



The Islamic Eye



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The Beauty of Diversity

Yasmin El- Husari
Newsletter Team

What if you woke up one morning, and found the whole world to be plain black and white? And what if that same world was filled with people who looked and thought just like you? Imagine that there is only one type of everything-

cars, trees, flowers, and buildings alike are all uniform. Think about it for a moment. Wouldn't that be the most boring place to live?

Diversity adds spice to life. Different colors, languages, shapes, and sizes all make the world a more interesting place to live in. The blessings

of choice and endless options keep us stimulated and eager to explore. Unfortunately however, many of us are too busy looking at this blessing as something negative rather than the huge gift that it is.

Humanity is known for feeling pride and superiority

based on trivial things like race and culture, and for feeling jealously over qualities that others possess. Bullying, excessive makeup, and harmful plastic surgery are a few signs of proof that we still have not fully accepted the blessing we were given.

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IAA Science Fair

Hopefully the science fair tips that were posted in last month's issue helped all the participants in the school science fair that took place on January 19.

The goal of this event was to expand the scientific knowledge of the students.



Alhamdulillah, we were able to get six judges from UAB to come and give some advice to the students. In-shaaallah that feedback will help the students improve their projects for the UAB science fair which will be held on March 6,

2013.

Alhamdulillah, all the students showed great effort and determination in their boards and reports. To the right is the list of the winning students who had extraordinary projects. MashAllah! And in the end, as long as they learned something, all the students are winners even if they didn't receive a trophy.

My Favorite Thing about Second Grade

Obada Abu-Aishah
IAA 2nd grader

My favorite thing about second grade is that every month, the students who have not had to sign our names on THE BOOK (i.e. the naughty\ misbehaving list) five times get to enjoy our popcorn while watching a movie. Every time you sign your name on THE BOOK,

you get a silent lunch. And if we have to sign our name on the book ten times we lose our movie and our popcorn.



I also like taking math. Now we are learning about subtracting money. We get worksheets from our teacher to help us learn our math better.

In science we are learning about natural resources, and today, we learned that sand comes from tiny pieces of rocks.

I really like second grade because my teacher is nice, and I like spending time with my classmates and friends. I love being a student at IAA.

Winners

5th Grade:

1st Place: Colin Mobley

2nd Place: Hader Ahmed

3rd Place: Omar Qashou

4th Place: Muneer

6th Grade:

1st Place: Seemah Mallah

2nd Place: Waleed Abdelqader

3rd Place: TIE-

Wamda Eltoum & Ahlam Saleh

7th Grade:

1st Place: Mohamed Hamo

2nd Place: Dana Refai

3rd Place: Malik El-Husari

8th Grade:

1st Place: Lozah Saleh

2nd Place: Sahlah Wright

3rd Place: TIE- Aiyah Ashouri & Humzah Harhash

The Bill of Rights (With a Twist of Arab)

The 10th grade history class is studying the Bill of Rights. The students came up with poems to sum up the historical document. This is one example of what they came up with.

A group of shabab (guys)	Better hurry up
Sitting around playing shada (cards)	Anytime soon would be lovely
Rules no one had	
To run our dawla (country)	Seven is fair
	A jury of 12
The shillah came up with laws (group)	They know what you've been through
To ensure our hurriyah (freedom)	Either Jannah or Hell (Heaven)
Religion, speech, and press	
Were considered with more ahamiyyah (importance)	If you get locked up
	You only get one call
	Like wassup, I need some moolah
Next came protection	Better call Prince Abdulla
We can keep our musaddas (guns)	Put it on my fatoora (Bill)
Third comes armies	
No soldiers on our sofas	After all the rights you're given
	Hope you're mabsoot (happy)
Thanks to Amendment 4	That's the purpose of 9
No one's going through your stuff	So start the pursuit
Gotta have a paper	
Before they try to put on the cuffs	The rest of the stuff
	That the shabab hadn't said
Fifth has to do	Were all summed up in number 10
With a sheb named Miranda (guy)	Rights like marriage, immigration, and
Made some mashakil	hasheesh,
They wanna judge me	Were up to the state and that's complete.

