



T H E A Z H A R A C A D E M Y G I R L S ' S C H O O L N E W S L E T T E R



V I R T U E S O F R A M A D A A N

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A A G S D A T E S :	
Ramadaan Break	29/09/08 - 03/10/08
Eid-ul-Adha	08/12/08 - 12/12/09
Term ends	23/12/08
Term Begins	05/01/09



Abu Hurayrah reported that the Messenger of Allaah (sall-Allaahu alaihi wasallam) said: "Ramadaan has come to you - a blessed month. Allaah has made obligatory upon you its fasting. In it, the gates of heaven are open, the gates of the Hellfire are closed and the evil devils are chained. To Allaah belongs a night in it, which is better than a thousand months. Whosoever is prevented from its good, then he has been deprived." [Ahmad and An-Nasaa'ee]

The hadeeth is a glad tiding to the righteous servants of Allaah, of the coming of the blessed month of Ramadaan. The Prophet (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) informed his companions of its coming and it was not just a simple relaying of news. Rather, his intent was to give them the glad tidings of a magnificent time of the year, so that the righteous people who are quick to do deeds can give it its due estimate. This is because the Prophet (sall-Allaahu alaihi wasallam) explained in it (the hadeeth) what Allaah has prepared for His servants from the ways towards gaining forgiveness and His contentment and they are many ways. So whosoever has forgiveness escape from him during the month of Ramadaan, then he has been deprived with the utmost deprivation.

From the great favours and bounties that Allaah has bestowed upon His servants is that He has prepared for them meritorious occasions so that they may be of profit for those who obey Him and a race for those who rush to compete

(for good deeds). These meritorious occasions are times for fulfilling hopes by exerting in obedience and uplifting flaws and deficiencies by self-rectification and repentance. There is not a single occasion from these virtuous times, except that Allaah has assigned in it works of obedience, by which one may draw close to Him. And Allaah possesses the most beautiful things as gifts, which He bestows upon whomsoever He wills by His Grace and Mercy.

So the one who achieves true happiness is he who takes advantage of these virtuous months, days and hours and draws closer to His Guardian in them, by doing what is prescribed in them from the acts of obedience. Thus, perhaps he will be showered with one of the many blessings of those occasions and be helped by it, with an assistance that saves him from the Fire and what it contains, such as its blazing heat. [Lataa'if-ul-Ma'aarif]

Being able to reach Ramadaan is a magnificent bounty in itself, bestowed upon the one who reaches it and rises to its occasion, by standing in prayer during its night and fasting during its day. In it, he returns to his Protector - from disobeying Him to obeying Him, from neglecting Him to remembering Him, from remaining distant from Him to turning towards Him in submissive repentance.

M Y F I R S T D A Y A T A Z H A R A C A D E M Y

I was nervous and shy because I was worried that I wouldn't be able to fit in. However, I was soon to learn the reality!

When everyone was at the school, the Head teacher put us into our classes and then our form tutor, Miss-Al-Haddad introduced herself. She was very nice and kind and when we had all settled down, we introduced ourselves.

We were given an interesting tour around the whole school, including the science lab. Then

the Head teacher talked to us about the school rules and then we went back to class.

In the classroom we played games, like 'Blue murder, fruit salad, heads down thumbs up' and then some of the girls told the rest of the class riddles and jokes.

Alhamdulillah, Azhar Academy is very fun, the lessons are interesting, the teachers are nice and although I have only been at Azhar for a week, I have already made seven new friends!!!

[Year 7 student]

"Is there any reward for good other than good? Then which of the favours of your Lord will you deny?" [Qur'an 55:60-61]

POEM: I LOVE EID

It is Eid today! It is Eid today!
I can see the tiny new moon
Up there, in the heavenly sky,
Surrounded by beautiful twinkling stars!
Heralding the happy coming of Eid,
It is Eid today!

Thank you, Almighty Allah!
For giving us so much happiness,
For the moon and the stars
And everything we have,
The glad tidings of the season
That reminds us of your Greatness,
The acts of purification we undergo
To show you our loyalty,
The prayers we say
To seek from you Blessings
On this occasion of Eid,
Which brings so much joy.
It is Eid Today!

