



MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER
- CHARLOTTE -

Pearls

MCC's Monthly Magazine

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Shaban

Reaping the Blessings of

The month of Ramadan is undoubtedly the most eagerly awaited time of the year for Muslims, and many of us have already begun our countdown. But as we prepare ourselves, we often neglect the many blessings of the month leading up to it – Sha’ban.

Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, said “there is a month to which people do not pay much attention, between Rajab and Ramadan. It is a month in which the deeds are taken up to the Lord of the worlds, and I like that my deeds be taken up when I am fasting.” (Sunan Al-Nisai)

The only narrations about the Prophet (peace be upon him) fasting Sha’ban came from members of his household; the majority of his companions were not aware of his fasting.

Scholars mention that the time to compete hardest for excellence are the times that most people are neglectful of God. Ibn Al-Jawzi said

that reaching out to God when others are less likely to be doing so is the evidence of your insistence upon doing good.

Additionally, the aforementioned hadith indicates that our deeds are presented to God the Most High annually in Shaban. Through other narrations we know that this is in addition to the periods that our deeds are presented to God- daily during Fajr and Asr, and weekly on Mondays and Thursdays.

Similarly, it is recommended to fast on Mondays and Thursdays just as it is recommended to fast in Shaban.

While all days of Shaban are blessed,

a Forgotten Month

there is an authentic hadith that pays special attention to the middle night of Shaban: “Allah looks down on the night of the middle of Sha’ban and forgives all His creation, apart from the idolater and the one who has malice in his heart.”

With all of this in mind, it's clear that Sha'ban offers an open but overlooked opportunity to engage in extra worship and good works before the dawn of Ramadan. Have a plan for the daily acts of worship and good deeds you'd like to accomplish in this month.

Fast as much as you can to receive the virtues of fasting in a time of heedlessness and to prepare yourself for Ramadan. In particular, the 13th, 14th, and 15th are the best 3 days to fast of every month.

Set a goal to read half as much Qur'an as you plan to read in Ramadan.

Purify your heart: Who are you angry at that you need to forgive? What bad habits do you have that you can begin breaking?

Remember that finding blessings in overlooked times and places is its own form of reward.

Adapted from Yaqeeninstitute.org

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Kids Corner

DECODE THE RIDDLE

A riddle is written in the speech bubble. Remove the letters Q, X, and Z from it, then read the remaining letters in order. Can you find out the answer?

QXQI ZAQMX SQOZMEZTXHIQNG
QPEOXQPLZE Q LXIZKQE TQXO
XCZLXIQM QB, QXBUQT IZXQM XNQOTQAX
XTQREQXE WZQIXZTQH
QBXRAZZQNXCHQEXS, IXQ HQZAXVQE
XLQZOTQS OXQF XSNXOQZW AXQT QMXY
SXZUMQXMIQXT, QSZO QXBEZWQARXE
QXOZF XAVQAXLZAXNCQH ZYESQX.

Crack *a* Joke

I have a joke about chemistry, but I don't think it will get a reaction!

How does the moon cut his hair? Eclipse it.

Why do seagulls fly over the ocean? Because if they fly over the bay, we'd call them bagells!

Fun Info Zone

Did you know that the lightning is five times hotter than the surface of the sun?