Know Your Constitutional Rights?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1. Religion, speech and press | 4. No search of property without a warrant | 6. Speedy, public trial and lawyer | 9. Unmentioned rights still belong to citizens |
| 2. Bear Arms (Weapons) | 5. Remain silent at accusation and self defense | 7. Trial by jury of peers | 10. Unspecified rights are given to the state to decide. |
| 3. Privacy of home from soldiers | | 8. Reasonable bail and protection from torture | |

The Importance of Good Manners in Islam

Duha Abu-Aishah
IAA 6th grader

It is important to have good manners in Islam because it has an impact on people's lives. As Muslims, we have to have good manners because the way we act is the way people understand Islam.

When Imam Malik's mother sent him to seek knowledge, she sent him to his first sheikh and told him to learn from the sheikh's manners

before his knowledge. Imam Malik took his lesson very seriously because later on in life, one of his students said, "I spent 20 years with Imam Malik, and in those 20 years, I took 1 year of Fiqh and 19 years learning from his manners, and I wish that I spent 20 years learning from his manners"

Visiting Manners:

1. Keeping Appointments.

There is a story about one of the

companions of the Prophet (pbuh). He had an agreement to meet with the Prophet (pbuh) but he didn't show up. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) saw him three days later and told him, "You've caused me some trouble. I've been waiting for you for three days." What the Prophet meant is that when you make an agreement, you should try your best to fulfill it.

2. Leave or go back if asked to.

3. Don't peek through window or cracks.

4. Remove your shoes before entering.

It is very important to know that the main purpose of our religion is to bring up an ummah (nation) which has great manners and conduct. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: "I was only sent to complete the chain of good conduct." So if we don't practice our manners, its as if we are telling our beloved Prophet that his message was useless and unfulfilled.

Please Make Duaa

The father of our fellow students Hassan and Widad Eljishi has passed away. Please make dua for his maghfirah and for patience for his family.



Do you know your Muslim family?

Mali

Ruaa Abu Aishah
Newsletter Team

- Population: 13,518,000
- 46.4% of population.

Society:

Interesting facts:

Geography:

- Location: Mali is located between Algeria, Niger, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal.
- Capital: Bamako, which means Crocodile River in Bambara.

- Religions: 90% Muslim, 1% Christian, and 9% indigenous beliefs.
- Languages: French (official), but 80% of the population can communicate in Bambara.
- Literacy rate:
- Mali is considered one of the world's poorest countries.
- Mali is home to the largest adobe\mud building in the world.
- The life expectancy in Mali is about 47 years of age.



Islam and Respecting Diversity

- The greatest example, our beloved Prophet said: "An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab. A white person has no superiority over a black person, nor does a black person have any superiority over a white person except by piety and good action."
- Allah (swt) says in the Holy Quran:

لَا فَضْلَ لِعَرَبِيٍّ عَلَى
أَعْجَمِيٍّ ، وَلَا لِعَجَمِيٍّ
عَلَى عَرَبِيٍّ ، وَلَا أَسْوَدَ
عَلَى أَحْمَرَ ، وَلَا أَحْمَرَ
عَلَى أَسْوَدَ إِلَّا بِتَقْوَى
اللَّهِ

"O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes that you may know one another. Verily, the most honorable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has At-Taqwa [i.e. one of the Muttaqun. Verily, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware." (Al-Hujurat 49:13)

خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ
وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ
لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقْوَىٰ إِنَّ اللَّهَ
عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

- Omar ibn Al-Khattab said: "Since when have you enslaved people when their mothers gave birth to them as free people?"

"متى استعبدتم
الناس وقد ولدتهم
أمههم احرارا"

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا

PERPETUAL PROCRASTINATION

Dina Abdelqader
Newsletter Team

Arabs are known for not being very time conscious, and this negative connotation may rub off on Muslims. But time management is part of Islam. Whether we are praying, fasting, or performing hajj, time is critical for the perfection of our deeds.

One of the main causes of bad time management is perpetual procrastination. We are continuously procrastinating, or putting things off. Procrastination is a very bad habit to get into. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) advised us to not put off today's work for tomorrow. Here are some tips to help us act on his advice:



1. **Stop contemplating, just do it.**

People that procrastinate have a habit of thinking about their task too much. We spend too much time deciding how, when, and where we're going to do something that we don't actually do it. We need to stop thinking, and start doing.

2. **Do NOT overwhelm yourself by blowing an assignment out of proportion.** Instead of thinking that something is so hard and that it's impossible to do, try simplifying an assignment by breaking it into different parts.

