

RESCENT MOON

AUGUST, 2005

YOUNG SUFI NEWSLETTER

Generosity & Selflessness

It is when we do things for our own selves that we tend to become rather selfish. We start to measure how much we give, when to give, and who to give to. We hold onto things and even store things that we don't really need or use. But we find that when we are doing things for the sake of Allah then we become selfless and more generous. We are not afraid to give, because we know that ultimately, all things belong to Allah. Everything we receive is from Allah. When Allah gives to us, He gives in order that we will share with others and not to hold onto or to store for just ourselves. This includes not just material things such as food or money or shelter, etc., but also knowledge, good character, and any blessings we receive from Him.

Allah is Al-Karim—The Most Generous. Karim comes from the Arabic root word "*karuma* which means to be noble, superior in generosity; to be highly esteemed, valued; to be excellent, generous, magnanimous." (Shaykh Fadhlalla, p.91) He gives us more than what we ask for. The more we give the more we will receive from Him. Allah test us with what he has given us. It is when we become too dependent on what we have that Allah will take it away from us. We must only depend on Allah because it is only Allah that gives us life and keeps our hearts beating, nobody else. "Verily your possessions and your children are only a trial and verily Allah it is (He) with Whom is a great reward." (xxviii:15) The more we show our gratitude & our thankfulness to Allah our Creator & Sustainer, the more He will bestow upon us and our families.

We must never forget Allah's generosity. Allah gives us so much every millisecond of our lives. He never forgets us for an instant. He gives us everything we need to live on the earth. He gives us the sun for warmth & for light. He alone makes it so that water falls upon the earth. He gives us all our faculties and all our senses. He alone balances all things in the universe in order that we can live, such as the sun is positioned at a distance from the earth. It is because of Allah's generosity that we are able to receive His many blessings. How can we forget Allah when Allah never forgets us. "Surely We have shown him the way: he may be thankful or unthankful (76:3)

~Submitted by Hanifa~

Greetings,

As you can see the theme of this newsletter is Generosity & Selflessness. We have had a great time working on this issue, and realized that we needed much more space and time to do the subject justice. Thank you to all the people who shared themselves, and made this issue GREAT!

The Editors

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The Two Brothers

ONCE THERE WAS A LONELY WOOD CUTTER WHO HAD TWO SONS. ONE WAS GREEDY AND SPITEFUL BUT THE OTHER BROTHER WAS KIND AND GENEROUS.

ONE DAY THEY WERE SENT TO FIND THEIR FORTUNE. BOTH WERE GIVEN TWENTY SEEDS EACH. THE NEXT MORNING THEY LEFT.

THE FIRST BROTHER FOUND AN ABANDONED COTTAGE AND DECIDED TO LIVE THERE. SOON HE WAS MAKING A FIRE TO STAY WARM IN THE FROSTY WEATHER THEN THERE WAS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

A PEDDLER WAS STANDING OUTSIDE. "SALLAM STRANGER WHAT DO YOU ASK OF ME?" ASKED THE FIRST BROTHER. "JUST SOME FOOD AND SHELTER" SAID THE PEDDLER. "AHH THEN YOU MUST COME IN" SAID THE FIRST BROTHER.

"I ONLY HAVE TWENTY SEEDS BUT WE CAN DIVIDE THEM. YOU HAVE 10 AND I HAVE 10" SAID THE BROTHER. "YOU ARE A GOOD MAN" SAID THE PEDDLER AND WALKED OUT.

MEAN WHILE THINGS WERNT TURNING OUT THAT GOOD FOR THE GREEDY BROTHER.. HE MANAGED TO MAKE HIMSELF A MUD HUT AND WAS MAKING A FIRE WHEN THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

HE OPENED IT AND SAW THE SAME PEDDLER WHO HAD JUST VISITED HIS BROTHER.

"WHAT" HE SNAPPED AT THE PEDDLER. "I SEEK SHELTER AND FOOD" SAID THE PEDDLER. "NO" REPLIED THE GREEDY BROTHER!

"I NEED THESE SEEDS FOR MYSELF TO SURVIVE" AND WITH THAT HE SLAMMED THE DOOR IN THE PEDDLER'S FACE.

