# **Condolences and Congratulations**

Salaam dear young friends, how are you? Hope you are fine by the Grace of Almighty Allah. The weather has become cold and yesterday the Alborz Mountain Range on the northern rim of Tehran was snow-capped. So, try to keep yourself warm and avoid catching cold by taking precautionary measures.

Well friends, do we have any special occasion to mark in the coming days? Yes, we do have. Friday as you all know is the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS), the 11th Infallible Heir of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

It was on the 8th of Rabi al-Awwal, 1180 lunar years to be exact, that the Lord of the Age, Imam Mahdi (may God hasten his appearance) became an orphan at the tender age of 5 years.

Imagine the situation in Samarra, when Imam Askari (AS) left the world at the young age of 28 years on being fatally poisoned by Mu'tamed, the self-styled caliph of the Abbasid regime.

There was no one to console the little boy, since his mother had already died, and he was being raised in secrecy by his father, unknown to most people, except for a few staunch and steadfast followers of the Ahl al-Bayt.

Imam Askari (AS) needs no introduction. During his 6-year imamate he spread the pure and pristine teachings of the Prophet. He elaborated on the meanings and purport of the ayahs of the holy Qur'an.

He taught the genuine Hadith of the Prophet. He was a picture of piety and possessed immaculate manners. These virtues unnerved the regime.

Once the caliph called the Imam to his palace and ordered his army to march past before him. He wanted to boast or to impress the Imam of his power.

When the march past was over, the Imam asked the caliph to gaze between two of his fingers. What the caliph saw was a huge army of angels extending from the sky to the earth and equipped with the most sophisticated arms. The caliph became speechless, but harboured malice against the Imam deep down in his heart.

The Abbasids resorted to the cowardly practice of poison to martyr the Imams of the Ahl al-Bayt, and Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS) fell victim to Mu'tamed in 260 AH.

The plan was to prevent the birth of the 12th Imam, but it went awry, since unknown to the conspirators, the Awaited Saviour of mankind had been born five years earlier in 255 AH and was being raised in secrecy in order to materialize God's promise.

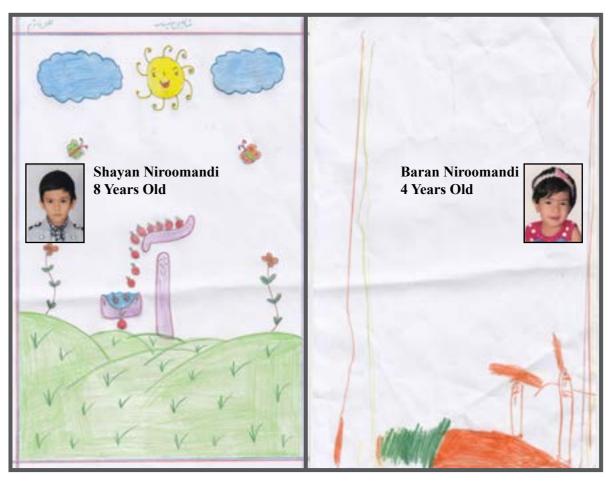
Before bidding you goodbye we wish to remind you that Saturday, corresponding to November 17, is the auspicious 9th of Rabi al-Awwal, the start of the imamate of the Imam of the Age.

It is also the anniversary of the execution of the accursed Omar ibn Sa'd, the Omayyad commander who perpetrated the heartrending tragedy of Karbala.

God bless you until we meet again next week.

## Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS)

"Avoid begging people as long as you can tolerate, for every day has a new goodness. Insisting on asking others deprives one of his gravity."



#### **JOKES**

Four ladies are sitting together talking about their sons. The first one brags, "My son is a bishop, every time he walks into a room people say, 'Your excellence'."

The second lady brags, "My son is a cardinal, every time he walks into a room people say, 'Your eminence'."

The third lady brags, "My son is the pope, every time he walks into a room people say, 'Your holiness'." The final lady says, "My son doesn't have a title, he weighs 500 pounds and is only 5 feet tall. But every time he walks into a room everybody says, 'Oh my god!"

A grandmother gives her grandson directions, "Once you get to the building open the door with your elbows. Once you get to the elevator his the up button with your elbow. I'm on the third floor so you're going to have to his the number 3 on the elevator with your elbow. Then once you get off I'm the first to the left, just hit the doorbell with your elbow."

The grandson replies, "That sounds easy enough, but why with my elbows?"

The grandmother says, "Oh... So you're going to be open-handed?"

A tree walks into a bank and asks for a loan. The teller says, "You'll have to speak to our branch manager."

### RIDDLES

Dear youngsters, could you answer the following questions.

- 1. I can't go left, I can't go right. I am forever stuck in a building over three stories high. What am I?
- 2. I go up when the rain comes down. What am I?
- 3. If you lose me you may cause people around me to lose me too. What am I?
- 4. I beam, I shine, I sparkle white. I'll brighten the day with a single light. I'll charm and enchant all. I'll bring the best in you all. What am I?
- 5. I am a mountain at night, meadow at day. What am I?
- 6. I am an instrument capable of making numerous sound but cannot be touched or seen. What am I?

Answers to last week questions:

- 1. Mercury
- 2. Key
- 3. Eye
- 4. Ace5. Clothes Hanger
- 6. Comb

Believe It or Not!

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 Wolf and the Kid

A kid was perched up on the top of a house, and looking down saw a wolf passing under him.

Immediately he began to revile and attack his enemy.

"Murderer and thief," he cried, "what do you here near honest folks' houses?

How dare you make an appearance where your vile deeds are known?"

The wolf replied: "Curse away, my young friend, it is easy to be brave from a safe distance."

MORAL: "It is easy to be brave from a safe distance"







