

THE ALPHABETICAL JOURNEY

Inspiring Moral Stories For Young Minds

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SAFIYAH ALAM

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Illustrations by Sanobar Nihal

Age Range: 4+ years

Moral of the Stories: This collection of stories imparts valuable lessons on kindness, empathy, perseverance, etc. and is designed to engage and inspire young readers.

First Edition

Preface

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this special collection of A-Z moral stories for kids! Within these pages, you'll embark on a journey through the alphabet, exploring a world brimming with adventure, friendship, and invaluable life lessons.

Each story in this book has been carefully crafted to entertain, educate, and inspire young hearts and minds. From bustling neighborhoods to serene countryside landscapes, these tales reflect the diverse experiences and emotions of childhood.

In these stories, you'll encounter brave adventurers, thoughtful friends, and curious explorers, all navigating the challenges of growing up. Whether it's finding the courage to stand up for what's right or learning the importance of empathy and understanding, each tale offers insight into the complexities of life.

As you delve into these narratives, I encourage you to reflect on the themes and messages they convey. Discuss them with your loved ones, contemplate them during quiet moments, and let them spark conversations about kindness, integrity, and the power of resilience.

It is my hope that this collection brings joy, inspiration, and a renewed appreciation for the wonders of storytelling. Thank you for joining me on this adventure, and may these stories continue to inspire kindness and compassion in the hearts of all who read them. Happy reading!

Warmest wishes,

Safiyah Alam

FOREWORD

Bismillah,

What does it mean to be a *good* Muslim?

Often, our first thought is prayer... a good Muslim prays a lot! After that, we may think that a good Muslim is one who recites (or memorizes) the Quran.

Our Holy Prophet (saw) had a *different* perspective. When asked about the purpose of religion, our Holy Prophet (saw) responded by saying, "*moral perfection.*"

That is to say, the mark of a good Muslim is that they embody virtuous characteristics such as honesty, patience, and forgiveness.

The truth is, practicing good character is easier said than done. All of us know that we *should* be honest, or that we *should* forgive. But, at the same time, we've all been in situations where it's been tough to tell the truth or say sorry.

The best way for us to learn good character is through following the role model of our parents. The second best way is through stories...

... that is why Allah (swt) provided us with stories in the Quran, and also the example of our Holy Prophet (saw). Such that we can learn from these stories.

It is in that spirit that I am overjoyed at this work by Safiyah Alam, a teenager from Michigan. In this book, Safiyah weaves together 26 stories that showcase essential values of character. The relatable stories are accompanied by

heartwarming watercolor illustrations that bring the narrative to life.

This book serves as an inspiration to young Muslims to follow in the footsteps of Safiyah, a young writer who is using her talents to make the world a better place.

Allah (swt) says: "Take one step towards me, and I will take ten steps towards you." As you begin the journey of character development, with each step that you take, your proximity to our Creator will only increase.

JazakumAllahKhayran

Amin G. Aaser

Founder and Executive Director of Noor Kids

<https://noorkids.com/>

September 12, 2024

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Arrogance

Mustafa was a spoiled child. Hence he would always spend his allowance on the most popular or ‘best’ things, always had the latest toy sports car and the most popular brand of shoes. His friends were getting annoyed with him, because he was always boasting about the things he owned and making them feel bad that they couldn’t get the same things. He even took his toys and other new things to school, so he could show off how much money his parents gave him to buy them.

His parents realized that his bad habit was only getting worse because they always gave into his demands. They decided it was time he learned to have a simpler lifestyle and enjoy the countless things and bounties Allah (swt) had provided him.

One day after school, Mustafa's parents took him to an orphanage to show him how all the kids living there had lost their parents and how he had so much more than they did. They also showed him how these children were happy just to be given a home and didn’t have all the latest and most popular items from every store. The children were so thankful just to have someone come to visit them and spend time with them!

Mustafa could not see why his parents brought him to this place and were telling him all these things.

He exclaimed impatiently, “This has nothing to do with me! I have enough money from my allowance to get



whatever I want! I do not have to cut corners like they do! Can we please get out of this dirty place before I get sick?"

Mustafa's parents were very upset with his rude behavior and arrogance, and realized they would have to rid him of his bad habits using a different approach. They scolded him for being so rude and took him home before he attracted the attention of other people around there.

The next day, Mustafa rushed in after school excitedly and ran up to his room. He was looking for his wallet because he wanted to buy the new light-up shoes he saw his friend wearing at school today. He had just stopped by to get a hold of his wallet before going to the shoe shop down the street.

He looked in his dresser drawer, where he usually kept it, but it wasn't there. He looked on his bed, in his other drawers, in his closet, but he couldn't find it anywhere. When he was about to give up looking and go ask Mama if she knew where it was, he finally saw it sitting on his desk. However, when he opened his wallet to take out some money, the wallet was empty! He was sure he still had some money left in there, but now it wasn't there. He ran to his mother, screaming, "Mama, somebody stole my money! I am sure I still had some left, but my wallet is empty!"

Mama responded calmly, "Nobody stole your money. I took it."

