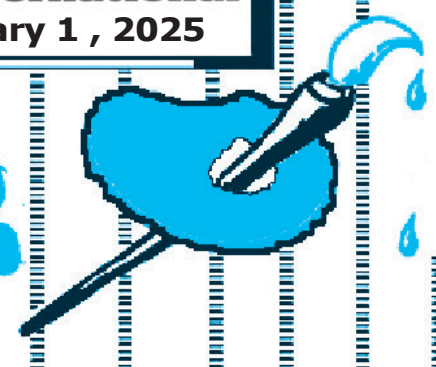


Children's Corner



Imam Ali an-Naqi (AS)

"This life (of the world) is a market in which some people gained and others lost."

Unforgettable Days

Salaam dear young friends and heartiest congratulations to you all. This is our first chat of the year 2025 that started today.

Yet another new year has begun, and we earnestly hope that it will arouse the conscience of humanity, especially the leaders of nations who have become devoid of all humanitarian values and have plunged the Planet into wars, bloodshed, poverty, misery, misfortune, and homelessness.

Well friends, the weather in Tehran this week was cold. Although snow this year has just once descended on the whole city, but as usual, it has enveloped the majestic mountains on its north.

We earnestly pray that the capital and other dry areas will also rains and snows before the winter ends, so that spring will be verdant and the summer will have adequate supply of water.

Well friends, tomorrow, Thursday will be the first day of the blessed month of Rajab, the first of the four sacred months. The first day happens to be a very blessed occasion. It is the birthday of the Splitter and Spreader of Sciences, or to be more precise, Imam Muhammad al-Baqer al-Uloum (AS), the 5th Infallible Heir of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

A famous statement of the Prophet reads: "Rajab is the great month of Allah. No other month equals it in sanctity and merit. During this month fighting against the infidels is prohibited. Indeed, Rajab is the month of Allah, Sha'ban is my month, and Ramadhan is the month of my ummah. Surely, whoever fasts a day of Rajab secures Allah's greatest pleasure, distances himself from the wrath of Allah, and one of the gates of hell is shut closed for him."

As our dear youngsters know, Rajab is the month of spiritual exercise. It is a month in which the mercy and blessings of God rains on His servants. No matter how much is said about the importance of this month, it will not pay due to its true worth. The coming of this month is a blessing of which we must seek to benefit optimally from—not allowing our days and nights to be cloaked by the garb of negligence.

Rajab is a golden opportunity for believers to avail of the special bounties that the All-Merciful has reserved for those who strive to achieve them.

Tomorrow is one such occasion that should inspire you youngsters. So don't miss it. For your information it is the "Laylat ar-Ragha'eb" which occurs on the first Friday Eve of Rajab.

It could be translated into English as the "Night of Desirability". The word "Desirability" here means the display of the innate desires of dedicated and pious Muslims for attaining the proximity of the Lord Most High. And this is possible only through acts of virtue.

For this auspicious night, a special observance has been narrated from Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), and among the virtues of this observance is expiation of many sins. It is mentioned that when someone who has offered this prayer dies, on the first night of his burial, God Almighty sends the reward for it in the most beautiful of forms, with a bright and gracious face, to greet him.

Please remember us in your prayers. Good-bye and see you all next week.



JOKES

A barber, a bald man and an absent-minded professor take a journey together. They have to camp overnight, and so decide to take turns watching the luggage.

When it's the barber's turn, he gets bored, so amuses himself by shaving the head of the professor. When the professor is woken up for his shift, he feels his head, and says "How stupid is that barber? He's woken up the bald man instead of me."

A man is sitting on his porch when he notices two workers working down the road. They both have shovels. One of them digs a hole and the other immediately fills it in.

The man watches them for a few hours and finally approaches them, "You guys look like you're working hard. But I'm not sure what you're trying to accomplish." One of the workers replies, "Well there's usually three of us, but the one that plants the trees is sick."

Two little squirrels were walking along in the forest. The first one spied a nut and cried out, "Oh, look! A nut!" The second squirrel jumped on it and said, "It's my nut!"

The first squirrel said, "That's not fair! I saw it first!" "Well, you may have seen it, but I have it," argued the second. At that point, a lawyer squirrel came up and said, "You shouldn't quarrel."

RIDDLES

Dear youngsters, could you answer the following questions.

1. I won't break if you throw me off? What am I? Tissue
2. I hide in a dark tunnel awaiting my time. I can only be released by pulling back. Once released, I may do unstoppable damage. What am I? Bullet
3. I have cities with no people, forests with no trees, and oceans with no water. What am I? Map
4. I am a nut with a hole. What am I? Donut
5. When it comes to me, you go on red and stops on green. What am I? Watermelon
6. Physicists have built devices to move me very fast. My last seven letters can be commonly found in newspapers, magazines, and journals. What am I? Particles

Answers to the questions asked in the previous issue:

1. Road
2. Blood
3. Harvest
4. Wedding Ring
5. Odometer
6. Heart

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

Shahcheraghi Alley, Tehran.

The Fox, the Cock, and the Dog

One moonlight night a Fox was prowling about a farmer's hen-coop, and saw a Cock roosting high up beyond his reach.

"Good news, good news!" he cried.

"Why, what is that?" said the Cock.

"King Lion has declared a universal truce. No beast may hurt a bird henceforth, but all shall dwell together in brotherly friendship."

"Why, that is good news," said the

Cock; "and there I see someone coming, with whom we can share the good tidings."

And so saying he craned his neck forward and looked afar off.

"What is it you see?" said the Fox.

"It is only my master's Dog that is coming towards us. What, going so soon?" he continued, as the Fox began to turn away as soon as he had heard the news.

"Will you not stop and congratulate the Dog on the reign of universal peace?"

"I would gladly do so," said the Fox, "but I fear he may not have heard of King Lion's decree."

MORAL: Cunning often outwits itself



RIPLEY'S Believe It or Not!



IN 2024,
FIREFIGHTERS IN ENGLAND RESCUED A BLACK CAT NAMED JOHN AFTER SHE GOT STUCK IN A DRAINPIPE.

PARIS STILL CLEANS ITS SEWERS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY — WITH A GIANT ROLLING BALL TO CLEAR OUT WASTE!

3! 2! zzzzzzzzzz



ABOUT 25% OF AMERICANS FALL ASLEEP BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