3. **Just start.** By starting, you are taking the first step of moving forward in com-

pleting your task.

4. **Start with the harder things first.** If you have a list of things to do, start with the hardest. By getting the harder things done, you will feel less stressed and more relaxed, and be able to complete the rest of your tasks with ease.

5. **Start Early.** If you know ahead of time about a task or an assignment you have to complete, start early. There is no harm in getting things done ahead of time. In fact, the earlier you get things done, the less you have to stress about them later.

6. **Go ahead and make a decision.** Its better to make a decision than to do nothing. You don't get any-

where unless you make the decision to take the first step.

7. **Finish it.** Never let yourself quit in the middle of a task. Finish it and be proud of your work.

8. **Face your fear.** *"Procrastination is the fear of success. People procrastinate because they are afraid of the success that they know will result if they move ahead now. Because success is heavy, carries a responsibility with it, it is much easier to procrastinate and live on the "someday I'll" philosophy."*

Denis Waitley

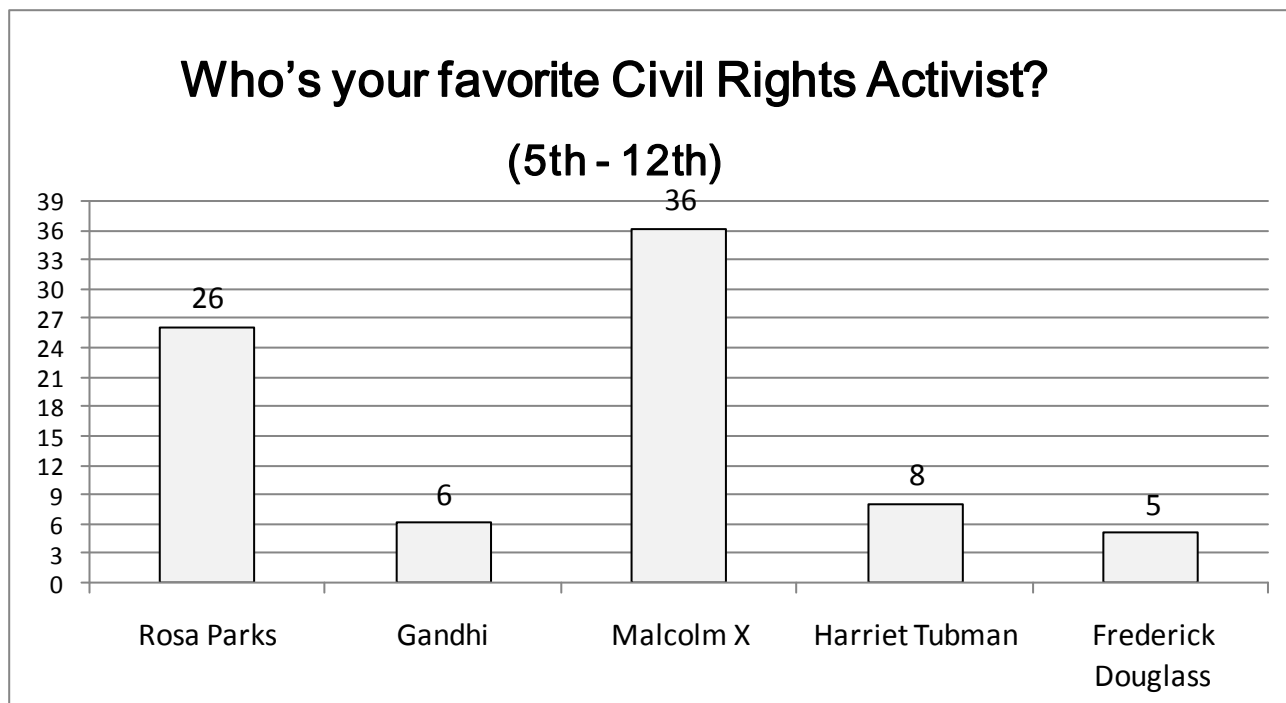
Face your fear whether it is of success or of failing.

Continued on page 12



School Poll

Finding out more about our students....



Diversity from page 1

Allah (swt) said in the Quran, "O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily, the most honorable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has At-Taqwa." (49:13) The purpose of Allah

(swt)'s great creation is laid out in front of us, but we are too busy following our own whims and desires to realize the true purpose of diversity. As Muslims, we are taught to thank Allah (swt) for everything we have, but how can we be sincere in our thanks if we are not truly satisfied by his favors upon us?

