

Children's Corner



Mixed Message

Salaam dear young friends. Our message this week is a mixed one – of congratulations and condolences. We felicitate you because tomorrow is the 8th of Rabi al-Akher, the birth anniversary of an Infal-lible Imam. We console you because Saturday is the 10th of the same month, the martyrdom anniversary of an Innocent Lady.

Our sincere salutations to these two peerless persons whose teach-ings remain beacons of light for the seekers of truth and whose holy shrines are always flocked with the faithful from different parts of the world.

Both were young and in the prime of their youth when they were forced to leave the world as martyrs. Today, while the ter-rorists who caused their physical death are burning in the eternal fire of hell, these direct descendants of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) continue to provide succour to all those monotheists who reverently bow at their threshold and seek blessings of God through their inter-cession.

Yes, friends, if tomorrow is the birthday of the Prophet's Penulti-mate Successor, Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS), the father of the Lord of the Age, Imam Mahdi (AS) – may God expedite his reappearance and establishment of the global government of peace, prosperity and justice – Saturday will be the martyrdom anniversary of our Innocent Lady of Qom, Hazrat Fatema al-Ma'sumah (SA), the sister of Imam Reza (AS) and the daughter of Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS).

Imam Askari (AS) spent most of his brief life of 28 years under imprisonment or house arrest, since as the penultimate of the Twelve Infallible Heirs foretold by the Prophet, he was kept under constant watch by the tyrannical Abbasid regime, which fearful of the appear-ance of the Promised Saviour of mankind, Imam Mahdi (AS), tried every trick to deprive him of having any issue.

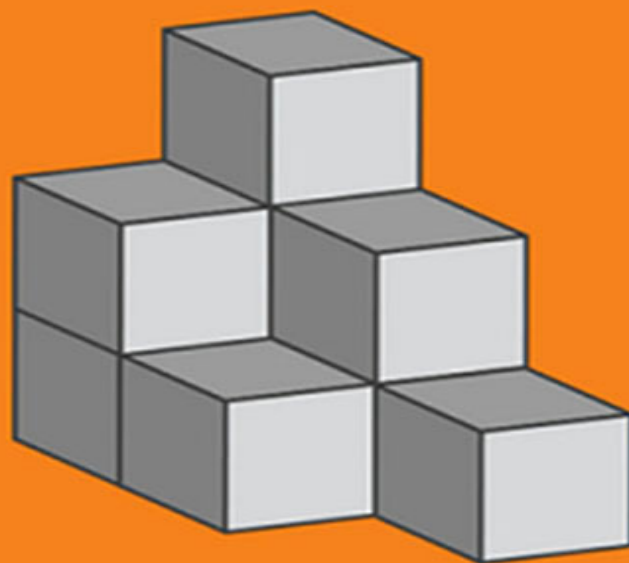
But the terrorist regime failed, as miserably as the Pharaoh had failed to prevent the birth of Prophet Moses by ordering the mas-sacre of all newborn males. The 12th Imam was born in secrecy and raised in the privacy of the cellar, with only the closest associates knowing of his birth.

Thus, Imam Askari (AS), during his 6-year imamate never missed an opportunity to promote the pure and pristine teachings of Islam to awaken minds, enlighten hearts, cleanse consciences, uplift spirits, and purify souls. He saved many a person from errors, sins, devia-tion and self-destruction including the famous philosopher, al-Kindi, who would have fallen into the abyss of disbelief, if the 11th Imam through a disciple had not instilled in his heart the flawless wisdom of God's Revealed Word, the holy Qur'an.

So friends, let us turn towards Samarra in Iraq, where the father and the grandfather of the Imam of the Age, rest in peace in the golden-domed shrine – that was twice the target of dastardly terrorists – to salute the Chosen of God and to supplicate to God for forgiveness of all our faults.

Good bye, and see you next week.

How many blocks?



7, 8, 9, 10

JOKES

A blind man walks into a restaurant with his dog which has keen eyes. He immediately yanks the dog and starts to spin him in the air like a lasso.

The waiter freaks out, "What are you doing?!?"

The blind man replies calmly, "Oh, just having a look around."

A cowboy strolls into town on his horse "Fireball" and goes straight to the saloon. He drinks a few bever-ages for a few hours, never moving except to take another one. When he's done he gets up and walks out of the saloon.

He immediately runs back in and yells, "Alright! Who took Fireball?" But nobody makes a noise.

He continues, "Okay, I'm gonna give y'all to the count of three then we're gonna have a repeat of what happened back in '71."

"ONE!" He pauses and nobody moves a muscle.

"TWO!" Everybody braces for impending doom.

"Here it comes... THR..."

He is interrupted by a man in the saloon, "Wait! It was just a joke mister. Your horse is right out back... By the way, what'd you do in '71?"

The cowboy looks him dead in the eye and says, "I had to walk home."

Imam Hasan Askari (AS)

"Let no secure livelihood make you too busy to perform an obligatory deed."

Friendship on Sand and Stone

Two friends Ismail and Ibrahim were walking through the desert, as the sun was beating down on their heads, and they were thirsty for water they began to argue. The argument got more and more heated and eventually Ismail struck Ibrahim across the face. Ibrahim felt hurt inside, but without anything to say, he wrote in the sand: "Today, my best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking, until eventually they came across an oasis, where they decided to stop and bathe. Ibrahim jumped in and began to wash, while Ismail sat back and relaxed. Suddenly Ibrahim began to scream and shout. He had developed a cramp and was having difficulty keeping his head above water; he was drowning.

Ismail dived in after him, and brought him gently to shore. When Ibrahim recovered from the shock, he scratched a message on a nearby stone:

"Today, my best friend saved my life"

Ismail who had saved and slapped his best friend Ibrahim, asked him, "Why, after I hurt you, you wrote in the sand, and now you write on a stone?"

Ibrahim smiled and replied: "When a friend hurts us, we should write his deeds in the sand, where the winds of forgiveness can blow it away, and when a friend does something good, we should engrave it in stone, where it shall remain for eternity."



Ripley's Believe It or Not!

