

Children's Corner

Walking Towards Paradise

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

Autumn has arrived and the temperatures are falling day by day. Exposure to cold temperatures can cause serious health problems. Infants and the elderly are particularly at risk, but anyone can be affected. So, please be careful not to catch cold and also remember the famous proverb, which says, prevention is better than cure.

Well friends, are any of you going to Karbala?

Perhaps some of you have already departed, since Arba'een or the traditional 40th day of commemoration for the Chief of Martyrs, Imam Husain (AS), is due on Tuesday, October 30.

Daily, tens of thousands of Iranians are crossing the border, after having obtained the necessary visa from the Iraqi embassy and consulates. This year over four million Iranian Muslims are expected to be among the 20-million plus pilgrims streaming into Karbala for the Arba'een from all over the world.

Many are walking the 80 km distance from Najaf from the shrine of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), towards Karbala. This is indeed the experience of a lifetime. People of all age groups, even toddlers in their strollers are accompanied by their parents.

It is the world's largest annual gathering, and despite the threats from the terrorists and their Godless masters, the number of pilgrims is increasing, in a grand display of devotion to the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), who was tragically martyred by those shamelessly claiming to be Muslims.

Pilgrimage to the holy shrine on the Day of Arba'een is indeed a clear path towards paradise, as promised by the Prophet and testified by many a hadith.

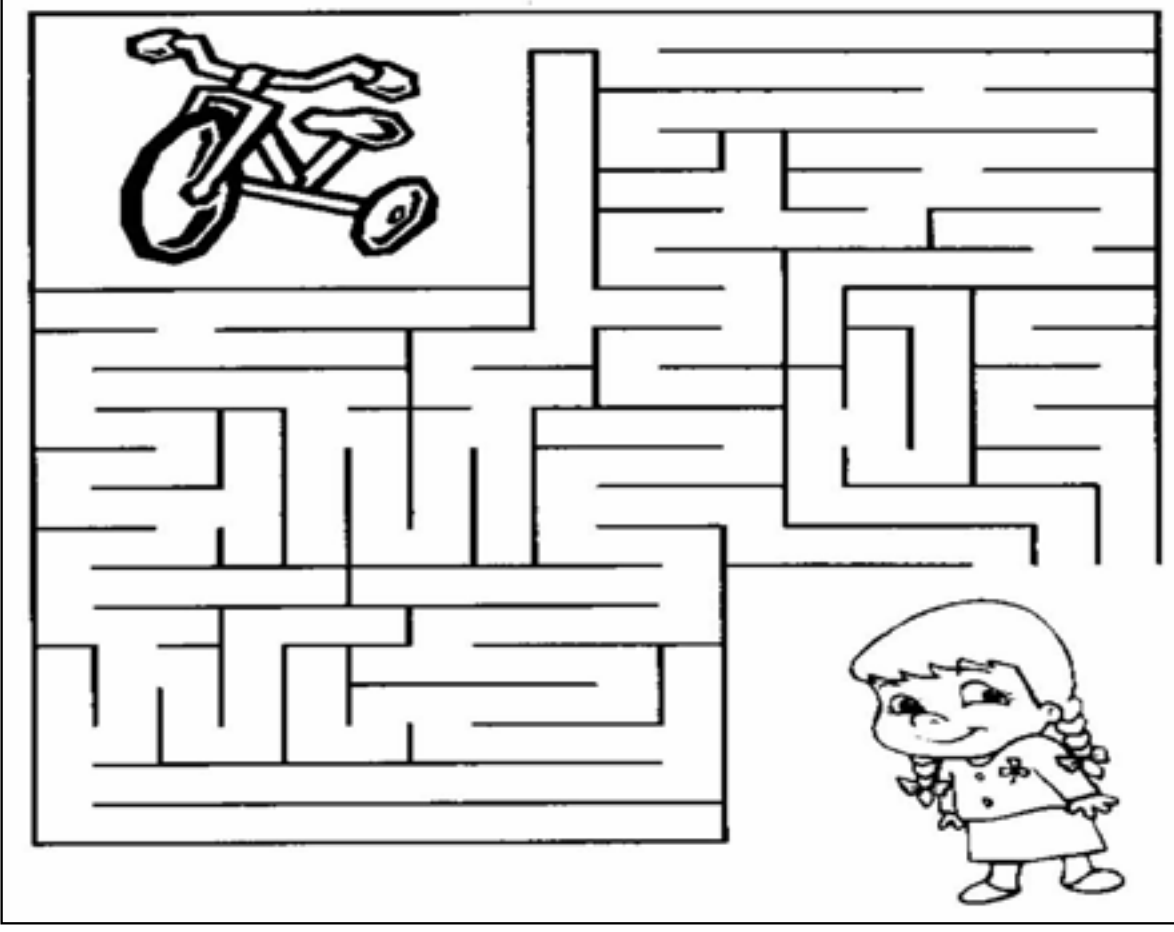
This is the reason that among the pilgrims there are many Sunni Muslims and even Christians, Izadis, Zoroastrians, Hindus, and Sabians. Last year there was a delegation from the Pope and it is expected that this year also the Vatican would be sending a team of priests to join Iraqi Christians attending the Arba'een ceremony in Karbala.