AS THE MONTHS PASSED BOTH BROTHERS WERE TERRIBLY HUNGRY. BUT ONE DAY THE KIND BROTHER HAD A KNOCK ON THE DOOR. HE SLOWLY GOT UP AND WALKED TO THE DOOR AND OPENED IT. THERE WAS THE PEDDLER WITH TWO BIG BASKETS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

"HERE I WANT YOU TO HAVE HALF OF THESE VEGETABLES THAT I GREW FROM YOUR SEEDS YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE ME" SAID THE OLD PEDDLER. THE BROTHER THANKED THE OLD PEDDLER.

LATER THE GREEDY BROTHER GOT A KNOCK ON THE DOOR AS WELL HE OPENED IT AND THERE WAS THE PEDDLER ONCE MORE

"WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS TIME, I HAVE EATEN ALL MY SEEDS AND HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE YOU, SO GO AWAY" SAID THE BROTHER.

"YOU ARE A GREEDY PERSON AND DESERVE PUNISHING BUT INSTEAD I WILL GIVE YOU SOME ROTTEN VEGETABLES AND FRUIT, WHICH IS MORE THAN YOU GAVE ME" AND SLAMMED THE DOOR IN THE GREEDY BOY'S FACE.

THE NICE BROTHER LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER WITH CHILDREN AND A WIFE, AND USED THE SEEDS FROM THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLES THE OLD MAN GAVE HIM, TO GROW MANY MORE CROPS, AND HE NEVER WENT HUNGRY AGAIN. BUT THE GREEDY BROTHER LIVED THE REST OF HIS LIFE A OLD GRUMPY MAN WITH NO CHILDREN AT ALL.



HEART

You,

*Your heart beats so fast that it sings a song
And the rhythm is Al-lah Al-lah*

You,

*Your heart is so lovely that every time it beats
It beats with love and is filled with love*

You,

*Your heart is so beautiful and so clear
That I can see my reflection*

You,

*Your heart is such Light that every time it beats
It brightens the whole wide world.*

~Akhiraah age 9~



Moral

YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE

STORY BY TARIO, AGED 9





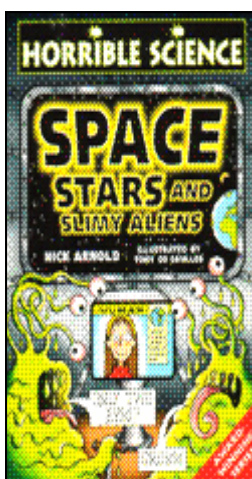
BOOK REVIEW



Book Review by

Akhirah, 9

One of my favourite author is Nick Arnold who writes the "Horrible Science" series of books. These books are very easy to read for all ages and not only that, they are very informative on facts & science. It helps children like me to understand some of the ways on how Allah's universe & how His creation works. These books would be good for schools in my year. I am in year 4 at school but we do not read these books in my year. I don't remember any of my teachers mentioning these books either while I've been at my school.



I like to draw and I have to say that the illustrations in Horrible Science are really great and they are done by an artist called Tony De Saulles. His pictures are black and white and cartoon-like, and can be really very funny.

There are many interesting things to learn about in our world and in nature, so much to learn about plant life, insects, as well as our bodies and the universe. The Horrible Science series is a fun way to learn about such facts and sciences and even though the books are based on facts, it is delivered

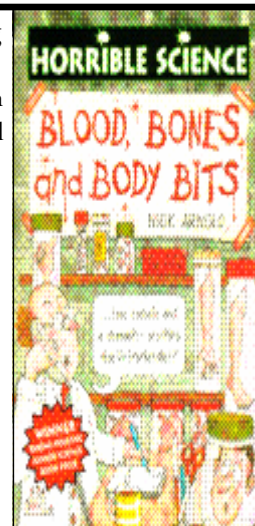
in a very humorous way so it is not boring to read and learn about stuff but can be very enjoyable. The books are filled with peculiar quizzes, bizarre experiments, and grisly facts.