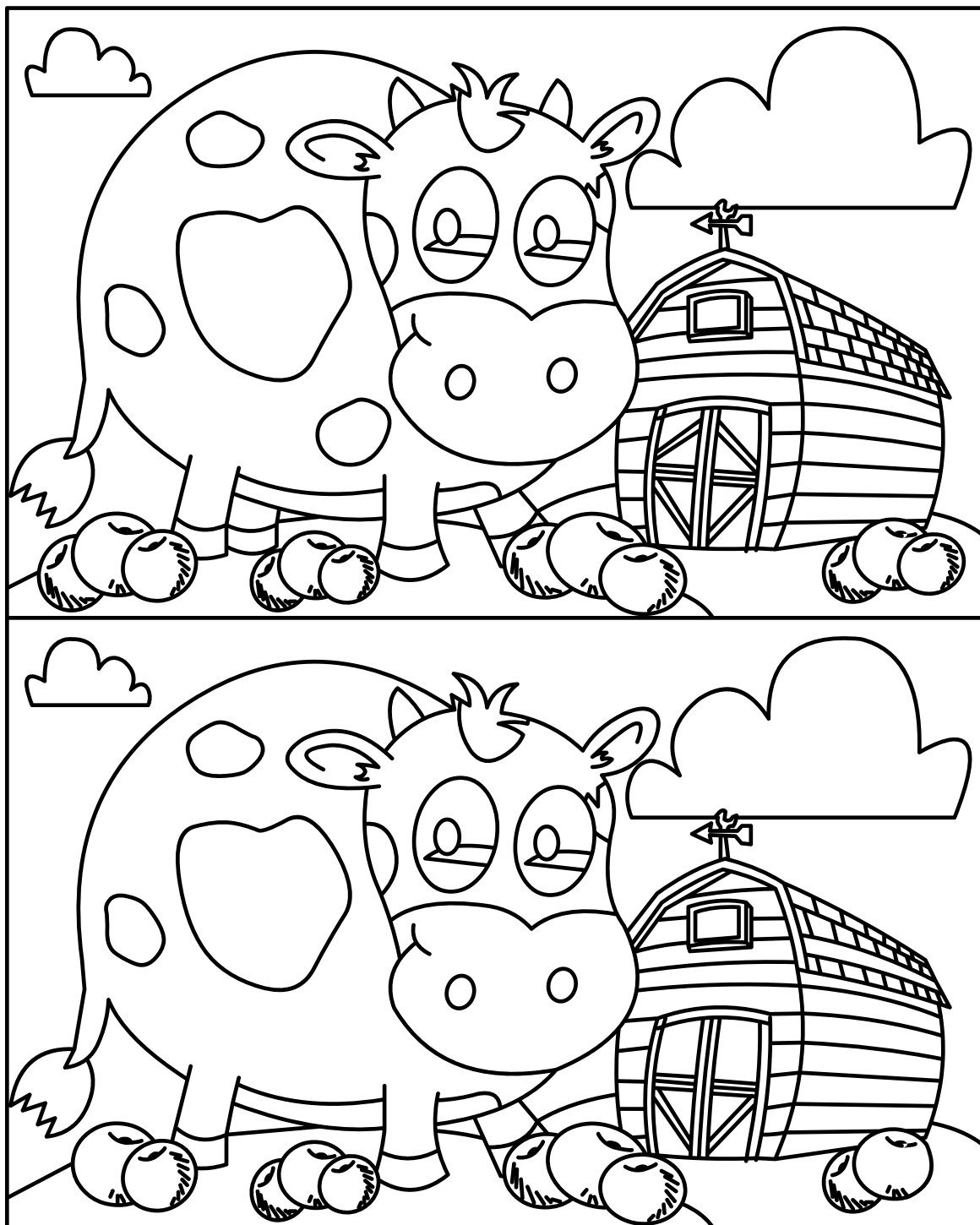
Did you know that butterflies have taste receptors on their feet to identify plants?

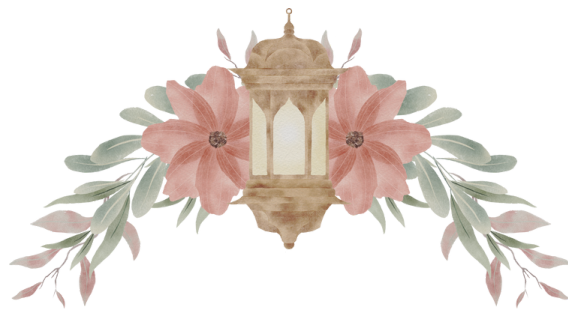
Snow acts like an insulator. When it covers the ground, it traps heat and protects the soil and the roots of plants from freezing. It also slowly releases water into the ground as it melts, which is crucial for spring growth!

It takes about 2 minutes for a rain drop to travel from the clouds to the ground!

Adapted from Atlasia Kids

- Find the 7 differences in the pictures below.
- Color the pictures accordingly.





Getting out of Darkness & into Light

Part 2.

In our previous discussion, we explored how Jahiliyyah refers not just to a period of pre-Islamic ignorance, but rather denotes a cultural system devoid of divine guidance.

The companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emerged from this state of jahili cultural norms and beliefs to embrace the transformative message of Islam. Figures like Omar Ibn Al-Khattab and Osman Ibn Affan transitioned from jahiliyyah's darkness into Islam's illuminating light.

The Quran underscores this important point. Verses like 5:50 criticize those who cling to jahili standards of judgment over Allah's just rulings. Additionally, 3:154 warns of disturbing thoughts reflective of past jahili patterns even after clear proofs.

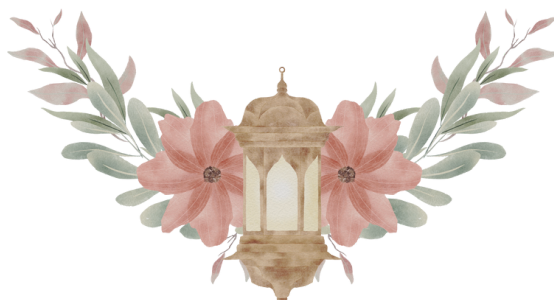
A hadith also illustrates how certain speech was deemed indicative of jahili manners, as when the Prophet reprimanded referring to someone by lineage terms implying superiority.

This emphasis is vital, as jahiliyyah encompasses attitudes contradicting Islam's teachings on matters like modesty, obedience to shariah or egalitarian treatment of all. Whoever maintains such stances exchanges truth for ignorance.

By recalling Quranic wisdom and sunnah on this topic, we aim to properly contextualize Islam as a comprehensive system and safeguard against assuming complete departure from all past shortcomings.

We'll talk next month.

Dr. Mo



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