"Well, please give it back! I need to buy those new light-up shoes Zaid has."





“No, you don’t” Mama replied. “You just got new shoes last month, and besides, it’s not your money anymore. From now on, you don’t get an allowance. You are behaving very arrogantly because of the unnecessary things you buy with your allowance. You are being rude to everyone, and not caring about anything except the endless things that you wish to buy with your allowance.”

Mustafa begged Mama to give him back his allowance, but she wouldn’t give in to his demands. He finally gave up trying to convince her and went up to his room, thinking that maybe *Abbu (father)* would be more lenient and give his money back, or at least buy him the shoes.

When they sat down for dinner that night, Mustafa asked Abbu to buy him the new light-up shoes.



“Buy it with your allowance money,” Abbu replied.

“Mama took all my money away.” Mustafa cried out and told his father the whole story. He thought that Abbu would take his side and return his money back to him, but Abbu sided with Mama.

“You need to know that there are consequences for bad actions and arrogance.”

Mustafa was dejected and didn’t know what to do.

The next day, at school, Zaid met Mustafa in the playground at recess.

“Where are your new light-up shoes that you were bragging about yesterday?” Zaid asked Mustafa.

“I didn’t buy them because my mother isn’t giving me my allowance anymore,” Mustafa replied.

“Well look at this cool new backpack I got at the mall yesterday! Too bad you can’t get one like it so we can match,” Zaid exclaimed.

Now Mustafa was even more miserable. Not only did he not have any money to buy things he wanted, but his friends were also treating him badly. He was very upset. Then Mustafa realized his friends’ behavior today towards him was the same as his own actions towards them when he got something they couldn’t get. He remembered the times he had said things like Zaid was saying now to his classmates when he got anything new. He decided to change his attitude and stop being so arrogant around everybody.



He realized that his money could be taken away from him very easily, and was not in his control, so he should not be arrogant and boastful about his possessions. He should be happy with what he had, because many kids wish for the very things he took for granted. He thanked Allah (swt) for showing him how badly he was behaving, and also asked Allah (swt) to help him get his allowance back so that he could help those less fortunate than himself.

He started complimenting his friends when they got good grades in school or when they accomplished something, and he started helping at home, too. He started displaying always the best example. As a result, his parents were so proud of his new behavior, they gave his allowance back.

As soon as he saved up a sufficient amount, he went to the mall. But instead of buying things for himself, he brought small toys and sweet treats. He went home and made gift bags. Then he asked his parents to take him back to the orphanage and gave each child a gift. He felt very happy! He also remembered that doing good things makes Allah (swt) happy, and that he also felt good when doing good!

Lessons Learned: It is not good to be arrogant and vain. People who act this way do not gain anything. In the end, everything belongs to Allah (swt), and if we do not use his bounties properly and in the right manner and thank him for everything, he may snatch these things away from us.

* * * * *



Backbiting

“Did you hear what Sarah did yesterday?” Yasmin asked Huda excitedly as they sat down to lunch in the busy school cafeteria.

“No, what?” Huda questioned.

“She cheated on last week’s history quiz, and that’s why she got the highest grade in the class,” Yasmin continued.

Yasmin was very upset, because if it hadn’t been for Sarah, Yasmin would have gotten the highest grade in the class.

“Did you see her cheating?” Huda questioned.

“No, but Zainab heard Maryam say that she saw Sarah’s history notebook open during the quiz!” Huda exclaimed.

“Did you ask Sarah if she was cheating?” Huda inquired further.

“No, but I’m sure she would deny it, even if she did! You know she isn’t smart enough to get such a high grade without cheating.”

“That’s not nice. Not only could that be a false rumor you are spreading, but you are also backbiting, and that is a major sin,” said Huda.

“What is backbiting?” asked Yasmin.



Listening

Musa and Haroon's older sister was driving them to the mall to meet their friends at the new bounce house. The new attraction had been the talk of the week at school. Everyone had either just been to it, or had plans to go soon, and Musa and Haroon were very excited to finally be able to go.



Neighbors

Ilyas found something shiny on the sidewalk. He bent down to have a closer look and realized that it was a coin. He saw someone coming out of the house, so he quickly picked it up and put it in his pocket. He didn't know what he was going to do with it, but he wanted to keep it.



The next day, he went to the playground and found Ahmad playing there. Ahmad and Ilyas were neighbors and friends. Ilyas was happy to see his friend there, and they enjoyed their time together, playing and talking. Eventually, Ilyas decided to show Ahmad the coin he had found the previous day.

Ahmad was very surprised when he saw the coin and asked, “Do you know who this coin belongs to?”



Obedience

Amina loved going to school, but one day she came home in a foul mood.

“We need to go to the bakery right now!” she yelled.

“For what?” her mother asked.

“I want a chocolate cake!”

“We can bake one at home tomorrow,” her mother suggested.

“No, I want a cake just like the one Khadijah had, and she got hers from the bakery!”

Amina’s mom was busy baking bread and didn’t want to take her at that moment.

