heart is the source of all our bad and good deeds. Purifying our hearts will come with being around people who will only influence us in positive ways, rather than others who promote bad character and ill feelings.



This Duaa also emphasizes that we are not in control of our guidance. Allah (SWT) is the only one, the only Creator, and is in full authority over us. The everyday issues of the world can easily sway our hearts, so performing Duaa can put a pedestal on the purity of our hearts.



Another major part of this Duaa is Allah’s (SWT) mercy. Our Creator loves when we call upon Him for forgiveness, even when we haven’t committed a sin. **“And whoever does a wrong or wrongs himself, but then seeks forgiveness from Allah, (SWT) he will find Allah forgiving and merciful.”** (Surat An-Nisa,4:110) Forgiveness from Allah

(SWT) cleans your slate and makes you feel humble, going back to our uncontrol of guidance.

Lastly, Allah, and Him alone, (SWT) created everything around us. If we feel like we’re in control of our own life, we should remember that Allah can change that at any minute. At any moment, our lives can end, and on the Day of Judgement our Lord (SWT) will ask the disbelievers: **“Did not come unto you Messengers from amongst you reciting unto you the signs of your Lord and warning you of the meeting of this day?”** The disbelievers will then say **“Yes.”** (Surat Az-Zumar, 39:71)

This Ayah and many others prove that we are powerless against our Lord, and we should remember that he, Alone, is our creator.

In conclusion, this Duaa is filled with many key points that we should always remember. The signs of Allah (SWT) are foremost, and by reciting them, we feel more secure in our worship and closeness towards Allah. (SWT)

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The Muslim Youth Magazine will be published online as a PDF file every 3 months In Shaa Allah. Each VOL will discuss one challenge or question that can face Muslim Youth in the USA, and try to find solutions that can help to depend on Quran, Sunnah, Science, Statistics, and Scholars.

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# YOU ARE INVITED!

We would love to hear your thoughts about any of the essays in this volume, or the magazine as a whole. Please contact us via email at:

[TheMuslimYouthMagazine@gmail.com](mailto:TheMuslimYouthMagazine@gmail.com)

It is our pleaser to invite all our dear high school/college students who would like to participate in more discussions about these topics, or would like to share more knowledge to join our virtual Zoom meeting where you can meet our team, ask your questions, enjoy the powerful debate, and be part of the positive change.

Click here, scan the QR code below, or use the Meeting ID and Passcode to join the call In Shaa Allah on **April 15, 2023, at 2:30pm US Eastern Time.**



Meeting ID: 820 4321 7873

Passcode: 889786