Maybe some people think that it is better for everyone to be just like them. And maybe others will do just about anything to get what they think are the "perfect" physical features. Me? I'm just going to thank Allah that he didn't put me in a black and white world.

Let us all be thankful for what we

have, and enjoy the diversity of the world. Let us savor that funny moment when people ask you to "Say something" when they realize that you can speak another language. And let us say Alhamdulillah for the rainbow of color we make when we get together as brothers and sisters under one God.

A Word from the Sheikh



Br. Tareq Mango

Islam Teacher and Islamic Advisor

لا عنصرية في الاسلام

الإسلام دين عالمي ، نزل للعالمين كافة ، ولم يفرق بين عربي وأعجمي ، إلا على أساس التقوى والقرب من الله تعالى ، ولم يجعل لقوم فضلاً على غيرهم لشكلهم أو لونهم ، فليس في الإسلام فضل لأحمر على أسود إلا بالتقوى والعمل الصالح .

لا يوجد دينٌ كالإسلام في عالميته، فهو دينٌ عالمي بكل ما تحمل هذه الكلمة من معانٍ، وأول ما يقرأ الإنسان في كتاب الله من سورة الفاتحة بعد البسملة (الحمد لله رب العالمين) ، لم يقل رب المسلمين، ولا رب المؤمنين، ولا رب العرب، ولا رب الشرقيين، ولكنه رب العالمين، كل العالمين. وآخر سورة يقرأها المسلم في القرآن (قل أعوذ برب الناس ملك الناس إله الناس)

وفي سورة الحجرات (يا أيها الناس إنا خلقناكم من ذكر وأنثى وجعلناكم شعوباً وقبائل لتعارفوا، إن أكرمكم عند الله أتقاكم)

قالها النبي -عليه الصلاة والسلام- في حجة الوداع وأمام مائة ألف من أصحابه، جاءوا من قبائل العرب قال: "أيها الناس، إن ربكم واحد، وإن أباكم واحد، كلكم لأدم، وأدم من تراب، لا فضل لعربي على أعجمي، ولا لأعجمي على عربي، ولا لأحمر على أسود، إلا بالتقوى (إن أكرمكم عند الله أتقاكم) وقوله (عند الله أتقاكم) معناها عند الله في الآخرة، أي لا يأتي أحد ويقول: أنا أفضل منك لأنني تقى، وأنت غير تقى، فالتقى لا يقول عن نفسه إنه تقى، فأفضلية التقوى عند الله، الناس يتفاضلون في هذه الدنيا بالعلم والعمل وإتقان العمل، أما من حيث العنصر والعرق والجنس فلا يفضل لون على لون ولا عرق على عرق ما دام الجميع يكونون أسرة مشتركة، ربهم واحد وأبوهم واحد، يعني يشتركون في العبودية لله والبنوة لأدم، ولذلك انتشر في القرآن هذا النداء (يا بني آدم..) و هو خطاب لكل الناس، (يا بني آدم) فما دام الأب واحد والرب واحد فلماذا يتميز بعضنا عن بعض؟! الله -سبحانه وتعالى- اعتبر اختلاف الألسن والألوان آية من آياته، قال: (ومن آياته خلق السموات والأرض واختلاف ألسنتكم وألوانكم، إن في ذلك لآياتٍ للعالمين). فلم يعتبر الإسلام هذه المفارقات بين الناس إطلاقاً، المفارقات اللونية، المفارقات العرقية، المفارقات الإقليمية، المفارقات اللسانية أو اللغوية، المفارقات الطبقية، ألغائها كلها، (فإذا نفخ في الصور فلا أنساب بينهم يومئذ ولا يتساءلون).

كان علي زين العابدين بن الحسين -المعروف بالسجاد- كان سجداً عباداً لله تبارك وتعالى كان يطوف بالكعبة ويبيكي ... فرآه الأصمعي، وقال له: قيم هذا البكاء كله وأنت من أهل البيت الذين قال الله فيهم: (إنما يريد الله ليذهب عنكم الرجس أهل البيت ويطهركم تطهيراً) قال له: يا أصمعي، إن الله خلق الجنة لمن أطاعه ولو كان عبداً حبشياً، وخلق النار لمن عصاه ولو كان شريفاً قرشياً، أما قرأت قول الله تعالى (فإذا نفخ في الصور فلا أنساب بينهم يومئذ ولا يتساءلون)

الإسلام حينما قرر المساواة لم يجعلها مجرد مبدأ نظري، لا بل أصبح مطبقاً في الحياة.