Anonymous

OPEN DAY



Azhar Academy Girls'
School will be holding an
Open Day for potential Year
7 pupils on:

**Friday 14th November
2008.**

*Timings for women: 5-7pm
Timings for men: 8-9pm*

RAMADAAN FACTS

“O you who believe! Observing As-Sawm (fasting) is prescribed for you as it was prescribed to those before you, so that you may become Al-Muttaqun (the pious)”

(Al-Qur-aan, 2:183)

“Verily, We have sent it (this Qur-aan) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Power). And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr is? The night of Al-Qadr is better than a thousand months. Therein descend the angels and the Ruh (Jibra'eel) by Allaah's permission with all Decrees, (All that night), there is Peace (and Goodness from Allaah to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn.”

(Al-Qur-aan, 97:1-5)



The Prophet (Sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) said :

“indeed there is for the fasting person when he breaks his fast, a supplication which is not rejected”

(Ibn Maajah, Al Haakim and others)

He (Sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) also said:

The fast and the Qur-aan will intercede for the servant on the day of judgment. The fast will say, “my Lord, I restricted him from food and drink, so allow me to intercede for him”. And the Qur-aan will say, “ I prevented him from sleeping at night, so allow me to intercede for him.” So they will be allowed to intercede.

(Muslim)



With the start of the last ten days of Ramadhaan, the Prophet (Sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) used to tighten his waist belt (i.e. work hard) and used to pray all night, and he used to keep his family awake for the prayers.

(Bukhari)

“The Prophet Muhammad (Sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) was the most generous of all the people, and he used to reach the peak in generosity in the month of Ramadaan when Jibra'eel met him. Jibra'eel used to meet him every night of Ramadhaan to teach him the Qur-aan.”

(Bukhari)

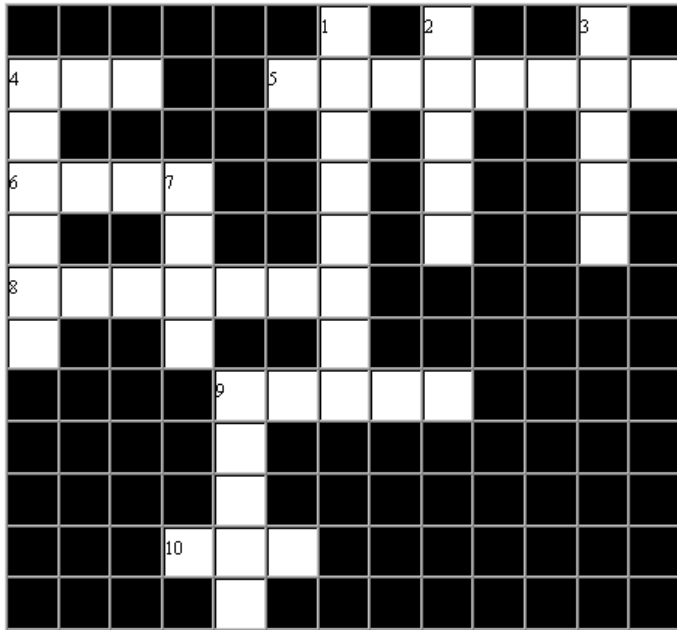
The Prophet (Sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) said:

“When the month of Ramadhaan starts, the gates of Heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed and the Shaytan's are chained.”

(Bukhari)

The Prophet (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) said: *Whoever loves the meeting with Allah, Allah too loves the meeting with him. And whoever hates the meeting with Allah, Allah too hates the meeting with him.* [Bukhari]

CROSSWORD – WHO WERE THEY ?



Across

- 4. He spoke out to defend his mother while still an infant
- 5. He was married to his first wife for 25 years
- 6. He had a brother called Haroon
- 8. He built the Ka'bah with his son
- 9. He attempted to flee on a ship from Allaah's commands
- 10. He built an ark

Down

- 1. He was able to communicate with the animals
- 2. He warned the people not to disobey Allaah by killing a she-camel
- 3. He was Zakariyya's son
- 4. He was the son of a prophet and was left in the desert with his mother
- 7. He was the first man and first prophet
- 9. He was the most handsome of men

A BUTTERFLY'S ENDEAVOUR

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had got as far as it could, and it could go no further. So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily.

However, it had a swollen body and small, shrivelled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the

rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shrivelled wings. It never was able to fly!

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were Allah's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. If Allah allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We can never be as strong as we could have been. We could never 'fly'!