The author Nick Arnold has sold well over 2 million Horrible Science books around the world that has also been translated into 34 foreign languages. He is Britain's best-selling science author for children. There are about 20 Horrible Science book titles.

Nick has been writing since he was a young boy of 8 years old about gruesome goings on. His first book published was called "Ugly Bugs" in 1989 when he worked as an editor. (I wasn't even born then.) This led him to write newspaper and magazine articles. In 1996 Nick teamed up with Scholastic to create the Horrible Science series. I guarantee that anyone who has not ventured into the Horrible Science series will get so much from it. But I warn you also that because it is based on raw facts some of the books can also seem revoltingly real, such as how food is digested etc.

If you have the stomach for it then check out the website to see the whole series of Horrible Science.

http://www.scholastic.co.uk/zone/book_horr-science.htm



GOOD NEWS

Answers to questions from Story:

"Umair's love for Islam*"

A & A- Akhirah & Amaan

T.W. - Tariq Winter

1. How do you feel about what Umair did?

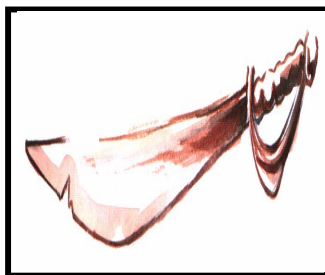
A & A-Umair had a lot of courage and was very brave to want to help the believing Muslims fight with the Prophet (SAW) in the cause of Allah. He did the right thing and stood for what he believed in even though he was too young to be in the army.

T.W. Umair was a bit foolish and brave at the same time for instead of trying to sneak into the army without permission from the prophet he could have asked before.

2. Do you think that he should have been allowed to fight?

A&A- Yes he should be allowed to fight if he wants to fight for Allah. If the Prophet of Islam agrees then it is ok. Even though he was too young he should have the choice to fight for Allah. However, it was wrong of Umair to sneak off without his family's permission to go and fight.

T.W.-yes and no; yes because he wanted to defend Islam with his life and, no because how would his parents feel if he sneaked off to fight and ended up dying.



We would love to use this space to share your **GOOD NEWS!** A birthday, an award, a kids dhiker, a holiday you want to remind us of, did something happen in Islamic or sufic history this month, something special happening in your country, world news, up in space ?

3. What do you think we/you can do to support Islam in our lives?

A & A We can express ourselves more about Islam and not be afraid or scared. We can also stand up for our rights against any persecution. We should learn more about the Prophet & Islam & Allah.

T.W. We could help others to see and understand the meaning Of Allah's perfection.

4. Can you think of any other people who have died fighting to protect Islam?

A & A The only person I can think of right now is Imam Hussain (A.S)

T.W. Hamsa the Prophet's (SAW) Uncle who protected the prophet from the people of Mecca.

Do you have any interesting thoughts in this issue, then please share them with us!

*Umair's love for Islam, Crescent Moon, June/July

JOKES

1. What's the problem with twin witches?
2. Why do elephants have wrinkles?
3. How do you spell mouse trap with only three letters?
4. What has a head and tail but no body?
5. Why did the toilet paper roll down the hill?
6. What do you call a city where the children put their father's in sacks?



Get to know U 2

MEET SUKAYNA POWELL, 10 U.K.

Where were you born? <i>Swindon, UK</i>	school? <i>history and art</i>	have you lived in or visited? <i>South Africa, Pakistan, Sweden, denmark, France</i>
How old are you? <i>10</i>	What type of music do you like? <i>Indian film music</i>	Which was your favourite? <i>France</i>
Do you have siblings? <i>Two little sisters</i>	What do you like the most about being a Muslim? <i>Being good</i>	What advice do you have for young people? <i>be nice to each other</i>
What is your favourite book/ author? <i>Enid Blyton/ Harry Potter</i>	What kind of career would you like to have? <i>In archaeology</i>	What is your favourite joke? <i>Knock, Knock</i>
What is your favourite movie? <i>Harry Potter and others too numerous to mention!!</i>	What languages do you speak? <i>English</i>	<i>Who's there?</i>
What do you enjoy doing most? <i>Reading, scoobies, cooking, art and craft</i>	What is your favourite food? <i>Mediterranean</i>	<i>Amos</i>
What year are you in school? <i>Moving to Year 6 in September</i>	what is your least favourite? <i>Least favourite: banana porridge</i>	<i>Amos who?</i>
What is your best/ favourite subject in	What kind of sports or hobbies do you have? <i>gymnastics, tennis, swimming</i>	<i>A mosquito just bit me (etc etc)</i>
	What countries/ cities	

Get to know U ??