فمثلاً العبادات في الإسلام هي تطبيق عملي، الصلاة تطبق فيها المساواة في الجماعة، لا يوجد في الجماعة أن الصف الأول مثلاً للوزراء، والصف الثاني للمدراء، والصف الثالث لكذا، لا يوجد مثل هذا ، من وصل إلى المسجد قبل غيره كان أحق بالصف الأول، فهذه هي المساواة ولذلك تجد الأمير وبجانبه الخفير، وأستاذ الجامعة وبجانبه الفراش، وهذه هي المساواة

وأكثر من هذا في الحج، فيأتي الحج لكي يلغي هذه الفوارق العرقية والإقليمية والطبقية وهذه الأشياء، ويفرض على الجميع لباساً واحداً

فهذه هي المساواة التي طبقها الإسلام في كل نواحي الحياة، ولم يبال باختلاف الألوان، يعني كان بلال بن رباح وهو حبشي أسود اللون يتقدم على الكثير من الصحابة، حتى على خالد بن الوليد. وسيدنا عمر يقول كلمته الشهيرة: "أبو بكر سيدنا وأعتق سيدنا".

يقصد.. أعتق سيدنا، أعتق بلالا ، عمر بن الخطاب يقول عن بلال الحبشي الأسود سيدنا، ونحن إلى الآن نقول: "سيدنا بلال رضي الله عنه.

Translated Word : Equality in Islam

Islam is a world religion that was sent to all of mankind, and it does not differentiate between Arabs and non-Arabs except on the basis of Taqwa (fear and love of Allah) and our closeness to Allah (swt). Islam teaches that no group of people is better than any other except on a level of Taqwa and doing good deeds.

There is no religion in the world that is as international as Islam, for it fulfills the full meaning of the word. For the first verse in the Quran after the basmalah is: "All praise and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of Mankind" (1:2) Allah (swt) didn't say the Lord of the Muslims or the Lord of the believers, nor did He say the Lord of the Arabs or the Easterners, but He said the Lord of mankind, all of mankind. And the idea is further cemented when Allah (swt) begins the last chapter of the Quran by the verses, "Say: "I

seek refuge with the Lord of mankind, the King of mankind, the Ilâh (God) of mankind" (144:1-3)

Allah (swt) also says in the Quran, "O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily, the most honorable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has At-Taqwa" (49:13)

The Prophet (pbuh) said in his last Hajj in front of a hundred thousand of his sahaba (companions), "Oh you people, your Lord is one, and your father is one. You are all of Adam, and Adam was of dust. Arabs are not better than non-Arabs, nor are non-Arabs better than Arabs, and red people are not better than black people except by Taqwa. Indeed the best among you is the one with the most Taqwa.

This doesn't

mean that a person can say that they are better than anyone else because they have Taqwa and others don't, for a person with Taqwa does not announce the state of his Taqwa. Only Allah can judge that. People in this world can compete in knowledge, and deeds, but there can be no competition based on race, ancestry, or gender. We are all of one family with the same father and the same Lord. For this reason, the Quran commonly uses the term of address, "Oh Son of Adam" when addressing mankind. We are all one people, so why do we try to differentiate so much among ourselves? Allah (swt) made the difference in our speech and colors a sign for us. He says in the Quran, "And among His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the difference of your languages and colours. Verily, in that are indeed signs for men of sound knowledge." (30:22)

Ali Zein al-

Abideen bin Hussein, also known as Al-Sajjad, was doing tawaf around the Kaabah and crying. Al-Asmaii saw him and asked why he was crying so much while he was one of Ahl al-Beit (the family of the Prophet). He replied, "Oh Asmaii, Allah (swt) created Jannah for those who obey Him, even if they were an Abyssinian slave. And He created Hell for those who disobey Him, even if they were from the tribe of Quraish (a prominent tribe in Makkah). Have you not read the Quranic verse, "Then, when the Trumpet is blown, there will be no kinship among them that Day, nor will they ask of one another." (23:101)

Islam decrees equality among people, and it is applied practically in life.