Anonymous



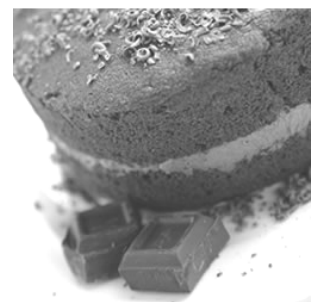
CHOCOLATE CAKE RECIPE

Instructions

- 1) First put the margarine and sugar in a mixing bowl and mix.
- 2) One the sugar has dissolved add the eggs and sponge flour. The mix together.
- 3) Thereafter add the vanilla essence and baking powder. The mix together.
- 4) Take out 6 tablespoons of the mixture into a separate mixing bowl.
- 5) Add the hot chocolate powder in the mixture and mix
- 6) Once it has been mixed, Greece a baking tin.
- 7) Thereafter put the plain mixture into the baked tin. Then add the chocolate mixture on top and spread it with a fork.
- 8) Leave he mixture in the oven on gas mark 160 f.
- 9) Leave in the oven for 45 minutes.
- 10) Once the cake is baked cut, let it cool for a while and then cut it into slices. ENJOY!

Ingredients:

- 8 ounces margarine
- 8 ounces sugar
- 4 eggs
- 8 ounces sponge flour
- 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla essence
- 3 tablespoons of hot chocolate powder



Chocolate sponge cake layered covered with hot melted chocolate

"Friends on that day will be enemies one to another, except Al-Muttaqun (those who fear Allah)"
[Qur'an 43:67]

FACTS ABOUT LAYLATUL-QADR

Aa'ishah RadiyAllaahu anha said: "When the last ten days (of Ramadaan) would come, the Prophet (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) would spend his night in worship, wake his family (at night), exert himself and tighten his Izaar (waistcloth)." [Bukhari & Muslim]

This hadeeth is proof that the last ten days of Ramadaan have a special virtue over any other (set of days), in which one should increase in obedience and acts of worship, such as prayer, making dhikr (remembrance) and reciting the Qur-aan. Aa'ishah RadiyAllaahu anha has described our Prophet and role model, Muhammad (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam), with four attributes:

He (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) would **"spend his night in worship"**, meaning he would not sleep during it. Thus, he (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) would remain awake throughout it in worship and he would liven his soul by spending the night in sleeplessness. This is since sleep is the brother of death. The meaning of "spend his night" is that he (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) would spend all of it in the state of qiyaam (night prayer) and performing acts of worship that are done for the sake of Allaah, Lord of the

worlds. We must remember that the last ten days of Ramadaan are fixed and numbered.

He (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) would **"wake up his family"** meaning his (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) pure wives, the Mothers of the Believers, so that they may take part in the profiting of good, the dhikr (remembrance) and the acts of worship during these blessed times.

He (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) would **"exert himself"**, meaning he (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) would persevere and struggle in worship, adding more to his deeds than what he had done in the first twenty days (of Ramadaan). He only did this because the night of Al-Qadr occurs during one of these (last ten) days.

He (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) would **"tighten his Izaar (waistcloth)"** meaning he would exert himself and struggle intensely in worship. Also, he (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) would observe 'Itikaaf in the last ten days of Ramadaan. So, we must all try to strive to characterize ourselves with these attributes.



' E I D

As you all know after this blessed month we will celebrate 'Eid ul-fitr. We celebrate 'Eid ul-fitr to show that we have completed Ramadan successfully. First of all, it is compulsory on all the well-off Muslims to start their day by paying "Sadaqat-ul-fitr" to the poor of their society, so that they, too, may enjoy the day along with others, and may not be worried for earning their livelihood at least on that day of happiness. After praying sadaqat-ul-fitr, Muslims have to pray the Eid prayer and then they can enjoy their day with their families and friends.

Al-Haafidh Ibn Hajr Al-Asqalani (rahimahullah) said: "We have related in "Mahaamiliyaat" with a chain of narration that is hasan, from Jabr ibn Nufayr who said: 'When the companions of Allah's Messenger (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) met on the day of 'Eid, they would say to each other, **"Taqaballahu minna wa minkum (may Allaah accept from you and us)"**.' [Al Mahaamiliyaat; hasan isnad; see Fath ul Bari 2:446]

A Z H A R A C A D E M Y H A J J P R O G R A M M E

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The Prophet (sall-Allaahu alayhi wasallam) said: *The charity puts out the bad deed like the water puts out the Fire.* [Tirmidhi]