Interview with Ayesha Powell, U.K.

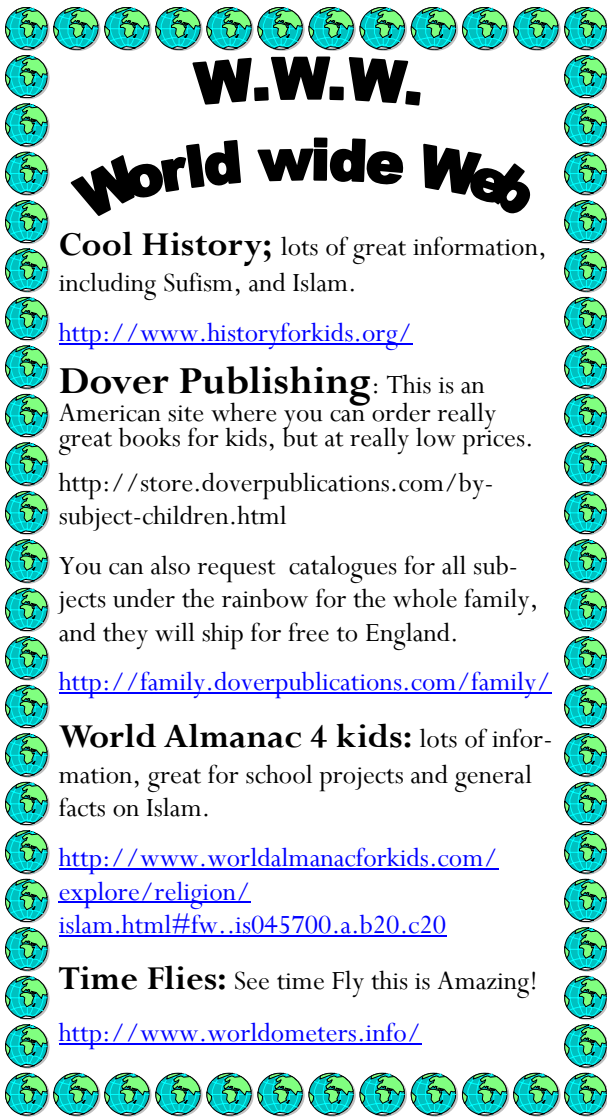
1. Where and when were you born? *Dhaka, east Pakistan, now Bangladesh*
2. How did you come to Islam? *I was born into it*
3. What is your favourite Surah, and Diwan? *Fave ayat : Ayatul Kursi, Diwan: Ruhi Tuhaddithuni*
4. Which of the five is your favourite prayer? *Isha*
5. Do you have any siblings? *Four big brothers*
6. What did you study in school? *All subjects in Arabic!!*
7. What is your favourite book/ author? *The Tao of Pooh/ favourite author: Ellis Peters*
8. What kind of music do you listen to? *Mainly World music, Indian classical, and old Indian movie music.*
10. What are your hobbies? *Reading Quran and other writings about Islam/Sufism, watch-*

ing comedy shows, writing, playing with the kids

11. What job do you have? *I do occasional editing work for Sheikh Fadhlalla and look after the children (my own and other people's!)*
12. What countries have you lived in/ visited? *Lived in The UAE, Pakistan, UK. Visited most of Europe, South Africa, the Arabian Gulf countries*
13. Which was your favourite? *South Africa, especially Cape Town*
14. What languages do you speak? *Urdu/English/Arabic*
15. What is your favourite kind of food? *Mediterranean*
16. Have you been on hajj/ umrah, what was it like? *Hajj was very difficult but very beautiful as well. I shall never forget it.*
17. What are some of the things that you would like to see or do before you die? *I'd like to see the children settled with their families; I'd like to pass on some of what I've learned about Quran and love of Allah, especially to children; have regular exercise. routine going!!*

Jokes Answers

1. You can't tell which witch is which
2. They are hard to iron.
3. C-a-t
4. A coin
5. To get to the bottom
6. Baghdad



W.W.W.