Continued on page 11

Special news from:

K-3

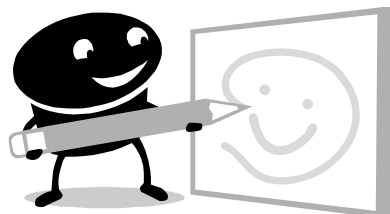


Sofia uses her knowledge about basic shapes to create a house of drinking straws.



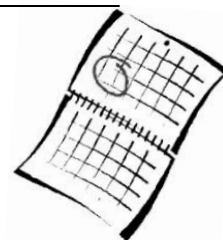
K-4

Suhaib takes a brief pause during Sr. Roula's puppet show and smiles big for the camera.



Mark your calendars!

- **Progress Reports** go home on Friday, February 15th.
- **No School** on Monday, February 18th. School will resume on Tuesday.
- **Black History Week** will begin on Tuesday, February 19th, and will continue through February 28th.



The Prophet's Sense of Humor

Nasma Mekdad
Newsletter Team
Rasulullah (PBUH) is an example for Muslims to follow in every aspect of life. Rasulallah set an example for us in everything, even in joking and having a good sense of humor. It is reported that the companions once said to the Prophet (pbuh): "You are joking with us." "Yes", he replied, "but I never say anything but the truth." The Prophet (pbuh) used to joke, but he never said anything

but the truth in his jokes. Nowadays, most of the jokes we hear are lies. Some people think that it's not a big deal to lie while joking, but they don't realize that it is still considered a lie and is recorded as a bad deed.

One story that describes the Prophet's sense of humor was when old woman came to the Prophet (PBUH) and said: "O Messenger of Allah, pray to Allah that I will enter Paradise." He said jokingly, "O

Mother of So-and-so, no old women will enter Paradise." The old woman went away crying, so the Prophet said, "Tell her that she will not enter Paradise as an old woman, for Allah says: (We have created [their Companions] of special creation, and made them virgin-pure and of equal age) [Quran 56:35-36]."

Another story where the Prophet showed his truthful humor was when a man came to the Prophet to ask him to

give him a beast to ride. The Prophet jokingly told him, "I will give you the offspring of a she-camel to ride." He said, "O Messenger of Allah, what will I do with the offspring of a she-camel?" The Prophet said: "Are riding-camels born except from she-camels?"

Truthfulness can be incorporated in every aspect of life, it is one of the most important characteristic. Therefore we should try our best to improve ourselves when it comes to telling the truth.

Word from page 9

For example, equality is found in prayer. Lines are not organized by the rank of the worshippers, but by their punctuality. Therefore, it can be found that presidents and CEO's of companies pray side by side with sanitation workers and truck drivers.

Another example is found in Hajj, for it overcomes all superficial boundaries formed by race, culture, or social status. The humbling and equalizing experience of performing the same actions while wearing the same clothes shows true equality.

The best example of equality is in that of Bilal bin Rabah, an Abyssinian who was a slave before Islam. He status exceeded that of many great sahaba (companions), including Khalid bin Waleed who was known for his bravery and skill in battle. The Khalifah Omar used to say that Abu Bakr, the best

among us, has freed the second best among us, Bilal bin Rabah. And until today, people still refer to Bilal bin Rabah with the greatest terms of respect, regardless of his skin color.

- Perpetual from page 6* You will never know what your capable of until you try and that's is why we must learn to concur our perpetual procrastination Insha'Allah.
- Some of Best Times To Make Duaa:**
- While visiting the sick, and duaa made by the sick .
 - Duaa immediately after making wudu.
 - Duaa of a son or daughter obedient to his or her parents.
 - Duaa of the one fasting at the time of breaking fast
 - Duaa of the one fasting until he breaks his fast.
 - Duaa of people after the death of a person.
 - At Midnight .
 - When Muslims gather for the purpose of invoking and remembering Allah .
 - The parent's Supplication for their child.
 - The Traveler
 - At the Adhan
 - At The End Of The Obligatory Salat
 - During The Rain
 - When Waking Up at Night
 - Late at night
 - The Last Third Of The Night

Sincerity in Actions

قال ابن القيم – رحمه الله – في (الفوائد): “العمل بغير إخلاص ولا اقتداء كالمسافر يملأ جرابه رمالاً ينقله ولا ينفعه”

Ibnul Qayyim–(rahimahullaah) – said, “Deeds without sincerity and following (the Sunnah) are like a traveler who fills and carries his sock with dirt. He is burdened by carrying it and it brings no benefit.”