“Abbu will take you when he comes back home,” she said.

Amina wanted to go right away, but her mother was busy with her tasks. So Amina had to wait until Abbu came home.

Xeniality

**“Noor, come downstairs please,” her mother called.
“Hawa is here to see you!”**

“I’m busy, Mama, I don’t have time to sit with her right now,” Noor snapped. “I told you earlier that now was not a good time to have her come over.”

Hawa overheard her friend’s words, and was shocked. Noor was her best friend, and she had never before acted so impolitely towards her. They had been best friends since they were very young and did everything together. Hawa couldn’t understand why Noor didn’t even want to see her now.

Noor’s mother tried repeatedly to urge her to come down, but Noor didn’t give in to any degree of persuasion. She reluctantly told Hawa to come back in the evening. Hawa went back home, gloomy and miserable.

As Hawa entered her room, she noticed the poster board that Noor had brought over the day before. Noor had wanted to work on it together for a school project. Hawa suddenly realized why Noor was acting this way towards her. She replayed the previous day’s events in her head.

“Hawa, Noor is here to work on your project together,” her mother had called.

She had been watching a live stream and therefore was annoyed to be interrupted.



She had not even paid attention to why Noor was there, but had told her mother, “Send her back home! I’m busy and I don’t want to work on it right now.”

Hawa’s mother had tried several times to convince her to come down and greet her friend, but Hawa had just put her headphones on and continued watching.

Noor had waited for some time, before finally giving up and going back home. She had left the poster with Hawa’s mother and asked her to give it to Hawa.



Hawa realized that she had not even looked at it yet. Noor was giving her a taste of her own medicine, probably hoping she would realize her mistake. Hawa felt bad for the way she had acted towards her friend.



She went back to Noor's home and found her in her room. She apologized at once for the way she had acted and promised to never treat her inconsiderately again. Noor was very happy that Hawa had learned something out of their "fight" and was glad they were friends again.

Lessons Learned: Xeniality means to treat your guests in a hospitable manner. We should always view our guests as a blessing, and not as a burden. If someone comes to our house, we should not turn him or her away or be rude, but rather be welcoming, courteous and respectful towards him or her, as taught to us by our holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

* * * * *



Yelling

Shafeeq always enjoyed his time spent with his friends. They were all playing in his friend’s backyard one Sunday afternoon. Suddenly, one of them kicked a ball, which flew in the air and hit Shafeeq in the face. Shafeeq was not hurt, as it was a foam ball, but he was annoyed.



“You need to watch where you’re kicking,” he shouted at his friend. “If that was a harder ball, I could have been hurt!” His friend tried to reason with him, telling him it was not intentional, but Shafeeq ignored him, and stormed off.

When he got home, he locked himself in his room and didn’t come down until his mother called him for dinner. By then, Shafeeq had cooled down and didn’t say anything about what happened to his parents.



Acknowledgements:

Dear Readers,

Completing this book has been a journey of dedication, inspiration, and learning. As I reflect on the pages that now lay before you, I am filled with gratitude for the support and encouragement that made this endeavor possible.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to my parents, whose unconditional love, sacrifices, and unwavering belief in me have been the cornerstone of my journey. Your guidance, patience, and endless support have shaped me into the person I am today. Your belief in my dreams and your constant encouragement to keep going have been my guiding lights, propelling me forward through every challenge and triumph. This book is as much a reflection of your influence as it is of my own.

I am deeply grateful to my three brothers, whose boundless energy, imagination, and playful spirit brought joy and laughter into my life, reminding me of the importance of wonder and curiosity. Your presence has been a constant source of inspiration.

A special acknowledgment is owed to Sanobar Nihal, whose talent and creativity breathed life into the pages of this book. Your illustrations have added depth and beauty to the story, captivating readers of all ages.

I am profoundly appreciative of Br. Amin Aaser for his invaluable contribution to this work. His eloquent and thoughtful foreword not only enriches the depth of this project but also sets a profound tone for its exploration.

I am also indebted to my grandmother, whose keen eye and meticulous attention to detail as the editor polished this manuscript into its final form. Your dedication to ensuring clarity and coherence has elevated this work beyond measure.

My Dadi deserves special recognition as well, for her captivating stories from her own life journey. Your wisdom, resilience, and unwavering

spirit have taught me the power of perseverance and the importance of embracing life's adventures with an open heart.

To the countless individuals whose contributions, both seen and unseen, shaped the creation of this book, I offer my heartfelt thanks. Your generosity and kindness have left an indelible mark on this project.

Last but not least, I express my profound gratitude to you, dear reader. It is your curiosity and engagement that give meaning to these words. Thank you for embarking on this journey with me.

With deepest appreciation,

Safiyah Alam

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-Amin G. Aaser, Founder and Executive Director of Noor Kids

Come join us on our childhood journey through the alphabets with fun and exciting moral stories! Each letter inspires a unique message of a moral quality beginning with that letter. These stories instill unique lessons necessary for children to nurture exemplar personalities through character building to shape the brighter future of society.



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ISBN 979-8-218-54121-7