World wide Web

Cool History; lots of great information, including Sufism, and Islam.

<http://www.historyforkids.org/>

Dover Publishing: This is an American site where you can order really great books for kids, but at really low prices.

<http://store.doverpublications.com/by-subject-children.html>

You can also request catalogues for all subjects under the rainbow for the whole family, and they will ship for free to England.

<http://family.doverpublications.com/family/>

World Almanac 4 kids: lots of information, great for school projects and general facts on Islam.

<http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/religion/islam.html#fw..is045700.a.b20.c20>

Time Flies: See time Fly this is Amazing!

<http://www.worldometers.info/>



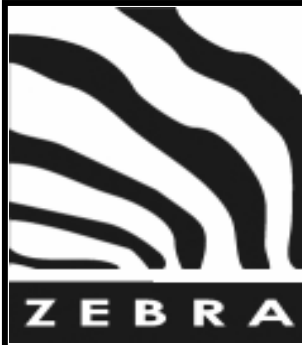
Grevy's Zebra

Credits and other Boring Stuff

Page 1, Generosity and selflessness, *Calling Allah By His Most Beautiful Names*, Shaykh Fadlalla Haeri. *The Mutual Deceit—At—Taghbun*, Noble Qur'an., 76:3)

Page 6, Coloring page taken from internet page

<http://www.jannah.org/thecave/color7.jpg>



Zebra are the only living relative of the common horse, defined under the genus *Equus*. There are three species of zebra; Grevy's zebra (*Equus Grevyi*), Mountain zebra (*Equus Zebra*) and Plains zebra (*Equus Burchelli*).

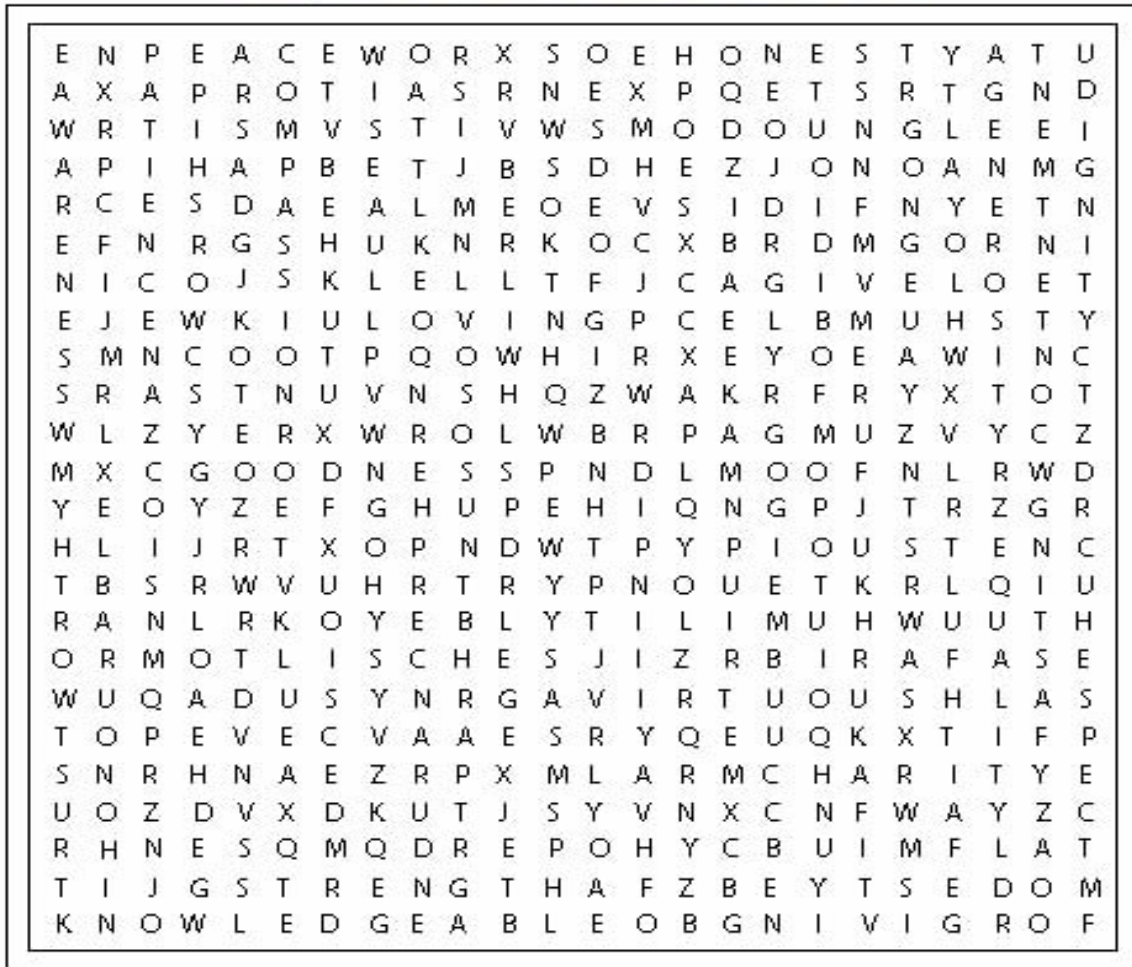
This magnificent animal, of which the Grevys species is most distinct, are most commonly found in the plains and mountainous areas of Africa. There is proof that they once inhabited the forested areas of North America during the Pleistocene era (1.6 million to 10,000 years ago) but became extinct. Zebras are primarily grazers, meaning they feed on grass; however they also eat shrubs and small trees. Because they live in semi arid or arid habitats (Arid= dry), some small herds migrate seasonally to find water and food when it is scarce in their home territory. Stallions (male) lead and protect the herd and create a territory against other stallions to guard his mares (female) and foals(babies).