The scholars teach us that there is no benefit of our actions until they meet two conditions:

- 1) They have to be done with Ikhlaas (sincerity)
- 2) They have to be done in accordance to the Sunnah

This tells us that if our actions has

neither one, we are like a traveler who fills his sock with dirt. All it does is weigh you down.

When we leave this world and reach the Dayof Resurrection, we will look in our “belongings” and find nothing but useless actions that will hold us back. Imagine

realizing that we did nothing but useless actions and having fear overcome our hearts.

We want to look in our “belongings” and be glad. We want to know that we spent our lives wisely. We don't know when or where our time will

end, so we need to be prepared.

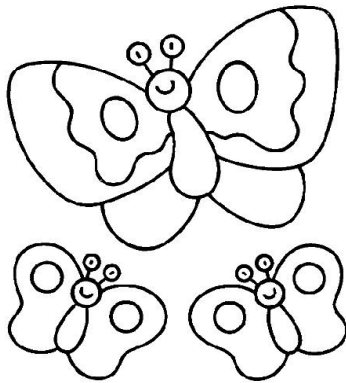
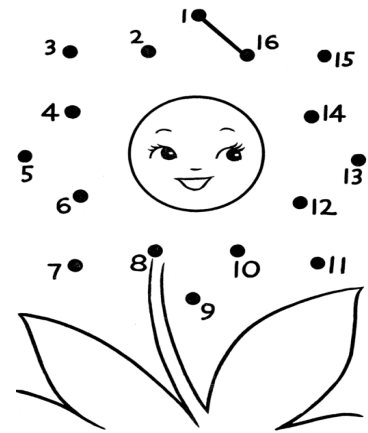
May Allah (SWT) give us the success of fulfilling these two conditions in each and every action we do and Insha'Allah these actions will benefit us when needed.

Ameen.

Game Room

Riddles:

- How do bees get to school?
- What building has the most stories?
- What is a math teacher's favorite dessert?



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DID YOU KNOW?

- The tiger is the biggest species of the cat family.
- Tigers usually hunt alone at night time.
- Tigers can easily jump over 5 meters in length.
- There are more tigers held privately as pets than there are in the wild.



MASHED POTATOES!!

Bayan Karassi

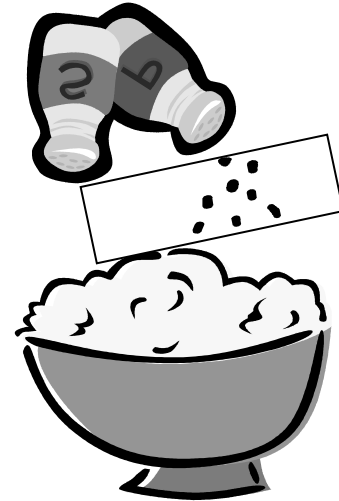
Recipe makes 4 servings.

Ingredients:

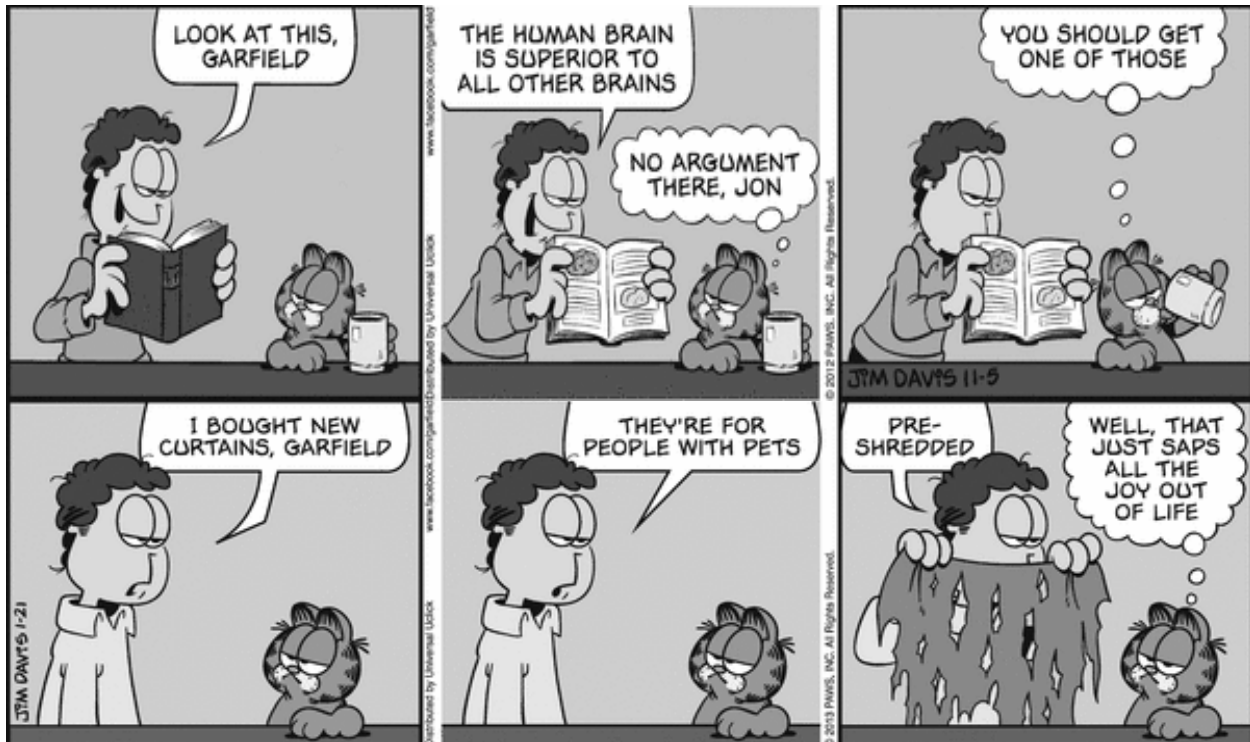
- 2 pounds baking potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup milk
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Add potatoes and cook until tender but still firm, (about 15 minutes) drain.
2. In a small saucepan, heat butter and milk over low heat until butter is melted. Using a potato masher or electric beater, slowly blend milk mixture into potat-



toes until smooth and creamy. Season with salt and pepper to taste.



Moral Story: Are You the Coffee?



A teenage boy went to his mother one day to complain to her about how things in life were getting so hard for him, and how he was tired of struggling because it seemed as though once one problem was solved another arose.

His mother took him to the kitchen where she boiled 3 separate pots of water. She then put carrots in the first, an egg in the second and ground coffee in the last. After a while, she asked her son to observe the changes each item went through. He noticed

that the carrots had become softer than they were before they were boiled. He noticed how the egg became hard on the inside. And he noticed that the coffee had made the water brown. He then tasted it and found its flavor very rich.

The boy was confused, and he asked his mother to explain what everything meant. She explained that all the items faced the same problem (the boiling water) but each had a different reaction. The carrot went in the water strong and hard and

came out soft and weak. The egg went in fragile with a soft, liquid inside, and came out with a hardened core. However, the ground coffee was unique, for it changed the water and still kept its rich taste.

The mother then asked her son, "Which are you when you face a hardship? Are you like the carrot who seems strong, but weakens when afflicted with pain and hardships? Or are you like the egg, which starts with a soft heart but changes with heat? Does your shell

stay the same while your insides toughen and become bitter? Or are you like the coffee, which changes the water which is the very source of pain? When things are bad, do you change the situation you are in to the better?"

May we have enough trials to make us sweet, enough to make us strong, enough sorrow to keep us human and enough hope to make us happy.

Moral: The happiest people don't have the best of everything, they make the best out of everything.

Please turn in the answer to the Sweet Chance question before the deadline on Friday February 22 in order to enter the drawing for the prize.

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WE WANT YOUR WORK!

If you wrote something you feel good about, or have an event you want to share with us, don't hesitate! Send it to iaanewsletter@gmail.com. You could be in our next issue!

Thank You for Your Support!

A Sweet Chance

Answer the question below, detach it, and send it in to the newsletter team. A correct answer will enter your name into a drawing for a chance to receive a jumbo Hershey's chocolate bar!



Name and grade: _____

Who was in charge of compiling the Quran into one book?

- A) Omar Bin Khatab
- B) Zaid Bin Thabit
- C) Khalid Bin Waleed
- D) Hafsa Bint Omar

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