

Children's Corner



Immortal Teenage Heroes of Iran

Salaam dear young friends. Hope you are all fine by the Grace of God and enjoying the cool autumn temperatures.

Youngsters are the hope of the future. They possess all the capabilities to shine as bright stars on the firmament of the country, provided they are dedicated in their studies, make sincere efforts for progress, and above all, have faith in God, Islam, and humanitarian values.

Once the youths of a nation acquire these values, they blossom in their fields, and like fresh flowers, exude the fragrance of exuberance to achieve immortality – irrespective of their aging with dignity or the cutting short of their life in the full bloom of youth.

If almost all youngsters pass through the first category, that is, aging with dignity while contributing to the progress of the nation, there are some youngsters whose dazzle remains immortal along with their teen years that never age.

Why? Because, Divine Providence decreed that their luminosity will never fade even if their life was limited to teenage years.

Yes friends, you have understood what we mean. You in Iran, are fully aware of the significance of October 30, which like every year we marked the day before yesterday as “Day of Teenagers and Student Basij”.

It is in remembrance of our 13-year old national hero, Seyyed Mohammad Hussain Fahmideh, who sacrificed his life so that Iranian youths will have a worthy model for all time, and could progress in all spheres of life.

Since most of the readers of Kayhan International’s Weekly Children’s Page might not be properly informed about him, let us brief them about fearless Fahmideh, who bravely blew up an advancing column of Ba’thist tank in the port city of Khorramshahr in the initial days of Saddam’s US-directed 8-year war.

The Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA) paid him a fitting tribute by saying: “Our leader is that 13-year old boy who with his young heart, which was far greater than hundreds of our tongues and pens, threw himself under the enemy’s tank with a grenade and destroyed it, thereby drinking the elixir of martyrdom.”

Fahmideh was not the lone case. Among other teenage heroes of the Holy Defence, the name of Behnam Mohammadi also stands out. He was also 13-years old when the war started, and instead of fleeing from the invading forces, he decided to stay in Khorramshahr, providing help to the combatants and helping the injured. He and his group kept the enemy forces at bay for over a month.

Behnam was involved in reconnaissance operations, and as the various quarters of the city fell one by one to the invaders, he and his group of youth provided important information to the seniors and helped ambush many of the Ba’thists.

Clashes intensified in Arash Street. Behnam was injured, but refused to retreat. He held for the next few days until he achieved martyrdom. Despite his young age, he wrote a will, part of which reads:

“Although I am waiting for martyrdom every moment, I want my colleagues and countrymen to have faith in God. I appeal to parents to bring up their children for jihad in the way of God.”

For the information of our non-Iranian young friends, especially those residing abroad, the popular Basij forces are made up of people from all walks of life, including university and school students. It were these youngsters who became commanders during the course of the imposed war and enacted epics at the battlefronts. From 1980 to 1988, at least 366,697 students participated in the defence of the country, of whom 17,296 achieved martyrdom, 2,328 became disabled, 1,110 were taken captives and 2,063 have been listed as missing.

Goodbye and God bless you until we meet again next week.



Elnaz Vatanparast,
7 years old
from Tehran.



Funny Question & Answers

Question: What do you call a short movie that features a water fowl?

Answer: A duck-umentary

Question: How do you make one disappear?

Answer: Add a ‘g’ or an ‘n’ to ‘one’!

Question: Where can you always find a tiger’s head?

Answer: Four feet from its tail

Question: What do bunnies use to dry themselves after a bath?

Answer: A hare-dryer

Question: What’s an eight-letter word with all the letters in it?

Answer: Alphabet

Question: What two things can never be eaten for breakfast?

Answer: Lunch and dinner

Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS)

“The best kind of almsgiving is to help the weak.”

The Fawn and His Mother

A young Fawn once said to his Mother, “You are larger than a wolf, and swifter, and more used to running, and you have your horns as a defense.

Why, then, O Mother! Do the hounds frighten you so?”

She smiled, and said: “I know full well, my son, that all you say is true.

I have the advantages you mention, but when I hear even the bark of a single dog I feel ready to faint, and fly away as fast as I can.”

MORAL: No arguments will give courage to the coward

Ripley's Believe It or Not!



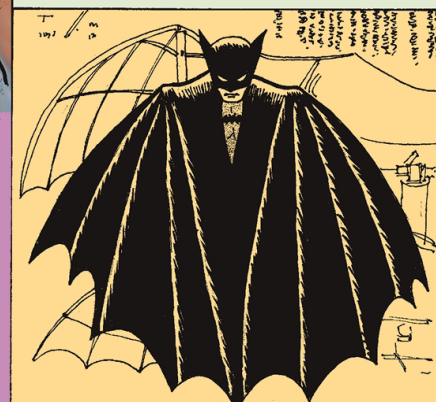
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WITHOUT MAKING
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FOR DECADES!

Submitted By
Dan Paulon, W. Lafayette, OH.



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