Zebra live for approximately twenty or more years in the wild and reproduce very slowly because the mares sometimes only carry young every other year. They are pregnant between eleven and thirteen months, approximately a whole year and a month. This means that because of hunting and habitat loss these wonderful animals are decreasing rapidly in numbers. Some zoologists are very skeptical of the long term survival of these wonderful animals and predict that they may be severely endangered or extinct in the next fifty or so years. Many of the zebra species are already extinct, for example the Burchell's zebra (*Equus Burchelli Burchelli*), and the Quagga zebra (*Equus burchelli quagga*). Grevy's zebra encounter the most pressure from humans as during very severe droughts in East Africa in the recent years, people have blocked the zebra's access to water holes and mortality rates have been very high.

As humans we need to learn to respect and appreciate nature. A seemingly small error, such as blocking access to a water-hole, can make a whole species become endangered and eventually extinct. We must take it upon ourselves to learn more about nature so we can work to preserve our amazing wildlife all over the world. The zebra is a prime example of an animal we wish our grandchildren and future generations to be able to experience and learn about in their natural habitat.

By: Kismet Muhammad (Hakima)

TRAITS OF PIETY



AWARENESS
 CALM
 CARING
 CHARITY
 COMPASSION
 CONTENTMENT
 DEVOTION
 DIGNITY
 ENDURANCE
 EQUALITY
 FAITHFUL

FASTING
 FORBEARANCE
 FORGIVING
 GENEROSITY
 GENTLENESS
 GOODNESS
 HARMONY
 HONESTY
 HOPE
 HONOURABLE
 HUMBLE

HUMILITY
 JUST
 KINDNESS
 KNOWLEDGEABLE
 LEARNED
 LOVING
 LOYALTY
 MERCY
 MODESTY
 MORALITY
 PATIENCE

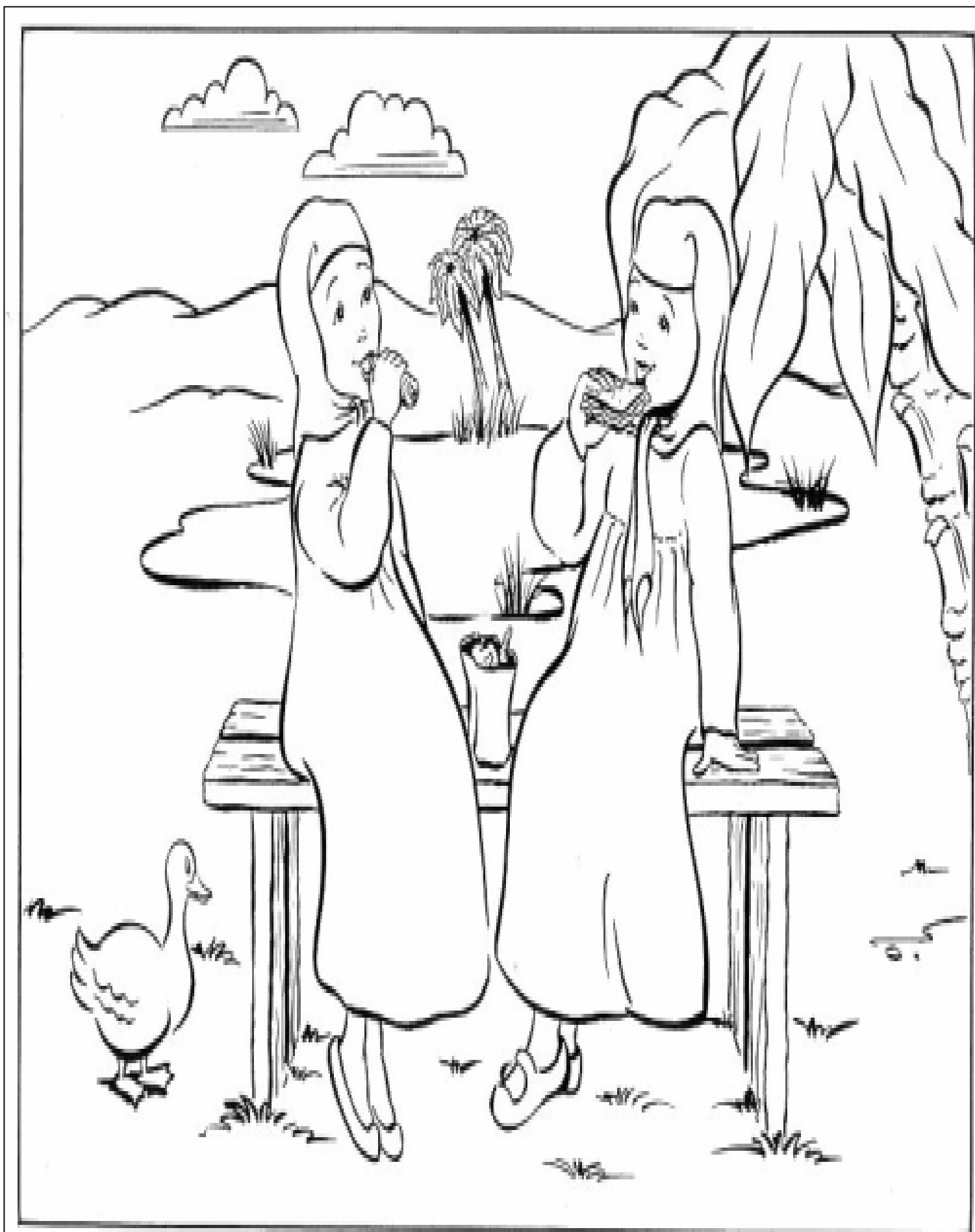
PEACE
 PIOUS
 RESPECT
 SINCERITY
 STRENGTH
 TRUSTWORTHY
 UPHOLDER
 VIRTUOUS
 WISE
 WORSHIP

NEXT MONTHS ISSUE: Allah's Most beautiful Names



What place do they have in our everyday life, how can they help us? As you can see from this issue the more people that contribute, the more interesting the newsletter. Otherwise you have to listen to what we think all the time, How Boring!!!! Adults are also welcome!

Please E-mail us at : ourcrescentmoon@yahoo.com



SHARING AND GENEROSITY

Fatimah shares her lunch with Marlam . She knows there is always enough for one more .