As Arba'een is near, here we would like to share a famous hadith from the Prophet's 11th Infallible Heir, Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS): There are five signs to recognize or determine a true believer, and recitation of the special ziyarat (or salutation) for Imam Husain (AS) on the Day of Arba'een is one of these signs.

The other signs of a true believer: are recitation in raised voice of the Qur'anic ayah Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Raheem during the ritual prayers; performance of 51 raka'at of ritual prayers in a single day at different times (that is, 17 obligatory and 34 recommended); prostration on soil or clay; and wearing of ring in a finger of the right hand.

The special Arba'een Ziyarah has been related on the authority of Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS), the great-grandson of the Martyr of Karbala and the 6th Infallible Heir of the Prophet. It was dictated to his disciple Safwan Jammaal.

So dear friends, please remember us when you visit the holy shrine of Imam Husain (AS) and share with us your experiences of this spiritual journey.



RIDDLES

Dear youngsters, could you answer the following questions.

1. With a halo of water and a tongue of wood, stone as skin long I stood. What am I?
2. I am a kind of coat that can only be put on when wet. What am I?
3. I have a ring but no fingers. I used to stay still all the time, but nowadays I follow you around. What am I?
4. I begin and have no end. Eventually I will be the ending of all that has begun. What am I?
5. I must be broken before you can use me. What am I?
6. My rings are not worth much, but they do tell my age. What am I?

JOKES

Patient: Doctor! Help me please; every time I drink a cup of coffee I get this intense stinging in my eye.
 Doctor: I suggest you remove the spoon before drinking.

Teacher: "Kids, what does the fluffy chicken give you?"
 Students: "Eggs!"
 Teacher: "Very good! Now what does the white sheep give you?"
 Students: "Mutton!"
 Teacher: "Great! And what does the fat cow give you?"
 Students: "Homework!"

Late one night a robber wearing a mask stopped a well-dressed man and stuck a gun in his ribs.
 "Give me your money," he demanded.
 Scandalized, the man replied, "You can't do this - I'm a US Congressman!"
 "Oh! In that case," smiled the robber, "Give me MY money!"

Answers to last week questions:

1. Stamp
2. Nose
3. Money
4. Popcorn
5. Nothing
6. Lawsuit

Send your jokes. Heard any jokes lately? Well, try and make us laugh too!
 Don't hesitate! Mail it to us.
 Kayhan International address:
 Ferdowsi St., Shahid Shahcher-
 aghi Alley, Teh-ran.
 Email: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

The Peacock and the Crane

A peacock, puffed up with vanity, met a crane one day, and to impress him spread its gorgeous tail in the Sun.

"Look," the peacock said. "What have you to compare with this? I am dressed in all the glory of the rainbow, while your feathers are gray as dust!"

The crane spread its broad wings and flew up toward the sun.

"Follow me if you can," the crane replied. But the peacock stood where it was among the birds of the barnyard, while the crane soared in freedom far up into the blue sky.

MORAL: "Fine feathers don't make fine birds"

Imam Husain (AS)

"The faithful must certainly desire to meet his Lord righteously. I do not deem death other than felicity and life among the unjust other than suffering and boredom."



Ripley's Believe It or Not!

SCIENTISTS EXPLORING THE HOT AND HUMID CAVE OF THE CRYSTALS IN MEXICO MUST WEAR REFRIGERATED SUITS.

HELEN SELF, 109, WAS PAID \$125 TO EAT AT THE MONTANA CLUB RESTAURANT IN MISSOULA, MONTANA, ON HER BIRTHDAY. THE OWNER OFFERS A PERCENTAGE DISCOUNT EQUAL TO THE CELEBRANT'S AGE!

SOME SPACE PROBES ARE EQUIPPED WITH BLACK-AND-WHITE CAMERAS BECAUSE COLOR INFORMATION WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO TRANSMIT BACK TO EARTH.

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